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News in Brief

MV Historical Society season begins May 28

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

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

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

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

Scram Car Show and Model Car Contest is June 1

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

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

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

Fundraiser for St. Francis of Assisi Church

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

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

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

CONTRIBUTED

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

Schoen served as a United States Marine for over 33 years spanning from 1989 to 2022. Schoen enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves in October of 1988, graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego in June 1989 and joined "Papa" Battery, 5th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment in Denver in September 1989 as an Artillery Cannoneer. A 1992 graduate

of Colorado State University, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1995 and embarked on a 27-year active-duty career as a Marine Corps Logistics Officer.

Col Schoen's tours of duty included Camp Pendleton; Calif., Parris Island, S.C.; Okinawa, Japan; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; and then back to Camp Pendleton, Calif.

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

gistics Group at Camp Leatherneck in 2010.

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

At NORTHCOM, Lt. Col. Schoen served as a Land Domain Chief in the Command Center, working primarily with the US Department of Homeland Security, the National

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Col. (Ret.) William 'Skip' Schoen



Photo by Marie Mccolm

Care and Share President and CEO of Care and Share Nate Springer speaks at the Rescue for Hope luncheon on May 16 in Monte Vista.

Care and Share hosts Rescue for Hope luncheon

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Care and Share Food Bank hosted its first Rescue for Hope luncheon on May 16 at the Out-

calt Event and Conference Center at SLV Ski-Hi Complex. Approximately 80 people attended the event.

Southwest Colorado, including

Alamosa, has 54 pantries and this past year, Care and Share gave out 3.6 million pounds of food to Southwest

Please see CARE on Page 2A

EPA awards \$1M to the City of Monte Vista

Funds are for cleanup and redevelopment projects

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced May 20 the City of Monte Vista will receive \$1 million in Brownfields grant funding to support contaminant cleanup, environmental assessments and redevelopment of critical properties in Monte Vista.

These investments are part the agency's Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup (MAC) Grant Programs.

"The City of Monte Vista is taking a strategic approach to cleaning up and revitalizing

properties along its Main Street Corridor," said EPA Regional Administrator KC Becker. "EPA is proud to be supporting projects that will protect the health of residents and bring new redevelopment opportunities to the community."

"In the wealthiest nation in the world, every family should be able to live in a clean environment," said Senator Michael Bennet. "This funding will rightfully support Colorado

Please see AWARD on Page 7A

The EPA awarded \$1 million in Brownfields grant funding to the City of Monte Vista for two projects. The first priority was City Hall and the second was this commercial property at 117 Adams St.

Courtesy photo



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Photo by Marie McColm

Nearly 100 people attended the first Rescue for Hope luncheon the San Luis Valley. It was held on May 16 in Monte Vista.

CARE

Continued from Page 1A

Colorado. In the San Luis Valley, Care and Share has 24 partners, and put 1.3 million pounds of food out the door. It was explained that the facility in Alamosa, 5858 Produce Place, has grown from having some food, to being completely full.

President and CEO of Care and Share Nate Springer said, "This is really neat for this to be our first ever Rescue for Hope luncheon held here in the San Luis Valley. This is our 50th year being a food bank in Southern Colorado. Rescue for Hope is a tradition started in Colorado Springs about 20 years ago. It's the first-year anniversary of our distribution center being opened here in Alamosa, and our 50th year here. This is pretty special to do this, and what an amazing turn out for the first time."

Springer explained that before the distribution center was open in Alamosa, Care and Share partnered with food pantries, but drove much longer distances from Colorado Springs and Pueblo, to distribute the food.

"So, when you think of the San Luis Valley and then more broadly Southwest Colorado it would take 8 hours one direction to get food to the southwest part of the state. So now that we're here, ... in Alamosa, we can cut that transportation time down in half. What that means is we serve our food pantries, and our partner agencies better today than we had before, and that's exciting," he said.

Care and Share was founded in 1972 by Sister Dominique Pisciotta. Pisciotta began the Food Bank in Colorado Springs. Pisciotta partnered with a few local churches and the Pikes Peak

Food Bank and began the food bank in basements and garages of volunteers with the local churches, and in the community, before putting the food bank into its first warehouse.

A short movie shown at the luncheon featured Pisciotta, who stated that Care and Share was her greatest life accomplishment.

"Care and Share without a doubt," she stated with tears in her voice. "What I see happening with Care and Share is my greatest accomplishment. Because of how important it is to feed hungry people and children. I would do anything for the children."

Mary Lowers, the coordinator for Care and Share in Crestone, also spoke at the meeting regarding Care and Share.

