

Shorts

VBS at Gateway Church June 10-14

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

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

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

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

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

Cash prizes for top floats at Stampede parades

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



Young Voices set for two Valley concerts

CONTRIBUTED

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Young Voices of Colorado Choir, under the direction of Jena Dickey, founder and artistic director, will sing at the Center United Methodist Church at its 9 a.m. worship service and at the United Methodist Church in Alamosa at its 11 a.m. service.

The public is invited to attend these musical performances.

The choir, now in its 33rd season, *Please see CONCERTS on Page 7A*

Young Voices of Colorado Choir will perform at the United Methodist Church in Center and at the First United Methodist Church in Alamosa on Sunday, June 9.

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. *Please see FOOD BANK on Page 7A*

Colcha embroidery class held at Saguache County Museum

By MARIE MCCOLM

SAGUACHE — On Sunday, June 2, the Saguache County Museum held a free Colcha embroidery class for the public.

Pre-registration was encouraged but not required to attend the class. Some of the finest Colcha embroidery artists from around the Valley attended the class. They were there to teach people the art of Colcha embroidery. Approximately 30 people were at the event.

The class was funded entirely by a Traditional Folk Arts Grant from Colorado Creative Industries. Each person who attended was given a cloth tote bag that contained strands

of yarn, a large needle, a threader, a small pair of scissors and a flat burlap canvas to embroider on. There were six tables laid out for people to sit, and each teacher went from table to table to help participants learn a basic Colcha stitch.

The introduction to the class began with the Colcha embroidery teachers introducing themselves and showing off some of their works of art. Many *Please see COLCHA on Page 4A*

About 30 people attended an introductory class on Colcha embroidery at the Saguache County Museum on June 2.

Photo by Marie Mccolm



Many activities planned for Crestone's Fourth of July

By MARIE MCCOLM

CRESTONE — Crestone's Fourth of July celebration will be here before you know it. This year's celebration is sure to go out with a bang, with many festivities and fun packed into one day and night. The celebration begins early, and goes until 7:30 p.m.

The theme for the big event this year is, "Freedom in Unity." According to Nick Nevares of Mountainside Realty the theme is meant to highlight the necessity for everyone to put aside their differences and come together to continue to make Crestone an outstanding place to live.

The festivities begin at 8 a.m. with a 5K run, followed by a parade at 12 p.m. According to Nevares, this year's Grand Marshall for the parade is Crestone's Eden Elderberry. Nevares stated that Elderberry has made many contributions to the Crestone community. Notably Elderberry is a

Please see FOURTH on Page 7A

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OBITUARIES

John David Gimlin



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

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

John was a golfer, fisherman, outdoor enthusiast, and professional sports fan of all teams Denver/Colorado. Some of his fondest memories were the time spent at the Corset Ranch near Del Norte and with friends Davey Colville, Flavio Quintana, and Mike Gettman. He was a constant supporter of his nephews middle school and high school athletic events.

John is survived by his brother, Bryant Gimlin and sister-in-law Cathy

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

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

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

Leola Roberts



Longtime Monte Vista resident Leola Roberts, 95, died May 24, 2024, at her home in Monte Vista.

Leola's life began in Monte Vista, Colo., on Sept. 5, 1928, the daughter to Delbert Stillings and Blanche M. Jones Stillings. She married James Roberts on Nov. 6, 1949, at the Christian Church in Monte Vista.

They enjoyed over 63 years until his death in 2012. She was as member of the Order of Easter Star for over 59 years, and a part of Beta Sigma Phi for over 72 years, and a member of the Daughter's of the American Revolution. Leola is survived by her son Edward Roberts of Monte Vista; her sister Lorraine Holland of Dallas, Texas; her granddaughter-in-law Kelly Roberts of Arvada, Colo.; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

To leave online condolences,

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her daughter Nancy Roberts, her grandson Michael Roberts, her siblings: Charles Stillings, Maurice Stillings, Lois Barton, and Cynthia Fischer. Cremation was chosen and a Memorial Service will be held Friday, Sept. 6, 2024, at the Rogers Family Mortuary, 404 Morris St., Monte Vista. Interment will take place in the Monte Vista Cemetery. Contributions are suggested to Shriners Children's Hospital at <https://donate.lovetotherescue.org>, or to Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado at <https://scottishritefoundation.org/donations/>

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

Stanley Dale Henderson



Stanley Dale "Cowboy" Henderson, 66, died surrounded by family and his loving fur babies Derby, Moose, Clifford and Lucky, at his residence in Del Norte on Saturday, May 25, 2024. He was born on Jan. 26, 1958, in San Antonio, Texas, to Daniel "Byrd" and Beverly Henderson.

