



# THE CONEJOS COUNTY CITIZEN

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### MV Farmers Market begins July 12

**MONTE VISTA** — The 2024 Monte Vista Farmers Market begins July 12 in Chapman Park. It will be held weekly on Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. throughout the summer. SNAP benefits will be accepted.

### ALMA Sundays at Six begins June 30

**ALAMOSA** — The Alamosa Live Music Association (ALMA) is again providing free live music in Cole Park all summer long, with its Sundays at Six concert series. Head on over to Cole Park at 6 p.m. on most Sundays this summer and enjoy some quality live music.

Grab your dinner and dessert from Tacos Martinez and Frosty Acres Rolled Ice Cream, whose food trucks will be on site selling their delicious offerings at each concert. Bring a non-perishable item for the food drive to benefit the Alamosa Food Pantry.

On June 30, the sound of bluegrass will fill Cole Park as Sundays at Six officially begins with Stillhouse Junkies. On July 14, indie rockers Mo Lowda and The Humble will wow the crowd, followed by the Chicano funk of Los Mochetes on July 21. Finish July 28 with the indie stylings of Xerephine Band with Sage and Aera. Mojomama will bring their funky blues rock on Aug. 11, and Aug. 18 will feature the winner of Battle of the Bands 1000 shadows.

The final show of the season is on Aug. 28, with the variety group Groove 'N Motion. The shows will be livestreaming on ALMA's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/almalivemusic](http://www.facebook.com/almalivemusic).



## Local graduate attends a 'History of Women in Science' study abroad program in Europe

CONTRIBUTED

Courtney Hamilton, a 2021 Centauri High School graduate, has been attending Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, where she is studying Health Science. Hamilton has been given an opportunity to study about the "History of Women in Science" this summer in Europe. She will visit England, France, Switzerland, Germany and Sweden.

She will study the history of science, women's contributions to the field, and in supporting and empowering women to pursue their scientific interests.

The study will include the European exploration into how  
*Please see HAMILTON on Page 2A*

Photo of Courtney Hamilton, a 2021 Centauri High School graduate, at the CERN LAB in Geneva, Switzerland.

Courtesy photo



## San Luis town manager Sanderford honored by Colorado Preservation



STAFF REPORT

**COSTILLA COUNTY** — San Luis Town Manager Susan Sanderford has received the Colorado Preservation Inc. (CPI) Mark Rodman Award.

CPI is a statewide nonprofit historic preservation organization that advocates for the preservation of place. One of the ways that CPI supports

the effort of local preservation is to acknowledge the individuals and projects occurring across the state that exhibit strong preservation practices, this annual recognition is given at their Dana Crawford and Alpine Bank State Honor Awards.

In 2023 with the passing of pres-  
*Please see HONOR on Page 2A*

Left to right, Tom Witt, CPI Board President, Susan Sanderford's son, Susan Sanderford, Jennifer Orrigo, and Charles Executive Director CPI. Susan Sanderford received the Colorado Preservation Inc. Mark Rodman Award on May 20.

Courtesy photo

## Stampede scholarship applications open

STAFF REPORT

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — Applications are now open for the annual Ski-Hi Stampede Adams State University Foundation (ASUF) scholar-

ship, with an application deadline of June 24.

The Ski Hi committee and ASUF have teamed up to provide three scholarships to any male or female

SLV resident that plan to attend or continue to attend ASU, both traditional and nontraditional students.

During the Stampede, July 11-14, 2024, three scholarships valued

at \$3,500 each will be awarded to qualifying applicants. In the year of the scholarship application, the applicant must have participated or  
*Please see ASUF on Page 2A*

## SLVH, Children's Hospital Colorado form Care Alliance

*Shared goal: Deliver highest level of pediatric care close to home*

CONTRIBUTED

**ALAMOSA** — San Luis Valley Health (SLVH), the region's largest hospital, and Children's Hospital Colorado (Children's Colorado), one of the nation's top children's hospitals, announced Wednesday they have entered into a Care Alliance, which is a collaboration across the organizations to provide children and their families with the highest level of coordinated medical care as close to home when possible.

"We're very excited about the Care Alliance with Children's Colorado," said Antonio Gurule, San Luis Valley Health's director of clinics. "This will improve our ability to deliver pediatric care right here in the San Luis Valley. It is very much in keeping with our 'trusted partner in health' philosophy. One important aspect of the Care Alliance is the Children's Colorado Regional Clinics which will be located in the pediatrician clinic space at San Luis Valley Health."

The formal agreement establishes a standing Care Alliance Steering Committee between the two hospitals. The committee's work will include streamlining care coordination to help reduce costs, improve quality, support collaborative case management, and knowledge sharing. Of  
*Please see CARE on Page 2A*



Courtesy photo

The photo features Dr. Joyce Oleszek. She is one of the CHCO providers who will provide specialty care in Alamosa in the Pediatrics Clinic at San Luis Valley Health (SLVH).

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# DA forms drug task force

*'We're going after the big players'*

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Shortly after District Attorney Anne Kelly was appointed to her position as the chief prosecutor of crimes in the San Luis Valley, she shared with the Valley Courier one of her goals. She intended to form a drug task force to take on the pervasive illegal drug activity that exists in the Valley.

"I identified this as being a core problem when I first came here," Kelly says. "Addiction breeds a need for more drugs which lead to increased property crimes and quality of life crimes."

Once Kelly was in office and started asking for public input, her commitment was solidified even more. "When I came to the Valley and started talking to police agencies in the communities, leaders in the communities and citizens in the communities, the number one concern over and over was that the drug problem had gotten progressively worse over the years."

Her decision to focus on forming a drug task force did not come as a surprise. After Governor Jared Polis announced her appointment in August of 2022, Kelly took the podium and, while standing in front of the Justice Center in Alamosa, made the statement, "To those of you who are distributing and selling your poison to the citizens of this valley, I promise you this. We are coming for you."

Less than two years later, Kelly has made good on that promise.

The district attorney's office is currently in the process of officially forming a standing drug task force, comprised of specific law enforcement officers from sheriffs' offices and police departments across the valley.

"We have a core group of law enforcement officers who are involved as part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the agencies who employ these individuals," she says, "and we've committed to investigating drug operations across the entire Valley."

The concept of a drug task force is not new to Kelly. She worked with a task force in Weld County when she was a prosecutor with the DA's office for that jurisdiction.

"I knew the effectiveness of drug task forces in other jurisdictions to be able to start creating longer term investigations that required more manpower. In order to avoid just arresting and charging addicts, we need to go after the people who are distributing the poison to people in the valley. And to be able to do that, we really need to be able to pool our resources together and come up with more effective ways of investigating and charging those dealers."

Effective drug investigations require time, she says, to build trust with people in the community and to gather information. "It takes time to investigate a particular dealer for a longer period so the charges we can bring are more serious charges because we have more information. We can interdict a one-time sale but that doesn't happen as often as we'd like. We need to have the resources to commit longer periods of time for the investigation."

Obviously, people distributing and selling drugs aren't exactly brick and mortar operations. "These dealers aren't staying in Alamosa or Center," she says. "They're moving and selling across the Valley. So, the drug task force will enable us to pool resources and information from all the agencies in the valley to make our information gathering more effective and useful in going after higher dealers."

With that in mind, Kelly describes why the MOU between agencies is so important. "If Monte Vista is working with Alamosa Police Department, they don't have any jurisdiction in Saguache. But this MOU provides them with the authority to do that in that jurisdiction."

As Kelly describes how the drug task force is established, she says her office is going to be actively involved in investigations and overseeing the team. "But this team was formed organically," she says. "Because of the relationships they have built, they'd been working together anyway."

"The DA's office is a mechanism to organize the group and establish legitimacy and purpose to the group so they can have some recognition for the work they've done and find ways to be even more effective."

When asked if she sees this as a proactive approach to law enforcement addressing illegal drug activity, Kelly says, "One hundred percent. That's the key to a strong task force, by developing relationships and strong sources of information in the valley."

"Most of these drug dealers, their business plan involves not getting caught. They're not necessarily the ones committing homicides or other offenses where police would



Courtesy photo

District Attorney Anne Kelly for the 12th Judicial District.

respond. Their business is based on being confidential and private because their business won't survive if they're exposed. So the goal of the task force is to expose their business operations and try to cut them off."

The drug task force mission is to go after big players.

"When you have a group of law enforcement agencies that can demonstrate a level of legitimacy and competence, it becomes less attractive to operate your drug business in that area. The valley has been an attractive place to operate drug business in comparison to other parts of the state where drug task forces are more active. We want to make it a less attractive place to do business for these criminal and poison distributors. So, we're not only going after residents of the valley, we're trying to cut off the head of the snake."

## SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

### Paul Douglas

A Celebration of Life for Paul Douglas will be held at 2 p.m. on July 14, 2024, at the Fellowship Church, 34040 US Hwy 50, Villa Grove, CO. Arrangements were with Lewis and Glenn Funeral Home.

## ASUF

Continued from Page 1A — will be participating in any of the following events: Stampede rodeo, SLV high school rodeo, SLV Little Britches rodeo, or the SLV Regional Fair as a 4-H or FFA participant, or be a stockholder or child of a Stampede stockholder, or be a volunteer during the Stampede event.

To apply, go to [www.skihistampede.com/asu-scholarship-application](http://www.skihistampede.com/asu-scholarship-application).



