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## News in Brief

### Cash prizes for top floats at Stampede parades

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

Absolute Shine donated \$1,500 that will go to the first-place float; SLV Auto Repair donated \$1,000 that will go to the second-place float; and Pepper Equipment donated \$500 that will go to the third-place float.

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

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

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

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

## City of MV receives public input on short-term rentals

BY MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — In a meeting on April 25, at City Hall.

The City of Monte Vista received public input on short-term rentals during a meeting last month at City Hall.

City of Monte Vista Planner DJ Enderle said he thought it was a success.

"We had a good turnout," he said.

Enderle explained that most of the people who provided their opinions on short-term rentals were the owners of the rentals.

"The opinions were from owners. I guess this is both good and bad," he said. "We don't have the input from people who actually

live in them or have lived in them, but it could be because there is not a huge amount of concern, so they weren't interested in being seen or heard or wanted to participate in the meeting."

The Monte Vista Planning and Zoning Committee and the City of Monte Vista were seeking input on adding potential regulations to the

current municipal code for short-term rentals for Monte Vista, such as Air B and Bs or other short-term rental alternative housing. There are currently no regulations in place for short-term rentals

Enderle said part of the meeting was to decide where short-term rentals should be placed.

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## Byron Syring DELTA Center and On-Line Academy graduates appreciate teachers, family and friends

BY MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Thirty-eight Byron Syring DELTA Center and Monte Vista On-Line Academy students graduated in front of a packed and excited Jean Ritchey Central Auditorium on May 11. More than 250 people were in attendance.

The DELTA Center and On-Line Academy Director Rebekah Johnson welcomed the audience.

"Thank you for joining us today. Welcome to the 2024 commencement exercises. These programs play an important role in the Monte Vista School District's Commitment to inspire the pursuit of excellence, one student at a time. Today, we celebrate the accomplishment of completing high school. High school can look different for everyone. It's not a one size fits all, and not all students fit a traditional mold. It's something that we're proud of is that we're able to provide a program that helps students find an approach that meets their individual needs," she said.

Johnson introduced the first speaker in the ceremony, 2024 DELTA Center graduate Cyrus Guymon.

"Good morning, everyone. I've been here for two years. It's such an honor to stand here before you today and have the opportunity to talk to you about our school. I'm so extremely proud of all my peers and friends who are with me today. We have all worked so hard and waited our entire lives for today. All of that has finally paid off. I think that everyone deserves to be here. It makes me so happy for all of you. We have all had our ups and downs and I'm assuming things haven't been the easiest if you ended up at the Delta Center. It has been so wonderful to watch my peers grow and mature and become such fantastic independent versions of themselves. I think that we owe so much to our teachers and staff of the school. And I would like to take

Please see GRADS on Page 2A



Photos by Marie Mccolm

Christopher Valenzuela speaks at the Byron Syring DELTA Center and Monte Vista On-Line Academy graduation on May 11 in Monte Vista.



Alorah Duzenack receives her diploma on May 11 at the Byron Syring DELTA Center and Monte Vista On-Line Academy graduation.



George Blake

### Pearl Harbor survivor Blake dies at 103

Lived at Homelake Veterans Center in MV

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — George Blake, a Pearl Harbor survivor, passed away on May 8, 2024, at Homelake Veterans Center in

Please see BLAKE on Page 2A

## Cinco de Mayo Street Festival donating to multiple organizations

Event drew more than 1,500 people to MV

BY MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — On May 4, the main streets of Monte Vista were rocking with spicy music, dancing, delicious Mexican food, a fabulous car show, and many vendors at the Fourth Annual Cinco de Mayo Street Festival in Monte Vista.

The event was organized by the OptiMystics Citizen's Action Network and will be donating more than \$2,500 to three local nonprofits.

OptiMystics president Adam Lock was excited about the festival and

Please see FESTIVAL on Page 4A



Courtesy photo

This year's Cinco de Mayo Street Festival had a variety of activities. The Monte Vista Mini Cheerleaders performed at the event.

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# BLAKE

Continued from Page 1A

Monte Vista at the remarkable age of 103.

His life was intertwined with the historic events of Dec. 7, 1941, when Japan attacked the naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Blake served almost 5½ years in the Army during World War II with over 3 years of his service overseas. He was assigned to an Artillery Unit for the Harbor Defense of Pearl Harbor, T.H. 1941. He was trained as a Morse Code radio Operator and later was in charge of a Radar installation for Artillery Fire. At the end of the war, he was discharged with the rank of Staff Sergeant. Following his discharge he joined the Air Force Reserves.

On that fateful Sunday morning, Dec. 7, 1941, Blake was headed to the gym to play basketball when the attack began. Initially, he thought it was a drill, but the reality soon set in as explosions echoed and planes filled the sky. Rising suns adorned the wings of the attacking aircraft.

Despite the chaos, Blake survived the Pearl Harbor attack and continued to serve in Harbor Defense at Pearl Harbor.

At 15 years of age, he met Helen, the love of his life, and except for his military service overseas during WWII they were together for the rest of their lives. After almost 70 years of marriage, Helen passed away in 2013.

Upon his discharge from the Army, Blake became employed by the Research Department of Bell Telephone Laboratories in NY. Due to the nature of his assignments and the expansion of Bell Labs, George and Helen moved several times and have lived in five states: Virginia, New York, New Jersey, Illinois, and Colorado. In 1983 after 37 years with the company, he retired from the Bell Labs in Denver and moved to Salida.

Blake lived in Salida for 40 years before moving to the Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake. In January, he celebrated his 103rd birthday.

He was the only child of Florence Rosa (Sears) of London, England and George W. Blake of Plymouth, England. George Jr. was born on Jan. 29, 1921, in the Bronx, NY. Shortly after his birth, the family moved to Flatbush in Brooklyn, NY. He grew up in Brooklyn attending P.S. 119 and then graduated from Textile High School in Manhattan.

Blake is survived by his three daughters, Margaret Glaser (Andrew) of Annandale, NJ, Barbara Swift of Maple Park, Ill., and Colleen Trinko (Paul) of Glen Ellyn, Ill.; five grandchildren Drew Glaser, Jeff Glaser (Jen), Amy Glaser, Kari Soprych and Megan Loebbaka (Cale) and 10 great-grandchildren Jack and Lucy, Eve (Arthur), and Indra (Andrew), Ella and Andrew, Ethan and Emma, Sawyer and Charlotte.

Funeral Service is set for 10 a.m. on Friday May 17, 2024, at Lewis and Glenn Funeral Home in Salida. Interment will follow at Fairview Cemetery.

# INPUT

Continued from Page 1A

"We wanted to know if the public thinks they should all be placed or moved to a specific location, or should they be allowed to be anywhere in town," he said. "The meeting was about hearing what the public thought should be added to regulations for short-term rentals. We wanted to hear from the public about any changes we should add before we implemented anything."

Enderle spoke about some of the input that was received from the people.

People said they did not feel there had to be a certain distance between the short-term rentals. However, they were all short-term rental owners, so they may not have the same perspective as people who do live in the neighborhoods with the rentals, he said.

There was a remark made that if there are too many short-term rentals, they are likely to self-correct, because they are not being kept full, he said.

"While I do agree with that as a short-term rental owner, if they are not being supported, from a long-term rental perspective, for the short-term rentals, even if we

have too many for us to maintain a stable long term rental market, if long term rentals, are all being filling with short term renters, then it won't correct. There is still a lot to be examined in the area of what is best for short-term rentals," he said.

Enderle said they wanted to hear the input of the people and correct any problems that they may foresee having before they occur, through regulations.

They were appreciative of the input but hoped to also hear from people living near short-term rentals or from renters.

"We want to support a good healthy rental market with these regulations. We want to put things together that make sense for everyone. After hearing from the people, we wish could have heard from renters as well, but the owners did give us a lot of good perspective too," he said.

Enderle said there was still work to be done on how they craft the regulations together.

"For everyone that was in attendance, including the planning and zoning committee, we all came to the same conclusion, even though

we did not have regulations in place, we should have regulations in place," he said. "No matter how we craft these regulations though, we are not going to be at the max capacity at this time. We are below where we believe we can support as far as short-term rentals, and still have suitable long-term rentals for people who live here."

Enderle said that another thing that they have not figured out regulation-wise is how dense the regulations should be.

"This is going to take some thought. As we work together, we will figure this out. We believe there should be regulations in place though, and we have a general idea of what some of them should be. The next steps will be to finalize the draft, have a work session with city council, and then it will go to a public hearing. We will hold a public hearing prior to it being put into an ordinance, to be in the new land use regulations for short-term rentals. The public still has time for more input at the hearing," he said.

For more information on short-term rental regulations, contact the City of Monte Vista.

# GRADS

Continued from Page 1A

a moment to appreciate them. These are some of the most supportive, kind and patient individuals that I have ever met and had the opportunity to learn from. I never could have guessed the impact that these teachers would have had on my life. To my fellow classmates and friends, I am so very proud of you, I hope that life treats us all well."

Johnson then introduced 2024 graduate Payton Garcia, who said, "Hello faculty friends, family, and the class of 2024. I originally joined because of some health issues I had been struggling with. The brick-and-mortar schools were not willing to work with me at this difficult time. We started to look for online options, and thought that this would be the best fit, it obviously was. This transition to online schooling has allowed me to pursue my love for the outdoors. The flexibility of online school has made all the difference for me in my everyday life. The flexibility made it possible for me to have a job doing what I love, to train horses. It has also led me to explore new interests and passions. I have been taking Welding Classes at Front Range Community College in my junior and senior year. I am a few credits away from completing my associates now and I am excited to also be starting a job at the Front Range Community College this summer as the lead lab technician at the welding shop. The teachers were always so eager and willing to help me. In closing I would like to extend a warm thank you to all the teachers and my classmates of 2024."

Johnson then introduced 2024 graduate Christopher Valenzuela, who said, "I would like to thank you all for being here today and celebrating this amazing accomplishment. First off, I would like to congratulate the graduating class of 2024. This is an amazing achievement and I hope you cherish every moment. I would also like to take a moment to tell you about my education. I am no valedictorian. And I was originally supposed to graduate in 2020. In middle school I was held back and had to repeat seventh grade. This was a huge blow to me. I was very bitter, but one of the things that kept me going was the fact that me and my little brother were now in the same grade. With his moral support by my side, and him allowing me into his friend group, it gave me a reason to try. When I made it to high school I was still plagued

with discouragement. While I was hopeful, I was not up to par with my classes or my classmates, also due to a series of unfortunate events. I still wanted to graduate, so I moved to the Delta Center. With their flexibility and understanding, I was not only able to pursue my education. I was given the ability to explore the adult life. Through determination and consistency, I learned that you are able to overcome great obstacles and when you reach the top don't forget to turn around and help others. Thank you."

Johnson then announced graduate Chanel Tucker, who said, "Good morning my fellow teachers, students, and administrators. I am honored, grateful and a little terrified to be here with all of you today. Graduation is not only due to personal achievement, it is a testament to the collaborative effort of the village that supports. As we step into this new chapter of life, we will carry with us the lessons that we've learned. As we look to the future, we should be excited and ready to face new challenges, and to continue learning. So, here is to new beginnings, new opportunities, and to facing the unknown with courage. To our teachers thank you for your passion, your patience, and your belief in our education. I truly cannot believe that 13 years of all my education has finally come to an end. So let us celebrate the class of 2024, we did it. Congratulations graduates."