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

periods serving as Chief of the Seabrook Fire Department in Seabrook, Texas, First Assistant Chief for San Leon Fire Department in San Leon, Texas, and Chief of the Fire Department at Clean Harbors in Deer Park, Texas.

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

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

A Celebration of Life will be performed at 955 French St. in Del Norte, Colo., on June 29, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

Tom Sanderson



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He refereed high school football for many years, and women's high school and college basketball for 20 years.

He served on the Colorado Potato Administration Committee, the Colorado Certified Seed Potato Board

and on the Monte Vista CO-OP board.

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

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

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

Contributions can be made to Shriners Hospital for Children, 1275 E Fairfax Rd., Salt Lake City, Utah 84103.

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

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

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

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Let the fun begin

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And don't forget all the other activities coming up such as Creede Bingo on Monday nights, the South Fork city garage sale, the Creede Ladies Aid sale, the Amish dinners and Amish auction, the Farmers Market in South Fork, Logger days and the list goes on and on and on.



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In small towns, bookstores are thriving

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We now have online-only stores, pop-up stores, book buses and bookmobiles," she said. And new store owners are often Black, Indigenous, Hispanic/Latino, or LGBTQ+. "Diverse-owned stores are approximately 20% of our membership. In the past it would have been around 10%."

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

"Small-town stores had a much better success rate during the pandemic," Duncan said, "due mostly to the support of their communities, as well



Courtesy photo

Beartooth Books

as lower overhead costs."

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

Bookstores in tourist destinations, such as Back of Beyond in Moab, Utah, have always thrived on deep community connections. But the current trend highlights how community is something best appreciated by full-time residents rather than visitors.

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

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

talk about books." While tech companies are always looking to "scale up" to provide growth, the challenge for many small towns is finding business models that "scale down" to smaller populations. Bookselling provides that model.

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

"people thank us for being open."

Here's a sampling of much-loved bookstores in Western towns under 10,000 people:

Back of Beyond Books, <https://backofbeyondbooks.com/>, Moab, Utah, pop. 5,300

The Mad Dog and the Pilgrim booksellers, <https://www.facebook.com/MadDogandthePilgrimBooks/>, Sweetwater Station, Wyo., population too small to count

Elk River Books, <https://elkriverbooks.com/>, Livingston, Mont., population 8,300

Townie Books, <https://towniebooksco.indielite.org/>, Crested Butte, population 1,681

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

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

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

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

Page Turners, <https://bookshop.org/shop/pageturnersmt>, Fairview, Mont., population 844

Beartooth Books, <https://www.beartoothbookstore.com/>, Red Lodge, Mont., population 2,300

Cobb's Book Nook, <https://cobbsbooknook.company.site/>, Vernal, Utah, population 10,000

John Clayton is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He's the author of the email newsletter Natural Stories.



by John Clayton

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Sawmill Meadow Village ready to accept applications for homes

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

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

Workforce housing is now available for purchase in the San Luis Valley through a coordinated effort between Sawmill Meadow Development, the Town of South Fork, and the State of Colorado Dept. of Local Affairs. Each have partnered to construct Phase 1 of a two-phase workforce housing development designed and built to bring the possibility of homeownership to people in the San Luis Valley to reality.

According to project Developer Matt Dorsett, phase 1 is nearing completion and interested owners can begin the process of applying for ownership for this unique opportunity. Phase 2 of the project, long-term rental units, will begin soon.

Through a collaborative effort with the Town of South Fork, the South Fork Housing Task Force, and the South Fork Board of Trustees, the project got off the ground in the fall of 2023 and will provide 10 low-income workforce housing units for the area which follows the housing study done a year prior by the San Luis Valley Housing Coalition.

Dorsett and his family have been

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

To make this opportunity a reality so quickly, Sawmill Meadow Development forged a business relationship with Fading West in Buena Vista who has been a key pioneer of workforce housing in the state of Colorado with their innovative approach to modular home construction utilizing high quality materials with an efficient and standardized approach to construction.

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

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

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

People interested in purchasing a home, will need to complete a qualifying application through the San Luis Valley



Photos courtesy of Sawmill Meadow Village

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

Housing Coalition and submit their name as an interested buyer at the project website. Select homes are available for viewing by

appointment only by contacting Suzy Woodward or Dustin Hund at Team Murphy Realty in South Fork.

For more questions and for more detailed information, visit the website. www.sawmillmeadowvillage.com.

COLCHA Continued from Page 1A

of the art pieces that were shown contained fine detail stitching in multiple colors and patterns.