## HONOR

Continued from Page 1A — ervation leader, Mark Rodman, CPI introduced a new award focused on individuals making a strong difference in their communities.

Sanderford is the second individual to receive this award as a result of her commitment, vision, dedication and partnerships - often spearheading preservation projects within the community of San Luis.

CPI has worked on many projects within the Valley to include the People's Market (the R&R Market being listed as one of Colorado's Most Endangered Places) as well as the Sangre de Cristo Heritage Center, which received a financial grant from CPI's Rural Revitalization grant program last year.

CPI commends Sanderford's ability to move preservation forward locally. CPI recognized her commitment on May 20.

## CARE

Continued from Page 1A

key significance, the alliance means that local kids and their families will have increased access to some of the best minds in pediatric care for their children and young adults without having to travel.

In addition to providing this care, the professional team from Children's Colorado will also provide mentoring, education, and training across care teams at SLVH to enhance delivery of pediatric care.

"We are humbled and proud to partner with San Luis Valley Health to bring increased access to top-ranked pediatric care closer to home for families in the San Luis Valley," said Jennifer Knotts, Children's Hospital Colorado's vice president of partnerships and business development. "Founded more

than a century ago, our mission is to improve child health. This new partnership demonstrates our continued commitment to care for Colorado children regardless of where they live by eliminating barriers and increasing access to the knowledge and care of our pediatric experts in partnership with San Luis Valley Health."

The only dedicated pediatric health system within a seven-state region, Children's Colorado partners with community hospitals across a 1,000-mile-radius that comprises Colorado, Montana, Wyoming and New Mexico to bring pediatric specialty care closer to home. This new partnership marks the 11th Care Alliance for the system. The Care Alliance goals

are to support community hospitals across the region by elevating and enhancing pediatric care in communities and, when needed, to streamline care to Children's Colorado when a higher level of care or more specialized need arises for a family. Each Care Alliance is uniquely tailored to meet the specific needs of the community.

"Children's Colorado has and continues to help us support our most critically ill and complex patients, but this collaboration signals a focus on prioritizing and enhancing pediatric care in the San Luis Valley," said Dr. Amariyls Rojas, pediatrician, SLVH Pediatrics Clinic. "As the leading medical facility in the region

with the most on-staff pedia-

tricians, it is our duty to provide comprehensive care and be the medical home for the valley's children. This is especially true for complex patients and families where it is extremely difficult for them to be away from home and/or work when their child has medical or surgical needs. This collaboration is vital to the advancement of pediatric medical care in the region and serves as proof that both San Luis Valley Health and Children's Colorado are putting kid's health first, now and in the future."

## HAMILTON

Continued from Page 1A

politics, custom and society shaped the lives of early female scientists, and how these individuals worked to overcome obstacles and break the barriers of scientific thought.

In addition, she will hear from outstanding modern-day female scientists and champions of women in science, their advice for success, and the challenges they have overcome.

Highlights of the experience include visiting King's College in London to learn about Rosalind Franklin and her X-ray diffraction images leading to deciphering of the DNA structure; hunting for fossils in the Lyme Regis region; visiting the Marie Curie museum in Paris and learning about her life contribu-

tions to chemistry, biology, and her discovery of novel elements; touring CERN, the European Organization for Particle Research near Geneva; visiting the Max Planck Institute for Science and Technology in Munich and Berlin; as well as viewing the

Nobel Prize Museum and Concert Hall in Stockholm; all while exploring the culture and history of these five countries.

Hamilton received a competitive scholarship to help fund this experience.

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Happy Birthday Ol' Dutch

Yep, it looks like another year has rolled around for Ol' Dutch and I can chalk another birthday up on the proverbial wall, which seems to be taking more and more space to tally on. If you hang around long enough those numbers start to take on a life of their own and grow seemingly exponentially in volume.

Regardless of my "advanced age," as Miss Trixie so kindly points out on a regular basis, I probably worked harder this past year than I have since I retired. All in all, I feel pretty good. I gained some muscle and learned a lot which is never bad.

Long ago a friend told me to celebrate not only a birth day but a birthday week and so I will party-hardy all this week. For those of you that may have missed the actual date of my birthday and the root beer floats at the party last Sunday, let me remind you that a belated gift is better than none at all and that no gift is too large. So, surprise me.

Usually, I buy myself a gun for my birthday but this year I bought myself a new laptop. So, while awaiting the start of my rootbeer float party, I practiced getting used to the new keyboard. Why is it that change gets harder as we age?

While Miss Trixie hurried around getting ready for the party, I strategized how to make an entrance befitting someone of my stature. Which really means that Miss Trixie "told me" to come right on time and bring the ice cream so it doesn't melt before the guests arrive for the grand event. It's rough being the guest of honor.

It was a great party and about 50 people showed up for the eats. Funny cards, delicious brisket, homemade cookies and even a gift certificate for Mexican food were received and I feel truly blessed to have such dear friends.

I plan on a week of such "doings" and will be fishing, go to Bingo underground at Creede, hike up in the Aspens and maybe take an ATV ride up Alder Creek. (In case you need to find me for some present giving.) No use cutting short on the festivities if I can help it, is what I always say.

Miss Trixie and I also have a whirlwind week ahead rafting with



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

Mountain Man which will keep us busy until next Sunday when I again get celebrated on Father's Day. Man, how can a guy beat that? Two celebrations and good tidings coming my way all in the same week.

All that makes me grateful that my parents thought to conceive me on the right day so this week would work out later in life with a double celebration. Thanks to my Dad, Fast Freddy, for that selfless act of kindness so many years ago so that I might be born and have such a great life.

No matter where life finds you this next week, try and remember your father this week on his special day. I know that some of you may not have had the best dad in your lives but everyone has a father and if you can, thank him for your life or at least remember him for it.

Being born is the greatest gift that each of us receive this side of Heaven and each day I am more and more thankful for my Dad and his sacrifices he made for me.

And if you are the dad, spend a few extra hours with your kids, revel in their accomplishments, laugh at the grandkids and hopefully open some cards and gifts that you probably paid for.

Have a great week and get outside to enjoy this weather.

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



Photo courtesy Lena Deravianko, Unsplash

How long before this house in Douglas County is uninsurable?

## It's a perfect storm for fire insurance

Westerners have begun looking at their homes differently these days. Are those trees too close? Should I move all that firewood stacked up next to the deck?

Meanwhile, in California, some fire insurers have lost so much money they've pulled out of the state. Overall, fire insurance is becoming as expensive and unpredictable as the natural disasters — not just wildfires but also hail and windstorms — that are driving up rate increases. In some places, increases are as much as 1,000% for houses and condos nestled close to trees.

In Colorado, Tiffany Lockwood said she was dropped twice by fire insurance carriers over the 10 years she's lived in Evergreen, a heavily forested suburb of Denver.

A former Florida resident, Lockwood, 59, only has one way out in case of a wildfire — and even then she'll have little warning. "When I lived in Florida," she said, "we knew four days ahead when a hurricane was coming. Here we get 40 minutes."

Lockwood thinks insurance companies are running scared and giving impossible directives. One insurer asked her to remove all the shrubs and trees within 30 feet of the house. But the plan meant taking down a lot of her neighbor's trees, too.

Evergreen's attraction is that residents live amidst towering conifer trees. But red zones on fire maps are being expanded all over Colorado after several recent large forest fires and the wind-driven Marshall grassfire outside of Boulder, in December 2021. It destroyed more than 1,000 suburban homes and was the

state's most expensive fire yet. Formerly "safe" places are now described as at-risk.

Jeff Geslin lives in high and dry La Plata County, in southwestern Colorado, surrounded by 35 acres of piñon and juniper trees. He and his wife Lorna are used to remediation plans, he said, and when their insurance increases, "I just pay it, no questions asked."

But they were shocked when their condo association in Summit County, governing their second home, lost its insurance policy.

"It might be because we're close to Forest Service land," Geslin said, "which must be more risk." Every condo owner was assessed \$6,772 extra for the new policy the Homeowners Association managed to find — an increase of 1,000%.

Colorado State Senator Dylan Roberts is working on legislation to insure larger structures. "I've gotten calls about insurance for the last year if not two years," he said. "The single-family upset has quieted down, but the big thing I hear about is HOA and condo buildings."

The state already has what is called the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements (FAIR) Plan in place for smaller buildings when insurance companies refuse to underwrite traditional coverage. It's backed by private insurers and administered by an appointed board of insurance professionals.

"We hope to insure no one," said FAIR Plan board member Carole Walker. She's

the executive director of an insurance trade group covering, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and Utah.

"This is insurance of last resort," she said, "as we don't want to compete with private insurers. They're struggling after 10 straight years of unprofitability in property insurance."

The FAIR Plan board, which plans to sell policies late next year, hired industry veteran Kelly Campbell as executive director this May. It will offer bare-bones coverage

with high deductibles and low maximum amounts. The plan would offer coverage of \$5 million per commercial structure and \$750,000 per house.

"Everything has escalated," said Walker. "Colorado is in that perfect storm of catastrophes. The number of claims and the cost to pay those claims is at a record pace. Add in the escalating number of events like hail and wildfire, and it's the hardest insurance market in a generation."

Walker says Colorado established a resiliency code board via state law in 2023, with a mandate of hardening structures with fire-resistant siding, metal roofs and landscaping. "We need confidence back in the marketplace," she said about the board. "Ultimately, this is a life-safety issue because wildfire knows no boundaries. You're dependent on your neighbor."

