Gateway to the Silver Thread

Volume 96, Number 23

Thursday, June 6, 2024

South Fork, Colorado 81154

RGC holds work session on Dominion Voting System update



RIO GRANDE COUNTY — For the past several weeks, Rio Grande County Clerk and Recorder Cindy Hill has been speaking with Rio Grande County commissioners regarding an update to current elections systems used in Rio Grande County and after the approval to move forward with the update, Please see UPDATE on Page 6A

Rio Grande County Board of Commissioners hosted an informational work session on an upgrade to the Dominion Voting System currently used at the county for elections. Rio Grande County Clerk Cindy Hill explained the contract renewal with Dominion and the steps she takes to ensure secure elections within the county.

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

MORSELS

VBS at Gateway Church June 10-14

DEL NORTE - Vacation Bible School with the theme of The Great Jungle Journey will be from 6 to 8:30 p.m. June 10-14 at Gateway Church, 975 Grande Ave., Del Norte.

Registration is at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 719-580-0638.

Creede Arts Council to host Music in the Park on June 9

CREEDE - The Creede Arts Council's first free public Music in the Park concert is on Sunday, June 9, between 2 and 4 p.m. at Basham Park in Creede. CAC hosts soul-Americana and roots-rock musician Lucky Overton.

According to CAC, "Overton wraps his smoky pipes around little gems of country and soul. Overton's cadence and music conjure the storytelling of Robert Earl Keen. Overton is a musical mutt who touches on many respected peers without getting pigeonholed into being the "next" somebody."

Cash prizes for top floats at Stampede parades

MONTE VISTA – The top floats in the 2024 Ski-Hi Stampede parades will receive cash prizes. The Ski-Hi Stampede parades will be on July 12 and 13 in downtown Monte Vista. The theme for this year's parade is "Heroes

Absolute Shine donated \$1,500 that will go to the first-place float; SLV Auto Repair donated \$1,000 that will go to the second-place float; and Pepper Equipment donated \$500 that will go to the third-place float.

Registration forms can be picked up at Finer Blessings, 730 1st Ave., Monte Vista. The Ški-Hi Stampede Committee is organizing the parades.

The 102nd annual Ski-Hi Stampede kicks off with a concert on July 11, featuring Wynonna, followed by three days of PRCA action on July 12, 13 and 14. For more information, visit online www.skihistampede.com.

Chad Spearman



Photo courtesy of Sawmill Meadow Village

Phase 1 of the workforce housing project - Sawmill Meadow Village - in South Fork is nearing completion and the developer is seeking applicants to purchase the homes.

Sawmill Meadow Village ready to accept applications for homes

SOUTH FORK — For the past year, South Fork has watched as the new Sawmill Meadow Village workforce housing project began to rise from the ground and now, thanks to a mild winter and a beautiful spring, the first phase of homes is looking for owners.

Workforce housing is now available for purchase in the San Luis Valley through a coordinated effort between Sawmill Meadow Development, the Town of South Fork, and

the State of Colorado Dept. of Local Affairs. Each have partnered to construct Phase 1 of a two-phase workforce housing development designed and built to bring the possibility of homeownership to people in the San Luis

According to project Developer Matt Dorsett, phase 1 is nearing completion and interested owners can begin the process of applying for ownership for this unique opportunity. Phase

Please see VILLAGE on Page 4A



Photo courtesy of South Fork Visitor Center

The annual Youth Fishing Clinic in South Fork will take place on June 15 at Saddlebrook Pond just west of South Fork along Wolf Creek Pass.

Annual South Fork Fishing **Derby returns** June 15

By LYNDSIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — There is no better way to celebrate Father's Day weekend in South Fork than to gather the family and head out to the South Fork Youth Fishing Clinic on Saturday, June 15. For people with children under the age of 15, now is the time to make plans and head out for a day full of fishing.

The fishing clinic will be at Saddlebrook Pond. Registration is at 8 a.m. Several area Please see DERBY on Page 4A

South Fork Fire Rescue responds to vehicle in river

CONTRIBUTED

SOUTH FORK — On Thursday, Fire Rescue was paged to respond to Highway 160 Mile Post 176 for a vehicle that drove off the road and into a dangerous section of the river known as "The Narrows."

Responders arrived at a chaotic scene, with the driver stranded on a rock, approximately 100 yards from the vehicle, in the middle of the river, and people trying to improvise

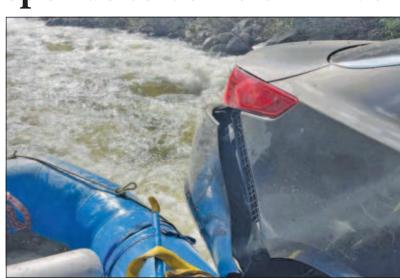
The SFFR crew immediately took control of the scene and sent in a rescue swimmer to determine the

person's condition. Once the decision was made to remove the person, a May 30, at 7:41 p.m. South Fork second rescue swimmer was sent in, and the shore team coordinated with the swimmers to complete a successful

Please see RESCUE on Page 4A

South Fork Fire Rescue received a call the evening of May 30 with a request to respond to a vehicle incident along Highway 160 west of South Fork. On arrival, crews quickly assessed the situation and responded to a vehicle in the South Fork Rio Grande and the driver stranded on a nearby rock.

Photo courtesy of South Fork Fire Rescue









OBITUARIES

John David Gimlin, 51, died in his homein Lakewood, Colo., May 2024. John was born July 11, 1972, in Monte Vista, Colo. He was a graduate of Del Norte High School in 1990. He went on to earn his Bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Northern Colorado in 1995. His final year of college John was the editor of the UNC Mirror, the student-run newspaper.

John was a resident of Littleton for many years before moving to Lakewoodthreeyearsago. Hisworking career began in the construction industry as a Project Estimator. Later he became a Real Estate Agent and most recently he was an employee of Charter Communications working as a Data Analyst.

John was a golfer, fisherman, outdoor enthusiast, and professional sports fan of all teams Denver/

Longtime Monte Vista resident

Leola Roberts, 95, died May 24, 2024,

Leola's life began in Monte Vista,

Colo., on Sept. 5, 1928, the daughter

to Delbert Stillings and Blanche M.

Jones Stillings. She married James

Roberts on Nov. 6, 1949, at the

Christian Church in Monte Vista.

They enjoyed over 63 years until his

She was as member of the Order

of Easter Star for over 59 years, and

a part of Beta Sigma Phi for over 72

years, and a member of the Daughter's

Leola is survived by her son

Edward Roberts of Monte Vista; her

of the American Revolution.

death in 2012.

at her home in Monte Vista.

John David Gimlin



memories were the time spent at the Corset Ranch near Del Norte and with friends Davey Colville, Flavio Quintana, and Mike Gettman. He was a constant supporter of his nephews middle school and high school athletic events.

John is survived by his brother, Colorado. Some of his fondest Bryant Gimlin and sister-in-law Cathy Gimlin of Greeley, Colo., and his sister, Denise (Anne) Gimlin and brotherin-law Michael Wood, of Nederland, Colo. Other survivors include nieces: Michelle Barrera (Brandon), Cori Gimlin, Carly Erbacher (Mark), and Morgan Lee, and nephews: William Grazier (Christy Walker), Richard Lee Grazier, Captain Jordan Wood (Caroline), and LTJG Shea Wood.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Gerald "Jerry" Gimlin and Dorothy Jordan Gimlin, sister Terry Lee and many cherished aunts and

A memorial service and reception will be held June 10 at Horan & McConaty, 9998 Grant St., Thornton, Colo., at 10 a.m. Inurnment will be held at the Monte Vista Cemetery in Monte Vista, Colo., at a date to be announced. To keep informed of the date and details of the inurnment email anne.gimlin@gmail.com.

Leola Roberts

well as numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her daughter Nancy Roberts, her grandson Michael Roberts, her siblings: Charles Stillings, Maurice Stillings, Lois Barton, and Cynthia Fischer.

Cremation was chosen and a Memorial Service will be held Friday, Sept. 6, 2024, at the Rogers Family Mortuary, 404 Morris St., Monte Vista. Interment will take place in the Monte Vista Cemetery. Contributions are suggested to Shriners Children's Hospital at https:// donate.lovetotherescue.org, or to Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado at https://scottishritefoundation.org/

To leave online condolences,



words of comfort, or tributes for Blanche's family, please visit www. RogersFunerals.com.

sister Lorraine Holland of Dallas, Texas; her granddaughter-in-law donations/ Kelly Roberts of Arvada, Colo.; as



66, died surrounded by family and of the Seabrook Fire Department his loving fur babies Derby, Moose, in Seabrook, Texas, First Assistant He was born on Jan. 26, 1958, in San Fire Department at Clean Harbors in Antonio, Texas, to Daniel "Byrd" and Deer Park, Texas. Beverly Henderson.

His passion was assisting the firefighters of any community he ever lived in, and he taught the art of firefighting at Texas A&M University. Cowboy was a volunteer firefighter for Del Norte Fire Department for 10 years. Prior to Del Norte, he had a combined career of over 30 years as a firefighter. During his career as firefighter, he served in various ranks June 29, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

Stanley Dale "Cowboy" Henderson, including periods serving as Chief Clifford and Lucky, at his residence in Chief for San Leon Fire Department Del Norte on Saturday, May 25, 2024. in San Leon, Texas, and Chief of the multiple times.

> He is survived by his child Nathan Henderson (Brittany), grandson Brad Henderson, brother, Rob Henderson (April), sister Laura Denise Brandt, sister Marie McNamara (Shawn) and his mother.

> He was preceded in death by his father, and sister Doris Stuart.

> A Celebration of Lifewill be performed at 955 French St. in Del Norte, Colo., on

and college basketball for 20 years. He served on the Colorado Potato

Tom Sanderson

Born on March 29, 1950, in Del Norte, Colo., Tom Sanderson's spirit left his body on May 13, 2024, with Margaret by his side.

Like his dad, son, daughter, wife and mother-in-law, Tom was a Sargent High School graduate. He went on to earn degrees in computer programming from Mesa State and Business Education from Adams

In October of 1972 he married his high school sweetheart, Margaret Chisholm. Two children were born to this union - Ginger Michelle and Kevin Andrew.

Tom was passionate about riding mules in the mountains. He learned the art from his dad who kept him supplied with ponies or horses beginning at age three. His last four-legged friends were his mules, LJ, Clyde and Penny. He enjoyed riding Clyde or Penny on several week-long rides with the Colorado Mule Riders. Tom felt closer to God in nature, in the mountains on one of his mules. He loved to hunt elk with his friends in Wason Park near Creede, Colo., and he enjoyed fishing, particularly at Santa Maria Reservoir where his dad had water rights and where Tom carried on that tradition, hoping to pass that on to his son, Kevin, who passed on at the age of 42 on April 9, 2021.

He and Margaret raised potatoes and small grains in the Sargent Community for 25 years. He was pleased to have raised their children on their farm.

Tom had a soft spot for his three granddaughters. He loved to spend time with "his girls" and just play. He loved kids in general and loved to hold babies!

Tom was a member of Monte Vista Masonic Lodge No. 73 and served two terms as master. He was a 32nd Degree member of the Southern Colorado Consistory and a member of Al Kaly Shriners. He enjoyed being a clown and entertaining the kids. He was a hospital representative for Shriner Hospitals and held offices in the local Sand Dunes Shrine Club

He refereed high school football for many years, and women's high school

Administration Committee, the Colorado Certified Seed Potato Board



and on the Monte Vista CO-OP board.