"I am often referred to as the Care and Share lady," she said. "As an avid supporter of food security and Care and Share, that is the title I wear with pride. I am here to today to tell you about what food insecurity looks like in the San Luis Valley, and how our partnership with Care and Share has helped my community have access to food that they need to thrive. We are a small tight nit community home to less than 3000 people. We are home to people from all walks of life including seniors with fixed income and families struggling to keep food on the table."

Lowers explained that Crestone discovered Care and Share about 20 years ago. Lowers stated that much of what was given out at the Crestone Food Bank was only non-perishable items of canned goods, but upon discovering Care and Share, fresh produce was

added to the Crestone Food Bank.

"We are so grateful to join the Care and Share family," she said.

Lowers explained that once a month the Care and Share mobile food market visits Crestone and gives out delicious nutritional food to folks in the community.

"The Care and Share mobile food market has made it possible for us to provide food, for our neighbors who are in need of food. It truly does feel like we are in a good spot for fighting food insecurity in Crestone and surrounding communities. We would not have been in this position without Care and Share," she said.

Lowers stated that when people support Care and Share, they support food that provides stability and hope to families and individuals in the San Luis Valley.

Springer said they are proud to have the distribution center open in Alamosa, and the first luncheon went well.

"It's neat when you come to a thing like this and see the kindness and generosity of our community because people are all so busy, so to come out and spend an hour with us in the middle of the day on a Thursday. Everyone here is awesome," he said.

Springer thanked everyone who attended and donated at the luncheon and all the sponsors who contributed to the luncheon.

The Sunflour Café catered the lunch, serving rotisserie chicken salad, and delicious handmade pies for dessert.

For more information on Care and Share, visit online <https://careandshare.org>.

OBITUARY

Tom Sanderson

Born on March 29, 1950, in Del Norte, Colo., Tom Sanderson's spirit left his body on May 13, 2024, with Margaret by his side.

Like his dad, son, daughter, wife and mother-in-law, Tom was a Sargent High School graduate. He went on to earn degrees in computer programming from Mesa State and Business Education from Adams State.

In October of 1972, he married his high school sweetheart, Margaret Chisholm. Two children were born to this union - Ginger Michelle and Kevin Andrew.

Tom was passionate about riding mules in the mountains. He learned the art from his dad who kept him supplied with ponies or horses beginning at age three. His last four-legged friends were his mules, LJ, Clyde and Penny. He enjoyed riding Clyde or Penny on several week-long rides with the Colorado Mule Riders. Tom felt closer to God in nature, in the mountains on one of his mules. He loved to hunt elk with his friends in Wason Park near Creede, Colo., and he enjoyed fishing, particularly at Santa Maria Reservoir where his dad had water rights and where Tom carried on that tradition, hoping to pass that on to his son, Kevin, who passed on at the age of 42 on April 9, 2021.

He and Margaret raised potatoes and small grains in the Sargent Community for 25 years. He was pleased to have raised their children on their farm.

Tom had a soft spot for his three granddaughters. He loved to spend time with "his girls" and just play. He loved kids in general and loved to hold babies!

Tom was a member of Monte Vista Masonic Lodge No. 73 and served two terms as master. He was a 32nd Degree member of the Southern Colorado Consistory and a member of Al Kaly Shriners. He enjoyed being a clown and entertaining the kids. He was a hospital representative for Shriner Hospitals and held offices in the local Sand Dunes Shrine Club multiple times.

He refereed high school football for many years and women's college basketball for 20 years.

He served on the Colorado Potato Administration Committee, the Colorado Certified Seed Potato Board and on the Monte Vista CO-



OP board.

Tom especially enjoyed his work with the Division of Wildlife in Fruita, Colo., where he managed the Horse Thief Canyon State Wildlife Area for five years. He raised crops for wildlife introducing several new crops to the area that attracted even more wildlife than before his arrival there. Deer, quail, turkeys, ducks and geese increased in numbers, and he was delighted to be farming for wildlife. He began instructing Hunters' Education classes there as well.

Both Tom's parents, Clifford and Laura Lee Sanderson, preceded him in death as did his son, Kevin.

He is survived by his wife Margaret of 51 years, his daughter Dr. Ginger (George) Mentz and their three girls, Madeleine Alexis, Anna Catherine and Claire Michelle of Colorado Springs, his sister Betty Brink (Glen Burns) of Eloy, Ariz., as well as many extended family members on Margaret's side of the family.

Contributions can be made to Shriners Hospital for Children, 1275 E Fairfax Rd., Salt Lake City, UT 84103.

Margaret is deeply grateful for the friends and family who visited or contacted them during this difficult time. She so appreciated the kind, compassionate and efficient care Tom received while at Evergreen Nursing Home where he passed.