One of the pieces of art was for Cinco de Mayo. In it there was a man with a sombrero playing a guitar, a donkey, a bunch of hanging red chiles, and a lady with a water basket on her head, wearing a multi color skirt. In the background was a beautiful lake with cacti laid out in front, along with flying birds in the sky. It was embroidered using the Colcha stitch. The artist said she spent over 200 hours on the piece.

According to Omeka.net, the history of the Colcha stich dates to colonial times. Colcha is the Spanish word for bed covering. The stitch refers to Spanish colonial needlework. The stitch originated in New Mexico and Southern Colorado. The Colcha stitch utilizes a technique of needlework that lays long and short pieces of yarn together, to create or fill in a large picture or pattern in multiple colors, textures, and designs.

Many people who attended the class enjoyed walking around and looking at the artwork placed in the room by the teachers. There are many different stitches in Colcha embroidery, but



Photo by Marie McColm

The finished work of local Colcha embroidery artists was on display during an introduction class held at the Saguache County Museum on June 2.

during the class, the participants were only taught the basic stitch.

Host of the class, Adrienne Garbini said she hoped to put more classes together and advance them. The participants were invited to lunch that was also funded by the grant.

For more information about the Colcha embroidery class, you may contact the Saguache County Public Museum.



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Annual South Fork Fishing Derby returns June 15

By LYNDIE FERRELL

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

The fishing clinic will be at Saddlebrook Pond. Registration is at 8 a.m. Several area businesses and volunteers come out for the event and help children learn the fundamentals of fishing in the Colorado wilderness. The Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) will be present to walk each child through several stations that range in angler techniques. Participating children who finish the clinic will be offered a new rod and reel from CPW at the end of the day. Lunch is provided at noon.

Officials usually begin by separating the participating children into groups that will venture from one station to the next. CPW representatives teach

the young anglers about casting techniques, how to prepare their poles for fishing and how to bait their hooks. The children line up and either use their own poles or use poles provided by the CPW for the lesson before heading out with their family and friends to put new techniques learned to practice.

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

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

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

Officers emphasize the importance of having a parent check the regulations of certain areas before embarking on



Photos courtesy of South Fork Visitor Center

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

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

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



Swoop of the Cranes Artist Celebration held by the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce was a success

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — The Swoop of the Cranes Artist Celebration was held on Friday, May 31, at The Church Project in Monte Vista.

Approximately 30 people attended the celebration. Manager of the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce, Heather Hillin, welcomed everyone to the event.

"This is a night to celebrate all the wonderful artists who dedicated their time and skills, to help decorate our beautiful town with these vibrant cranes. This project has been a community effort, and I am so excited that so many members of our fine community have participated. I hope everyone will pause and look at the slide show that contains pictures of all these wonderful cranes and the artists that painted them. Welcome everyone, I am so happy that all of you are here with us this evening to help us celebrate," she said.

At the celebration, just inside of the basement of the Church Project tables were laid out with handblown

glass decorations. There were bottles of water, and spirits were also offered to those who attended. The event was catered by Ravenswood LLC, owned by Tumara Steinbach. There were traditional charcuterie cups with cheese, pickles, wild asparagus, and three types of meat, topped with blackberries.

Many crane artists walked around, mingling with people, and answering questions about the cranes they painted. Some of the artists of the cranes included Bill Metz Elementary, Monte Vista School District Admin, Dani Trodick, and Dustin and Macey Sigaty.

Owner of the Church Project and co-host, Madeleine Ahlborn, spoke about the event, and how she felt about holding the event in the Church Project building.

"When Heather reached out about hosting the annual soiree here for the Crane Celebration, I was just really enthusiastic and grateful. I am happy to share this space because it is for the community. We are still a growing

space. I have been gifted so many wonderful things while being here, and it feels really good to be able to give back here too," she said.

The Swoop of the Cranes is a residential art and beautification project brought to the town by the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce and former board member Ken Hamko. Businesses and residents are encouraged to sponsor a 5-foot steel crane, that is then painted and or decorated by an artist of the sponsor's choice. The completed crane is then affixed to a light pole in Downtown Monte Vista and on

display from March through August.

At the end of August, early September, the cranes are removed and offered for purchase at a local auction, usually at the Potato Festival in Monte Vista. The proceeds from the auction go toward funding community projects in Monte Vista. Artists can also choose to purchase the crane, before it goes to auction.

The artist of four different cranes this year, Trodick stated she was excited to be at the celebration.

