

Haskin Preschool class has Mommy and Me Tea for Mother's Day



By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — On Wednesday, May 8, Diana Chaparro and Raelynn Beiriger's Haskin Elementary Preschool class hosted a Mommy and Me Tea Party. All mommies were invited to attend the event with their students.

The party provided everyone with

Haskin Elementary Preschool had a Mommy and Me Tea for Mother's Day. The children made special presents for their moms.

Courtesy photo

their choice of breakfast items, including donuts, coffee, and orange juice. Chaparro said the event was a success and fun.

"The kids really enjoyed the time with their moms. They got to eat breakfast and spend time with them. It was a really cute party," she said.

Chaparro said the children also made their moms special presents. The presents were a picture of their hands that the kids cut out and put on a canvas. Their hands were holding a bouquet of flowers.

Please see TEA on Page 2A

Shorts

Laughlin Gulch burn postponed

SAGUACHE — The Saguache Ranger District announced Monday that the Laughlin Gulch prescribed fire plans have been postponed for several weeks. The district received the beneficial moisture from the last storm. However, it was significantly more moisture than anticipated when the planned burn was announced on May 3.

The project is targeting slash "jackpots" and calls for green up of the fine fuels in the area to serve as a holding feature. This moisture will benefit the new growth and bolster the containment capabilities of the burn. The need to postpone is based on the drying of the target fuels to ensure the fire will meet project objectives.

The Saguache Ranger District will advise the public when conditions become more favorable and planning for the prescribed fire resumes.

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

Artist's reception rescheduled for May 17

ALAMOSA — As a result of Friday's power outage, the reception for San Luis artist Cindy Cometto, originally scheduled for Friday, May 10, was rescheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 17, at the Narrow Gauge Book Co-operative, 602 Main St., Alamosa.

Bird walk at MV wildlife refuge on Saturday

MONTEVISTA — Join the Friends of the Refuges, for a morning bird walk at 8 a.m., Saturday, May 18, at the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge. Directions from Monte Vista, drive south on state Highway 15 for six miles to the entrance of the refuge. Turn east into the refuge.

Spring bird migration is in full swing, and there should be both common and uncommon birds to be seen. The walk is free, dress for weather, bring water, hat, sunscreen and binoculars.



Courtesy photo

The Moffat Fire Department hosted Moffat Elementary School students to learn about fire safety and emergency preparedness at the fire station. Northern Saguache Ambulance District also attended the event.

Moffat students learn fire safety from Moffat firefighters

By MARIE MCCOLM

MOFFAT — On April 29, the Moffat Fire Department hosted Moffat Elementary School students for a safety experience and educational lesson at the fire station. Elementary children from

the school marched in excited and eager to learn about the different things the fire department crew do in the event of emergencies and fires.

Assistant Moffat Fire Department Chief Francisco Silva talked about the kids and how they were really

enjoying themselves." The kids were all smiles and seemed to enjoy everything. We taught them a lot of age-appropriate ways to keep themselves safe. It was a fun event with the kids. They learned a lot

Please see SAFETY on Page 7A

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

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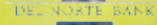
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Chad Spearman



Member FDIC Lee Crowther



Ready to ride for a really good cause

Funds will purchase 'rifle ready' vests for ACSO personnel

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — From May 16-19, a group of hearty and committed bike riders will be on a ride that will cover 273 miles and include a gain in elevation of 13,356 feet. The choice of dates is specific

as they fall during National Police week, honoring those who in law enforcement who have made the ultimate sacrifice and died in the line of duty.

The ride is also being held for a cause equally specific and, locally, highly significant – raising enough funds to buy each law enforcement officer, transport officer and first responder with the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) with rifle ready bulletproof vests capable of stopping high velocity bullets. ACSO deputies

currently don't have that protection. "The vests are really needed," says Alamosa Sheriff Robert Jackson. "This is a rural area where there's a greater likelihood of people having weapons like assault rifles."

It is not yet known how many riders will be on this worthy (and probably really cold) ride but two are 100% committed and ready: Tim Dellett, Co-responder with Alamosa Police Department, and Erich Schwiesow, attorney for the city of Alamosa.