Cremation has been chosen, and a Memorial Service will be held June 7, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Rogers Family Mortuary, 404 Morris St., Monte Vista.

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

SCHOEN

Continued from Page 1A

Guard Bureau, US Army North, and US Marine Forces North.

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

In 2020, Col. Schoen joined the staff at the US Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., for his final tour of duty. He retired from active duty in July 2022. He and his wife Diane then fulfilled their 30-year dream of returning to their family property in the San Luis Valley and becoming active members of the Rio Grande County community. In April 2023, Col. Schoen was hired as the Rio Grande County Administrator and continues to serve

in that position today.

The Memorial Day Observance will take place at 10 a.m. on May 27, in the Homelake Veterans Cemetery. The ceremony will include Honor and Color Guards, USS General Patrick Bell Tolling, and Wreath Presentations. The 140th Wing of the Colorado Air National Guard from Buckley Air Force Base will support the Observance with an official fly-over. Cinnamon rolls will be served

following the ceremony in the Old Dining Room. The History Museum will be open until 12:30 p.m., following the Observance.

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

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Life is a Gamble

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

the good articles" found within for Ol' Dutch's tastes. Both are vices wrapped around tempting visuals and will suck you in like a camel eating a peach.

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

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

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

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

We won't forget what happened 101 years ago

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Courtesy Wikimedia Commons

La Sal Range in Northern San Juan County, Utah.

ing consequences for my community and healing is necessary even today.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



By Shaun Ketchum Jr.

LETTER

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

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

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

While some may argue that the poster serves as a symbol of strength and courage for our officers, the use of 'Lord' predominantly carries Christian connotations, potentially perceived as favoring one religious' tradition over others. This could alienate community members who follow different religions or none, making them feel that their

values and sources of moral support are sidelined.

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

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

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

*Jermey Garner
Alamosa*



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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 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."



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

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.

Essay and Artwork Contest winners



Courtesy photo

Colorado Association for Family and Community Education (CAFCE) joined members across the nation in sponsoring an Essay and Artwork Contest for fourth grade students. District 5 and Friday Morning Club FCE members helped facilitate this effort with monetary awards for the students. The contest is held annually and the theme this year was CITIZENSHIP, one of the Six Pillars of Character! The students write an essay and create hand-drawn artwork. The purpose of the 2024 contest was to encourage students to understand and practice citizenship. It encourages students to strive for excellence and creativity in reading, writing, and drawing skills. The winners for Rio Grande County were from Sargent Elementary. First place was Taci Paskett, second place was Mason Price, and third place was Elijah Brown. Paskett also received third place at the state level. She will be invited to the CAFCE State Conference in June to receive her state award.



Del Norte Food Bank monthly distribution

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

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

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

Photo by Jasmine Hussman, City of Alamosa

Peace officers honored and remembered

STAFF REPORT
ALAMOSA — In an annual ceremony dedicated to peace officers who devoted their lives to service and others who were injured or lost their lives in the line of duty were respected, honored and remembered in a ceremony at the Alamosa Safety Complex in Alamosa.
 The ceremony date was chosen to coincide with National Peace Officers Memorial Week, proclaimed by the city as the week of May 13, and Peace Officers Memorial Day, proclaimed as May 15. The memorial service was preceded by a procession of lights at 5 p.m.
 In a sign of support for law enforcement officials, several people spoke at the memorial, including Alamosa County Sheriff Robert Jackson, Alamosa Police Department Police Chief George Dingfelder, 12th Judicial District Attorney Anne Kelly, Alamosa Mayor Ty Coleman and other members from law enforcement agencies in Alamosa County.

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

CONTRIBUTED
CREEDE — Coni Grant, Alamosa painter and teacher, has been selected as the Honored Artist for this year's Taste of Creede on Memorial Day weekend, May 25-27. Her studio is at 6800 Highway 17, where she can be found painting or teaching classes.
 She received her bachelor's in graphic design, and then studied Conceptual Design at San Francisco State University. She spent 20 years in advertising and graphic design primarily in San Francisco before she and her family had the opportunity to move to Newfoundland, Canada. Although they loved it there, they found their home in Alamosa, and the San Luis Valley.
 Grant is also a committed plein air painter (painting out of doors) and has received many awards and honors to name a few:
 Best in Show- Western Light, Invitational Exhibit, Estes Park
 Artist's Choice Award, Women of the West Show- Boulder
 First Place Members Award, Plein Air Painters New Mexico
 First Place, Western Rendezvous, La Veta
 Grant will be amongst many artists painting on the streets, Saturday and Sunday, of Memorial Day weekend.