Kevin Parks, a State Farm insurer in Western Colorado, has some advice for Western homeowners: "Widen your driveway and road to 20 feet, install a turnaround big enough for fire vehicles, remove shrubs and trees close to your house, and add a perimeter of gravel all around your structure. Finally, hope you live where two roads lead to your house."

In this new age of longer and meaner fire seasons, Parks added, "The fire is coming — now it's a question of being ready."

*Dave Marston is the publisher of Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West.*



**Writers on the Range**  
by Dave Marston

## LETTER

### Consider voting Hurd for 3rd Congressional District

Editor,

With the primary ballots out, I would like to ask the voting public to consider Jeff Hurd for a congressional seat for the 3rd Congressional District. A native of Grand Junction, small business owner and very well educated on what it takes to represent the challenges of the 3rd. He

is running for the U.S. Congress because he believes western and southern Colorado deserve a sincere and hardworking representative focused more on doing something than being someone. Having grown up in Colorado's 3rd Congressional District and now raising his kids there, Jeff wants to deliver results

that will help rural Colorado thrive.

Realizing the problems that face our nation, I believe he will work hard to bring sanity to our congress. With his background of working with agriculture, he understands the challenges we face on a daily basis such as water, inflation and the day to day struggles. I believe

Jeff Hurd, who was born and raised in Grand Junction, is a rarity in which would benefit the 3rd Congressional District as well as the nation. I humbly ask for your vote for Mr. Hurd.

*Larry Crowder  
Former Colo State Senator  
Alamosa*



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# Polis comes to the Valley to sign 3 significant bills into law

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

**ALAMOSA** — Governor Polis was in the Valley on Friday to sign several bills into law, two sponsored by Rep. Matt Martinez (D-D62) and one by Sen. Cleave Simpson (R-D6), which hold special importance to the communities in the area. All passed with significant bi-partisan support.

The ceremony started at Milagro's in Alamosa where the governor signed HB24-1314 "Modification Tax Credit Preservation Historic Structures," sponsored by Reps. Martinez and Lucas and Sens. Gonzales and Will.

Gov. Polis thanked everyone for being present for this "exciting bill that will send \$5 million out for projects for preserving historic projects and making sure they can play a role in improving our quality of life."

He then turned the podium over to Rep. Martinez, who acknowledged that "it feels really good to be back in the San Luis Valley." He then went on to explain how HB24-1314 increases the impact of legislation already in place.

"This rule has really supported efforts to revitalize Main Streets in our state. In the San Luis Valley, we've had three projects that have been able to access these funds, including the Saguache Hotel and Bain's Dept Store as well as this space right here. With this bill we added an additional \$5 million to existing \$10 million for a tax credit that will allow us to positively impact projects across our state as well as adding much needed housing. Since the tax credit's inception, we've seen 800 additional housing units added to existing infrastructure, and this bill will continue to build upon that program."

Governor Polis and staff then moved to Sen. Cleave Simpson's Mt. Valley Farms for the signing of two more bills.

Surrounded by verdant crops and farming equipment used in regenerative farming, Governor Polis said of Sen. Simpson's SB24-037 "Study Green Infrastructure for Water Quality Management", "I'm so excited by the opportunity to reduce costs, benefit our climate and protect our water. Traditional gray infrastructure removes pollutants from water before getting released back into circulation but it's very costly and energy intensive. We know green infrastructure can do it more efficiently and in better ways."

Sen. Simpson then took the podium. "Welcome to Mountain Valley Farms. We're happy to have you here today." He then introduced his wife, his father, his son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren. "This is really kind of a special moment."

Simpson then discussed the bill.

"The governor talked about this and green infrastructure really can be a gamechanger. If you have any time do a little research and see what it can mean to our communities. I have so many wastewater treatment facilities that are really out of compliance and to spend tens to hundreds of millions of dollars on gray infrastructure isn't feasible at all for smaller communities. Green infrastructure won't fit all communities, but it will help some and it's a great opportunity."

After signing Sen. Simpson's bill, he discussed HB24-1249 "Tax Credit Agricultural Stewardship Practices", sponsored by Rep. Martinez. "This is a really important bill that provides a tax credit for farmers and ranchers that really engage in strong stewardship practices."

"Senator Simpson said he has his no till drill, the kind of practice that can help keep nutrients and moisture in the soil. But, of course, many farmers can't do this due to capital expense or can't find one nearby. This bill will help support that kind of infrastructure across our state. It's \$2 million which is a good start. It will save farmers, help make their operations more profitable, protect soil health, conserve water and support drought resilience."

Agriculture Commissioner Kate Greenberg followed with her comments, describing HB24-1249 as "a testament to bipartisan effort. It's a true collaboration in support of our agricultural community and we see so many practitioners here who do the regenerative work in agriculture every day and take care of our soil. This really builds on the work over the last five years with Colorado's soil health that supports producers statewide, our Agriculture Drought Climate Resilience Office and now this Agriculture Stewardship Tax Credit that really helps build those tools out for agricultural and rural communities to help meet the challenges of the future and invest in conservation and stewardship as they always have but with new tools form the state. I couldn't be more proud and delighted with this bill – both for what it means to agriculture and the way that we got here."

Rep. Martinez then took the podium, first mentioning his and Senator Simpson's bill addressed uncertified potato seed. "It's not the most exciting bill title but it's very important," he said, drawing a laugh from the crowd.

"This session I was proud to carry bills that support our rural communities, especially farmers and ranchers. And today, we're here for 24-1249. This is soon to be a law that works in two different ways. It rewards farmers and ranchers and encourages good

stewardship practices, including water conservation and improving soil health. It saves farmers money, fosters diversity and drought resistance and helps agriculture producers thrive. In Colorado, agriculture is so important and I'm so proud to see this soon become law." He also thanked his co-sponsors.

Governor Polis then signed the second bill into law, joking that coming to Senator Simpson's beautiful farm shows he is "a full-service governor." That also drew a laugh.

In a conversation with the Valley Courier, Polis discussed the legislative session. "Overall, we were able to do a significant property tax cut, which is a big deal, and an income tax cut and to fund schools better than we have in recent history with about \$17,000 per classroom. That allows us to pay teachers better, reduce classroom size and improve instruction."

When asked about specific impact of funding education in the San Luis Valley, he added, "We also changed the formula to benefit districts like the San Luis Valley so it will be based more on factors around students' needs and the students the district serves."

"These were statewide bills. It took a lot of collaboration from Republicans and Democrat across the state to get these bills done. And, as a result, the whole state benefits."

Rep. Martinez also reflected on the session with the Valley Courier, stating, "This legislative session really showed that bi-partisanship really works. We can get bills across the finish line. That's something that Senator Simpson and I have accomplished together and everyone benefits from those kinds of relationships."



Photos by Priscilla Waggoner

Governor Jared Polis, middle, was with Rep. Matt Martinez, second from left, and local supporters of historic preservation at Milagro's on Friday, May 24, to sign HB24-1314 Modification Tax Credit Preservation Historic Structures into law. Sponsored by Martinez (D-62), who represents the San Luis Valley, HB24-1314 expands income tax credit for costs incurred in preservation of historic structures like Milagro's and others throughout the Valley.



Agriculture Commissioner Kate Greenberg and Representative Matt Martinez look on as Governor Jared Polis signs HB24-1249 'Tax Credit Agricultural Stewardship Practices'.



Senator Cleave Simpson looks on as Governor Jared Polis signs the 'gamechanger' SB24-037 'Study Green Infrastructure for Water Quality Management' into law. Gov. Polis held the bill signing at Sen. Cleave Simpson's Mt. Valley Farms.

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# Summer fun at Medano Creek

By JOHN WATERS

**GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE** — A favorite destination for many San Luis Valley residents and tourists this weekend will be Medano Creek.

On a recent visit, the creek was running wide (about 100 yards) and very shallow. Most of the creek was between one to two inches deep with one channel that was six to seven inches deep. According to the National Park Service, the peak flow of the creek is about 40 cubic feet per second (cfs) and peaked at 21 cfs on May 31-June 1.

According to the official park service report the current conditions are: Medano Creek has a shallow to moderate flow at the Dunes Parking Lot. The creek is flowing in braided channels about 1-5 inches (2-13 cm) deep. There are small surges 1-4 inches (2-10 cm) high in some channels, but not enough water for floating. Flow is typically highest at dawn, and lowest at dusk. These conditions are typical of late June.

The beginning of June is the best opportunity to experience “surge flow”, where waves flow down

across the sand. The water is not deep enough in 2024 for floating. Because of the creek’s popularity, early June weekends are extremely crowded, with long lines of traffic, overflowing parking lots, a crowded beach, and full campgrounds. If possible, plan your visit on a weekday this time of year.

As the creek becomes much lower around the second week of June, mosquitos emerge in large numbers. Move away from vegetation, to the far side of the creek to avoid the worst of the mosquitos: they don’t like open sand but prefer to be near shady bushes and trees.

Although mountain snowpack in many parts of Colorado is above average, the watershed in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains that constitutes Medano Creek is about 5% of average leaving the creek with less water than banner years.