After a slide show students gave roses and hugged family members as a thank you for their support.

Johnson then announced that diplomas would be handed out. As each student was called, they stepped up to receive their diplomas. After the turning of the tassels, some of the students threw their hats in the air and the ceremony concluded.

Graduate Alessandra Torres was asked how it felt to graduate, and she said, "It feels really good. I owe all my credit to my family for being there to support me today. I am going to attend barbering in the spring, and I will start my CDL in the fall. I am going to stay here for a year, and then after we will see where I go."

Graduate Osvaldo Galindo was asked how he felt about graduating and he said, "It feels good. It feels good for it to finally be over. I plan to get my real estate license. I probably won't stay in the Valley. I am probably going to move."

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## We can do that

## How did so much stuff pile up?

By RICH WANDSCHNEIDER

A few years ago, I turned a carport into a bedroom. But first I had to empty out the books, papers, furniture, rugs and tools that were in the carport. Then I took it all to a storage unit where rent was \$50 a month.

After three years of thinking about it, and only occasionally pawing through the storage unit for a lost item, I finally sorted out a handful of books and items that meant something — I could have fit them in a suitcase! — and held a yard sale for the rest.

I think about that when I see storage facilities spreading and expanding across the country. At least 500 units have been built here in eastern Oregon's Wallowa County, population 7,500, and storage businesses can be found in towns and suburbs across the West.

A local entrepreneur who owns about half the local units is now building in regional towns as well: Concrete slabs with metal buildings on top, single light bulbs inside, no plumbing.

I'm past 80 now, and, although my house is small, I have held onto a lot of stuff. In the normal course of events, my children would inherit it.

But my two children and their families live in Arizona and Guam, busy building their own inventories of stuff. In a previous age, when there was a family house and three or more children to a house, the house and its basic furnishings would go to one child, and the remaining children would parcel out anything else.

In my nuclear family, it worked like this: Mom passed on, and no one wanted or needed the house, so Dad called a summit meeting as he prepared to go into assisted living.

We four siblings gathered for a week in the sunny Southern California backyard and emptied the house. Dad sat in his captain's chair and laid down the rules: if you brought it into the house — sculpture from Africa, old sports equipment — you took it away. Or traded with a sibling. One table was set up for stuff to go to Dad's best friend and another for a yard sale, and off we went to sort through the remaining items.

When it came to Dad's fine collection of old cameras, they went to brother Phil, in Dad's estimation the only one of us who knew how to take a decent photo. The tools were split between sister Mary and me: "You both at least know the difference between

an end wrench and a crescent."

Dad said that he had seen families argue and split over parental leavings, and he wanted no part of that. So, on we went,

sorting through grandma's rag rugs, old diplomas, a collection of bell bottom pants and lots of keepsakes, all the while drinking beer and retelling old stories.

We cried some as we set Dad up with a few things for the assisted living place, then left for our own homes. I got Dad's last Ford — his cars were always Fords — as he figured my family needed a good second car more than did the others.

It was a wonderful week.

I don't have plans for a summit, but I am looking around the house and thinking about what child or grandchild might want the things I have held onto, such as carpets from Turkey, artwork by Northwest artist friends, cast iron cookware and so many books.

Books written and signed by Ivan Doig and Ursula LeGuin — they can go to libraries now. And I smile thinking about taking my best Turkish carpet to a granddaughter's first house.

Last week, Nez Perce artist Carla Timentwa brought a fine collection of beadwork, woven basket hats and shell dresses to the Josephy Center in the town of Joseph, where I work. She said she'd ignored her grandmother's teachings as a child, but on becoming a grandmother herself, took up the arts and began making things to give away: hats for granddaughters who serve food in the Longhouse, a fine beaded vest for her husband, dresses for young women to wear at naming and mourning ceremonies.

It's important, Carla said, to take care of others as they come into the world, as they grow and as they leave. It's a good lesson — giving is always more important than storing stuff away.

*Rich Wandschneider is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He feels lighter in Joseph, Ore.*



Photo by Adam Winger, courtesy Unsplash  
Storage Units outside of Logan, Utah.



Trout Republic  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

And yes, I do understand that people are busy, but those alligator mouths need to learn to stay shut when the subject of work for others comes up.

In writing this column, Miss Trixie has informed me that when she says, "we can do that," it is supposed to be words of encouragement because apparently, she thinks that will help me. It doesn't.

For other folks, saying "we can do that" makes them feel good at the moment they say it and their intentions were good, too, at that time. But we all know what the road to Hell is paved with and I can see why Abbot Bernard of Clairvaux coined the phrase way back in the mid 1100's.

He probably had a church to build, a rectory to add on to or some such thing and everyone around probably said they would help only to never show up for the actual project. I think the funniest part of those encounters with people is that after the work is all done and the paperwork filed, they still take credit for what "we" built.

So, if you have a project, be it church related or personal in nature, you can expect a chorus of voices encouraging you to go right ahead with said venture. And as long as you know that "We" means "Me", as in you alone, you will be good for the journey.

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

If you know anything at all about Ol' Dutch, it is that he has always been a can-do type of person. I don't know if there is anything I haven't done or am not willing to try to do myself. And if you also know that I have Scottish blood flowing through these old veins, you will know the reason for doing so. Yes, true to that heritage I am tight as bark on a tree when it comes to money.

That also came fairly honestly to me as my family have all been frugal. Mostly out of a need due to lack of mammon but also, we just like to do our own projects and count Home Depot and Lowes as a pilgrimage. And generally, I do not mind a bit as I know I will get a better-quality product in the end if I do it myself even though it may take me longer to get it done.

Having grown up in a church family I had ample opportunity to help build, clean, mow, set up chairs, bring food and other things as those needs became available. But the one thing that drives me to distraction about that process is all the people who are always so gung-ho when some project or need is announced and say, "We can do that."

Almost every time I have heard "we can do that," it means, "Dutch, get ready to work." When it comes time for the deed, I always seem to find myself working while the well-meaning become weary in well-doing, which is in the Bible actually.

In Galatians, you'll find the advice that people need to be careful not to get worn out doing good works but if they persevere, they will reap a reward in due time. I don't know about you, but "due time" seems to be a "long time" when it comes to reaping back. But it does pay eventually.

As you all know Miss Trixie and I have been in the middle of building a house and most of the work has fallen on yours truly, Ol' Dutch. And I would not have it any other way I guess but I can tell you this. I have heard "we can do it" from more than one person and for some reason they were all no shows when it came time for actual work.

## Busy watching final season of United States

LA JOLLA — God bless America, and how's everybody?

Daily Variety reports TV shows are spread out over so many platforms that sports and news are our only nationally shared experiences. This past week I've been unable to watch the NFL Draft or the NBA playoffs or the Kentucky Derby. I'm too busy watching the final season of the United States.

Cinco de Mayo was a festive drinking holiday

in America Sunday honoring the date in history that Mexican forces routed the French Army in 1862. Ah yes, the French Army, everybody's favorite homecoming opponent. I'm so pro-Hispanic that candy would come out of me if you hit me with a stick.

North Korea's Kim Jung Un said Friday he has a hypersonic missile

that can reach L.A. in 20 minutes. His CIA dossier says Kim dates underage women, takes Viagra, snorts cocaine, drinks Cognac and loves NBA basketball. You'd think he would spare Los Angeles out of professional courtesy.

Golden Bachelor Gerry Turner and his glamorous bride Theresa Nist divorced on three months after getting married on TV. Such is life. If you're a celebrity and you're married to a celebrity, you know that your marriage is over when your wife will only let you watch her get undressed on Only Fans.

Al-Jazeera reported Friday that Teheran University will offer full four-year scholarships to any U.S. college professor who is expelled while participating in anti-American riots and

chanting Death to America. I'd add a warning to the Queers for Palestine. Before leaving, pack a quick-opening parachute.

George Washington's statue at George Washington University in DC was covered by protestors in a Palestinian headdress. George, no Muslim by any means, brewed beer, distilled whisky, raised tobacco and grew industrial-strength cannabis. His first book was Fear and Loathing on the Appalachian Trail.

Donald Trump accused Biden of running a Gestapo administration Saturday. If you keep score, the Democrats call Trump Hitler, Trump calls Democrats the Gestapo, and anti-Israel protestors now call for death to the Jews. The KKK must be mortified to realize they're now regarded as the Middle Way.

Politico reported Sunday that South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem gave a thirty-minute speech at the RNC fundraiser at Mar-a-Lago on Saturday.

However she was not included in the onstage photo with Trump and the other GOP speakers. Kristi's not just in the dog house, she's in the gravel pit.

President Biden gave a speech on the economic benefits of immigration Friday, then said Japan's economy is stagnant because they don't like immigration and are xenophobic toward foreigners. The president has a good point. Just look at the way Japan reacted when Godzilla emerged from Tokyo Bay.

The Bank of England said new British currency will go into circulation in June bearing the portrait of King Charles. The bank added that all currency with the late Queen's portrait will still be honored. The difference is, they had to widen the King Charles bills a little bit to accommodate his ears.

Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law a bill call the California Food Safety Act that could threaten snack foods Oreos, Skittles, Cheetos, Doritos, Fruit Loops and Captain

Crunch by the year 2027. The state is making no apologies. They contain a chemical that could turn you into a conservative.

The Daily Mail tells how Boeing's Starliner space plane will avoid deadly black zones during its trip to the International Space Station. It was also reported Thursday that yet another Boeing whistleblower has mysteriously died. The company should change its name to The Clintons of the Sky.

The Methodist General Conference voted full communion with its mother Episcopal Church Tuesday. They are the two offshoots of the Church of England in America that share one handicap in common. Anglicans can't play chess because we can't tell the difference between a king and a bishop.

*Argus Hamilton is the host comedian at The Comedy Store in Hollywood and entertains groups and organizations around the country. E-mail him at ArgusJokes@yahoo.com.*



by Argus Hamilton

# THE Monte Vista JOURNAL

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# Sargent's Spearman wins Doug Monter Scholarship

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — The Colorado Potato Administrative Committee recently announce that the recipients of the 2024 Doug Monter Scholarship funds have been selected.

The winner, Lane Spearman of Sargent High School, will receive a four-year scholarship of \$2,000 per semester for the first year and \$500 per semester for each following year to the school of their choice.

Second through fifth place will receive one-time amounts to the school of their choice. The recipients are as follows:

- First Place
- Spearman- Sargent High School - \$7,000
- Second through Fifth Place
- Kaiden Smit- Sangre De Cristo High School - \$2,000
- Zachary Romero- Del Norte High School - \$2,000
- Diego Chavez- Centauri High School - \$500
- Hayden Lester- Sargent High School - \$500

The CPAC Committee stated it "is grateful to have the opportunity to invest in the future of these students and the future of the San Luis Valley."



Lane Spearman

## FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1A

said, "My favorite part of the festival was seeing the crowds and people gathered round, enjoying the various performances put on throughout the day. This kind of positive community engagement is a key piece to successful events like the Cinco de Mayo Street Festival. We are thankful to those who participated and helped host these mini events."

This year's festival had a variety of activities. The Monte Vista Mini Cheerleaders performed at the event.

