

Shorts

Del Norte Food Bank monthly distribution

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Food Bank will be open for its monthly distribution on Saturday, May 25, from 10 a.m. until noon. Anyone in need of food assistance is welcome.

If you are unable to attend during distribution hours and need food assistance, call 719-850-2643.

MV Historical Society season begins May 28

MONTE VISTA — The Monte Vista Historical Society will open its season on Tuesday, May 28.

The History Center at 110 Jefferson will be open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Transportation of the West Museum will be open Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The sites are open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Visitors are welcome, and there is no admission fee for either site.

Scram Car Show and Model Car Contest is June 1

MONTE VISTA — The Second Annual Scram Car Show and Model Car Contest is on June 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and June 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the McMillan Building at Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista.

The event will allow participants to show off their model cars and bikes and there will be vendors. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. The event is being organized by local model car enthusiast Jesus Gaspar, who owns Pop's Corner hobby store in Monte Vista.

Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children 14 years old and younger.

Fundraiser for St. Francis of Assisi Church

7 MILE PLAZA — A fundraiser for St. Francis of Assisi Church and Holy Name of Mary Parish will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. on Friday, June 7, at the Rio Grande Council Knight of Columbus Hall, 595 Pine St., Del Norte.

DJ Rock N Rob will be playing music. Food and soft drinks will be available for purchase. Donation of \$10 per person, \$15 per couple and \$5 per child.

Crestone Community Garden held annual Garden Festival

By MARIE MCCOLM

CRESTONE — Crestone held its annual Community Garden Festival on Saturday, May 18.

The event took place next to the community gardens area outside of Little Shepard Church. There were multiple vendors selling all types of plants, including tomatoes, basil, lavender, and other garden plants.

There were fresh plant starts available for purchase and some were being given away.

Multiple speakers spoke on different subjects including permaculture, gardening, and plants. There was also a

community potluck inside of the Little Shepard Church, and many people were walking around with bowls of fresh greens and other edible plants, munching on their food and enjoying the day.

Crestone Community Garden Project posters were for sale at the event, that featured a picture of the entire garden project.

Please see GARDEN on Page 2A

The Community Garden Festival in Crestone on May 18 was well attended, according to organizers.

Photo by Marie Mccolm



Community celebrates Mountain Valley grads

By MARIE MCCOLM

SAGUACHE — The 2024 graduating class of Mountain Valley High School proudly marched down the aisle inside of the gymnasium on Saturday, May 18.

The first speaker was graduate Riley Heater, who welcomed everyone to the ceremony.

"I got selected to be one of the two senior speakers. Being able to represent our class as a speaker is an honor. First off, I want to

Please see GRADS on Page 8A

The Mountain Valley High School Class of 2024 received a standing ovation from the crowd after receiving their diplomas on May 18.

Photo by Marie Mccolm



Center PD to host Father Daughter Night

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — The Center Police Department is hosting its first Father and Daughter Night, a dinner and dance event, on Saturday, June 8. The festivities begin at 5 p.m. at 295 E. Third St., Center. The building was donated for the night to the police department for this event.

Everyone is invited to attend and

bring their entire family for this special event. The cost to enter is \$5 per person. With Father's Day coming up, this is an event that can truly be memorable for fathers, daughters, and their families.

There will be multiple activities held for fathers and daughters including gift baskets. There will be boutonnieres and corsages

provided for fathers and daughters to wear for the dance.

There will also be a dance off that will be held between fathers and daughters, only the best dancer out of the father or daughter will win the dance off. There will be prizes given out to the winner in each category.

There will also be a special father-

daughter dance, and there will also be the crowning of a King and Queen at the event.

Volunteer committee member Richie Barela said, "This is going to be a fun event for the whole family. It's being put on for fathers and daughters, but everyone, including the whole family, and people from

Please see NIGHT on Page 8A

Educator Highlight Award for April goes to Kellum

Art teacher brings 'life and color to the classrooms' at Moffat Schools

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

MOFFAT — It was pajamas day at Moffat Schools. Imagine Rachel Kellum's surprise then when Adams State School of Education staff showed up during her middle school arts class to award her with its Educator Highlight Award for the month of April.

"I'm wearing the T-shirt," she said,

proudly displaying her Adams State top. Her request: Just no photos of the pajama bottoms, please.

"I really appreciate this honor. I've been teaching here for six years, and been teaching art and English going on 21 years now, and to receive an award like this really means a lot to me," Kellum said. "We're here because we want to be here. We love the kids and we love teaching, but to have

Please see AWARD on Page 2A

Rachel Kellum, Moffat School art teacher, (middle green shirt) received the Adams State University School of Education April Educator Highlight Award.

Courtesy photo



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Chad Spearman LENDER



Member FDIC Lee Crowther



Spearman receives Del Norte Bank scholarship

CONTRIBUTED

DEL NORTE — Del Norte Bank recently announced Lane Spearman as its 2024 scholarship winner. The total award is \$4,000 at \$500 per semester for a 4-year college.

The winner was chosen based on academic achievement, community involvement and overall character. Applicants were also asked to write an essay regarding how they, as an individual, have made or can make a positive impact in the community they live in.

Spearman has always had a passion for learning new skills. Some of his interests include leatherworking, welding, working cattle and riding the range on his horse, Goldie. When he is not farming and ranching on the weekends and summers with his mentor, Jake Pargin, he is usually working on vehicles or motorcycles, hunting or fishing.

Spearman has a great appreciation for production agriculture and would like to pursue a career in farming and ranching. He will be attending West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas, this fall to study Agribusiness.



Lane Spearman

GARDEN

Continued from Page 1A

Jenny Ducale, director of the Crestone Community Garden, spoke about the garden and how the garden helps the community.

“We are a community garden. The garden is grant funded. We serve the food bank. We grow the food and give it to the food bank. We have volunteers that come and grow with us, and they also harvest food. Town hall has also given us the use of their greenhouse, where we are also able to grow seedlings for the garden, and to sale to the community. Our garden supports the community, for the things that they may have to go all the way to Alamosa to get or that they can't get here such as straw. I also have bags of soil and compost and plants,” she said.

Ducale explained that the event takes place once a year.

“Today is the day. The proceeds will go to next year's event. We save the money that we make for that. We have to buy the seeds for the plants, the soil for everything that we have at the festival. If there is money left over, we save it and use it next year for the festival,” she said.

Ducale explained that at least a third or half of the people at the festival sell plants from their gardens at the festival.

“They have their own starts that they bring from their own gardens. Some people come and give stuff away and some people sell it. This is a day for the community to come together to either sell, tell, or share.”



Photo by Marie McColm

Crestone Community Garden Director Jenny Ducale, right, helps a person at the Community Garden Festival on May 18.

AWARD

Continued from Page 1A

your peers acknowledge you is extra special. I really appreciate that.”

Adams State School of Education Director Curtis Garcia, Ph.D., and staff of the teaching degree program travel around the Valley month-to-month awarding the Educator Highlight Award to deserving educators.

“Ms. Kellum has brought life and color to the classrooms at Moffat. This is the most looked-forward to class of the day. It is always full; students are always having their needs met. Ms. Kellum's warm presence helps students feel comfortable with self-expression, confidence and pride,” read one of Rachel Kellum's nominations.

Another nominator said, “Rachel lives and breathes art class for her students every day. She teaches all 112 students, PreK-12. She helps collaborate with the community by allowing them to paint murals among the building walls, host our own mini-art showcase and has helped over 10 students from our small town obtain art scholarships for postsecondary education.”

The Cowboy Pride Mural is striking when you first see it inside the Moffat School hallway. Designed and painted by Luke Maykowski for his senior capstone project in 2023, it serves as evidence of Kellum's influence on her students and on Moffat Schools.

“One thing I really enjoy doing with my secondary art students is have them do independent art projects. And because we're so small, that allows me to give them sort of the independent support, even though they're all doing something very different,” Kellum said.

“Somebody might be painting, somebody's sewing, somebody's making a cup out of ceramics, or somebody could be doing digital art. And because my classes are smaller, that allows me to be able to really teach to individual students' desires in art instead of it just being like, OK, everybody, we're only going to always do the same type of project.”

The small nature of Moffat Schools is what drew Kellum into the San Luis Valley to teach. She spent the first part of her teaching career

at Morgan Community College in Fort Morgan where she taught literature, composition, humanities, art, appreciation, painting and drawing.

“So, I've always kind of had my feet in both worlds,” she said of her love for the arts and humanities.

“You really get to know your students a lot better,” she said of the small school environment. “You get to, I don't know, I think you just get to slow down and get to know a little bit more about them and tune into what they want to do.”

Like painting a fabulous mural on the school hallway.

This monthly award recognizes Adams State University School of Education alumni, prominent local teachers, and other educators working within or hailing from the San Luis Valley. In so doing, Adams State University hopes to build familiarity with the community as a serious destination for future educators. To nominate and educator email Chrissy McKinney at cmckinney@adams.edu.

OBITUARY

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 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, Colo., 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 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, UT 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 Rogers Family Mortuary, 404 Morris St., Monte Vista.

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

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Life is a Gamble

The longer Ol' Dutch is on this old Earth the more I find out that life is really just a gamble in so many ways. And what is most interesting is that we all think we have it all planned out so perfectly, but I am not sure that anything we do really is anything but blind luck. I know many of you will argue that point and I can respect that, but it does seem that anything that doesn't happen by pure chance is just a coincidence of sorts.

