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## News in Brief

### Faith Hinkley Veterans Memorial Park fundraiser

MONTE VISTA — The City of Monte Vista is organizing a fundraiser to complete the Faith Hinkley Veterans Memorial Park. People can purchase a brick to honor or memorialize a veteran. The bricks will be laid by Veteran's Day of 2024.

For more information, contact the City of Monte Vista at 719-852-5926 or 719-852-6171.

### Bird walk May 11

ALAMOSA — Join the Friends of the Refuges for a Saturday morning bird walk at 8 a.m. on May 11. Meet in the parking lot for the Malm Trail, 8210 S. River Rd., Alamosa. The trail is muddy and wet, so waterproof boots are helpful along with binoculars, water, snacks and sun and insect protection. The walk is free and will end around noon.

Spring bird migration is in full swing, and there should be both common and uncommon birds to be seen.

### Silver Thread Studio Tour seeks participants

The Creede Arts Council is proud to be hosting the annual Silver Thread Studio Tour on Saturday, Aug. 17, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and is seeking artists from South Fork and Creede to participate. The Studio Tour showcases artists in the area — from emerging artists to those with national recognition. Previous venues have included private homes, studios, and art galleries where artists may exhibit their work.

Artists will share ideas, answer questions, and or perform demonstrations for the public. Artwork will be showcased and available for purchase. All types of artists across mediums are encouraged to apply.

Artist locations must be between South Fork and Creede, ending at The Studios at Bristol. To download an application, visit [www.creed-arts-council.com/silver-thread-studio-tour](http://www.creed-arts-council.com/silver-thread-studio-tour). For questions or more information, e-mail [creedarts@outlook.com](mailto:creedarts@outlook.com) or call the CAC at 719-658-0312. The application deadline is June 1.

## Money going to top floats at Ski-Hi Stampede parades

Theme is 'Heroes Among Us'

CONTRIBUTED

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 pa-

*Please see PARADE on Page 2A*

The Ski-Hi Stampede parades will be on July 12 and 13 in downtown Monte Vista. Cash prizes are being awarded to the top floats.

File photo



## Sargent holds memorial dedication for Adams

Bench placed in honor of the longtime educator, advisor

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Approximately 40 people attended a memorial dedication ceremony for Sargent School District teacher and FBLA advisor Sharon Adams on May 1. Adams passed away Thursday, Nov. 23, 2023.



Approximately 40 people attended a memorial dedication ceremony for Sargent School District teacher and FBLA advisor Sharon Adams on May 1. Adams passed away Thursday, Nov. 23, 2023. Her husband, Kerry Adams, is pictured near the bench.

Photos by Marie Mccolm

A memorial bench with a plaque honoring Adams will be set up at the school. The bench was placed at the school and the plaque will be added when finished.

Sargent Academic Booster Club member Shon Davis, *Please see ADAMS on Page 6A*



Kerry Adams speaks at the memorial dedication ceremony for his wife, Sharon, at Sargent School District on May 1. Sargent Academic Booster Club member Shon Davis, right, was the emcee of the event.

## MV City narrows list for its next police chief

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Monte Vista City Manager Gigi Dennis updated the city council on the search for a police chief during their regular meeting on May 2.

Dennis said they have narrowed the candidate list and were conducting second interviews of the finalists.

"I am going to include some of the officers during the interview process," Dennis said. "The other candidate couldn't make it, so we will do another interview next Friday and then hopefully have an announcement. Interim Chief Gene Ortega is doing a great job right now, we appreciate him. We also do have one police officer who is with the National Guard and will be deployed for a year and leaving us. So, we will be having to make some accommodation for that too."

A farewell party was held for Monte Vista Police Department Chief George Dingfelder late last month. Dennis thanked everyone for attending.

*Please see CHIEF on Page 2A*

## Sargent's Willis named 'Educator of the Year'

STAFF REPORT

VALLEY — Sargent High School history teacher John Willis was named the San Luis Valley's 2024 Educator of the Year by the SLV Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES). The 38th annual ceremony was held Wednesday, May 1, at the Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista and was sponsored by San Luis Valley Federal Bank.

Willis was among 13 educators from across the Valley nominated for the honor. The other 12 nominees were:

Megan Mortensen, third grade, Alamosa; Audrey Rael, fourth grade, Centennial; Lindsay Stillwagon, first grade, Center; Linda Vigil, third grade, Moffat; Kellyn Ross, elementary instructional coach and middle school "sped" teacher, Monte Vista;

Owen Zoils, second grade, Mountain Valley; Andrew Shelton, middle school science, North Conejos; Kyle Canty, middle school and high school math, Sanford; Irene Baker, third/fifth English, Sangre de Cristo; Andy McKim, special education, SLV BOCES; Chris Parrill, high school history, Sierra Grande; and Joseph Guenther, K-12 PE, South Conejos.

John Willis, history teacher at Sargent High School (right) was named SLV Educator of the Year last week by SLV Board of Cooperative Education Services. Shown are, from left, BOCES employees Stacey Holland, Denille LePlatt, Board President Ramon Garcia and Adeline Duarte-Lee.

Photo by Kyle Burnett Photography



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# OBITUARY

## Martha Kelly Owens Jan. 16, 1939 - May 2, 2024

Martha Kelly Owens, 85, passed away Thursday, May 2, 2024, at Alive Hospice in Murfreesboro, Tenn., after a brief illness. Born on Jan. 16, 1939, in Tullahoma, Tenn., Martha was the daughter of the late Virgil S. Owens and the late Ethel Spencer Owens. As a child, she was surrounded by her extended Owens Family. While she loved her two brothers, Robert (Bobby) and Patrick (Pat); her first cousin, the late Nancy Owens Bussche, was her near constant companion.

Martha excelled in school – both academically and socially – and remained lifelong friends with her school girlfriend group that included her cousin Nancy, Ann (Soesbe) Rust, Joanne (Hawker-smith) Roberson, Martha (Marty) Parish Ligon, the late Nancy Potter Newby, and others. Together they giggled their way through Sunday School, Tullahoma High School, Sub-Debs, and adventures large and small in the 1950s. Martha learned the satisfaction of hard work done well from her mother, Ethel.

As a 14-year-old she was recommended (by Mrs. Blanche McClure – an adored teacher) as “the fastest, best typist” among the young girls in Tullahoma which resulted in Martha taking her first job at WJIG Radio in Tullahoma. Her work at the radio station solidified her love of great music – rock and roll, soul, blues, country, and bluegrass. Unlike many of her friends – she preferred Fats Domino, Aretha Franklin, and Chuck Berry over Elvis. In later years, she was all Willie Nelson, all the time.

As a junior at Tullahoma High, she was bowled over when a young man named John Grider moved to town from Louisville, Kentucky. They married in 1957, the same year they graduated from THS and had two children – John Clay Grider, Jr. and Lisa Elizabeth Grider, before divorcing in 1962. Martha remained friends to the end with John Grider, Sr. and came to love and cherish his wife, Sharon Grider. Martha was a welcomed guest at their home several times and enjoyed being co-grandparents, and great-grandparents.

A combination of necessity and drive, propelled Martha through a professional life filled with accomplishments, accolades and an enormous amount of dear friends who crossed her path “in the office.” After working for a number of years as a secretary at AEDC (Arnold Engineering Development Center), she became the secretary to the late John M. McCord at the Tullahoma law firm of Henry & McCord. Martha was forever grateful for the guidance, tough love, and demand for high quality work that Mr. McCord instilled in her.

“The law” became Martha’s professional calling and she continued to work as a legal assistant for many years, serving as Legal Assistant and Office Manager for Manchester attorney and business leader J. Stanley Rogers, on and off, from the mid-1980s until she finally put down her steno pad in 2017. Numerous young professionals have expressed appreciation for all that Martha taught them, including retired Manchester attorney Christina Duncan who said, “I learned as much about the law from Miss Martha as I did in



law school!”

Martha’s life took another surprising turn in 1988 when she traveled with her daughter to a small town in the San Juan mountains (the southern Rockies) called Creede, Colo., for the first time. From the moment she got there, Creede captured her heart and her spirit. As much as she loved her dear friends and colleagues in Middle Tennessee, she quoted the great John Muir: “The mountains are calling and I must go.” Visiting Creede and Thirty Mile Resort at the headwaters of the Rio Grande for several years, she surprised almost everyone by resigning her position at Mr. Rogers’ firm, selling her home in Coffee County, and moving to Creede, where she lived for 17 years. Only reluctantly, did Martha leave Creede in 2017 when her children expressed their concern about the remote location and her health.

As was typical, Martha quickly became a force in the small town of Creede. Shortly after settling in town, she went to work for Mark Richter of Willow Creek Realty, eventually earning her real estate license and becoming Mark’s partner in that business, helping many other Creede lovers find their place in what she considered paradise. The vagaries of the real estate business eventually prompted her to end her relationship with Willow Creek and she accepted a position as the Director of the Creede Chamber of Commerce.

Even her move to Creede paled in comparison to the most significant change in Martha’s life. In early 1990,

Martha took two enormous steps, simultaneously. The first was to return to the faith of her youth and recommit her life to Christ at Tullahoma Baptist Church. The second part of her leap of faith was to walk through the doors of a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. Committing herself completely to both aspects of that journey, she left this world a devoted Christian and sober for 35 years.

Beyond Martha’s professional career, she was an active volunteer most of her life, lending her energy and expertise to a wide range of organizations. From Sunday School and women’s ministry leader, City Council member in Creede and Board member of a state-wide Legal Assistants association to a women’s prison ministry program and church-based thrift store – Martha shared her time, her talent, and her expertise joyfully.

Martha is survived by her son John C. Grider, Jr. of Manchester, Tenn., and her daughter Lisa Grider and son-in-law Mitch Lawrence of Fort Worth, Texas; her three granddaughters – Lindsey Celeste (Grider) Jarvis and her husband Jon Jarvis of Carlsbad, Calif.; Lauren Kelly Grider of Carlsbad, Calif.; and Cornelia (Neeley) Elizabeth Lawrence of Fort Worth, Texas; and her beloved 4-year-old great-grandson John Callum Jarvis. She is also survived by her two brothers and their wives: Rear Admiral Robert S. Owens, United States Navy (retired) and his wife Martha (Rutledge) Owens of Fairfax, Va.; Patrick W. Owens and his wife Libby (Stilts) Owens of Mt. Juliet, Tenn., and her nieces and nephews: Charles Owens of Knoxville, Tenn.; Cathy Owens of Virginia Beach, Va., Andrea Owens of Mt. Juliet, Tenn., and Thomas Owens of Daytona Beach, Fla. In addition to immediate family, Martha is treasured by her extended family of Owens cousins and special friends throughout the United States.