"It's an honor to serve our county

in this manner and to protect our protectors," says Dellett. "It's also a great adventure to be with other likeminded individuals and to see this great state."

"I plan to raise enough money to buy a couple of vests, which cost about \$2,300 each. I'm asking people to please support me in reaching this goal."

Asked for his comment, Erich Schwiesow responded, "Yeah, what he said." He then nodded toward Dellett.

Sheriff Jackson expresses his appreciation to any and all who are able to support the riders or donate directly to the cause. "Our deputies and our transport personnel will be much safer," he said.

Those willing to support Dellett or Schwiesow can do so by going to www.Shield616.org and clicking on the "Donate" tab. Anyone with questions are welcome to call Dellett at 719-580-5411.



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Alamosa County Sheriff's Office deputies are among those to benefit from rifle ready bulletproof vests. Pictured left to right: Deputy Eric Martinez, Deputy Sylvia Lucas-Moreno, Deputy Sergio Cazares, Alamosa Police Department Police Chief George Dingfelder, APD Co-responder Tim Dellett, Alamosa City Attorney Erich Schwiesow, Alamosa County Sheriff Robert Jackson, Deputy Eduardo Saria, Deputy Malachi Sandoval and Detective Zach Decker.



Courtesy photo

OBITUARY

George W. Blake

George W. Blake, 103, passed away at Homelake Veterans Center in Monte Vista, Colo., on May 8, 2024

He was the only child of Florence Rosa (Sears) of London, England and George W. Blake of Plymouth, England. George Jr. was born on January 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 on to graduate from Textile HS in Manhattan.

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.

George served almost 5½ years in the Army during WWII 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. George 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.

Upon his discharge from the Army, George 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 5 states: VA, NY, NJ, IL, and CO. In 1983 after 37 years with the company he retired from the Bell Labs in Denver and moved to Salida, CO.

George was sent to the University of Hawaii by the Army and while majoring in electrical engineering, he did the equivalent of his freshman year. Later he continued his college education on the GI Bill by attending Brooklyn Polytechnical Institute. Due to his relocation to the Bell Labs in NJ, he transferred to Rutgers University where he completed his education as an engineer.

George was active in community

service during his adult life serving as a volunteer on the Fire Department in NJ, Auxiliary Police in IL, and after retirement George did other volunteer functions. He was on the Boards of Starpoint, The Ark Valley Humane Society, The Salida Elks, The Mesa Heights Homeowners Association, and District Director of The Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. And he was especially proud of his many hours of volunteer service during his eight years as an EMT on the Chaffee County Ambulance. He was also a life member of Salida Post 808 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

George is survived by his three daughters, Margaret Glaser (Andrew) of Annandale, NJ, Barbara Swift of Maple Park, IL and Colleen Trinko (Paul) of Glen Ellyn, IL. Five Grandchildren Drew Glaser, Jeff Glaser (Jen), Amy Glaser, Kari Soprych and Megan Loebbaka (Cale) and ten great grandchildren Jack & Lucy, Eve (Arthur), & Indra (Andrew), Ella and Andrew, Ethan and Emma, Sawyer and Charlotte. Funeral Service are set for 10 a.m. on Friday May 17, 2024, at Lewis and Glenn Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Fairview Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, friends who desire may make memorial contributions to Ark Valley Helping Hands or the Ark Valley Humane Society.

Arrangements are with Lewis and Glenn Funeral Home.

TEA

Continued from Page 1A

"The bouquets were cute. We announced each of the kids one by one, and one by one they gave their mother's their gifts and said Happy Mother's Day to them. The pictures were so cute; they were holding flowers and the kids got to write on the pictures. They wrote messages of 'I love you' or whatever they wanted to write. The mothers really enjoyed them, and the kids were excited about giving out the gifts to their moms," she said.

Chaparro also said that during breakfast the mothers read a questionnaire about them from their children.

"We gave the students some questions about their moms. We asked them how old their moms are, what their mom's favorite food is, what their moms like to do, what do you hear most from mom. The answers were so funny. Some of the students stated that their moms were 80 years old. It was so silly and cute. The mothers laughed and the kids laughed with them also," she said.

