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## News in Brief

### MV mosquito spraying begins June 13

MONTE VISTA – The City of Monte Vista will start its Mosquito Spray Operations at 8 p.m. on June 13.

Each year the city works to control the mosquito population by using both aerial spraying of adulticides of the city boundaries and applies larvicides in areas of standing water.

Beginning June 13, the city will once again begin this process. The city will employ two truck mounted aerial foggers. They will begin on the furthest boundaries of the city and work toward the center of town. Based on responses from last year the city will continue to only do the streets.

For those that have an aversion to the ULV fogging practices the city will again accept applications to be placed on the “No Spray List”. Applications can be found on the City Website or hard copies at City Hall.

Contact Robert Vance at [rvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us](mailto:rvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us), for any questions or concerns.

### 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.skhistampede.com](http://www.skhistampede.com).

## 4-H Juntos Specialist Gurule receives Outstanding Diversity Promoter award

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA – 4-H Juntos Youth Development Area Specialist Carol Gurule received the Outstanding Diversity Promoter in the Southern Region Award.

Gurule, who works at the Colorado State University SLV Area Extension in Monte Vista, stated that she is blessed by the award, but truthfully the award was not necessary because she loves what she does.

“I never expected to receive an award like this for doing what I love,” she said.

“Even though I feel honored, this is all honestly something I do from my heart. This isn’t just a job for me, I put my whole heart into it. I truly love and care about

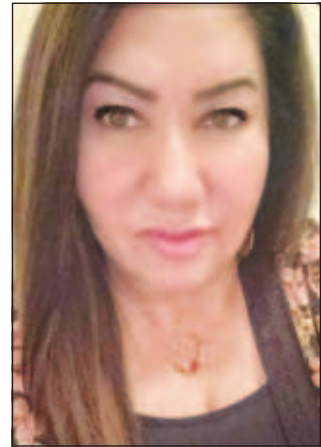
people. My job allows me to help diverse people that need help. I offer them education, and programs that can help them with things that they need. I am honored that this program thinks that I am doing a great job, but I do it all with all my heart, and all for the glory of God who helps me, help others every day. I am grateful beyond words though, and I feel blessed to help others, through the position I have been given. Thank you, CSU Extension and Larry Brown, for the opportunity.”

Gurule is no stranger to helping youth and their families. As part of Gurule’s role with the local extension office, she helps diverse family members come together,

and succeed, in high school and with further education, as part of the 4-H Juntos Program.

Gurule is also involved with a program called Strengthening Families. She said that “Strengthening Families” has opened her heart and mind to what it means to go that extra mile when helping families. The program is targeted at strengthening relationships between families, parents, and children. The program promotes positive communication, family bonding, and joint problem-solving skills.

“Sometimes, I am in a room with one family member talking about problems  
*Please see GURULE on Page 7A*



Carol Gurule



Courtesy photo

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

## Polis visits with local EMS responders

CONTRIBUTED

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

This project, and a few others under the SLV First Responders Outreach Unit and the SLV RE-

TAC, is supported by the Alamosa County Commissioners. The San Luis Valley Youth Justice League Program is empowering youth in the community to raise awareness in schools about bullying, sexual harassment and assault, dating violence, affirmative consent, safe bystander intervention, survivor care, rights under Title IX, and

suicide prevention.

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

## 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  
*Please see CRANES on Page 6A*

## Two weekends of Round-UP fun coming

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

The following weekend, June 20, kicks off with the Mutton Bustin and Local Barrel Race Qualifier, Friday and Saturday nights bring the Profes-

sional PRCA Rodeo. Saturday also includes Cowboy Church at 9 a.m.

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

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

the Year.

Top cowboys and cowgirls from around the country as well as future champions don their hats, chap up and put on a show for the fans.

**PRCA Rodeo**

The top cowboys and cowgirls in the sport of professional rodeo make  
*Please see ROUND-UP on Page 6A*

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

Courtesy photo



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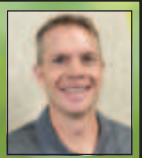
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Chad Spearman



Member FDIC Lee Crowther



# OBITUARIES

## John David Gimlin



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](mailto:anne.gimlin@gmail.com).

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

## 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](http://www.RogersFunerals.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 Daughters 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.

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/>

To leave online condolences,



words of comfort, or tributes for Blanche's family, please visit [www.RogersFunerals.com](http://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.

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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



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

days and the list goes on and on and on.

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Kevin Kirkpatrick and his 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 as



Courtesy photo

### Beartooth Books

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, micro-breweries, 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://townie-bookscb.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](http://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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# GFWC Colorado Local Scholarship

## Winners Announced

### CONTRIBUTED

**SAN LUIS 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 Sagua-che 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 peewee sports and working in a second-grade classroom.