Martha’s life will be celebrated in two locations – with dates to be determined in the coming days. One Memorial Service will take place in Coffee County, with another to be scheduled at Creede (Colorado) Baptist Church later this summer. To make a gift in Martha’s memory, please consider the following or choose your own nonprofit organization:

Creede Baptist Church 600 La Garita Street Creede, CO 81130 (719) 658-2312 <https://www.creede-baptistchurch.org>

Alive Hospice 1629 Williams Drive Murfreesboro, TN 37129 (615) 327-1065 [www.alivehospice.org](http://www.alivehospice.org)

## Girl Scout cookies to the rescue



Contributed photo

Alamosa Girl Scout Troop No. 36252 picked Alamosa Search and Rescue as well as the Alamosa School District Transportation department as their Hometown Hero’s and donated 269 boxes of girl scout cookies to each hometown hero with a grand total of donated cookies of 538 boxes. Thanks for all the community support during cookie season.

## CHIEF

Continued from Page 1A

Dingfelder is the new Alamosa Police Department chief.

Dennis gave an update to the council on the work at City Hall.

“The front painting is done. We are still touching up handrails and such. The back doors are painted. We still have a door that needs to be replaced. Rob is working with Xcel to get a little bit more light in the police area, where our vehicles and such are kept. We are moving, and it’s looking good. Carpet has been ordered, and that’s scheduled for August,” she said.

Dennis also thanked city staffers Rob and Unitia Vance personally.

“They have been in here like little elves, painting over the weekend,” she said.

## PARADE

Continued from Page 1A

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

The meeting also included a couple of proclamations. May is Mental Health Awareness Month for Monte Vista. May 5-11 is officially Municipal Clerks Week. May 6-10 is National Teacher Appreciation Week. National Police Week is May 12-18. And National Public Works Week is May 19-25.

Mayor Dale Becker thanked everyone at the meeting for helping him read the proclamations and said, “If everyone will stand up, I want to thank all of you, for all that you do for this community. “Everyone at the meeting stood up and clapped.

The next City Council meeting will be held on May 16, at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

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](http://www.skihistampede.com).

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Go call your mother

I knew this old man who loved to tell the same story over and over and over, like old people often do. He got such a huge kick out of it, though, so we all tolerated him and laughed along. The story went something like this: a private detective was hired by a woman to find her son, a Mr. Dun, as he had seemingly disappeared into thin air.

The search soon expanded to a world wide adventure but each time the detective almost caught up with the missing man, he disappeared again. Finally in the wilds of Tibet the detective thinks he has tracked Mr. Dun down and goes into a bar which is devoid of people. He asks the bartender if anyone else is around. The bartender says well only one guy who is out back in the outhouse.

The detective quickly proceeds out to the outhouse only to be met by a man coming out of the privy. The detective blurts out "Are you Dun?" and the man stammers, "Yes." To which the Detective says, "Go call your mother." I know. It's a cornball joke but my friend found great joy in telling it over and over much like Ol' Dutch has been known to do on different subjects of course.

For you see the problem is as we get older we can't remember who we told what and, to be quite honest with you, we don't care. You only have to be around an RV park all summer to find out that this is not only happening on a daily basis but also quite common in occurrence.

And I said all that to bring us around to this week's highlight of another Holiday Weekend. That's right. It's Mothers Day come Sunday.

There is one thing I guess that joins us all in the human experience for sure and that is we all had a mother at one time or another regardless of our present circumstances. Think of all the mothers in the world. Some were overprepared for the arrival of the bundle of joy. And, some were a bit more nonchalant about the event. No matter what, though, most of them loved us deeply.

I know. There are always a few bad apples out there who for one reason or another were terrible at the job



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

but this weekend we are going to celebrate the good mothers with the bad regardless. For without their contribution of bringing us life we would not be around to bother other people.

Ol' Dutch has a wonderful mother and I was also fortunate to have known Miss Trixie's mother before she passed to her great reward. She was a jewel like none other.

We were both fortunate to have been raised by women who loved us deeply and always wanted the best for us and I believe it showed throughout our adult lives. Miss Trixie, of course, got the best of training and it seems to have stuck as she is a great partner to me, friend to others and helpmate like no one I know. And Ol' Dutch also had a great time growing up with a good mother even though some or most of that training may have been forgotten along the way according to Miss Trixie.

Come Sunday, take time to call your mother or take her out to lunch. And if your mother has passed away like ours, take your wife or best friend out in celebration of the day. And when the waitress asks you at the end of your meal, "are you done?" you can smile and recall my old friend and say "yes."

*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.*

## Keeping wildlife wild

We crept through the dense forest as if our life depended on it. The forest floor was soft and silent from the recent spring snowstorm and the vanishing winter's melting snow. Quietly stalking our targets that we had seen from the ridge an hour before, we weaved through the snow drifts and trees, careful not to make any unnatural sounds.

Slowing our pace as we neared the edge of the tree line, the brightness of the open meadow cast an increasing number of dart-like rays of light through the forest. Taking care to remain in the shadows, the last few feet took a painstaking ten minutes to cover.

Moving slow and purposefully, and filled with excited anticipation, we watched as our quarry began moving around in the meadow.

Oblivious to our presence a mere hundred yards away, the calf elk alternated grazing on the green shoots of grass and with what can only be described as childish antics – running, dodging, jumping, and bobbing their heads in a form of play that presumably had a more meaningful purpose arising from deep within their genes.

We slowly set up the tripod in our chosen shadow with tree branches providing the cover we needed to remain undetected. With the camera in position Daryl slowly lowered his head to the viewfinder. After only a couple seconds of looking he turned to me and frowned.

Switching places, I looked for myself and instantly realized Daryl's disappointment. The sun was in our eyes, nearly washing out the entire frame of the camera, rendering our dreams for an awesome photo to remain in dream status indefinitely.

The silver lining was that we were able to watch this small herd of cow and calf elk in their spring habitat. The social interactions within the herd seemed incredibly complex to me, even though I've been watching elk for years.

We took a few photos just to document the situation and backed out as quietly as we had come in. A glance back, just as the forest blocked our view of the elk, led us to believe they still had no clue that we had been secretly observing their family on this fine spring day.

You probably noticed that we paid particular attention to using a stealthy approach as we neared the meadow. The intent was to not frighten the herd and cause them to run, which can cause undue stress on the animals. Especially in the spring.

Their favorite and most productive forage has been buried under the snow for months and is just now starting to become available for grazing, but certainly not in abundance. The cows have been using stored fat to sustain themselves during the long winter months. They have recently given birth to the calves and their bodies need to recuperate from the stress of calving, nursing their new babies, and simply



**Land Water and People**  
By Gregg Goodland



Photo by Doug Clark, Rio Grande National Forest Wildlife Biologist  
The photo is of a calf elk in the San Juan Mountains.

the long winter.

Of course, the calves just need to eat, drink and get bigger and stronger as fast as they can to ensure their survival. Running in a primal fear will burn critical energy that would be better spent on growing up.

This brings up another point. We often hear of well-intended forest users finding deer fawns or elk calves (or any baby animal for that matter) sitting, almost hiding alone in the woods and, much to our dismay, they bring those wrongly considered abandoned babies to the forest or wildlife offices.

This is not recommended by literally every wildlife agency I can think of. If you see a lone young animal, leave it alone and clear the area as quietly and soon as possible. The most likely scenario that is happening is that the mother purposely placed their baby there so they could come back to it soon. Your presence is probably stopping the mother from returning to the baby.

A common myth to dispel is that "if you touch it, the mother will reject it." That's truly not likely to happen and you should just leave it where it is or put it back. It will most likely be fine.

Finally, I want to discourage everyone from feeding these animals. They are wild and need to stay that way. Instinctually, animals will find food and yes, sometimes it is difficult for them. But, by offering food, you risk developing a reliance on you and altering their natural movement patterns, possibly putting them in danger of roads and predators.

Understand that you cannot always be there for them, and they will always need food and water. Their natural habitat provides it for them. It always has.

The earlier story happened many years ago and, frankly, I can't imagine even trying to quietly sneak around to get a photo now. I know better and it's just not worth the risk to the wildlife. I urge you all to join me in keeping our wildlife wild.

*Gregg Goodland is the Public Affairs Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest. As an avid outdoor enthusiast, he encourages individual stewardship and responsible use of our public lands.*

## LETTER

### Rio Grande Reservoir Rehabilitation Project Recreational & Environmental Provisions – Action Far Past Due

Editor,  
Recreation on the Rio Grande is a vital contributor to the local economies of Mineral, Rio Grande and Hinsdale counties, and the principal reason many come to our area to live and recreate. It was, therefore, exciting to hear at the 100-year anniversary of the Rio Grande Reservoir in 2012 that the rehabilitated dam would operate as a "multi-purpose" facility with provisions for enhancing environmental and recreational assets. Attendees were told that "we won't just provide minimum flows," "we're going to provide optimum flows." The reha-

bilitation project was named "The Rio Grande Cooperative Project" and was described as, "a breakthrough partnership that provides for rehabilitation of the reservoir with "new operating strategies to meet multiple needs." Taxpayer and grant funding for the rehabilitation (now \$40 million) was predicated on implementing these provisions. After 12 years and numerous promises, however, that commitment remains an empty promise.

Water releases from the Rio Grande reservoir were again completely shut off from last November to this April - five

months. This longstanding practice leaves much of the upper Rio Grande's riverbed completely dry year after year. The combination of long-term drought and a lack of winter releases has negatively impacted fishing and recreation on the Rio Grande as well as the aquatic insect populations that fish depend on for survival. Many longtime Rio Grande fishers have expressed concern over the diminished insect hatches and fishing success in recent years. Given climate trends this situation will only worsen without intervention.

The SLV irrigation District which

owns and operates the dam has recently stated that an engineering defect in their revamped dam design now makes low winter flows problematic. At a minimum the Irrigation District should expedite input from stakeholders and resource experts to determine both long and short-term solutions to that problem. That is only part of what is needed and long promised, however. After 12 years of repeated excuses and inaction, residents and visitors that rely on the Rio Grande for recreation and their livelihoods, and the taxpayers who helped fund the dam restoration,

deserve to know how their interests are being served - and that promises made are promises kept. The SLV Irrigation District and the Colorado Water Conservation Board that coordinated funding for the restoration project should be held to account. To that end plans for a working group to help drive this effort are underway. If you would like to participate and/or receive updates, please respond to loudjim431@gmail.com. The Rio Grande has been very good to us. It's time for us to return the favor.

