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News in Brief

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.

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.

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

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.

Memorial Day service held at Homelake



By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA – The sun was high in the sky, and the mood was somber and peaceful for the Memorial Day service at the Homelake Veterans Cemetery on May 27.

Approximately 200 people celebrated all Veterans who gave their life for the United States.

The service was organized by the Colorado Veterans Living Community Center at Homelake. The emcee was Rio Grande County Service Officer and retired US Air Force member Jack Rudder. He thanked everyone for attending the ceremony.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, an opening *Please see SERVICE on Page 4A*

Approximately 200 people attended the Memorial Day service in Monte Vista on May 27.

Photo by Marie Mccolm

MVHS grads encouraged to 'not fear failure'

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — The Monte Vista High School held a graduation ceremony for the Class of 2024 on Friday, May 24.

A little after 7 p.m., students began marching into the high school gymnasium wearing black caps and gowns, where approximately 450 people were seated in the bleachers and upper and lower seats.

As the students took their seats in the front of the stage, Monte Vista High School Principal Jose Ortega said, "Good evening, friends, family, and distinguished guests. Welcome to Monte Vista High School as we honor the Class of 2024."

Ortega then asked everyone to stand for the playing of the national anthem by the high school band.

Graduate Valarie Goodland gave the student address.

Please see GRADS on Page 7A

The Monte Vista High School graduation ceremony was held on Friday, May 24, inside the high school's gymnasium.

Photo by Marie Mccolm



Polis comes to the San Luis Valley to sign 3 significant bills into law

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Governor Polis was in the Valley on Friday to sign several bills into law, two sponsored by Rep. Matt Martinez (D-D62) and one by Sen. Cleave Simpson (R-D6), which hold special importance to the communities in the area. All passed with significant bipartisan support.

The ceremony started at Milagro's in Alamosa where the governor signed HB24-1314 "Modification Tax Credit Preservation Historic Structures," sponsored by Reps. Martinez and Lucas and Sens. Gonzales and Will.

Please see BILLS on Page 2A



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Senator Cleave Simpson looks on as Governor Jared Polis signs the 'gamechanger' SB24-037 'Study Green Infrastructure for Water Quality Management' into law. Gov. Polis held the bill signing at Sen. Cleave Simpson's Mt. Valley Farms.

Monte Vista seniors receive over \$2M in scholarships

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — On May 23, an awards ceremony was held for Monte Vista High School graduating seniors.

Monte Vista High School Student Council Sponsor Melissa Harlan said that \$2,097,260 in scholarships were awarded.

The following is a list of awards and scholarships given out the night of the awards ceremony.

Cienna Villalobos, Center Kiwanis *Please see SCHOLARSHIPS on Page 6A*

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BILLS Continued from Page 1A

Gov. Polis thanked everyone for being present for this “exciting bill that will send \$5 million out for projects for preserving historic projects and making sure they can play a role in improving our quality of life.”

He then turned the podium over to Rep. Martinez, who acknowledged that “it feels really good to be back in the San Luis Valley.” He then went on to explain how HB24-1314 increases the impact of legislation already in place.

“This rule has really supported efforts to revitalize Main Streets in our state. In the San Luis Valley, we’ve had three projects that have been able to access these funds, including the Saguache Hotel and Bain’s Dept Store as well as this space right here. With this bill we added an additional \$5 million to existing \$10 million for a tax credit that will allow us to positively impact projects across our state as well as adding much needed housing. Since the tax credit’s inception, we’ve seen 800 additional housing units added to existing infrastructure, and this bill will continue to build upon that program.”

Governor Polis and staff then moved to Sen. Cleave Simpson’s Mt. Valley Farms for the signing of two more bills.

Surrounded by verdant crops and farming equipment used in regenerative farming, Governor Polis said of Sen. Simpson’s SB24-037 “Study Green Infrastructure for Water Quality Management”, “I’m so excited by the opportunity to reduce costs, benefit our climate and protect our water. Traditional gray infrastructure removes pollutants from water before getting released back into circulation but it’s very costly and energy intensive. We know green infrastructure can do it more efficiently and in better ways.”

Sen. Simpson then took the podium. “Welcome to Mountain Valley Farms. We’re happy to have you here today.” He then introduced his wife, his father, his son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren. “This is really kind of a special moment.”

Simpson then discussed the bill. “The governor talked about this and green infrastructure really can be a gamechanger. If you have any time do a little research and see what it can mean to our communities. I have so many wastewater treatment facilities that are really out of compliance and to spend tens to hundreds of millions of dollars on gray infrastructure isn’t feasible at all for smaller communities. Green infrastructure won’t fit all communities, but it will help some and it’s a great opportunity.”

After signing Sen. Simpson’s bill, he discussed HB24-1249 “Tax Credit Agricultural Stewardship Practices”, sponsored by Rep. Martinez. “This is a really important bill that provides a tax credit for farmers and ranchers that really engage in strong stewardship practices.”

“Senator Simpson said he has his no till drill, the kind of practice that can help keep nutrients and moisture in the

soil. But, of course, many farmers can’t do this due to capital expense or can’t find one nearby. This bill will help support that kind of infrastructure across our state. It’s \$2 million which is a good start. It will save farmers, help make their operations more profitable, protect soil health, conserve water and support drought resilience.”

Agriculture Commissioner Kate Greenberg followed with her comments, describing HB24-1249 as “a testament to bipartisan effort. It’s a true collaboration in support of our agricultural community and we see so many practitioners here who do the regenerative work in agriculture every day and take care of our soil. This really builds on the work over the last five years with Colorado’s soil health that supports producers statewide, our Agriculture Drought Climate Resilience Office and now this Agriculture Stewardship Tax Credit that really helps build those tools out for agricultural and rural communities to help meet the challenges of the future and invest in conservation and stewardship as they always have but with new tools from the state. I couldn’t be more proud and delighted with this bill – both for what it means to agriculture and the way that we got here.”

Rep. Martinez then took the podium, first mentioning his and Senator Simpson’s bill addressed uncertified potato seed. “It’s not the most exciting bill title but it’s very important,” he said, drawing a laugh from the crowd.