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

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.



Kadence McWilliams



Jaelyn Jackson

## MONTE VISTA HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLLS

### Principal's Honor Roll

The following students earned recognition on the Principal's Honor Roll with a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 to 4.5 for the 2023-24 school year.

- Jesus Aguilar (09)
- Stephanie Beltran-Garcia (09)
- Lydia Boyd (09)
- Cindy Cereceres-Olivera (09)
- Logan Futrell (09)
- Mark Martinez (09)
- Janessa Marquez (09)
- Connor Mellott (09)
- John Jake Naranjo (09)
- Damian Perez (09)
- Stetson Romero (09)
- Jakoby Ross (09)
- William Walker (09)
- Samantha York (09)
- Reagan Futrell (10)
- Hannah Henderhan (10)
- Madison Henderhan (10)
- Evie Hinds (10)
- Azariah Hurtado (10)
- Domyon Naranjo (10)
- Daniel Perez (10)
- David Perez (10)
- Adaliya Perez (10)
- Allessah Archuleta (11)
- Daylin Castro (11)
- Kaden Mellott (11)
- Jackson Oberrick (11)
- Maria Sears (11)
- Kiera Sanchez (11)
- Claire Seger (11)
- Zariah Archuleta (12)
- Asia Alarid (12)

- Ana Arroyo-Archuleta (12)
- Isis Delgado-Cervantes (12)
- Kayleigh Garcia (12)
- Valerie Goodland (12)
- Alycia Espinosa (12)
- Stefanie Lopez (12)
- Augustus Miller (12)
- Jordan Rockey (12)
- Annika Schaak (12)

### Honor Roll

The following students earned recognition on the Honor Roll with a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 to 3.749 for the 2023-24 school year.

- Caleb Bohn (09)
- Aiyana Chavez (09)
- Jasmin Nevarez (09)
- Antonio Abeyta (10)
- Heysenny Beltran-Garcia (10)
- Nolwenn Defaye (10)
- Zach Gallegos (10)
- Dejah Jacquez (10)
- Gwen Larson (10)
- Yaritza Lopez (10)
- Elizeo LeBlanc (10)
- Ernesto Ochoa-Marquez (10)
- April Perez (10)
- Alex Sandoval-Gonzales (10)
- Faith Alexander (11)
- Felipe Chavez (11)
- Presley Lozoya (11)
- Alina Perez (11)
- Sydney Woodke (11)
- Jack Noonan (12)
- Katie Pacheco (12)
- Maria Rivera (12)



## Great Sand Dunes is hiring a visitor services intern

### STAFF REPORT

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

The position is a full-time, sea-

sonal role starting on June 2, and ending on Oct. 25, and includes a \$730 weekly living stipend and eligibility for a \$2,626.27 AmeriCorps Education Award.

The intern will be involved in the daily operations of the park and

gain valuable experience serving alongside National Park Service staff.

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

## Medicare Fraud Prevention Week



*Actions Everyone Can Take*

### THE WEEK OF 6/5

- Beneficiaries**  
Learn how to read your Medicare statements.
- Caregivers**  
Educate yourself and loved ones on how to prevent and detect health care fraud.
- Families**  
Talk to loved ones about protecting their Medicare number.
- Partners & Professionals**  
Share SMP information on social media. Invite the SMP to speak.
- Health Care Providers**  
Talk to patients about health care-related scams.
- Community**  
Look out for your older neighbors.

### ABOUT SMP

Your local Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) is ready to provide you with the information you need to PROTECT yourself from Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse; DETECT potential fraud, errors, and abuse; and REPORT your concerns.

Contact your SMP in the SLV CO area at 1-719-589-4511



[www.smpresource.org](http://www.smpresource.org)

1-877-808-2468

Look us up on Facebook South-Central Colorado Seniors or visit our website [www.slvaaa.org](http://www.slvaaa.org)

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# USDA announces Martinez as Colorado Director for Rural Development

*She owns and operates cattle ranch in Southern Colorado*

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

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

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

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

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

outreach and advocacy initiatives centered on environmental justice, energy equity, and Tribal relations.

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

Before that, Martinez also served as Regional Manager in the Colorado Department of Local Affairs where she managed local government operations emphasizing rural community and

economic development and served as a Costilla County Commissioner.

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

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



Crestina Martinez

housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit [www.rd.usda.gov/co](http://www.rd.usda.gov/co).