Chaparro said this is the first year that

they have had the Mommy and Me Tea Party since she has been at the preschool. Chaparro has worked for the preschool for seven years, and said it was nice to have the parents enjoy the classroom with their kids.

"I remember that period of COVID when we couldn't host events at all. It was nice to have the parents come in with their kids, and it was special for them to come in and have breakfast with the kids," she said.

Chaparro said she is looking forward to having more events with parents this year.

"We love having our parents' involvement in the classroom, and it was a really good turnout. I want to thank all the parents for coming and making this special for their kids. We couldn't have asked for a better turnout. I also want to thank my co-teacher Raelynn for all her help with the event too. We are a team, and it was a great event for the kids," she said.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

We can do that

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.

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.



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

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 Timentwab 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.

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 protestor 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

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

Courtesy photo

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

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

Thanks to numerous volunteers from SLV Health and Adams State

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

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



Courtesy photo

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

Coronary Calcium Scoring is SLV Health’s newest service

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

Low-dose CT scans, typically with doses below 1-2 mSv, ensure minimal radiation exposure to patients while still producing high-quality images necessary for accurate calcium scoring. These scans can

be acquired using techniques such as ECG-triggered sequences or retrospectively gated spiral scans, which help synchronize image acquisition with the patient’s cardiac cycle for optimal results.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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Valley-wide power outage

Storm causes transmission line failure on Poncha Pass

By JOHN WATERS

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.



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.

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.

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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 charges

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

RIO GRANDE 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



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.

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

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



Courtesy photo

SAFETY

Continued from Page 1A

with us.” Silva said that the Northern Saguache Ambulance District also attended the event. The first responders spoke to the kids about important safety measures to take, to help others and to help themselves in an emergency. There was also a bus driver demonstration that took place. The fire department showed children all their fire equipment and spoke to the kids about how the fire equipment is used. The crew also showed the children what they looked like in and out of their uniforms. Silva said, “We really wanted to stress to the kids that if they see us in uniform not to be afraid of us. Some kids get scared when they see adults in uniforms, and

they do not understand what they do. We wanted the kids to know that even though we look different in uniforms we are there to help them.” The crew also spoke to the children about what to do in a fire and how to keep themselves safe, using age-appropriate lessons. Silva stated the kids were taught about safety planning in the event of a fire and ways to safely escape in case of a fire. Silva said the kids really liked the idea of Sparky the Safety Dog, too. “We showed the kids Sparky the Safety dog and talked to them about his safety rules. The kids seemed really responsive to everything we showed them.” Silva stated the kids asked a lot

of questions and enjoyed looking at the fire equipment and hearing about what each of the different organizations did to help people stay safe in the event of emergencies. “It was just a really enjoyable day with the kids.” The kids all received tote bags, that contained fun activities and information about staying safe. Silva stated that after working with the kids he is hoping to make it an annual event. “We are hoping that we can do something like this with the kids every year. It is important for the kids to learn about the ambulance, first responders, and the fire department. It is important for the children to know that we are there to help, if we need to.”

DOLA

Continued from Page 1A

the Range View project, emphasizing its importance for the community. Their dedication paid off, as DOLA recognized the value of their efforts and approved the full amount requested. SCHA is extremely fortunate to have been awarded the full grant request to cover 80% of the total costs for the \$799,520 offsite improvements needed to move the housing project forward. As part of the grant application process SCHA worked with Saguache County, which committed up to \$200,000 as a grant match; the Town of Saguache graciously committed \$20,000 in total toward the overall Range View project with \$7,500 specifically for off-site fire hydrant improvements, and SCHA is also providing \$10,000 in total with \$7,500 specifically for the off-site fire hydrant improvements. The financial commitments demonstrate strong community investment in the SCIP request; and the 25 letters of support that were gathered from community members, employers, governments, non-profits, and housing advocates certainly demonstrated strong community support as well. The Saguache County Housing Authority’s Range View project is highlighting the significance of collaboration and community support in achieving affordable housing goals. The key aspect of this awarded SPIC grant is covering the cost of a substantial portion of the offsite improvement that are essential for building Range View. Range View’s site is adjacent to