Not a few times in my life have I been told I was "just lucky." And while a person can make their own luck doing things such as working hard at a job, sometimes it's just in the cards, so to speak, whether you will succeed or fail.

And I guess that can explain at least somewhat how Miss Trixie and I met as there is no other reason that I can come up with. Lucky for me that day and unlucky for her so they say. The word luck is defined as "success or failure apparently brought by chance rather than through one's own actions. And never more has that been true than with her and I.

I was reminded of this dance with "luck" as I drove past Winstar Casino in Oklahoma on my trip up to see Fast Freddy, my dad, in Kansas. It's quite a resort actually with big hotels and enough parking for the population of half of Dallas who seemed to be there this particular day.

At 3 p.m. on this Saturday the parking lot was full to overflowing. All of whom were inside trying their "luck" against insurmountable odds. If you do not know already it's not set up for you to win. And only between 2 and 10 percent of people who enter there actually come out with additional funds than they went in with.

Ol' Dutch has never been one to throw away money on a losing proposition so gambling of any sorts never has had any allure to me. I can drive past a casino a thousand times and never am tempted to stop and peruse the tables. But I also have friends who regularly drop some unbelievable sums at those games.

It used to be that the gaming places offered cheap and good food to lure people into the legal robbery rooms, but now they evidently have enough regular customers they don't even have to do that. And going there for "just the food" sounds too a little too much like the men who buy Playboy magazine for "just the good articles" found within for



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

Ol' Dutch's tastes. Both are vices wrapped around tempting visuals and will suck you in like a camel eating a peach.

The only times I have gambled at a casino was when Miss Trixie and I got free RV parking there and some free chips. And true to form, those free chips went just as fast as any I would have purchased out of pocket. And even though that was not my money it sure felt like it as it disappeared like a turd down the toilet. About one good flush and it was gone.

So happily, I don't lose any hard-earned cash at such places, but I know many people who do so on a regular basis. So much so that casinos have built immense places for people to throw away their money. And so many are willing to give their money away to strangers that an entire city is dedicated to such goings on. And that is none other than Las Vegas, Nevada of course. Miss Trixie took me there one time and I am sure I looked like a turkey in a rainstorm, wide-eyed and gullible as I gazed upon the lights and action. But true to form, Ol' Dutch was able to watch the goings-on without losing his shirt.

I do have to admit to buying a lottery ticket when the winnings get over 100 million as I do believe with that much mammon, I might finally be happy in life. Well, maybe not happy but I bet I would smile.

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.

We won't forget what happened 101 years ago

One hundred and one years ago, my Ute ancestors were forced to live within a barbed-wire camp in Blanding, a small town in southeast Utah.

For six weeks, nearly 80 people were trapped in a cage, sleeping in tents and hastily constructed hogans. Only meager meals were provided, and the captors sometimes tossed food over the fence.

Like the infamous Japanese American prison camps during World War II, the only crime my relatives committed was belonging to a group of people that the white majority deemed a threat. There was no due process for Japanese Americans or for the Utes.

But while Japanese American incarceration sites, including the Topaz Camp near Delta, Utah, have memorials to the victims, there are no plaques or interpretive displays in Blanding acknowledging the suffering my ancestors endured.

In fact, the events that led up to their imprisonment are best known by misleading names like the "Posey War" and the "Last Indian Uprising." My ancestor, William Posey, was a leader in the Anikanuche Band who continued traditional hunting across the vast Canyonlands and Bears Ears region into the 1920s, long after many other Indigenous people had been forced onto reservations.

On March 19, 1923, two Ute men were convicted for the alleged raiding of a shepherd's camp. After an altercation with the San Juan County sheriff, the two men fled and joined their families.

They escaped over Comb Ridge into what is now Bears Ears National Monument. A posse of 50 armed white settlers pursued the Ute people on horseback and in a Model-T Ford. County commissioners also requested an airplane equipped with WWI bombs for use in the chase. Before a plane arrived, the posse found the families, forced them into trucks at gunpoint, then transported them to the barbed-wire stockade in Blanding.

I tell this story because the jailing of Ute people 101 years ago had devastating



Courtesy Wikimedia Commons

La Sal Range in Northern San Juan County, Utah.

consequences for my community and healing is necessary even today.

Two Ute men were murdered, including Posey. Ute children were among those shipped to Indian Boarding Schools, separating families and cutting off traditional teachings. As a condition of release, prisoners in the camp had to sign allotment papers for small parcels of land that relinquished their claims to the large Ute reservation that had once been proposed for nearly



By Shaun Ketchum Jr.

all of San Juan County.

These events were tragic, but they were not a "war" or an "uprising." Like the Long Walk of the Diné people in 1864, or the Trail of Tears that began in the 1830s, my Anikanuche ancestors were subjected to brutal settler violence in Utah, which had no similarities to a war fought between two nations' militaries.

Despite these injustices, my people carry on what we call a Legacy of Resilience, and last year the Ute Mountain Ute community of White Mesa began telling our side of the story for the first time.

I was selected to direct the 100 Years of Silence project, and I've been working with elders, historians and artists to facilitate healing. We've hosted many meetings to

listen to community members talk about this history. Seven local artists produced pieces now on display at The Leonardo Museum of Creativity and Innovation in Salt Lake City until May 28. On March 23, we hosted a public launch for the project with presentations from 18 Ute Tribal members.

Throughout the process, I've been inspired by the courage and wisdom of my community. Our collective effort aims to end a century of silence to usher in an era of recognition and empowerment for all sides.

As the 101st anniversary of the Anikanuche incarceration drew to a close last month, we hoped Utahns would begin to acknowledge the events of 1923. We ask that those awful weeks no longer be referred to as the "Posey War," a term based on misinformation that spread as the events unfolded. The 100 Years of Silence project is currently seeking input from the White Mesa community to rename this series of traumatic events.

Perhaps one day, a memorial could be installed on the site of the incarceration camp that is near the historic bank building that still stands in Blanding. As the Ute scholar Forrest Cuch reminded us at the anniversary, healing cannot occur until the truth is known and accepted.

Shaun Ketchum Jr. is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring conversation about the West. He directs the 100 Years of Silence project and is a member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

LETTER

'Lord's Prayer' poster inappropriate at Monte Vista Police Department

Editor,
In Monte Vista, a "Lord's Prayer" poster displayed within the police department has inspired me to discuss its appropriateness in relation to the First Amendment. This amendment includes two critical clauses concerning religion: the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause. The Establishment Clause specifically prohibits the government from endorsing or establishing any religion,

maintaining a clear separation of church and state — a foundational principle affirmed by the Supreme Court in *Lemon v. Kurtzman*.

While some may argue that the poster serves as a symbol of strength and courage for our officers, the use of 'Lord' predominantly carries Christian connotations, potentially perceived as favoring one religious tradition over others. This could alienate community members who follow different religions

or none, making them feel that their values and sources of moral support are sidelined.

Though the poster is within the police department and not directly imposed upon the public, it is crucial to recognize that public institutions, including our police force, should embody neutrality in religious matters. Such neutrality ensures an inclusive atmosphere where all community members feel equally respected and protected.

Retaining a religious poster in a public institution concerns more than the personal expression of officers — it touches upon the broader principle of secular governance and equal treatment under the law. The presence of this poster could be perceived as a subtle breach in the separation of church and state, potentially undermining the secular foundations of our government institutions intended to serve an

increasingly diverse community.

In adherence to our constitutional commitments and to foster inclusiveness for all residents of Monte Vista, removing the "Lord's Prayer" poster from our police department is both a prudent and necessary action. We must ensure our public institutions remain places of neutrality, respect, and inclusivity for everyone.

*Jermey Garner
Alamosa*



THE CENTER POST-DISPATCH (USPS 775-900) Published weekly (every Thursday) by Valley Publishing. (719) 852-3531 at 835 First Ave., Monte Vista, Colorado 81144-1423. Official newspaper of the Town of Center, and a legal newspaper in Saguache County.
Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144
Main office, Want ads and Subscriptions: (719) 852-3531
Periodical postage paid at Monte Vista, Colo., 81144
POSTMASTER: Send change of address to P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144
Subscriptions: \$45 one year in the San Luis Valley; \$40 one year seniors (65 and older) in the San Luis Valley; and \$55 one year out of the San Luis Valley. (719) 852-3531
San Luis Valley Publishing, LLC

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- Marie Mccolm
- Monte Vista Journal/Center Post Dispatch Reporter
- Lyndsie Ferrell..... South Fork/Creede Reporter
- Shasta Quintana
- Circulation
- Ellie Bone
- Composition
- Roxie Beutler..... Classified
- Richard R. Quintana..... Mailroom Supervisor/Press

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Photo by Jasmine Hussman, City of Alamosa

Alamosa Police Department's Honor Guard along with Investigator Zach Decker with the Alamosa County Sheriff's Officer at attention outside the Alamosa Safety Complex during the Peace Officers Memorial Day ceremony on May 15. Pictured left to right: ACSO Investigator Zach Decker, APD Officer Mario Linares, APD Officer Steven Bagwell, APD, Officer Mikko Sanchez, APD Officer Justin Salazar, APD Officer Marco Ledezma, APD Officer Jareb Aziz, APD Officer Kolten Hillis and APD Officer Cody Van Ry.

Peace officers honored and remembered

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA—In an annual ceremony dedicated to peace officers who devoted their lives to service and others who were injured or lost their lives in the line of duty were respected, honored and

remembered in a ceremony at the Alamosa Safety Complex in Alamosa.