The Creede Chamber of Commerce will be selling Taste of Creede t-shirts with one of Grant's beautiful images on the back.
 The National Small Print exhibition will also open Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Creede Repertory Theatre.
TASTE OF CREEDE SCHEDULE
Saturday, May 25
 10 a.m.-4 p.m. - Painters on the street in downtown Creede.
 10 a.m.-3 p.m. - The National Small Print Show - Creede Repertory Theatre. For more information, visit online creedeartscouncil.com.
 Noon-3 p.m. - Live Music under the tent at the Creede Hotel
 1 p.m. - Kentucky Bell Community Cook-Off and judging
 5-8 p.m. - Live Music under the tent at the Creede Hotel

7 p.m. - Creede Repertory Theatre presents "Baskerville." For more information, visit online creederep.org or call 719-658-2541
Sunday, May 26
 10 a.m. - painters on the street in downtown Creede
 Noon-1 p.m. - Creede Hotel cooking demonstration
 1-2:15 p.m. - "Quick Draw" - many artists under the tent painting in different media, and different subjects for one hour. Viewers can walk around the tent and watch the magic happen.
 3 p.m. - Art Auction of the "Quick Draw" artists' paintings that we're doing the previous hour will be auctioned off. This is the highlight of the weekend, and everyone is invited.
 5:15 p.m. - Artist Reception



Courtesy photos

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



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Xcel Energy explains impact of Wildfire Safety Settings

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

source of an ignition,” Xcel officials stated.

One of these mitigation strategies is Wildfire Safety Settings. In Wildfire Risk Zones, Xcel Energy has implemented a Wildfire Safety Settings pilot program in select areas of its electric distribution system.

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

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

Xcel officials stated.

How it works

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

These upgrades allow the system in these areas to instantly interrupt the flow of energy through a power line segment when a fault is detected, such as a tree branch or other object making contact with the power line, to prevent the potential ignition of ground fuel.

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

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

Preparing for potential outages

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

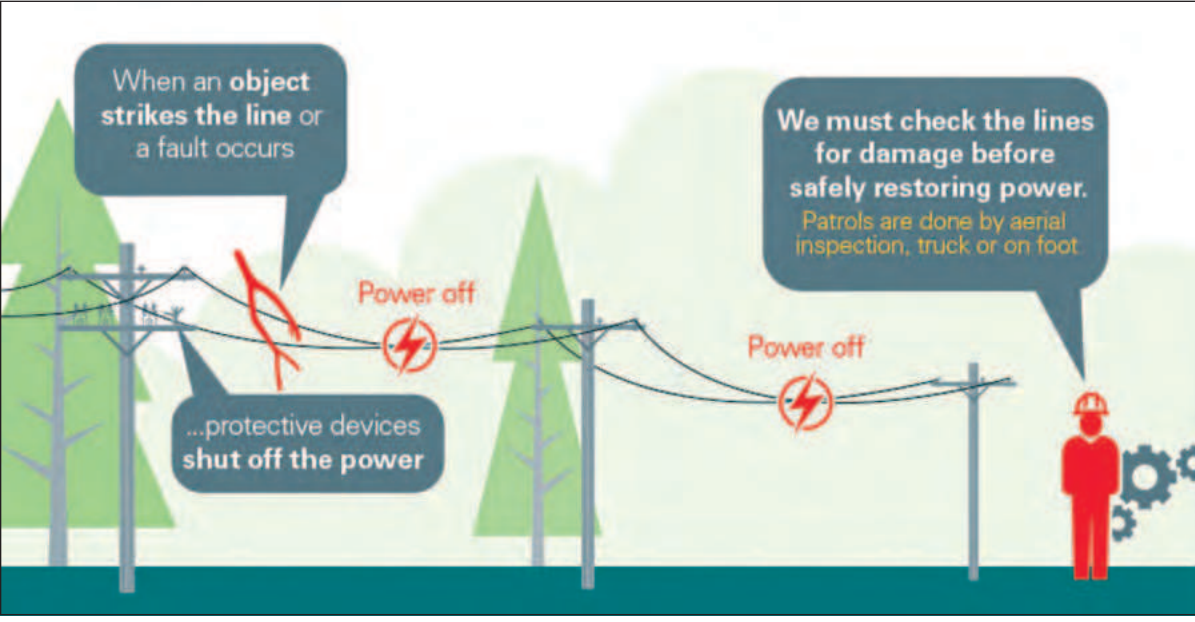
Xcel encourages customers to update their contact information and sign up for outage notifications at myaccount.xcelenergy.com or by calling 800-895-4999. If an outage is triggered by Xcel’s Wildfire Safety

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

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

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

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



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Experiencing God’s Power in Everyday live

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Brandt trial concludes with guilty verdicts

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — A jury was unanimous in reaching a guilty verdict in the case of Daniel Brandt on Wednesday. Brandt was being tried in connection with shooting two people on Oct. 27, 2022.