a waterline; however, the waterline is not sufficient for a multi-family development. The grant award decreases project costs for the required waterline upgrade, road access improvements, and installing utilities/fire hydrant improvements — impacting the overall budget of the project and the debt ratio for years to come. These improvements will create a safer and more appealing environment for future residents and ensure that Range View integrates with the existing community. The financial support provided by SCIP not only provides SCHA with the ability to confidently move forward with addressing the off-site infrastructure needs but has also demonstrated to additional funders the willingness to make investments in this community affordable housing development. As the Range View project continues to progress, it will generate even more positive momentum and leave a lasting impact on the community. This DOLA grant award is a significant milestone in a journey that is setting the stage for future success. “SCHA and our partners are more than just talk; we are taking action to provide affordable housing for the community. This grant award is a game-changer for us. It validates our vision and allows us to move forward confidently in creating a better future for our community,” said Samora, Executive Director of Saguache County Housing Authority.

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PO BOX 100
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Saguache, CO. 81149

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SAGUACHE COUNTY COURT FACILITIES FEASIBILITY STUDY

Table of Contents

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

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

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

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

RFP Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.”

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



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.

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 or call 719-657-2847.



RGC Sheriff’s Office awards scholarship through CSOC

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

RIO GRANDE COUNTY — In a special meeting hosted by the Rio Grande County Board of Commissioners and the Rio Grande County Sheriff’s Department, Rio Grande County Sheriff Anne Robinson presented Cayden Larimore from Sargent School District with this year’s County Sheriffs of Colorado Scholarship.

Larimore has had an exceptional record in the Sargent School District. In the letter he submitted for the scholarship he states, “I started my freshman year in 2020, the same year that an aviation class was introduced into Sargent High School. I signed up for the class, thinking it would be interesting to learn about the world of flying, something that had never piqued my interest before.”

Through the aviation class taught by Jay Sarason, Larimore found his calling and dove into the world of aviation.

“I was fortunate enough to have an extremely ambitious teacher for this class, who inspired me more than I could have ever imagined. This teacher, Jay Sarason, spent just as much time with students outside of the classroom as inside. He took us on field trips, teaching us to fly for free, and helping in any way that he could. The first time that I went flying with Jay, I was instantly hooked,” he said.

Rio Grande County Sheriff Robinson opened the award ceremony with the scholarship program’s philosophy statement, “To carry out our commitment to the Honorary Members of the association, County Sheriffs of Colorado (CSOC) established a scholarship program in 1978. Since then, the program has continued as a meaningful expression of the sheriffs’ and CSOC’s respect for education and training. We consider these scholarships as an investment in the future of Colorado’s communities.”

Robinson continued highlighting Larimore’s plans stating that he wants to attend the Airline

Transportation Pilot Program and obtain his certificate to fly a commercial airline.

“Larimore has a laundry list of involvement and community oriented, and we appreciate his dedication,” Robinson said.

The judges that helped review the applications for the scholarship chose Larimore as a deserving applicant. Larimore accepted the scholarship in the presence of Rio Grande County Commissioners, his flight instructor Bill Shoen and his family.

Outside of scholarships, CSOC provides training and resources to peace officers throughout Colorado.

“Peace officers know the dangers of the job when choosing this career. The profession requires hard work and long hours, with risk of injury and death looming daily. Officers are at high risk for suicide, divorce, post-traumatic stress syndrome and substance use disorders because of