The ceremony date was chosen to coincide with National Peace Officers Memorial Week, proclaimed by the city as the week of May 13, and Peace Officers

Memorial Day, proclaimed as May 15.

The memorial service was preceded by a procession of lights at 5 p.m.

In a sign of support for law enforcement officials, several people spoke at the memorial, including

Alamosa County Sheriff Robert Jackson, Alamosa Police Department Police Chief George Dingfelder, 12th Judicial District Attorney Anne Kelly, Alamosa Mayor Ty Coleman and other members from law enforcement agencies in Alamosa County.

Wine and Chocolate Festival to hit South Fork this weekend

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — A new festival is coming to South Fork this weekend and those who have tickets are in for a treat. The inaugural South Fork Wine and Chocolate Festival, hosted by the Town of South Fork and the Rio Grande Club and Resort, will feature fine wines from selected wineries and chocolate from professional artisans.

According to event coordinator Celeste Anderson, the coming weekend is going to be packed with fun for the entire family.

"This is a family friendly event, and we even have tickets for those who do not like wine or just don't drink. We will have great music, delicious food and lots of fun," said Anderson.

The two-day festival kicks off on Saturday at 11 a.m. The Rio Grande Club and Resort located in South Fork will be transformed into a wine and chocolate paradise. Tickets for the event, including tickets for the VIP tent and wine pairing dinner hosted by the resort, are still available as well as a limited number of general admission and non-alcoholic tickets that will be available on the day of the event.

The festival will feature unique and delicious wines provided by vendors such as Cottonwood Cellars who have been making Colorado wines for over 34 years. According to their history, "One of Colorado's oldest premium wineries, Cottonwood Cellars, is an old-world style, family-owned winery with a vineyard, Cottonwood Vineyards. The owners are Keith (the Winemaker) and Diana (Marketing) Read. The winery began operation in 1994. The first grape vines (5 acres) were planted in 1995 and has increased yearly to the current 22.5 acres. A new building was added in 1998 for barrel aging, case good storage, and the tasting room. In 2013, one additional tasting room was added with two more planned for this year."

weekend is one of the newest wineries out of Montrose. LaNoue DuBois Winery has hit the wine scene with good reviews and a few questions about their name.

"We understandably get a lot of questions about what our brand means. LaNoue DuBois (pronounced LahNew DewBwah) isn't exactly the easiest name to say, but it has deep meaning to us. In French, it means 'LaNoue of the Woods.' LaNoue is our last name, and the maiden name of the matriarch in our family is Woods. All of the surrounding property around the vineyard and winery used to be part of the Woods Estate, and the vineyard is still called Woods Estate Vineyard. This dream of ours couldn't have happened without both families, so we chose this name to be symbolic of 'LaNoue Wines from the Woods Estate.'"

In addition to the many wines that will be available, the festival will also feature Pollinator Chocolate

and other delectable treats such as homemade marshmallows in wine and chocolate flavors. Still Whiskey BBQ will be on site both days offering their wonderful array of barbecue and the Rio Grande Club and Resort will be open for lunch and snacks.

Throughout both days, there will be live entertainment featuring bands like David Nunn of Ridgway, Slopeside of Denver, and Steve Blechschmidt accompanied by Roger Bennett.

On Saturday night there will be a wine pairing dinner at the resort and entertainment from Halls Escape Room and Karaoke from Remote Control Karaoke.

There will also be several vendors offering goods like antiques, crafts, pottery, jewelry, woodworking, paintings and more.

Tickets are limited. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.southfork.org or call the South Fork Visitor Center at 719-873-5512.

2024 National Small Print Show winners announced

CONTRIBUTED

CREEDE — The public is invited to join the Creede Arts Council (CAC) for its exhibition of the National Small Print Show. It is the 23rd anniversary of the National Small Print Show, a juried art show of hand-pulled prints created by artists from across the country and Canada. This year, esteemed printmaker Theresa Haberkorn from Boulder judged the prints.



The CAC is proud to announce the award winners. "Fantail Palm" by Mimi Hegler of Ashton, MD, won first place. "Forest Murmurs" by Dan Welden of Sag Harbor, NY, was awarded second place. "Early Light" by Ginnie Madsen of Laramie, Wyo., won third place. Two Honorable Mentioned prints were also chosen to receive awards – "Morgan" by Janet Badger of Houston, Texas, and "Overview: The Meeting" by Rosemary Depler Cohen of Oregon City, Ore.

The CAC will be hosting an in-person show, opening at the Creede Repertory Theatre on May 25 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The prints will remain on display in the Theatre until July 31. An online print auction-sale through www.32auctions.com will begin on May 28 and continue until July 31. The CAC will be sharing the link for the online event on its website as well as its Facebook (Creede Arts Council) and Instagram (@creedearts) pages.

For more information, visit www.creedeartscouncil.com.

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Schoen to give Keynote Address at Homelake's Memorial Day Observance

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — Col. (Ret.) William "Skip" Schoen will give the Keynote Address at the Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake's Memorial Day Observance, May 27.

Schoen served as a United States Marine for over 33 years spanning from 1989 to 2022. Schoen enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves in October of 1988, graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego in June 1989 and joined "Papa" Battery, 5th Ballalion, 14th Marine Regiment in Denver in September 1989 as an Artillery Cannoneer. A 1992 graduate of Colorado State University, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1995 and embarked on a 27-year active-duty career as a Marine Corps Logistics Officer.

Col Schoen's tours of duty included

Camp Pendleton; Calif., Parris Island, S.C.; Okinawa, Japan; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; and then back to Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Major Schoen was deployed to Afghanistan in February 2009 as the lead logistics planner on the US Forces Afghanistan-South staff in Kandahar. Maj. Schoen was deployed again to Afghanistan as an Operations Planner with the 1st Marine Logistics Group at Camp Leatherneck in 2010.

Upon return from Afghanistan, Major Schoen served as the Executive Officer with Combat Logistics Battalion-11. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in June 2012, he was selected for command at the Marine Corps Detachment at Fort Lee, Va., then on to the US Northern Command at Peterson Air Force Base in June 2014.

At NORTHCOM, Lt. Col. Schoen

served as a Land Domain Chief in the Command Center, working primarily with the US Department of Homeland Security, the National Guard Bureau, US Army North, and US Marine Forces North.

Selected for the Marine Corps Fellowship program in 2017, Schoen worked with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) around the globe from July 2017 to June 2018. He was promoted to Colonel in August 2018 and assigned as the Installation Support Director at the Marine Corp Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

In 2020, Col. Schoen joined the staff at the US Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., for his final tour of duty. He retired from active duty in July 2022. He and his wife Diane then fulfilled their 30-year dream of returning to their family property

in the San Luis Valley and becoming active members of the Rio Grande County community. In April 2023, Col. Schoen was hired as the Rio Grande County Administrator and continues to serve in that position today.

The Memorial Day Observance will take place at 10 a.m. on May 27, in the Homelake Veterans Cemetery. The ceremony will include Honor and Color Guards, USS General Patrick Bell Tolling, and Wreath Presentations. The 140th Wing of the Colorado Air National Guard from Buckley Air Force Base will support the Observance with an official flyover. Cinnamon rolls will be served following the ceremony in the Old Dining Room. The History Museum will be open until 12:30 p.m., following the Observance.

The Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake opened in



Col. (Ret.) William 'Skip' Schoen

1891 providing a peaceful home for aging and disabled Civil War veterans. Homelake has been preserving memories and honoring Veterans from every major war in U.S. history.

Grant is the Honored Artist at the 35th Annual Taste of Creede

CONTRIBUTED

CREEDE — Coni Grant, Alamosa painter and teacher, has been selected as the Honored Artist for this year's Taste of Creede on Memorial Day weekend, May 25-27. Her studio is at 6800 Highway 17, where she can be found painting or teaching classes.

She received her bachelor's in graphic design, and then studied Conceptual Design at San Francisco State University.

She spent 20 years in advertising and graphic design primarily in San Francisco before she and her family had the opportunity to move to Newfoundland, Canada. Although they loved it there, they found their home in Alamosa, and the San Luis Valley.

Grant is also a committed plein air painter (painting out of doors) and has received many awards and honors to name a few:

- Best in Show- Western Light, Invitational Exhibit, Estes Park
- Artist's Choice Award, Women of the West Show- Boulder
- First Place Members Award, Plein Air Painters New Mexico
- First Place, Western Rendezvous, La Veta

Grant will be amongst many artists painting on the streets, Saturday and

Sunday, of Memorial Day weekend.

The Creede Chamber of Commerce will be selling Taste of Creede t-shirts with one of Grant's beautiful images on the back.

The National Small Print exhibition will also open Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Creede Repertory Theatre.

TASTE OF CREEDE SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 25

10 a.m.-4 p.m. - Painters on the street in downtown Creede.

10 a.m.-3 p.m. - The National Small Print Show - Creede Repertory Theatre. For more information, visit online.creedeartsCouncil.com.

Noon-3 p.m. - Live Music under the tent at the Creede Hotel

1 p.m. - Kentucky Bell Community Cook-Off and judging

5-8 p.m. - Live Music under the tent

at the Creede Hotel

7 p.m. - Creede Repertory Theatre presents "Baskerville." For more information, visit online.creederep.org or call 719-658-2541

Sunday, May 26

10 a.m. - painters on the street in downtown Creede

Noon-1 p.m. - Creede Hotel cooking demonstration

1-2:15 p.m. - "Quick Draw" - many artists under the tent painting in different media, and different subjects for one hour. Viewers can walk around the tent and watch the magic happen.