Medano Creek is one of the few places in the world where the phenomenon of surge flow can be experienced. Surge flow is a stream flowing in rhythmic waves on sand. Three elements are needed to produce the surge, a relatively



Photo by John Waters

Medano Creek in Great Sand Dunes recorded peak water flow May 31 to June 1. Visitors are seen here on June 5 enjoying the cool water in the shadow of 13,345-foot Mount Herard. The peak is named after Valley rancher Jean-Francois Herard who settled in the area in 1876.

steep gradient to give the stream a high velocity; a smooth, mobile creek bed, in this case, sand, with little resistance; and sufficient water to create surges. In spring and early summer, these elements

combine to make the waves.

As water flows across the sand, underwater sand ridges called antidunes form on the creek bed, gathering water. When the water pressure is too great, the dams break, sending down a wave, or surge about every 20 seconds.

Recently, the park service conducted a public comment period for initial proposed ideas for Great Sand Dunes National Park

and Preserve Transportation and Transit Plan to focus on relieving congestion and to allow visitors to have a more enjoyable experience. The comment period ended March 29, and currently, the park service is analyzing all comments and is expected to issue a draft environmental assessment by late fall. A final decision on the plan is expected to be issued in early 2025.

## Prescribed fire on Stateline planned

*Operations will cross the Colorado-New Mexico border*

CONTRIBUTED

**LA JARA** – With favorable conditions in the forecast, Rio Grande National Forest fire crews have begun preparing for the 1,000-acre Bighorn/Stateline prescribed fire project located approximately six miles southwest of Mogote. Ignitions could begin as early as Tuesday, June 11.

Two of the burn units are on the Conejos Peak Ranger District in Colorado and one 192-acre unit is on the Carson National Forest in New Mexico.

“There is a need to reduce fuel loading and prepare a seed bed that

will be receptive to new growth,” said Judi Perez, acting Conejos Peak district ranger. “After a couple of years of unfavorable burn windows, we are excited to resume prescribed fire operations and to be working again with our Carson National Forest partners across the state line.”


The project aims to reduce downed slash from previous hand thinning treatments designed to improve forest health with secondary benefits of improving big game habitat and reducing fuel loading. The prescribed fire will reduce the overall fuel load, cycle nutrients, and stimulate the growth of grass, forbs, and aspen.

Due to the location of the planned fire, smoke will be visible from around the southern San Luis Valley and parts of the Tres Piedras Ranger District and may be heavier locally. No significant

smoke impacts on towns or highways are expected.

The Bighorn/Stateline project is part of the 3.8 million-acre Rio Chama Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project, which supports the national Wildfire Crisis Strategy.

Updates for the Bighorn/Stateline will be posted on InciWeb at <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/corgf-bighorn-stateline-prescribed-fire>.

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# USFS asks for public comment on plan

*RGNF is developing a forest-wide winter travel management plan*

By JOHN WATERS

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — The Rio Grande National Forest is working on an over snow travel plan and is seeking public comment through June 15.

The plan will designate trails and areas open to cross-country snowmobile use and create motor-use vehicle maps. Draft maps would designate 74% of the Rio Grande (1,382,000 acres) as open for snowmobile use, along with 260 miles of groomed snowmobile routes. Of these, 403, 632 are wilderness areas, 22,987 Special Interest Areas and 20,792, Research Natural Areas and are closed to motorized use.

In 2021, the San Luis Valley Ecosystems Council, The Wilderness Society, and other environmental groups filed a lawsuit against the Forest Service citing inadequate protections for the Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly and the Canada lynx. The litigation also has potential conflicts between motorized and non-motorized users. Some of that has been settled by a court decision in March and parts of the litigation are still open. For more on this, see the information at the end of this article.

Under federal law, the Forest Service must comply with a regulation called the Travel Management Rule. Forest managers must designate the roads and areas that are open to motorized vehicles such as snowmobiles.

The Forest Service is seeking public comment on these plans and is hosting several public meetings. At the meeting held on May 29 at the Alamosa Family Recreation Center, about a dozen citizens attended and listened to forest service employees Judi Perez, Andrew Kelher, and Gregg Goodland.

At the meeting several maps were displayed as part of a “Recreational Opportunity Spectrum,” detailing areas proposed to be open to off-road equipment in accordance with the Travel Management Rule.

At the end of the planning process, the forest service will publish a map that will show designated roads and trails where over snow vehicle use is allowed. The maps will include details on the types of vehicles allowed and the time of the year they can be used.

The goals of the plan include: Providing high-quality over-snow access and experiences, ensuring that over-snow vehicle use occurs when there is adequate snow to protect underlying resources, enhancing public enjoyment safely minimizing impacts to natural resources, and minimizing user conflicts.

Kelher said the Forest Service is currently working on decision-making issues and an analysis of the impacts of the plan.

In response to a question from this reporter to elaborate on who is part of the analysis team, Perez, who is a strategic planner said, “Right now we have a very small team, a hydrologist a wildlife biologist, a recreation representative and botany, and me. I’ve been doing this type of work for 35 years, I know it well and I’ve been meeting teams like this.”

Perez then explained the process the team will take including public comments and present Kelher with alternatives the team has compiled.

Perez concluded with, “We will develop some alternatives, we will analyze all of the effects on the environmental resources, the natural resources and all of those alternatives, that is why we are doing an EIS [Environmental Impact Statement].”

After the EIS is issued, the Forest Service and issue a draft decision open for public comments, then a final draft. The Forest Service is estimating



Photo by John Waters

**US Forest Service employees from left to right Judi Perez, Andrew Kelher, and Gregg Goodland discuss the Over Snow Travel Management Planning Project at a public meeting in Alamosa on May 29.**

implementation of the plan in early January 2027. The public can also make comments on the plan on the Rio Grande National Forest website.

The Rio Grande National Forest has extensive resources regarding the plan and can be accessed at [www.fs.usda.gov/riogrande](http://www.fs.usda.gov/riogrande).

There are two additional public meetings regarding the Over Snow Travel Management Planning Project. In Saguache on Tuesday, June 4, from 6 to 7 p.m., at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Building on 3rd Street, and in South Fork on Wednesday, June 5, from 6 to 7 p.m., at the South Fork Fire Department on Mall Street.

Contact Matthew Nies, Department of Justice at 202-598-6713, for any additional questions related to the litigation mentioned in this article. You can also fill out a media inquiry with DOJ online at [www.justice.gov/opa/webform/media-inquiries](http://www.justice.gov/opa/webform/media-inquiries).



Photo courtesy Rio Grande County Tourism

**The Rio Grande National Forest is seeking public comment through June 15 on the Over Snow Travel Management Planning Project. The comments can be submitted online at [www.fs.usda.gov/riogrande](http://www.fs.usda.gov/riogrande).**

## One Surfire Way to Love Your Life

If someone asked you if you love your life, what would you say? It seems most people would say they don't love their life. But as believers in Christ, we can learn to love the life we have.

I know what it's like to have a miserable life, and how wonderful it is to live with God's peace and joy. I remember when God spoke to my heart and told me, “You're not happy because you're selfish.” It wasn't easy to hear, but facing that truth helped me surrender my will to God, so He could begin working in me and help me make the changes I needed to make.

I discovered that the key to loving my life is making God's love the central theme of my life. God is love. It's not just what He does, but who He is. He loves us unconditionally, and when we believe that, it changes us; it makes us confident and secure.

Knowing you are loved gives you courage and boldness to step out and try new things, so you don't have to be stuck with a negative attitude about life in general, or in a situation you hate. It gives you security that enables you to confront unhealthy relationships, knowing you'll be okay—and even better than before—however things turn out.

Here's how God's love works in our lives: We receive His love for us, then we see ourselves the way He does and love ourselves in a healthy way, and finally, we let His love flow through us to others.

The goal is to take in the good things God offers us, and then go out in the world and give to others what He has given to us! God wants to give us His love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness, and He expects

those things to flow through us to the people in our world.

God created us to be loved and to love others. First John 3:11 (AMPC) says, “For this is the message (the announcement) which you have heard from the first, that we should love one another.” That's real Christianity.

If we really get down to it, how much do we really think about what we can do for other people? I've learned that when I'm selfish or too focused on myself—what I want or how I can get others to do what I want them to do—I am frustrated, easily offended, and upset much of the time.

In fact, if you're having a bad day, one of the worst things you can do is to keep thinking about yourself and all of your own problems. It only makes things worse! So, what should you do? Get your mind off yourself and help someone else.

Helping others isn't something you will normally feel like doing—it requires a decision. But making a choice to be good to others has the power to help you and them. It's a spiritual principle....

The Apostle Paul says in Acts 20:35 (NIV): “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

So, if I'm having a bad day, this scripture tells me I can be happier by simply getting myself off my mind and helping someone else.

It's actually amazing how just a few words of encouragement can change someone's entire day. Sometimes it can even change their life! It can be as simple as picking



up the phone and calling a friend who's been going through a rough time, letting them know you're thinking about them and praying for their situation. Or maybe you can send someone a text message to let them know how valuable they are and how much you care.

Would you like to make every day better? Would you like to find joy even in the midst of difficult times? Then begin taking even just a few minutes every day to think about what you can do to help someone else.

Because when you give your life away, you'll find that it comes back to you in the most marvelous ways. \*\*\*\*\*

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](http://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 (Faith Words)**. She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

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# ASU Educator Highlight Award for May goes to Darlene Pinales

*Food service staff member has made a career feeding Sargent School District students*

Adams State School of Education, along with professors and support staff made the presentation during the last week of the school year. Each month, Adams State highlights an educator to recognize, with an intention to bring a focus around the importance of K-12 education and to motivate others to become educators.