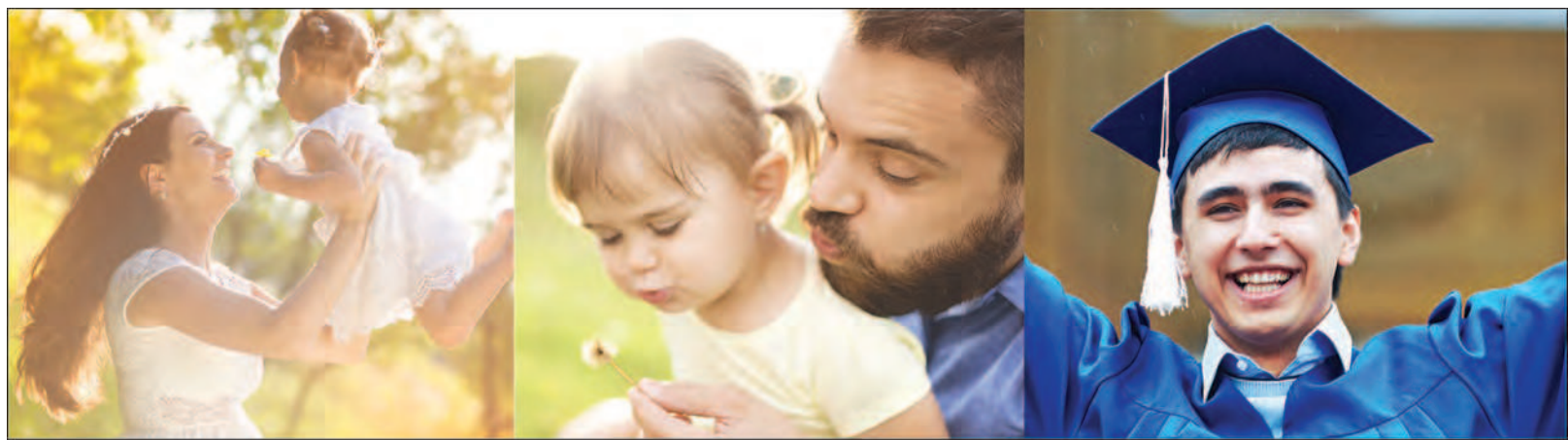
Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

repeated exposure to high-stress, life-threatening situations. These first responders do this important work anyway. They show up each day because the rewards of serving their communities cannot be measured.

“CSOC works to ensure these peace officers have the best professional training available, helping to reduce the dangers and mitigate the personal risks inherent in the profession as they serve their communities.”



Rio Grande County Commissioners along with Rio Grande County Sheriff Anne Robinson presented Cayden Larimore with this year’s County Sheriffs of Colorado scholarship on May 8. Larimore was accompanied by his family.



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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). 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

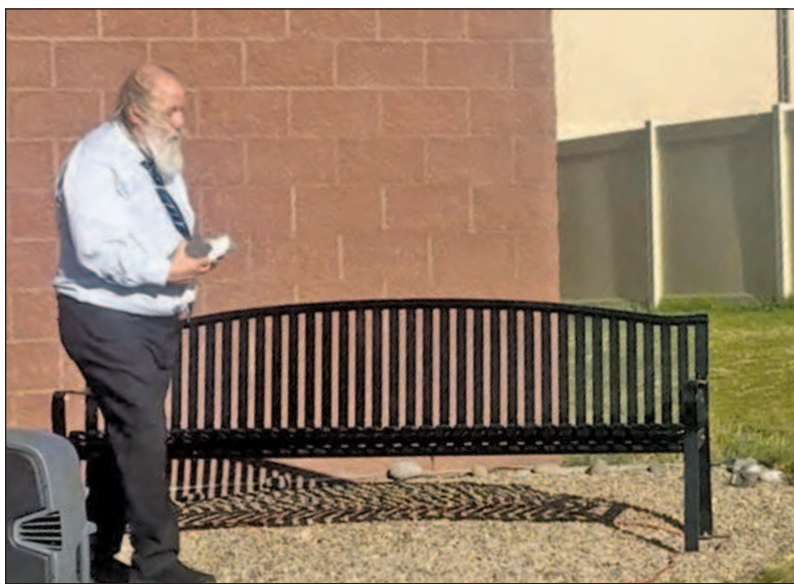
By MARIE MCCOLM

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."