## CRHDC to host a Homeownership Month celebration

**STAFF REPORT**

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

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

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

According to their website, CRHDC dates to 1971. CRHDC was developed originally as part of the Colorado Migrant Council, to help with unfavorable living conditions for migrant and seasonal agriculture

workers that lived in Colorado for a time.

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

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

CRHDC can offer information on counseling and education for people who are interested in owning their own homes. CRHDC can also help people obtain and find lenders, who are budget friendly and offer affordable mortgage options to people who

are interested in obtaining their own homes. CRHDC also can offer affordable opportunities for rental units, statewide. You too can develop and obtain affordable home ownership opportunities, through CRHDC.

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

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

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

*Autopsy rules out foul play*

**By PRISCILLA WAGGONER**

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

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

Joe Dzuris, Alamosa County Coroner,

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

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

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GRAND OPENING

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

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WELLNESS CENTER



June 22, 2024 - doors open at 1:00PM

2:00PM program / 4:00PM light meal

CEREMONY, LIGHT MEAL, and TOURS

RIO GRANDE WELLNESS CENTER

310D COUNTY ROAD 14, DEL NORTE, COLORADO 81132

SEE IT ON [HTTPS://WWW.GREENVELOPE.COM/EVENT/RGWC](https://www.greenvelope.com/event/rgwc)

For more information, email [WeCare@riograndehospital.net](mailto:WeCare@riograndehospital.net)



# MV CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CORNER

*Become a member of the MV Chamber of Commerce*

If you would like to become a member of the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce, please contact Heather Hillin, MVCOC Executive Director at 719-852-2731 or visit our website [www.montevistachamber.org](http://www.montevistachamber.org) for details. The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce offers a variety of benefits for all members. Benefits are listed on our website.

The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce Board Meetings are held the last Thursday of every month at 7 a.m. at the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce building located at 947 1st Ave., Monte Vista. All are welcome to attend. The next scheduled board meeting will be held Thursday, June 27, at 7 a.m.

Come out and support new businesses at a MVCOC ribbon cutting! Any new business or anyone who wants to celebrate a business anniversary may contact the MVCOC to schedule a ribbon cutting ceremony at 719-852-2731. Check out our Facebook page for upcoming ribbon cutting ceremonies.

Celebrate the 150-year anniversary of Rio Grande County this year! Rio Grande County was officially made Feb. 10, 1874! Happy 150th Anniversary, Rio Grande County! For more information or if you would like to volunteer to help promote this event, please contact Scott Deacon at 719-850-

1180. Coffee and Business: Please come and network with local business owners and community members in your Monte Vista area at "Coffee and Business" inside the Bobolicious Gourmet Coffee shop located at 139 Adams St., Monte Vista, every Tuesday morning at 9 to 10 a.m. Hosted by Randy Ellis Photography, Colorado SBCD, and Bobolicious Gourmet Coffee.

The Faith Hinkley Veteran's Memorial Park Fundraiser, led by the City of Monte Vista, aims to honor veterans by completing the installation of memorial pavers initiated by the Monte Vista Community Fund. The project serves to pay tribute to all those who have served, or been killed in action, fostering community remembrance and gratitude. Email [uvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us](mailto:uvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us), for information or call Unita Vance at 719-852-6171.

**SAVE THE DATES:**  
June 7: Happy 10-year anniversary, Sunflour Café! Open house 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – To show their appreciation, Sunflour Café will be serving slopy joes, pie, and homemade ice cream to the public!  
June 7: Monte Vista Golf Club – Clubhouse Dinner and Silent



Auction. \$15 per person. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. at Ski Hi Complex. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Contact 719-628-0130 or 719-588-1594 or email [montevistagolfclubcolorado@gmail.com](mailto:montevistagolfclubcolorado@gmail.com).

July 11 -14: SLV Ski Hi Stampede – ticket office opens June 18 at the Chamber!

July 27: Faith Hinkley Memorial Park Poker Run Car and Bike Show at Chapman Park, Monte Vista. \$20 donation includes poker hand and car show entry. Additional poker hand \$20 each. Registration opens at 8 a.m. – Poker Run leaves at 9 a.m. Car and Bike Show at Chapman Park 2 to 6 p.m. Family fun, live music, food, games, and more! Proceeds to benefit Faith Hinkley Veteran's Memorial Park. Please contact Unita Vance at the City of Monte Vista at 719-852-6171 for details.

The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce is here to serve our members and the community. It exists to grow and sustain a healthy business community and support the commerce of Monte Vista and surrounding areas. Join us in building a stronger Monte Vista! Stay connected and visit our website [montevistachamber.org](http://montevistachamber.org) and follow us on Facebook!