“This session I was proud to carry bills that support our rural communities, especially farmers and ranchers. And today, we’re here for 24-1249. This is soon to be a law that works in two different ways. It rewards farmers and ranchers and encourages good stewardship practices, including water conservation and improving soil health. It saves farmers money, fosters diversity and drought resistance and helps agriculture producers thrive. In Colorado, agriculture is so important and I’m so proud to see this soon become law.” He also thanked his co-sponsors.

Governor Polis then signed the sec-



Photos by Priscilla Waggoner

Governor Jared Polis, middle, was with Rep. Matt Martinez, second from left, and local supporters of historic preservation at Milagro’s on Friday, May 24, to sign HB24-1314 Modification Tax Credit Preservation Historic Structures into law. Sponsored by Martinez (D-62), who represents the San Luis Valley, HB24-1314 expands income tax credit for costs incurred in preservation of historic structures like Milagro’s and others throughout the Valley.



Agriculture Commissioner Kate Greenberg and Representative Matt Martinez look on as Governor Jared Polis signs HB24-1249 ‘Tax Credit Agricultural Stewardship Practices’.

ond bill into law, joking that coming to Senator Simpson’s beautiful farm shows he is “a full-service governor.” That also drew a laugh.

In a conversation with the Valley

Courier, Polis discussed the legislative session. “Overall, we were able to do a significant property tax cut, which is a big deal, and an income tax cut and to fund schools better than we have in recent history with about \$17,000 per classroom. That allows us to pay teachers better, reduce classroom size and improve instruction.”

When asked about specific impact of funding education in the San Luis Valley, he added, “We also changed the formula to benefit districts like the San Luis Valley so it will be based more on factors around students’ needs and the

students the district serves.

“These were statewide bills. It took a lot of collaboration from Republicans and Democrat across the state to get these bills done. And, as a result, the whole state benefits.”

Rep. Martinez also reflected on the session with the Valley Courier, stating, “This legislative session really showed that bi-partisanship really works. We can get bills across the finish line. That’s something that Senator Simpson and I have accomplished together and everyone benefits from those kinds of relationships.”

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Joe Slone

A Memorial Service for Joe Slone will be held at 10 a.m. on June 8, 2024, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 25457 CO-69, Gardner, CO, 81040. Interment will be at the Chama Cemetery in Redwing, Colo. Funeral Reception will be held at the Community Center, 28 CO Road 632, Gardner, CO, 81040, from 12:30 to 4 p.m.



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OPINION & EDITORIAL

What Aspen can teach us

Back in the '90s, when writer Hunter S. Thompson held court at the Woody Creek Tavern just outside of Aspen, he'd often rail against the "greedheads."

I grew up in Aspen, and sometimes my dad took me there to look at all the dollar bills on the wall. He made sure a picture of me and my first bull elk joined pictures in the bar of ski bums in head-to-toe denim.



by Jacob Richards

Nowadays the bills are \$100s and the pictures on the walls look like fashion shoots. What would Hunter Thompson

think? Likely that the greedheads had won. Most of the West's resort towns have undergone something of an Aspenification, and that includes Aspen's bedroom communities of Basalt, Carbondale and Rifle that send workers to the ski lifts and restaurants.

When I was young, my family bounced around Aspen-area trailer parks, and even lived in the office of a horse-stable at the base of Aspen Highlands Ski Resort. The cabin had no running water, and the only

heat was a wood stove. We'd sled down the hill hanging on to our groceries and water jugs.

When I was 8, my mom was able to buy a deed-restricted condo in Aspen. Even then we needed to add a roommate to afford our 740 square foot, two-bedroom apartment, one of us sleeping on the day-bed in the living room.

Dad called it "condo-bondage," and a love of horses, hunting and open spaces pushed him farther down-valley before he settled in Silt, over an hour from Aspen.

I spent my middle-school years there, living with my dad in the early 1990s. *Please see ASPEN on Page 7A*



Jacob Richards with his dad and first bull elk.

Photo courtesy Jacob Richards

Whirlwind of activity

Miss Trixie and Ol' Dutch have finally arrived in Colorful Colorado, and we are darned glad to be here, let me tell you what.

We had a heck of a time getting out of Texas as we were trying to get the siding on the new house before we left and hit all kinds of snags. Each of which could probably consume inches of column space, but I will spare you the details.

Suffice to say that the challenges were many and not easily addressed but we did finally get it on and weather tight, which meant we were able to leave – albeit, a week later than we had hoped for. Ol' Dutch breathed a sigh of relief as he pulled out of the driveway and said a prayer over the property and cows, entrusting them to God and His Providence.

We always bring two vehicles along with us as Ol' Dutch learned early that he does not want to be stuck at home while Miss Trixie galivants around the Valley going to garage sales, community events, or friends' houses.

We had planned early on to stop and see Gidget and Moon Doggy at Wichita Falls, Texas, play some cards and have some laughs. So, it was only a hop, skip and a jump from the farm to their abode and Ol' Dutch was really looking forward to it.

Just about the time we got within striking distance Miss Trixie informed me that there was a dangerous storm directly in our path. And even if you think the Internet is Satan's spawn, it sure is nice to be able to get instant weather and radar wherever you might be.

Now Ol' Dutch was raised on the Weather Channel and my Dad, Fast Freddy of Dodge City, Kansas, and Boot Hill fame, taught me early on to pay attention to the weather wherever you may be.

So, we had the very best radar and first-person weather reports and were able to stop in Nocona, Texas under an awning to wait out the hail, rain, and tornado. A quick prayer later and the storm took a track off to the north and we were able to proceed on our way.

The radar did indicate another smaller storm directly south of us but the future track feature of where it would go showed an easterly track and not towards us. We did find it a bit odd to pass 17 Storm Tracker vehicles headed east but thought they had just been in the storm we were in.

We arrived at our friends' house and after a great steak dinner, we began a card game and the hilarities began anew but as I said, I am my father's child when it comes to weather, and I kept close tabs on the radar during the ensuing hours that followed.

And true to Texas fashion, that storm that originated south of us grew into a monster with massive tornados that tracked across areas close to friends and family while all we could do was watch and pray.