3 p.m. - Art Auction of the "Quick Draw" artists' paintings that we're doing the previous hour will be auctioned off. This is the highlight of the weekend, and everyone is invited.

5:15 p.m. - Artist Reception



Courtesy photos

Coni Grant has been selected as the Honored Artist for this year's Taste of Creede on Memorial Day weekend, May 25-27.



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Society Hall features a night of award-winning cowboy poetry and music

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — Society Hall is excited to feature four different award-winning performers of western songs and poetry at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 25.

Doors at 400 Ross Ave. in Alamosa open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and are available online at www.societyhall.org and in Alamosa at The Green Spot, 711 State Ave. The concert will also stream live on both the Society Hall Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Performing will be Doug Figgs, of Lemitar, N.M., with his fine western songs, cowboy poets Floyd and Valerie Beard, of Kim, and music and poetry from Dennis and Beverly Russell, aka The Russellers, from Redwing.

Figgs is an AFA certified journeyman farrier, a working cowboy, and a multiple award-winning Western music singer/songwriter. He has performed his music all over the west and continues to turn out his own variety of western music – from hard driving songs with a tinge of Southern rock, to beautiful ballads and everything in between. His awards include: 2021 “Wrangler Award” Western Song “El Caballo del Fuego”, 2019 IWMA Western Album of the Year “Go West”, 2019 IWMA Group of the Year with “The Cowboy Way Trio”, 2019 NMMA Western Song of the Year “I Make My Livin’ In the Saddle”, and 2018 IWMA Male Performer of the Year. Floyd Beard lives 12 cattle guards from the pavement near Kim. He



Courtesy photos

Award-winning cowboy poets and country musicians will be performing at Society Hall on May 25. Performing will be Doug Figgs, of Lemitar, N.M., with his fine western songs, cowboy poets Floyd and Valerie Beard, of Kim, and music and poetry from Dennis and Beverly Russell, aka The Russellers, from Redwing.

and his wife, Valerie, run cattle with their daughter and son-in-law. A good day involves getting up before the sun is “pinking up the east,” riding, working cattle, and settling down on the porch to watch the sunset.

Floyd is an award-winning poet and has been writing and rhyming for over 30 years. He is the 2016, 2017, and 2021 International Western Music Association’s Male Poet of the Year. His most recent CD, “Horse Tales and Cow Trails” also won the IWMA’s 2021 Cowboy Poetry CD of the Year. Most of his original poetry is written about his observations while working on the ranch.

Valerie Beard is a rancher’s wife, teacher, writer, crew cook, quilter and reader. She and her husband Floyd keep a few Border Collies around to stay humble.

Valerie recently released her first poetry CD, “No Better Life” with

the help of Jean Prescott on vocals and Dale Burson on vocals and instrumentation. She was honored to be a top five finalist for IWMA Female Poet of the Year in 2019 and 2021.

The Russellers are Dennis Russell, poet and songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist Beverly Gray Russell, best known for her beautiful mastery of the musical saw. They share their original music and poetry that depict their ranching lifestyle on the beautiful Huerfano River outside of Redwing in Southern Colorado as well as covering traditional stories and songs at campfires, gatherings and house concerts in family friendly entertainment. Dennis is the founder of the Cimarron Cowboy Music and Poetry Gathering and happy to be the emcee of any western event. You can often find Beverly showing kids, parents, and grandparents alike how her magical musical saw works.

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Experiencing God’s Power in Everyday live

After I became a Christian, there were many years when I had no victory in my everyday life. I was miserable because I still had wounds in my soul from the past that made me insecure, angry, suspicious of others, and hard to get along with.

Even though I loved God and went to church every week, I had no idea that there was power available to me to overcome the hurts from the past and the struggles of daily life. And everything that came along that was hard to handle, defeated me.

But I was so grateful when I found out in God’s Word that not only is He powerful, but He wants to fill us with His power. He promises in His Word that we can have abundant life in Christ because He has overcome the world (John 10:10; 16:33)!

The truth is, as believers in Christ, we don’t have to live weak, wimpy, pitiful, pathetic, barely-getting-by lives. We can have God’s power working in us to enable us to do whatever we need to do!

Some people have the misconception that when they give their lives to Jesus, they will no longer have any problems. It would be nice if this were true, but in this world, we WILL have trials and tribulations. The good news is we can cheer up anyway because Jesus has overcome the world.

In John 16:33 (ESV), Jesus says, “... In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

No one can promise you a problem-free life, but God promises that if you will put your trust in Him, He will give you a faith that enables you to rise above the problems you face. And when you get through them, you’ll be stronger on the other side than you were before you had them.

Knowing you can have power from God to live in this world is one thing,

but learning to believe this truth and walk in it is the key to having victory over the trials and suffering you face. I love Philippians 3:10 because it says we can actually experience the same power that raised Christ from the dead.

In this verse, the apostle Paul says his determined purpose was to “know Him [experientially, becoming more thoroughly acquainted with Him, understanding the remarkable wonders of His Person more completely] and [in that same way experience] the power of His resurrection [which overflows and is active in believers], and [that I may share] the fellowship of His sufferings, by being continually conformed [inwardly into His likeness even] to His death [dying as He did]” (AMP).

This is an amazing and encouraging promise from God, because we all face problems and have weaknesses we can’t overcome in our own strength or effort. But if we are determined to trust God in every situation, all the time, we can fight the good fight of faith by HIS grace.

Romans 8:37 (AMP) says: “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors and gain an overwhelming victory through Him who loved us [so much that He died for us].” I love this phrase “more than conquerors.” But what does it really mean?

Being more than a conqueror means that before you ever have a problem, you are confident that you have whatever it takes to overcome it through your relationship with Christ. In other words, you know you have the victory before you ever get the problem.

Now, in order to “qualify” for the power of God, we must first come to the place where we recognize that in and of ourselves, we are weak and we have limitations without God. If we didn’t have any weakness, we wouldn’t



realize we need Him. And one of the best prayers we can ever pray is “God, I need You, and I’m nothing without You!” (John 15:5.)

It’s so important for us to understand this because if we wait until we have a problem that’s too big for us to handle before we rely on God’s strength, then we’re setting ourselves up to fail.

The best thing we can do to live this life in victory is to continually seek God with our whole heart, realizing we’re desperate for Him all the time. Spend time with Him in prayer and studying His Word every day. Then, when the storms of life happen, you will be confident that in Christ, you already have everything you need to overcome them...and you’ll experience the power of His resurrection as you rise above them!

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s three-part teaching resource **Unleashing the Power of Faith**. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

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

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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Xcel Energy explains impact of Wildfire Safety Settings

CONTRIBUTED

When the San Luis Valley is in "Red Flag Critical Fire Weather Conditions," Xcel Energy announced it will implement safeguards to reduce wildfire starts as part of its Wildfire Mitigation Program, specifically its Wildfire Safety Settings.

"As wildfire risk increases across the West, we're committed to working hard every day to improve safety and reduce wildfire threats across our service area. As part of this commitment, Xcel Energy's Wildfire Mitigation Program is designed to help protect lives, property, and Colorado's forests from the threat of wildfire by proactively implementing various mitigation strategies to prevent our electric system from becoming the source of an ignition," Xcel officials stated.

One of these mitigation strategies is Wildfire Safety Settings. In Wildfire Risk Zones, Xcel Energy has implemented a Wildfire Safety

Settings pilot program in select areas of its electric distribution system.

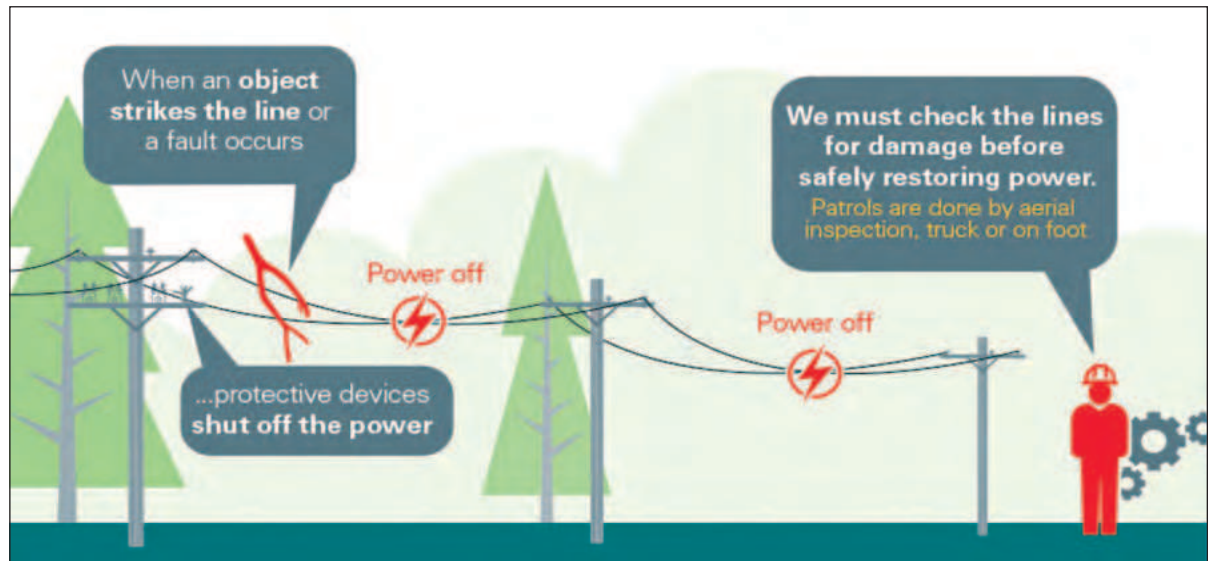
These settings use upgraded wildfire devices to operate its system more conservatively when wildfire conditions are elevated due to a combination of high temperatures, dry ground fuel and high winds.