There was a Canine Costume Contest held compliments of Muddy Paws. There was a dog race held in front of the Pivot Public House.

This year there were also cultural talks held at the Vali 3 Theater.

Dustin Sigaty of Monte Vista attended the festival.

"The costume contest had a pretty good turnout in all three categories small, medium, and large dogs. I particularly liked the cowpoke dog and the sunflower dog. The presentation by El Llamado Hispano was great. They showed off traditional Mexican clothing, music and dancing and offered a historical perspective on the significance of Cinco de Mayo. All these events provided a lot of 'meat' to the celebration," he said.

The car show was also a big hit at Cinco de Mayo. The overall winner of the car show was TJ Atencio.

Atencio was excited about the win and said, "It's a nice car show. Feels good to be here."

There were at least 30 participants at the car show. Richard Garcia of the Poor Boy Car Club was also at the show, and said, "The car shows are always great, and it's wonderful that the OptiMystics are donating to so many great causes this year too."

This year the OptiMystics donated to three organizations, beyond the cost of operating the Cinco de Mayo Street Festival, including the Monte Vista Ambulance Service, Conour Animal Shelter, and the Monte Vista Emergency Food Bank. Funds will be dispersed over the next few weeks. Monte Vista Ambulance will receive \$100, Conour Animal Shelter will receive \$380, and the Monte Vista Food Bank will receive \$2,131.

Although the festival had a little bit of rain, it was a big success according to Lawrence Roy Aiken who was the emcee at the festival.

"A heavy rainstorm couldn't put this year's Cinco de Mayo's fire out. I'm most impressed with how we recovered. We also learned a lot about what we could do with the layout along Second Avenue. Getting a local landmark like the Stars and Strikes Bowling Alley and the Pivot Public



Courtesy photos

The Cinco de Mayo Street Festival drew more than 1,500 people to downtown Monte Vista on May 4.

House involved this year also made things really special," Aiken said.

When asked if there will be a festival next year, OptiMystics vice president Mark Renshaw said, "We hope we'll be able to continue the Cinco de Mayo Street Festival in downtown Monte Vista, because, after all it was started to bring people downtown, and that wouldn't happen if it was held in a park. This is our 4th Cinco de Mayo Festival and I hope it will continue for years to come. It's an accomplished feeling when you see so many people enjoying themselves and raising funds for a good cause at the same time."



Children enjoy the bouncy house on May 4 at the Cinco de Mayo Street Festival in Monte Vista.

# Martinez Memorial Scholarship 5K Run/Walk May 25

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

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

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

Glen knew the value of education and the value of physical fitness. Growing up in Monte

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

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

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

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



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# Rio Grande County Museum home to Bunker Site exhibit

## STAFF REPORT

**DEL NORTE** — The Rio Grande County Museum has been home to the Bunker Site Exhibit for the past three years, bringing researchers and educational professionals from across the U.S. Originally created as a traveling exhibit by the US Forest Service, the Bunker Site Exhibit is a unique look at history in the San Luis Valley and showcases archeological finds that date back hundreds of years, further confirming that indigenous groups have been using the area for resources and served as part of the Old Spanish Trail.

The Bunker Site is a 16-acre area discovered several years ago by local ranchers Bob and Judy Bunker.

“The site lies at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range on the East Fork of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail. The site has a manicured feel to it with wide openings between large pinon pine trees due to extensive de-limbing. Wetlands and sand to the west, and mountains to the east confined travelers along a corridor that provided forage, fuel, and cover. These and other environmental factors would have made this campsite the Holiday Inn of the Old Spanish Trail.”

The site was excavated by local archeological teams and continues to be excavated today with more artifacts being found year to year. Initial findings included axe blades, musket balls, coscojos (also known as Spanish tack), metal points and tree rings that date back to the Old Spanish Trail era and proof that the site has been used for over a thousand years.

According to the exhibit’s description, “The Old Spanish Trail was pioneered by Mexican trader Antonio Armijo in 1829 as a pack trail and later, an emigration route that connected Sante Fe and Los Angeles. Traders carried woolens, made from the wool of churro sheep that were traded in Los Angeles for hundreds and sometimes thousands of strong Californian mules and horses.”



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

The Rio Grande County Museum is home to the Bunker Site Exhibit, one of the San Luis Valley’s most interesting archeological finds. Originally put together by the US Forest Service, this exhibit showcases unique and fascinating artifacts found by Valley natives near the Old Spanish Trail on the eastern edge of the Valley.

The San Luis Valley has a long history related to both sheep and burros dating back to its origins in the mid-1800s. Many Spanish settlers came to the area because of the abundance of resources after the Spanish Land Grant agreements were finalized. Evidence of the use of the trail remains to this day in other locations outside of the Bunker Site and remain points of curiosity for researchers worldwide.

The Rio Grande County Museum is home to several artifacts related to not only the Bunker Site but other locations where evidence of indigenous people’s follow along the Old Spanish Trail in the form of petroglyphs that date back

between 6,000 and 10,000 years old. A large photographic collection of local petroglyphs is showcased at the museum and fall tours are held in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and Rio Grande National Forest to help share education about the sites, their historical significance and the importance of preservation of the sites.

The Bunker Site Exhibit is on display at the Rio Grande County Museum year-round and is available to experts looking to research its significance and connection to the Old Spanish Trail. For more information, visit [www.riograndecountymuseum.org](http://www.riograndecountymuseum.org) or call 719-657-2847.



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# New Colorado prosecutor to decide potential charges in Morphew murder

By CAROL MCKINLEY  
Denver Gazette

The once-cold Suzanne Morphew investigation has gotten warmer. According to Linda Stanley, the original prosecutor on the case, new charges that could be potentially filed in the investigation are now on the desk of a new district attorney. Stanley first took on the case in January 2021, only to see it implode with a dismissal 16 months later.

The new eyes on the star-crossed case belong to Anne Kelly of the 12th Judicial District Attorney's Office. The district is in the San Luis Valley area where Morphew's remains were discovered. She has been consulting on Morphew's murder with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, according to a CBI press release.

Stanley said it was the right thing to do. "There are no jurisdictional issues in the 12th, so they will likely be pursuing any charges in the case," said Stanley told The Denver Gazette by phone on Wednesday. Stanley is under investigation by

the arm of the Colorado Supreme Court that takes complaints against attorneys, in part for what some complained was her mishandling of the case, but others believe she laid the foundation for the investigation moving forward.

Morphew's remains were found last September south of Moffatt, which is in a different jurisdiction from where the 49-year-old mother of two was last seen. Investigators believe that she was killed at the family home sometime between May 9 and May 10, 2020. According to the arrest affidavit and an evidentiary hearing, the crime likely occurred on the grounds of the family's Maysville home.

Maysville is located west of Salida by way of U.S. 50. Morphew's bones were found scattered in a field about 45 minutes south of the family home. That location happened to be across the border separating the 11th and 12th judicial districts.

**The day the case went away**  
On April 19, 2022, murder charg-

es against Morphew's husband, Barry, were dropped when Stanley and her team asked 11th Judicial Judge Ramsey Lama to dismiss the case without prejudice just nine days before trial. Morphew walked out of the courthouse a free man.

Dismissed without prejudice means that the investigation can be re-opened though the original prosecution is over.

Morphew, 56, moved to Arizona but held a memorial service for his wife in Indiana last weekend. The two met, married, and started a family there. Suzanne Morphew's side of the family was not invited to the "celebration of life," according to family members who wished to remain unidentified.

**Heaps of information**  
Kelly inherits a voluminous four-year-old case with at least 80,000 pages of discovery, not including hours of police body-worn camera footage and video interviews. But the recent autopsy results revealed a critical clue. A request by the El Paso County Coroner to a forensic

lab for extra toxicology revealed that the chemicals butorphanol, azaperone, and medetomidine were found in Suzanne Morphew's femur, according to the report.

Sources who wished to remain anonymous confirmed that the chemicals were discovered in the marrow of the bone, a place that forensic pathologists say can be a treasure trove for storage of materials that may not be found in an initial cursory search.

The three chemicals are used by biologists, wildlife officers, and hunters to anesthetize large-sized animals such as deer, bears, moose, and horses. The report described the compound as an "injectable chemical immobilizer" for wildlife, the symptoms of which can be reversed.

The autopsy report, performed by the El Paso County Coroner's office, found Suzanne Morphew's cause of death to be undetermined and the manner of death to be homicide.

Butorphanol, azaperone, and medetomidine are the same substances that Suzanne's husband, Barry Morphew, told investigators he brought to Colorado from Indiana and routinely used to immobilize deer before he removed their antlers.

The chemical mixture is often sold in kit form with the acronym "BAM."

Still, Barry Morphew's attorney said that law enforcement should "take their blinders off" and stop focusing on his client. "Other people could have access to those chemicals who knew that Mrs. Morphew was alone that day (on Sunday, May 10, Mother's Day)." Iris Eytan suggested that investigators will be able to get the prescription records. "Special veterinarians have the ability to prescribe these controlled substances. If they do their job...they'll be able to get the prescription record, which farmers and ranchers had it and especially in that area."

## Multiple agencies engage in high-speed chase of stolen car

CONTRIBUTED

**RIOGRANDE COUNTY** — Deputies with the Rio Grande Sheriff's Office engaged in a high-speed pursuit at about 3 p.m. on Tuesday after being notified via their Automated License Plate Reader that they had just passed a stolen vehicle west of Del Norte on Highway 160.

According to a statement from Rio Grande County Sheriff Anne Robinson, after confirming a stolen vehicle report from the Colorado Springs Police Department, RGCSO deputies attempted to stop the vehicle on Highway 160 at County Road 44

within Rio Grande County.

The vehicle was a 1996 Subaru Legacy station wagon.

The vehicle's driver began to stop and fled from the deputies. With the assistance of the Monte Vista Police Department, an attempt to deploy a tire deflation device west of Monte Vista was unsuccessful. The vehicle continued through Monte Vista.

As the pursuit approached Alamosa another attempt to deploy a tire deflation device was made by the Alamosa Police Department. The vehicle swerved to avoid the Stop Sticks, spun out of control off the roadway,

but was able to regain the roadway and continue toward Alamosa.

The pursuit was discontinued before entering city limits due to concerns for public safety.

The unoccupied vehicle was located in a residential neighborhood in Alamosa a short time later. The identification of the driver of the vehicle is pending further investigation.

The Rio Grande County Sheriff's Department would like to thank its law enforcement partners and the Colorado State Patrol Regional Communications Center for their assistance and support.

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## Take a Step into Your Destiny

When it comes to running their race and fulfilling the dreams that God has placed in their hearts, I believe a lot of Christians are stuck in the starting blocks. They aren't sure how a situation is going to turn out or exactly what they should do... so they do nothing.

Instead of running the race that God has set out for them (Hebrews 12:1), they are letting worry and anxiety keep them frozen at the starting line.

You see, God has an amazing plan for your life and so many good things in store for you...if you are willing to take a step.

God wants you to participate in the miracle He is doing in your life. If you think that you're going to wake up one day and supernaturally be at the finish line, you're going to be disappointed. It doesn't work that way.

In our relationship with God, each one of us is given the great opportunity to walk out our faith. Just as Adam and Eve walked with God in the cool of the garden, or just as the disciples walked with Jesus on the roads of Galilee, we are called to walk with the Lord on a daily basis.