The fearful thing hit a gas station with 150 people sheltered there plus an RV park not to mention all the people at the local lakes for a Memorial Day weekend of camping.

Sadly, many people lost their lives in a moment in time and my heart goes out to each family who lost a loved one or their homes. Words can never describe the pain they must be suffering today.

The tornado tracked on across the landscape and just missed our new house and farm, so we are blessed this morning and are ready to hit Colorado running.

As you know Miss Trixie is a social butterfly and we have an agenda packed full of things to do, people to see and places to be, starting tonight already with our Cajun friends and a great Louisiana style home cooked meal.

So, hang onto your hat as we once again try and do more in one summer than is humanly possible because Miss Trixie is gonna try.



Trout Republic by Kevin Kirkpatrick

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

LETTERS

McCracken has been a hard-working commissioner for Saguache County

Editor,

In April, the Saguache County Board of Commissioners adopted regulations that allow our county to participate in an intergovernmental agreement with the five other counties in the San Luis Valley to allow a Joint Planning Board to review water export applications from any jurisdiction in the Rio Grande Basin. This is a huge victory for the people of our county in safeguarding the water of the San Luis Valley and was spearheaded by the efforts of our current Saguache County Commissioner Tom McCracken. Tom has been an incredibly hard-working commissioner for our community and our county and is up for re-election, running again for the Democratic party nomination in the June 25 primary.

Commissioner McCracken has worked hard to support all the communities in our county. In Center, he worked to get roads paved in the town; secured funding for a new jetter truck for sewer maintenance; and helped provide funding for the Center High football field announcer

tower and sports programs and equipment and for the Center Parks tree planting program, as well as providing consultation for a student tree planting program.

In the town of Saguache, he advocated for construction of the Hwy 285 Corridor Redevelopment project with the Transportation Planning Region; secured funding for redevelopment of the Saguache Hotel; helped fund Saguache Works as well as the Senior Programs they sponsor; and helped provide funding for the new Senior Center.

And in the Crestone/Baca community Tom worked with the Eastern San Luis Valley Trails Coalition to develop the Safe Routes to Schools, "Kiosk Connection" and Baca Nature and Heritage Trails; brought senior meals and the Chaffee Shuttle Service to the community; lobbied for County support of the Food Bank; and ensured long-needed road paving and maintenance was completed on county roads in the Baca Grande subdivision.

These are but a few of the projects

Commissioner McCracken has been able to accomplish for our communities during his first term as commissioner. Please see his website at <http://mccrackenforcommissioner.com/> for a more complete accounting. We are particularly impressed with his work to support sustainable affordable housing throughout the county, which addresses both current needs and has the vision to provide solutions for the future.

The county commissioner's job is complex and is not learned overnight. Beyond listening to constituents' concerns, the commissioner must also foster relationships throughout the valley and the state to help leverage resources for our communities. Commissioner McCracken has shown repeatedly that he is able to do this. Let's not lose the experience and the vision he has gained from his first term. Please join us in voting for Tom McCracken for Saguache County Commissioner in the Democratic Primary June 25.

Jan Foster Miller and Bill Miiller Crestone

Encouraging votes for Saguache Commissioner McCracken

Editor,

I am writing to encourage my fellow community members to cast their Democratic Primary ballot by June 25 for the re-election of our exceptional Commissioner Tom McCracken.

Tom has served tirelessly and creatively for our local community, for our county, and for our entire Valley during his term in office.

Most often, county commissioners are passive, supporting the status quo, gladhanding constituents, and pulling their nice paycheck. Tom is different. Tom cares deeply about the environment, economic opportunities in our

community, and our water, among many other things. Tom has made a difference during his tenure, and has a plan moving forward. He now serves as the Chair of the SLV Council of Governments. He facilitated a six-county intergovernmental agreement to protect Valley water from export. He is a strong advocate for multiple affordable environmentally positive housing projects throughout the county, and he has the experience to tackle upcoming challenges faced by the county including the need to regulate short term rentals, clean up the White Eagle Village and continue initiatives related to the environment

and our water, including expansion of the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness.

Our county is complex, and it takes time to learn the job of Commissioner. We are fortunate to have a great group of active, engaged commissioners. Tom McCracken gets a lot of credit for instilling an attitude of possibility and vision in county leadership. Let him keep up the good work! Tom is moving us forward.

Experience matters. Hard work matters. Leadership matters. Cast your ballot for Tom McCracken.

Vivia Lawson Crestone



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SERVICE Continued from Page 1A

prayer was given by Steve Dunkel, retired US Army member and pastor of the Methodist Church.

Rudder then introduced Keynote Speaker Col. Ret. William (Skip) Schoen, who gave a heartfelt speech.

"It is truly an honor to be here today," Schoen said. "I'm here this morning to be able to share a few words and thoughts on what Memorial Day means, and the history of Memorial Day with some of its significance that hits close to home."

Schoen, who is also the top administrator for Rio Grande County, spoke of how proud he was in the past year to have met the family of fallen Army Sgt. Faith Hinkley and the family of fallen Marine Sgt. Glen Martinez.

"They are a very big reason why we do things like we are doing here today," he said, before diving into the history of Memorial Day.

"The Civil War was not the first conflict to bloody, this collection of people known as Americans, and as we know would certainly not be the last conflict. Its impact, however, was profound. The combined number of Union and Confederate soldiers killed in the Civil War was estimated to be between 620,000, and 750,000. With the total American population in 1860 of only 31 and a half million people including four million slaves, the impact to homes was nearly every American household was impacted by the conflict between the union and the confederacy. Some in almost unimaginable ways. Those left at home lived in constant fear over the prospect of sons, husbands, brothers, or fathers who would be killed. Newspaper reading reached an all-time high as people scanned the newspapers every day, for a scrap of news that might mention their loved ones, or action involving their assigned regimen," he said.

Schoen said that from April 12,

1861, to May 26, 1865, many people at home received the news of their loved one's deaths in battle. Schoen spoke of the surviving sisters of the Littleton Brothers, who were all from a farm family near Iowa.