After deliberating for three hours, jurors found Brandt, 17, guilty on two counts of criminal attempt to commit murder in the first degree (second degree felony) for the shooting of Ricardo Rangel and Alamosa Police Department Officer Mollee Heeney plus three counts of first degree assault (third degree felony), including one count for assault on a peace officer, one count for assault of Heeney and one count for assault of Rangel. Jurors also found Brandt guilty on one count of criminal mischief (second degree misdemeanor) for breaking the window of a relative's residence.

Brandt was just 15 years old at the time of the shooting in 2022 but was tried as an adult, following a transfer hearing where defense counsel argued that Brandt had experienced significant trauma in his life and was making gains at the youth detention center where he was being held. Trying and possibly convicting

him as an adult would likely sentence him to serving time in the Department of Corrections.

District Attorney Anne Kelly, advocating for the transfer, argued that the teenager had been given ample opportunity to take advantage of both treatment and education but to no avail, and the nature of the offense warranted being tried as an adult.

At the end of the transfer hearing marked by frequent objections, District Judge Crista Newmyer-Olsen ruled in the prosecution's favor. The last time a juvenile was tried as an adult in the San Luis Valley was in 2009.

During closing arguments, the core difference between the prosecution's case and that of the defense related to Brandt's state of mind on the day of the shooting.

DA Kelly, who prosecuted with co-counsel Deputy DA Carle Tarnutzer-Decker, argued that Brandt was "a very angry young man". After quoting things Brandt said that were captured on bodycam, she told the jury, "He told you what he thought of APD officers. He told you he knew exactly what was going on when he pulled the trigger. He knew his

rights, knew the legal system and that he thought he was going to get away with it."

Attorney for the defense, Cobe Becker, argued that this was a case of "perception, perception, perception." Brandt had spent all day drinking with his friends in the park and was drunk during the incident, which impacted his perception of what was happening around him, including recognizing APD Officer Heeney as a police officer. She also described Officer Heeney as "in shock" upon arriving on the scene and suggested that Heeney's injury to her leg (a fractured femur) was possibly the result of bullet fragments instead of the direct hit from the bullet fired by Brandt.

That argument was addressed by DA Kelly who summarized the three points of her case. Brandt knew what he was doing at the time and intended to shoot both Rangel and Heeney.

After reading the verdict, each of the 12 jurors were polled and each had voted guilty on all six charges. Sentencing is set for 9 a.m. on July 26, when people will be allowed to speak on behalf of the victims and Brandt.

Defense counsel said they would likely

be bringing four individuals from Youth Offender Services, presumably to speak on Brandt's behalf. Brandt, himself, has yet to speak. It's not known if he will choose otherwise at sentencing.

What sentence Brandt receives will rest entirely in the hands of District Judge Newmyer-Olsen.

"This was an incredibly challenging case," DA Kelly told the Valley Courier the

night after a verdict had been reached. "It's unimaginable that someone as young as he was could do what he did. My co-counsel, Carle Tarnutzer-Decker, did a phenomenal job. I'm very appreciative of the jury for their energy and attention in what was a very complicated case. I'm so honored to get justice for Mollee and Ricardo, and I'm so appreciative of law enforcement and their work in this community."

SWOOP

Continued from Page 1A

they have done to create breathtaking cranes, for our wonderful little town. Everyone is invited to attend, and I hope everyone will come out to this special event to celebrate our artists and what they have done for the community."

For the past 5 years, blank steel cranes have been decorated by local artists from all over the San Luis Valley. Monte Vista hosts the Crane Festival every year, and right before the festival these special cranes are hung on light poles all over Downtown Monte Vista.

The cranes bring color, vibrancy, and energy to Monte Vista, just in time for the festival. At the end of September, the beautiful cranes are taken down and the artists can either buy back the cranes or put them up for auction. The auction is held during the annual Potato Festival

in Monte Vista at the end of September.

The Swoop of the Cranes project was created in 2020 by then chamber board member Ken Hamko.

Hamko is excited about the upcoming artist celebration and that his idea has carried on supporting the beautification of Monte Vista.

"Another year of the beautiful painted cranes of Monte Vista," he said. "I would like to thank the chamber for continuing this great community art project. Just think, 4 years, there are now over 200 Monte cranes out there for folks to enjoy. Bring them out, display them with pride. Go Monte."

The Church Project is at 256 S. Broadway, Monte Vista. For more information on the crane artist celebration, visit online www.montevistachamber.org.

AWARD

Continued from Page 1A

communities disproportionately affected by contamination. These grants will help Colorado communities safely clean up polluted sites, protect their health, and rebuild in a way that creates jobs and economic opportunity."