"I was asked by a few businesses to paint cranes this year, and I was

so excited to be able to do this. I painted four cranes while being pregnant and it was super fun. The project itself is super fun and I love to paint. Being a part of this community project is great, and I definitely want to do it again next year. I look forward to it," she said.

Artist Dustin Sigaty said, "I really appreciate the chamber putting together a slightly formal soiree to celebrate the art in the community. It was really great to see it all at The Church Project, which I think is one of the most exciting things happening in Monte Vista right now."

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GFWC Colorado Local Scholarship

Winners Announced

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

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

many years working at the Monte Vista livestock auction. She plans to become a veterinarian due to her love of and experiences with all sorts of animals. In addition, she played volleyball, basketball and ran track at Moffat High School. She has also been a part of FFA and the National Honor Society (NHS) as well as volunteering as a referee for pee-wee sports and working in a second-grade classroom.

Jackson attended Centauri High School and was involved in the Student Council and National Honor Society. She was an All-State athlete as a senior, participating in volleyball and basketball. She has been a part of her LDS church's Young Women's group

and has volunteered in projects such as picking up trash on highways, serving food at a homeless shelter and assisting the elderly with yard work. As a student council and NHS member, volunteer efforts included holding two blood drives, an elementary school carnival and working at two middle school track meets. Jaelyn plans to study kinesiology at CU Colorado Springs and become a Physical Therapist.

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



Kadence McWilliams

help graduating seniors further their education.

A committee made up of Colorado clubwomen manages the fund including three members of the Women's Citizenship Club in Alamosa.



Jaelyn Jackson

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

RGC Museum partners with Lookout Mountain Observatory Club

STAFF REPORT

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

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

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

is the time to get excited about astro-tourism coming to the museum and revitalizing Dark Sky initiatives in and around Del Norte.

The evening will be a wonderful way to meet the board, hear about the exciting things coming up this summer and to show support for the resurrection of a group that has been near and dear to the heart of Del Norte.

The History

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

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

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

According to records George M. Darley offered the Synod, which consisted of 41 delegates, \$40,000 if they would agree to have the college built in Del Norte.

"One of the delegates felt Del Norte was not suitable and it was at this time that Rev. Darley, believing as he did, jerked the dissenting delegate over a pew by his coat collar and shook his fist in the delegates face until the man realized Del Norte was an excellent choice for the college." It was then that Del Norte was honored with the college.

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

It was in 1885 that college workers began building an observatory at the top

of Lookout Mountain which provided an excellent location for viewing stars and planets. "Everyone helped. The town built a road near the top and burros packed timbers up a long winding path."

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

The telescope, driving clock and other instruments reached Del Norte in December of that same year. The telescope that was housed in the observatory was built in Pittsburgh, Pa., and was 10-feet long with 9 1/2 inch glass. The driving clock could be timed with planetary bodies so that it would automatically aim the telescope to the appropriate place in the sky.

"The dome of the observatory was comprised of heavy imported tin which was soldered by Frank Hanna Sr. The

dome was constructed so the window or slit through which the telescope was sighted could be turned in such a fashion that any point in the sky could be scanned."

News of the new observatory traveled by horseback to all surrounding San Juan communities, and it was said that the observatory was, "Thought to be one of the finest west of the Mississippi."

Once the structure was completed, an astrologer and mathematician Dr. Notenstein took charge of the observatory, and the college quickly became known as one of the top institutions for astronomy and theology.

The college closed its doors in 1901 due to a myriad of issues. Some of those issues included difficult transportation, lack of students, and the Spanish American War. When the college closed, the telescope was shipped to California and placed in the Mount Wilson Observatory where it then was sold into a private collection.

Make Your Life a Life That you Love!

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

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

It's a mistake for us to go through life thinking we can't be happy until we have something we want or our circumstances change. The truth is we'll always find something to be unhappy about until we learn to be happy in the Lord.

I know about this from personal experience. I got a very bad start in life, and it made me a miserable, angry, insecure person who didn't trust anybody because I believed if I didn't take care of myself, nobody else would. And that caused me to be very selfish and self-centered.

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

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

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

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

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

The first key is to **make an attitude adjustment**.

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

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

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

The second key is to **have a proper perspective**.

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

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



What we choose to focus on gets larger in our lives. If we don't have a proper perspective of it from God's point of view, it will grow and get out of balance. For example, in marriage, people sometimes get so focused on the things they don't like about their spouse that they totally forget all the good things they love about them.

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

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

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

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

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FOOD BANK Continued from Page 1A

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



Photo by Marie Mccolm

The shelves of the Crestone Food Bank are stocked and ready to serve the community.

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.