*Jim Loud Creede*



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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 (CCEF), 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 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, 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 (SD-CEA) 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 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."



Courtesy photos

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.



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



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

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Courtesy photo  
Members of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) prepare to battle a house fire in Sanford late Monday afternoon. The home was reportedly a total loss, but no injuries were reported according to a DFPC spokesman. Sanford Fire was first on scene and requested mutual aid from DFPC.

# Fire destroys house on Willett Ranch

No injuries reported

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

**SANFORD** — A fire resulted in the total loss of a house on Willett Ranch near Sanford in Conejos County on Monday afternoon. People were occupying the house but fortunately, according to Conejos County Sheriff Garth Crowther, no one was home at the time, so no injuries, either to people or animals, were reported.

Crowther stated that his office was notified of the fire in progress at about 4:20 p.m. on Monday afternoon. The property is located in the Sanford Fire District but there was an immediate response by numerous agencies in the area, including the Colorado Department of Fire Prevention and Control as well as fire departments from Sanford, Romeo, La Jara, Antonito, Manassa and Carmel. Conejos County Road and Bridge was also on scene with an excavator.

Crowther said that some of the firefighters were on scene until 10 or 11 p.m. Monday night but all crews had left when he returned

to the scene at 6 a.m. Tuesday morning.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation. “We’re still looking into it but, at this point, it looks to be accidental,” Crowther said.

Crowther praised the efforts of the firefighters in containing the fire as, despite the high winds at the time, flames did not spread to surrounding land.

“If it had been two or three weeks ago, we would have been chasing that fire all the way to Fort Carson, but things were still green enough. There were a couple of spots that started up, but they were able to contain them. The fire departments did an excellent job. It’s very sad for the family but it could have been a whole lot worse,” Crowther said.

# Four SLV grads among Boettcher scholars

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

**DENVER** — The Boettcher Foundation has announced the 2024 Class of Boettcher Scholars. Listed among the 50 outstanding graduating seniors from around the state are four students from the San Luis Valley, including Brock Benton (Alamosa High School), Jaymi Gile (Alamosa High School), Gus Miller (Monte Vista High School) and Kaia Skadberg (Centauri).

The Boettcher Scholarship is considered to be one of the most prestigious scholarships offered in the state of Colorado, not only recognizing the most remarkable students but also in providing full tuition and expenses for four years of college at the Colorado college or university of their choice.

As part of the announcement, scholars offered some information about themselves.

When asked about his accomplishments, Benton (AHS) said, “My proudest achievement is creating an entire student-supported mental health team within my school.” Benton will be attending the University of Colorado.

Gile (AHS) stated, “My favorite Colorado experience is camping outdoors with my family and becoming a Junior Ranger at the Great Sand Dunes, my second home.” Gile is also attending the University of Colorado.

In speaking of his accomplishments, Miller (MVHS) said, “My proudest achievement is having learned the ability to lose and be unsuccessful graciously and celebrate even the smallest of accomplishments and continue on.” Miller plans on attending Colorado State University.

Skadberg (Centauri), who will be attending the Colorado School Mines, said, “During my undergraduate career, I plan to acquire a degree in engineering and learn not only how to work but how to live.”

As described by Curtis L. Esquibel, Senior Director of Communications and Community Engagement with the Boettcher Foundation, the Boettcher Scholarship Program has been in place since 1952, aiming to retain Colorado’s inspiring high school graduates within the state for their college education. More than 1,900 students applied for the



Brock Benton, Alamosa High School



Jaymi Gile, Alamosa High School



Gus Miller, Monte Vista High School



Kaia Skadberg, Centauri High School

scholarship this year.

Scholars are selected based on academics, service, leadership, and character. In addition to receiving an \$80,000 scholarship award across four years, Scholars can also receive institutional, merit, and/or need-based aid from their respective campuses. The Boettcher Scholarship is more than just financial assistance; it includes a comprehensive program and support system designed to help Scholars maximize their academic and leadership capabilities.

The Boettcher Scholar community is a robust network of over 2,800 leaders who have made significant contributions in various fields such as business, government, nonprofits, and education.

This year’s cohort of 50 Scholars includes the following:

- A stuttering awareness advocate who spreads information and insight on stuttering to her 230,000 followers on TikTok.
- A student who works full-time, takes care of younger siblings before and after school, and still maintains the highest GPA in her school’s 20-year history.
- A student that lives off the grid, commuting 90 minutes to school every day and relying on solar energy to power her life.

• The year-round manager of a local nonprofit bike repair shop, overseeing a team of 10 peers.

• A “Positive Peer” presiding on her city’s Municipal Teen Court, focused on issuing judgments rooted in compassion that have the greatest potential for positive change in the respondents.

• A proud, self-proclaimed “nerd” with a mission to destigmatize STEM education by making it more accessible and appealing to younger generations.

• A scientist, so passionate about science that she conducted her own, self-designed research on algae at home throughout high school.

• A 4th generation farmer who is committed to returning to the family farm after college.

“As we welcome the newest cohort of Boettcher Scholars, we’re thrilled to highlight their remarkable talents and passions. These dynamic thinkers and leaders bring a diverse array of skills and interests to our community,” said Vanessa Roman, director of scholarships & foundation programs. From self-taught knitters and private pilots to vocal soloists and innovative entrepreneurs, their commitment to leadership and service has already enriched communities across the state.”

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# ADAMS

Continued from Page 1A

who is also RG Bank CEO and president, welcomed everyone to the event and reminded them to stick around for the dinner afterward.

"The dinner is free, with a suggested donation of \$10. Any money received will be given to Sargent FBLA. Which is 100% the way Sharon would have wanted it," he said.

Davis then introduced the song "For Good" from the musical "Wicked."

"Kerry Adams, Sharon's husband has stated that this was one of Sharon's favorite songs, and he asked that it be played today," Davis said.

Davis then began to talk about the dedication of the bench that sits in front of the Sargent School District building.

"We are gathered here at this bench, to remind everyone who passes this bench to take a pause, so that students, teachers, administrators, and community members, who pass by here, can take a moment, some time, a pause, to remember and learn about Sharon Adams and her impact on Sargent School District, FBLA, and the community," he said.

Davis emphasized that her impact with Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) was not just at Sargent - it was district wide, statewide, and nationally.

Davis then introduced Sargent High School Principal Michelle Shelley David.

"As I remember Mrs. Adams, I think back to the strong qualities that she modeled for her students and colleagues," David said. "The first quality that I remember is that she was always available to students and staff. Her second quality was consistency. She expected students to all not be at the same level, but to all give their best effort. The third quality was her commitment to her values. What she valued she committed to. She defined commitment by her presence, her passion, and her persistence. Even though she had retired it took about two years for her to turn in her school keys because she wanted access to her passion. It is my great honor to have known such a wonderful woman. This bench is a beautiful memorial dedicated to her memory and what she meant to the Sargent community. Thank you."

Chance Padilla, who was a student of Adams, also spoke.

"Sharon was the type of person that always put others first," Padilla said.

"Besides my parents, Sharon was my number one supporter, without her I wouldn't be the person I am today. Sharon was more than an advisor and a teacher. She got to see me during defeat and exhaustion. During those times she was there, encouraging, strategizing, and building me into a strong individual. I am truly grateful



Photo by Marie Mccolm

A dinner was held after the memorial dedication ceremony for Sharon Adams at Sargent School District on May 1.

for all those stories that I have of Mrs. Adams. I can't wait to share them with my children. I hope that everyone finds their Sharon Adams. An influential, encouraging, loving, number one fan, to cheer for them during their victories and support them during their challenges. Thank you."

Current FBLA Advisor Stephanie McBartlett also spoke at the ceremony.

"Mrs. Adams is the reason I went to business school," McBartlett said. "She was always inspirational too, always in your corner. Last summer in August when she found out I was the business teacher, she called and congratulated me. She said anything you need let me know, I will be the anonymous donor to get you anywhere. I said thank you Mrs. Adams. I am bringing back the Mrs. Adams FBLA at Sargent. My whole chapter made it to state and nationals are coming next year for you. Thank you."

Davis said plaque would state how Adams gave 37 dedicated years to Sargent School District as a business teacher, and FBLA Advisor, from 1979 to 2017. Davis read the entire heartfelt inscription. It details her accomplishments, and her winning Teacher of the Year in 1987, 1988, 1996, 1997, and she has also been recognized with many recognition awards over the years. Adams took her students to state FBLA 37 times and took her students to nationals 33 times. She also remained active in the school district after she retired, helping with many activities.

Sharon's husband, Kerry, spoke at the ceremony saying that Sharon found a home that she never wanted to leave in Sargent.

"The song that began tonight, was adapted from the play 'Wicked,' that musical was adapted from 'The Wizard of Oz,' the series features a young Kansas girl, who looks for and discov-

ers life outside the farm but realizes of course that there is no place like home," he said.

Kerry explained that the series reminded him of his wife, Sharon, who grew up on a small farm in Kansas, and left Kansas looking for adventure.

"She got here to the Sargent community and found a home that she never wanted to leave," he said. "She wanted to share that idea with her students, finding adventure yet keeping the option to always come home. I hope that in your travels, students, that you are able to realize that, that you are as the song said a couple of minutes ago, that you are changed for good. I am sure if she were here now, she would want me to thank you all for creating a place for her to sit and look out at where she called home. I hope you take the time to use this wonderful bench that's out here to help solve life's great mysteries. I know you will be able to talk to Sharon here. Please sit down and enjoy it. We appreciate, we want to thank Sargent FBLA. Thanks to all of you for coming and honoring Sharon so nicely. Thank you very much."

# MV CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CORNER

The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce wants to invite community members interested in serving on the MVCOC Board of Directors. We are currently looking to fill one board seat as soon as possible. If interested, please contact Heather Hillin, MVCOC Executive Director at 719-852-2731.

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

The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome Savannah Torrez as the MVCOC Assistant Director! Savannah is a SLV native and a graduate of Adams State University. She loves serving the community and is passionate about interacting with community members and sharing her admiration for the SLV. Welcome Aboard, Savannah!

The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce Board Meetings are held the last Thursday of every month at 7 a.m. at the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce building located at 947 1st Ave., Monte Vista. All are welcome to attend. The next scheduled board meeting will be held Thursday, May 30 and 7 a.m.