"Ranging in ages from 16 to 33, Thomas, William, George, John, Kendal, and Noah, all enlisted in the Union cause, and served. All six of the brothers were killed in action, or died in a military accident between 1862, and 1864. The same tragedy has played out more than 630,000 times for American families at the end of the Civil War, and in every instance the delivery of this terrible news results in devastation for the loved ones of the fallen service members," he said.

Schoen said that our story is no different as local servicemen and women from communities are honored for paying the ultimate price to help preserve independence for the nation and liberty for its people.

Schoen explained that what is now called Memorial Day began three years after the Civil War ended.

"In May, 1868, this began and was called Decoration Day, to establish a time for the nation to decorate the graves for fallen Americans. The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery on May 30, and then grew from local observances in the north and the south," he said.

Schoen said that the official birthplace of Memorial Day was in Waterloo, New York and was declared by congress and by President Lyndon B. Johnson, in 1966, honoring local Veterans who had fought in the Civil War.

"Businesses closed, and residents flew flags at half-staff, and by the end of the 19th century Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday, by an act of con-

gress," he said.

Schoen said that in Rio Grande County there are plaques in the county courthouse honoring Veterans who served in World War I and II. Schoen said while it saddens him that other plaques have not been added since World War II, he is glad that today's gathering ensures that everyone who has served in all the nation's conflicts will be honored for their many sacrifices.

"We are fortunate, to have Homelake Veterans Center here as a living example of our local, state, and national commitment to honor and care for our Veterans," he said.

Schoen said he is proud of the community's dedication to continually honoring its Veterans.

Schoen in closing said, "I thank you all for being here this morning and for the respect that you have shown for the heroes of this great nation that have paid the price of liberty and freedom, so the rest of us could have the opportunity to enjoy the bounty of their provisions. May the Lord bless all of those in our community. May the banner of freedom forever wave over our nation."

A wreath presentation was held in honor of the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Admissions and Marketing Director of the Homelake Veterans Living Center Pam Self then named the many Veterans who have passed away but that will not be forgotten, including local Pearl Harbor survivor George Blake, who passed away earlier this month, stating, "It was an honor to know and care for you all."

There was a closing prayer and a rifle salute. The ringing of the bell was then held for fallen Veterans. Retired Command Master Chief Petty Officer Rodney Rosacker and his wife Debra tolled the bell for their son Randal Rosacker of the



Photo by Marie Mccolm

A Memorial Day service was held at the Homelake Veterans Cemetery on May 27. The emcee was Rio Grande County Service Officer and retired US Air Force member Jack Rudder.

USMC, who passed away in 2003 in Iraq.

Ron and Carol Martinez tolled the bell in honor of their son Sgt. Glen Martinez, who passed away in 2008 in Iraq.

David Hinkley tolled the bell in memory of his daughter Sgt. Faith Hinkley, who passed away in August of 2010 in Iraq.

At approximately 10:40 a.m. there was a fly over by F-16s.

"The turnout and the weather out here are just beautiful," Self said. "What a beautiful day to honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our country. It is my honor to remember and honor our Homelake residents that have passed away this past year."

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Rio Grande Levee cleanup



Alamosa County Democrats cleaned trash from the Rio Grande Levee Trails adjacent to Cole Park on May 23 in preparation for welcoming visitors to the community during the summer season. Pictured left to right, are Stella, Chris Haley, Mary DeLorenzo, Trudi Kretsinger, Sherry Perdue, and Regina Rice.

Photo by Robert Rice

Homelake Preservation and Restoration auction June 14

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA —The 19th annual Homelake Historic Preservation and Restoration meeting and silent auction fundraiser will be held at 6 p.m. on June 14, at Dos Rios Restaurant north of Monte Vista.

The June 14 event is the annual meeting for the Foundation that preserves and restores the historic campus of Homelake, the oldest veterans' center in Colorado and the official repository of all unclaimed military medals in the state. In addition, the Foundation will be holding its annual membership drive and donation requests.

Social hour is at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. and the meeting will follow. In addition, there will be a silent auction of a few items, including an antique punch bowl that belonged to Sierra Blanca No. 43 Order of Eastern Star, Alamosa, donated to the Foundation when the chapter closed in 2022. Dinner is \$20 per person.

At the meeting, reports and news with the progress this past year will be given and five 3-year terms and one 2-year term that are up on the 15-member board will be filled. The board quarterly. Anyone interested in attending the meeting and dinner, becoming a member and/or serving on the board and being part of a worthy vital Foundation may call Foundation secretary Christa Davis

at 719-588-2484. Those who cannot attend may still join HHPRF. Membership dues are \$15 per year for an individual membership, \$25 per year for a couple, \$100 for a sustaining member, \$500 for a corporate membership, and \$1000 for a life membership. Your membership will allow you to vote at the annual meeting as well as continue to support the foundation and its endeavors.

Membership forms are available from Christa Davis, 719-588-2484, or via email, Christa Davis at christakmile@gmail.com. One may send a check made payable to "HHPRF" at HHPRF c/o Christa Davis, P.O. Box 97, Homelake, CO 81135. Donations are also welcome; separate checks for these also are made payable to "HHPRF" Or they can be dropped by the Colorado Veterans Community Living Center - Homelake or mailed to the Homelake Foundation at P.O. Box 97, Homelake, CO 81135.

The Foundation was established in 2005 and exists in partnership with the community of Homelake (CVCLC-Homelake) and the broader communities of the San Luis Valley primarily through the stabilization, restoration and preservation of the historic buildings of Homelake and safeguarding and displaying of military mementos and memorabilia that have been entrusted to it through the Homelake Museum.

Educator Highlight Award for April goes to Rachel Kellum

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

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

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

"I'm wearing the T-shirt," she said, proudly displaying her Adams State top. Her request: Just no photos of the pajama bottoms, please.

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

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

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

Another nominator said, "Rachel lives and breathes art class for her students every day. She teaches all 112 students, PreK-12. She helps collaborate with the community by allowing them to paint murals among the building



Courtesy photo

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

walls, host our own mini-art showcase and has helped over 10 students from our small town obtain art scholarships for postsecondary education."

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

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

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

The small nature of Moffat Schools

is what drew Kellum into the San Luis Valley to teach. She spent the first part of her teaching career at Morgan Community College in Fort Morgan where she taught literature, composition, humanities, art, appreciation, painting and drawing.