# CRANES

Continued from Page 1A

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."

# ROUND-UP

Continued from Page 1A

their way to Alamosa to compete in all seven major events of rodeo – Bareback Riding, Steer Wrestling, Tie-Down Roping, Saddle Bronc Riding, Team Roping, Barrel Racing, and Bull Riding. The Alamosa Round-Up is proud to be a part of the

All-American Series, of The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

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

Entries are now open for the Ranch

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

# 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]."

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](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (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](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

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

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# GURULE Continued from Page 1A

and things that they may need help with, and I hear something that really touches me. I have often found myself leaving the room for a minute just because I have tears in my eyes. It's so important to me to be able to help these people, and my heart really goes out to people that are struggling. I am there for them 100 percent, with resources, information, education, whatever it is I can do to lighten their load. It's all about providing information and resources. I genuinely care about helping people, it's what I love to do," she said.

Strengthening Families targets children ages 10-14. The program is designed to help youth succeed during their teen years. It is a six-week program that meets one night a week for two hours. In the first hour, parents and their children separate but work on similar skills. In the second hour, families get together and have fun, play games and work on family projects. Each night, the meetings begin with a free family meal. There is also free childcare provided at the meetings for younger siblings. Gurule teaches parents about setting appropriate limits for their children, how to motivate children to apply good behavior skills, and she teaches parents to share their expectations with their children.

For youth, Gurule helps with goal setting, stress management skills, parent appreciation skills, understanding and following rules, and becoming resistant to peer pressures.

Gurule enjoys every aspect of her job as the 4-H Juntos Specialist but is most rewarded when she sees her efforts come to life.

"When I hear about what is working, when I see gains, when I see how I have helped people and their families, these are my rewards. There are so many diverse cultures out there that need help. If I can

make a difference that's what I want to do. I want to see people not struggle, I want to see people and their children succeed.

I am proud of the award that I was given, but it wasn't necessary, I love what I do. To me it's not a job, it's a heart song," she said.

**COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION**  
**CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 24-1121**  
 To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:  
 On March 21, 2024, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Rio Grande records.  
 Original Grantor(s) Eliseo Morales Cisneros  
 Original Beneficiary(ies) Del Norte Bank, a Savings & Loan Association  
 Current Holder of Evidence of Debt  
 Date of Deed of Trust December 19, 2022  
 County of Recording Rio Grande  
 Recording Date of Deed of Trust December 27, 2022  
 Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.) 202200448889  
 Original Principal Amount \$162,286.45  
 Outstanding Principal Balance \$111,087.44

Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.  
**THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.**  
**All that part of the SW1/4SE1/4 of Section 34, Township 39 North, Range 7 East, N.M.P.M., County of Rio Grande, State of Colorado, that lies West of the right of way of the Monte Vista Canal. Together with any and all water and water rights, wells and well rights, pumps, motors, equipment, etc. associated with said property.**

**Purported common address: 2463 Lariat Road, Monte Vista, CO 81144.**  
**THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.**

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
 The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust. THEREFORE, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, 07/24/2024, at Public Trustee Office, 925 6th St.Rm.103, Del Norte, CO 81132, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.  
 First Publication 5/29/2024  
 Last Publication 6/26/2024  
 Name of Publication Monte Vista Journal

**IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;**  
 DATE: 03/21/2024

Rhonda Richardson, Public Trustee in and for the County of Rio Grande, State of Colorado

*Rhonda Richardson*  
 By Rhonda Richardson, Public Trustee



The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:

Tuck Young #2190  
 Kettelkamp, Young & Kettelkamp, P.C. 201 W. 8th St. Suite 540, Pueblo, CO 81003 (719) 543-4321  
 Attorney File #

The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.

**No. 4831 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, May 29 and June 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024.**

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a hearing before the Rio Grande County Board of County Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 11:00am  
 The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed adoption of Guidelines and Regulations for Water Projects for Export Outside the San Luis Valley as Designated as Matters of State Interest of Rio Grande County. The proposed Guidelines and Regulations are available for review at [www.riograndecounty.org](http://www.riograndecounty.org) under "Public Notices" on the main page or in the County Administration Office at 925 6th St Rm 200, Del Norte, between 8am - 4pm Monday - Friday.  
 Any interested person may appear to be heard at the public hearings. These public hearings will be held in the commissioner's meeting room located in room 207 at 925 6th St., Del Norte, CO 81132. Written comments may be emailed to [rgcadministrator@riograndecounty.org](mailto:rgcadministrator@riograndecounty.org) or mailed or hand delivered to the County Administration Office at 925 6th St Rm 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Written comments must be received by 4pm on June 14, 2024.  
**No. 4824 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, May 15, 22 and 29 and June 5, 12 and 19, 2024.**