The city identified Monte Vista City Hall as the project's first priority cleanup site. The historic building is currently being used by City Government and the Police Department, but formerly functioned as a hospital after being built in 1932. Grant funding at the City Hall site is aimed to address cracked stucco, leaking single-pane windows, lead paint, and floor and ceiling tiles that are likely composed of asbestos-containing materials (ACM). Additionally, impacts from

historical heating oil tanks, old x-ray equipment, and other hospital-related historical impacts will also require assessment.

The second priority site identified in the plan is an abandoned building along the Main Street Corridor. The 3,120-square foot commercial property was originally built in the 1920s and was most recently remodeled and developed into a restaurant.

Unfortunately, because of the extensive costs to revitalize the space, developers have found that it is too cost prohibitive of a project to take on. EPA funding will be used for assessment and cleanup of asbestos containing materials, lead-based paint, and mold for future redevelopment

of the building.

"The grant funding will be a catalyst for revitalization and spur redevelopment in our main commercial area," said Monte Vista Mayor Dale Becker. "We will be thrilled to work with the contractor and our stakeholders to make these properties healthy and usable once again."

The City of Monte Vista is among six organizations in Colorado have been selected to receive EPA Brownfields funding through the Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup (MAC) Grant Programs.

Notice: All contents of storage unit rented by Mark Jones, at PO Box 12, Alamosa CO 81101, shall be disposed of two weeks from this publishing date. Gunbarrel Storage LLC, 1748 Hwy 285 N, Monte Vista, CO 81144. **No. 4828 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, May 22, 2024.**

Notice: All contents of storage unit rented by Patricia Mascarenas, at 1127 W Sickles, Monte Vista CO 81144, shall be disposed of two weeks from this publishing date. Gunbarrel Storage LLC, 1748 Hwy 285 N, Monte Vista, CO 81144. **No. 4826 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, May 22, 2024.**

ORDINANCE 927
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MONTE VISTA COLORADO REPEALING AND REENACTING PROVISIONS OF THE MONTE VISTA MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE CITY OF MONTE VISTA BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
To View the full Ordinance Please contact City Clerk's Office at 719-852-6171 or email uvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us
No. 4829 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, May 22, 2024.

Notice of Public Hearing

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

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

Any interested person may appear to be heard at the public hearings. These public hearings will be held in the commissioner's meeting room located in room 207 at 925 6th St., Del Norte, CO 81132.

Written comments may be emailed to rgcadministrator@riograndecounty.org or mailed or hand delivered to the County Administration Office at 925 6th St Rm 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Written comments must be received by 4pm on June 14, 2024.

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

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

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS
 You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Complaint filed with the Court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this Court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within thirty-five (35) days after service of this Summons upon you. Service of this Summons will be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the Court. If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within thirty-five (35) days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint, without any further notice. This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiffs in and to the real property situated in Rio Grande County, Colorado, more particularly described as LOTS 3-4-5, BLOCK 102 DEL NORTE, subject to any and all matters of record, with a Parcel No. 1531043003, County of Rio Grande, State of Colorado
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 /s/ Angela Lee, Attorney for Plaintiff
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No. 4827 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, May 22 and 29 and June 5, 12 and 19, 2024.



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SPORTS

Pirate baseball team qualifies for state

By KEN HAMRICK

MONTE VISTA — The seventh-ranked Monte Vista High School baseball team won the Class 2A Region 7 Tournament Saturday at Adrian M. Gutierrez Field.

The Pirates first held off a late Ellicott charge for a 5-4 win, and then defeated Dawson School 2-1 in nine innings.

With the tournament win, Monte Vista qualifies for this week's Class 2A State Tournament at the Runyon Sports Complex in Pueblo.

"I'm just proud of these kids," said Monte Vista coach Luke Bradshaw. "They played their hearts out today. They competed. We had to manufacture some runs in the first game by playing small ball. We just keep finding a way."

Monte Vista 5, Ellicott 4

The Pirates got on the scoreboard early with three runs in the bottom of the second inning. Kaden Madrid and Judah Howe both reached on error. Deon Baumgardner, who was courtesy running for Madrid, advanced to third on a wild pitch and he scored as Monte Vista successfully executed the double steal.

Howe also advanced to third and scored on a series of Thunderhawk errors.

Domyon Naranjo then got a bunt single, and he advanced to third on another error. He scored on a wild pitch for a 3-0 lead.

The Pirates scored another run in the third. Azariah Hurtado was safe on an error, and he stole second. He took third on a wild pitch and scored on Madrid's single.

The Thunderhawks got on the board with a run in the top of the fourth. Jed Howarth led off with a double and scored on Logan Wilson's single.