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

Celebrate the 150-year anniversary of Rio Grande County this year! Rio Grande County was officially made

Feb. 10, 1874! Happy 150th Anniversary, Rio Grande County! For more information or if you would like to volunteer to help promote this event, please contact Scott Deacon at 719-850-1180.

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

The Faith Hinkley Veteran's Memorial Park Fundraiser, led by the City of Monte Vista, aims to honor veterans by completing the installation of memorial pavers initiated by the Monte Vista Community Fund. The project serves to pay tribute to all those who have served, or been killed in action, fostering community remembrance and gratitude. Email [mfranklin@ci.monte-vista.co.us](mailto:mfranklin@ci.monte-vista.co.us), for information or call Megan Franklin at 719-852-5926.

Save the dates:

- July 11 - 14: SLV Ski Hi Stampede.
- July 27: Faith Hinkley Memorial Park Completion Event at Chapman Park, Monte Vista. Vendors, sponsors, and community members, please contact the City of Monte Vista at 719-852-6171 for details.

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



## Living with Purpose and Passion

Have you noticed that some Christians are never happy or satisfied? They always have a long face and they're constantly talking about their problems and circumstances. They have a lifeless, lukewarm, apathetic and pathetic attitude.

The world may have this type of attitude, but we as Christians shouldn't because the only way that we're going to affect other people who need Christ is to let them see His life in us!

That's our job every single day—everywhere we go. People want to enjoy their lives—to live with passion and enthusiasm. If they can see us being that way, then they can ask us, "So what's going on with you that you seem to be happy all the time?" Or, "You always have a good attitude no matter what's going on."

So, I ask you today: How are you living your life? Do you have passion and purpose?

When people notice our good attitude in life, it gives us a wide door of opportunity to tell them, "Really, I deal with the same things you deal with in life. It's not that I never have a struggle, but Jesus Christ is in my life and He makes all the difference in the world!"

It's helpful to think of it this way: You and I may be the only Jesus that our neighbors will ever see. And if God didn't have something for us to do here on earth, He wouldn't have left us here. *We are here for a purpose.*

1 Peter 2:9 (AMPC) highlights our purpose beautifully, saying, *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, [God's] own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

Now, the Lord has a special, unique plan for each one of our lives. We've each been given gifts and talents, and there are specific things we are meant to accomplish while we are here.

However, first and foremost, we as Christians share one main purpose. We are here to live for God's glory, tell others about Him, and reflect His goodness in our lives.

In my own ministry, I've been asked how I stay passionate and keep doing what I'm doing. Now, I can give some really cool, spiritual answer. But truthfully, I've come to believe that it's really a decision about what kind of an attitude we're going to have.

Our attitude is ours to own. We don't have to let some outside force rule our attitude. God doesn't want us to be passive. He wants us to be active and make decisions based on the Word of God. He doesn't want us to stand around saying, "Well, I'm just so confused about the will of God for my life. I just don't understand. I just don't know what my purpose is, and I just feel so useless."

Many Christians have literally done nothing because they can't figure out what it is they're supposed to do. God does not call us to do something and then refuse to tell us what it is that we're supposed to do. So, if we're thinking, "Well, then why am I so confused?", it may be because we're living life with our "head" instead of our "heart."

For example, I know a story about a man who had been preaching all his life, and started feeling like he wanted to teach the Bible in college. "But I'm a pastor", he thought, and he couldn't reconcile what he had been doing for so long with the new desire that God was putting into his heart.

He wrestled with it until he came to a point where he had to decide between the two. He had an epiphany moment where God said to him, "Know that whatever you choose, I'll be with you."

Freedom scares us because many of us have the idea that God is in heaven with His hammer saying, "You better do this exactly because if you don't, you're going to be in big trouble."

We start to worry, thinking, "What if I miss God?" because we're afraid



to make a mistake. Now I'm not suggesting that we start doing stupid stuff, but 95 percent of what we're supposed to do is in the Word. The other five percent is ours to freely pursue what God has planned for us.

So, let's make a commitment to make progress by faith. Maybe we've been doing something for a long time, but then we start to sense that God is changing things in our life, even though what we've been doing is good.

The possibility of change can scare us and also be the reason why we sometimes feel like we're being pulled apart, not knowing what we're supposed to be doing. But faith propels us to take a chance—to step out and find out. We need to be willing to try and risk being wrong if that's what it takes to find out what God has for us.

Scripture tells us that even if the righteous fall seven times, they rise again (Proverbs 24:16)! You and I need to dare to be passionate and purposeful...and move forward in the life God has planned for us.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource **Living on Purpose for a Purpose**. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

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

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

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# Four years, countless tears later

## Los Sauces case finally closed

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Families of the five victims murdered by Adre Baroz in 2020 may, hopefully, have a measure of peace following court proceedings on Friday, May 3, when District Judge Michael Gonzales, who presided in the case from preliminary to conviction, handed down sentences from the bench. The proceedings related to Baroz, 29, pleading guilty to the brutal murder, dismemberment and tampering with the remains of Korina Arroyo, Selena Esquibel, Myron Robert Martinez, Xavier Zeven Garcia and Shayla Hammel within a seven-week period. After being dismembered, and in an egregious final act, the remains of all five people were burned in two different burn pits in Los Sauces, a remote community in rural Conejos County, making burial impossible.

It took years for the case to reach this stage, due to numerous delays, postponements, and continuances, largely because Baroz entered a plea of Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity. Presumably, two separate evaluations did not support the plea. Had Baroz not changed his plea to guilty, the case would still be slogging through court as families waited for resolution.

Finally, during Friday's proceedings, members of victims' families could address the court and describe the devastation caused by Baroz's actions. Although all five victims had family members present, only a handful of people spoke.

There were expressions of deep gratitude to CBI (Colorado Bureau of Investigation), local law enforcement and the special prosecutors from the 20th Judicial District who were with the case from the beginning.

Arroyo was the first to address Baroz. His daughter, Korina, was murdered because she agreed to testify in Baroz's friend's trial. "This has been one of the worst things in my life. This man didn't just kill my daughter, he destroyed my family."

Selena Esquibel's mother, Rosaline, said, "I don't sleep. I don't eat. He didn't just kill my daughter, he killed part of me." Baroz murdered Selena, who was 19, because she told someone he had raped her.

Michael, brother to Myron Martinez, said, "We lost my father in October 2023, and I think he died with a broken heart because he wasn't able to see this thing through. Last summer, we were driving past the Walsh Hotel and he said, 'That's where they killed my son.' I wish he was here to say these words."

Martinez then read from the Bible. "Beloved, never avenge yourself but leave it to the wrath of God for it is written vengeance is mine and I will repay seven times. I ask the court to run their sentences consecutively, so they pay every second of every day for what they did to my brother, which was brutal and disgusting."

Shayla Hammel, mother of two, was murdered for simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time. "Shayla was taken in a senseless act of violence, and it shattered the dreams of my niece and nephew," her brother said. "You tortured her like an animal. We couldn't even give her a burial. There is no forgiveness for what you did."

But the most condemning words came from Judge Gonzales who admitted, himself, he had never spoken in such language from the bench.

Addressing Baroz directly, he said, "I've seen you from a young man to a young adult to an adult. You've had a rough life and I'm sorry about that, but you've destroyed the lives of five families. You took away their chance to grieve

their loved ones. To say goodbye. You took away hugs, goodbyes, hellos, 'I love you,' 'I'm sorry.' You took away the joy of watching children grow up. You took all of that away for no reason. Because they agreed to testify. Said something you didn't like. Said you owed them money. That's why you took their lives.

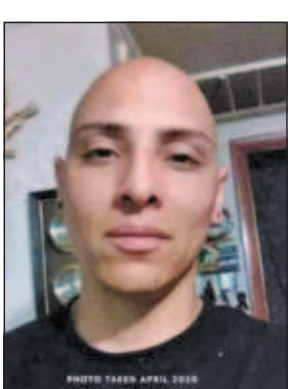
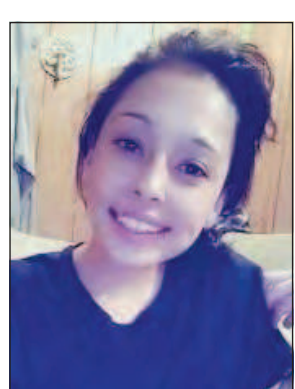
"I've spent 27 years in this job and have endeavored to find the good in people because that made my job a little easier. It gave me some hope that there's a reason to move on. I've always been able to find good in a person where I could say 'thank you, I appreciate that.'"

"The only positive I can find is that you pled guilty to save the victims from going through the process.

"I can find no good in you. What I see in you is evil. Pure evil. Whatever decency you might have had in your heart at one time no longer exists. In the space of two months, you killed five people. You ate their flesh. You took souvenirs from their bodies.

"It's not easy to take away someone's freedom for a long time. I hope that people leave prison and become a better citizen, but, in your case, I can't bring myself to do that. I hope every night for the rest of your life in prison you hear the screams of your victims begging you to stop."

"This case had a devastating effect on our community," said 12<sup>th</sup> District Attorney Anne Kelly in a statement. "The evil and barbaric acts of Adre Baroz, Julius Baroz and Francisco Ramirez are unthinkable. Due to the incredible legal work of our District Attorney partners from the Twentieth Judicial District in Boulder who skillfully and effectively prosecuted this case for three years on behalf of the victims' families and our community, a measure of justice has



Photos of four of the five victims murdered by Adre Baroz. Baroz was sentenced to serve the rest of his life in prison with no possibility of parole on Friday, May 4. Pictured left to right: Korina Arroyo, Selena Esquibel, Myron Martinez and Shayla Hammel. Not pictured: Xavier Zeven Garcia.

been served. While no sentence can fully repair the damage these men caused, my hope is that our community may now continue the path of healing. I am so grateful for the tireless work of local, state, and federal agencies who never stopped pursuing justice for the victims' families. These three men deserve every day of the sentences Judge Gonzales handed down."

"This case was a true example of evil," said Ken Anderson, who was Alamosa's Police Chief throughout the investigation. Anderson is now Division Commander with Alamosa County Sheriff's Office. "In my 23 years in law enforcement, I've never seen a crime so heinous and gruesome. I want the families of the victims to understand that the tireless effort from all agencies who assisted in this investigation put a case together with enough factual evidence to be heard in court and to eventually obtain a conviction.

"I also want them to know we do not take their pain and suffering lightly. Through the suffering and pain, I pray those family members find peace and

justice served."