FOURTH Continued from Page 1A

librarian at the Baca Grande Library. Elderberry also stepped up and helped with the new food bank and provided food for many residents before the food bank even opened, by coordinating a rescue program at the library on Fridays, that helped many residents obtain free food as needed.

Elderberry also runs Friends of Casita Park; the friends are individuals who believe in beautifying the small neighborhood they live in. Elderberry also joined the council at the Crestone Charter School and

helps with direction and guidance at the school, including managing a recycling program.

After the parade, the national anthem will be played, and a water balloon fight for adults and children.

There will be a Soapbox Derby held at 3:15 p.m. First prize at the derby will be \$250 and second prize be \$100. The Soapbox Derby finale will be held at 5:30 p.m.

There will also be a pie contest. Interested parties are encouraged to put their aprons on and fire up

their ovens. There will be three pie categories including cream, fruit, and exotic pie. If you are a baker and wish to participate you can drop off your pie between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. The judges will need to be at the Pie RV by 1:15 p.m. to judge the pies.

For pie eaters, slices will be available for a donation of \$5 per slice.

Winners will be announced at 3:40 p.m. on stage. Money raised from the contest will be donated to the group Peace Patrol.

Anyone interested in becoming a judge, can contact Karen Barbee by texting 970-618-9409.

CONCERTS Continued from Page 1A

has grown into a 170-member organization that offers outstanding music education in vocal technique, music theory, sight reading, choral artistry and performance style to students 12-18 years of age.

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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.

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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		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															
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															
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South Fork Fire Rescue responds to vehicle in river

CONTRIBUTED

SOUTH FORK — On Thursday, May 30, at 7:41 p.m. South Fork Fire Rescue was paged to respond to Highway 160 Mile Post 176 for a vehicle that drove off the road and into a dangerous section of the river known as “The Narrows.”

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

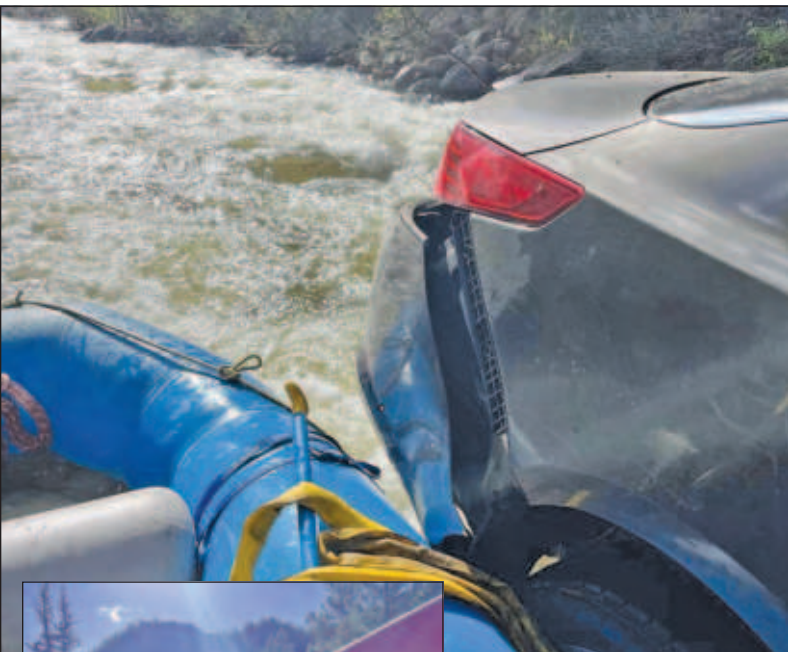
The SFFR crew immediately took control of the scene and sent in a rescue swimmer to determine the person’s condition. Once the decision

was made to remove the person, a second rescue swimmer was sent in, and the shore team coordinated with the swimmers to complete a successful rescue without further incident.