Tom especially enjoyed his work with the Division of Wildlife in Fruita, Colorado where he managed the Horse Thief Canyon State Wildlife Area for five years. He raised crops for wildlife introducing several new crops to the area that attracted even more wildlife than before his arrival there. Deer, quail, turkeys, ducks and geese increased in numbers, and he was delighted to be farming for wildlife. He began instructing Hunters' Education classes there as well.

Both Tom's parents, Clifford and Laura Lee Sanderson, preceded him in death as did his son, Kevin.

He is survived by his wife Margaret of 51 years, his daughter Dr. Ginger (George) Mentz and their three girls, Madeleine Alexis, Anna Catherine and Claire Michelle of Colorado Springs, his sister Betty Brink (Glen Burns) of Eloy, Ariz., as well as many extended family members on Margaret's side of the family.

Contributions can be made to Shriners Hospital for Children, 1275 E Fairfax Rd., Salt Lake City, Utah

Margaret is deeply grateful for the friends and family who visited or contacted them during this difficult time. She so appreciated the kind, compassionate and efficient care Tom received while at Evergreen Nursing Home where he passed.

Cremation has been chosen, and a Memorial Service will be held June 7, 2024, at 2 p.m. at the Sargent Community Church, 6967 County Road 2 East, Monte Vista, Colo.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

Valley Publishing has an immediate need in advertising sales (full-time). Any sales experience is appreciated but will train. Email resume to **General Manager Brian Williams at** bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com



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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Let the fun begin

As you know, Miss Trixie and I arrived safe and sound once again in Colorful Colorado and we are glad to be out of that Texas heat and into this nice cool weather.

It didn't take long for Miss Trixie to get us busy with activities and just this past week we were able to score some wild asparagus, make two trips to Amish Country, do a Wal-Mart run and have supper with dear friends.

Not only that but Ol' Dutch crowded in two stints driving the van for Mountain Man Rafting/ Narrow Ridge Outdoors, so I had a little money to boot. I really do enjoy that job as it lets me be along the Rio Grande River every day and who can ask for anything more than that?

It is kind of a long story about my love affair with the mighty Rio which all began when I was 6 years old, and our family was driving through South Fork. I took one look at the South Fork River and began to lobby to stay here to fish that stream.

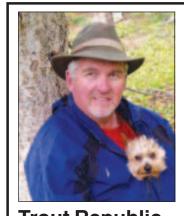
I don't know if my begging and pleading did any good or maybe my dad, Fast Freddy, was just ready to stop for the day but soon we found ourselves in a cabin on the river and I got to fish in that clear stream. My mother's postcard home to the grandparents proudly declared that I had caught six fish my first time using a fly rod.

The rest is history, I suppose, as we began coming here every summer to vacation and cool off. This year marks 61 years that Ol' Dutch has been fishing these wonderful streams and hiking the beautiful forests.

My dream was always to live here in the mountains and so when I retired at 52 years old, I moved here permanently and have not looked back since. That isn't the only milestone being marked this year as Miss Trixie and I celebrate 12 great years together - although she may want to downgrade a few of those to mediocre.

It's been a real blessing to be in such a wonderful place. I encourage you to get outside this summer as much as you can and enjoy God's creation.

And don't forget all the other activities coming up such as South Fork, Logger days and at TroutRepublic.



Trout Republic by Kevin Kirkpatrick

the list goes on and on and on.

Ol' Dutch has been fishing quite a bit. I can report that they are biting well and taste wonderful prepared in foil out on the grill. Miss Trixie, Cooper and I have been dining regularly on flakey Rainbow Trout. I hope you wet your line and get some for yourself, too.

I have already mentioned that Mountain Man/ NRO was already running raft trips and you really should make it a priority to get over to South Fork and take a guided trip on the Rio.

The water is high, and the rafting is superb so call Mountain Man/ Narrow Ridge Outdoors today at (719) 873-0188 and schedule your summer fun while enjoying a 10% discount through the month of June if you mention Trout Republic, Ol' Dutch or Miss Trixie.

They also offer guided kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, rock climbing and other outdoor pursuits so there is something for everyone to enjoy.

And if that is not enough incentive there is a high likelihood that Miss Trixie and maybe even Ol' Dutch will be driving you to the unloading spot. Then you can gauge for yourself what a long-suffering wonderful person she must be to put up with Ol' Dutch.

Drop a line if you're bored and need recommendations for activity in the area, Miss Trixie just loves to put people into motion. Hope to see you soon enjoying this wonderful state and all this area has to offer.

Kevin Kirkpatrick and his Creede Bingo on Monday nights, Yorkie, Cooper, fish, hunt, ATV the South Fork city garage sale, or hike daily. His email is Kevin@ the Creede Ladies Aid sale, TroutRepublic.com. Additional the Amish dinners and Amish news can be found at www. auction, the Farmers Market in troutrepublic.com or on Twitter

In small towns, bookstores are thriving

"I love to spend my day in a bookstore," said Amy Sweet. She lives in Red Lodge, Montana, and was explaining why she and her husband Brian opened Beartooth Books in her town of 2,300.

"It was part of the life we wanted to live in a small town, walk to work, and enjoy outdoor adventures and wonderful people."

She's not alone. For many of the same reasons, bookstores have been opening in small Western towns, said Heather Duncan, executive director of the Mountains & Plains Independent Booksellers Association.

Since 2020, more than 100 bookstores have opened in her region, which extends across 14 states ranging from Texas to Montana and from Nebraska to Nevada.

One reason for the phenomenon, said Amy Sweet, is that "people are proud of their town, our local history. It's all a package, and the bookstore gets to be part of that." The success of such a low-tech

enterprise might surprise people. "Lots of first-time customers come in and say, 'I thought bookstores were dying," Brian Sweet said.

But he believes that a bookstore is a perfect complement to today's culture. "A bookstore is quiet, peaceful, and yet mentally stimulating," he said. "It's not our devices and incessant TV news."

Bookstores opening in towns, as opposed to cities, is a trend throughout the West, Duncan said. Of her 60 member stores in Colorado, just 17 are in large cities. The rest are in small towns, smaller cities, or suburbs. In the Western Slope town of Paonia, population 1,500, Emily Sinclair opened Paonia Books a year ago. She said she likes exercising her own as well as local taste, and also enjoys inviting Western writers to give talks and sign time residents rather than visitors. their new books.

These days, said Duncan, bookstores are becoming more diverse in both ownership and retail model.

"We now have online-only stores, pop-up stores, book buses and bookmobiles," she said. And new store owners are often Black,

Indigenous, Hispanic/Latino, or LGBTQ+. "Diverse-owned stores are In the past it would have been around 10%."

Locating a bookstore in a rural community is arguably another aspect Bookselling provides that model. of diversity—and a surprising strength.

"Small-townstoreshadamuchbetter success rate during the pandemic," Duncan said, "due mostly to the support of their communities, as well



Courtesy photo

as lower overhead costs."

Beartooth Books

A strong connection to community, however, requires work. "We pick the books one by one," Brian Sweet said. "People are surprised to hear that—some think we just sell whatever shows up. But I pore over publisher catalogs, and in a small store, for every book that I choose, probably 200 don't make the cut."

Bookstores in tourist destinations, such as Back of Beyond in Moab, Utah, havealwaysthrivedondeepcommunity connections. But the current trend highlights how community is something best appreciated by full-

> Like farmers' markets, microbreweries, bakeries and outdoor-gear stores, bookstores are places to gather in person with likeminded neighbors, Amy Sweet said.

> "Customers in a bookstore are friendly and inquisitive," she said. "They come in to browse and

talk about books."

by John Clayton

While tech companies are always approximately 20% of our membership. looking to "scale up" to provide growth, the challenge for many small "scale down" to smaller populations.

But booksellers agree that they're doing a job: "It's business — it's not reading books all day," said Brian Sweet. "But it's a business where people want to support you. Every day," he added,

"people thank us for being open."

Here's a sampling of much-loved bookstores in Western towns under 10,000 people: Back of Beyond Books, https://

backofbeyondbooks.com/, Moab, Utah, pop. 5,300 The Mad Dog and the Pilgrim booksellers, https://www.facebook.

com/MadDogandthePilgrimBooks/, Sweetwater Station, Wyo., population too small to count Elk River Books, https://

elkriverbooks.com/, Livingston, Mont., population 8,300 Townie Books, https:// towniebookscb.indielite.org/, Crested

Butte, population 1,681 Reader's Oasis Books, no website, Quartzsite, Ariz., population 2,413

And here's a sampling of bookstores in Western towns under 10,000 that opened in the last three years:

Mountain Shire Books, https:// mountainshirebooks.com/, Winter Park, population 1,033

CuriosiTea Bookshop, https://bookshop.org/shop/ CuriosiTeaBookshop, Fairview, Utah, population pop. 1,203

Page Turners, https://bookshop.org/ shop/pageturnersmt, Fairview, Mont., population 844 Beartooth Books, https://www.

beartoothbookstore.com/, Red Lodge, Mont., population 2,300

Cobb's Book Nook, https:// towns is finding business models that cobbsbooknook.company.site/, Vernal, Utah, population 10,000

> John Clayton is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He's the authoroftheemailnewsletterNaturalStories.

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www.southforktines.com

LLAGE Continued from Page 1A

units, will begin soon.

South Fork Housing Task Force, and the South Fork Board of ground in the fall of 2023 and will provide 10 low-income workforce housing units for the area which follows the housing study done a construction. year prior by the San Luis Valley Housing Coalition.

Dorsett and his family have been homeowners in South Fork since 2015 and have been working diligently to bring workforce housing to the area since they learned of the housing crisis several years ago. Having worked in residential land development for the last two decades, Dorsett decided to use his experience to see that a project moved forward. Now he is ready to welcome the first 10 homeowners.

To make this opportunity a infrastructure.

2 of the project, long-term rental reality so quickly, Sawmill Meadow Development forged a business Through a collaborative effort relationship with Fading West in with the Town of South Fork, the Buena Vista who has been a key pioneer of workforce housing in the state of Colorado with their Trustees, the project got off the innovative approach to modular home construction utilizing high quality materials with an efficient and standardized approach to

Phase 1 consists of five standalone and five town home units. Seven units are three bedroomtwo baths, and three units (town home) are two bedroom-1.5

Applications for priority consideration for one of the 10 Phase 1 units are open until June 22 but, if units are still available, will remain open until all 10 units

Anticipated move in is the end of summer or early fall 2024 pending completion of required



Photos courtesy of Sawmill Meadow Village

qualifying application through for viewing by appointment only the San Luis Valley Housing by contacting Suzy Woodward visit the website.

People interested in purchasing an interested buyer at the project Realty in South Fork. a home, will need to complete a website. Select homes are available Coalition and submit their name as or Dustin Hund at Team Murphy sawmillmeadowvillage.com.

For more questions and for more detailed information,



Photos courtesy of South Fork Fire Rescue

RESCUE Continued from Page 1A

rescue without further incident. The next morning, Friday, May 31, South Fork Fire Rescue assisted the wrecker with removing the vehicle from the river. The team worked on this complicated recovery and had the vehicle removed within 30 minutes.

Both missions were logistically complex and the team at South Fork Fire Rescue worked together to achieve a successful outcome.