The Pirates scored another run in the fifth. Hurtado singled, stole second and came home on a pair of Ellicott errors.

The Thunderhawks scored twice in the sixth. Landon Kuhn led off with a double and scored on Howarth's single. He took second on the play and scored on an error.

Ellicott made one last charge in the seventh. Diego DeLaRiva had a leadoff single, and Daniel Clough also singled. Kuhn singled home Adam Adame, who was pinch running for DeLaRiva.

The two Ellicott runners were left on base as the game ended.

Kaden Mellott started on the mound for the Pirates, and he was the winning pitcher. He allowed four runs and seven hits, and he struck out 15 and walked only one batter. Jeremiah Baumgardner relieved Mellott in the seventh and he earned the save by retiring the only batter he faced.

The pirates managed only four hits and were led by Hurtado who went 1-2, Kaden Mellott who went 1-3 with a double, Madrid who went 1-3, and Naranjo who went 1-3.

Dawson 13, Rangely 1

In the second game, Dawson School defeated Rangely by a score of 13-1.

Both teams scored a run in the first inning, but the Mustangs blew the game wide-open with a 10-run third.

Dawson scored two more runs in the fourth and the game ended on the 10-run rule.



Photos by Ken Hamrick

Monte Vista High School's Jeremiah Baumgardner fields the ball during the Class 2A Region 7 Tournament on Saturday at Monte Vista.

Monte Vista 2, Dawson 1

The game was a pitchers' duel from the start to finish with no runs being scored in the first seven innings.

Both teams had chances to score in those innings. The Mustangs left runners in scoring position in the first, second, third, fourth and seventh innings, while the Pirates left runners in scoring position in the first, second, third and sixth innings.

The Mustangs got on the board in the top of the eighth. Henry Cox hit a double and he took third on a passed ball. He scored on Milo Richter's single.

The Pirates tied the score in the bottom of the eighth. Kaden Mellott singled and advanced to third on an error in the outfield. He scored on Hurtado's single.

Dawson loaded the bases with one out in the top of the ninth. But Kaden Mellott fielded a ground ball and threw to Jeremiah Baumgardner to retire Julian Sutton. Sutton was called for rolling into the fielder and a double play was called to end the inning.

Monte Vista won the game in the bottom of the ninth. Howe led off with a single, and Naranjo drew a walk. Both runners advanced on a wild pitch and Kobe Jiron sent a bloop single into left field to drive home Howe.

Jiron was the Pirates' starting pitcher and he threw the first five innings. He allowed no runs and four hits, and he struck out four, walked three and hit three batters. Jeremiah Baumgardner relieved Jiron in the fifth and gave up one run and three hits with four strikeouts, three walks and one hit batter. Hurtado finished the game and took the win. He allowed no runs and no hits with no strikeouts and one walk.

The Pirates had eight hits and were led by Kaden Mellott who went 3-3, and Hurtado who went 2-3 with one RBI. Naranjo went 1-3, Howe went 1-4, and Jiron went 1-5 with one RBI.

State tournament is next

Monte Vista (19-3) will face second-ranked Denver Christian in

the first round of the State Tournament Friday at 9:30 a.m.

"We're going to state," Bradshaw said. "If anybody wants to beat us, they're going to have to put us away. Because we are just competing. I think we have as good a shot as anybody."



Monte Vista High School's Domyon Naranjo catches the ball during the Class 2A Region 7 Tournament on Saturday in Monte Vista.

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

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

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

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

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

Please see PROGRAM on Page 2

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

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

Courtesy photo



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

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

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

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



Courtesy photo

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

said Annie Reed, Hope and Home Program Manager.

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

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

Martinez Memorial Scholarship 5K Run/Walk May 25

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROGRAM

Continued from Page 1

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

cost-effective energy efficiency measures.

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

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

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

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

homes using only electricity and their technology is highly efficient.

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



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

enrolling authorized contractors; and managing financing disbursements and servicing.

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

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

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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CLUES ACROSS

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

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

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

CLUES DOWN

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

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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 — Amy B.

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



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RATES

15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications \$19.50 + 95¢ each additional word.
Garage Sale Ads: 15 Words or less for 1 week \$12 + 35¢ each additional word.
Free ads: Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Limited to private party only, 2 ads per person, 4 weeks.)

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

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 To ensure your ad is correct, check it the first day it appears in the paper. If there is an error in your ad, call us right away so we can correct it. If an error appears in your ad, Valley Publishing will credit you with one additional day of advertising.