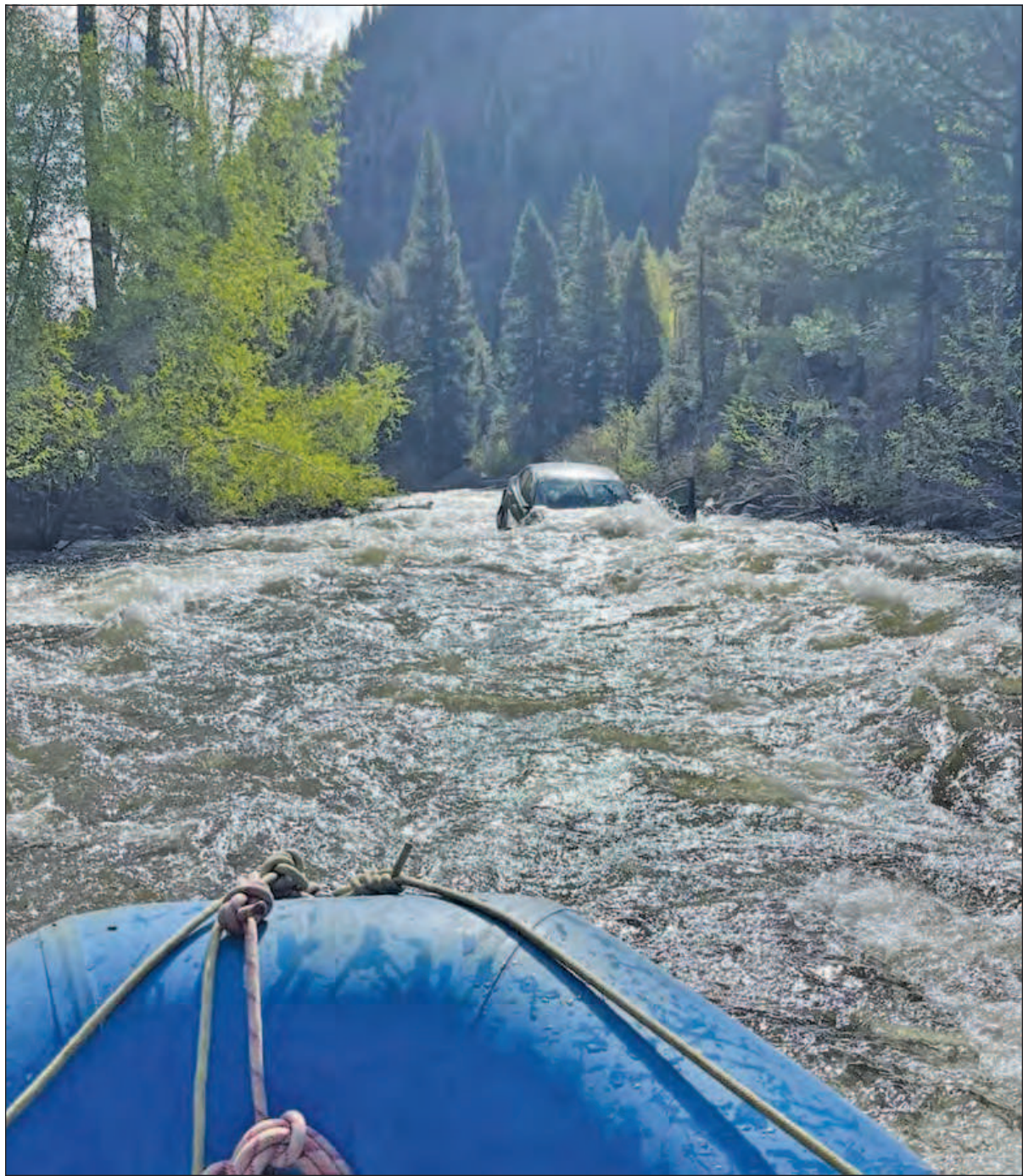
The next morning, Friday, May 31, South Fork Fire Rescue assisted the wrecker with removing the vehicle from the river. The team worked on this complicated recovery and had the vehicle removed within 30 minutes.

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

The crash is under investigation by the Colorado State Patrol.



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



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IN MONTE VISTA

Orlando DeHerrera, DO

Monte Vista Medical Clinic

of Rio Grande Hospital

RioGrandeHospital.org



Welcome, Dr. Orlando DeHerrera, to our Monte Vista Medical Clinic. San Luis Valley native Orlando DeHerrera, DO, is accepting new patients at our Monte Vista Clinic. Born and raised in Antonito, he has been a local favorite with patients and is known for his down-to-earth charm. Dr. DeHerrera is excited to be practicing with Rio Grande Hospital Clinic in Monte Vista, where he resides with his family. He is actively involved in the community and is happy to get back to his true calling as a primary care provider in the San Luis Valley!



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

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

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RGC Search and Rescue aids teens stuck in 'blowdown'

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

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

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

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

Navigation - That phone or GPS is nice until suddenly it won't charge with your **Please see RGCSR on Page 6**



Photos courtesy of Linette Nye-Schmidt

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



Photo courtesy of the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce

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

Colorado Gator Farm celebrates new reptile barn

Officially named the David Lindsey Reptile Center

By **MARIE MCCOLM**

MOSCA — Colorado Gator Farm owner Jay Young was smiling but also flooded with mixed emotions during a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new

reptile barn on Friday, May 24.