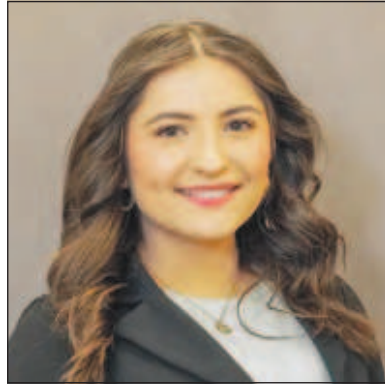
As described by Curtis L. Esquibel, Senior Director of Communications and Community Engagement with the Boettcher Foundation, the Boettcher Scholarship Program has been in place since 1952, aiming to retain Colorado's inspiring high school graduates within the state for their college education. More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

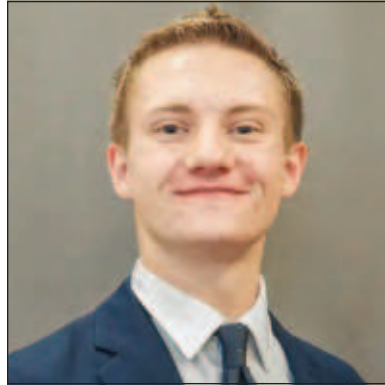
- A "Positive Peer" presiding on her city's Municipal Teen Court, focused on issuing judgments rooted in compassion that have the greatest potential for positive change in the respondents.

- 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."

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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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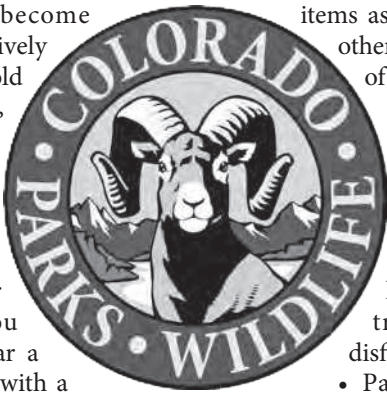



LOVE

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.

- 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 and cpw.info/keepcoloradowildpassspanish.



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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			
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							S	K	I	I	N	G		A	R	T	
							R	E	N	E	G	E		N	E	E	

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02 CARD OF THANKS
03 MEMORIALS
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05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
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08 WORK WANTED
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FOR RENT
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05 Notices

For information on meetings for ALANON NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS AND ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Please visit 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 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. Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Administration - at the address listed above, sent by email to wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov, or faxed to 719-655-2635. 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

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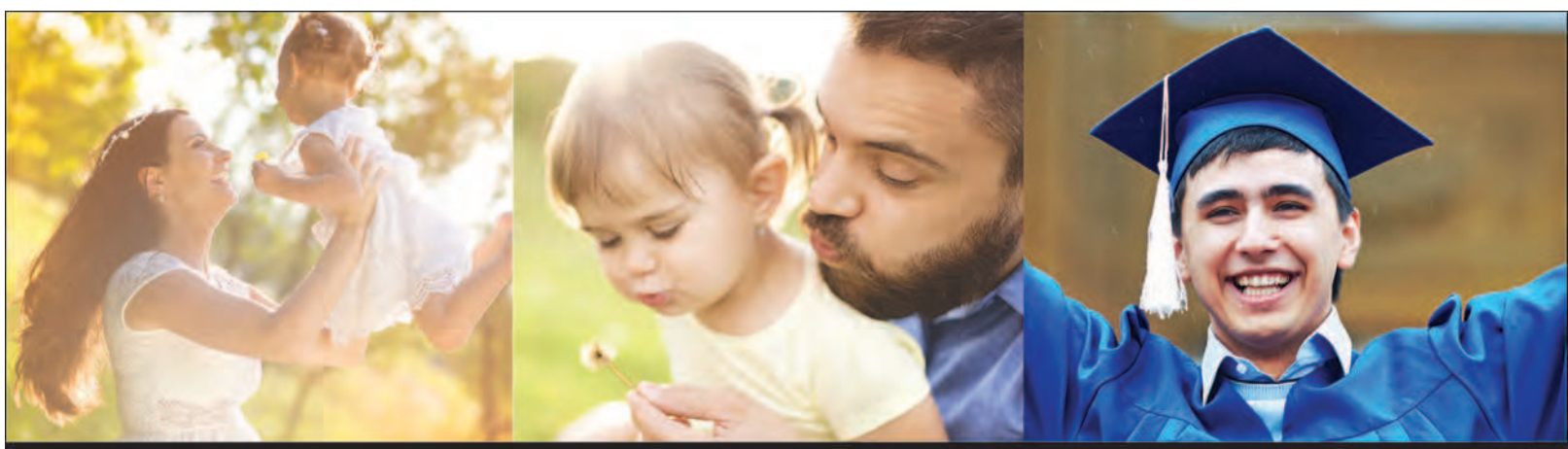
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Saguache County Administration Office, 505 3rd Street, PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149 – 719-655-2231 or on the Saguache County website – saguachecounty.colorado.gov. Completed applications can be hand delivered or mailed to Saguache County Administration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