In addition to sentencing Adre Baroz to five consecutive life sentences plus another 140 years for assaults, kidnapping and tampering, Gonzales also handed down additional sentences to Baroz's two co-defendants. Julius Baroz, 34-year-old brother to Adre, received 25 years in prison for conspiracy to commit murder in the first degree, and Francisco Ramirez will serve 24 years for tampering with human remains.

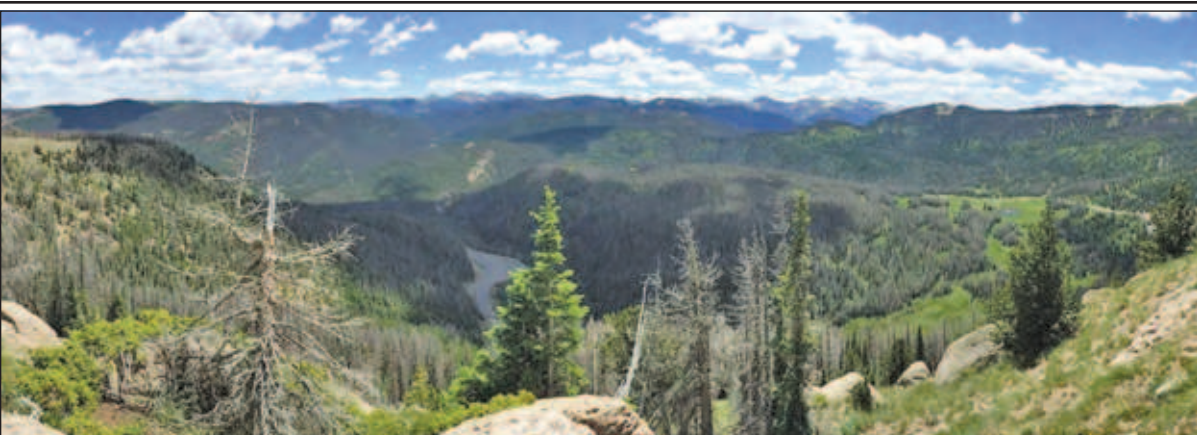
**NOTICE OF ACCEPTING BIDS**  
 The Center Fire Protection District is accepting bids for a 1995 International tanker truck, sold as is. Bids shall be a minimum of \$2,500. Sealed bids will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on May 10, 2024. Bids may be mailed to Center Fire Protection District, P.O. Box 845, Center, CO 81125. Bids will be opened at the Board's regular meeting on May 14, 2024. To view the above truck, please call John Anderson at 719-588-8005 for an appointment. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids.  
**No. 4821 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, May 1 and 8, 2024.**

District Court of Rio Grande County, Colorado  
 Court Address: 925 6th Street, Del Norte, CO 81132  
 In the Matter of the Estate of Deceased Albert A. Quintana  
 Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address): Kenneth J. Quintana, 5290 Del Viento Road, Alamosa, CO 81101  
 Phone Number: 719-936-1314, E-mail: Atty Reg #  
 FAX Number: Courtroom  
 Division 2  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-12-801, C.R.S.**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
 Estate of Albert A. Quintana, Deceased, Case Number 2024PR1  
 All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to  
 on or before (date), or the claims may be forever barred.  
 Kenneth J. Quintana  
 Type or Print name of Person Giving Notice  
 5290 Del Viento Road  
 Address  
 Alamosa, CO 81101  
 City, State, Zip Code  
**No. 4822 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, May 1, 8 and 15, 2024.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT BUSINESS LOAN FUNDS**  
 Rio Grande County plans to submit a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to the State of Colorado, Department of Local Affairs, c/o the Office of Economic Development and International Trade as the lead county for Region 8 serving Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache Counties. CDBG funds are intended to provide decent housing, suitable living environments and economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate income persons through rehabilitation and preservation, economic development (generally job creation/retention) and public facilities improvements.  
 The application being considered would be a request for \$971,750.00 for the Business Loan Fund. It is estimated that approximately 51% of the funds would benefit low and moderate income persons. Permanent involuntary displacement of neighborhood persons or businesses is not anticipated. Should it later become necessary to consider such displacement, alternatives will be examined to minimize the displacement. If no feasible alternatives exist, required/reasonable benefits will be provided to those displaced to mitigate adverse effects and hardships. Any low and moderate income housing which is demolished or converted will be replaced.  
 A public hearing will be held on Wednesday May 15th at 10:00 AM 2024 at the Rio Grande County Commissioners Meeting Room, Del Norte CO to obtain citizen views and to respond to proposals and questions related to:  
 1. The proposed CDBG application for the above-referenced economic development activities; specifically for a new CDBG contract in the amount of \$971,750.00 with \$900,000.00 allocated for direct business assistance and \$71,750.00 for administration. The application is proposed to be sponsored by Rio Grande County, acting as Lead County for the six counties of the San Luis Valley, which includes Alamosa County, Conejos County, Costilla County, Mineral County, Rio Grande County, and Saguache County, through an Intergovernmental Agreement. It is proposed that the San Luis Valley Development Resources Group, Inc. will administer the CDBG project through a Memorandum of Agreement with Rio Grande County.  
 2. The purpose of the hearing is also to allow citizens to review and comment on the performance of Region 8 or Rio Grande County—Grantee with the Business Loan Fund Region 8 loan program in carrying out their small business loan fund program, which was financed with federal Community Development Block Grant (funds provided by the State of Colorado. Comments regarding the close out of the 2019 CDBG grant for the Region 8 Business Loan Fund will also be heard. This grant was sponsored by Rio Grande County acting as the Lead County for the six counties of Region 8, administered by the San Luis Valley Development Resources Group.  
 3. The performance of Rio Grande County in carrying out its community development responsibilities.  
 Written or emailed comments are also welcome and must be received by, Wednesday, May 15th by 8:00 AM at the San Luis Valley Development Resources Group, PO Box 300, Alamosa, CO 81101. Oral, written or email comments will be considered in deciding whether to submit an application for the proposed project.  
 Written summary information will be available at the Rio Grande County Courthouse at 925 6th Street, Del Norte, CO 81132 on Friday, May 8th, 2024, at 12:00 A.M. on the CDBG application Rio Grande County intends to submit to the state. A completed copy of the application as submitted to the state will be available for public review at San Luis Valley Development Resources Group offices at: 610 State Avenue, Suite 200, Alamosa, CO 81101 after May 15th 2024.  
 Information and records regarding Rio Grande County's proposed and past use of CDBG funds are available at Rio Grande County Commissioner's meeting room during regular office hours. Advance notice is requested. If special accommodation is needed, please notify us so that the appropriate aids can be made available. Email comments to William Schoen, Administrator rg-administrator@riograndecounty.org  
**No. 4823 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, May 8, 2024.**

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Courtesy The Village at Wolf Creek

Texas investor Red McCombs swapped the Forest Service for 300 acres on Wolf Creek Pass in 1986. The late McCombs envisioned a resort village for 8,000 people on the parcel surrounded by Rio Grande National Forest and bordering the Wolf Creek ski area.

# A rare win after nearly 40 years for Texas investors planning Wolf Creek Village

By JASON BLEVINS  
The Colorado Sun

In the nearly 40 years that a legendary Texas investor spent trying to build a massive village atop Wolf Creek Pass, not a lot went his way.

Until last week. After almost a quarter century of lawsuits challenging the late Red McCombs' proposal for a 1,700-unit village on 300 remote acres next to Wolf Creek ski area — and three court decisions siding with environmental groups battling the plan — the 10th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Denver last week threw out previous rulings and affirmed the Forest Service's 2019 approval of an access road connecting U.S. 160 with the island of private land.

"We are obviously pleased and feel like this was the right decision," said Clint Jones, who has worked for the McCombs family on the Wolf Creek Village project since 2008.

Lawsuits have stalked the Wolf Creek Village plan since its inception as McCombs reworked his project, abandoning a plan for a second land swap and focusing on an access road to the inholding of private acreage surrounded by the Rio Grande National Forest. McCombs, who died in 2023, had argued that the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act — known as ANILCA — required the Forest Service to provide "adequate access" to islands of private land surrounded by public forest.

Environmental groups across the West have spent decades arguing that the clause in the act that requires the Forest Service to allow "adequate access" so private landowners can have "reasonable use and enjoyment" of inholdings does not apply outside of Alaska. The legislation protected 104 million acres in Alaska and left about 800,000 acres of private land surrounded by federally protected land. (Environmental groups most recently have sued the White River National Forest over its ANILCA-anchored approval of a 2.4-mile paved access road to a 680-acre inholding above the town of Edwards where developers plan 19 luxury homes.)

The ANILCA fight over the access road is the latest in a decades-long battle. And the issues reach beyond ANILCA. The environmental organizations raise concerns about endangered species, like the Canada lynx, and potential missteps by the Forest Service as it conducted its review of the access road plan under the National Environmental Policy Act. Mark Pearson with the San Juan Citizens Alliance said the environmental groups are studying the federal appeals court decision and have not made any decisions about appealing or seeking a rehearing.

Regardless of any legal action, the Wolf Creek Village plan will require many more years of planning, with the developer needing a permit from the Colorado Department of Transportation to access U.S. 160 and permits from Mineral County.

"There are a lot of opportunities for public participation on upcoming deci-

sions that will probably stretch out for quite a long time," Pearson said. "There are enormous physical and structural limitations for a village up there. Is there enough water to support the city they are proposing to build? How are they going to get power up there? All this will require some significant planning and public scrutiny."

A lot has changed since 1986, when McCombs and other investors first proposed a village atop Wolf Creek Pass next to the Wolf Creek ski area. The investors proposed a land exchange with the Forest Service, swapping about 1,600 acres in the San Luis Valley for about 300 acres of Forest Service land adjacent to the Wolf Creek ski area in Mineral County.

The staff at the Forest Service who approved the land swap and even the 2019 road access are gone. Same for the elected officials in Mineral County who supported the village plan nearly 25 years ago.

The initial plans for the Wolf Creek

Village called for more than 2,100 condos, hotel rooms and homes for 8,500 people and 225,000 square feet of commercial space. Revised plans scaled back that plan to about 1,700 units.

McCombs, a San Antonio investor, owned hundreds of companies in his lifetime — including radio stations, car dealerships and sports teams including the Denver Nuggets. He was 95 when he died in February 2023. His daughter, Marsha McCombs Shields, has been overseeing the McCombs empire for 20 years.

Jones said he plans to sit down with the McCombs family and discuss the recent ruling.