But in order to walk, you have to do something—you have to take the steps that God leads you to take. Every day, God is encouraging you to go—to step out, commit your plans to God, and trust that He can help you be all that you can be, just like it says in Psalm 37:5 (NKJV): Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.

But many times, because we aren't sure of all the steps, we don't even take the first one. We're waiting for God to tell us how the next five years of our lives are going to work out, and God is telling us what to do today.

I've learned in my relationship with God that He doesn't always give me the entire plan—He usually just gives me the next step. God keeps secrets and hides things from us so we will walk in faith and continue seeking Him. He always reveals what we need to know at the right time.

Your dream may be to have a ministry that reaches the world, but God is asking you to take step one—share the Gospel with your neighbor across the street.

You may be praying that God will give you your own business, but God is asking you to take step one—show up for work on time and be faithful at the job you have now.

You may be trying to figure out how to lose a certain amount of weight, but God wants you to take step one—exercise for 20 minutes today.

We have a tendency to get so wrapped up in the destination that we never even begin the journey! So, what is God asking you to do today? Faith is always active—always. It is not passive. Faith requires that you move forward into what God is telling you to do.

Sometimes people say to me, "Joyce, because I'm not one hundred percent sure what God is saying to me, I'm afraid I'm going to take the wrong step."

I understand this concern, but did



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you spot a certain word in there? "Afraid." It is not the will of God for fear to rule in any area of your life—especially your walk with Him. Don't be afraid to take a step because you think it will be the wrong one. God sees your heart. He knows that you are trying to please Him and live in obedience to His Word.

He is not a cruel, angry God who is going to punish you if you take a misstep along the way. He sees your heart is right and you are trying to take a step toward His plan for your life...and He is going to bless you for your desire to walk in your destiny.

So, take a step—God is waiting for you!

*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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# Rio Grande County Public Health joins National Prevention Week celebrations

CONTRIBUTED

**DEL NORTE** — The Rio Grande County Public Health (RGCPH) will join communities across the country in celebrating the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) National Prevention Week 2024 from May 12 to the 18. RGCPH will be utilizing this opportunity to increase awareness of the serious issues affecting the health of our community and residents, as well as action around serious substance use/misuse, mental health, tobacco use, chronic disease and violence.

Similar to the successful execution of National Public Health Week at the beginning of April, we will celebrate the Prevention Week with daily themes. On Monday, the focus will be on Mental Health, while the focus on Tuesday will be on Substance Use. Wednesday will address Tobacco Use and Thursday will be on Chronic Disease. Friday will address violence and crime prevention.

Daily, Rio Grande County Public Health will use social media and extended networks to share information about the prevalence of these issues in the Rio Grande County community and steps residents can take to address them, either by taking part in a suicide prevention program, sharing tobacco cessation information, examining and changing eating and exercise habits or properly securing

and storing firearms, among other possibilities. Rio Grande County Public Health will kick off Prevention Week Celebration with some activities for the community and a special presentation on Monday, May 13 at 6 p.m. at the Rio Grande County Annex building, 925 6th St., Del Norte. A special presentation from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's program Talk Saves Lives; which covers important information about suicide, the risk and protective factors for suicide and what you can do if someone you know may be thinking about or talking about suicide. Please, RSVP for the presentation but it is not required. If you are able to RSVP, reach out to [chelseamm@riograndecounty.org](mailto:chelseamm@riograndecounty.org).



If you're interested in sharing your personal prevention experiences with the community at large, reach out to RGCPH Prevention Coordinator, Chelsea McNeerney-Martinez at [chelseamm@riograndecounty.org](mailto:chelseamm@riograndecounty.org) or post on social media with hashtags #NationalPreventionWeek24 and #MyPreventionStory. Don't forget to tag our Facebook page, @Rio Grande County Public Health. RGCPH, through our prevention branch Rio Grande Prevention Partners, along with our partner coalitions, are always looking for community members from a variety of sectors willing to lend a little time and experience to our prevention efforts.

# Rio Grande County to integrate 150th anniversary into annual events

By LYNDIE FERRELL

**RIO GRANDE COUNTY** — For the past several months members of Rio Grande County have been planning to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the designation of Rio Grande County at each of the most popular county events throughout the summer.

In conjunction with already planned events, the county has also utilized some funding to design and purchase commemorative coins that are for sale in several locations like the Rio Grande County Museum and have designed and purchased commemorative stickers which are also available for free to businesses and other organizations that want to pass them out.

The county's website has a list of coming events as well as a slideshow that highlights the origins of the county and several pictures provided by the Rio Grande County Museum that show how far the county and its communities have come over the years.

Once Del Norte was established in 1872, the area surrounding the bustling mining town began to grow and expand. Del Norte remained part of Conejos County as part of the Spanish Land Grants that brought people here as early as 1849 when the Fremont Expedition failed to pass through the San Juan Mountains.

The first leaders of Del Norte alongside leaders from other counties petitioned the state to make separate counties out of Conejos County that stretched almost all the way to where the current Utah State Boarder resides.

Rio Grande County was officially designated alongside Hinsdale and La Plata counties in state legislature No. 52. The San Juan Prospector's article about the designation was brief stating that the legislature had passed and ended with, "San Juan Ho!"

Throughout the years, other towns began to pop up in Rio Grande County, some of which are no longer viable including Loma, Whiskeyville, Baxterville and others. Alamosa followed Del Norte in 1878, Wagon Wheel gap in 1879, Monte Vista in 1884 and Creede in 1891-92.

Plans for the coming summer season will be to celebrate all

that Rio Grande County is by honoring annual events like South Fork's Logger Days, Monte Vista's Ski-Hi Stampede and Del Norte's Covered Wagon Days. Dates and times are available on the county's website [www.riograndecounty.org](http://www.riograndecounty.org). Click on the tab for 150 Anniversary to be directed to the slide show and schedule of planned events.



### Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a hearing before the Rio Grande County Board of County Commissioners will be held on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 11:00am

The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed adoption of Guidelines and Regulations for Water Projects for Export Outside the San Luis Valley as Designated as Matters of State Interest of Rio Grande County. The proposed Guidelines and Regulations are available for review at [www.riograndecounty.org](http://www.riograndecounty.org) under "Public Notices" on the main page or in the County Administration Office at 925 6th St Rm 200, Del Norte, between 8am - 4pm Monday - Friday.

Any interested person may appear to be heard at the public hearings. These public hearings will be held in the commissioner's meeting room located in room 207 at 925 6th St., Del Norte, CO 81132. Written comments may be emailed to [rgcadministrator@riograndecounty.org](mailto:rgcadministrator@riograndecounty.org) or mailed or hand delivered to the County Administration Office at 925 6th St Rm 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Written comments must be received by 4pm on June 14, 2024.

No. 4824 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, May 15, 22 and 29 and June 5, 12 and 19, 2024.

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### 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

District Court of Rio Grande County, Colorado or  
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Kenneth J. Quintana  
Type or Print name of Person Giving Notice

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Address

Alamosa, CO, 81101  
City, State, Zip Code

No. 4824 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, May 1, 8 and 15, 2024.

### DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION 3, STATE OF COLORADO TO: ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN WATER APPLICATIONS FILED IN WATER DIVISION 3.

Pursuant to C.R.S. 37-92-302(3), you are notified that the following is a resume in Water Division 3, containing notice of applications and certain amendments filed in the office of the Water Clerk during the month of April 2024 for each county affected.

**CASE NO. 2024CW5 RIO GRANDE COUNTY: Bill and Pauline Bond Living Trust, Ronald Bond Trustee: 0640 East County Road 5 North, Monte Vista CO. 81144** [bondfarmllc@gmail.com](mailto:bondfarmllc@gmail.com) (719)850-2339. Well No. 2, Case No. W-2135, WDID 2011981, as modified in Case No. 20CW24. Date of original and all relevant subsequent decrees: December 1977 and Oct. 11, 2021 Case Nos: W-3595 and 20CW24 Court: Water Court Division 3. Legal description of structure as described in most recent decree that adjudicated the location: The NW1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 7, Township 39 North, Range 8 East, NMPM, At a point 85 Feet from the North Section Line and 2625 Feet from the East Section Line, in Rio Grande County, Colorado. Decreed source of water: Unconfined Aquifer of the Closed Basin. Permit Number: 86836-F (formerly 14085-R) Well Depth: 80 Feet Appropriation Date: July 31, 1937. Total amount decreed to structure in gallons per minute (gpm) or cubic feet per second (cfs): 985 GPM, absolute, being 2.219 cubic feet per second of time. Decreed use or uses: Irrigation. Restricted to the irrigation of 130 acres in the NE1/4 of Section 7, Township 39 North, Range 8 East, NMPM, in Rio Grande County, Colorado. Amount of water that applicant intends to change: 985 GPM Well No. 2-A, Case No. W-3595, WDID 2006422, as modified in Case No. 20CW24. Date of original and all relevant subsequent decrees: December 8, 1977, and Oct 11, 2021. Case Nos: W-3595 and 20CW24. Court: Water Court Division 3. The Center of the NE1/4 of Section 7, Township 39 North, Range 8 East, NMPM, At a point 1,320 Feet from the North Section Line and 1,320 Feet from the East Section Line, in Rio Grande County, Colorado Decreed source of water: Unconfined Aquifer of the Closed Basin. Permit Number: 86837-F (formerly 20261-F) Well Depth: 100 Feet Appropriation Date: June 30 1937. Total amount decreed to structure in gallons per minute (gpm) or cubic feet per second (cfs): 985 GPM absolute, being 2.19 cfs. S. Decreed use or uses: Irrigation. Restricted to the irrigation of 130 acres in the NE1/4 of Section 7, Township 39 North, Range 8 East, NMPM, in Rio Grande County, Colorado. Amount of water that applicant intends to change: 985 GPM Decreed source of water: that applicant intends to change: 985 GPM, Well No. 2-A, Case No. W-3595, WDID 2006422, Well Permit No. 20261-F, now permit No. 86836-F, has been pumping consistently 800-870 gpm with an annual pumping diversion in the range of 120 to 250 acre feet per year to grow crop under a center pivot sprinkler. Production from the unconfined aquifer has decreased dramatically in the past several years. With this application, applicant requests an alternate point of diversion in order to drill a supplemental well to be located in the SW1/4 NE1/4 of Section 7, Township 39 North, Range 8 East, NMPM, to a depth not to exceed the top of the confining clay series. This, in order to maintain at or near the permitted and decreed flow rate of 985 gpm. Applicant is proposing to have the new supplemental well and Irrigation Well No. 2-A with individual and combined maximum pumping rates of 985 gpm each, and a combined total decreed pumping rate of 985 gpm at any point in time. The total annual volumetric limit would remain at 276.73 acre-feet, as permitted, and decreed in Case No. 20CW24. The subject well is within the Rio Grande Water Conservation District groundwater management Subdistrict No. 1 boundary and is included in the annual replacement plan of said sub-district. The additional well will contract as a supplemental well into Sub-District 1. Attached Exhibit 1 is the pumping history for the past 10 years for said well, derived from the Colorado Division of Water Resources database. Applicant intends to drill the replacement well near southwest corner of the NE1/4 of Section 7, Township 39 North, Range 8 East, NMPM. The location of the new well will be at or near 2580 feet from the east section line and 1,800 from the north section line. Location information in UTM format - Existing Irrigation Well No. 2-A, Case No. W-3595, Permit No. 20261-F: The new supplemental well will likely be located near: Easting 399478, Northing 4166738 zone 13. Name of owner: **Billy and Pauline Bond Living Trust, Ronald Bond, Trustee: 0640 East County Road 5 North Monte Vista CO. 81144.**