“Mrs. Adams is the reason I went to business school,” Mc Bartlett 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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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 and in the official project record at 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.

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

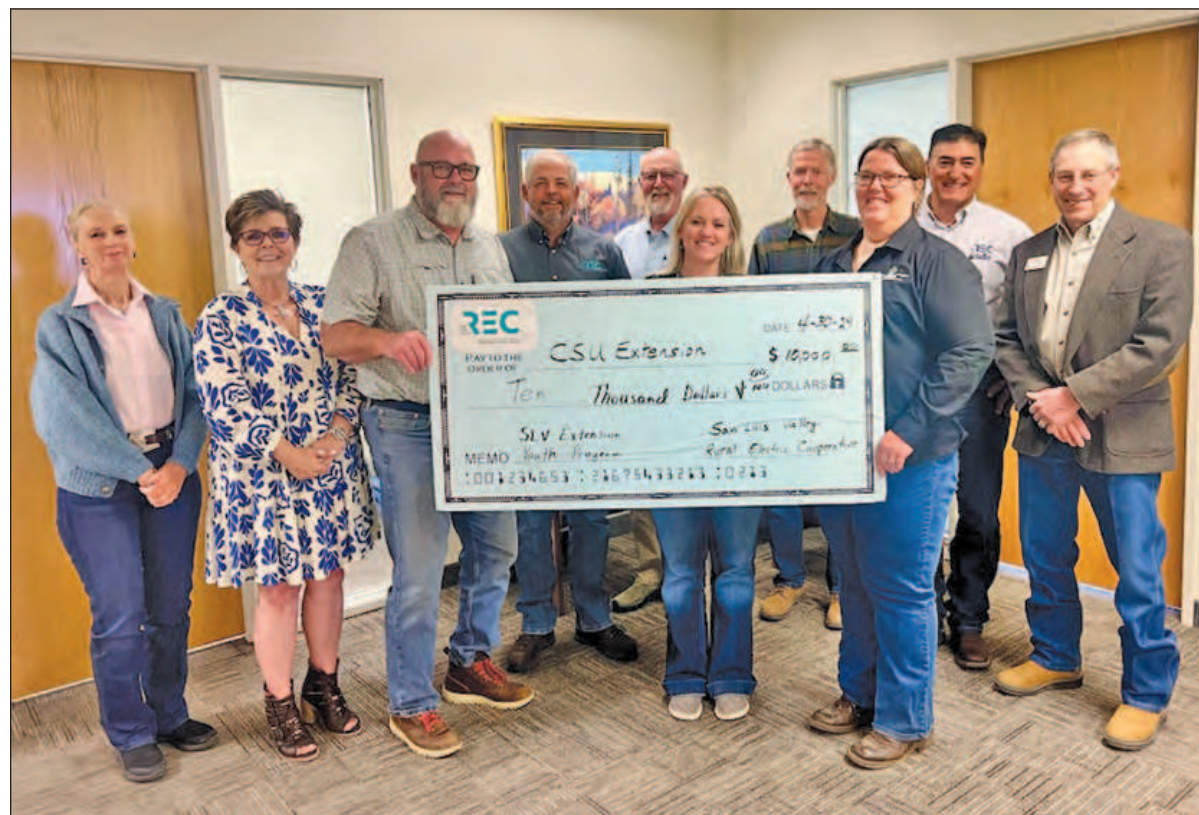
is to secure permanent funding for an additional 4-H agent.

"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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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

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. For questions or more information, e-mail creedearts@outlook.com or call the CAC at 719-658-0312. The application deadline is June 1.

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