"I do not know what their position will be for moving forward, but they are very excited that this one impediment that has been there for years has finally been resolved," Jones said. "The industry has changed. Circumstances have changed. I do not know what they want to do with the property. Now that we've got road access, it opens the door to start studying future possibilities."

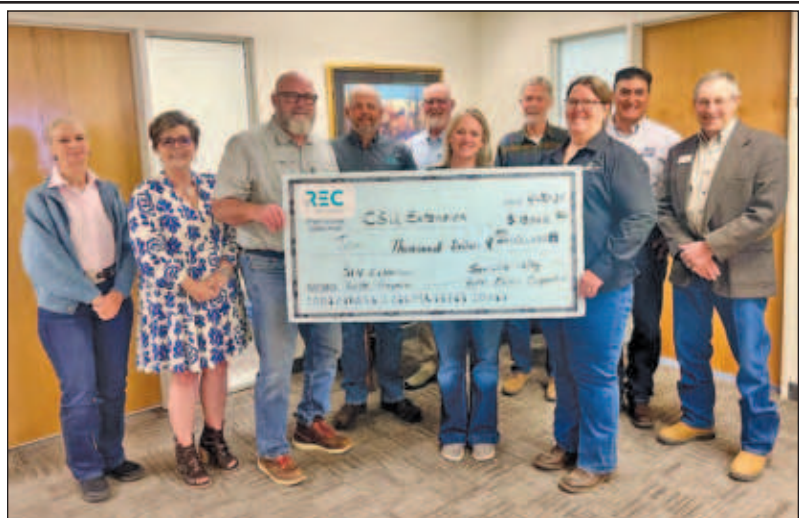


Photo Courtesy of CSU Extension

From Left to right, Carol Lee Dugan, Kim Wakasugi, Scott Wolfe, Keenan Anderson, Creede Hargraves, Janea Naranjo, Wade Lockhart, Mollie Wells, Stephen Valdez, Larry Brown.

# CSU Extension receives grant from the SLVREC Energy Foundation

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — The Colorado State University SLV Area Extension office would like to thank San Luis Valley Rural Electric Coop for its donation of \$10,000 to the endowment fund from the SLVREC Energy Foundation.

Beginning in 2021, the SLV Extension office has been in a rebuilding period. After years of instability and a reduction of staff, Larry Brown has stepped into the leadership role to rebuild the extension in the San Luis Valley.


In the last two years, the full-time staff has doubled. Operating now with a Director/Ag Specialist, a Youth Development/4-H Specialist, a Family and Consumer Science Specialist, a Juntos 4-H Specialist, and Office Administrator. Their newest

addition, made possible by 3 years of funding from the Outcalt Foundation, is a second 4-H Specialist. Brown's team focus now is to secure permanent funding for an additional 4-H agent.


"We are extremely grateful and appreciative of all who have generously jumped on board and contributed to the project. Once our funding in the endowment fund is secured, this community driven project will leave a lasting legacy for our youth," officials stated.

If anyone is interested in donating to the endowment fund, checks can be dropped off at the SLV Extension office at 1899 E. Hwy 160 in Monte Vista or mailed to PO Box 30 Monte Vista, CO 81144. If you have any questions, call 719-852-7381.


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Photo courtesy of John McEvoy

Last week, the Rio Grande County Museum and Creek Water Construction dismantled and moved the Barlow and Sanderson Stage Office. Plans to restore the 1875 building are well underway.

## Barlow and Sanderson Stage Office comes home to RGC Museum

**STAFF REPORT**

**DEL NORTE** — After almost two years, the Rio Grande County Museum recently announced that the Barlow and Sanderson Stage Office has come home to its resting place and will be restored and available for viewing by the end of 2024.

With the help of several volunteers and Creek Water Construction owners, Matt Espinoza and Karie Lichtenfeld, the Barlow and Sanderson Stage Office building was successfully dismantled and transported with the help of the Town of Del Norte to the

Rio Grande County Museum. It has taken two years to bring the building to the museum. Just over \$30,000 was raised with the help of several donors, organizations and the current Rio Grande County Board of Commissioners to make this happen. The stage office was moved three times over the years, but this was the first time the building was completely dismantled.

Efforts to save the Barlow and Sanderson Stage Office began back in the 1970s when local historian Ruth Marie Colville set out to see that

the historic building was preserved. The building was built in 1875 near the Windsor Hotel. Once plans to build the hotel were underway, the building was moved to the west end of Del Norte where the Barlow and Sanderson Stables were located.

In the 1970s, Colville gathered a group of volunteers and had the building moved once again to the park across from Town Hall on the north end of Del Norte where it slowly fell into disrepair. It was then that Colville's daughter Suzanne Off **Please see STAGE on Page 8**

## Mammoth opens on Main Street in Alamosa

**BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER**

**ALAMOSA** — A new store has opened on Main Street in Alamosa, and it takes the idea of “souvenirs” to an entirely new level. Starting with its name “Mammoth”, which store owners Deb Hankinson and Lew Petersen chose after reading a Facebook post from a park ranger that said mammoths once roamed the San Luis Valley, every item available for purchase was carefully chosen — and, in some cases, created — with the uniqueness of Alamosa and the San Luis Valley in mind.

Located in the space previously occupied by May-Wa Chinese restaurant, Mammoth has been transformed by Hankinson and Petersen along with partners, Jo and Dale Parent, into a space that is colorful and vibrant yet with a warm and rustic feeling.

Mammoth is stocked with an extraordinary variety of “good quality, good price point” items, all communicating in one way or another the aspects that make Alamosa and surrounding areas so special.

From children's books about Dark Skies to extremely soft stuffed animals — including “gators”, in a nod to the Gator Farm — to coffee cups commissioned with designs of the Great Sand Dunes to specially designed refrigerator magnets to pillows with photos of wildlife taking selfies to limited but carefully selected high quality art work by local artists on the walls to cotton t-shirts that won't be seen anywhere else, Mammoth celebrates Alamosa in a way that tourists — and undoubtedly no small number of locals — will appreciate.

“We've tried to provide good quality at a good price point and a good variety,” Hankinson says. “If you want to just spend \$3 or \$4 on a keychain, we've got that. But if you want to buy a t-shirt that will last you ten years, we have that, too.”

And with an eye toward sustainability and preserving the environment, many of the items are made using recycled or repurposed materials, such as the old horseshoes from a local rescue operation that have been painted and are on sale. **Please see MAMMOTH on Page 2**



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

**Mammoth opened on Main Street on April 2. Pictured left to right: Deb Hankinson, Lew Petersen, Jo Parent, and Dale Parent.**

The appealing environment and lovely design of Mammoth is credited to Hankinson, who was an architect before she and her husband, Petersen — a software engineer, jointly decided

## SLV fallen peace officers memorial on May 15

*Respect, honor and remember*

**BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER**

**ALAMOSA** — Continuing with a tradition that is now in its 18th year, the city of Alamosa is holding a memorial service honoring peace officers of the San Luis Valley who have lost their lives in the line of duty.



Graphic courtesy of City of Alamosa

In recognition of National Peace Officers Memorial week from May 12 to 18, the service in Alamosa will be held on Wednesday, May 15, at 5:30 p.m. in front of the Alamosa Safety Complex, 425 4th St.

The memorial service will be preceded by a procession of lights with officers instructed to meet at 3110 1st St. at 5 p.m. A dinner will follow the service.

“We would like to take this opportunity to invite law enforcement and the public, as well, to join us during this time to recognize and honor all of the Fallen Police Officers in the San Luis Valley, as well as those officers across the state and nationwide who have fallen in the line of duty,” reads the press release from the city.

According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, there were 136 law enforcement officers in federal, state, county, municipal, military, tribal and campus agencies across the nation who lost their lives in 2023, representing a 39% decrease from the 224 officers who died in the line of duty in 2022.

The organization's website also states that, of those 136 law enforcement officers who died in 2023, 47 were firearms-related fatalities. That is a 25% decrease from the 63 officers killed by gunfire the previous year, but firearms-related fatalities are still the leading cause of death.

“There is no such thing as ‘good news’ when reporting even a single officer being killed in the line-of-duty,” states National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund CEO Bill Alexander on the organization's website. “Yet we are encouraged to see fewer overall officer deaths across all major categories in 2023. Using and reporting on this data allows us to highlight the continuing dangers faced by our law enforcement professionals, particularly the number of officers who are shot and killed each year.”

to leave their corporate lives behind and move to the Valley.

Even with all that, it is also likely that Mammoth will become well known for its food.

The quality of merchandise is credited to Jo Parent. “Deb has taught me a lot,” Parent says. The first thing customers see when they walk in the door is a large counter



# MAMMOTH Continued from Page 1

filled with freshly made fudge. “I wanted to add the fudge because of what Jo can do,” Hankinson says. Jo (Parent) worked at a KOA campground in Yellowstone National Park for years where she became a fudge aficionado, and her talent is immediately apparent in both the taste and the varieties of fudge that range from strawberry cheesecake to orange swirl to cappuccino (which is amazing) to rocky road to chocolate jalapeño and others. “We make the fudge here and we’ve taught all the staff how to make fudge,” Hankinson says. “We’re always trying new recipes and looking for feedback from the people.”

Starting next week, Mammoth’s will also open their Spud Café, featuring eight different kinds of “loaded” potatoes (sourced from Monte Vista, of course), including specialties such as taco and cheese enchilada potatoes.

“We’re going to give the locals an option for lunch,” Hankinson says, “and that will help to carry us through the season when there aren’t a lot of tourists.” Right now, they’re focused on the lunch crowd but may expand to dinner at some point in the future.

“There’s just still a lot to do,” she says with a bit of a sigh, a comment that draws agreement from the three others.

In a conversation with the Valley Courier, it becomes immediately apparent that nothing in Mammoth was done by happenstance.

Entrepreneurs at heart, Hankinson and Petersen own the KOA Campground east of Alamosa off of Highway 160 where, along with the Parents, they have transformed the site into a surprisingly beautiful spot with high-quality amenities.

Looking to expand into other areas while keeping the KOA, they were interested in opening a business in the downtown area. That led them to contacting Kathy Woods, economic developer with the City of Alamosa, to find out what real estate was available downtown.

The building formerly occupied by May-Wa seemed the best option and — thanks to Nicky at Porter Realty — the purchase was completed on Dec. 13, 2023.

“When we bought the building, we thought the location was a great opportunity, just for the building itself,” says Petersen. “But when we thought about possibilities, we thought what does Alamosa need?”