<b>DISTRICT COURT, COUNTY OF RIO GRANDE</b> STATE OF COLORADO 925 6th Street, Del Norte, CO 81132 719-657-3394		COURT USE ONLY Case Number: 2024 CV 30008 Div.: <u>Crim</u>
<b>BRADEN ORR,</b> Plaintiff v. <b>ELI SANCHEZ; RHONDA RICHARDSON, Rio Grande</b> County Treasurer and Public Trustee; and all other persons who claim as heirs, devisees, creditors or otherwise under said defendants, and all unknown persons who claim any interest in the subject matter of this action,		
<b>Defendants</b> LAW OFFICE OF ANGELA LEE Angela Lee, #53495 620 Grand Ave, Del Norte, CO 81132 mail: PO Box 69, Del Norte, CO 81132 719-657-1919   <a href="mailto:angela@angelalee.law">angela@angelalee.law</a> Attorney for Plaintiff		
<b>SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION</b>		

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO. TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS**  
 You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Complaint filed with the Court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this Court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within thirty-five (35) days after service of this Summons upon you. Service of this Summons will be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the Court. If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within thirty-five (35) days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint, without any further notice.

This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiffs in and to the real property situated in Rio Grande County, Colorado, more particularly described as LOTS 3-4-5, BLOCK 102 DEL NORTE, subject to any and all matters of record, with a Parcel No. 1531043003, County of Rio Grande, State of Colorado  
 Dated May 17, 2024  
 /s/ Angela Lee, Attorney for Plaintiff  
 #53495 Law Office of Angela Lee  
 PO Box 69, Del Norte, CO 81132

**No. 4827 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, May 22 and 29 and June 5, 12 and 19, 2024.**

**NORTH AMERICA'S #1 Selling Walk-In Tub**  
 Featuring our Free Shower Package  
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 DF-CD-NP-G421



# First responders urge caution during runoff season

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** – As warmer weather comes to the San Luis Valley, local law enforcement, emergency managers and first responders urge the public to use caution on the rivers in the Valley and to pay attention to swift-water conditions as the runoff season moves toward peak flows.

In an interview with Valley Publishing, Mineral County Sheriff Terry Wetherill, Mineral County Emergency Manager Clint Leggitt and Rio Grande County Emergency Manager Brian Burrell spoke about the coming runoff season and gave some tips on how to be safe while still enjoying the rivers around the Valley.

According to reports from several agencies, runoff levels for the 2024 runoff season are on the lower side but according to local officials, that does not remove the danger of swift water and peak river flows during this spring season. “Depending on the rate of snow melt and any kind of rain on snow event, the water levels in rivers and tributaries can continue to rise though I think we are near the peak for the year. It is still important to use caution while out on the river,” said Mineral County Emergency Manager Leggitt.

As water levels rise, more dangers must be considered when recreators head out on the water. “People need to consider bridges. When a river is at its peak, the height of water rafts and bridges must be considered. It is also important to pay attention to personal safety devices such as life jackets and helmets. If you do go overboard or fall into the river, make sure you know what to do to protect yourself, such as moving into a defensive swimming position,” said Mineral County Sheriff Wetherill.

Though local officials are not expecting a high runoff year, teams are still working to prepare for an



emergency should one arise. At the end of April teams with the Mineral County Search and Rescue conducted swift water training which included training with ropes and mock rescue.

“We advise people who plan to go out on the river to always go in pairs or if fishing alone, to be knowledgeable of how to react in case of an emergency. If you are not experienced, then find someone who is and have them go with you or teach you fundamentals. And please, if you’re out on the river, wear a life jacket,” said Wetherill.

In addition to safety protocols, it is also important to be aware of floating debris. Trees, limbs and other obstacles that can damage rafts or cause someone to lose balance while wading in the river are floating through the water. Undercurrents can be dangerous in deep areas when the river is moving at peak flows.

Anyone wanting to know more about swift water safety can visit [www.swiftwatersafetyinstitute.com](http://www.swiftwatersafetyinstitute.com) to learn safety protocols or receive training.



Photos courtesy of Amy Wetherill  
Mineral County Search and Rescue teams trained for swift water emergency response at the end of April in preparation for the coming runoff season in the western end of the San Luis Valley.

