

Gateway to the Silver Thread

Volume 96, Number 24

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South Fork, Colorado 81154

75¢

MORSELS

Creede Vacation Bible Camp June 24-28

CREEDE — Give your imagination a short beach vacation at Creede Baptist Church. Creede Vacation Bible Camp will be held Monday, June 24, to Friday, June 28, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Camp includes a week full of music, games, crafts, refreshments and, most importantly, learning about God.

This free Vacation Bible Camp is open to all adventurous kids from over 3 years old to those having completed sixth grade.

Family and friends are invited to camp Friday, June 28, for a cookout at 6 p.m. followed by a children's program at 7 p.m.

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 this summer. And please 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 Mochochetes 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.

Voss Field celebration hits it out of the park

Ribbon cutting held June 6 for renovated baseball field

BY LYNDSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — After several months of hard work, the Voss Field Renovation Project was officially completed and *Please see VOSS on Page 4A*

D Mountain Park and Recreation Board President Patti Kelley cuts the ribbon celebrating the Voss Field Renovation Project on June 6 in Del Norte. Board member Stan Montoya, advisory board member Grace Young, and board member Heather Sawyers are to Kelley's left and board members Karie Lichtenfeld and Doug Wibbenmeyer are to her right.

Photo by Brian Williams



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

Colorado State Senator Cleave Simpson, left, was welcomed as the keynote speaker for the June Upper Rio Grande Economic Development meeting on Tuesday.

Sen. Simpson keynote speaker for URGED meeting

BY LYNDSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — Colorado State Senator Cleave Simpson (R-D6) was the June keynote speaker for the Upper Rio Grande Development meeting in Del Norte on Tuesday, June 11.

Simpson came to the meeting

to update the group on the most recent General Assembly Session and the passed bills.

Simpson is known for his work on property tax and water issues in Colorado and is running for reelection this fall. Simpson serves District 6 - Alamosa, Archuleta,

Conejos, Costilla, Dolores, La Plata, Mineral, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, Rio Grande, Saguache, San Juan, and San Miguel counties.

"It's hard to believe I am at the end of my first term. As I looked back, I was amazed to see that our

Please see URGED on Page 2A

Stampede scholarship applications open

STAFF REPORT

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

'The Queen' is CRT's 2024 poster

BY KEITH R. CERNY

CREEDE — Hoping to "immortalize the spirit of this cherished storyteller," Creede native and artist Hanna Waters captured the spirit of 50-year Creede Repertory Theatre (CRT) veteran Christy Brandt in a painting of her at a young age. That portrait was chosen as the 59th season poster for CRT as revealed Saturday night at the Main Stage Theatre.

Those words from Hanna were quoted by her mother, longtime Creede framer and gallery owner Chere Waters who introduced the painting in her daughter's absence. Even though the painting was done more than 10 years ago in honor of Brandt's 40 years at CRT, it was selected this year in tribute to her 50 years at the theatre.

Appropriately titled, "The Queen," Hanna

was quoted as saying the painting "speaks to the enduring legacy of Christy Brandt herself and Creede Repertory Theatre as whole."

While announcing the unveiling, Interim Artistic Director Kate Berry said Hanna "is a writer, artist, philosopher and daydreamer." She was born and raised in Creede, later receiving

Please see QUEEN on Page 2A

Fifty-year Creede theatre veteran Christy Brandt responds to a portrait of her at a young age (shown behind her) that was chosen as the poster for CRT's 59th season. Kate Berry (right), CRT's interim artistic director, had the honor of unveiling the original painting and poster by Creede native Hanna Waters.

Photo by Keith R. Cerny



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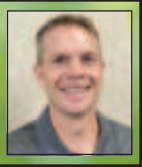
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USFS asks for public comment on plan

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



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.

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 will issue a draft decision open for public comments, then a final draft.

The Forest Service is estimating 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.

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



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.

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.

URGED

Continued from Page 1A

Governor Jared Polis signed 519 new bills into law but when I really thought about it, I sponsored at least 30 of those bills because of what our constituents needed. The best policy that I can advance, always comes from my constituents and that was the case this year," he said.

Simpson explained some of the policies passed this past session that ended at the beginning of May, including one on property tax within the state and how he could work to make Colorado more affordable again.