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

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

Like painting a fabulous mural on the school hallway.

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

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NOTICE OF ELECTION RIO GRANDE COUNTY

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024

TO THE ELECTORS OF RIO GRANDE COUNTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a June Primary Election will be held by Mail Ballot on Tuesday, the 25th of June, 2024 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. If you are a registered voter, you will receive a ballot at your mailing address beginning June 3rd. Mail Ballots may be dropped off at the Rio Grande County Clerk's Office, 965 Sixth Street, Del Norte, Colorado, Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Ballots may also be dropped off at the Voter Service Polling Center (VSPC) in the Rio Grande County Annex Building, at 965 Sixth Street, Del Norte, Colorado, Monday through Friday beginning June 17th through June 24th, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturday, June 22nd from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, June 25th. A 24-Hour Drop Box is available on the west side of the building at 965 Sixth Street, Del Norte. Ballots can also be mailed using the envelope enclosed with the ballot. Ballots must be received at the County Clerk's Office by 7:00 P.M. on June 25th. The Postmark does not count as being received. Your ballot will contain only the Races or Issues on which you are eligible to vote.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the office of the County Clerk and Recorder this 13th day of May, 2024.

Cindy Hill
 Rio Grande County Clerk and Recorder

SCHOLARSHIPS Continued from Page 1A

Club Scholarship of \$1,000. Shaina Baumgardner, The Ray, and Colette Skeff Scholarship of \$1,300. Magdalena Marrufo, Trinidad State Larning Local Scholarship \$1,800. Makyla Salazar, Trinidad State Larning Local Scholarship \$1,800. Jose Castro Angulo, Adams State Vice President's Merit Scholarship \$6,000. Zariah Archuleta, Adams State President's Merit Scholarship \$12,000. Isis Delgado Cervantes, Adams State Spud Bowl Scholarship \$1,000, and Adams State President's Merit Scholarship \$12,000. Aaylarhi Bate-Fichter, University of Northern Co Bears Scholarship for \$6,000 and University of Northern Co Bears Education Scholarship for \$12,395. Jordan Rockey, Colorado State Ag Innovation Scholarship for \$1,000, Adams State Larry and Vivian Reed Scholarship for \$2,000, Adams State Woodard Memorial Scholarship for \$5,148, and Adams State President's Merit Scholarship for \$12,000. Jack Noonan, Adams State SLV Science Fair Scholarship for \$1,000, Co Mesa First Generation Scholarship for \$1,000, Adams State Larry and Vivian Reed Scholarship for \$2,000, Adams State Merit Theatre Scholarship for \$2,000, Co Mesa President's Scholarship for \$5,000, Dell Scholars Scholarship for \$23,000. Manuel Ochoa, Adams State SLV Science fair Scholarship for \$1,000, Co Mesa First Generation Scholarship for \$1,000, Adams State Larry and Vivian Reed Scholarship for \$2,000, Adams State Merit Theatre Scholarship for \$2,000, Co Mesa President's Scholarship for \$5,000, Dell Schol-

ars Scholarship for \$23,000. Alycia Espinoza, VFW Voice of Democracy Essay Scholarship for \$50, Don Schall Vocational Scholarship for \$500, TSC Learn Local Scholarship for \$1,800, MV Rotary Dick Boyce Memorial Scholarship for \$2,000, Co Mesa First Generation Scholarship for \$4,000, Adams State Vice President's Merit Scholarship for \$6,000, Co State Pueblo Distinguished Scholarship for \$16,000, Co Mesa Presidential Scholarship for \$20,000, Fort Lewis Presidential Scholarship for \$20,000. Stefanie Lopez, Fort Lewis Presidential Merit Scholarship for \$4,000, Adams State Vice President's Merit Scholarship for \$6,000, Univ Northern Co Presidential Scholarship for \$14,000, Adams State USDA Sowing Seeds for Success for \$15,000, Co Mesa Presidential Scholarship for \$20,000, Co Mesa First Generation Scholarship for \$20,000. Annika Schaak, Adams state Larry and Vivian Reed Scholarship for \$2,000, Adams State CHFA Building the Future Scholarship for \$2,500, Co Mesa First Generation scholarship for \$4,000, Adams State Porter Scholar scholarship for \$6,000, Jean Ritchey Scholarship for \$12,000, CSU Pueblo Distinguished Scholar Scholarship for \$16,000, Co Mesa Presidential Scholarship for \$20,000, Fort Lewis Presidential Merit Scholarship for \$20,000. Valerie Goodland, Adams State President's Merit Scholarship for \$12,000, Jean Ritchey Scholarship for \$12,000, Univ Northern Co Academic Merit Scholarship for \$14,000, Fort Lewis Presidential Merit Scholarship for \$20,000, Montana State achievement Award \$56,000. Katie Pacheco, CU Denver Chancellor's Scholarship for \$6,000, UCCS Chancellor's Award Schol-

arship for \$10,000, NW Nazarene Univ Wesley Scholarship for \$14,000, Co Mesa Presidential Scholarship for \$20,000, Regis University Dean's Scholarship \$104,000. Kayleigh Garcia, Adams State Marilyn & Robert McBride Scholarship for \$800, Ray and Colette Skeff Scholarship for \$1,300, Adams State Porter Scholars Scholarship for \$2,000, Co Mesa First Generation Scholarship for \$4,000, Outcalt Foundation Scholarship for \$5,000, Adams State President's Merit Scholarship for \$12,000, CU Denver Chancellor's Scholarship for \$12,000, Univ Denver Residential Scholarship for \$12,000, Univ Northern Co Trustee Scholarship for \$18,000, Co Mesa Trustee Award Scholarship for \$30,000, CSU Pueblo Presidential scholarship for \$32,000, Regis University Presidential Scholarship for \$112,000, Univ Denver Chancellor's Scholarship for \$132,000. Augustus Miller, Colorado State Holm Family Scholarship for \$500, CU Boulder Boettcher Semi-Finalist Scholarship for \$2,000, Colorado State Mechanical Engineering Scholarship for \$2,000, Co School of Mines CSEF Scholarship for \$4,000, Univ New Mexico Add'l Academic Scholarship for \$4,000, REC Robert Wolfe Scholarship for \$4,000, Outcalt Foundation Scholarship for \$5,000, Colorado State Honors Program for \$5,000, Adams State CSU Mech Engineering Scholarship for \$8,000, Adams State President's Merit Scholarship for \$12,000, Colorado State Green & Gold Scholarship for \$15,000, Univ New Mexico Amigo Scholarship for \$88,876, Co Mesa Distinguished Scholar Scholarship for \$116,912, Boettcher Foundation Scholarship for \$237,049. Asia Alarid, Adams State Monte Vista HS Scholarship for \$850, Ad-