Pinales, who resides in Monte Vista, has spent “28 wonderful years” with the Sargent School District. She began as a preschool teacher before making the change to the school cafeteria and a career feeding students.

“I’ve had kids that I had in preschool when I was a teacher there and I still have them as parents and their grandkids,” she said of her career with Sargent.

On the favorite food the cafeteria serves, she said, “Sargent’s favorite lunches are cheeseburgers and chicken alfredo.”

It’s not just the lunches that the students remember of their time in the cafeteria that serves Sargent schools.

“Ms. Darlene was there from day one of kindergarten for me,” one student wrote in her nomination. “She always knew my name and asked me about what was going on in my life. Come graduation time, I don’t think I truly realized how big of an impact she made on my K-12 career.”

The Educator Highlight Award recognizes Adams State University School of Education alumni, prominent local teachers, and other



Courtesy photo

Sargent School District Darlene Pinales is the first school cafeteria worker presented with the Adams State Educator Highlight Award

educators working within or hailing from the San Luis Valley. In so doing, Adams State University hopes to build familiarity with the community as a serious destination for future educators.

This monthly award recognizes Adams State University School of Education alumni, prominent local teachers, and other educators working within or hailing from the San Luis Valley. In so doing, Adams State

University hopes to build familiarity with the community as a serious destination for future educators. To nominate and educator email Chrissy McKinney at [cmckinney@adams.edu](mailto:cmckinney@adams.edu).

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DF-CD-NP-G421

# Architect Barbara Darden to keynote Homelake Foundation annual meeting

CONTRIBUTED

**MONTE VISTA** — Architect Barbara Darden will be the keynote speaker at the 19th annual Homelake Historic Preservation and Restoration Foundation meeting and silent auction fundraiser at 6 p.m. on June 14, at Dos Rios Restaurant north of

Monte Vista.

Darden has been involved with the renovation of structures at the historic veterans' center for many years now. The June 14 event is the annual meeting for the Foundation that preserves and restores the historic campus of Homelake, the oldest veterans' center

in Colorado and the official repository of all unclaimed military medals in the state. In addition, the Foundation will be holding its annual membership drive and donation requests.

"My love for small vernacular buildings really developed growing up in Germany and small rural Texas towns.

After graduating from high school, I enrolled at Texas A&M University to study Architecture, receiving my bachelor's degree in Environmental Design and another bachelor's degree in Building Construction. I went on to graduate school and majored in Historic Preservation and Interior Architecture, receiving my master's degree in 1986.

"After graduation, I worked in Fort Worth, restoring a WPA Coliseum, along with several small vernacular buildings dating from the early 1900s. Moving to Boston, I gained additional experience rehabilitating buildings from the 1770s, expanding my knowledge of older buildings, their historic characteristics and construction details."

In 1991, Darden and her husband moved to Colorado where she worked at several architectural firms, opening her own firm with one of my closest friends, Rick Scheuber, in 1999. "Since 1999, I have driven millions of miles all over the State of Colorado. The special historic places in Colorado have touched my soul and driven me to seek out the important history and its impact on the local citizens of every building I have restored. My hope is that my work will take on a special meaning for its citizens and provide an opportunity for their children to experience its history and to reflect their cultural heritage."

Many of the small communities she has worked in have buildings and sites that are important on a



Barbara Darden

National Level such as the Amache Japanese Internment Site in Granada and the Ludlow Tent Site near Trinidad. "These sites hold a very special place in my heart as their influence has a wide-reaching audience and impacted millions of people at the time, but have slowly slipped from people's knowledge, minimizing their importance," she said.

The June 14 meeting will include reports, news of the past year's progress, elections and a silent auction. Anyone interested in attending the meeting and dinner, becoming a member and/or serving on the board and being part of the Foundation may call Foundation secretary Christa Davis at 719-588-2484.

Social hour is at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. and the meeting will follow. Dinner is \$20 per person.

## 'Ask A CSU Extension Master Gardener'

By LARRY BROWN

SLV Area Extension Director

It's finally gardening season in the San Luis Valley, and the questions coming into the Colorado State University SLV Area Extension office are sprouting faster than weeds! From soil testing and preparation to the best plant varieties, and from proper tree planting techniques to best irrigation practices, our team of CSU Extension Master Gardeners are here to help.

The SLV Master Gardener team is now hosting an "Ask A Master Gardener Help Desk" every Wednesday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the SLV Area Extension office, 1899 East Highway 160, Monte Vista. They invite you to come into the office in person for a face-to-face visit about your gardening questions, or you can call 719-852-7381 with your questions. The team will offer the help desk through the summer gardening season.

After taking extensive training, these remarkable community members volunteer their time to serve our community by providing you with



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education and by answering your gardening questions. In their first year as a Master Gardener apprentice, they each volunteer 50 hours to this cause. In subsequent years, as fully appointed Master Gardeners, they commit 25 hours per year, but it is not uncommon for them to volunteer much more. Perhaps you have seen them at the local farmer's markets the past few years, or at the Crane Festival and SLV Valley Fair. Maybe you have seen them at the Saguache Holly Hock Festival, taken a gardening class in Creede, or read the Newcomers' Guide to Gardening in the San Luis Valley article series recently published in the local newspapers. All of these are the great

work of your CSU Master Gardeners. Please call or come into the CSU Extension office and take advantage of the Help Desk on Wednesdays. If you are interested in becoming a Master Gardener yourself, call 719-852-7381 to get registered for the upcoming fall classes.

Colorado State University Extension is an equal opportunity provider. Colorado State University does not discriminate on the basis of disability and is committed to providing reasonable accommodations. CSU's Office of Engagement and Extension ensures meaningful access and equal opportunities to participate to individuals whose first language is not English.

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# Lifestyles

Serving the entire San Luis Valley

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

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Photo by John Waters

The Hope in the Valley treatment and recovery center in Alamosa.

## Hope has opened its doors

*'Hope in the Valley' now accepting clients*

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

**ALAMOSA** — In the fall of 2022, the Valley Courier reported that founders Justin Riley, Kim Reed and Paul Reed of "Hope in the Valley," a new treatment and recovery center, had signed the dotted line to purchase the 6,700 square foot building that would ultimately become the site of their facility from Alamosa County.

Last week, less than two years later, an announcement signed and sent out by Kim Reed, also serving as development director, notified the public that they have accomplished what they said they would do.

"It is with great excitement and pro-

found gratitude that we announce the official opening of Hope in the Valley, a new treatment and recovery center dedicated to serving individuals battling addiction and mental health challenges," Kim Reed's announcement reads.

"As of today, our doors are open to providing much-needed support to those in need. At Hope in the Valley, we are proud to offer 10 detox beds for immediate assistance, along with intensive outpatient therapy and partial hospitalization programs.

"While our ribbon-cutting ceremony opening is scheduled for July 11, we are already actively helping those in need. It is truly heartwarming to see the community's overwhelming response, with a waiting list already in place.

"We are honored to announce that Attorney General (Phil) Weiser will be joining us for the ribbon-cutting

ceremony on July 11. Until then, we urge anyone who knows someone struggling with addiction to reach out to our facility without delay.

"Our location behind the sheriff's office in Alamosa, 1317 17th St., Alamosa, serves as a beacon of hope for those seeking help.

"As we embark on this journey, we humbly ask for your prayers, support, and continued assistance in making Hope in the Valley a shining light of hope for the entire San Luis Valley.

"Together, we can make a positive impact and provide much-needed resources to those who need it most.

"Thank you for your unwavering support!"

More information about Hope in the Valley can be found on their website at <https://hopealamosa.org> or by calling 719-206-HOPE (4673).

## Mini-grants make small improvements happen in SLV

CONTRIBUTED

**ALAMOSA** — The San Luis Valley Council of Governments is offering funding to counties and municipalities in the San Luis Valley for small projects that benefit their communities. The funding is available through SLV COG Mini-Grants program and is open to any town, city, or county that is a member of the San Luis Valley Council of Governments.

Applications and guidelines for the 2024 SLV COG Mini-Grants are available online at [www.slvdr.org/slv-cog-mini-grants/](http://www.slvdr.org/slv-cog-mini-grants/). The deadline to apply is June 30.

Since 2016, the program has contributed over \$388,000 assisting with a wide range of projects that have enhanced communities and provided benefit to public services. Projects funded in recent years include replacing the gazebo in Creede's town square; a new boiler for the South Fork Visitor Center;

lighting for La Jara's Main Street; playground equipment in Center; and security improvements for the Alamosa County Clerk and Recorder.

Potential projects may receive funding up to \$5,000 and the project cost may not exceed \$20,000. Grants also require a one-to-one cash match and are paid on a reimbursement basis. Counties or municipalities may apply for more than one project.

The SLV COG Mini-Grant program is funded by a grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Program.

Potential applicants may contact Alliyah Garcia with the SLV COG at (719) 589-6099 if they have questions about SLV COG Mini-Grants.

For more information about the San Luis Valley Council of Governments, visit [www.slvdr.org](http://www.slvdr.org).



## La Jara Glory Days offering prize money for parade floats

CONTRIBUTED

**LA JARA** — The 2024 La Jara Glory Days celebration will take place on Saturday, July 27.

Most years, the town strives to add a few more attractions to bring the community together to celebrate life in the little town.