"By enabling more sensitive protection settings during times of increased fire risk, we help keep our customers and communities safe. Please keep in mind that wildfire risk may exist year-round in some areas," Xcel officials stated.

How it works

Xcel has upgraded select areas of its electric distribution system with wildfire devices that support more sensitive protection settings during periods of high wildfire risk.

These upgrades allow the system in these areas to instantly interrupt the flow of energy through a power line segment when a fault is detected, such as a tree branch or other object



making contact with the power line, to prevent the potential ignition of ground fuel.

When the system is in Wildfire Safety Settings mode, the line remains de-energized until crews can patrol the area to ensure it is safe to restore service.

"Communities in designated risk zones may experience more frequent or longer outages, as we ensure the safety of our customers in these areas," Xcel officials stated.

Preparing for potential outages

Xcel stated it understands how disruptive it is to lose power, and "that's why we're working hard to reduce the impact of outages and help you be prepared. It is not possible to notify customers in advance of outages caused by these enhanced safety settings," Xcel officials stated.

Xcel encourages customers to update their contact information and sign up for outage notifications at myaccount.xcelenergy.com or by calling 800-895-4999. If an outage is triggered by Xcel's Wildfire Safety

Settings, this will ensure they can communicate the outage's status and estimated restoration time.

Learn how to prepare for potential outages, report an outage or check an outage status by visiting xcelenergy.com/Outages. For outage information, people can also:

- Text OUT to 98936 to report an outage, or text STAT to check the status of an outage.
- Use Xcel Energy's mobile app available on iOS and Android.
- Call 800-895-1999.

For more information about Xcel's Wildfire Safety Settings pilot program, visit XcelEnergyWildfireMitigation.com/Operational-Awareness, call 833-352-0087 or email info@XcelEnergyWildfireMitigation.com.

Thank you for your service



April 27 was Veteran Community Service Day for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Colorado. Dickey Springer Unit 113 Auxiliary and Jr. Auxiliary in Alamosa chose the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office. They delivered goodie bags to the Veterans that are Alamosa County Sheriff's deputies. We gave 12 bags filled with snacks, and lots of goodies they could have while on patrol.

Courtesy photo

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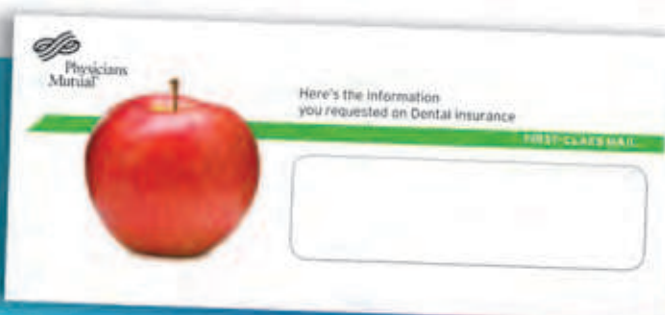
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PO BOX 100
505 3rd Street
Saguache, CO. 81149
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
FOR SAGUACHE COUNTY COURT FACILITIES FEASIBILITY STUDY

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 I. OVERVIEW
 II. BACKGROUND
 III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION
 IV. SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS
 V. SCHEDULE

I. OVERVIEW
PROPOSAL DUE DATE/DELIVERY REQUIREMENTS – Responses due by June 10, 2024 at 3PM
Delivery of 4 original copies either by USPS or hand delivered in a sealed envelope to:
Wendi Maez
PO Box 100
505 3rd Street
Saguache, CO. 81149

All official communication with Candidates and questions regarding this RFP will be via email to the Wendi Maez at wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov.

No inquiries will be accepted after the clarification deadline as indicated in the project schedule.

All Candidate inquiries will be responded to at the same time which will be after the "Clarification Deadline". Candidates should not rely on any other statements, either oral or written, that alter any specification or other term or condition of the RFP during the open solicitation period. **Candidates should not contact any team member, or any individual associated with the Owner or Saguache County regarding this RFP or this project except to schedule an optional site visit.**

RFP Schedule	
RFP Available	May 1, 2024
Optional Site Visit	By apt with all
RFP Clarification Deadline	May 28, 2024
RFP Clarification Responses	May 31, 2024
RFP Responses Due	June 10, 2024
Interview Invitations Sent	June 12, 2024
Interviews	June 25, 2024
Selections Made and Candidates Notified	July 3, 2024
Contract Negotiations/discussion - Complete	July 9, 2024
Notice to Proceed Given to Successful Firm	July 16, 2024
Study to begin	July 17, 2024
Study completion and submittal date	October 1, 2024
Report submitted and reviewed by BOCC	October 8, 2024
Report accepted and approved	October 15, 2024

II. Background
 Saguache County has outgrown the current space the county and judicial staff occupy. There is no additional space to expand and the need for more space continues to grow.

III. Project Description
 Saguache County is searching for a vender to conduct a feasibility study which will assist in deciding the option that best suits Saguache County, it's needs and its circumstances. The options are – a) Construct a new "Judicial Building" that would house the judicial portion of the current courthouse, b) Remodel the 3rd floor of the courthouse to better accommodate the Judicial Department, c) Build a new County Government complex. Cost of project study not to exceed \$70,000.

IV. Submittal Requirements
 Saguache County asks for a letter of interest which incorporates your experience and your qualifications. In addition, please include the cost of the study. Refer to the first page of this document for the address and manner of submitting your information.

V. Schedule – See RFP Schedule
 It is expected that the selected firm has the current capabilities and capacity to complete the project by the date listed in the project schedule. Provide a detailed schedule, including milestones, from the notice to proceed date the completion of the study, modifications or alterations, including deviations from the estimated schedule set forth in the RFP Schedule.

No. 1698 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2024

GRADS

Continued from Page 1A

say thank you to everyone who has helped, supported, and been there for us, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, teachers, counselors, coaches, friends, and everyone else. Now congrats class of 2024. We did it. So, let's congratulate ourselves because we just proved to not only us, but also others that dedication, hard work, and yes support, that we can accomplish anything. Some may say that sports are not needed, and it doesn't do anything for the kids, but personally my coaches have taught me the importance of life. They have taught me how to overcome a struggle and put the mistakes behind me. Life contains many losses and wins. To my classmates of 2024 I encourage you to keep a winning mindset. Mom, dad, I hope I can become half the parent you guys are to me. Thank you all again for joining us today none of this would be possible without you," Heater said.

The senior class then offered flowers and hugs to their loved ones for being with them at the graduation.

Graduates Mason Armenta and

Honey Sandoval were then asked to come up and speak.

Sandoval said, "I am truly grateful to be standing in front of you all today. I began reflecting on how many times we have all said, I can't wait for things like the end of school year, spring break or tests to be over. I know some of us are wishing we could go back to Freshman year. If you think about it, there are so many things growing up that we couldn't wait for. We couldn't wait to be in high school, become seniors, and even the big word graduating. Today marks the end of a road, and the beginning of another, there is always so much more to learn, so much more to achieve and so much more to give. Through all the struggles and hardships, we have gone through in high school, we made it this far. Nothing can hold us back now. I am so proud of every single one of you graduates. I would like my fellow classmates and everyone in the audience to think about my next words, hate has four letters but so does love, enemies has seven letters, but so does friends, lying has five



Photos by Marie Mccolm

Mountain Valley High School graduate Tristin Helmick proudly displays his diploma on May 18.

letters but so does trust, failure has seven letters but so does success. Class of 2024, you always have a



Mountain Valley High School graduates show their appreciation to their family and friends at their graduation ceremony on May 18.

choice, so choose wisely."

Armenta then said, "We will always cherish the memories of this place but now is the time to move on. We have been living with our whole lives scheduled out for us. There is no guarantee that any of our plans will work out, but our class is filled with great minds, and I can hope that once we leave today, we will reach the goals we want to achieve. As a child I always thought that we were never going to make it this far, it felt so far away, but now that we are all here, I am like where did all the time go. Is this our greatest achievement, I hope not I feel there are many more to come.

This is the end of high school but also the start of making our own choices. This is a happy day. Thank you all for coming to join us while we celebrate today."

A slide show of the senior class followed.

Mason Powers was the commencement speaker. Powers spoke about life and striving to always do their best.

One by one each student walked up to the staff of the school, shook hands, and accepted their diplomas.

The class was then announced as graduated and they were given a standing ovation as they stepped down from the stage.

NIGHT

Continued from Page 1A

all over the Valley, are invited to attend the event and enjoy the activities. There will be a lot of different activities for everyone to enjoy, and prizes given out too. Dinner will be served, a nice potato bake. We are trying to bring back more activities to Center. This is going to be a good one for everyone."

This year the Center Police Department has been a part of many activities and events, including participating in the Center Viking 5K Run and The Easter Egg hunt that took place at the Center Consolidated school district in April.

The Center Police Department also recently visited the Center

Consolidated school district and spoke to children about safety practices, safety and bullying. The Coffee with the Chief was also held on May 11 at Town Hall.

For more information on the upcoming Father Daughter Night, contact the police department at 719-754-2442 or Center Town Hall at 719-754-3497.