The crash is under investigation by





ERBY Continued from Page 1A

for the event and help children learn the fundamentals of fishing in the Colorado wilderness. The Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) will be about rules and regulations from present to walk each child through several stations that range in angler techniques. Participating children who finish the clinic will be offered a new rod and reel from CPW at the end of the day. Lunch is provided at noon.

Officials usually begin by separating the participating children into groups that will venture from one station to the next. CPW representatives teach the young anglers about casting techniques, how to prepare their poles for fishing and how to bait their hooks. The children line up and either use their own poles or use poles provided by the CPW for the lesson

businesses and volunteers come out and friends to put new techniques learned to practice.

> In addition to casting and pole basics, the children will be learning CPW officers. Volunteer officers sit down with each group and talk to them about the rules for fishing.

> Officers explain that each child can keep up to four fish to take home on any given day, but that they could catch and release the fish as much as they wanted.

> Other laws explained are that in certain areas, only specific fishing methods are allowed, like whether the location is open to lure fishing only or bait and lure techniques are allowed.

Officers emphasize the importance ofhavingaparentchecktheregulations of certain areas before embarking on before heading out with their family a fishing trip. The children will also



Photo courtesy of South Fork Visitor Center

learn that once they reach the age of 16, they must purchase a Colorado state fishing license to fish legally.

Saddlebrook Pond is across from Moon Valley along Highway 160 heading up Wolf Creek Pass. For more information or to get directions to the clinic, please contact the South Fork Visitor Center at 719-873-5512.







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GFWC Colorado Local Scholarship

Winners Announced

CONTRIBUTED

SANLUISVALLEY—TheColorado Federation of Women's Clubs, a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), is pleased to award two scholarships to San Luis Valley students this May.

Kadence McWilliams from Saguache County and Jaelyn Jackson from Manassa are the two students who were chosen.

McWilliams attended Moffat High School. She credits her family with instilling a love of animals, especially her grandfather who introduced her

a veterinarian due to her love of and council and NHS member, volunteer experiences with all sorts of animals. In addition, she played volleyball, basketball and ran track at Moffat High School. She has also been a part of FFA and the National Honor Society (NHS) as well as volunteering as a referee for peewee sports and working in a second-grade classroom. Jackson attended Centauri High

School and was involved in the Student Council and National Honor Society. She was an All-State athlete as a senior, participating in volleyball and basketball. She has been a part of her LDS church's Young Women's group and has volunteered in projects such as to the world of agriculture. She spent picking up trash on highways, serving livestock auction. She plans to become the elderly with yard work. As a student

efforts included holding two blood drives, an elementary school carnival and working at two middle school track meets. Jaelyn plans to study kinesiology at CU Colorado Springs and become a Physical Therapist.

Funding for the scholarships comes from the Minnie L. Harding Education Fund (MLHEF) created in 1902 by Mrs. Harding, a clubwoman living in Canon City. Since that time, many women have been given interest free loans. In 2022, a scholarship fund was developed to help graduating seniors further their education.

A committee made up of Colorado clubwomen manages the fund many years working at the Monte Vista food at a homeless shelter and assisting including three members of the Women's Citizenship Club in Alamosa.



Kadence McWilliams

The General Federation of Women's to strengthening communities and Clubs is one of the oldest national enhancing the lives of others through women's organizations dedicated



RGC Museum partners with Lookout Mountain Observatory Club

STAFF REPORT

DEL NORTE — The Rio Grande County Museum recently announced a new partnership with the Lookout Mountain Observatory Club. The club was forced to pause events shortly after founding member Al Hibbs died two years ago, but now thanks to the current board members and the museum, the club is back and will be hosting Star Parties soon.

The Rio Grande County Museum invites the public to come join them in celebrating this new partnership on June 21, beginning at 5 p.m. Lookout Mountain Observatory Board President Terri Verbecken will be giving a presentation on popular astrological events including the birth and death of a star. Following the presentation, Verbecken, with the help of fellow board members, will give a demonstration on how to use a telescope at home and where to begin when wanting to start observing the skies.

Through this partnership, the two entities are hoping to offer star viewing capabilities through a wireless feed from the Lookout Mountain Telescope to a monitor at the museum for easier viewing conditions and location. Though the project is in the early stages, now is the time to get excited about astroand around Del Norte.

The evening will be a wonderful built in Del Norte.

- valued at \$535.

*Terms and Conditions apply.

way to meet the board, hear about the resurrection of a group that has believing as he did, jerked the been near and dear to the heart of

The History

The town of Del Norte is wrapped in a rich history that very few know about. The small mountain town once contended to be the capital of Colorado only to lose to Denver in the early days of the town's history. One fun story that highlights the changing times of the mid-to late 1800s is the fact that Del Norte was once home to one of the largest observatories in the nation which was built by the Presbyterian College of the Southwest.

Now to understand the history, it would be apt to begin with how the college came to be in Del Norte. According to documents provided by the Rio Grande County Museum, the Rev. George M. Darley met with the Synod of the Colorado Presbyterian Church sometime between Oct. 10 and 14 of 1883.

The Synod was looking to choose a site for the new college and had to choose between three locations. Del Norte was once again pitted against Denver for the chance to be home to the new college.

According to records George M. tourism coming to the museum and Darley offered the Synod, which revitalizing Dark Sky initiatives in consisted of 41 delegates, \$40,000 if they would agree to have the college

GENERAC

"One of the delegates felt Del viewing stars and planets. "Everyone the window or slit through which dissenting delegate over a pew by his coat collar and shook his fist in the delegates face until the man realized Del Norte was an excellent choice for the college." It was then that Del Norte was honored with the college.

In 1883 the San Luis Valley did not have any high schools and because of this the college continued to struggle until it was closed with low student attendance. The college was home to six teachers the year it was opened and included a boarding house which was donated by a wealthy woman by the name of Mrs. Stuart. The building is still in use today but is now comprised of private

It was in 1885 that college workers began building an observatory at comprised of heavy imported tin the top of Lookout Mountain which which was soldered by Frank Hanna where it then was sold into a private provided an excellent location for Sr. The dome was constructed so collection.

the exciting things coming up this Norte was not suitable and it helped. The town built a road near the telescope was sighted could be summer and to show support for was at this time that Rev. Darley, the top and burros packed timbers up a long winding path."

In an article submitted by Rev. Darley in the San Juan Prospector he stated, "I will be at the bottom of the Mount Lookout with tools and I expect to work 10 hours a day, six days a week until it is done. Any citizen wishing to join me will be welcome."

The telescope, driving clock and other instruments reached Del Norte in December of that same year. The telescope that was housed in the observatory was built in Pittsburgh, Pa., and was 10-feet long with 9 ½ inch glass. The driving clock could be timed with planetary bodies so that it would automatically aim the telescope to the appropriate place

"The dome of the observatory was

turned in such a fashion that any point in the sky could be scanned." News of the new observatory

and it was said that the observatory was, "Thought to be one of the finest west of the Mississippi." Once the structure was completed, an astrologer and mathematician Dr. Notenstein took charge of the observatory, and the college quickly

became known as one of the top

traveled by horseback to all

surrounding San Juan communities,

institutions for astronomy and theology. The college closed its doors in 1901 due to a myriad of issues. Some of those issues included difficult transportation, lack of students, and the Spanish American War. When the college closed, the telescope was shipped to California and placed in the Mount Wilson Observatory



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UPDATE Continued from Page 1A

commissioners requested a work session to answer questions.

Rio Grande County uses Dominion Voting Systems to count ballots and has passed every audit required by the State of Colorado since the voting system installation in 2017. There was some expectation that a

Dominion representative would be at the work session, but according to RG County Administrator Skip Shoen, "they not able to make our chosen time fit with their schedule." Shoen conveyed this in an email to Valley Publishing.

Thepurpose of the works ession, Shoen explained, with the commissioners was to provide them with information on the upgrade to version 5.17 of the Dominion Democracy Suite. The commissioners and the public were provided a Dominion document describing the product changes included with the system upgrade to

According to Hill the upgrade is to the existing contract and is a first amendment to the original contract signed March 31, 2017. No new equipment is being added, no programming changes have been made

The contract renewal approved by commissioners will include new equipment and improved software scheduled to be installed in July.

Hill also explained that the new software and equipment must undergo the Logic and Accuracy Testing (LAT) and pass all Colorado State requirements before it is used in the election this fall.

 $During \, the \, testing \, LAT, judges \, mark$ 25 ballots each, all voting combinations are run, all ballot marking devices must be tested and the results are hand counted to confirm accuracy. If there are any errors detected or found the process is repeated until 100 percent accuracy is confirmed.

County commissioners heard from six

the conversation, those for and against and that he has been working on the the use of Dominion Voting Systems. Each person had a five-minute time limit beginning with those against the use of Dominion.

Dr. Walter Daugherty, an expert in Computer Science and Professor Emeritus at Texas A&M University was the first to speak. He asked commissioners to consider seven questions as they gained more information on the Dominion Voting

Daugherty was a co-author for the Mesa County Report Number 3 which found the Dominion Voting System created unauthorized databases and deleted election records. Daugherty continued stating that the first question that needed to be asked was whether or not these issues had been addressed and corrected by Dominion.

Throughout the rest of Daugherty's comments, he highlighted other potential issues posed by the voting system and said Dominion Voting Systems tested in Texas were tested twice and failed both times by the Secretary

Next to speak against the Dominion Voting System was Ret. Air Force Col. Shawn Smith, a former senior military evaluator for Space, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Systems under Director, Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT and E) Office of the Secretary of Defense.

"I want to address and focus on the election systems that you have in your county. The voting systems are not made here. The problems with the voting systems nationwide are the same and from the same sources," said Smith. Smith said that the voting system used by the county was insecure, though it passed all testing done in compliance with state regulations. "These systems are not secure."

Smith was followed by IT expert During the meeting, Rio Grande Mark Cook who spoke about how hard it was for the general public to

Dominion Voting Systems for four decades. Cook said there are concerns about Dominion's inability to conform to basic transparency regulations by potentially covering up several errors throughout their use in counties around

Those who spoke for the use of Dominion were from the Colorado County Clerk Association (CCCA), including Executive Director Matt Crance, Weld County Clerk Carly Koppes, and Jackson County Clerk and President of the CCCA, Haley Johnson.

Johnson was the first to speak stating, The CCCA is comprised of all 64 county clerks in the State of Colorado and a four-member executive board. We are very active in the proposed changes to elections, motor vehicle and other services throughout the state."

Johnson explained the purpose of the CCCA. The Colorado County Clerks Association is a non-governmental entity and includes in its membership the 64 County Clerks of Colorado and their designees. County clerks are elected through a vote of the residents of the county they serve, or they are appointed by the city council.

Next to speak was Weld County Clerk Koppes. "All the mail ballot envelopes go through signature verification, and as you all are very well aware, in-person voting is still available. Only 6 percent of voters in Colorado actually use that option, so we listen to our voters. We are all paper ballot here in Colorado for those who have expressed that concern."

After Koppes, CCCA executive Director Crane finished the meeting by answering some of the questions raised during the conversation including whether the CCCA maintained election records to which he responded, "Yes, absolutely, one hundred percent, yes."

Koppes said that it was not required by the state to maintain the operating system logs and that wireless devices experts, three representing each side of understand how these systems work on voting systems components are not

illegal regardless of what other experts may have to say.