This year, the town received a substantial donation from a generous benefactor, who has requested that they use the funds specifically to enhance and improve the parade.

To that end, the town would like to invite all business friends, community organizations, clubs, and anyone one else who may be interested, to ignite their float building creativity. They will three categories:

1. Floats
2. Marching Bands/Drill/Dance Teams
3. Clubs, organizations, saddle clubs, 4-H, Scout troops

The top three winners in each category will

receive cash prizes (first place will receive \$1,000, second place will receive \$500, and third place will receive \$250). Winners will be selected by a panel of judges.

The annual Art Lopez Memorial Car show (Cars for a Cause) will also take place during the Glory Days event, and the town would encourage all entries in the car show to also participate in the parade and be eligible to win some of the prize money.

For more information, contact Town Manager Larry Zaragoza at 719-274-0553 or 719-992-4073.

"We hope to increase participation in the parade this year and in the future, however, there is no guarantee that our benefactor will be available in future years to offer the same financial support; therefore, we encourage everyone to take advantage of what we can offer in 2024," town officials stated.

## Two weekends of Round-UP fun coming

CONTRIBUTED

**ALAMOSA** — The Alamosa Round-UP has been a part of the San Luis Valley's heritage for over 40 years. With multiple days of exciting events, it is the biggest event in Alamosa, and the 2024 version is coming soon.

The 2024 Alamosa Round-UP kicks off June 14 with the Ranch Rodeo. Saturday, June 15, brings the Demolition Derby.

The following weekend, June 20, kicks off with the Mutton Bustin and Local Barrel Race Qualifier, Friday and Saturday nights bring the Professional PRCA Rodeo. Saturday also includes Cowboy Church at 9 a.m.

Saturday night after the rodeo is the sixth annual Round-UP Concert, featuring professional saddle bronc rider and country music artist Justin Lawrence.

The Alamosa Round-UP is proud to be a part of such a wonderful community. The Alamosa Round-UP is supported by The City of Alamosa, Visit Alamosa, and over 85 local families and businesses. This truly is Alamosa's Round-UP, nominated Top 5 PRCA Rodeo of the Year, and Mountain States Circuit Rodeo of the Year.

Top cowboys and cowgirls from around the country as well as future

champions don their hats, chap up and put on a show for the fans.

**PRCA Rodeo**

The top cowboys and cowgirls in the sport of professional rodeo make their way to Alamosa to compete in all seven major events of rodeo — Bareback Riding, Steer Wrestling, Tie-Down Roping, Saddle Bronc Riding, Team Roping, Barrel Racing, and Bull Riding. The Alamosa Round-UP is proud to be a part of the All-American Series, of The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

Over 350 cowboys and cowgirls make their way to beautiful Alamosa each year to compete for over \$45,000

in prize money.

Entries are now open for the Ranch Rodeo (June 14) and the 2024 Mutton Bustin Qualifier (June 20). Local Barrel Race entries will be taken the night of the Barrel Race, 5-6:30 p.m. June 20. Tickets are also available through the website, [www.alamosaroundup.com](http://www.alamosaroundup.com).

**Country music artist and professional saddle bronc rider Justin Lawrence will perform in Alamosa as part of the Round-UP rodeo after the arena events on Saturday, June 22.**

Courtesy photo





Photo by Marie Mccolm

The Crestone Food Bank has opened at a new location next to the Baca Grande Library on County Road T in Saguache County. The food bank is open on Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 p.m. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on May 30.

# Crestone Food Bank opens in new location

By MARIE MCCOLM

CRESTONE — There was plenty of cause for celebration on Thursday, May 30, in Crestone. Approximately 30 people attended the grand opening of the Crestone Food Bank in its new location right next to the Baca Grande Library in Crestone.

At a little after 2 p.m. staff gathered at the top of a staircase that leads into the food bank, to cut the red ribbon that had been strung across the bottom of the staircase, to signify the official opening of the new food bank building. Everyone on the staircase clapped and cheered.

Saguache County Commissioner Tom McCracken made a brief speech at the ceremony.

“I just want to express our excitement and happiness that the food bank is open again. I want to thank the stakeholders, the Baca POA with the building here. We have the Food Bank Network. We have the Community Care Collective, La Puente, Care and Share, Saguache County and Saguache County Human Services. All the volunteers that have helped pull this all together. We really appreciate it,” he said.

McCracken also stated that they are excited that Saguache is going to be involved now, as a long-term partner.

“They are going to be a permanent stakeholder now, and make sure that the food bank is sustainable for the future,” he said.

According to Commissioner McCracken the food bank had been closed for over a year and finding the new food bank building, along with renovating the new building, had been more than a 6-month process.

“It’s been in the making for a while. It was time for us to get it going,” he said.

Managers of the prior food bank, Marge Hogllin and Joe Buckley, spoke about the opening of the new food bank.

Hogllin said, “We ran the food bank at the previous location for about 3 years. I am just really happy that the new place is open, and it’s happening, and everyone is working together. I think it’s going to be great.”

Both Hogllin and Buckley said that the prior location got to be too small. Buckley said that there was a definite need for more room.

“We outgrew the space. The space had been donated. We started with about 400 people a week, and when we closed there was about 200 people,” Buckley said.

Hogllin said that they began looking for another location, and they hoped to move into a place that was move-in ready.

“There was a deadline, and the space just wasn’t readily available. So, we made the decision to back off, and retire at that time too. We figured it was time to back off and let someone else run it. It’s great to see all the people here today that we used to see. We always enjoyed the people. It’s such a great organization,” Hogllin said.

Hogllin also said that they were glad that the county had stepped up to help the food bank.

“The food banks in Saguache and Center, are in the county, and staffed by county employees. Here in Crestone everything we offer, well we cover our own expenses, and have our own volunteers. When Tom became commissioner, he really wanted to change that. It’s good to see that the county is helping and a partner now,” Hogllin said.

Eden Elderberry, a volunteer of the food bank network for a long time, was proud to see the doors open to the food bank. Elderberry helped with the construction of the new food bank and was involved with all aspects of the new food bank.

“It’s neat to see this place come together. Everyone is very happy here today,” Elderberry said.

## 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 Among Us.”

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 Ski-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.skihstampede.com](http://www.skihstampede.com).

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26 - 50 lbs	\$140.00		Small-Medium Vessel needed
51 - 75 lbs.	\$175.00	\$200.00	Medium-Large Vessel needed
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# SUDOKU

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

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

**Solution to last week’s puzzle**

		A	S	T	H	M	A			K	O	M					
P	A	N	T	H	E	O	N			P	E	R	U				
A	S	T	O	U	N	D	S			F	A	B	E	R			
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35 HEAVY EQUIPMENT  
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37 WANTED  
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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 day of advertising.

**Our ad policy:** Valley Publishing accepts all classified advertising except that which it deems objectionable to its readers. Credit or replacement ads will not be given for early ad cancellation.

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### 05 Notices

For information on meetings for ALANON NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS AND ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Please visit [slva.org](http://slva.org) or call 719-937-5083.

### 07 Help Wanted

**Rio Grande County is hiring!** Available full-time positions with competitive pay and benefits include: Assessor's Office Appraiser Trainee Public Health Nurse Road & Bridge Equipment Operator Sheriff's Office Detention/Dispatch Deputy Sheriff's Office Detention/Dispatch Sergeant and Corporal Sheriff's Office Road Deputy Sheriff's Office Jail Cook Social Services Legal Technician Manager Benefits include medical, retirement, and paid time-off. Visit [www.riograndecounty.org](http://www.riograndecounty.org) for details including applications and job descriptions or pickup at Human Resources: 925 6th St., Rm. 200, Del Norte, CO.

**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 hard-

working 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](mailto:ahardy@urtigers.co) or contact Annie at 719-657-4020. Applications can be found online at: [urtigers.co](http://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](mailto: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

# VALLEY AUCTION 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)
Oxyacetylene Torch
Forney Welder
Air Compressor
5 Hp 60 gal Air Compressor
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Radial Arm Saw
Drill Press
Bench Grinder
Assorted Wrenches
2- Saddles

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Franciscan China - Set
Norika China - Set
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Silver Tea Set



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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](mailto:bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com)

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For the Conejos and Costilla areas. Writing and photography experience necessary. Send resume, writing and photography samples to Valley Publishing Inc., P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or email [bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com](mailto:bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com)

# Valley Wide Classifieds

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 & Bridge and Landfill Assistant Supervisor 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

# ESTIMATED CROP WATER USE

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

Crop	Date Planted	Daily Crop Water use for Dates Shown (in./day)				Accumulated Water Use (ET) From 6/6 (inches)				
		6/6	6/5	6/4	6/3	2day	3day	4day	5day	7day
Moravian 69	04/05	0.34	0.32	0.24	0.28	0.66	0.89	1.17	1.46	1.97
Moravian 69	05/05	0.26	0.24	0.17	0.20	0.51	0.68	0.88	1.07	1.39
Early Wheat	04/05	0.34	0.32	0.24	0.28	0.66	0.89	1.17	1.46	1.97
Early Wheat	05/05	0.26	0.24	0.17	0.19	0.50	0.67	0.86	1.05	1.36
White Wheat	04/05	0.34	0.32	0.24	0.28	0.66	0.89	1.17	1.46	1.97
White Wheat	05/05	0.26	0.24	0.17	0.19	0.50	0.67	0.86	1.05	1.36
WinterWheat	10/01	0.34	0.32	0.24	0.28	0.66	0.89	1.17	1.46	1.97
<b>Potatoes</b>										
Norkotah	05/05	0.06	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.13	0.17	0.22	0.28	0.38
Centennial	05/05	0.06	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.13	0.17	0.22	0.28	0.38
Nugget	05/05	0.06	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.13	0.17	0.22	0.28	0.38
Alfalfa	Est.	0.38	0.37	0.27	0.32	0.75	1.02	1.34	1.67	2.25
Lawngrass	Est.	0.32	0.30	0.22	0.27	0.63	0.85	1.12	1.39	1.88