ams State SLV Science fair Scholarship for \$1,000, Adams State Larry and Vivian Reed Scholarship for \$2,000, Co Mesa First Generation Scholarship for \$4,000, Wilkes Univ out-of-State Award for \$8,000, Colorado State Green and Gold Scholarship for \$12,000, Adams State President's Merit Scholarship for \$12,000, Univ Northern Co Trustee Scholarship for \$18,000, Fort Lewis Presidential Schol-

arship for \$20,000, Kutztown Univ Presidential Scholar for \$24,000, Kutztown Univ Tuition Reduction Scholarship \$28,000, Co Mesa Trustee Award Scholarship for \$30,000, CSU Pueblo presidential Merit Scholarship for \$32,000, Seton Hall University Scholarship for \$102,500, Wilkes Univ Trustee Scholarship for \$112,000, Univ Denver Dean Scholar Scholarship for \$128,000.



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The Key to Fulfill Your Purpose in Life!

God loves you and He has a good plan for your life. You are a wonderful creation made by Him and you have a unique purpose to fulfill in this world. Ephesians 2:10 (AMP) says that as Christians, "For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus...for good works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us]." It's so exciting to know we are each created with a purpose and God has a good life that He has prepared in advance for us to live. But it's important to understand that we have an enemy, Satan, who wants to keep us from having the life Jesus died to give us. Yes, Satan has a plan for us, too, and his plan is destruction and death. John 10:10 (ESV) says the enemy "comes only to steal and kill and destroy." The good news is we have everything we need through Christ to overcome the enemy. We just have to know who we are in Christ, believe that we have His authority, and know how to release the power God has given us. To do this, we have to rely on our faith in God. Romans 12:3 (ESV) says each person has a "measure of faith that God has assigned." This means God has given you enough faith to do His will, whatever it may be and no matter what the enemy throws at you to stop you. There are many challenges and difficult situations we have to face in life. You may have a child with special needs to care for, or maybe you're in a difficult marriage. You could be facing a devastating illness

or have serious financial problems. Whatever your situation is, God has given you everything you need, through Christ, to keep you moving forward in His plan for your life. We need to always remember that God is greater than our problems—nothing is too hard for Him and nothing catches Him by surprise. When we're going through hard times and the enemy is attacking us, we don't need to ask, "What can I do?" The question is, "What can God do?" The Word says all things are possible with God, and greater is He who lives in me than he who is in the world (Matthew 19:26 and 1 John 4:4). I want you to really get this in your heart today: In Christ, you have enough faith and the strength you need to do whatever you need to do in life! Get rid of "I can't" thinking and focus on the truth of God's Word, which says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!" (Philippians 4:13 NKJV). Prayer is a simple, powerful way to interrupt Satan's plan because we release our faith through prayer. First Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV) says, "Pray without ceasing." This basically means prayer can be as natural as breathing, and our first response in every situation. It's so amazing that we can talk to God all the time. Now the enemy doesn't want us to pray, so he will do everything he can to discourage us. He wants us to think prayer is hard, that we need to use eloquent speech and sound poetic, that we need to be careful what we ask God for so we don't overload Him with too many requests, or that we have to be in a certain place with a certain posture (on our knees, head bowed, eyes closed) for God to hear us. But it's actually simple to pray effectively.



James 5:16 (ESV) says, "...The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." God wants you to come to Him honestly, with a sincere heart, and just talk to Him as a friend. Be yourself and don't approach conversation with God as a religious activity. Humble yourself before Him and open your heart to Him. He loves you and wants you to walk in His will for your life victoriously. As a believer in Jesus Christ, you are God's child and He is always with you. He is Almighty God, and if God is on your side, who can be against you? In Christ, you have what you need today to live in victory. Put your faith in God constantly. Pray, take God-inspired action, and fulfill your true purpose in life! For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource *Unleashing the Power of Faith*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org. Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (FaithWords)*. She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org. Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

GRADS

Continued from Page 1A

Our graduation ceremony today is a tribute to everyone who has supported us for the past 13 years of schooling. You have helped us with our homework, provided supplies for last-minute projects and supported us here at Monte Vista Schools since our very first day. Do you remember when you were a kid, and you were asked what you wanted to be when you grew up? I personally struggled to decide what I wanted to do, but I eventually decided on becoming a chef," she said.

Goodland said that many adult responsibilities had taken over their lives since they were freshman including driving, buying their own phones, and registering to vote.

Goodland said that students in her class are now being faced with the task of deciding what to do with their lives. Goodland said she has struggled with her own thoughts of making the wrong decisions or failing, or believing she is not good enough.

"We have been trying our best, and that's all that can be expected of any of us. Our best does not have to be 100 percent effort all the time. Sometimes we may be only able to give 20 percent, but our 20 percent at that moment is good enough. I want all of us to have a meaningful life, to live in a way that makes us happy and gives us a sense of pur-

pose. There is meaning out there for everyone, now we just have to go and get it. Congratulations again to the Class of 2024," she said.

Graduate Augustus Miller then began his address, stating that he had never written a speech before, but he wanted to congratulate the Class of 2024, and he also wanted to talk about seven valuable bits of information that he had run across in his life.

"First, say yes to everything and don't fear failure. We will have multitudes of opportunities in our lives that we will never be able to take advantage of if we don't say yes," Miller said.

"Secondly embrace discomfort. ... Third, don't seek happiness solely for yourself. ... Fourth, we don't have to have it all figured out. ... Fifth, don't rush. ... Sixth, be kind. ... Lastly, choose the words that you want to define you."