At the end of the presentations, Rio Grande County Commissioner Scott Deacon said that he voted against the renewal of the Dominion Voting System because of the discrepancies.

"If Dominion is selling this product, then where are they," he asked.

Commissioner Gene Glover said

that he also had more questions than

"We are blessed to have Cindy; we all know that. I have some concerns about Dominion overall," he said.

Rio Grande County Administrator Skip Schoen in closing reminded everyone"thiswasaninformationalwork session to obtain additional information for the county commissioner."

Drop off leftover paint for recycling at Creede PaintCare event

CONTRIBUTED

MINERAL COUNTY — A PaintCare event is being held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 20, at the Mineral County Landfill.

It is a free and convenient one-day paint drop-off event. Households and businesses can safely and easily drop off unused paint for recycling. Households may bring any amount of paint, stain, and or varnish. Limits may apply to businesses.

PaintCare will accept unwanted house paint and primers (latex or oil-based); stains; deck and concrete sealers; and clear finishes (varnish and shellac). Paint must be in sealed, original containers with the original manufacturer's label.

PaintCare cannot accept leaking, unlabeled, or empty containers; aerosol coatings; drums or containers larger than five gallons; hazardous waste or other chemicals, such as paint thinner, solvents, motor oil, spackle, glue, adhesive, roofing tar, pesticides, or cleaning chemicals.

Paint in good condition will also be made immediately available to the public for free at this event.

This is open to all Colorado households and businesses. PaintCare

and wrists. You push them in

ground instead of where you

going. The UPWalker moves

front of you, looking at the

with you, with your body

is a nonprofit stewardship organization responsible for paint recycling programs in Colorado, nine other states, and the District of Columbia.

Space is limited for this event. Eventbrite registration is required to attend this event. The event will be held rain or shine. Register at https:// paint-creede.eventbrite.com.

To use PaintCare drop-off sites and events for oil-based paint, a business must qualify as an exempt generator under federal and any similar state hazardous waste generator rules. Visit www.paintcare.org/business-limits, for more information on exempt generator rules. If your business does not qualify as an exempt generator, it will not be able to use drop-off sites and events for oil-based paint, but it can still use the program for latex

PaintCare is committed to making it easy and convenient for households, businesses, and institutions to recycle postconsumer (leftover) paint in states with paint stewardship laws. More than 6 million gallons of paint, stain, and varnish have been managed by PaintCare's Colorado program since its launch in 2015. For additional information, visit www.paintcare.org.

Make Your Life a Life That you Love!

How do you feel about your life? Would you say you love it? Or do you just get through each day, enduring the things you don't want to do, putting up with the things that frustrate you, wishing you had someone else's life? Do you believe you will finally be happy someday... when you have this or that?

People often say things like: "I'll be happy when I have a different job." "I'll be happy when I'm married." "I'll be so glad when the weekend gets here!" "I'd be so happy if I had children." And then after the children come... "I'll be so happy when these kids are finally grown and out of the house!' It's a mistake for us to go through

life thinking we can't be happy until we have something we want or our cnange. we'll always find something to be unhappy about until we learn to be happy in the Lord.

I know about this from personal experience. I got a very bad start in

life, and it made me a miserable, angry, insecure person who didn't trust anybody because I believed if I didn't take care of myself, nobody else would. And that caused me to be very selfish and self-centered.

But God didn't create us to live selfish lives, spending all our time trying to get what we want. He put a desire in us to have pleasure, but we will never really experience His blessings—His peace, joy, love, and all the good things He wants to give us—if we live with a "What about

me?" mentality.

John 10:10 (AMP) says, "The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it

overflows]. The enemy—the devil—wants to steal our joy and destroy our lives. But

give us abundant life, "to the full, till it overflows"! And it's a tragedy when born-again Christians don't enjoy their lives because they have a "barely getting by, hanging on till Jesus comes to get me" mentality.

you're unhappy and want to love our life, I want to give you two keys to help you get there.

The first key is to make an attitude adjustment.

Having a negative, critical attitude and feeling sorry for ourselves sours everything. We all have things we could complain about, but it doesn't do any good, so we're just wasting our time and energy when we give in to it.

Make a determined decision to have a more thankful attitude in your daythings you can think of right now, and actively look for more things to add to the list each day. This will help you stay focused on God's goodness.

Another way to improve your attitude is to get your mind off yourself and things about others more

yourself and think about others more. Ask God how you can be a blessing and help make someone else's life better. When we're paying attention to others, it's easy to find something we can do, whether it's giving an encouraging word or compliment, a random act of kindness, or a hug. There's really no end to the ways we can show God's love to someone around us.

The second key is to have a proper perspective.

Loving or hating a thing often comes down to how you look at it. It's possible you can have more joy in your life simply by looking at it from a different perspective.

Whatever you focus on, that is what you're going to get. If you focus on trouble long enough, that's all you'll expect, and it will likely develop.



proper perspective of it from God's point of view, it will grow and get out of balance. For example, in marriage, people sometimes get so focused on the things they don't like about their spouse that they totally forget all the ood things they love about them.

I know life is not easy, and we all have to deal with hardship at times. But when you're struggling, realize that although you have some trouble,

I certainly don't mean to make light of a serious issue you're facing; my purpose with this point is to help you keep your perspective based on God's His promises. when you choose to trust Him in every circumstance, He will always be

bigger than your problems!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource Keys to Loving Your Journey. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.

joycemeyer.org.
Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (FaithWords). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit

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



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Polis visits with local EMS responders

CONTRIBUTED

SAN LUIS VALLEY — On May 24, Governor Jared Polis visited with local first responders in recognition of their work, efforts, and contribution toward the SLV Youth Justice League project.

This project, and a few others under the SLV First Responders Outreach Unit and the SLV RETAC, is supported by the Alamosa County Commissioners. The San Luis Valley Youth Justice League Program is empowering youth in the community to raise awareness in schools about bullying, sexual harassment and assault, dating violence, affirmative consent, safe bystander intervention, survivor care, rights under Title IX, and suicide prevention.

The program is conducted by local first responders (law enforcement, doctors, nurses, EMTs, paramedics, firefighters) working together to share their skills and knowledge through educational training, workshops, presentations and activities for youth across the San Luis Valley.



Courtesy pho

Governor Jared Polis, Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske, City of Alamosa Mayor Ty Coleman, Twelfth Judicial District Attorney Anne Kelly, SLV RETAC, Conejos County EMS, Monte Vista EMS, Alamosa County EMS, Alamosa Sheriff's Office, Alamosa Police Department, Alamosa Fire Department, DFPC 32, Colorado State Patrol Dispatch, and Eagle Air Med.

TOWN OF SOUTH FORK ORDINANCE NO. 2024-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 24-01 [AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH FORK INCREASING THE TOWN SALES TAX FROM TWO PERCENT (2%) TO FOUR PERCENT (4%)]

 $\label{eq:WHERAS} WHEREAS, the Town of South Fork passed Ordinance No. 24-01 subsequent to its April 2024 regular election raising the sales tax rate from two percent (2%) to four percent (4%); and$

 $\label{eq:WHEREAS} \textbf{WHEREAS}, \text{ the Town has been made aware that the town ordinance, which refers to its "sales and use tax"; and$

WHEREAS, the Town does not currently have a "use tax"; and

WHEREAS, the remaining language of said ordinance is correct;

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Board of Trustees of the Town of South Fork that the language, "and use" is hereby stricken and deleted from all references in Ordinance No. 24-01 by interlineation as contained on the amended copy of said ordinance attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

DONE AND SIGNED this 28th DAY OF May 2024.





No. 4727 published in the South Fork Tines, Thursday, June 6, 2024.

VALLEY UCTION SERVICES

PUBLIC AUCTION June 15th, 2024 Saturday 9:30 am

Location: 11657 Hwy 160, Del Norte, CO. Auction site is east of Del Norte on the northside of the Highway. Watch for signs.

Auctioneer's Note: Items on this auction are in good to excellent condition. There are several treasures to be had at this auction both big and small. There will be 2— auction rings. Check our FB page for more pictures.

Vehicles

76 - 442 Oldsmobile 88 - F-150 Super Cab 4X4 75 - 16' Silverline Boat w/ Trailer Homemade Pop-up Camper Polaris 425 4-wheeler 73 - 175 Honda Motorcycle 2004- F-150 2WD w/Flatbed

Shop Equipment

2- Fuel Tanks on Stands
Part. Rolls Woven Wire
2-Rolls Barb Wire
T-Posts (new)
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Air Compressor
5 Hp 60 gal Air Compressor
Table Saw
Radial Arm Saw
Drill Press
Bench Grinder
Assorted Wrenches
2- Saddles

Antique Items

Dump Rake
Side Delivery Rake
Sausage Stuffer
Franciscan China - Set
Norika China - Set
Lots of Glassware
Silver Tea Set

Many Items too Numerous to Mention



Equipment

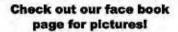
5' 3-pt Bush Hog
15 Caterpillar
6" 3-pt Land Pride Blade
274 MF Tractor MFWD w/ Loader
Snow Plow Blade for 4-wheeler
Stihl 044 Chain Saw (like new)
2- Elec. Chain Saws
Log Splitter on Trailer
800 Ford Tractor w/ Loader

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Auctioneers: Dale Adams & David Brown

TOWN OF SOUTH FORK ORDINANCE NO. 24-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH FORK, COLORADO ADOPTING RULES AND REGULATIONS AS GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNATING SITE SELECTION AND CONSTRUCTION OF MAJOR NEW DOMESTIC WATER SYSTEMS AND MAJOR EXTENSIONS OF EXISTING DOMESTIC WATER SYSTEMS AND MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL WATER PROJECTS AS ACTIVITIES OF STATE INTEREST

WHEREAS, the Areas and Activities of State Interest Act, Sections 24-65.1-101 to -502, C.R.S. (the "Act") allows local governments to designate certain areas and activities as "matters of state interest," (which the Town of South Fork has enacted by the provisions of Ordinance Number 24-03); and

WHEREAS, once a local government has designated an area or activity as a matter of state interest, it may adopt guidelines and regulations to administer such areas or activities; and

WHEREAS, any person who would engage in development in a designated area or conduct a designated activity must first obtain a permit from the local government; and

WHEREAS, the surface water and groundwater resources in the San Luis Valley are the lifeblood of the human and natural environment, and the communities' continued ability to thrive; and

WHEREAS, certain activities of state interest that would transfer water from the San Luis Valley could endanger the viability of these water resources; and

WHEREAS, the Town of South Fork has designated these activities of state interest and now adopts regulations in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF TOWN OF SOUTH FORK, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Findings and Determinations.

At the May 28, 2024 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, a public hearing was conducted regarding the adoption of guidelines and regulations for water projects for export outside the San Luis Valley as a designated matter of State interest in accordance with the provisions of Colorado Revised Statutes \$24-65.1-101, et seq., and \$24-65.1-401, et seq. In consideration of the testimony, evidence, and documents submitted at the public hearing, the Board of Trustees of the Town of South Fork, Colorado, hereby makes the following findings and determinations:

- A. The public hearing was duly noticed in accordance with the requirements of Section 24-65.1-404(2)(a), C.R.S.
- **B.** The Board of Trustees of the Town of South Fork, Colorado, has taken the following into account:
 - All testimony, evidence, and documents taken and admitted at the public hearing.
 The intensity of current and foreseeable development pressures in the
 - Town.