"This year, in my perspective, the session ended on a pretty positive note. There were two really big policies that will impact all of us whether indirectly or directly. Property tax was one of them and we have done a property tax bill every session I have been in office. This one fit the same mold but there was more transparency in this property tax discussion than in previous ones," he said.

Simpson explained that the current property tax discussion ended with a bill that, according to Simpson, may not be the definitive answer to the issue, but was better than not having one at all.

"The bill ended up with very much bipartisan support and it was not the complete right answer, but the alternative was if we didn't do anything, valuations and assessment rates and taxes were going to go back to what they were prior to the special session which would have been hugely impactful to communities," he said.

Simpson also spoke about a new dredge-and-fill permit program that was passed through the session that will help protect wetland and gap water in Colorado.

"Concerning the establishment of a dredge-and-fill permit program to regulate the discharge of pollutants into certain state waters in response to recent changes in federal law, and, in connection therewith, establishing the stream and wetlands protection commission and the stream and wetlands protection division and authorizing the stream and wetlands protection division to administer and enforce the dredge-and-fill permit program in accordance with rules promulgated by the stream and wetlands protection commission," he said.

Simpson said that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment would be overseeing the permitting process once the bill is signed into law.

Simpson finished his update stating that if he is re-elected, he will continue his fight to make Colorado



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

State Senator Cleave Simpson is finishing out his first term in office and will be running for re-election in November. Simpson is known for his work in water conservancy and for working to keep Colorado affordable for those that live here.

affordable again and to listen to his constituents about issues that need to be addressed moving forward.

FULL-TIME SALES

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

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.

QUEEN

Continued from Page 1A

her BA in studio art from Colorado College and studied classical drawing at Charles Cecil Atelier in Florence, Italy, and Atelier Lack in Minneapolis, Minn.

Waters became involved in CRT at a young age and spent a few seasons in the professional company. She said Christy and her husband Brownie, longtime CRT photographer who retired last year,

"were staples in my life," while growing up. The reference photo for the painting and resulting print was taken by Brownie.

"I loved the sepia tones and dreamy look in Christy's eyes," Waters wrote. "I wanted to capture a particular moment in time."

A limited number of prints of Waters' painting are available for sale at both CRT stages.

VALLEY PUBLISHING SEEKS REPORTER IMMEDIATELY

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

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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Photo by Brian Williams

The High Valley Community Center children and staff eat lunch at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Voss Field Renovation Project on June 6.

VOSS

Continued from Page 1A

celebrated during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 6. D Mountain Park and Recreation District (DMPRD) has been working to revitalize the baseball field in Del Norte for over two years, through grant funding, and community and local government support.

Grant funding that was awarded for the project included awards from the Department of Local Affairs, the Major League Baseball Youth Development Foundation, Rio Grande County, the Town of Del Norte and many volunteers who spent time and money to help see the project through to completion.

During the ceremony, Karie Lichtenfeld, co-owner of Creek Water Construction and DMPRD board member, spoke to the crowd, welcoming them to the revitalized baseball field.

Lichtenfeld first introduced Ashley Voss, whose family originally donated the field to the community in 1975.

“My family donated this field in 1975 and I just wanted to say thank to everyone who came together and got the grant funding to give this the facelift it needed. I hope all the families here can enjoy this for many years to come like we did when we were kids. It used to be really fun, so I hope to see a lot of games out here,” said Voss.

Next to speak was Josh Stoudt with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

“I would like to thank the Voss

family first, who kicked this off with a grant through the Land, Water Conservation Fund which is funding through the federal government administer by National Park and also through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The goal of the grant is to preserve, maintain and develop more recreation for all to have access to,” he said.

Stoudt added, “This is very cool to have this done and for everyone to be here to enjoy. I hear it has already been used and loved. Part of the goal is to enjoy but also to maintain so let’s do our best to maintain this awesome spot and keep it for years to come.”

Lichtenfeld introduced her fellow DMPRD board members – Patti Kelley, Heather Sawyers, Stan Montoya, and Doug Wibbenmeyer – and D Mountain advisory board member Grace Young who also serves as their grant writer.

“We are so excited to be a part of this field and a part of what is going on in our community. We are grateful that we were able to collaborate with several people to get this field done and we are excited to keep working with this community trying to improve our outdoor spaces and make it fun for all of kids and adults,” said Lichtenfeld.