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New Electrify and Save Program expands access to beneficial electrification and energy efficiency to REC members

CONTRIBUTED

DENVER — Rural consumers can benefit from greater access to electrification and energy efficiency through a new program announced Friday from members of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, including San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (SLVREC).

Administered by the Colorado Clean Energy Fund (CCF), the Electrify and Save On-Bill Repayment Program will bring more affordable energy efficiency and electrification benefits to rural consumers.

The effort also will be boosted by the announcement that Tri-State and its members have secured \$75 million in loans for rural energy

efficiency efforts, through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP).

In an event held Friday at the Colorado State Capitol, Gov. Jared Polis voiced support for the On-Bill Repayment Program, which will

Please see PROGRAM on Page 2

Governor Polis discusses the benefits of Tri-State's On-Bill Repayment Program for its members.

From left to right, Colorado Energy Office Executive Director Will Toor, Sangre de Cristo Electric Association CFO Sarah Frites, SLVREC Marketing and Communications Manager Jennifer Alonzo, CCEF CEO Paul Scharfenberger, and Tri-State CEO Duane Highley.

Courtesy photo



SLV Health, Adams State, Hope and Home partner in Teddy Bear Clinic

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — On Saturday, April 20, several local families and children came together for the annual Hope and Home Teddy Bear Clinic. The clinic is an event designed for local children in the foster care system, and all children in the community were welcome to attend.

Kids brought their favorite stuffed animal to the Teddy Bear Clinic for a "wellness check." These stuffed animals, with the support of their child owner, visit a variety of stations from height and weight to optometry, to MRI's, x-rays, and even surgery if a stuffed bear needs a new button eye or some additional stuffing. This play and imagination are designed to help children create positive associations with the medical community, especially for those who may have had traumatic experiences in the past, such as children in the foster care system.

Thanks to numerous volunteers from SLV Health and Adams State University nursing program, the event was a huge success. The event broke a record this year by having the longest patient ever attending the clinic – a six-foot-long stuffed snake. Fun was certainly had by all, as well as the therapeutic benefits that this adorable event offers.

"As a mom who has adopted from foster care, and as someone who has gone on to license and support numerous local foster families, I can't overstate the importance of events like this. It's amazing to see how many children are impacted each year and we simply couldn't make it happen without the volunteerism and support of the community. We are truly grateful for those who joined us from SLV Health and Adams State University,"



Courtesy photo

On Saturday, April 20, several local families and children came together for the annual Hope and Home Teddy Bear Clinic.

said Annie Reed, Hope and Home Program Manager.

If you have ever considered becoming a foster parent, or if you would like

to be part of this event in 2025, call Hope and Home at 719-670-8090 or email Reed at areed@hopeandhome.org.

Martinez Memorial Scholarship 5K Run/Walk May 25

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — The 13th annual Sgt. Glen Martinez Memorial Scholarship 5K Run/Walk will be held at the Monte Vista Golf Course on Saturday, May 25. They will not be hosting a golf tournament this year.

All proceeds from the run benefit the Sgt. Glen E. Martinez Memorial Scholarship Fund, in which \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to a senior boy and senior girl of Monte Vista High School. If the students complete the first semester and will be continuing their higher education, they can be awarded an additional \$500 for the spring semester.

The 5K run/walk will begin on Saturday, May 25, at 7 a.m. at the Monte Vista Golf Course which will include breakfast, t-shirt, and ribbons (eight different age groups). The cost is \$20 pre-registration or \$25 on the event day. The deadline for mail-in registration and online registration is May 22. Please send mail-in registration to P.O. Box 181, Monte Vista, CO 81144 and register online at <https://glenmartinez5k.redpodium.com/gm>. For more information, call Ron or Carol at 719-850-3758 or 719-849-1830.

Glen was a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps when he and three other Marines were killed in action on May 2, 2008, while on a combat mission. The Humvee they were riding in hit a roadside bomb in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq.

Glen knew the value of education and the value of physical fitness. Growing up in Monte Vista, he par-

ticipated in nearly every sport available including football, wrestling, and baseball. He played in the band and was an excellent student. He was quarterback for the Pirates football team for three years and competed four years on the state wrestling team and played baseball all four years. Glen chose to play baseball for Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kan., on an academic and baseball scholarship where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics.

Glen subsequently earned a surveying degree from Westwood College and was going to work on his Master's Degree in Hydro-Engineering at Boulder, CU when he made his decision to join the Marine Corps. Living in Boulder, he explained, "he got tired of hearing people cutting down his country," so he decided to do something positive.

Glen could have gone directly into officer candidate school but chose to start at the bottom like all the other recruits. Should he go on to command, Glen said, he wanted to have hands-on experience rather than classroom philosophy. "I want those I command to know that I have been where they are," he said in an interview just after basic training. Glen was ready for whatever came.

After a childhood filled with the challenge of athletic competition, staying in peak physical shape was second nature to him and he strongly supported the discipline and leadership skills learned on the mat, football field, baseball diamond and the school room.

PROGRAM

Continued from Page 1

allow members and businesses in Colorado and across the West to install home improvement efficiency and beneficial electrification measures, at no up-front cost with the ability to repay over time through their monthly utility bill. Unlike traditional loan programs, unique underwriting criteria (rather than traditional loan underwriting criteria) assessES the member's bill pay history, thereby qualifying a broader base of participants.

Eligible energy measures under the On-Bill Repayment Program include funding for new insulation, windows and doors, water heaters, heat pumps, HVAC systems, electric vehicle charging and other qualifying energy-efficient technology. The program also includes home energy assessments and vetting for authorized contractors. Because the financial obligation is tied to the service location, rather than the individual, this program also is unique from traditional consumer loan programs, in that it does not affect credit scores or create additional debt for the member consumer.

In many cases, the energy savings achieved through the newly installed measures are greater than the monthly repayment obligation, thereby saving consumer members and businesses money on their utility bill every month.

Tri-State Chief Executive Officer Duane Highley and CCEF Chief Executive Officer Paul Scharfenberger joined Gov. Polis today in announcing the program.

"With this opportunity, members of electrical co-ops that are Tri-state customers can easily update their heating and cooling to more energy efficient options without upfront costs, saving them money and supporting the state we love for generations to come," Gov. Polis said.

Tri-State, its members and CCEF learned earlier last week that the U.S. Department of Agriculture had approved \$75 million in loans to Tri-State through the RESP, to be used on energy efficiency efforts for its members; of that amount, \$50 million in loans will be used to support the On-Bill Repayment Program. The RESP provides loans to rural utilities and other companies that, in turn, provide energy efficiency loans to qualified consumers who implement durable,



SLVREC Marketing and Communications Manager Jennifer Alonzo spoke at the Capitol on Friday regarding the new program.

cost-effective energy efficiency measures.

The first phase of the On-Bill Repayment Program, initially offered in March by SLVREC, is a standardized program developed by Tri-State, its distribution system members and CCEF. The Sangre de Cristo Electric Association (SDCEA) launched its on-bill repayment program last week, with other distribution cooperatives to initiate the program later this year. Eleven other members are planning to offer the program in the near future.

"Working together with Tri-State, our members are solving challenges and supporting the rural communities they serve" Highley said. "One of the historic roadblocks to helping consumers and businesses embrace energy efficiency and beneficial electrification has been securing access to the capital needed to make meaningful improvements that reduce their energy costs."

With CCEF and our members, we have a solution that provides financing in a simple, transparent and cost-effective way," Highley said.

Beneficial electrification refers to technology that takes advantage of a reliable, affordable and cleaner electric grid, thus reducing emissions and energy costs. For example, heat pumps can heat and cool

homes using only electricity and their technology is highly efficient.

With energy expertise and significant assets under management, CCEF will act as the program administrator, directing activities of the program center; recruiting and



SLVREC Board Director Scott Wolfe and Marketing and Communications Manager Jennifer Alonzo attended the Electrify and Save kickoff event at the Capitol on Friday.

enrolling authorized contractors; and managing financing disbursements and servicing.

"This program will help improve the lives of our members through energy savings and increased home values," added Eric Eriksen, chief

executive officer for SLVREC in Monte Vista, the first Tri-State member to offer the On-Bill Repayment Program. "I know this to be true because I've experienced the positive impacts of a similar program first-hand in Alaska."