That brings the KOA Campground into the picture where the souvenir shop

at the KOA — that “did really, really well, just great” — showed what was needed.

“We had a couple of other ideas,” Petersen says, “but we thought there’s nothing in town that is specifically related to Alamosa. So, we decided on a souvenir shop.”

Since then, the four have invested tremendous “sweat equity” in the property, repurposing the space from a restaurant into a retail store with a commercial kitchen. Any additional labor that was needed was drawn from the local workforce and materials, like the rough sawed wood used on the walls, came from an Amish business associate specializing in that type of lumber.

And now, with the doors being opened for business on April 2, the same attention to detail that characterizes the KOA Campground is evident everywhere in Mammoth.

But the commitment to the project goes far beyond just owning a retail business in the city and a KOA campground in the county.

Hankinson is on the board of directors at Visit Alamosa and both she and her husband plus the Parents are committed to the success of the community.

Decisions made in selecting merchandise were made so as not to interfere with businesses already in operation. For example, only a limited number of local artists are featured to not compete with other businesses offering local art on Main Street. The same is true of the houseware and jewelry items they offer.

“There may be a little overlap, but our goal is to fill the gap,” Hankinson says. But that gap is evident in other ways, as well.

Starting on May 5 — Cinco de Mayo — Mammoth will be open seven days a week. “When the tourists come, we want to be open in the evening. If you’re going to be a tourist definition, you really need to be open seven days a week. I’ve heard people say it’s too hard to find staff, but we haven’t had that problem, at all,” she says.

Currently, Mammoth has created five new jobs and anticipate, when the Spud Café opens, hiring another two.

She attributes their success in hiring to using Indeed, which brought them “high-caliber people” from Alamosa, Monte Vista, Manassa and Romeo.

All four are also focused on being able to promote the area to customers coming into Mammoth about the array of interesting things to do. Hankinson says they plan to send staff to Visit



Photos courtesy of Deb Hankinson

Interior of Mammoth, a quality souvenir shop with a Spud Cafe now open on Main Street in Alamosa.

Alamosa for training on being an ambassador to the area.

In looking at the big picture, when asked if their philosophy is best described as “when one succeeds, all succeed,” Hankinson does not hesitate. “Absolutely right,” she says. “That’s exactly how it works.”

Mammoth is located at 620 Main St. in Alamosa. Open Tuesday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5:50 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



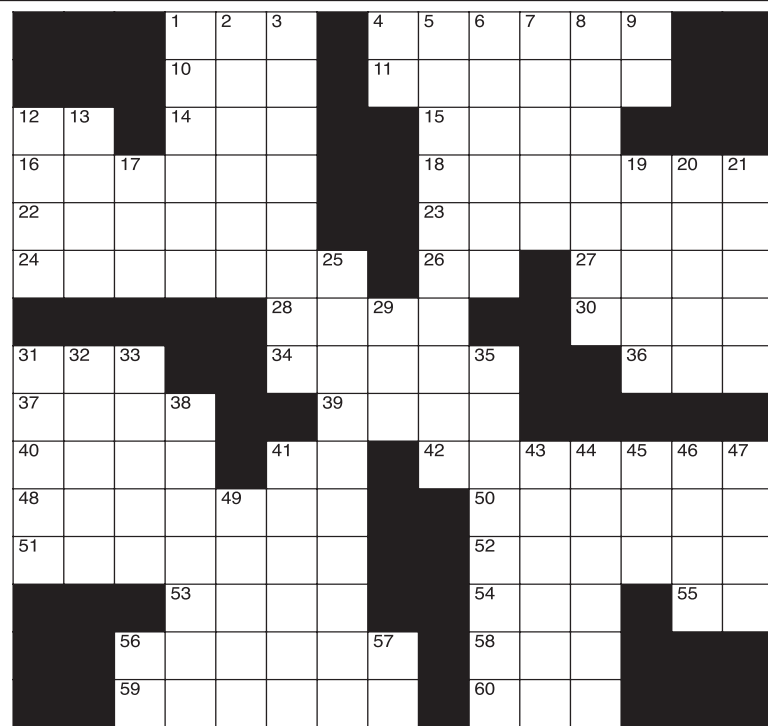
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### CLUES ACROSS

1. Beats per minute
4. Hindu deity
10. Polynesian garland of flowers
11. Not chained to
12. Metric ton
14. Tall, rounded vase
15. Musical composition
16. St. Francis of \_\_\_
18. Discover the location of
22. Compact group of mountains
23. Mend
24. Not current
26. Atomic #64
27. Young hawk
28. Or \_\_\_
30. Pouches
31. Southern Thailand isthmus
34. Mends with yarn
36. Downwinds
37. One of two equal parts of a divisible whole
39. Italian archaeological site
40. Cold appetizer
41. Yes
42. Peninsula
48. Of that
50. A way to divide
51. Relating to the physical senses



52. One who makes money
53. \_\_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)
54. Inconvenience (abbr.)
55. South Dakota
56. Snow sport
58. The products of human creativity
59. Change mind
60. Born of
17. Outsourcing (abbr.)
19. Regal
20. Line
21. Hermann \_\_\_, author of “Siddhartha”
25. Clearing up
29. No seats available
31. Leaves of an Arabian shrub
32. Groove in organ or tissue
33. Not of this world
35. Cooking device
38. Forget
41. Operational flight
43. Actress Danes
44. Poke holes in
45. A way to discolor
46. Shouts of welcome or farewell
47. Pharrell’s group
49. Red fluorescent dye
56. Jr.’s dad
57. Electronics firm

### CLUES DOWN

1. Similar to the color of a clear unclouded sky
2. Former name of Iran
3. Made smaller
4. Type of meter
5. Revolt
6. Killed with rocks
7. Gregory \_\_\_, US dancer
8. Nullifies
9. Home to the Flyers
12. Female parent
13. Pre-1917 Russian emperor

### Solution to last week’s puzzle

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

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 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 montevisaclass@gmail.com  
**Check your ad the first day:**  
 To ensure your ad is correct, check it the first day it appears in the paper. If there is an error in your ad, call us right away so we can correct it. If an error appears in your ad, Valley Publishing will credit you with one additional day of advertising.  
**Our ad policy:** Valley Publishing accepts all classified advertising except that which it deems objectionable to its readers. Credit or replacement ads will not be given for early ad cancellation.

**DEADLINE**  
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### 05 Notices

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

### 07 Help Wanted

**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](http://Creedek12.net) for job description, qualifications, and competitive benefits package, or call 719-658-2220

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](http://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. \$975/month. (5-8)

**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. (5-22)

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# Valley Wide Classifieds

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Thinking of buying or selling your home or land this year, call Yvonne Hoffman, 719-580-1901, Broker Associate Steffens & Co Realty Inc.

## 32 Fuel & Heating

Firewood For Sale. Call or text Mark 662-361-7530 Located in Saguache. (5-22)

## 36 Miscellaneous

Public auction - Small animal and misc. items. Location 8037 South County Road 2E, Monte Vista, CO 81144. Friday evening May 24. Lunch stand opens 4:30 p.m. Sale starts 6 p.m. Call for consignment check in 719-849-8063 (Eddie) (5-8)

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## 41 Farm Equipment

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# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

## 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**



## 193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

Charming Mountain Retreat with Breathtaking Views Nestled in the picturesque town of South Fork, CO, this finely crafted Ranch Style Mountain home offers a delightful blend of rugged elegance. With 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, this home provides ample room for relaxation and rejuvenation. The open living area boasts a large Sunny Bay window, allowing natural light to flood the space and framing panoramic Mountain Views. The heart of this home is the well-appointed kitchen, abundance of cabinets, including convenient lazy Susan storage. You'll find all the essentials: a refrigerator, cookstove, dishwasher. Perfect kitchen for entertaining your friends and family. Gather around the wood-burning stove in the living room, where warmth and comfort await. The home's insulation ensures a snug retreat during chilly mountain evenings. Step onto the inviting front sitting porch, sip your morning coffee, and observe the local wildlife. Mule deer and wild turkeys frequently visit the serene Ponderosa Valley Estates. A large laundry room with abundant storage, a wash sink, and a washer and dryer adds convenience to daily living. Park your vehicles in the 2-car garage and utilize the detached cement floor garage/workshop with water supply and 110/220 power for all your mountain toys or hobbies. This home is ready for you to make it your own—whether it's your dream residence, a home away from home, or a vacation rental. Explore nearby activities such as skiing, four-wheeling, hiking, and gold medal fly fishing. The Rio Grande River is just moments away. Enjoy the convenience of paved roads, city water sewer system, and your very own well and large .83-acre lot. Priced at \$479,500 this property offers an exceptional opportunity to embrace mountain living. Schedule your private showing today and embark on Your Mountain Adventure in this beautiful, tranquil Ponderosa Valley Estates neighborhood! Don't wait, call and schedule today! **MLS#810774 - \$479,500**



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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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**CALL TODAY!**  
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# Valley Wide Classifieds

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**44 Farm Services**  
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**48 Pets and Supplies**  
**Registered Toy Aussie puppies for sale,** Black Tri, Chocolate Tri, Blue Merle. 8 weeks old on 4-24-24. UTD on shots. 719-849- 1877 (5-29)

**64 Autos for Sale**  
**2007 Toyota Scion** new tires, great gas mileage, runs good, clean inside and out, \$8,000. 719-490-9422 (5-15)

**65 Professional Services**  
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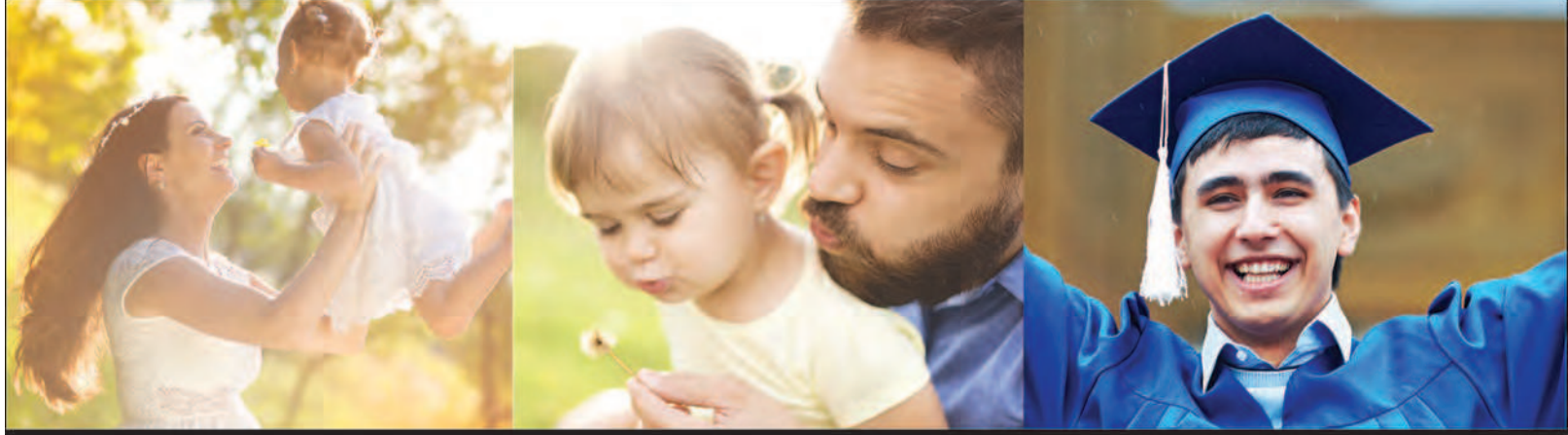
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# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