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 or email: rbeutler@valleypublishinginc.com

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05 Notices

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

07 Help Wanted

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

South Fork Annual Town Wide Clean Up & Garage Sale

June 14 & 15
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Garage sales will take place on Saturday the 15th. If you'd like to host a sale, contact the South Fork Visitor Center to share your info and be added to the published map at (719) 873-5512. The Town will have large dumpsters available for public use throughout the weekend, located in the Visitor Center parking lot.

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www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org

Managed by

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

Visit Our Facebook Page



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Saturday May 25, 2024
At Cole Park
From 9:30 AM—11:00 AM

Trivia Prizes after Service!
Please bring chairs, blankets, and a picnic basket

Rabbi George Lelesz
SLV Ranch Preacher and Doctor of Divinity

Bring your Bible

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



Approx. 6 Acres, Beautiful Views in Bear Creek
\$91,000 | MLS #803984
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6-35 Acres
\$85,000-950,000
West of Antonito in the Conejos Canyon CO

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Lots 11 & 12 in Rito Hondo Estates in Quiet Neighborhood
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Rio Vista Circle South Fork, CO

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

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DOMESTIC WELL
SEPTIC
SOLAR

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

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

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M: 719-873-5605



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

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Dee@SteffensCo Realty.com



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


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M: 719-873-5605




Approximately 160 Acres Farmland
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05299 County Rd. 12 S. Alamosa, CO

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M: 719-873-5605

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VIDEO WALKTHROUGHS
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All Dee's properties are detailed in her blog.




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23 Fairway Drive South Fork, CO

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



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

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

Valley Wide Classifieds

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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

1408 Bear Creek Circle • South Fork

Exceptional Mountain Retreat nestled within the prestigious gated community of Bear Creek, this Exquisite home at 1408 Bear Creek Circle offers an unparalleled blend of Elegance, Tranquility, and Natural beauty. With 3,882 square feet of meticulously designed living space, this property is a sanctuary for those seeking rest from the everyday hustle. Interior Features: Entryway with Stained Glass Doors. The grand entrance sets the tone, welcoming you into a large, elegant living room complete with a corner fireplace and an adjacent wet bar—perfect for entertaining guests. Large Custom Kitchen: The heart of this home boasts custom alder wood cabinets, beautiful quartz countertops, and a butler pantry with built-in custom shelving and storage cabinets. The kitchen seamlessly leads to a spacious laundry area flooded with natural light, making laundry a pleasant task. Beautiful Dining Room: Accessible from the kitchen, the dining room opens to a spacious awe-inspiring back deck. Perfect place to enjoy that first cup of morning coffee. Stairway to Loft: Ascend the large staircase to the open loft—an ideal space for a game area and home office. 3 Bedrooms: Master Bedroom (Main Floor): Flooded with ample natural light, the master bedroom provides a cozy ambiance. It features a spacious retreat with a jumbo-sized walk-in closet complete with custom shelving and cabinets. The master bath includes a walk-in shower and spa tub for your in-home spa experience. Additional 1 and a 1/2 Bath are Well-appointed and elegantly designed, the bathrooms provide comfort and convenience. Lower-Level Stairwell: Leads to an intimate family room and two spacious downstairs guest bedrooms. Immaculate 3-Car Garage and 1-Car Workshop: With custom cabinets and work benches a dream come true, providing plenty of room for all your tools and outdoor adventure toys. Outdoor Delights: Bear Creek runs through this property, nature's music to your ears. Mountain Views: Wake up to awe-inspiring vistas of the surrounding peaks. The ever-changing canvas of sunrises and sunsets will leave you breathless. Wildlife Haven: Immerse yourself in the enchanting wilderness. Mule deer, elk, and even the elusive black bear occasionally grace the property. Year-Round Adventure: Explore hundreds of miles of ATV trails right outside your door. In winter, hit the slopes at Wolf Creek Ski Area, just 30 minutes away. Tranquil Creekside Strolls: Meander along the community walking trails that follow the gentle curves of Bear Creek. Listen to the soothing sounds of water as you unwind. This is more than a home; it's an invitation to embrace the rugged elegance of Colorado's high country. Escape to 1408 Bear Creek Circle and discover a lifestyle where luxury meets wilderness. **MLS# 813472 - \$1,420,000**

NEW LISTING!

Bernadette Gingrass
719-850-1993
bmgingrass@gmail.com
License #100072622

193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

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

SOLD

Bernadette Gingrass
719-850-1993
bmgingrass@gmail.com
License #100072622

0254 Timberline Trail • South Fork

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

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222 La Lomita Circle • South Fork

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

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Brian Williams — bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com

Coronary Calcium Scoring is SLV Health's newest service

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Courtesy photo



Cash prizes for top floats at Stampede parades

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Trinidad State a semifinalist for 2025 Aspen Prize

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Photo by John Waters



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