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Droops
5. Subatomic particle
10. Not in danger
14. Nursemaid
15. Black band worn in mourning
16. Long song in opera
17. Edible seed of a Philippine tree
18. Chicago political family
19. Pursues pleasure from one place to another
20. Appetizer
22. Hill (Celtic)
23. Simple shoe
24. Songs to one you love
27. Secret activities
30. Upset
31. Popular hot drink
32. Body art (slang)
35. Fired
37. Blood relation
38. Identical
39. Porticos
40. Partner to cheese
41. Type of sword
42. Enough (archaic)
43. Surface layer of ground
44. Cotton fabric woven like satin
45. Choose for a post
46. Father
47. Tell on
48. Indian title of respect
49. Fonts
52. Fencing sword
55. Mock
56. Vaccine developer
60. Atmosphere surrounding a person or place
61. Marten with a short tail

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21	22			23				
			24	25			26					
27	28	29		30			31			32	33	34
35			36			37			38			
39					40			41				
42				43			44					
45				46			47			48		
			49			50			51			
52	53	54			55			56		57	58	59
60					61			62		63		
64					65					66		
67					68					69		

63. Chinese temple
64. Invests in little enterprises
65. Popular cut of meat
66. Charity
67. Iron-containing compound
68. River in Northern Europe
69. One point east of southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Exhausts
2. Genus of fish related to gars
3. Impudent behavior
4. Adherents to Islam
5. They come after A
6. Spoke
7. Room to receive guests
8. About opera
9. End-blown flute
10. Heroic tales
11. Member of a Semitic people
12. Dog's name
13. Opposite of west
21. Political divisions in ancient Greece
23. Ocean
25. Cool!
26. Young woman about to enter

- society
27. One from central Caucasus
28. Indian city
29. A way to serve ice cream
32. Emaciation
33. Escort aircraft carrier
34. Italian city
36. Mythical settler of Kansas
37. Unhappy
38. High schoolers' test
40. Measured in pace
41. Satisfies
43. Gullible person
44. Enclosed space
46. Substance used to color something
47. Shirt type
49. Discover by investigation
50. ___Castell, makers of pens
51. Semitic Sun god
52. Grads wear one
53. French river
54. Part of a cap
57. Digestive fluid
58. Metrical foot
59. Body part
61. Very fast airplane
62. Supplement with difficulty

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



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RATES

15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications \$19.50 + 95¢ each additional word.

Garage Sale Ads: 15 Words or less for 1 week \$12 + 35¢ each additional word.

Free ads: Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Limited to private party only, 2 ads per person, 4 weeks.)

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

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DEADLINE

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Call 719-852-3531
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05 Notices

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

07 Help Wanted

The SLV Landfill is accepting applications for a temporary Landfill Laborer/Backup Equipment Operator. Maintain landfill property, pick up trash, and be a backup equipment operator. Position open until filled. \$16.00 to \$17.00 per hour, 32 to 40 hours week. Applications can be emailed to Kim at officemanager@slvlandfill.com or returned at the office. Download the application at slvlandfill.com. (5-29)

Del Norte High School is seeking a qualified Secondary Business Teacher. We are seeking an experienced, hard-working and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, and vibrant team. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License with a Secondary Social Studies endorsement. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Annie Hardy at ahardy@urtigers.co or call Mrs. Hardy at (719) 657 - 4020. Applications can be accessed online at www.urtigers.co. (6-12)

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. (6-5)

SAGUACHE COUNTY ANNOUNCES AN OPENING FOR A FULL-TIME EMERGENCY MANAGER Job responsibilities include - Maintaining an integrated emergency management system for Saguache County including mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery projects. Manage budget, grants and accounting for the Office of Emergency Management. Promote

training opportunities, monitor NIMS compliance, plan and execute exercises and take corrective action. Work with State, Regional and Federal agencies to ensure coordinated disaster planning and response. Job requirements: Incident Command System experience, high school diploma or equivalent; bachelor's degree preferred. Minimum three years of related experience in emergency response or management if possible, and a valid Colorado driver's license. In addition to the starting salary rate of \$55,000/yr., the County Employee benefit package includes vision, dental, and health insurance coverage, paid time off, and a generous 401a retirement plan. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County, please note that the chosen candidate will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening, which will include testing for marijuana use and criminal background check, before being hired. Applications and a complete job de-

scription are available at the Saguache County Administration Office, 505 3rd Street, PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149 - 719-655-2231 or on the Saguache County website - saguachecounty.colorado.gov. Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Administration - at the address listed above, sent by email to wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov, or faxed to 719-655-2635. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 3PM. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

SAGUACHE COUNTY ANNOUNCES AN OPENING FOR A FULL-TIME HOUSING DIRECTOR Experienced individual sought for the position of Housing Director for the Saguache County Housing Authority. Responsibilities include being the management agent for two apartment complexes owned by the Saguache County Housing Authority. Applicants must possess professional

office and interpersonal skills, property management experience, and a high level of initiative. The starting salary will be \$55,000 per year depending on experience. A valid Colorado Drivers license is also required. In addition to the starting salary rate of \$55,000/yr., the County Employee benefit package includes vision, dental, and health insurance coverage, paid time off, and a generous 401a retirement plan. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County, please note

the chosen candidate will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening, which will include testing for marijuana use and criminal background check, before being hired. Applications and a complete job description are available at the Saguache County Administration Office, 505 3rd Street, PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149 - 719-655-2231 or on the Saguache County website - saguachecounty.colorado.gov. Completed applications can be hand delivered or

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.

Conour Upper Rio Grande Animal Society

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

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



We still have 4 of Lily's puppies and they are more than ready for their forever homes! They are going to be 5 months old on the 29th this month, very playful, active, loving and intelligent Lab/Boxer mixes. Good with kids and other dogs, and will definitely bring lots of joy to your life! Come meet Larkspur, Aster, Poppy, and Allium today!



We currently have 13 puppies and we are FLYING through our puppy kibble! We would truly appreciate any donations that could be sent our way! Pedigree or Purina puppy is what we typically use, but any and all brands are accepted. Thank you all for your continued support!



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Please note adoptions go in order of contact made.

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mailed to Saguache County Administration – at the address listed above, sent by email to wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov, or faxed to 719-655-2635. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 3PM. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Dynamic English/Spanish Secondary Teacher wanted at Creede School District. Opportunity awaits for you to teach at The Creede School District. Visit our Employment Opportunities Website at Creedek12.net for job description, qualifications, and competitive benefits package, or call 719-658-2220 (5-29)

The City of Monte Vista is accepting applications for a seasonal Parks Maintenance Worker. This position is approximately 16 weeks, 40 hours/wk. Duties include mowing, trimming, watering parks and trash pickup. Wage is \$16.00-\$17.00 per hour. Applications and job description are available at www.cityofmontevista.colorado.gov or pickup/return applications to the City of Monte Vista, Human Resources, 95 West First Ave. Monte Vista, CO. 81144. Open until filled. (5-29)

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

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
ESTATE SALE: 701 La Garita Ave Creede CO, Saturday May 25 and Sunday May 26 8am-4pm. Home full of generational and eclectic gems. Many original paintings of both Nell Wyley and Kay Wyley, furniture and much much more. (5-15)

28 Household Goods
For sale 20.5 cubic feet Kenmore Refrigerator/Freezer. \$225. 719-852-2028 (6-5)

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

32 Fuel & Heating
Firewood For Sale. Call or text Mark 662-361-7530 Located in Saguache.

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)

Public auction Friday evening May 24 - small animals and misc. items. 8037 South Co. Rd. 2 East, Monte Vista, CO 81144. Livestock, sheep, alpine kids, nanny and kid, turkey, laying hens, guineas, Argente rabbits, cross-bred rabbits, black and white pigeons, pekin ducks 14 yr. old. Shop tools, elec. air compressor, several generators. Hay and straw horse related, 3x4 oat and alfalfa, small bales straw, set show harness, set driving harness, several collars, saddles and misc. tack. Misc., 13-foot fiberglass boat w/trailer, 25 hp Johnson and trolling motor, fish finder, stack old barnwood, stack rough cut lumber, misc. lumbered plywood, several culverts, more expected by sale day. Commission 10% on livestock and hay; 15% on misc. Lunch available, stand opens 4:30 p.m. Sale time 6 p.m. Auctioneer James Hochstetler, of Antonito. Call Eddie for unloading, consignments, 719-849-8063. Rocky Mountain Auction Service

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

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Saturday May 25, 2024

At Cole Park

From 9:30 AM—11:00 AM

Trivia Prizes after Service!

Please bring chairs, blankets, and a picnic basket

Rabbi George Lelesz

SLV Ranch Preacher and Doctor of Divinity

Bring your Bible

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



Approx. 6 Acres, Beautiful Views in Bear Creek
\$91,000 | MLS #803984
61 Red Tail Court South Fork, CO

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Rito Hondo Estates- 18 Rural Mountain Lots
6-35 Acres
\$85,000-950,000
West of Antonito in the Conejos Canyon CO

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

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DOMESTIC WELL
SEPTIC
SOLAR

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

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LUXURY HOME BROKER
M: 719-873-5605



1,270 Sq.Ft. Off-Grid Cabin on approx. 5.24 Acres
\$279,000 | MLS #809447
7541 Indian Creek Rd. Fort Garland, CO

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



Dee Plucinski
Dee-: Formally known as Diane Chapman, Local Luxury Home Broker. Licensed in 2011; knows the area and knows real estate.

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Approx. 2,349 Sq.Ft. and 42 Acres
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Approximately 160 Acres Farmland
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VIDEO WALKTHROUGHS
RESIDENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHER
LICENSED AND INSURED DRONE PILOT



All Dee's properties are detailed in her blog.