A huge thanks goes out to the Town of Del Norte, Kevin Larimore and his Public Works crew, Rio Grande County, Youth

Development Foundation of Major League Baseball Association, High Valley Community Center, Del Norte Youth Booster Club, Upper Rio Grande School District’s woodshop class, Bullwork Construction, Creek Water Construction Garrison Fence and all of the volunteers that helped to make this project a community accomplishment, Lichtenfeld said.

After the board cut the ribbon, Rio Grande County Commissioner Gene Glover tossed the ceremonial first pitch to Young.

Creede Reads and Feeds is returning

CONTRIBUTED

CREEDE — Creede Reads (and Feeds) is returning after a decades long hiatus. The event will be held on June 23, at 5 p.m. at the Sunnyside Bar in downtown Creede.

Creede Reads is a poetry gathering; it is an opportunity for local writers and readers to share their new or favorite poetry with other Creede residents and visitors. Writers are welcome to bring their pieces to share.

“We encourage Willow Creek Journal (WCJ) contributors to attend and share a piece from the journal. Readers are encouraged to share by reading their favorite poems or short stories,” organizers stated.



CAC will provide snacks, but attendees are welcome to bring finger food to share.

This project is presented by the Creede Arts Council’s WCJ Committee. The 2024 WCJ is now available around Creede.

For more information, contact Creede Arts Council at creedearts@outlook.com.

Summer is finally here!

By HIGH VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

DEL NORTE — High Valley Community Center started its Summer Program this last week, and it has already been the best summer yet!

We learned about our superhero powers, read lots of fantastic books and even took a field trip to the Great Sand Dunes National Park. To end our week, we celebrated the Voss Field Renovation with a Baseball Field Party complete with games and yummy food!

As a reminder, our Summer Program is open to all Fall 2024

K-12 students. We are open Tuesday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Every Wednesday, we go on a super awesome field trip, so keep an eye out for updates on what to bring each field trip day!

Kiddos that are in sixth grade and up this fall can make a few extra dollars this summer at HVCC! Show up for our summer program, and we’ll help out around our community to earn extra spending money. Not only will you earn some cash, but you’ll also have a ton of fun!

We can’t wait to have a fantastic summer with you!



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RG County holds work session on Dominion Voting System update

By LYNSIE FERRELL

RIO GRANDE COUNTY — For the past several weeks, Rio Grande County Clerk and Recorder Cindy Hill has been speaking with Rio Grande County commissioners regarding an update to current elections systems used in Rio Grande County and after the approval to move forward with the update, commissioners requested a work session to answer questions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

is confirmed.

During the meeting, Rio Grande County commissioners heard from six experts, three representing each side of the conversation, those for and against the use of Dominion Voting Systems. Each person had a five-minute time limit beginning with those against the use of Dominion.

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

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

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

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

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

Smith was followed by IT expert Mark Cook who spoke about how hard it was for the general public to understand how these systems work and that he has been working on



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

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

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

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

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

Johnson explained the purpose of the CCCA. The Colorado County

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

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

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

hundred percent, yes.”

Koppes said that it was not required by the state to maintain the operating system logs and that wireless devices on voting systems components are not illegal regardless of what other experts may have to say.

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

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

Commissioner Gene Glover said that he also had more questions than answers.

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

Rio Grande County Administrator Skip Schoen in closing reminded everyone “this was an informational work session to obtain additional information for the county commissioner.”

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Donkey Dash brings fun to Creede

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

CREEDE — Over a hundred people gathered along Main Street in Creede for the annual Donkey Dash. Donkeys of all shapes and sizes stood along the roadway as their owners prepared for a day of fun and good old-fashioned donkey racing.

This year's dash hosted the largest number of donkey teams to toe the line in Creede, according to organizers. The oldest runner was Blair Smith at 76 years old and William Rohen-Trapp at 13. Racers traveled from Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, and Virginia to participate in the Creede Donkey Dash.

The annual Creede Donkey Dash kicked off with pack burros laden with mining supplies and other gear as the racers sped off, leaving the starting line in the dust. Local resident Nancy Leggitt was the commentator for the race, making sure to bring fun and laughter to the attending crowd.