For the latest ET information, call 719-754-3494 extension x40 for Center, x36 for Center #2, and x38 for La Jara. Use the crop maturity and planting data and weather station closest to your own. Find this up June 8 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

# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



**Sun House Farm** Approx 1,910 Acres with Home  
 \$12,900,000 | MLS #807640  
 57075 County Rd C Center, CO

**BRUCE STEFFENS**  
 OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 719-580-0770



**Bear Creek Never Disappoints!**  
 Approx. 6.640 Acres  
 \$144,000 | MLS #813873  
 2166 Bear Creek Circle South Fork, CO

**YVONNE HOFFMAN**  
 BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 719-580-1901



**UNDER CONTRACT**

8 Acre Property with a Large Shop  
 Stunning Mountain Views!  
 \$250,000 MLS #813871  
 1210 Juarez Road Fort Garland CO

**TATE HUFFAKER**  
 ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 719-298-6560



**Look At The View!** Approx. 2.020 Acres  
 \$89,900 | MLS #813683  
 311 Vista De Verde Circle South Fork, CO

**YVONNE HOFFMAN**  
 BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 719-580-1901



**SOLD**

3 bedroom, 2 bath 2,589 Sq. Ft. on 35.5 acres  
 \$975,000 | MLS #808345  
 6680 County Rd. 13 Del Norte, CO

**BRUCE STEFFENS**  
 OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 719-580-0770



The Stunning Grande Ponderosa!  
 Approx. 2.54 Acres  
 \$2,250,000 | MLS #813982  
 695 Escondida South Fork, CO

**YVONNE HOFFMAN**  
 BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 719-580-1901



**Amazing Ranch Style House with Barn and 50 Acres!**  
 \$599,000 MLS #811695  
 13725 Road 104 South Alamosa, CO

**TATE HUFFAKER**  
 ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 719-298-6560



**Beautiful River Lots/ Approx. 1.170 Acres**  
 \$239,031/MLS#811448  
 149 Lots 2&3 Escondida Dr, South Fork, CO

**AUNDREA LILLARD**  
 ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 706-622-0799



**SOLD**

Beautiful Ranch/Home on approx. 3,095 Acres  
 \$2,200,000 | MLS #810790  
 19198 county Rd. 15 Del Norte, CO

**BRUCE STEFFENS**  
 OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 719-580-0770



**BEAUTIFUL RIVER LOT FOR SALE!**  
 APPROX. 0.500 ACRES  
 \$174,900/MLS#812252  
 63 Doe Circle South Fork, CO

**AUNDREA LILLARD**  
 ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 706-622-0799



**SOLD**

Large Warehouse Approx. 6,579 sq. ft. on 1.57 Acres  
 \$150,000 | MLS #811519  
 1665 S. County Rd. 4 E. Monte Vista, CO

**BRUCE STEFFENS**  
 OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 719-580-0770



**PRICE IMPROVEMENT!**

Amazing Opportunity/Car Wash for Sale!  
 \$215,000 | MLS #809144  
 219 Main Street Antonito, CO

**TATE HUFFAKER**  
 ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 719-298-6560



**SOLD**

Commercial Lot with Easy Access/ Approx 1.42 Acres  
 \$79,900 | MLS #813004  
 24 Riviere Road South Fork, CO

**BRUCE STEFFENS**  
 OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 719-580-0770



**Perfect Live/Work Property**  
 APPROX. 3.47 ACRES  
 \$799,000/MLS#813618  
 4 El Dorado Lane South Fork, CO

**BRUCE STEFFENS**  
 OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 719-580-0770

**AUNDREA LILLARD**  
 ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®  
 M: 706-622-0799



**Steffens & Co. Realty, Inc.**  
 719-873-1700  
 SteffensRealty@GoJade.org  
 30636 W. US HWY 160  
 South Fork, Colorado

# Valley Wide Classifieds

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 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](http://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 hand-delivered 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](mailto:mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov), or faxed to 719-655-2543.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Open until a qualified candidate is hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**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 reconstruction, resurfacing, and general county road maintenance are performed. This position is

## 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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Customer Reviews ★★★★★  
"I think this was really good and fun to watch the tv. the wing we're awesome and good pizza."  
— Amy B.

**Law Enforcement, Firefighters, EMTs and our Veterans always receive 20% off!**  
30483 Highway 160, South Fork  
Open DAILY — 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
**Easy Online To-Go Orders:**  
[MountainPizzaTapRoom.com](http://MountainPizzaTapRoom.com)

# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



**Secluded cabin on 20 acres - Gated Community**  
\$975,000 | MLS #803394  
3023 Bear Creek Circle, South Fork, CO  
**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605



**28 Acres on the Rio Grande River in South Fork**  
\$1,550,000 | MLS #807305  
27000 US HWY 160 South Fork, CO  
**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605



**3 bedroom cabin bordering National Forest**  
\$398,500 | MLS # 812823  
99 Aspen Dr. South Fork, CO  
**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605



**Luxury Home on 42 Acres - Borders Natl. Forest**  
\$899,000 | MLS #807998  
4100 Wilderness Canyon Rd. La Garita, CO  
**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605



**3 bedroom home on 5 acres near Alamosa**  
\$369,500 | MLS #810965  
532 Lane 8 N. Monte Vista, CO  
**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605



**DOMESTIC WELL SEPTIC SOLAR**  
**Hunting Cabin on 40 Acres - Bordering National Forest**  
\$239,000 | MLS #812863  
1 Bedroom, 1 Bath Del Norte, CO  
**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605



**Off-Grid Cabin on the CREEK 5.24 Acres**  
\$279,000 | MLS #809447  
7541 Indian Creek Rd. Fort Garland, CO  
**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605



**Luxury Mountain home on 15 acres in Bear Creek**  
\$1,399,000 | MLS #813316  
682 Bear Creek Circle, South Fork, CO  
**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605



**Dee Plucinski**  
Luxury Home Broker  
Licensed in 2011  
*I know mountain land*  
**719-873-5605**  
[Dee@SLVluxuryproperties.com](mailto:Dee@SLVluxuryproperties.com)

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All of my properties are detailed in my BLOG  
Please scan -->




**UNDER CONTRACT**

Approximately 160 Acres Farmland  
\$400,000 | MLS #810432  
05299 County Rd. 12 S. Alamosa, CO  
**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605



**Rito Hondo Estates- 18 Rural Mtn Lots Avail**  
17.5 & 35 Acre Lots  
Owner Financing Available  
West of Antonito in the Conejos Canyon CO  
**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605

# Valley Wide Classifieds

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.

**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. (6-12)


**12 Houses for Rent**  
Newly renovated house in South Fork. Fenced in yard. Detached garage. No smoking. No indoor pets. \$1750 per month. 719-580-1510 (7-3)

**Remodeled two-bedroom, 1-bath 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)

**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.

**16 Vacation Cabin for rent by the night only.** Small bath, queen bed, microwave and refrigerator only. 469-446-2499


**24 Garage/Yard Sales**  
We will sell everything but the garage! Crib that has only been used twice. Law mower. Silver trays and candle holders. Many books. Friday and Saturday, June 14 and 15, the hours will be from 8 a.m. to noon on both days. No early birds please! Four miles north of Monte



## BEAVER CREEK CHRISTIAN CAMP

2024 Theme: Linked by Love


As we seek to create and strengthen life giving relationships, we remember that love all love flows from God and links us together.



Find more information and registration at:  
**www.beavercreekcamp.org**  
0885 CR 20A, PO Box 186, South Fork, CO 81154  
manager@beavercreekcamp.org (719) 588-7627

Camp Dates:

1st, 2nd & 3rd Grade Camp - June 30-July 2  
4th, 5th & 6th Grade Camp - July 7-9  
7th & 8th Grade Camp - July 14-19  
High School Camp - July 21-26



Beaver Creek Youth Camp is an equal opportunity service provider and employer and operates under special use permit from the USDA Forest Service, Rio Grande National Forest.

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NEW CONSTRUCTION OR REPLACEMENT  
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We buy gold, silver, watches, jewelry, coins, antiques and collectibles!

Sean - 720-254-4902  
417 San Juan Ave., Alamosa

# Valley Wide Classifieds

Vista on Highway 285, look for the signs. (6-12)

### 36 Miscellaneous

Cash for quality non-fiction books and LP records. Jeff 720-315-9145 (TFN)

### Propane Refrigerators Sold Here.

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

### STEEL STORAGE CONTAINERS

Sales, Rentals & Modifications! Containers are water & rodent proof. 8' wide, 8'-53" in length. Call for more information and pricing. Healdworks, Inc. - Your Total Storage Solution! 719-850-0346 (TFN)

## Medicare Fraud Prevention Week runs the week of June 5

### CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA - Fraud costs Medicare an estimated \$60 billion per year. It costs Medicare beneficiaries in time, stress, their medical identities, and even their health. It costs families, friends, and caregivers in worry and lost work when helping their loved ones recover from falling victim to Medicare fraud.