## IN MONTE VISTA

**Orlando DeHerrera, DO**

**Monte Vista Medical Clinic**

*of Rio Grande Hospital*

[RioGrandeHospital.org](http://RioGrandeHospital.org)



**W**elcome, 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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## 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

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## CLASSIFIED INDEX

- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 01 TICKETS
- 02 CARD OF THANKS
- 03 MEMORIALS
- 04 LOST & FOUND
- 05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
- 06 PERSONALS
- EMPLOYMENT**
- 07 HELP WANTED
- 08 WORK WANTED
- 09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
- FOR RENT**
- 10 APARTMENTS
- 11 ROOMS
- 12 HOUSES
- 13 MOBILE HOMES
- 14 BUSINESS PROPERTY
- 15 WANTED TO RENT
- 16 VACATION
- REAL ESTATE**
- 17 REAL ESTATE
- 18 LOTS & ACREAGE
- 19 FARM & FARMLAND
- 20 BUSINESS PROPERTY
- 21 MOBILE HOMES
- 22 PROPERTY WANTED
- MERCHANDISE**
- 23 LAWN & GARDEN
- 24 GARAGE SALES
- 25 AUCTIONS
- 26 ANTIQUES
- 27 APPLIANCES
- 28 HOUSEHOLD GOODS
- 29 MUSICAL ITEMS
- 30 ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS
- 31 HEALTH
- 32 FUEL & HEATING
- 33 BUILDING MATERIALS
- 34 OFFICE EQUIPMENT
- 35 HEAVY EQUIPMENT
- 36 MISCELLANEOUS
- 37 WANTED
- 38 MACHINERY, TOOLS & EQUIPMENT
- 39 SPORTING GOODS
- 40 AUTO PARTS
- FARMER MARKET**
- 41 FARM EQUIPMENT
- 42 FEED & SEED
- 43 FARM PRODUCTS
- 44 FARM SERVICES
- ANIMALS**
- 45 ANIMAL BREEDING
- 46 PASTURE FOR RENT
- 47 HORSES & CATTLE
- 48 PETS & SUPPLIES
- 49 ANIMAL CARE
- 50 LIVESTOCK
- RECREATIONAL**
- 51 BOATS & EQUIPMENT
- 52 CAMPING EQUIPMENT
- 53 TRAILERS
- 54 SNOWMOBILES/ATV'S
- 55 R.V.'S/CAMPERS
- FINANCIAL**
- 56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
- 57 INVESTMENTS
- TRANSPORTATION**
- 58 MOTORCYCLES
- 59 VEHICLES WANTED
- 60 CLASSIC CARS
- 61 4X4'S
- 62 VANS
- 63 TRUCKS
- 64 AUTOS FOR SALE
- SERVICES**
- 65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
- 66 CHILD CARE

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## 07 Help Wanted

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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

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# 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
<b>Potatoes</b>										
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/>  
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off, and a generous 401a retirement plan. Applications and a complete job description are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Office, 305 3rd Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 - 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website - [saguachecounty.colorado.gov](http://saguachecounty.colorado.gov) under the Road and Bridge Department tab. Please fill out and submit both applications: The Saguache County Application and the Drivers-Application. Completed Assistant Supervisor applications - must be made to the attention of Hiring Committee and can be hand-delivered to the Road and Bridge Office located at 305 3rd Street in Saguache, mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge Hiring Committee - PO Box 476 Saguache, CO 81149, sent by email to [mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto:mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov), or faxed to 719-655-2543. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until a qualified candidate is hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**WANTED: Saguache County Road and Bridge and Landfill is looking to hire a Head Supervisor . . .** Starting at \$71,000/year - DOE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Applicants are preferred to possess or may be required to possess a current Colorado Class "A" Commercial Drivers License with a heavy semi-truck endorsement and a current medical certificate. Applicants should have a high school diploma along with extensive knowledge of methods, operating rules, and equipment for road construction and maintenance operations. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County, please note that after a "conditional" offer is made, we may require disclosure of other information personal to the applicant. The prospective employee will also be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening, before being hired. The Road & Bridge and Landfill Head Supervisor is a full-time salaried position - qualified candidates will be responsible for the coordination and supervision of labor, maintenance crews, and equipment while reconstructing, 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](http://saguachecounty.colorado.gov) under the Road and Bridge Department tab. Please fill out and submit both applications: The Saguache County Application and the Drivers-Application. Completed 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](mailto: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](mailto:ahardy@urtigers.co) or call Mrs. Hardy at (719) 657 - 4020. Applications can be accessed online at [www.urtigers.co](http://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.

## Lucky Shoe Ranch



**Available Programs:**

- Individual & Group Lessons (English & Western)
- Cowboy ethics
- 4H
- Rodeo team
- Day camps
- Drill teams

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.