**CASE NO. 2024CW3 RIO GRANDE COUNTY: Clayton E. Corzine and Lisa M. Corzine 8101 County Road 45 Center CO. 81101** [claycorzine@hotmail.com](mailto:claycorzine@hotmail.com) (719)850-2045. Decreed water rights for which change is sought: Well No. 1, Case No. W-758, Permit no. 5411-F, WDID 2009590 (Well No. 1). Date of original and all relevant subsequent decrees: January 16, 1975. Case No: W-758. Court: Division 3 Water. Legal description as described in most recent decree: NW1/4 NW1/4 Section 11, Township 38 North, Range 8 East NMPM, at a point 40 feet from the North Section line and 50 feet from the West Section line, in Rio Grande County, Colorado. This well has been GPS'd by the Division of Water resources at UTM Zone 13S NAD 83 coordinates: 405007 Easting, 4157568 Northing. Decreed source of water: Unconfined Aquifer Appropriation Date: April 13, 1964. Total amount decreed to structure in gallons per minute (gpm) or cubic feet per second (cfs): Absolute: 900 gpm (2.01 cfs). Decreed use or uses: Irrigation. Amount of water that applicant intends to change: Absolute: 300 gpm (0.67 cfs). Decreed water rights for which change is sought: Well No. 2, Case No. W-758, Registration no. 0034-R, WDID 2009591 (Well No. 2). Date of original and all relevant subsequent decrees: January 16, 1975. Case No: W-758. Court: Division 3 Water Court Legal description of structure as described in most recent decree: NW1/4 NW1/4 Section 11, Township 38 North, Range 8 East NMPM, at a point 400 feet from the North Section line and 50 feet from the West Section line, in Rio Grande County, Colorado. This well has been GPS'd by the Division of Water resources at UTM Zone 13S NAD 83 coordinates: 405007 Easting, 4157448 Northing. Decreed source of water: Unconfined Aquifer. Appropriation Date: July 31, 1954. Total amount decreed to structure in gallons per minute (gpm) or cubic feet per second (cfs): Absolute: 1,100 gpm (2.45 cfs). Decreed use or uses: Irrigation. Amount of water that applicant intends to change: Absolute: 1,100 gpm (0.245 cfs). An existing alternate point of diversion well to Well No. 1 was granted in 1981 under Permit No. 25273-F. The well was completed to a depth of 60 feet in 1981. Well no. 25273-F has been the irrigation supply for a sprinkler that irrigates approximately 70 acres of the 96 acres originally allowed under the well permit. Permit no. 25273-F imposed a combined pumping limitation of 900 gpm for Well No. 1 and well no. 25273-F. An additional term and condition of the 25273-F permit required the well to be adjudicated. That has not been done. Metered production from well no. 25273-F has been between 110 to 190 acre-feet every year since 2009. Well No. 1 was connected to the north sprinkler as an additional legal water supply about 15 years ago. The combined pumping rate of Well No. 1 and well no. 25273-F began to exceed the 900-gpm limitation. In order to resolve this situation, Applicant proposes to make well no. 25273-F an alternate point of diversion to Well No. 2. Well No. 2 is not currently in use. Well Nos. 1 and 2 are decreed from the same source and have the same historic service area within Section 11. In fact, original owners, and applicants to Case No. W-758, C. Headlee Wright and Harriet A. Wright, adjudicated five irrigation wells within Section 11, T38N, R8E, NMPM. Along with the associated surface water rights, these five wells were used to irrigate that part of Section 11 lying west of the Empire Canal less the area irrigated by Well No. 3, Case No. W-1449. The Applicant, Clay Corzine does not own any interest in Well Nos. 4 and 5 of Case No. W-758 and makes no claim, herein, to change either of these water rights. Applicant Corzine wishes to retain the ability to use Well Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 25273-F on the full historical service area of the wells. If granted as an alternate point of diversion to Well No. 2, use of well no. 25273-F would not conflict with the current terms and conditions of permit no. 25273-F. Applicant will re-permit the wells pursuant to any decree entered in this case. All active wells are properly metered pursuant to the Well Measurement Rules. Surface water associated with the property will continue to be used when available. Ditch water associated with this land is from the Lariat Ditch and Santa Maria Reservoir Company. There would be no expansion of use as the sprinklers have been in place for over 40 years. All the irrigation wells are enrolled in Subdistrict #2 of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District. Location information: all wells are located within the NW1/4 of Section 11, T38N, R8E, NMPM. Name of Owner: Clayton E. Corzine and Lisa M. Corzine 8101 County Road 45 Center CO. 81125.

You are notified that you have until the last day of June 2024, to file with the Water Clerk a verified statement of opposition setting forth facts as to why a certain application should not be granted or why it should be granted only in part or on certain conditions or a protest to the requested correction. A copy of such a statement of opposition or protest must also be served upon the Applicant or the Applicant's attorney and an affidavit or certificate of such service must be filed with the Water Clerk. The filing fee for the Statement of Opposition is \$192.00. Forms may be obtained from the Water Clerk's Office or our website at [www.courts.state.co.us](http://www.courts.state.co.us). Jennifer Pacheco, Water Clerk, Water Division 3, 8955 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101

No. 4825 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, May 15, 2024.



# Valley-wide power outage

*Storm causes transmission line failure on Poncha Pass*

**By JOHN WATERS**  
News Editor

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — A winter storm caused a large power outage and impacted the entire San Luis Valley when a power line tripped and failed on Poncha Pass at about 7:40 a.m., on Friday morning.

Lee Boughy with the electricity distribution cooperative, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association told the Valley Courier that, "Due to the heavy, wet snow, both the 115kV transmission line operated by Xcel Energy and the 230kV transmission line operated by Tri-State and Western Area Power Administration tripped, resulting in the outage in the valley from 7:40 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. [power to most of Alamosa was restored at 11 a.m.

"Tri-State's 230kV line is back in service, but at this time, [1 p.m. Friday] the 115kV line from the north remains out of service. The utilities are all coordinating on this issue.

"Notably, Tri-State is providing crews, poles, and equipment to help replace structures damaged on the SLVREC system."

Shortly after the Valley lost power, the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (SLVREC) posted this to Facebook, "We have 21 transmission structures down affecting members from Waverly to San Acacio. Crews are working on distribution backfeed to restore power to our members. The hope is to have members back up by late morning if there are no issues with the main distribution line. Tri-State crews will arrive later today to assist."

Colorado Public Radio reported Costilla County Emergency Manager Lucas Casias stating, "We've had power outages in the past in our area, but Valley-wide power outage, no. This is something new that we're experiencing right now...at least that I'm aware of."

Power to most of the Valley was restored at 11 a.m.



NPS photo

In this photo taken on the morning of May 10 at the Great Sand Dunes Visitor Center, power was out, and the facility was closed after about six inches of snow had fallen. Electric power was down throughout the San Luis Valley after a power transmission line near Poncha Pass failed. Power was restored to most of the Valley by 11 a.m.



Photo courtesy San Luis Valley REC

A snowstorm caused an electric transmission line to fail on Friday morning that resulted in the entire San Luis Valley without power for several hours.



Courtesy photo

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

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

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

Thanks to numerous volunteers from SLV Health and Adams State University nursing program, the event

was a huge success. The event broke a record this year by having the longest patient ever attending the clinic – a six-foot-long stuffed snake. Fun was certainly had by all, as well as the therapeutic benefits that this adorable event offers.

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

If you have ever considered becoming a foster parent, or if you would like to be part of this event in 2025, call Hope and Home at 719-670-8090 or email Reed at areed@hopeandhome.org.

## Town of Del Norte receives donation from Del Norte Chamber

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

**DEL NORTE** — Del Norte Chamber of Commerce outgoing President Will Kreutzer presented a check for \$15,000 to the Town of Del Norte as part of his final task as chamber president. According to Del Norte Town Manager Bernadette Martinez, this act of kindness from the chamber was one of the final things Kreutzer wanted to do before he stepped down from his position.

"We were very pleased to receive this gift from Will. The downtown revitalization project is something that he has been invested in for a long time and this was the last thing he wanted to do before stepping down from his position with the chamber," explained Martinez.

The donation was received on behalf of the town by Del Norte Town Trustee Leigh Anne Lobato during the March town board meeting. According to Martinez, the town has discussed using the donation to purchase benches and trash receptacles but will be discussing the possibilities as the downtown revitalization project moves forward.

The town was awarded a grant to begin work on the downtown area two years ago and is in the final stages of planning. Martinez stated that the project is set to begin this summer. The downtown revitalization project will begin on Cherry Street on the north side of Highway 160 and will be finished block by block beginning with gutter and lighting work.

"Once the north side of the highway is complete, crews will move to the south side. This will allow CDOT to have one-way traffic along Highway 160 instead of having to detour," explained Martinez. The Town of Del Norte has been working for several years to bring this project to fruition.

# Your Community Connection

Take a Peek This Week and see what you've been missing!

- Neighborhood News & Events - Local Editorial Perspectives
- Local Politics & Talking Points
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# Lifestyles

Serving the entire San Luis Valley

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

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Photo by Kyle Burnett Photography

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.

## 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.

## Show love for the outdoors this spring by recreating responsibly

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

**DENVER** — With warmer weather in the forecast, outdoor enthusiasts are flocking outside to see what's blooming in nature on Colorado's colorful landscapes. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) encourages state park visitors to act as stewards for the state's land, wildlife, and water by balancing outdoor recreation with mindful conservation.

Coloradans and out-of-state visitors play an integral role in keeping our state parks clean, living in harmony with wildlife, and making the outdoors safer to explore.

Below are a few tips from our experts on how to recreate responsibly and show respect to our great outdoors.

### Know Before You Go

Colorado spring weather is unpredictable, and conditions change constantly. Spring in Colorado brings melting snowpacks, muddy trails, thinning ice, cold water temperatures, and strong currents on rivers and streams.

- Check the weather where you plan to explore and change your outdoor plan based on the forecast. Follow travel advisories to avoid hazardous conditions and a search and rescue operation.

- Check the CAIC avalanche forecast ([www.colorado.gov/avalanche](http://www.colorado.gov/avalanche)). Avalanches occur year-round anywhere there's snow on steep slopes. Start early and end early to



Photo courtesy of CPW

### State Forest State Park

help avoid wet snow problems, and watch out for wind-drifted snow at high elevations.

- Be aware of seasonal closures of public lands extended in April.

- Stay hydrated. Bring more water than you think you (and your pet) will need.

- Bring layers of clothing for elevation and changing weather conditions.

### Boating and River Safety

Last year, most water-related fatalities occurred because people did not wear a life jacket.

- Wear a life jacket.

- Dress accordingly and protect yourself from the dangers of cold water shock. Regardless of your age or experience level, cold water can

quickly create a drowning emergency.