 The potential for transfer of water from the jurisdiction of the governing body and from the San Luis Valley.
 - **4.** The potential locations of the activities of state interest.
- The uncontrolled conduct of water export would threaten the surface water and groundwater resources of the San Luis Valley, and the designation and regulation of such activities will allow for a coordinated approach to protecting these resources.
- D. The municipalities and counties in the San Luis Valley will or have entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement ("IGA") to establish the San Luis Valley Planning Area to Protect Surface and Groundwater Resources to allow a coordinated approach for regulation of these activities of state interest.

Section 2. Joint Planning Area Defined.

The boundaries of the Joint Planning Area are the geographic boundaries of the Counties of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache.

Section 3. Designation.

The following activities have been designated as matters of state interest:

- A. Site selection and construction of major new domestic water systems and major extension of existing domestic water systems.
- **B.** Efficient utilization of municipal and industrial water projects.

Section 4. Applicability and Exclusions.

- Except for activities set forth in Section 4.B. below, this Ordinance applies as follows:
 - Major domestic water treatment system shall include any collection, treatment, storage, or distribution system and any of its components for the export of water outside the Joint Planning Area directly or by exchange with the eventual capacity to serve 15 or more service connections. The term components includes without limitation all diversion structures, dams, reservoirs, ponds, water bodies, streams, trenches, wells, pipes, conduits, tanks, pumps, buildings, structures, trucks, and other methods or conveyances.
- 2. Municipal and industrial water project means a project, and any of its components to export water outside the Joint Planning Area for eventual use for municipal or industrial purposes, directly or by exchange. The term components includes without limitation diversion structures, dams, reservoirs, ponds, water bodies, streams, trenches, wells, pipes, conduits, tanks, pumps, buildings, structures, trucks, and other conveyances.
- B. These designated activities of state interest do not include augmentation or replacement water to the Rio Grande basin for the purpose of replacing injurious depletions caused by the use of water within the San Luis Valley if such water is provided in accordance with the Rules Governing the Withdrawal of Groundwater in Water Division No. 3, the Rio Grande Compact, water court decrees, or other state administrative or judicial requirements. Nor do these designated activities of state interest include export of water from the Joint Planning Area that remains for eventual use within the Rio Grande Basin.

Section 5. Permit Required.

No person shall conduct a designated activity of state interest until the activity has been reviewed and permitted by the Town of South Fork, Colorado, in accordance with the duly adopted guidelines and regulations in conformance with the IGA and attached to this ordinance as Exhibit "A "and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 6. Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, or part of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall for any reason be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction invalid, such judgement shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 28th Day of May 2024, by the Board of Trustees of the Town of South Fork, Colorado, and determined by a roll call vote as follows:

Mayor Schmidt Mayor Pro-Tem Sparrow Trustee Stickens Trustee Entz



Trustee Butcher Trustee Woole Trustee

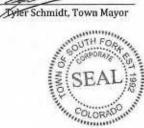


ORDINANCE NO. 24 - 03 passes / / fails ____.

DONE AND SIGNED this 28th DAY OF MAY, 2024.

Hank Weber, Town Administrator

APPROVED AS TO FORM: Eugene L. Farish, Town Attorney



No. 4726 published in the South Fork Tines, Thursday, June 6, 2024.

USDA announces Martinez as Colorado Director for Rural Development

She owns and operates cattle ranch in Southern Colorado

DENVER – President Joe Biden on May 29 announced the appointment of Crestina Martinez as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development State Director in Colorado.

"I am thrilled to begin this journey as the Colorado State Director, filled with excitement, optimism, and a steadfast dedication to serving the rural communities of Colorado. USDA Rural Development boasts a statewide presence with seven offices, a robust

team. Together, under the Biden-Harris Administration, we will tirelessly strive to expand economic opportunities, bolster infrastructure, and enhance the quality of life for all rural Coloradans," said Martinez.

Martinez owns and operates a small cattle ranch in Southern Colorado and holds a bachelor's in Sociology and Spanish from Colorado College and certificates from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business.

Martinez previously served as Director of Strategic Outreach and Department of Local Affairs where she Advocacy at Xcel Energy where she developed and implemented strategic

centered on environmental justice, a Costilla County Commissioner. energy equity, and Tribal relations.

Martinez also has experience as Adams County Director of Long-Term Recovery and Major Initiatives where she led the development of strategies for equitable economic and health recoveries from COVID-19 and as Chief of Staff in the Office of the Colorado Lieutenant Governor where she led policy and legislative strategies, stakeholder outreach, and constituent

Before that, Martinez also served as Regional Manager in the Colorado managed local government operations emphasizing rural community and

legacy of investment, and a talented outreach and advocacy initiatives economic development and served as

RD State Directors serve as the chief executive officer of Rural Development in the states and territories and are tasked with carrying out the mission of rural development to the benefit of everyone in rural America. In conjunction with the guidance and support of the National Office, State Directors are responsible for promoting the mission and strategic goals of Rural Development and provide key leadership to develop and support a productive, diverse, and inclusive state workforce.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expande conomic opportunities, create jobs, and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business



Crestina Martinez

development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety andhealth care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit www. rd.usda.gov/co.

CRHDC to host Homeownership Month celebration

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — Everyone is invited to attend a Community Resources and Housing Development Homeownership Month celebration on Saturday, June 8, beginning at 12 p.m. and running until about 3 p.m. at 945 Tyndall St.

The purpose of the event is to celebrate home ownership in the community. Come on down and enjoy free drinks, food, and games, while you learn about valuable resources and gain valuable information about CRHDC home ownership options.

The mission of CRHDC is to provide pathways to home and asset building opportunities to benefit low to moderate income communities throughout Colorado. Have you ever dreamed of owning your own home but were worried that you may not have the financial capabilities to do so, CRHDC may be able to provide you with some useful information and informative options for ways in which you can obtain your own

According to their website, CRHDC dates to 1971. CRHDC was

developed originally as part of the units across the state. Colorado Migrant Council, to help with unfavorable living conditions for migrant and seasonal agriculture workers that lived in Colorado for

The venture of the organization has since grown to address all types of housing needs, and to assess different building opportunities that may arise in both rural and urban communities around the state of Colorado. CRHDC, prides itself on taking a more sustainable approach in delivering their services, by comprising new lines of businesses, that engage residents and their communities with stable housing and financial development efforts that are more suitable for different areas.

To date CRHDC has worked in over 30 different counties in Colorado. CRHDC has also supervised and overseen the establishment of more than 200 self-help-built homes, for people who have low to moderate financial stability. To date, CRHDC has also erected over 500 units for agriculture workers and over 300 units

CRHDC can offer information on counseling and education for people who are interested in owning their own homes. CRHDC can also help people obtain and find lenders, who are budget friendly and offer affordable mortgage options to people who are interested in obtaining their own homes. CRHDC also can offer affordable opportunities for rental units, statewide. You too can develop and obtain affordable home ownership opportunities, through

There will be a lot of information given out at the upcoming homeownership celebration, as well as a bouncy house provided for the kids, along with face painting, music, yard games, and more. Come on down and obtain some valuable information about home ownership and take a tour at the establishment.

This is a free community event hosted by CRHDC in partnership with NeighborWorks America, to celebrate homeownership month and provide valuable information on of budget-friendly multi- housing homeownership to the community.

Female inmate at Alamosa **County Detention Center** found unresponsive in cell

Autopsy rules out foul play

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — During a routine cell checkat the Alamosa County Detention Center early Sunday morning, an unresponsive female inmate was found

The 41-year-old woman was discovered at 7:19 a.m., at which time deputies and EMS staff performed lifesaving measures. Unfortunately, she was pronounced deceased at the scene. Joe Dzuris, Alamosa County

Coroner, has identified the woman as Erica Ann Martinez. The Valley Courier reached Dzuris when he was returning to Alamosa after an autopsy on Martinez had been completed, the results of which, he says, confirmed there was no foul play.

Alamosa County Sheriff Robert Jackson has contacted the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and requested a thorough investigation of the incident. According to a statement from the Sheriff's Office, this is an ongoing investigation, and no further details will be released at this time.



Orlando DeHerrera, DO

Monte Vista Medical Clinic of Rio Grande Hospital

RioGrandeHospital.org

Welcome, Dr. Orlando DeHerrera, to our Monte Vista Medical Clinic. San Luis Valley native Orlando

DeHerrera, DO, is accepting new patients at our Monte Vista Clinic. Born and raised in Antonito, he has been a local favorite with patients and is known for his down-to-earth charm.

Dr. DeHerrera is excited to be practicing with Rio Grande Hospital Clinic in Monte Vista, where he resides with his family. He is actively involved in the community and is happy to get back to his true calling as a primary care provider in the San Luis Valley!



To schedule your appointment with Dr. DeHerrera, call 719-852-8827



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SLV lifestyles Serving the entire San Luis Valley

Supplement to The Monte Vista Journal, Center Post-Dispatch, The Conejos County Citizen, The Mineral County Miner, The South Fork Tines, and The Del Norte Prospector. BOXHOLDER LOCAL-RURAL CAR-RT SORT STANDARD MAIL RATE U.S. Postage PAID

RGC Search and Rescue aids teens stuck in 'blowdown'

CONTRIBUTED RIO GRANDE

COUNTY — Rio Grande County Search and Rescue aided four teenagers stuck in "blowdown" at Cross Creek on Memorial Day, May 27.

At approximately 6 p.m. on Monday, RGCSAR was contacted regarding four teenagers stuck at Cross

The teens were traveling on dirt bikes and became stuck in the blowdown without proper gear, water andwererunninglowon fuel, RGCSAR reported.

A specialized team of six RGCSAR members responded by ATV with chainsaws, warm clothes, fuel and water. They removed over 20 trees to clear the trail and bring the teens to safety. The mission ended at approximately 10 p.m.

RGCSAR provided the following tips for going into the back country:

Navigation - That phone or GPS is nice until suddenly it won't charge with your

Please see RGCSR





Photos courtesy of Linette Nye-Schmidt Rio Grande County Search and Rescue aided

four teenagers stuck in 'blowdown' at Cross Creek on Memorial Day, May 27.



Photo courtesy of the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce

Colorado Gator Farm staff, family members and community well-wishers celebrated the grand opening of the new reptile barn with a ribbon cutting Friday morning. Owner Jay Young is shown in the middle holding a sign.

Colorado Gator Farm celebrates new reptile barn

Officially named the David Lindsey Reptile Center

BY MARIE MCCOLM

MOSCA — Colorado Gator Farm owner Jay Young was smiling but also $flooded\ with\ mixed\ emotions\ during\ a\quad mostly\ rescued\ reptiles, snakes, lizards,$ ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new tortoises, and some parrots," Young said.

reptile barn on Friday, May 24.

He was joined by approximately 20 family and friends, including Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske and former Senator Lewis Entz, during the ceremony. The new barn was officially named the David Lindsey Reptile

"The new building will house

This has been a lot of hard work and a long road, but life is going to throw things at you, it's up to you how you handle it. All you can do is the best you can, with what you have got, and now we have a new barn."

The new barn replaces the structure that burned down in a devastating fire on April 18, 2023. More than 100 turtles, tortoises, lizards, and snakes

Please see GATOR on Page 6

Saguache County Museum celebrates 65 years

By MARIE MCCOLM

SAGUACHE — The Saguache County Musuem opened its doors, with a free admission day on May 26 in celebration of its 65 years of being open.