**Two Adjacent Commercial Lots in South Fork**  
 \$49,000 | MLS #810125  
 64 Vista Street South Fork, CO  
**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
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**Lots 11 & 12 in Riviere Estates in Quiet Neighborhood**  
 \$76,000 | MLS #80812/808211  
 Rio Vista Circle South Fork, CO  
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**Approx. 6 Acres, Beautiful Views in Bear Creek**  
 \$99,000 | MLS #803984  
 61 Red Tail Court South Fork, CO  
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**Approximately 160 Acres Farmland**  
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**1,270 Sq.Ft. Off-Grid Cabin on approx. 5,241 Acres**  
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All Dee's properties are detailed in her blog.




**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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**Rito Hondo Estates- 18 Rural Mountain Lots**  
 6-35 Acres  
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**Approx. 0.280 Acres Near Rio Grande Club**  
 \$56,000 | MLS #794077  
 23 Fairway Drive South Fork, CO  
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**Approx. 2,349 Sq.Ft. and 42 Acres**  
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# Historic investment in agriculture, CDA approved in state budget

By COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**BROOMFIELD** — On Monday, Governor Jared Polis signed the Long Bill, sponsored by the Joint Budget Committee, which commits significant investments into programs and staff supporting agriculture across Colorado.

The state budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 includes a 13 percent increase in funding to the Department of Agriculture, to build out and add support to existing programs working to improve our state's agricultural industry. Funding included in the Long Bill will support farmer-driven conservation efforts, emergency preparedness, renewable energy adaptation, and more.

"The state budget includes funding to expand CDA programs that are directly benefiting producers, developing new leaders in agriculture, and helping use water wisely across Colorado," said Commissioner of Agriculture Kate Greenberg. "This budget package is a result of countless conversations with ag communities and is reflective of some of the biggest needs we have heard from the field. These resources will be making their way back to these communities to support resilience, stewardship, and a vibrant future for Colorado agriculture."

Funding included in the state budget will help CDA advance:

Next Generation Agricultural Leadership and Agriculture Workforce Development Programs, which help fund hands-on internships at Colorado agricultural businesses for people interested in gaining real world experience in agriculture and which provide funding to organizations that train and develop future leaders in all areas of agriculture.

Wolf Conflict Mitigation, to support producers implementing non-lethal predator control measures and conflict reduction practices.

Agricultural Drought and Climate Resilience Office (ADCRO), to accelerate how quickly Colorado agri businesses adopt or expand green energy generation and to support a suite of on-farm resilience practices and renewable energy projects.

Creation of a new Division of Animal Welfare, to increase oversight of the Bureau of Animal Protection and Pet Animal Care Facilities Act Program; expand

proactive education and outreach; and create additional capacity for the State Veterinarian to support animal health efforts.

Agricultural Workforce Services Program, to increase coordination, outreach, and support to agricultural employers and workers to address agricultural labor issues.

Agricultural Emergency Management program, which engages directly with Colorado's rural agricultural communities to facilitate a comprehensive approach to disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.

Over the past several years, Colorado has been leading the way toward a more resilient future, and agriculture has been a large part of that movement. These programs have been critical in supporting the priorities for the Department, which are expanding water-resilient

agriculture, supporting future generations of agriculturalists, developing local food systems, and advancing animal health and welfare.

In addition to the daily regulatory work of the agency, CDA has been expanding the work of the Conservation and Markets divisions to grow programs that prepare Colorado's agricultural communities for the future. Initiatives such as the Colorado Soil Health program help small and medium-sized producers expand their climate smart practices and access emerging markets for food grown with these practices. In the Markets Division, programs such as Colorado Proud and International Markets will be leading the way to promote Colorado products among consumers in our state and across the world.



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# Valley Roots Food Hub launches 2024 Fresh Box CSA program

CONTRIBUTED

MOSCA — Valley Roots Food Hub (VRFH) will be launching the Summer 2024 Fresh Box Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program on June 20. The 13-week program runs alongside the fresh harvest season to bring shareholders fresh and local produce from growers across the Colorado bio-region.

The Fresh Box is a multi-farm CSA, which means we aggregate produce from a handful of different farmers within our extensive Colorado bio-region each week. Every Thursday, shareholders will receive a box with a specially curated menu ranging from stone fruits and root vegetables to leafy greens and melons.

The Fresh Box is an easy way to supplement family meals (2-3 people) with farm fresh produce. With each share, you will receive a weekly newsletter filled with Valley happenings, producer bios, creative recipes, warehouse highlights, and how to store produce. We understand that a program like this is not ordinary, but we will be a part of your food journey every step of the way!

Other program offerings include a weekly egg share from Yoder Farms in Monte Vista and 12 lb ground beef bundles from either Rancho Largo Customer Beef in Fowler, or Blue Range Ranch in Saguache. In addition to the weekly Fresh Box, we encourage shareholders to shop the online market, [www.valleyrootsfoodhubcsa.localorbit.com](http://www.valleyrootsfoodhubcsa.localorbit.com), a la carte style for pantry staples, frozen meats, cheeses, add-value products, and more!

A 2023 shareholder summed up their experience with this statement:

"We have decided that spending our food money locally is a top priority in our family. It is such a gift to our community to have your [Valley Roots Food Hub] services!"

At Valley Roots Food Hub, supporting your local food economy has never been easier. By letting us do the shopping and delivery for you, shareholders save precious time and spend it doing what they love with those they hold close. The VRFH Fresh Box multi-farm CSA program is a direct investment in our local

economy, agricultural producers, and the health of regional soils & waterways.

Throughout the San Luis Valley and beyond, we have several pick-up locations that are available to our customers: Alamosa, Del Norte, Creede, Crestone, Del Norte, Leadville, Saguache, and

Salida. We also have home delivery options available for an additional fee.

With limited spots available each season, we highly encourage interested folks to sign-up sooner rather than later! You can register with the online market and purchase a 2024 share at [https://val-](https://valleyrootsfoodhubcsa.localorbit.com)

[leyrootsfoodhubcsa.localorbit.com](https://valleyrootsfoodhubcsa.localorbit.com). If you have any questions regarding the Fresh Box CSA program or how to become a regular/weekly shopper with us, please contact our CSA Coordinator & Operations Manager: Maria Karahalios at 719-378-4593 or [maria.valleyroots@gmail.com](mailto:maria.valleyroots@gmail.com).



Photo by Patrick Myers NPS

Medano Creek in Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve on April 21.

## The joys and hydrology of Medano Creek

By JOHN WATERS


GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE — The recreational fun at Medano Creek and the sandy beaches along it are off to another season. The snowmelt waters have now reached the area near the Dunes Parking Lot with a shallow and gentle flow. The creek is about one inch deep and between 10-20 feet.

Residents and other visitors to the park enjoy the cool water of the creek. Aside from the recreational pleasure, the creek is also of interest to scientists and the familiar pulse of the creek is a rare phenomenon. The "surge flow," of the creek is one of the few places on Earth where water flowing over the instream sand creates the pulse.

There are three attributes needed to create the surge flow. A relatively steep gradient that gives the water velocity. A smooth and mobile creek bed with little resistance which creates a laminar flow, and a sufficient supply of water. These components make dams or antidunes that create temporary small pools in the creek. When there is enough pressure from impounded water, the antidunes break sending the surge of water downstream. The magnitude of the surges depends on the depth (quantity) of water and can be as high as one foot.

Medano Creek, on the east and southeast sides of the dunes, and Sand Creek, on the northwestern side, influence the shape of the dune field. Researchers have concluded that without the influence of the streams and their role in transporting sand, the dunes would


look different and would most likely be more oval-shaped.



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



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Animal may be dropped off during business hours only.  
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# STAGE

Continued from Page 1

and resident Patty Kelly decided it was time to try and save the building.

Over the past two years, the Rio Grande County Museum, the Town of Del Norte, the Rio Grande County commissioners, the Windsor Hotel and the Del Norte Public Library worked with several volunteers and donors to raise the funds to save the building and move it to its new home at the museum.

Now with the help of Creek Water Construction, the building will be restored and rebuilt in the back courtyard of the museum and will serve as a permanent exhibit. The exhibit will showcase what the office would have looked like when travelers arrived in the Del Norte area in the late 1800s and is reunited with the original 1876 Barlow and Sanderson Stagecoach that was loaned to the museum by the City of Monte Vista.

Plans are to have the new building available to the public for viewing by the end of the summer, weather and time permitting. A huge thanks goes out to everyone who made donations and supported efforts to save the Barlow as well as those who are continuing to help volunteer time and services to see the building restored to its original glory.



Photos courtesy of John McEvoy

# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

**SOLD**

2 Bedroom, 6 Bath, approx. 3,280 sq. ft. and 36.34 Acres  
\$895,000 | MLS #803698  
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Large Warehouse Approx. 6,579 sq. ft. on 1.57 Acres  
\$150,000 | MLS #811519  
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3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, approx. 1,904 sq. ft. and 50-Acres  
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Sun House Farm Approx 1,910 Acres with Home  
\$12,900,000 | MLS #807640  
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River Island Ranch Approx. 5.270 Acres  
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4 Bedroom, 4 Bath, approx. 3,804 sq. ft. and 10.320 Acres  
\$1,150,000  
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3 bedroom, 2 bath 2,589 Sq. Ft. on 35.5 acres  
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6680 County Rd. 13 Del Norte, CO

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5 Bedroom, 4 Bath, approx. 4,572 sq.ft., and 160 Acres  
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