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

"The new building will house mostly rescued reptiles, snakes, lizards, tortoises, and some parrots," Young said.

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

The new barn replaces the structure that burned down in a devastating fire on April 18, 2023. More than 100 turtles, tortoises, lizards, and snakes **Please see GATOR on Page 6**

Saguache County Museum celebrates 65 years

By **MARIE MCCOLM**

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Photos by Marie Mccolm

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

preserved.

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

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

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

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

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

Valley-Wide Classified **FREE!** ON LINE! MARKETPLACE

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



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15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications
\$19.50 + 95¢ each additional word.
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Free ads: Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Limited to private party only, 2 ads per person, 4 weeks.)
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 To ensure your ad is correct, check it the first day it appears in the paper. If there is an error in your ad, call us right away so we can correct it. If an error appears in your ad, Valley Publishing will credit you with one additional day of advertising.
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 or email: rbeutler@valleypublishinginc.com

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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

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

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

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

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

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**

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 with all Colorado Department of Health regulations. This is only part of an extensive list of requirements for this position. In addition to the salaried rate, the County Employee benefit package includes vision, dental, and health insurance coverage, paid time

DISCLAIMER

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

ESTIMATED CROP WATER USE

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

For the latest ET information, call 719-754-3494 extension x40 for Center, x36 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 8d table each day at this web address: <http://aes-slvr.c.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

Managed by Upper Rio Grande Animal Society

www.urgasconouranimalshelter.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

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.

Visit Our Facebook Page

LOST & FOUND

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

Found on 5/29 on Covey St in Monte Vista

Poppy and Allium are still looking for their forever homes as well! 5 month old Boxer Lab mixes with hearts of gold that'll keep you laughing and on your toes! These lovely ladies were born here, and we think it's time they find out what life outside the shelter is, don't you?

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

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Please note adoptions go in order of contact made.
 All breeds & ages of animals are a "best guess" and are not guaranteed to be accurate. Adoption fee includes: neuter/spay, vaccinations, de-worming and micro-chipping.
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Valley Wide Classifieds

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 reconstruct-

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

Del Norte High School is seeking a qualified Secondary Business Teacher. We are seeking an experienced, hard-working and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, and vibrant team. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able

to obtain a Colorado Teaching License with a Secondary Social Studies endorsement. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Annie Hardy at ahardy@urtigers.co or call Mrs. Hardy at (719) 657 - 4020. Applications can be accessed online at www.urtigers.co.

South Fork Annual Town Wide Clean Up & Garage Sale

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

Garage sales will take place on Saturday the 15th. If you'd like to host a sale, contact the South Fork Visitor Center to share your info and be added to the published map at (719) 873-5512. The Town will have large dumpsters available for public use throughout the weekend, located in the Visitor Center parking lot.

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Are you looking for something fun to do this summer?

Join us and learn how to ride horses!

Summer session starts the last week of May, we supply the horses & tack.

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Additional information and bookings are available through our website: <https://www.luckyshoeridingclub.com/>

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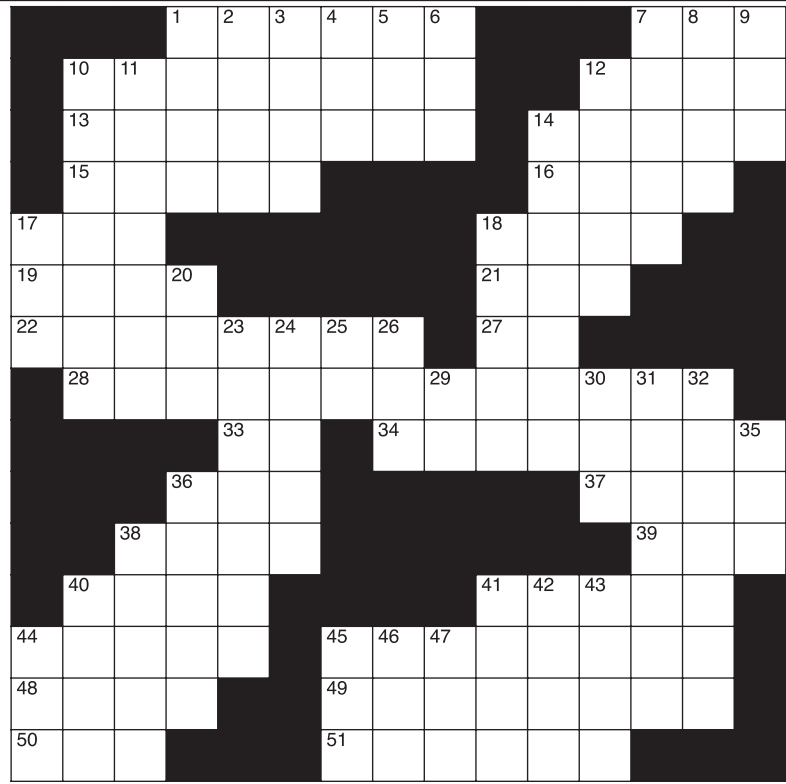
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CLUES ACROSS

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



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

CLUES DOWN

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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"I'm on the move again with my UPWalker!"