- Paddle boards and kayaks are considered vessels, and life jacket requirements apply.

- Heavy rain or snow melting in nearby mountains can raise water levels quickly and without notice. Check river flows at <https://dwr.state.co.us/Tools/Stations>.

- Don't boat or paddle in conditions you are not comfortable and confident paddling in.

- Boat and raft with a buddy and avoid floating alone, especially during high flows.

- For recreationists who want to go rafting but are uncomfortable navigating more challenging water conditions, CPW recommends hiring

**Please see LOVE on Page 3**

## Sargent holds memorial dedication for Adams

*Bench placed in honor of the longtime educator, advisor*

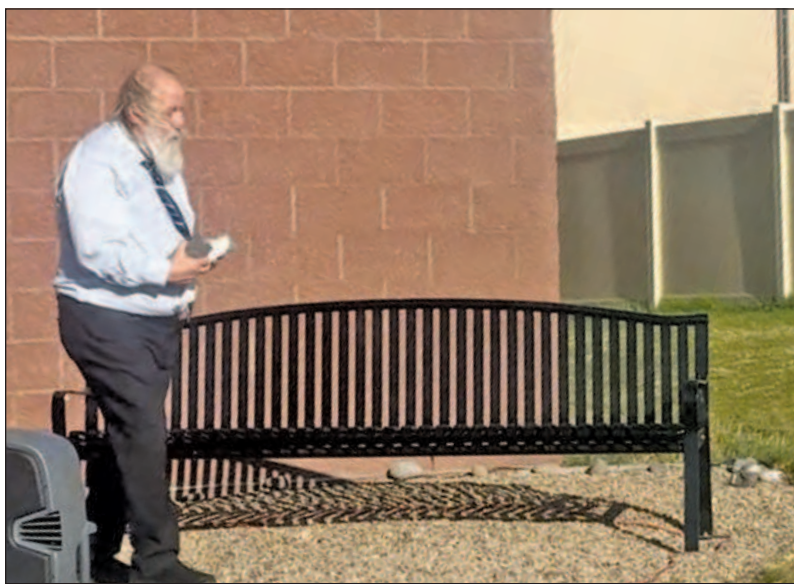
### By MARIE MCCOLM

**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.

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, 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.



Photos by Marie Mccolm

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.

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. **Please see ADAMS on Page 7**



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.



# 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



**Brock Benton, Alamosa High School**

acquire a degree in engineering and learn not only how to work but how to live."

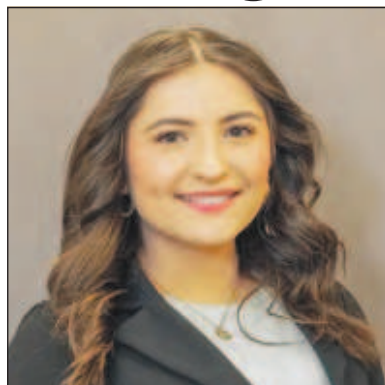
As described by Curtis L. Esquibel, Senior Director of Communications and Community Engagement with the Boettcher Foundation, the Boettcher Scholarship Program has been in place since 1952, aiming to retain Colorado's inspiring high school graduates within the state for their college education. More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



**Jaymi Gile, Alamosa High School**

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



**Gus Miller, Monte Vista High School**

array of skills and interests to our community," said Vanessa Roman, director of scholarships & foundation programs. From self-taught knitters and private pilots



**Kaia Skadberg, Centauri High School**

to vocal soloists and innovative entrepreneurs, their commitment to leadership and service has already enriched communities across the state."

## Lucky Shoe Ranch



Are you looking for something fun to do this summer?

**Join us, to learn how to ride horses!**

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

Day Camp is scheduled for July 26.

**Signup via our website!**

Scholarships available

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- Cowboy ethics
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- Day camps
- Drill teams

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



Oncologist Dr. Bill Harrer has joined the SLV Health Oncology/Infusion Center in the Regional Medical Center in Alamosa.

His undergraduate is a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Campus Ministry from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. His M.D. was earned at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. His postgraduate internship, residency, and fellowship were from Cooper University Medical Center, Camden, New Jersey, where he focused on internal medicine, hematology, and oncology. He brings vast work experience on his journey to Alamosa, Colorado. "There are very few people who have not been touched by cancer. Alongside this caring staff, our goal is to treat all patients from all walks of life at whatever stage they are in with exceptional and professional care and empathy," stated Harrer. During his free time, Harrer loves exploring, traveling, and working his farm.

**Bill Harrer, MD**  
Oncology/Infusion Clinic  
SLVH RMC 719-589-8153

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# LOVE

Continued from Page 1

a Colorado-licensed river outfitter guide to help facilitate the outdoor opportunity.

“On the surface, rivers and streams can seem calm, warm, or shallow. But even the most experienced outdoor enthusiasts can become victims to deceptively strong currents, cold water temperatures, and unexpected changes in depth,” said Michael Haskins, River Outfitter Licensing and Swiftwater Investigator. “You should always wear a life jacket, paddle with a buddy, know your limitations, and scout rapids before floating them.”



### Stick to Trails

Melting snow leaves trails and vegetation more vulnerable to damage. Be sure to stick to trails and walk in the middle of them — even if wet, muddy, slushy, or icy — to avoid erosion and damage to trailside plants.

- Yield to uphill hikers and bikers, be considerate when needing to pass, and keep control of your pets on the trail.

- Use the CPW Park Finder Tool to find trail maps at each Colorado state park and to learn about trail closures.

- Download the free COTREX app to find recreational trails in Colorado for public use and closure alerts.

- Wear sturdy footwear to stay on trails in wet and muddy spring conditions.

“Our trails wear down over time and require upkeep,” said State Trails Program Coordinator Joe O’Brien. “Going off trail is one of the big causes of erosion on trails, and that erosion

can harm surrounding vegetation and all the life that lives in the nearby streams and rivers.”

### Leave it as you Find It

Colorado is beautiful all on its own. Leave plants, rocks, and historical items as you find them so others experience the joy of discovery.

- Don’t pick wildflowers so they can help the bees and other ecosystems.

- Carving or hacking plants and trees may kill or disfigure them.

- Park in designated areas — undesignated parking can destroy vegetation and block outdoor first-responder vehicles in an emergency.

### Trash the Trash

- Throw all your trash away in trash cans and help leave our outdoor spaces clean.

- Pack it in, pack it out. Whatever you bring into the outdoors, take it out with you.

- Don’t leave a pet waste bag on the trail.

- Bring plastic grocery bags to carry trash when trash cans are not available or full.

### Be Careful with Fire

Although parts of Colorado have received high moisture levels this year, drought conditions still impact whether campfires are allowed or restricted this winter.

- Check fire restrictions or bans at [www.coemergency.com](http://www.coemergency.com).

- Use designated campfire areas when allowed and available.

- Put fires out with water until you

can touch the embers.

- Never leave a campfire unattended.

### Keep Wildlife Wild

Spring can be a particularly sensitive time for wildlife since many species are nesting, having their young, or coming out of hibernation.

- Colorado is home to big game species, including elk, mule deer, moose, and bighorn sheep. Human disturbance can cause stress for wild animals and reduce females’ chances of successfully raising offspring.

- Do not feed or approach young wildlife.

- Be bear aware on trails and while camping to help reduce human-bear conflicts.

- Keep dogs leashed on trails to prevent them from chasing wildlife.

- If you see wildlife that appears sick or injured, leave it alone. Call your local Colorado Parks and Wildlife office and ask a trained wildlife officer for guidance.

### Share our Trails and Parks

Join us in keeping Colorado, Colorado. Get a \$29 Keep Colorado Wild Pass with your next vehicle registration and support wildlife conservation and outdoor education across the state. Learn more at [cpw.info/keepcoloradowild](http://cpw.info/keepcoloradowild) and [cpw.info/keepcoloradowildpassspanish](http://cpw.info/keepcoloradowildpassspanish).



**719-852-3531**  
235 First Ave. • Monte Vista

## BUFFET IS BACK! ~ Sundays Open to Close



Join Our Team!  
Full or Part Time starting \$15 hr. plus tips!



“I think this was really good and fun to watch the tv. the wing we’re awesome and good pizza.”  
— Amy B.

Law Enforcement, Firefighters, EMTs and our Veterans always receive 20% off!

30483 Highway 160, South Fork  
Open DAILY — 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Easy Online To-Go Orders:  
[MountainPizzaTapRoom.com](http://MountainPizzaTapRoom.com)

## Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL • TRASH REMOVAL  
RECYCLING • DUMPSTERS • ROLL-OFFS  
CREEDE • SOUTH FORK • DEL NORTE • MONTE VISTA  
(719)658-3060 • [www.MDSWasteAndRecycle.com](http://www.MDSWasteAndRecycle.com)

# SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

### Fun By The Numbers

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

### Here’s How It Works:

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

### Solution to last week’s puzzle

		B	P	M		V	I	S	H	N	U						
		L	E	I		U	N	T	I	E	D						
M	T		U	R	N		S	O	N	G							
A	S	S	I	S	I		U	N	E	A	R	T	H				
M	A	S	S	I	F		R	E	S	T	O	R	E				
A	R	C	H	A	I	C		G	D		E	Y	A	S			
							E	L	S	E		S	A	C	S		
K	R	A				D	A	R	N	S				L	E	E	
H	A	L	F			R	O	C	A								
A	P	I	O		S	I		Y	U	C	A	T	A	N			
T	H	E	R	E	O	F			C	L	E	A	V	E			
S	E	N	S	O	R	Y			E	A	R	N	E	R			
							A	S	T	I		P	I	A		S	D
							S	K	I	I	N	G		A	R	T	
							R	E	N	E	G	E		N	E	E	

Back by Popular Demand!  
**FREE SHOWER PACKAGE!**

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

Now you can finally have all of the soothing benefits of a relaxing warm bath, or enjoy a convenient refreshing shower while seated or standing with Safe Step Walk-In Tub's **FREE Shower Package!**

- ✓ First walk-in tub available with a customizable shower
- ✓ Fixed rainfall shower head is adjustable for your height and pivots to offer a seated shower option
- ✓ High-quality tub complete with a comprehensive lifetime warranty on the entire tub
- ✓ Top-of-the-line installation and service, all included at one low, affordable price

Now you can have the best of both worlds—there isn't a better, more affordable walk-in tub!

**FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS 15% OFF**  
FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY  
Call Toll-Free 719-259-4323

**safestep**

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase.