Miller said he has been taking classes at Adams State University, and how one day a professor of his English class, was teaching a lesson, and spoke to him about picking three words that he would want to describe him after he dies.

"I want all of you to think about this and find the words you want to live by, words you want your family and friends to use to describe your

life after you die. So, as we navigate to the next stage of our lives remember to be courageous and not fear failure. Take it slow and enjoy every step along the way, even if we may not know what the next step is and choose the words we want to live by. After all they may be the words inscribed on your tombstone long after you pass. Thank you," he said.

Graduate Jordan Rockey then went to the podium to speak.

"Today, we stand on the brink of a new chapter in our lives, as we celebrate our high school graduation. Whether you are going to college, going into the military, or going straight into the work force. We have made it. It is important to remember that high school is just a chapter in the amazing adventures that lie ahead of us."

Rockey said there will be tough times, and there will be failures to overcome, but they will also have moments of success and triumph and new friends.

"As Mr. Rivera would say, yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift that's why it's called the present," Rockey said.

Rockey encouraged all her fellow classmates to surround themselves with positivity, and to also take risks and follow their dreams.

"Let's remember that we are ca-

pable of achieving great things, and that the only limits that are placed are the ones we place on ourselves. Let's chase our dreams, pursue our passions, and never lose sight of the incredible potential that lies within every one of us," she said.

Kayleigh Garcia then gave a heartfelt tribute to the staff and parents of the school. She spoke of how the staff and parents were there for the students, and how they had guided the students to be what they are today. Garcia also mentioned all the members of different families including aunts and uncles, grandmothers, and grandfathers, along with mentioning the staff at the

school again.

"Lastly to my mom and my brother, I owe many of my successes to you, through all of the sacrifices you have all made for me," she said.

The graduates stood up after her address and took their parents and family members flowers, while hugging them and thanking them for their support.

The Melinda Pinkerton award was announced by Megan Pinkerton Slifer and given to Manuel Esgardo Ochoa.

The board of education then called all the graduates up one by one and gave each of them their diploma.

ASPEN

Continued from Page 3A

and it felt like a different world. Decades later I remember the first Sotheby's "for sale" sign I saw outside of a ranch near Silt.

A feeling of dread swept over me. The same dread I felt as a senior in Aspen High School with a job, basic math skills and a sinking realization that I couldn't afford to live in my hometown. I thought, "My dentist commutes from over 70 miles away, how could I afford to live here?"

Twenty years ago, I moved to Grand Junction, a historically blue-collar town, the biggest in Western Colorado with 65,000 people. Now, even humble Grand Junction is undergoing Aspenification despite being over two hours from the glitz of Telluride or Aspen.

It's a long way from the town's history of milling uranium and then stashing its tailings — still containing high amounts of radioactivity — along the Colorado River, not to mention meth epidemics and an ongoing homelessness crisis.

But these days you can ride a zip-line across the Colorado River, rent an electric scooter or buy a luxury condo downtown, built by Aspen-based developers.

The downsides of this Aspenification are hard to ignore. A 2019 study found that the Grand Valley surrounding Grand Junction was short some 3,736 units of affordable housing. Since then, housing costs and homelessness have both risen about 45%, according to Grand Junction Housing Manager Ashley Chambers.

"Seniors are getting creamed, service workers are getting creamed, and it's adding to the homelessness crisis," said Scott Beilfuss, Grand Junction City Councilman.

"If we remain a healthcare, service and retail-based economy, wages will never catch up with housing costs," Beilfuss said. "This has consequences for the entire Western Slope."

But here's what I've learned from growing up in Aspen. The perpetrator of this rural transformation has lessons to teach us. The town has run a robust and affordable housing program for years, and a recent study found that two-thirds of occupied housing units in Aspen were affordable.

Additionally, Aspen has long invested in a world-class public transit system so workers can commute from miles away.

There are glitches. My mother, who still lives in her deed-restricted condo, learned that her basement often fills with leach water collected from Aspen's toxic mining heritage. Repair estimates are \$10 million — a sum she and the 79 other households can't begin to afford.

What Aspen's success teaches us is that the greedheads can't be stopped, but they can be pressured to build or subsidize affordable housing, something that's in the resort town's interest.

Aspen also shows us that communities downstream need to organize to fight for affordable housing. And they need to stay organized, because the greedheads would rather fight you every step of the way.

Jacob Richards is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He is a writer and outdoor guide in Grand Junction.

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Request for Proposals Golf Course Tree Removal 2024-005

The City of Monte Vista is seeking qualified firms to provide a lump sum cost to remove two large cottonwood trees from the Golf Course (see attached picture). Due to the nature of the removal and the properties involved extreme care must be used in the removals. The trees must be roped and brought down in a manner that does not damage the existing grass of the golf course, the nearby fence or the existing track surface of the school district.

The School District is planning a resurfacing project of their track and the removal must be done prior to the end of June. Contractor will need to coordinate efforts with the Golf Course, Monte Vista Public Works and The School District.

Scope of work: A lump sum cost to remove both trees and all debris to include limbs and wood. Trunks shall ground to a depth of 12 inches and all shavings must be cleaned and removed. Area restored to smooth finish ready for sod or seed.

All potential bidders must put bid into a sealed envelope titled: **Golf Course Tree Removal 2024-005**. Bids are due on June 3 at 2:00p.m. those wishing to view the trees or those that have questions may contact Robert Vance at 719-852-8281 or by email at rvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us

No. 4830 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, May 29, 2024.

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 24-1121

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:

On March 21, 2024, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Rio Grande records.

Original Grantor(s)	Eliseo Morales Cisneros
Original Beneficiary(ies)	Del Norte Bank, a Savings & Loan Association
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt	
Date of Deed of Trust	December 19, 2022
County of Recording	Rio Grande
Recording Date of Deed of Trust	December 27, 2022
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.)	202200448889
Original Principal Amount	\$162,286.45
Outstanding Principal Balance	\$111,087.44

Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.

THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.

All that part of the SW1/4SE1/4 of Section 34, Township 39 North, Range 7 East, N.M.P.M., County of Rio Grande, State of Colorado, that lies West of the right of way of the Monte Vista Canal. Together with any and all water and water rights, wells and well rights, pumps, motors, equipment, etc. associated with said property.