"Medicare fraud has a devastating impact on both beneficiaries and the Medicare program," said Michelle Phillips State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) & Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Coordinator. "We teach people how to avoid experiencing Medicare fraud. By preventing fraud from happening, this program helps individuals and protects the Medicare program for generations to come."

Learn how to protect yourself and your loved ones by joining the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) and their partners for Medicare Fraud Prevention Week which runs the week of June 5, or 6/5, because most people become eligible for Medicare when they turn 65. Learn more about Medicare Fraud Prevention Week at [www.smpresource.org](http://www.smpresource.org).

SMPs help educate and empower people on Medicare in the fight against health care fraud. Your SMP can help you with your questions, concerns, or complaints about potential fraud and abuse issues. It also provides information and educational presentations.

**SOLAR PANELS! 400 Watt and Smaller, We Stock Inverters, Charge Controllers, and Batteries in Brand Names of Outback, Magnum, Aims, Rolls, and More. Custom Cables and PV Wire. Bontrager's Variety Store. 9726 S. CR 3E Monte Vista. 719-852-0500. (TFN)**

### 37 Wanted

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

### 65 Professional Services

Let me haul off your old appliances and recyclable metals for you. Call Chris for prices and to set up a removal 719-395-2071 (6-26)

**WE BUY ANTLER:** \$16/lb for Elk Grade A and \$11/lb for Deer Grade A. 5 miles west of Del Norte on Hwy 160. 719-657-0942 (TFN)

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ances and recyclable metals for you. Call Chris for prices and to set up a removal 719-395-2071 (TFN)

**RELIABLE CARPENTRY** 40-plus years-experience in carpentry, painting, stucco, tile, drywall, roofing, etc. Drug/Alcohol free. Free Estimates 719-496-7630. (TFN)

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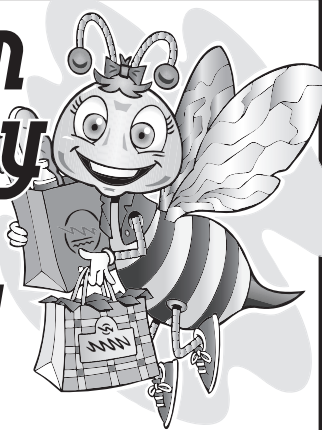
available weekends and evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (TFN)

**Need beautiful window blinds at the best prices?** Call THE BLIND GUY at 970-799-0388 for a free estimate. (TFN)

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

# Business Showcase

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Open Daily  
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## This Week's Feature



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- Wildlife
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AUTO REPAIR SHOP

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SAN LUIS VALLEY, COLORADO

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# Great Sand Dunes is hiring a visitor services intern

## STAFF REPORT

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve is hiring a full-time seasonal intern starting on June 24 and ending on Oct. 25.

The position is a full-time, seasonal role starting on June 2, and ending on Oct. 25, and includes a \$730 weekly living stipend and eligibility for a \$2,626.27 AmeriCorps Education Award.

The intern will be involved in the daily operations of the park and gain valuable experience serving alongside National Park Service staff.

For complete position description and to apply, please visit <https://jobs.silkroad.com/ConservationL.../Careers/jobs/4804>

Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyPublishing>

# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

**SHAY REALTY, INC.** COLO. - KAN. - NEB.  
Farm & Ranch Real Estate Professionals!

**Commonwealth Irrigation Company Water!**

**36.7± AC. HIGHWAY 160 – DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL!** Vacant agricultural land with over 1000 feet of HWY 160 frontage and commercial and/or residential development potential. Offered with or without 1 Share of Commonwealth Irr. Co. stock. Located just NW of Monte Vista Airport, 1/2 mi. west of Rio Grande/Alamosa County line; T38N-R8E; Sec. 13: Tract in NW/4. CALL REESE FOR MORE INFO!

Reese W. Shay 970-630-5006  
or email [Reese@ShayRealty.com](mailto:Reese@ShayRealty.com)  
[www.ShayRealty.com](http://www.ShayRealty.com)

**SHAY REALTY, INC.** COLO. - KAN. - NEB.  
Farm & Ranch Real Estate Professionals!

**10 Shares Rio Grande Canal Water!**

**944± AC. RANCH + 10 SHARES RIO GRANDE CANAL!** Divided native pastures, irrigated meadows, 1667 sf. house, barn, shed, & improvements, irrigation well, 3 solar wells, & all Seller's rights to Rocky Hills Ditch. Some additional water from run-off ditches & La Garita Creek run-off. 2 miles of U.S. Hwy 285 & mile of La Garita Road frontage. Located 1.5 mi. W & 6 mi. N of Center; 15 mi. S of Saguache; T42N-R7E; Sec. 36: All & Sec. 25: E/2. CALL REESE FOR MORE INFO!

Reese W. Shay 970-630-5006  
or email [Reese@ShayRealty.com](mailto:Reese@ShayRealty.com)  
[www.ShayRealty.com](http://www.ShayRealty.com)

# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

**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 provides a cozy ambiance. It 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 canvas of sunrises and sunsets will leave you breathless. Wildlife Haven: Immerse yourself in the enchanting wilderness. Mule deer, elk, and even the elusive black bear occasionally grace the property. Year-Round Adventure: Explore hundreds of miles of ATV trails right outside your door. In winter, hit the slopes at Wolf Creek Ski Area, just 30 minutes away. Tranquil Creekside Strolls: Meander along the community walking trails that follow the gentle curves of Bear Creek. Listen to the soothing sounds of water as you unwind. This is more than a home; it's an invitation to embrace the rugged elegance of Colorado's high country. Escape to 1408 Bear Creek Circle and discover a lifestyle where luxury meets wilderness. **MLS# 813472 - \$1,420,000**

**NEW LISTING!**

**exp REALTY** Bernadette Gingrass  
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License #100072622

**193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork**

Charming Mountain Retreat with Breathtaking Views Nestled in the picturesque town of South Fork, CO, this finely detailed Ranch Style Mountain home offers a delightful blend of rugged elegance, with 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, this home provides ample room for relaxation and rejuvenation. The open living area boasts a large Sunny 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 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 Mountain Adventure in this beautiful, tranquil Ponderosa Valley Estates neighborhood! Don't wait, call and schedule today! **MLS#810774 - \$479,500**

**SOLD**

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**0254 Timberline Trail • South Fork**

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 pool table, TV, and workout equipment. Year-Round Comfort: Radiant floor heat and an extra-large 1000-gallon propane tank ensure warmth throughout the home. Outdoor Delight: Enjoy ever-changing mountain views from the adjacent deck or cozy up by the stone mantel 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 76-gallon water heater, water softener. Programmable 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 Security. Land lines in most every room. Century-Link phone highspeed internet and Direct TV. Managed lighting and surround sound throughout the home and the Smart Home allows you to control from anywhere. This home is a Hole in One! One of a kind, designed and built providing that sense of hospitality, openness, beauty, and tranquility. Location Highlights: Rio Grande Club: Overlooking the 11th hole, this exclusive community offers golf, recreation, and natural beauty. Outdoor Paradise: Explore nearby trails, fishing spots, the Rio Grande River, the South Fork River and Wolf Creek Ski area. Doesn't get any more epitome than this! Check out the Video. Call and schedule your private showing today! **MLS#811509 - \$2,750,000**

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**222 La Lomita Circle • South Fork**

Perfect 2.0-acre lot to build Your Dream Home. Luxurious Mountain Retreat Awaits: Build Your Dream Home! Nestled amidst the majestic peaks, this pristine lot awaits your architectural vision. Imagine waking up to panoramic vistas that stretch as far as the eye can see—each sunrise painting the sky in hues of amber and rose gold. Welcome to your own private haven, where nature's splendor meets refined living. Breathtaking Views. This parcel of land boasts captivating views in every direction. Gaze upon rolling hills, snow-capped summits, and the meandering Rio Grande River. Whether you're sipping morning coffee or stargazing at night, the scenery will leave you spellbound. Ready for Your Vision. The canvas is blank, awaiting your brushstrokes. With water and sewer readily available, however you will need to secure your water and sewer taps. Picture a modern retreat with floor-to-ceiling windows, seamlessly blending indoor and outdoor spaces. Paved Road Access No rugged trails here—just a smooth, paved road leading to your paradise. Arrive in style. Over Two Acres of Possibility Spread your wings across two gently sloping sprawling acres. Design your oasis—an infinity pool, terraced gardens, or perhaps a meditation pavilion. Outdoor Enthusiast's Paradise For the angler's heart, the Rio Grande River beckons. Cast your line, and reel in memories. Nearby, the National Forest is a playground for hikers, birdwatchers, and seekers of solitude. Your Winter Wonderland Awaits Just 20 miles away, the Wolf Creek Ski Resort cradles you in its snowy embrace. Glide down powdery slopes, cozy up by the fire, savoring the warmth of shared stories. Your Legacy Awaits This isn't just land; it's your legacy in the making. Generations will gather here, creating memories under star-studded skies. Build your dream home refuge—a testament to life well-lived. More pictures coming soon. **MLS#812710 - \$79,900**

**JUST LISTED**

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Thinking of Selling in 2024  
Expect the Best,  
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