This year boasted a new shorter race to bring more participants. Each race challenges racers and their burros depending on experience. Some of the returning racers have raced burros throughout Colorado and beyond, bringing with them a long-standing tradition that is loved by all who attend.

The burros come from all different types of backgrounds. Some have been owned by private owners, come from programs like the Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wild Horse and Burro Project or from burro sanctuaries like those that reside in South Fork and other Colorado communities. Each animal is as unique as their owners and their uniqueness is what makes these races fun for everyone who attends.

"Burro racing is a great sport began by some of Colorado's 19th-century miners. Those hardy characters used burros to carry mining tools and supplies through the Rocky Mountains as they prospected for gold, silver, and other valuable ores. Since the burros were carrying a full load, the miners had to walk, leading the animal with a rope. Legend has it that two miners found gold in the same location, and raced each other back to town to be the first to stake a claim to the find. Neither could



This participant in the Creede Donkey Dash made a statement by abandoning her teammate near the start of the annual event. After an outburst of kicking and braying, the burro settled down and was captured by other participants coming from behind.

ride their animal because of its load, so one of the basic rules of burro racing was established."

Winners for the 10-mile race were Bob Sweeny, with burro Yukon from Leadville coming in first with a time of 1 hour and 30:04 seconds. Coming in second with burro Mary Margaret was Tracy Laughlin from Salida with a time of 1:30:06 and in third place, Harrison Walter from Westcliff with burro Full Tilt Boogie with a time of 1:30:10.

In the new 3-mile race, from Golden, Jessica Hiatt with burro Arrow came in first with a time of 35:35. Coming in second was Ty Carroll from Pagosa Springs with burro Paco with a time of 38:34 and coming in third was Mathew Rohen-Trapp with burro Patrick Joseph from Tucson, Ariz., with a time of 39:51.

The "Lost Creek Miner," Wayne Peterson of Durango made a cameo appearance Saturday in Creede for the annual Donkey Dash. He has made a career with his miner looks working for the Durango and Silverton Scenic Railroad, panning for gold along the train route. "People think I'm the real thing," Peterson said.



Photos by Keith R. Cerny

Dozens of participants took to the streets of Creede and the hills surrounding it on Saturday for the annual Donkey Dash. Burro racing is a sport begun by some of Colorado's 19th century miners and fits with the community's mining history.



With a look of determination, a young participant in the mini-donkey race heads for the finish line Saturday on Creede's main street as part of the annual Donkey Dash event.

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.

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.

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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 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.



Barbara Darden

Colorado Parks and Wildlife invites landowners to request funding to protect wildlife habitat on their property

BY COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

DENVER — Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) recently announced the 2024 Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program (CWHP) application period is open until Oct. 10. The CWHP is a statewide program that offers funding opportunities to landowners who wish to protect wildlife habitat on their property, and/or provide wildlife-related recreational public access.

The CWHP is an incentive-based program that funds conservation easements, public access easements,

and fee title purchases to accomplish strategic wildlife conservation and public access goals.

Funding for the 2024 cycle was increased to \$11 million and is made possible by revenue generated from the sale of the Habitat Stamp, hunting and fishing licenses, and through CPW's partnership with Great Outdoors Colorado.

How to Apply

Landowners or third-party representatives must complete the following application showing their proposal addresses one or more of

the following funding priorities and preferences.

2024 funding priorities

- Acquiring significant public access for hunting, fishing, or wildlife viewing
- Providing big game winter range and migration corridors
- Protecting habitat for species of concern (specifically Species of Greatest Conservation Need, as identified in the Statewide Wildlife Action Plan)
- Providing riparian areas and wetlands
- Providing landscape-scale parcels and parcels that provide connectivity to conserved lands

2024 funding preferences

- Properties that include lesser prairie chicken habitat
- Properties that exhibit biodiversity
- Providing public right-of-way across private land to provide access to landlocked public land
- Working farms and ranches**
- Properties that support wildlife crossings
- Additionally, high value, once-in-a-generation projects that increase lasting impacts on Colorado and future generations will be given special consideration.

More information and application materials are available here at cpw.state.co.us/cwhp

Proposals must be received by Thurs., Oct. 10, at 5 p.m.

Applicants are advised to contact their local CPW staff and the CWHP manager before submitting an application. Local CPW office contact information can be found on CPW's website.