A parade was hosted in downtown Saguache and featured many floats and vehicles. The Saguache Chamber of Commerce drove an ATV in the parade, with members of the Saguache Art Walk on a trailer in the back, smiling the parade. and waving happily.

The Saguache County Ambulance blinked their lights and drove in the parade, followed by a red station wagon which proudly adorned a sign that read



Antique cars were parked in Otto Mears Park during the Saguache County Museum's 65th anniversary celebration on May 26.

"Saguache Senior Citizen's Center," across the passenger side.

The Antique Tractor Club was also a hit in the parade with a barrel train hitched to a tractor.

Grammy's Kitchen had a colorful float in the parade, decked out with balloons and a gentleman wearing a white apron, who smiled and waved at all the people who lined the street for

There were also a few prancing horses in the parade, and the Garcia brothers of Center also displayed their antique cars in the parade proudly. Two law enforcement trucks blinking their lights were the final entrants of the parade.

In lieu of the museum's celebration, there were also vendors in the middle of town at Otto Mears Park. There were vendors selling handmade jewelry. The Saguache quilting club was also set up at the park, along with an entire canopy filled with goat milk products for sale. The Garcia brothers also set up all their antique cars at the park, they were arranged in a big circle at the park.

The Saguache Musuem opened shortly after 10 a.m. and people were eager to visiting its different hallways filled with historic items.

Lane Ellis, a resident of Mosca, attended the opening at the museum and stated that it was nice to see something so rich in history, so well



Photos by Marie Mccolm

The Antique Tractor Club pulls a barrel train in the parade on May 26 celebrating the Saguache County Museum's 65th anniversary.

preserved.

online for museums and virtually, it's hard to visit something in person that is so well preserved. My favorite part of this museum is the jail. It's hard to fathom someone being put in that jail, but from what I hear, that is the actual jail, that has been here for 65 years, and it did house criminals," she said with a chuckle. "I am glad I came today; this is a neat part of history that I get to see and enjoy, and you don't get that every day."

The Saguache County Museum began "These days there are tours being held in 1959 as a municipal improvement venture, in celebration of Colorado's Centennial Anniversary. Saguache County had just finished building a brand-new jail, and the old one was set to be demolished. Members of three different clubs who collaborated on the idea for the museum, begged Saguache County not to demolish the jail, so that the site could be used as a "historical place." The establishment was saved and became the Saguache

County Museum. It was collaboratively decided that the little museum would be opened as a celebrated display of history, in Saguache Town Hall.

The museum is celebrating 65 years this year. Volunteers make up the board of directors for the museum. The museum is completely non-profit and is also separate from the Saguache County government.

The museum opens annually on Memorial Day and closes for the season on Labor Day.

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To place your ad in person come to the office at 835 First Ave.in Monte Vista, or call (719) 852-3531. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may also fax your classified to (719) 852-3387 or email at montevistaclass@gmail.com

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To ensure your ad is correct, check it the first day it appears in the paper. If there is an error in your ad, call us right away so we can correct it. If an error appears in your ad, Valley Publishing will credit you with one additional

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DEADLINE

Thursday 5:00 pm Call 719-852-3531

or email: rbeutler@valleypublishinginc.com

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05 Notices

For information on meetings for ALA-NON NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS AND ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Please visit slvaa.org or call 719-937-5083.

07 Help Wanted

Jr/Sr High School Behavior Interventionist / School Assessment Coordinator, needed at Del Norte Jr/Sr High School for the 2024-2025 school year. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic team. Applicants must have a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Annie at 719-657-4020. Applications can be found online at: urtigers.co. (6-26)

Dairy Queen in Monte Vista is hiring a full-time Assistant Manager to help us continue to grow. Applicants must have previous QSR management experience. Salary based on experience. PTO, Health insurance, and 401K available. Email resumes to MVDairyQueen@ gmail.com. (6/19)

WANTED: Saguache County Road and Bridge and Landfill is looking to hire an Assistant Supervisor Starting at \$67,000/year - DOE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must possess a current Colorado Class "A" Commercial Drivers License CDL with a heavy semi-truck endorsement and a current medical certificate. Applicants should have a high school diploma along with an extensive working knowledge of methods, operating rules, and equipment for road construction and maintenance operations. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County, please note that after a "conditional" offer is made, we may require disclosure of other information personal to the applicant. The prospective employee will also be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening, before being hired. Road &

is a full-time salaried position - qualified candidates will be responsible for assisting the head supervisor with the coordination and supervision of labor, maintenance crews, and equipment while reconstruction, resurfacing, and general county road maintenance are performed. This position is expected to work during road emergencies so you should be available to work nights, weekends, and holidays when needed. This position will assist the head supervisor in reviewing and evaluating employee performance, directing procedures to ensure compliance with established budgets, ensures that all purchases conform to departmental needs and goals. This position is also responsible for assisting the head supervisor with the Landfill department, providing information for reporting, monitoring the gas wells, and assuring compliance with all Colorado Department of Health regulations. This is only part of an extensive list of requirements for this position. In addition to the salaried rate, the County Employee benefit package includes vision, dental, and health insurance coverage, paid time

DISCLAIMER

Please read your ad on the first day of publication. If there are mistakes notify us **IMMEDIATELY**. We will make changes for errors and adjust your credit but only if we receive notice on the first day the ad is published. We limit our liability to you in this way and we do not accept liability for any other damages which may result from an error or omission in an ad. All ad copy must be approved by the newspaper which reserves the right to request changes, reject or properly classify an ad. The advertiser and not the newspaper is responsible for the truthful content of the ad. All classified advertising must be pre-paid.

ESTIMATED CROP WATER USE

Crop	Date Planted	Daily Crop Water use for Dates Shown (in./day)				Accumulated Water Use (ET)				
						From	5/29	(inches)		
		5/29	5/28	5/27	5/26	2day	3day	4day	5day	7day
Moravian 69	04/05	0.25	0.24	0.22	0.25	0.50	0.72	0.97	1.22	1.67
Moravian 69	05/05	0.14	0.13	0.11	0.12	0.28	0.39	0.51	0.63	0.82
Early Wheat	04/05	0.25	0.24	0.22	0.25	0.50	0.72	0.97	1.22	1.67
Early Wheat	05/05	0.14	0.13	0.11	0.12	0.26	0.37	0.48	0.59	0.77
White Wheat	04/05	0.25	0.24	0.22	0.25	0.50	0.72	0.97	1.22	1.67
White Wheat	05/05	0.14	0.13	0.11	0.12	0.26	0.37	0.48	0.59	0.77
WinterWheat	10/01	0.25	0.24	0.22	0.25	0.50	0.72	0.97	1.22	1.67
Potatoes										
Norkotah	05/05	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.09	0.14	0.18	0.23	0.32
Centennial	05/05	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.09	0.14	0.18	0.23	0.32
Nugget	05/05	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.09	0.14	0.18	0.23	0.32
Alfalfa	Est.	0.29	0.28	0.25	0.29	0.57	0.82	1.11	1.39	1.91
Lawngrass	Est.	0.24	0.23	0.21	0.24	0.47	0.68	0.92	1.16	1.59

For the latest ET information, call 719-754-3494 extension x40 for Center, x36 fro Center #2, and x38 for La Jara. Use the crop maturity and planting data and weather station closest to your own. Find this upJune 8d table each day at this web address: http://aes-slvrc.agsci.colostate.edu/daily-crop-water-use-report/

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

If you are interested in adopting, call 852-3366 Open Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m. -4 p.m. & Sat. & Sun. • 1:30 - 5 p.m. Monday & non-business hours by appointment only 2825 Sherman Ave. • Monte Vista

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.



Upper Rio Grande Animal Society

HOST & HOUND



Found on 5/22, brought to the shelter on 5/28 in the Broyles Bridge area



Found on 5/29 on Covey St in Monte Vista



Our Pyrenees puppies are ready to meet with potential adopters, but not quite ready to meet new fur housemates, for another couple weeks. We have 4 males and 2 females, all full of love and personality! Come meet them today!

Poppy and Allium are still looking for their furever homes as well! 5 month old Boxer Lab mixes with hearts of gold that'll keep you laughing and on your toes! These

lovely ladies were born here, and we think it's time they find out what life outside the shelter is, don't you?





Please note adoptions go in order of contact made.

All breeds & ages of animals are a "best guess" and are not guaranteed to be accurate. Adoption fee includes: neuter/spay, vaccinations, de-worming and micro-chipping. This ad space donated by Valley Publishing Inc.

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Valley Publishing has an immediate need in advertising sales (full-time). Any sales experience is appreciated but will train. Email resume to **General Manager Brian Williams at** bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com

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off, and a generous 401a retirement plan. tion, resurfacing, and general county Applications and a complete job description are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Office, 305 3rd Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 – 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website - saguachecounty.colorado.gov under the Road and Bridge Department tab. Please fill out and submit both applications: The Saguache County Application and the Drivers-Application. Completed Assistant Supervisor applications – must be made to the attention of Hiring Committee and can be handdelivered to the Road and Bridge Office located at 305 3rd Street in Saguache, mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge Hiring Committee – PO Box 476 Saguache, CO 81149, sent by email to mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov, or faxed to 719-655-2543. APPLICA-TION DEADLINE: Open until a qualified candidate is hired. Saguache County

WANTED: Saguache County Road and Bridge and Landfill is looking to hire a **Head Supervisor** . . . Starting at \$71,000/ year - DOE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Applicants are preferred to possess or may be required to possess a current Colorado Class "A" Commercial Drivers License with a heavy semi-truck endorsement and a current medical certificate. Applicants should have a high school diploma along with extensive knowledge of methods operating rules, and equipment for road construction and maintenance operations. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County, please note that after a "conditional" offer is made, we may require disclosure of other information personal to the applicant. The prospective employee will also be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening, before being hired. The Road & Bridge and Landfill Head Supervisor is a full-time salaried position - qualified candidates will be responsible for the coordination and supervision of labor, maintenance crews, and equipment while reconstruc-

road maintenance are performed. This position is expected to work during road emergencies so you should be available to work nights, weekends, and holidays when needed. The Head Supervisor reviews and evaluates employee performance, prepares the annual budget, and monitors all expenditures and revenues. This position is also responsible for the Landfill department, reporting to the State of Colorado Department of Health and the Board of County Commissioners, and assuring compliance with the Colorado Department of Health regulations. This is only part of an extensive list of requirements for this position. In addition to the salaried rate, the County Employee benefit package includes vision, dental, and health insurance coverage, paid time off, and a generous 401a retirement plan. Applications and a complete job description are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Office, 305 3rd Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 - 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website saguachecounty.colorado.gov under the Road and Bridge Department tab. Please fill out and submit both applications: The Saguache County Application and the Drivers-Application. Completed Head Supervisor applications – must be made to the attention of Wendi Maez and can be hand-delivered to the administration building located at 505 3rd Street in Saguache, mailed to Saguache County Administrator - Wendi Maez PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149, sent by email to wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov, or faxed to 719-655-2635. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until a qualified candidate is hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (6-19)

Del Norte High School is seeking a qualified Secondary Business Teacher. We are seeking an experienced, hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, and vibrant team. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License with a Secondary Social Studies endorsement. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Annie Hardy at ahardy@urtigers.co or call Mrs. Hardy at (719) 657 - 4020. Applications can be accessed online at www.urtigers.co.