Day Camp - July 26th

Discount Days - \$20 lessons on May 31<sup>st</sup>, June 21<sup>st</sup>, July 5<sup>th</sup>, July 19<sup>th</sup>

**Signup via our website!**

Scholarships available

**719-849-1955**

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

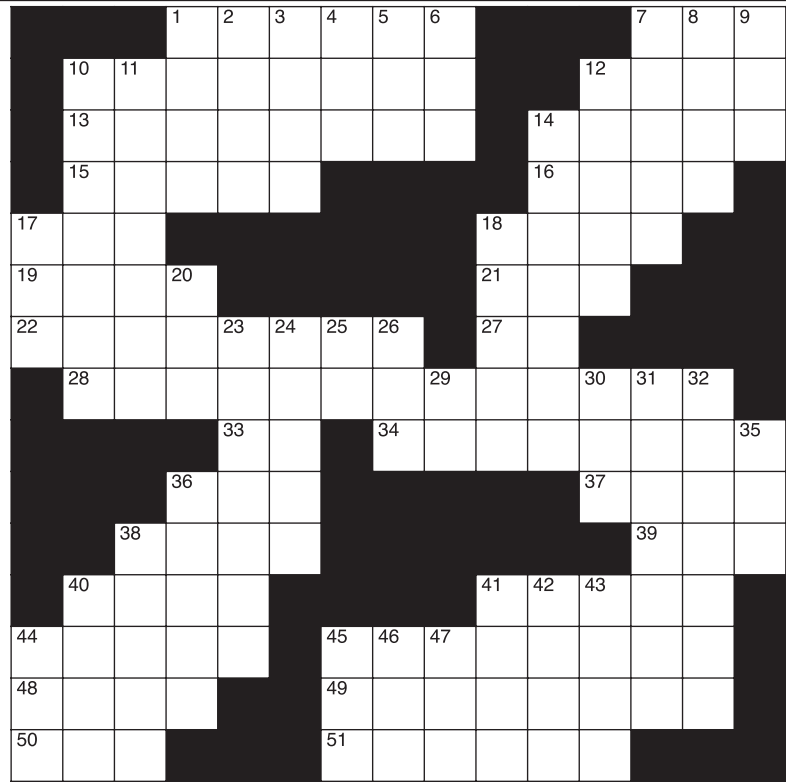
## Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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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

Join millions of older Americans who are rediscovering the joy of walking

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

**FREE SHIPPING!**

The **UPWalker** is a revolutionary new mobility device that can change your life by changing the way you walk. It enables you to stand upright when you walk- with your spine straight and your eyes looking straight ahead. Your weight is supported by your upper arms and shoulders, some of the strongest parts of your body. Traditional walkers and rollators force you to put the pressure of your body weight on your hands and wrists. You push them in front of you, looking at the ground instead of where you going. The **UPWalker** moves with you, with your body perfectly aligned and your feet free to walk in a normal fashion. Its easy-adjust height system allows it to be the perfect fit/height for anyone from 4'10" to 6'1" and supports up to 300 pounds. The new stand-assist handles enable you to distribute your weight across your arms and shoulders, not your hands and wrists to help reduce back, neck, wrist pain and discomfort. It features comfortable arm pads, hand brakes, a fold-down seat, a backrest and two storage bags. It's built with aircraft-grade aluminum to be sturdy yet lightweight, and its sleek design and oversized wheels make it perfect for tight spots in the house or walking in the yard.

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



From the makers of the original UPWalker\*

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

\*Plus, now you can choose between dark luster silver or champagne

**Old Way**



**Better Way**



**UPWalker Premium Lite**  
from Journey Health & Lifestyle

Call now Toll-Free  
**855-417-6301**

Please mention promotion code 601943.





# 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

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

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

**37 Wanted**

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

**65 Professional Services**

**Let me haul off your old appliances**

**and recyclable metals for you.** Call Chris for prices and to set up a removal 719-395-2071 (6-26)

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

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

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

**LICENSED PLUMBER** does all types of plumbing repairs and plumbing remodels at reasonable rates. Quick service. Call anytime, available weekends and evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. TFN

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

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

**Hampton Flooring/Carpentry-** Certified Installation, Decks, Custom woodwork. Quality Guaranteed. Call 970-946-9349 (6-5)

**LIVE IN CONCERT**  
**CHRISTIAN COUNTRY**  
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**LUKE YATES**

**Tues., June 11, 7 p.m.**  
Center United Methodist Church,  
387 S. Broadway, Center, CO  
**Admission is free!**

[www.GospelRoadOnline.com](http://www.GospelRoadOnline.com)

**YOUNG VOICES**  
OF COLORADO  
Octaves ... Above The Rest

**Sunday, June 9 ~ 9 a.m.**  
Center United Methodist Church  
**Presents: Young Voices, a Denver Youth Choir!**  
Please join us for their Concert and welcome them to the Valley!

# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

**Secluded cabin on 20 acres - Gated Community**  
\$975,000 | MLS #803394  
3023 Bear Creek Circle, South Fork, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605

**28 Acres on the Rio Grande River in South Fork**  
\$1,550,000 | MLS #807305  
27000 US HWY 160 South Fork, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605

**3 bedroom cabin bordering National Forest**  
\$398,500 | MLS # 812823  
99 Aspen Dr. South Fork, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605

**Luxury Home on 42 Acres - Borders Natl. Forest**  
\$899,000 | MLS #807998  
4100 Wilderness Canyon Rd. La Garita, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605

**3 bedroom home on 5 acres near Alamosa**  
\$369,500 | MLS #810965  
532 Lane 8 N. Monte Vista, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605

**DOMESTIC WELL**  
**SEPTIC**  
**SOLAR**

**Hunting Cabin on 40 Acres - Bordering National Forest**  
\$239,000 | MLS #812863  
1 Bedroom, 1 Bath Del Norte, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605

**Off-Grid Cabin on the CREEK 5.24 Acres**  
\$279,000 | MLS #809447  
7541 Indian Creek Rd. Fort Garland, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605

**Luxury Mountain home on 15 acres in Bear Creek**  
\$1,399,000 | MLS #813316  
682 Bear Creek Circle, South Fork, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605

**Dee Plucinski**  
Luxury Home Broker  
Licensed in 2011  
**I know mountain land**  
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Dee@SLVluxuryproperties.com

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**RESIDENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHER**  
**LICENSED & INSURED DRONE PILOT**

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

**UNDER CONTRACT**

**Approximately 160 Acres Farmland**  
\$400,000 | MLS #810432  
05299 County Rd. 12 S. Alamosa, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605

**Rito Hondo Estates- 18 Rural Mtn Lots Avail**  
17.5 & 35 Acre Lots  
Owner Financing Available  
West of Antonito in the Conejos Canyon CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605



# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



Incredible Views with this Amazing Property  
Approx. 5.720 Acres  
\$164,900 | MLS #808491  
1685 Bear Creek Circle South Fork, CO

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





Meepier Ranch /Approx. 640 Acres  
\$2,150,000 | MLS #810366  
00 US HWY 160 South Fork, CO

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





Land with Panoramic Beauty/ Approx. 48.770 Acres  
\$100,000 | MLS #796606  
Tract 35 Jupiter Road Del Norte, CO

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





Amazing Country Property/Approx. 40 Acres  
\$425,000 | MLS #812961  
18801 County Road 11.5 La Jara, CO

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





2 Bedroom, 6 Bath, approx. 3,280 sq. ft. and 36.34 Acres  
\$895,000 | MLS #803698  
4617 County Rd. 13 Del Norte, CO

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





Look At The View!/ Approx. 11.140 Acres  
\$453,320 | MLS #805636  
535 Elk Court, South Fork, CO

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





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

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





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

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





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

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





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

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





River Island Ranch Approx. 5.270 Acres  
\$131,000 | MLS #802486  
147 Explorer Way South Fork, CO

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





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

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





VITALITY FARMS/ Approx. 160 Acres  
\$900,000 | MLS #813009  
County Road M & County Road 12 San Luis, CO

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

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





Beautiful Golf Course Lot/Approx. 0.290 Acres  
\$55,000 | MLS #810818  
66 Fairway Drive South Fork, CO

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





3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, approx. 1,904 sq. ft. and 50-Acres  
\$599,000 | MLS #811695  
13725 Rd. 104 S. Alamosa, CO

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





3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, Approx. 1008 Sq. Ft. 0.190 Acres  
\$170,000 | MLS #811009  
404 Sedillos Road, Manassa, CO

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





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

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





BEAUTIFUL LOTS FOR SALE! APPROX. 0.500 ACRES  
\$39,750/MLS#813002  
175 & 183 OURAY ROAD, South Fork, CO

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





4 Bedroom, 4 Bath, approx. 3,804 sq. ft. and 10.320 Acres  
\$1,150,000  
3372 Bear Creek Circle, South Fork, CO

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





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

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





**Steffens & Co. Realty, Inc.**  
0-719-873-1700  
SteffensRealty@GoJade.org  
30636 W. US HWY 160  
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 LYNDISIE 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 finished 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**

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**0254 Timberline Trail • South Fork**

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**222 La Lomita Circle • South Fork**

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