Contact Information

For additional information about the CWHP or application process, contact CWHP Manager Amanda Nims at 303-291-7269 or amanda.nims@state.co.us.

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District Attorney 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



Courtesy photo

District Attorney Anne Kelly for the 12th Judicial District.

offenses where police would 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."

Female inmate at Alamosa County Detention Center found unresponsive in cell

Autopsy rules out foul play

PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — During a routine cell check at the Alamosa County Detention Center early Sunday morning, an unresponsive female inmate was found in her cell.

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

Joe Dzuris, Alamosa County Coroner, has identified the woman



Erica Ann Martinez, 41, was found unresponsive in her cell at the Alamosa County Detention Center early Sunday morning and was subsequently pronounced deceased at the scene.

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

Alamosa County Sheriff Robert

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

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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/. 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.



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.

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.

Managed by
**Upper Rio Grande
Animal Society**

www.urgaseconouranimalshelter.org

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

Visit Our Facebook Page

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

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Animal Weight	Semi-Private/Group Fee	Private Fee	Vessel Size needed
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Cats	\$80.00		Petite - Small vessel needed
0 - 25 lbs.	\$80.00		Petite - Small vessel needed
26 - 50 lbs.	\$140.00		Small-Medium Vessel needed
51 - 75 lbs.	\$175.00	\$200.00	Medium-Large Vessel needed
76 - 100 lbs.	\$200.00	\$275.00	Large Vessel needed
101 lbs. & up	Animals over 101 lbs. are ineligible for Group fee	\$300.00	Extra Large Vessel Needed

Payment is required at time the animal is dropped off.
Animal may be dropped off during business hours only.
Please allow 7 working days from drop off date for animal's return.
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Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle

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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

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here’s How It Works:

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

Solution to last week’s puzzle

		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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O	D	D								T	U	C	S	O	N		

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



CLASSIFIED INDEX

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01 TICKETS
02 CARD OF THANKS
03 MEMORIALS
04 LOST & FOUND
05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
06 PERSONALS
EMPLOYMENT
07 HELP WANTED
08 WORK WANTED
09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
FOR RENT
10 APARTMENTS
11 ROOMS
12 HOUSES
13 MOBILE HOMES
14 BUSINESS PROPERTY
15 WANTED TO RENT
16 VACATION
REAL ESTATE
17 REAL ESTATE
18 LOTS & ACREAGE
19 FARM & FARMLAND
20 BUSINESS PROPERTY
21 MOBILE HOMES
22 PROPERTY WANTED

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

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

For information on meetings for ALANON NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS AND ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Please visit slvaa.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 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 or contact Annie at 719-657-4020. Applications can be found online at: urtigers.co. (6-26)

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

WANTED: Saguache County Road and Bridge and Landfill is looking to hire an Assistant Supervisor Starting at \$67,000/year - DOE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must possess a current Colorado Class "A" Commercial Drivers License CDL with a heavy semi-truck endorsement and a current medical certificate. Applicants should have a high school diploma along with an extensive

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
Table Saw
Radial Arm Saw
Drill Press
Bench Grinder
Assorted Wrenches
2- Saddles

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



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

Lawn & Garden
Craftsman YS 4500 Riding Mower
Yard Tools
Several Push Mowers
2 - String Trimmers
Porch Swing
BBQ Grill
Bicycles

Household
King Bedroom Set
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High Boy Dresser
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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
Potatoes										
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

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

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

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 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



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



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



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

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



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

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 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 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, 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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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
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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

DISCLAIMER
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and smokers are not permitted. Please call 719-850-0750. \$875/month. (6-12)

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

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



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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:
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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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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)

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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.

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.

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37 Wanted

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

65 Professional Services

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)

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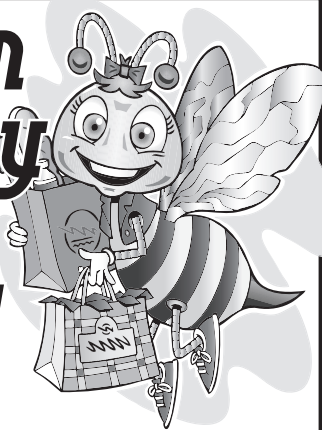
available weekends and evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (TFN)

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

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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>

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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!

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bmgingrass@gmail.com
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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