South Fork Annual Town Wide Clean Up & Garage Sale

June 14 & 15 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Garage sales will take place on Saturday the 15th. If you'd like to host a sale, contact the South Fork

Visitor Center to share your info and be added to the published map at (719) 873-5512. The Town will have large dumpsters available for public use throughout the weekend, located in the Visitor Center parking lot.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Respiratory disorder
- 7. Bulgarian mountain peak
- 10. Group of important people
- 12. South American nation
- 13. Amazes
- 14. __-Castell, makers of pens
- 15. Perlman and Seehorn are
- 16. Early medieval alphabet
- 17. Legislator (slang)
- 18. Tasty crustacean
- 19. Course of action 21. Airborne (abbr.)
- 22. Permanent church
- appointment 27. Larry and Curly's pal 28. Famed American
- journalist 33. 12th letter of Greek
- alphabet 34. In a way, vanished
- 36. Afflict in mind or body
- 37. Egyptian Sun god
- 38. Source of the Blue Nile 39. Egyptian unit of weight
- 40. Be the source of pain
- 41. Esteemed award ___ d'Or
- 44. Partner to pains
- 45. Deep blue
- 48. No longer living
- 49. Country in the UK

Solution to last week's nuzzle

ı	201	utic	on t	.0 18	ist v	wee	K S	pu	zzie
	8	7	3	2	9	5	1	4	6
	2	5	4	3	6	1	9	7	8
	1	6	9	7	8	4	3	5	2
	6	1	2	9	7	8	5	3	4
	4	8	5	1	3	2	7	6	9
	3	9	7	5	4	6	2	8	1
	9	3	6	4	2	7	8	1	5
	7	4	1	8	5	9	6	2	3
	5	2	8	6	1	3	4	9	7

15

- 50. Not even
- 51. Arizona city

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Wager
- 2. Classical portico
- 3. As a result
- 4. Bird
- 5. A type of "Squad"
- 6. Autonomic nervous system
- 7. Dish with food on a stick
- 8. City northwest of Provo
- 9. C. European river 10. One out of jail
- 11. Henry Clay estate
- 12. Heathen
- 14. Refrained
- 17. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 18. "The Stranger" author
- 20. Not old

- 23. Periods of starvation
- 24. Language of tribe in India
- 25. Savings account
- 26. Pitching stat
- 29. Megabyte
- 30. Ribonucleic acid
- 31. A place to put your feet
- 32. The fun part of a week
- 35. We all have our own
- 36. Partner to "oohed"
- 38. African nation
- 40. Breezed through
- 41. Sets out
- 42. Other
- 43. Not fattening
- 44. "Much __ about nothing"
- 45. Central Time
- 46. Former EU monetary unit
- 47. Charles S. Dutton sitcom

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Join millions of older Americans who are rediscovering the joy of walking "I'm on the move again with my UPWalker'!"

The UPWalker is a revolutionary new mobility device that can change your life by changing the way you walk. It when you walk- with your spine straight and your eyes looking straight ahead. Your weight is supported by your upper arms and shoulders, some of the strongest parts of your body. Traditional walkers and rollators force you to put the pressure of your body weight on your hands and wrists. You push them in

enables you to stand upright front of you, looking at the ground instead of where you

going. The UPWalker moves with you, with your body

now you can choose between dark luster silver or champagne perfectly aligned and your feet free to walk in a normal fashion. Its easy-adjust height system allows it to be the perfect fit/height for anyone from 4'10" to 6'1" and supports up to 300

pounds. The new stand-assist handles enable you to distribute your weight across your arms and shoulders, not your hands and wrists to help reduce back, neck, wrist pain and discomfort. It features comfortable arm pads, hand brakes, a fold-down seat, a backrest and two storage bags. It's built with aircraft-grade aluminum



and its sleek design and oversized wheels make it perfect for tight spots in the house or walking in the yard. Why spend another day bent over and shuffling around- or worse yet, plopped in front of the TV all day. Pick up the phone and take back your life. Call now.

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12 Houses for Rent

home on a corner lot in Del Norte. Near biking/hiking trailhead. Pets and smokers are not permitted. Please call 719-850-0750. \$875/month. (6-12)

For rent in Del Norte: For use as office or home, a remodeled 1-plus rooms, 3/4 bath unit in a quaint four-plex in Del Norte. Pets and smokers are not permitted. \$700/mo., inclusive of water and sewer. Available June 2. Please call 719-850-0750. (6-19)

24 Garage/Yard Sales

Multi Family Garage sale! Rain or shine! Find us at 9726 S. County RD 3E Monte Vista. June 7 and 8. 8 a.m. 719-852-0500 (6-5)

28 Household Goods

For sale 20.5 cubic feet Kenmore Refrigerator/Freezer. \$225.719-852-2028

For sale 2 rolling desk chairs. \$20 each. 719-852-2028 (6-5)

36 Miscellaneous

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37 Wanted

Large Vermont Casting or Jotul stove with glass front. Porcelain or black. alpinhigh@gmail.com. (6-26)

65 Professional Services

red, and white. Dozens of uses. Convert Let me haul off your old appliances

Chris for prices and to set up a removal 719-395-2071 (6-26)

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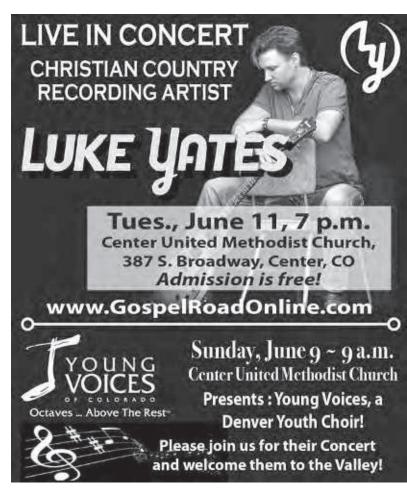
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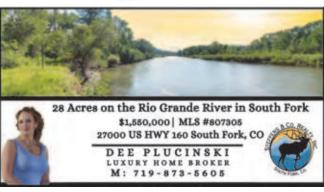
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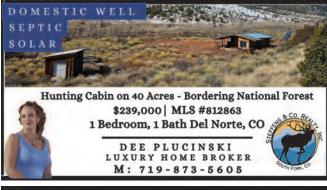


























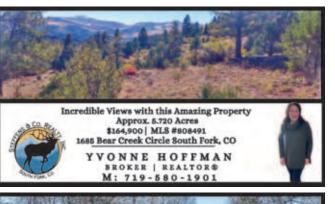
All of my properties are detailed in my BLOG

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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

















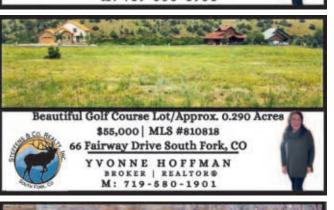














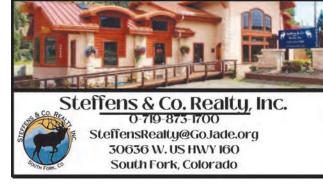
















solar charger and you have no backup. In addition to your electronic device

consider taking a paper map of the area. Sun Protection - Take a hat, good sunglasses, sunscreen and other protective clothing. No one enjoys a

Insulation - Take layers and rain gear, even in the middle of the summer you may wish you had warm, dry clothes.

First Aid - No one wants to get hurton the trail, but it happens. Be ready for it. **Illumination** - Take a flashlight or headlamp and spare batteries.

Fire-Takefirestarting tools-materials. While a fire can provide much needed warmth and light in a survival situation, it's crucial to prioritize safety, you don't want to make a bad problem worse causing a forest fire.

Hydration - Take water and ensure everyone in your group does too. Have a plan to purify emergency water if needed.

Nutrition - Even on the shortest trip, take food.

Emergency Shelter - Take an emergency blanket or have a plan for taking shelter if the need arises.

Repair Kit - Whether you're on a dirt bike, in a side by side or ATV. Take a basic repair kit.

Continued from Page 1

died in the fire.

Young stated that it was heartbreaking to lose the building and all the animals that were in it, but so many people had also stepped up to help them. The Gator Farm regrouped and was open not long after the fire and began working on the

"It was a devastating loss. Some of the animals we had, we had for over 25 years," Young said. "It's hard to just pick up and go on. The outpouring of support from the public was so immense."

Young stated it was not just the financial support that he appreciated; it was more about the love that was given to everyone at the farm during the loss. "We must have been doing something

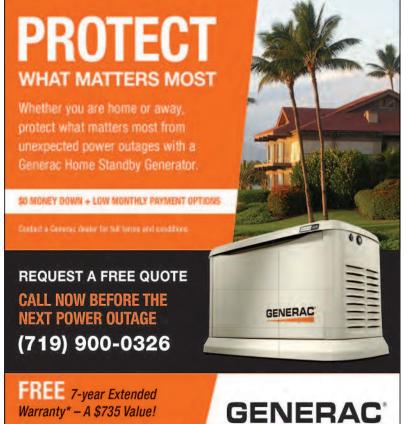
right to get that much love and support. It was hard to pick up the pieces and go on, but here we are, and we are still doing it. The support from the community has been huge and we couldn't' do it without them," he said.

The new facility was dedicated to Dave Lindsey, a man who had worked diligently to help with the construction of the new barn, and became a close friend, "like family," to Young.

According to Young, Lindsey was unfortunately diagnosed with cancer. He fought the cancer for almost two years but passed away the morning of the ribbon-cutting ceremony, according

"This is in honor of David. He just passed away this morning. I had hoped he would be here today to see this. He fought the good fight against cancer, but it was time for him to be at peace and not suffer anymore."

Young smiled with tears running down his cheeks and said, "He was hoping to be here for the grand opening, too. He's here with us in spirit. It's been a long time coming. Excited about the ribbon cutting, but also wish he could have made it todav."





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A new way to save makes Del Norte home

By LYNDSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — A new thrift store has opened in Del Norte and for people seeking a good deal on place to go.

into the main building of the old hospital in Del Norte, they are greeted with a sight many thrift store lovers want to see - a wellorganized, clean store with floorto-ceiling treasures.

When Sandra Aloisi decided to open her thrift store, she did it because she saw a need and because of all the towns in the San Luis Valley, Del Norte was about the only one that didn't have an affordable option for shopping.

"I saw a need for it in the town. People love thrift stores and going out to find a deal. We have people here who need it, yes. But we also have people who really enjoy shopping without the fear of breaking the bank," said Aloisi.

Aloisi was quick to get in contact with local entrepreneur and the owner of the buildings that used to be the old hospital in Del Norte Stan Johnson.

"I told him I thought we needed a thrift store. Somewhere people could go for a good deal and not have to always shop at the higher end boutiques. It takes each one to help a community and since we have several in the area, we needed a thrift store to help balance it out," said Aloisi.

It wasn't long before Aloisi opened her doors that she found out just how right she was. Not only does The Merc accept donations, Aloisi will also hand select and even buy items from people looking to sell the things they no longer need

"If someone is moving, I will suggest they try to sell an item on Facebook Marketplace first but if they do not have any luck, then I will offer a fair price. We are a for-profit business, and we work to help the community as much as we can," she said.

Aloisi was also fortunate enough to find a group of women locally to help her daily at the store.