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Why spend another day bent over and shuffling around- or worse yet, plopped in front of the TV all day. Pick up the phone and take back your life. Call now.



Old Way



Better Way

- Stand-Assist Handles
- Comfortable Seat
- Folds Easily
- Adjustable Backrest
- Optimized Center of Gravity
- Easy-Brake Wheels

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Call now Toll-Free
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Valley Wide Classifieds

JT Timber Falling is hiring log truck drivers. Class A CDL. Starting at \$25/hr (\$37.50/hr Overtime). Great benefits are available. Home every night and based out of Blanca Colorado. Call 719-379-4066 or visit JTTimber.com to apply.

12 Houses for Rent

Remodeled two-bedroom, 1-bath home on a corner lot in Del Norte. Near biking/hiking trailhead. Pets and smokers are not permitted. Please call 719-850-0750. \$875/month. (6-12)

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

24 Garage/Yard Sales

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

28 Household Goods

For sale 20.5 cubic feet Kenmore Refrigerator/Freezer. \$225. 719-852-2028
For sale 2 rolling desk chairs. \$20 each. 719-852-2028 (6-5)

36 Miscellaneous

For Sale: Metal Barrels Black, Green, red, and white. Dozens of uses. Convert

to troughs or feeders. Make a Barrel Stove out of them. \$5 a Barrel with Stationary lid. \$25 For removable lid. Call David 719-480-2145 (6-5)

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

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3 bedroom cabin bordering National Forest
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Commercial Lot with Easy Access/ Approx 1.42 Acres
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River Island Ranch Approx. 5.270 Acres
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VITALITY FARMS/ Approx. 160 Acres
\$900,000 | MLS #813009
County Road M & County Road 12 San Luis, CO

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Beautiful Golf Course Lot/Approx. 0.290 Acres
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South Fork, Colorado





Photo courtesy of Linette Nye-Schmidt

RGCSR

Continued from Page 1
 solar charger and you have no backup. In addition to your electronic device consider taking a paper map of the area.
Sun Protection - Take a hat, good sunglasses, sunscreen and other protective clothing. No one enjoys a sunburn.

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

First Aid - No one wants to get hurt on the trail, but it happens. Be ready for it.

Illumination - Take a flashlight or headlamp and spare batteries.

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

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

Nutrition - Even on the shortest trip, take food.

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

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

GATOR

Continued from Page 1
 died in the fire.

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

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

Young stated it was not just the financial support that he appreciated; it was more about the love that was given to everyone at the farm during the loss.

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

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

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

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

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

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A new way to save makes Del Norte home

By LYNSIE FERRELL
DEL NORTE — A new thrift store has opened in Del Norte and for people seeking a good deal on gently loved items, The Merc is the place to go.

When customers first walk into the main building of the old hospital in Del Norte, they are greeted with a sight many thrift store lovers want to see – a well-organized, clean store with floor-to-ceiling treasures.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"That's the beauty of this. We get to decide how we give back and how we support our community, so I am always encouraging people to think about what this town needs and then to put together a plan. Even if you fail, at least you can say you tried and you never know. It might work out for the best," she said.

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

may be interested.
 "Come on in and see us. I am sure you will find something you love. This really is my happy place," she said.

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

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell



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C&TRR season began Memorial Day weekend

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

Regular daily passenger service is May 25-Oct. 19, and will run six days a week, Tuesday-Sunday. Daily passenger service includes All Aboard trips that run the full line between Antonito, and Chama, N.M., and Half Limited trips, which travel from either Antonito or Chama to Osier Station and then return to the point of origin.

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

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

For more information, visit <https://cumbrestoltec.com>.

DEPARTING ANTONITO

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

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

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

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



Photo by Brian Williams

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

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

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

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 butter 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 1/2 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: Wakes 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**

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193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

Charming Mountain Retreat with Breathtaking Views Nestled in the picturesque town of South Fork, CO, this finely crafted 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 during chilly days. 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. Don'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**

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