Call Today for Your Free Shower Package  
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FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT



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

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



## CLASSIFIED INDEX

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35 HEAVY EQUIPMENT  
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37 WANTED  
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40 AUTO PARTS  
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42 FEED & SEED  
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49 ANIMAL CARE  
50 LIVESTOCK  
**RECREATIONAL**  
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52 CAMPING EQUIPMENT  
53 TRAILERS  
54 SNOWMOBILES/ATV'S  
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**TRANSPORTATION**  
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59 VEHICLES WANTED  
60 CLASSIC CARS  
61 4X4'S  
62 VANS  
63 TRUCKS  
64 AUTOS FOR SALE  
**SERVICES**  
65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES  
66 CHILD CARE

## RATES

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

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

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

### Convenient ad placement:

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

**Thursday 5:00 pm**

**Call 719-852-3531**  
or email: [rbeutler@valleypublishinginc.com](mailto:rbeutler@valleypublishinginc.com)

## Easy Payment Options

We accept Visa, Master Card, American Express, Discover, Checks, Money Orders & Cash



## 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

**JT Timber Falling is hiring log truck drivers.** Class A CDL. Starting at \$25/hr (\$37.50/hr Overtime). Great benefits are available. Home every night and based out of Blanca Colorado. Call 719-379-4066 or visit [JTTimber.com](http://JTTimber.com) to apply. (6-5)

**SAGUACHE COUNTY ANNOUNCES AN OPENING FOR A FULL-TIME EMERGENCY MANAGER** Job responsibilities include - Maintaining an integrated emergency management system for Saguache County including mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery projects. Manage budget, grants and accounting for the Office of Emergency Management. Promote training opportunities, monitor NIMS compliance, plan and execute exercises and take corrective action. Work with State, Regional and Federal agencies to ensure coordinated disaster planning and response. Job requirements: Incident Command System experience, high school diploma or equivalent; bachelor's degree preferred. Minimum three years of related experience in emergency response or management if possible, and a valid Colorado driver's license. In addition to the starting salary rate of \$55,000/yr., the County Employee

benefit package includes vision, dental, and health insurance coverage, paid time off, and a generous 401a retirement plan. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County, please note that the chosen candidate will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening, which will include testing for marijuana use and criminal background check, before being hired. Applications and a complete job description are available at the Saguache County Administration Office, 505 3rd Street, PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149 - 719-655-2231 or on the Saguache County website - [saguachecounty.colorado.gov](http://saguachecounty.colorado.gov). Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Administration - at the address listed above, sent by email to [wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto:wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov), or faxed to 719-655-2635. APPLI-

**CATION DEADLINE:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 3PM. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (5-22)

**SAGUACHE COUNTY ANNOUNCES AN OPENING FOR A FULL-TIME HOUSING DIRECTOR** Experienced individual sought for the position of Housing Director for the Saguache County Housing Authority. Responsibilities include being the management agent for two apartment complexes owned by the Saguache County Housing Authority. Applicants must possess professional office and interpersonal skills, property management experience, and a high level of initiative. The starting salary will be \$55,000 per year depending on experience. A valid Colorado Drivers license is also required. In addition to the starting salary rate

of \$55,000/yr., the County Employee benefit package includes vision, dental, and health insurance coverage, paid time off, and a generous 401a retirement plan. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County, please note the chosen

candidate will be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening, which will include testing for marijuana use and criminal background check, before being hired. Applications and a complete job description are available at the

## VALLEY PUBLISHING SEEKS REPORTER IMMEDIATELY

For the Conejos and Costilla areas. Writing and photography experience necessary. Send resume, writing and photography samples to Valley Publishing Inc., P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or email [bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com](mailto:bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com)

# Business Showcase



*New Yard Spinners!*  
*Shop now for best selection.*

**The Holy Moses**  
Mon.-Sat.  
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**658-2848**  
**121 N. Main**  
**Creede**

## This Week's Feature



## THE HOLY MOSES

An enchanting Collection of Cabin Decor, Colorado Pottery, Quilts, Linens & Specialty Foods!

It's Worth The Drive

Mon.-Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Nick & Vicki Kulyk  
121 N. Main • 658-2848 • Creede

## DISCLAIMER

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

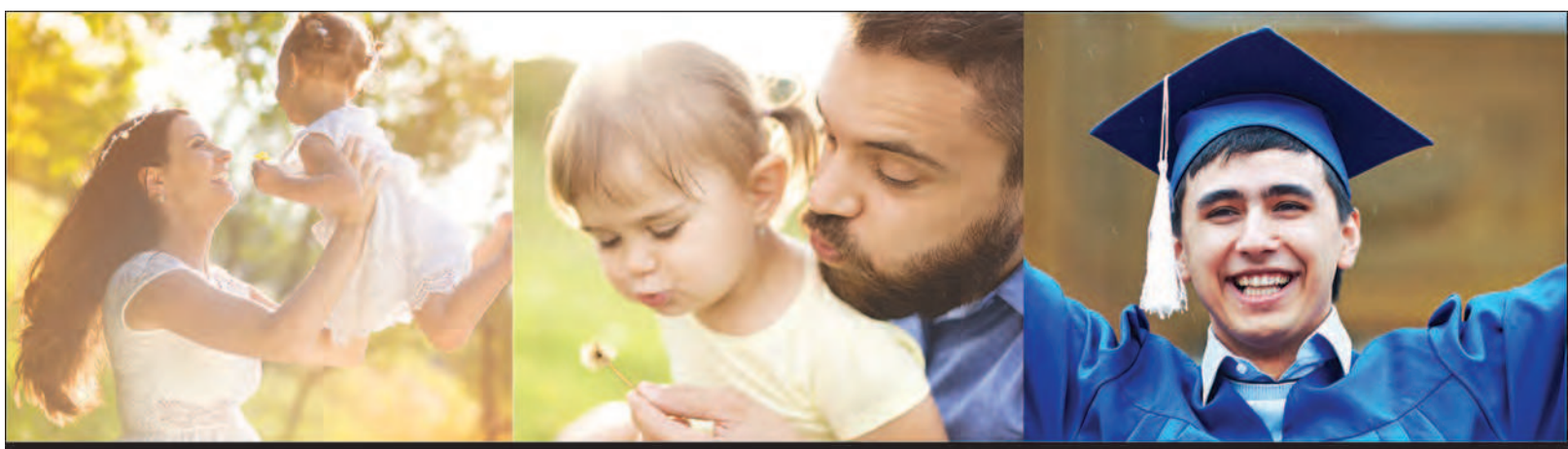


# Valley Wide Classifieds

Saguache County Administration Office, 505 3rd Street, PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149 – 719-655-2231 or on the Saguache County website – [saguachecounty.colorado.gov](http://saguachecounty.colorado.gov). Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Administration – at the address listed above, sent by email to [wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov](mailto:wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov), or faxed to 719-655-2635. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 3PM. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (5-22)

**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 [Credek12.net](http://Credek12.net) for job description, qualifications, and competitive benefits package, or call 719-658-2220 (5-29)

The City of Monte Vista is accepting applications for a seasonal **Parks Maintenance Worker**. This position is approximately 16 weeks,



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# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

**Price Reduced**

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

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

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

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

**Dee Plucinski**  
 Dee-: Formally known as Diane Chapman, Local Luxury Home Broker. Licensed in 2011; knows the area and knows real estate.  
**719-873-5605**  
 Dee@SteffensCoRealty.com

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

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

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

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

**3D VIRTUAL TOURS\***  
**PROMPT, EASY COMMUNICATION**  
**VIDEO WALKTHROUGHS**  
**RESIDENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHER**  
**LICENSED AND INSURED DRONE PILOT**

All Dee's properties are detailed in her blog.

Approx. 2,349 Sq.Ft. and 42 Acres  
 \$899,000 | MLS #807998  
 4100 Wilderness Canyon Rd. La Garita, CO

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

**Under Contract**

Lots 11 & 12 in New Estates in Quiet Neighborhood  
 \$1,000,000 | MLS #80812/808211  
 Rio Vista Circle South Fork, CO

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

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

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

Approx. 0.280 Acres Near Rio Grande Club  
 \$56,000 | MLS #794077  
 23 Fairway Drive South Fork, CO

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Valley Wide Classifieds

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 (5-29)

**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)

**17 Real Estate For Sale**  
**Thinking of buying or selling your home** or land this year, call Yvonne Hoffman, 719-580-1901, Broker Associate Steffens & Co Realty Inc. (TFN)

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

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

**32 Fuel & Heating**  
**Firewood For Sale.** Call or text Mark 662-361-7530 Located in Saguache. (5-22)

**36 Miscellaneous**  
**For Sale: Metal Barrels** Black, Green, red, and white. Dozens of uses. Convert to troughs or feeders. Make a Barrel Stove out of them. \$5 a Barrel with Stationary lid. \$25 For removable lid. Call David 719-480-2145 (6-5)

**Public auction - Location 8037 South County Road 2E,** Monte Vista, CO 81144. Small animals and misc. items. Already consigned: Turkeys, laying hens, fryers, Guineas, several breeds of rabbits, 1

set of show harness cob size, 1 set driving harness, 13-foot fiberglass boat w/trailer, 25 hp Johnson and trolling motor, fish finder, misc. tack, saddles, etc., lot tools, trailer load misc. For more information, call 719-849-8063 (Eddie)

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

**Propane Refrigerators Sold Here.** Call For Options and Prices. We Also Stock Solar Powered Refrigerators and Freezers. Bontrager's Variety Store, 9726 S. County Road 3E, Monte Vista. (719) 852-0500 (TFN)

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

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

**41 Farm Equipment**  
**For sale farm equipment.** Ditcher, blade, chopper, drag, weed burner. Call 719-480-0693 (5-15)

**44 Farm Services**  
**Attention Farmer and Ranches:** Seal your leaking livestock tanks, ponds & reservoirs with bentonite. Spring Special 10% OFF. Rio Grande Bentonite. 719-580-6652 (5-29)

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

**Let me haul off your old appliances and recyclable metals** for you. Call Chris for prices and to set up a removal 719-395-2071 (TFN)  
**RELIABLE CARPENTRY** 40-plus

years-experience in carpentry, painting, stucco, tile, drywall, roofing, etc. Drug/Alcohol free. Free Estimates 719-496-7630. (TFN)

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

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

**I can deliver small loads of dirt, gravel for garden,** driveway. Junk hauled off, general cleanup, rent my dumpster trailer I will take to dump. 405-250-4508 (5-22)

**Wanted small concrete or tile jobs.** 50 years of experience. 405-250-

4508 (5-22)  
**Sprinkler repair and winterizations.** Done at reasonable rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (TFN)

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

## Write your own Classified Ad

**Regular Classified Ad Deadline-Thursday 5 p.m.**  
**15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications**  
**\$19<sup>50</sup> + 95¢ each additional word.**  
**Garage Sale Ads: 15 words or less for 1 week**  
**\$12 + 35¢ each additional word.**  
 Free ads: Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Private party only) Call 719-852-3531 for details.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30

**Words:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Times:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Price:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Start Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Check One



**Card#:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expiration Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail with check or money order to:**  
**Valley Publishing Classifieds, P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144**  
**Or drop by at 835 First Avenue**

**All Classified Advertising must be pre-paid**

**VALLEY PUBLISHING SEEKS REPORTER IMMEDIATELY**  
**For the Center and Monte Vista areas.**  
**Writing and photography experience necessary.** Send resume, writing and photography samples to Valley Publishing Inc., P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or email [bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com](mailto:bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com)



# ADAMS

Continued from Page 1

“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 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 discovers 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.”



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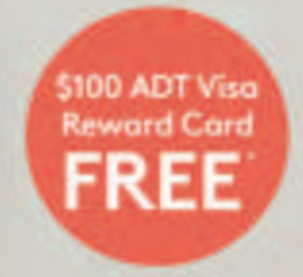
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# Rio Grande National Forest Comprehensive Over Snow Travel Management Planning Project begins

45-day comment period begins immediately

**CONTRIBUTED**

**DEL NORTE** — The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service, Rio Grande National Forest announced today the beginning of the forest-wide Over Snow Travel Management Planning Project.