"I have such amazing volunteers. They come in and help with everything and I really could not do this without them," she said.

The Merc is part of a growing strip mall-type building that has everything from the Respawn Arcade and VR Room to antique stores such as The Golden Fleece and a hair salon.

"We are like a family here. We help each other out when we can, and we always tell our customers to go and check out our neighboring businesses. It is very unique and great for the community," she said.

Aloisi sometimes travels to other thrift stores in the state to seek out unique and wonderful items to add to her growing collection.

"The donations we get are really amazing and I am always willing to consider a donation, but I also love going to find other items that people might enjoy whether its jewelry or clothing," she said.

Aloisi also gives back to the community by providing extra children's clothing to the Del Norte Head Start or making clothing donations to local women shelters and other places in need.

"That's the beauty of this. We get may be interested. to decide how we give back and how always encouraging people to think gently loved items, The Merc is the about what this town needs and then to put together a plan. Even When customers first walk if you fail, at least you can say you tried and you never know. It might work out for the best," she said.

The old hospital is filling up fast but there are still some wonderful rooms that could be filled with all manner of businesses for those who

"Come on in and see us. I am we support our community, so I am sure you will find something you love. This really is my happy place,"

> Sandra Aloisi sits in the sunshine of her back show room of The Merc **Gently Loved Thrift Store in Del** Norte. Aloisi saw a need for a fun and inviting place for the community to come and not only find treasures, but a deal or two as well.

> > Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell



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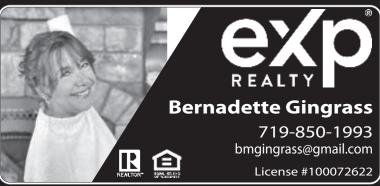
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C&TRR season began Memorial Day weekend

ANTONITO—The Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad's 2024 season opened Memorial Day weekend with departures on Saturday, May 25.

Travel back to the Old West on one of the most authentic rail trips available. Pulled by historic steam locomotive, you will ride in all original Denver and Rio Grande 19th century equipment.

Regular daily passenger service is May 25-Oct. 9, and will run six days a week, Tuesday-Sunday. Daily passenger service includes All Aboard trips that run the full line between Antonito, and Chama, N.M., and Half Limited trips, which travel from either Antonito or Chama to Osier Station and then return to the point of origin.

The Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad is a National Historic Landmark. At 64-miles in length, it is the longest, the highest and most authentic steam railroad in North America, traveling through some of the most spectacular scenery in the Rocky Mountain West.

Owned by the states of Colorado and New Mexico, the train crosses state borders 11 times, zigzagging along canyon walls, burrowing through two tunnels, and steaming over 137-foot Cascade Trestle. All trains steam along through deep forests of aspens and evergreens, across high plains filled with wildflowers, and through a rocky gorge of remarkable geologic formations. Deer, antelope, elk, fox, eagles and even bear are frequently spotted on this family friendly, off-the grid adventure.

For more information, visit https://cumbrestoltec.

DEPARTING ANTONITO

The excitement begins the moment the train leaves the station in Antonito. Beyond the vast, open San Luis Valley, the imposing peaks of the Rocky Mountains seem to stretch forever. The train quickly covers the flat ground and reaches a series of hills. It crosses Ferguson's Trestle, named for a man who was hung there, then climbs to a lava mesa, a remnant of the mountains' volcanic past. From here, the route winds around wide curves, going up into the mountains.

Eleven State Border Crossings

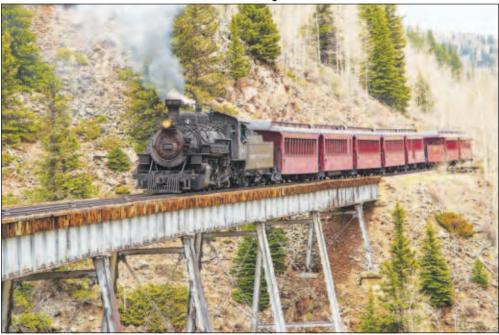
White-barked, slender aspen trees, which turn yellow-gold in fall, form a light, whispery forest. We'll pass Sublette, N.M., an abandoned railroad town that still provides water for the steam locomotives. Shortly after, the train makes another crossing between Colorado and New Mexico state lines. Can you count all 11?

Rocky and Dramatic

One of the most spectacular parts of the trip startsas the train inches its way along the rim of Toltec Gorge. We'll head through Mud Tunnel, which is supported by wood beams. Around Phantom Curve, named for a spire of rock that casts a ghostly shadow, then through Rock Tunnel is a narrow ledge where the dizzying view is straight down to the rushing Rio de los Pinos. The train roughly follows this river along much of its route.

Reaching New Heights

We'll stop for lunch at the old townsite of Osier. Past Osier, the train first crosses 137-foot-tall Cascade Creek Trestle, the highest on the line. Trees are sparse here and the open mountain scenery is magnificent. Around Tanglefoot Curve, a loop so



Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad Engine 488 rumbles across the Cascade Trestle. At 137 feet high, it is the highest bridge on the 64-mile route between Antonito and Chama, N.M., and crosses Cascade Creek.

tight that the train seems almost folded in half, the locomotive steams toward Cumbres Pass. At 10,015 feet elevation, it is the highest pass reached by rail in the United States. There are tall conifers and meadows that bloom with wildflowers in spring and summer. At the summit is an old section house, one of many of the railroad's historic buildings.

Descending Into the Chama Valley

As the steep descent begins, sweeping views of the Chama Valley unfold. The lower elevations are dominated by aspen trees and grassy hills. Just past the area that was once the historic Lobato sheep ranch is the Lobato Trestle. This trestle spans Wolf Creek. Chama, N.M., the end of the rail, is just ahead.

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1408 Bear Creek Circle • South Fork



Exceptional Mountain Retreat nestled within the prestigious gated community of Bear Creek, this Exquisite home at 1408 Bear Creek Circle offers an unparalleled blend of Elegance, Tranquility, and Natural beauty. With 3,882 square feet of meticulously designed living space, this property is a sanctuary for those seeking rest from the everyday hustle. Interior Features: Entryway with Stained Glass Doors: The grand entrance sets the tone, welcoming you into a large, elegant living room complete with a corner fireplace and an adjacent wet bar—perfect for entertaining guests. Large Custom Kitchen: The heart of this home boasts custom alder wood cabinets, beautiful quartz countertops, and a butler pantry with built-in custom shelving and storage cabinets. The kitchen seamlessly leads to a spacious laundry area flooded with natural light, making laundry a pleasant task. Beautiful Dining Room: Accessible from the kitchen, the dining room opens to a spacious awe-inspiring back deck. Perfect place to enjoy that first cup of morning coffee. Stairway to Loft: Ascend the large staircase to the open loft—an ideal space for a game area and home office. 3 Bedrooms: Master Bedroom (Main Floor): Flooded with ample natural light, the master bedroom proides a cozy ambiance. If features a spacious retreat with a jumbo-sized walk-in closet complete with custom shelving and cabinets. The master bath includes a walk-in shower and spa tub for your in-home spa experience. Additional 1 and a ½ Bath are Well-appointed and elegantly designed, the bathrooms provide comfort and convenience. Lower-Level Stairwell: Leads to an intimate family room and two spacious downstairs guest bedrooms. Immaculate 3-Car Garage and 1-Car Workshop: With custom cabinets and work benches a dream come true, providing plenty of room for all your tools and outdoor adventure toys. Outdoor Delights: Bear Creek runs through this property, nature's music to your ears. Mountain Views: Wake up to awe-inspiring vistas of the surrounding peaks. The ever-changing canwas o

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193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

Charming Mountain Retreat with Breathtaking Views Nestled in the CO, this finely Ranch Style Mo. a delightful ble rugged elegance. With 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, this home pro-vides ample room for relaxation and rejuvenation. The open living area boasts a large Sunny Bay

ing area botasts a large Sulliy Bay window, allowing natural light to flood the space and framing panoramic Mountain Views. The heart of this home is the well-appointed kitchen, abundance of cabinets, including convenient lazy Susan storage. You'll find all the essentials: a refrigerator, cookstove, dishwasher. Perfect kitchen for entertaining your friends and family. Gather around the wood-burning stove in the light property of the property living room, where warmth and comfort await. The home's insulation ensures a snug retreat during chilly mountain evenings. Step onto the inviting front sitting porch, sip your morning coffee, and observe the local wildlife. Mule deer and wild turkeys frequently visit the serene Ponderosa Valley Estates. A large laundry room with abundant storage, a wash sink, and a washer and dryer adds convenience to daily living. Park your vehicles in the 2-car garage and utilize the detached cement floor garage/workshop with water supply and 110/220 power for all your mountain toys or hobbies. This home is ready for you to make it your own—whether it's your dream residence, a home away from home, or a vacation rental. Explore nearby activities such as skiing, four-wheeling, hiking, and gold medal fly fishing. The Rio Grande River is just moments away. Enjoy the convenience of paved roads, city water sewer system, and your very own well and large .83-acre lot. Priced at \$479,500 this property offers an exceptional opportunity to embrace mountain living. Schedule your private showing today and embark on Your living room, where warmth and comfort await. The home's insulation ensures a snug embrace mountain living. Schedule your private showing today and embark on Your Mountain Adventure in this beautiful, tranquil Ponderosa Valley Estates neighborhood!



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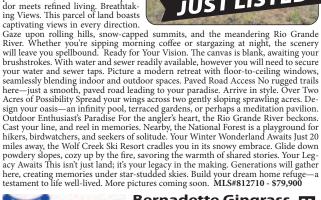
Discover The Essence of Excellence Mountain Living in this custom-built Masterpiece! Situated on 1.84 sloping acres within the prestigious Rio Grande Club, this 4.466 sq ft home offers unparalleled vistas and modern elegance. Key Features: Inspiring Views: Unsurpassed panoramas stretch north, east, and south, capturing the rugged beauty of the San Juan Mountains. Architectural Marvel: A two-level design seamlessly blends contemporary finishes with a mountain aesthetic. Grand Entryway: Step into the vaulted ceiling living room adorned with Swedish Cope logs and a striking rock gas fireplace. Expansive Deck: Access the large stone rock deck from the living area, where you'll soak in views of the golf course, mountains, and valley below. Gourmet Kitchen: Culinary enthusiasts will appreciate custom cabinets, granite countertops, and top-of-the-line Wolf appliances. Master Suite: The upper-level primary suite boasts a spa-like bathroom and an adjacent study. Lower-Level Comfort: Three additional bedrooms with 9-foot ceilings offer Alderwood doorways and magnificent vistas. Entertainment Haven: The lower level features a spacious game room with a poot table, TV, and workout equipment. Year-Round Comfort: Radiant floor heat and an extra-large 1000-gallon propane tank ensure warmth during chilly days. Outdoor Delight: Enjoy ever-changing mountain views from the adjacent deck or cozy up by the stone mantle gas fireplace. Gas-Burning Fireplace: The lower level sitting area with a mini bar and stunning views is perfect for relaxation and entertaining family and friends. This home includes an adjacent parcel allowing direct access to the national forest from the front of the property so enjoying your favorite outdoor activities are just steps away. The 2-car garage has workshop hot & cold sink an extra-large 6-gallon water heater, water softener. Programable hot water throughout the home, hot & cold water outside faucet and plenty of room for storage and a workbench. There is a security system monitored by Valley Lock and



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