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23 Fairway Drive South Fork, CO

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M: 719-873-5605



99 Aspen Drive - Log Cabin Bordering National Forest
\$399,500 | MLS #812823
3 Bedroom 1.5 bath, South Fork, CO

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

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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

1408 Bear Creek Circle • South Fork

Exceptional Mountain Retreat nestled within the prestigious gated community of Bear Creek, this Exquisite home at 1408 Bear Creek Circle offers an unparalleled blend of Elegance, Tranquility, and Natural beauty. With 3,882 square feet of meticulously designed living space, this property is a sanctuary for those seeking rest from the everyday hustle. Interior Features: Entryway with Stained Glass Doors. The grand entrance sets the tone, welcoming you into a large, elegant living room complete with a corner fireplace and an adjacent wet bar—perfect for entertaining guests. Large Custom Kitchen: The heart of this home boasts custom alder wood cabinets, beautiful quartz countertops, and a butler pantry with built-in custom shelving and storage cabinets. The kitchen seamlessly leads to a spacious laundry area flooded with natural light, making laundry a pleasant task. Beautiful Dining Room: Accessible from the kitchen, the dining room opens to a spacious awe-inspiring back deck. Perfect place to enjoy that first cup of morning coffee. Stairway to Loft: Ascend the large staircase to the open loft—an ideal space for a game area and home office. 3 Bedrooms: Master Bedroom (Main Floor): Flooded with ample natural light, the master bedroom provides a cozy ambiance. It features a spacious retreat with a jumbo-sized walk-in closet complete with custom shelving and cabinets. The master bath includes a walk-in shower and spa tub for your in-home spa experience. Additional 1 and a 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: Wake up to awe-inspiring vistas of the surrounding peaks. The ever-changing canvas of sunrises and sunsets will leave you breathless. Wildlife Haven: Immerse yourself in the enchanting wilderness. Mule deer, elk, and even the elusive black bear occasionally grace the property. Year-Round Adventure: Explore hundreds of miles of ATV trails right outside your door. In winter, hit the slopes at Wolf Creek Ski Area, just 30 minutes away. Tranquil Creekside Strolls: Meander along the community walking trails that follow the gentle curves of Bear Creek. Listen to the soothing sounds of water as you unwind. This is more than a home; it's an invitation to embrace the rugged elegance of Colorado's high country. Escape to 1408 Bear Creek Circle and discover a lifestyle where luxury meets wilderness. **MLS# 813472 - \$1,420,000**



NEW LISTING!

exp REALTY Bernadette Gingrass
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bmgingrass@gmail.com
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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 rustic elegance and modern amenities. 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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719-850-1993
bmgingrass@gmail.com
License #100072622

0254 Timberline Trail • South Fork

Discover The Essence of Excellence Mountain Living in this custom-built Masterpiece! Situated on 1.84 sloping acres within the prestigious Rio Grande Club, this 4,466 sq ft home offers unparalleled vistas and modern elegance. Key Features: Inspiring Views: Unsurpassed panoramas stretch north, east, and south, capturing the rugged beauty of the San Juan Mountains. Architectural Marvel: A two-level design seamlessly blends contemporary finishes with a mountain aesthetic. Grand Entryway: Step into the vaulted ceiling living room adorned with Swedish Cope logs and a striking rock gas fireplace. Expansive Deck: Access the large stone rock deck from the living area, where you'll soak in views of the golf course, mountains, and valley below. Gourmet Kitchen: Culinary enthusiasts will appreciate custom cabinets, granite countertops, and top-of-the-line Wolf appliances. Master Suite: The upper-level primary suite boasts a spa-like bathroom and an adjacent study. Lower-Level Comfort: Three additional bedrooms with 9-foot ceilings offer Alderwood doorways and magnificent vistas. Entertainment Haven: The lower level features a spacious game room with a pool table, TV, and workout equipment. Year-Round Comfort: Radiant floor heat and an extra-large 1000-gallon propane tank ensure warmth during chilly days. Outdoor Delight: Enjoy ever-changing mountain views from the adjacent deck or cozy up by the stone mantel gas fireplace. Gas-Burning Fireplace: The lower level sitting area with a mini bar and stunning views is perfect for relaxation and entertaining family and friends. This home includes an adjacent parcel allowing direct access to the national forest from the front of the property so enjoying your favorite outdoor activities are just steps away. The 2-car garage has workshop hot & cold sink an extra - large 76-gallon water heater, water softener. Programmable hot water throughout the home, hot & cold water outside faucet and plenty of room for storage and a workbench. There is a security system monitored by Valley Lock and Security. Land lines in most every room. Century-Link phone highspeed internet and Direct TV. Managed lighting and surround sound throughout the home and the Smart Home allows you to control from anywhere. This home is a Hole in One! One of a kind, designed and built providing that sense of hospitality, openness, beauty, and tranquility. Location Highlights: Rio Grande Club: Overlooking the 11th hole, this exclusive community offers golf, recreation, and natural beauty. Outdoor Paradise: Explore nearby trails, fishing spots, the Rio Grande River, the South Fork River and Wolf Creek Ski area. Doesn't get any more epitome than this! Check out the Video. Call and schedule your private showing today! **MLS#811509 - \$2,750,000**



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222 La Lomita Circle • South Fork

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



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Brian Williams — bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com

Coronary Calcium Scoring is SLV Health's newest service

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — San Luis Valley Health (SLVH) recently announced the addition of Coronary Calcium Scoring as a new service line in the Imaging and Radiology Services department at the Regional Medical Center in Alamosa.

Coronary Calcium Scoring is a valuable tool in assessing the extent of calcification in coronary arteries. Quantifying calcified lesions provides clinicians with crucial information about a patient's risk for cardiovascular events such as heart attacks.

Low-dose CT scans, typically with doses below 1-2 mSv, ensure minimal radiation exposure to patients while still producing high-quality images necessary for accurate calcium scoring. These scans can be acquired using techniques such as ECG-triggered sequences or retrospectively gated spiral scans, which help synchronize image acquisition with the patient's cardiac cycle for optimal results.

Numerous studies have validated the effectiveness of Coronary Calcium Scoring in monitoring changes in coronary calcium load over time. This capability enables healthcare providers to track the progression of atherosclerosis, adjust treatment plans accordingly, and assess the effectiveness of interventions aimed at reducing cardiovascular risk.

Recent studies have indicated that Coronary Calcium Scoring shows promise as a good risk assessment tool in women and multi-ethnic populations, and it may be a better predictor of coronary heart disease

compared to more traditional cardiac risk evaluation methods. Coronary Calcium Scoring can also be used in a pre-surgical workup before performing cardiothoracic surgery.

Coronary Calcium Scoring plays a crucial role in cardiovascular risk assessment and management, providing clinicians with valuable insights into a patient's coronary health and aiding in personalized treatment decisions.

This service is being offered as Direct to Consumer, with the results going directly to the patient and no insurance will be billed. The cost will be \$100. To schedule this procedure, contact the SLVH RMC Imaging and Radiology Department at 719-587-1231.

Robyn Williams, Imaging Manager for the SLVH Radiology Department, by the CT machine that will be used in the Scoring assessment.

Courtesy photo



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.

To qualify for a cash prize the float must be in the parade on both days, Friday and Saturday mornings. The parades start at 10 a.m. each day with lineup at 8:30 a.m. The parade route will begin in downtown Monte Vista at the Shell gas station and head west to the corner on Davis Street heading back east toward Safeway.

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

The San Luis Valley Ski Hi Stampede Rodeo was founded in 1919 and is a PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association) sanctioned sporting event that is a non-profit organization made up of over 200 volunteers.

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

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Sean - 720-254-4902
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Trinidad State a semifinalist for 2025 Aspen Prize

CONTRIBUTED
WASHINGTON DC — On May 7, the Aspen Institute named Trinidad State College as a semifinalist for the 2025 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The Aspen Prize is the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among community colleges. The institutions selected for this honor stand out among more than 1,000 community colleges nationwide as having high and improving levels of student success, as well as equitable outcomes for Black and Hispanic students and those from lower-income backgrounds.

"At Trinidad State we see potential in every student who walks through our doors," said Trinidad State President Rhonda M. Epper. "Our students are successful because our faculty and staff believe in them and are committed to making their dreams a reality. We are so honored to be included in this esteemed group of community colleges."

Awarded every two years, the Aspen Prize honors colleges with outstanding performance in six critical areas: teaching and learning, certificate and degree completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment, workforce success, broad access to the college and its offerings, and equitable outcomes for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds. The winner will be announced in the spring of 2025, and will receive a \$1 million award, which comes with the prestigious honor.

Joshua Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program, congratulated the semifinalists. "Each of these colleges has demonstrated a sustained commitment to moving beyond enrollment and retention as the markers of student success to defining their success by whether the education they provide changes lives," Wyner said. "These colleges understand that enrollment and graduation matter most when tied tightly to post-graduation success in transferring for a bachelor's degree and in securing fulfilling, good-paying jobs and careers."

The Aspen Prize selection process began in October 2023, when Aspen invited 150 community colleges to apply, based on data showing strong, improving, and equitable student outcomes in key areas such as retention, completion, and transfer. One hundred and eighteen colleges applied, and their applications went to a diverse selection committee of 18 higher education experts who assessed each application based on extensive data and narrative answers to questions. Following interviews with leadership teams from applicants receiving top scores, 20 semifinalists were selected. In the coming weeks, the committee will continue its review and narrow the field to 10 finalists, which will be announced in June.

After the 10 finalists are announced, next steps in the process include:

- Fall 2024: Multi-day in-person site visits to each of the 10 finalists, during which the Aspen Institute and

partners will collect additional information and data, including extensive employment and earnings data on graduates from the finalist colleges.

- Winter 2025: A distinguished, independent Aspen Prize jury will review data and qualitative summaries that synthesize each part of the 14-month analyses, then meet for a full day to select the winner and others for additional recognition.

- Spring 2025: Announcement of the Aspen Prize winner and celebration of the 10 finalists in Washington DC.

To read more on the selection process, visit <https://highered.aspen-institute.org/aspen-prize/>.

The Aspen Prize is generously funded by Ascendium, the Joyce Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, and the Kresge Foundation.

Trinidad State College has been named as a semifinalist for the 2025 Aspen Award. Pictured here is the Alamosa campus of the college.

Photo by John Waters



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