A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register on April 30, establishing the official 45-day comment period for the project. The resulting decision from the analysis will set parameters that will guide over-snow travel on forest roads, trails and cross-country use for the next 15-20 years across the 1.8-million-acre Rio Grande National Forest.

The project will require an Environmental Impact Statement and, when completed, will be an addendum to the Rio Grande National Forest Land Management Plan, which was signed in May of 2020. The Over Snow Travel Management Plan will provide direction for motorized use across the Rio Grande. The direction will likely amend the current direction in the Rio Grande National Forest Land Management Plan.

Interested parties wishing to submit comments on the Over Snow Travel Management Planning Project should submit them online at <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=65529>

“The Over Snow Travel Management planning process will require a great deal of public involvement in order to develop the best product that balances winter motorized travel needs with the appropriate use of our natural resources,” said Forest Supervisor Dennis Kuhnel. “We invite and look forward to collaborating with our tribes, interested forest users, our valuable communities, and our partners from other agencies on this important process.”

Kuhnel adds that this process will be a long undertaking that will follow the guidelines set forth in the National Environmental Policy Act for an Environmental Impact Statement. Rio Grande National Forest personnel will aim to complete the process in approximately two years.

The next step in process will be to release draft Environmental Impact Statement which will be available for public comment.

Additional information about the Over Snow Travel Management Planning Project can be viewed at [www.fs.usda.gov/detail/riogrande/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd1154726](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/riogrande/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd1154726) and in the official project record at [www.fs.usda.gov/project/riogrande/?project=65529](http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/riogrande/?project=65529).

A copy of this news release will be translated into Spanish and soon available at [www.fs.usda.gov/news/riogrande/news-events](http://www.fs.usda.gov/news/riogrande/news-events).

For information on the Rio Grande National Forest, call 719-850-2374.



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# 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 Outcall Foundation, is a second 4-H Specialist. Brown's team focus now

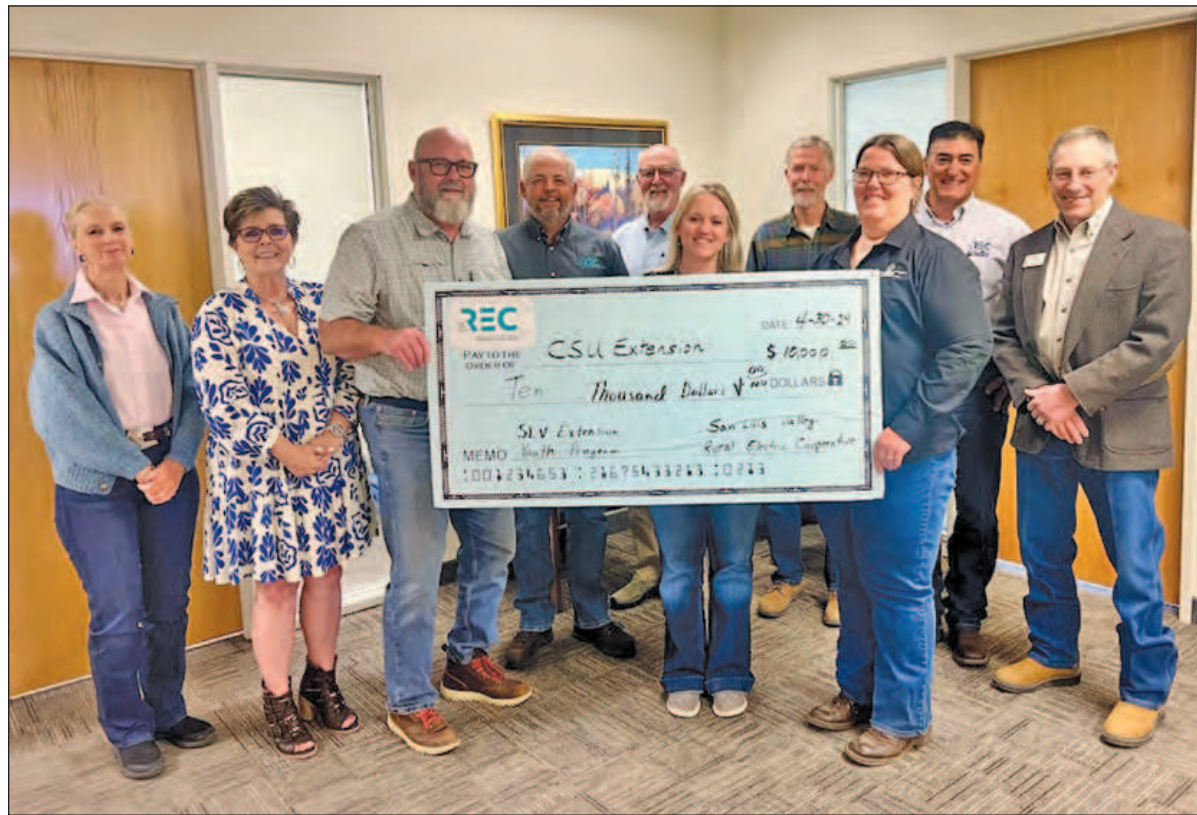
is to secure permanent funding for an additional 4-H agent.

"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.

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.

Photo Courtesy of CSU Extension



## Laughlin Gulch prescribed burn planned

'Burn window' becoming likely week of May 13

**BY RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST DEL NORTE** — Conditions on the Laughlin Gulch prescribed fire project west of Saguache are becoming favorable for ignitions to begin as early as May 14.

Rio Grande National Forest fire managers have been closely monitoring the site and report that the fine fuels are beginning to green-up, one of the planned control features for the burn. Based on the current weather forecast, they are projecting the other elements of the burn plan will be in alignment soon. Ignitions will take place only if conditions meet treatment objectives.

"The Laughlin Gulch prescribed fire aims to treat approximately 105 acres of slash, designed to improve winter range habitat conditions for area big game," said Tristram Post, Saguache District Ranger. "We are pleased to be working with our Bureau of Land Management and Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control partners on this project."

Part of the La Garita Hills Restoration Project, this Saguache Ranger District burn area is approximately 10 miles west of Saguache, CO. The larger area of the project covers approximately 210 acres and fire will be applied where it has the most opportunity to provide benefit to the resource. Due to the location of the fire, smoke will be visible from around the San Luis Valley and will be heavier locally. No significant smoke impacts are expected.

Burning will be announced on the Rio Grande National Forest Facebook and X social media platforms.

For information on the Rio Grande National Forest, call 719-850-2374.

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# San Luis lands over \$725k in grants

*Will be used to improve its Town Plaza*  
By JOHN WATERS

**COSTILLA COUNTY** — The Town of San Luis has been awarded \$544,777 from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs and \$181,000 from the Colorado Department of Transportation to improve its Town Plaza.

Town Clerk Teddy Leinbach said of the project, "The plaza is just north of the Town Hall...with this grant, we are going to take out a few trees, redo all the pavement, and make this a much nicer space to enjoy, visitors will be able to enjoy it after walking the Stations of the Cross. This will be a hub for all of our events, Santana, and Founders Day. We will have pavilions, a fountain, lots of greenery, and spaces for food trucks and other vendors. We envision it to be a focal point of our Main Street."

Leinbach said while there is not yet a specific date for the groundbreaking, he is hopeful it will be within a month or so. "Susan Sanderford (Town Manager) has been working on this grant for about five years, Covid delayed it a lot. She came up with this, there has been planning and community input and the writing of the grants to get it implemented and constructed," said Leinbach.

The Town of San Luis has also recently received a federal \$500,000

— Environmental Protection Agency (EPA funded through the bipartisan infrastructure law. The funds are all revitalization-focused, with projects ranging from the removal of asbestos, mercury, and other hazardous materials.

EPA officials were in San Luis last month and in an interview with the Valley Courier, EPA Regional administrator KC Becker said the grant was made possible by working with grant facilitator JSI International. "This is a great thing, they have to handle the burden of all the federal compliance. For these small grants, it is hard to apply, you need a full-time person to do the paperwork. With

this, you can reach smaller communities. I love it, we can get dollars all over the place."

San Luis is experiencing a renaissance, since 2011, the non-profit Acequia Institute has received over \$3 million in grants to finance the San Luis Food Sovereignty Initiative to acquire the R&R Market in San Luis, finance farm equipment, conduct outdoor education and other projects.

Regarding the economic benefit the restoration of the R&R Market will have, Town Manager Sanderford said, "This is really important, it is the heart of our downtown. This has been the gathering

place for locals, so it is really important we get this up and going. We are supportive

and will do whatever the Town can do to get this functioning again."

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# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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



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**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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# Newcomer's Guide to Gardening in the San Luis Valley

## Hardiness Zones

By EMILY FOLZ

CSU Extension

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — I didn't fully understand the point of flannel-lined jeans until my first winter in the San Luis Valley. It gets seriously cold here!

You have to admire the stalwart evergreen trees and shrubs that stand so majestically in the blowing cold of winter and provide color to our winter landscapes. And the deciduous trees and shrubs that drop their leaves in autumn but come leafing back in spring, some with a show of colorful blossoms.

Other plants have no intention of subjecting themselves to these bitter conditions and instead "die back" and spend the winter underground, reappearing when the weather starts to warm up in spring.

No matter how they do it, plants that have found a way to survive the winter are called perennials. The ones that can't are called annuals.

Each geographic area in the United States has been given a hardiness zone designation based on its average annual extreme minimum winter temperatures. Hardiness zones help you determine which plants will be perennial in our area, that is which plants can survive the winter.

The website <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/> has an interactive map where you can enter your zip code and find your hardiness zone. Parts of chilly Alamosa County are zone 4a with average annual extreme

minimum winter temperatures of -30 to -25 °F. Areas north, south, east and west of Alamosa are a bit warmer. Villa Grove, Antonito, Fort Garland and Del Norte are all zone 5b with average annual extreme minimum temperatures of -15 to -10 °F.

When you purchase a plant, look for a tag or information that tells you which hardiness zones the plant will do best in. For example, most lilacs are hardy in zones 3 - 8. You can choose to plant things that are hardy in zones 6 and higher, but they will be an annual in our area since they are unlikely to survive the winter. Rosemary is hardy in zones 7-11 and is a perennial in those zones. But it is an annual in zones 6 and lower. At the times we lived there, NC was zone

7b and Ky was zone 6b.

Be aware that even if a plant is suited to our hardiness zone, it may not suit our area. It must also be tolerant of our high elevation, frequent high winds, alkaline soil, arid conditions and short growing season.

What is your hardiness zone? What trees and shrubs have grown best for you? What perennial flowers do you have in your garden? Please share your photos! Have a gardening question or comment? Send me an email at: [SLVgardening@gmail.com](mailto:SLVgardening@gmail.com)

**This beautiful, sweet smelling lilac bush at the Blanca Fort Garland Community Center is not only hardy to zone 3, but also thrives in the Valley's harsh environment.**

Courtesy photo



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## 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.

## 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.creedeartscouncil.com/silver-thread-studio-tour](http://www.creedeartscouncil.com/silver-thread-studio-tour). For questions or more information, e-mail [creedearts@outlook.com](mailto:creedearts@outlook.com) or call the CAC at 719-658-0312. The application deadline is June 1.

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