Purported common address: 2463 Lariat Road, Monte Vista, CO 81144.

THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.

NOTICE OF SALE

The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust. THEREFORE, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, 07/24/2024, at Public Trustee Office, 925 6th St.Rm.103, Del Norte, CO 81132, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.

First Publication 5/29/2024
Last Publication 6/26/2024
Name of Publication Monte Vista Journal

IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;

DATE: 03/21/2024
Rhonda Richardson, Public Trustee in and for the County of Rio Grande, State of Colorado

Rhonda Richardson
By Rhonda Richardson, Public Trustee

The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:

Tuck Young #2190
Kettelkamp, Young & Kettelkamp, P.C. 201 W. 8th St. Suite 540, Pueblo, CO 81003 (719) 543-4321
Attorney File #

The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.

No. 4831 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, May 29 and June 5, 12, 19 and 26, 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.: Civil
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 Dated May 17, 2024 /s/ Angela Lee, Attorney for Plaintiff #53495 Law Office of Angela Lee PO Box 69, Del Norte, CO 81132	
No. 4827 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, May 22 and 29 and June 5, 12 and 19, 2024.	

C&TRR season began Memorial Day weekend

CONTRIBUTED

ANTONITO — The Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad's 2024 season opened Memorial Day weekend with departures on Saturday, May 25.

Travel back to the Old West on one of the most authentic rail trips available. Pulled by historic steam locomotive, you will ride in all original Denver and Rio Grande 19th century equipment.

Regular daily passenger service is May 25-Oct. 19, and will run six days a week, Tuesday-Sunday. Daily passenger service includes All Aboard trips that run the full line between Antonito, and Chama, N.M., and Half Limited trips, which travel from either Antonito or Chama to Osier Station and then return to the point of origin.

The Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad is a National Historic Landmark. At 64-miles in length, it is the longest, the highest and most authentic steam railroad in North America, traveling through some of the most spectacular scenery in the Rocky Mountain West.

Owned by the states of Colorado and New Mexico, the train crosses state borders 11 times, zigzagging along canyon walls, burrowing through two tunnels, and steaming over 137-foot Cascade Trestle. All trains steam along through deep forests of aspens and evergreens, across high plains filled with wildflowers, and through a rocky gorge of remarkable geologic formations. Deer, antelope, elk, fox, eagles and even bear are frequently spotted on this family friendly, off-the grid

adventure.

For more information, visit <https://cumbrestoltec.com>.

DEPARTING ANTONITO

The excitement begins the moment the train leaves the station in Antonito. Beyond the vast, open San Luis Valley, the imposing peaks of the Rocky Mountains seem to stretch forever. The train quickly covers the flat ground and reaches a series of hills. It crosses Ferguson's Trestle, named for a man who was hung there, then climbs to a lava mesa, a remnant of the mountains' volcanic past. From here, the route winds around wide curves, going up into the mountains.

Eleven State Border Crossings

White-barked, slender aspen trees, which turn yellow-gold in fall, form a light, whispery forest. We'll pass Sublette, N.M., an abandoned railroad town that still provides water for the steam locomotives. Shortly after, the train makes another crossing between Colorado and New Mexico state lines. Can you count all 11?

Rocky and Dramatic

One of the most spectacular parts of the trip starts as the train inches its way along the rim of Toltec Gorge. We'll head through Mud Tunnel, which is supported by wood beams. Around Phantom Curve, named for a spire of rock that casts a ghostly shadow, then through Rock Tunnel is a narrow ledge where the dizzying view is straight down to the rushing Rio de los Pinos. The train roughly follows this river along much of its route.

Reaching New Heights



Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad Engine 488 rumbles across the Cascade Trestle. At 137 feet high, it is the highest bridge on the 64-mile route between Antonito and Chama, N.M., and crosses Cascade Creek.

Photo by Brian Williams

We'll stop for lunch at the old townsite of Osier. Past Osier, the train first crosses 137-foot-tall Cascade Creek Trestle, the highest on the line. Trees are sparse here and the open mountain scenery is magnificent. Around Tanglefoot Curve, a loop so tight that the train seems almost folded in half, the locomotive steams toward Cumbres

Pass. At 10,015 feet elevation, it is the highest pass reached by rail in the United States. There are tall conifers and meadows that bloom with wildflowers in spring and summer. At the summit is an old section house, one of many of the railroad's historic buildings.

Descending Into the Chama Valley

As the steep descent begins, sweeping views of the Chama Valley unfold. The lower elevations are dominated by aspen trees and grassy hills. Just past the area that was once the historic Lobato sheep ranch is the Lobato Trestle. This trestle spans Wolf Creek. Chama, N.M., the end of the rail, is just ahead.



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Photo by John Waters

The San Luis Peoples Market (formally the R&R Market in San Luis) is being renovated and having hazardous materials removed. A sculpture by San Luis sculptor Huberto Maestas is in the foreground.

San Luis Peoples Market prepares for a summer reopening

Colorado Department of Agriculture grants \$200K for cleanup

By JOHN WATERS

SAN LUIS The historic market in San Luis formally known as the R&R Market is undergoing a renovation as part of larger plans by the owner, the

Acequia Institute. For starters and emblematic of the direction the store will be taking, the market is now called the San Luis Peoples Market

The market opened in 1857, almost two decades before Colorado became a state, and was operated by generations of the Romero family until they sold it to the institute in 2022. In 2023 after discovering asbestos and lead-based paint the market closed pending cleanup.

The Acequia Institute was founded

in 2006 by Dr. Devon Pena who taught at Colorado College for many years and is now on the faculty at the University of Washington. The organization is a non-profit foundation that supports environmental food and justice. The Move Mountains Youth Project is part of the institute and is a leadership program that incorporates art, entrepreneurship, community action, and respect for the Earth.

Under the leadership of Dr. Devon Pena, the institute is currently working on a new building. **Please see MARKET on Page 6**

OEDIT comes to the Valley

First-ever visit yields good connections, beginning of strong relationships

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Officials and staff members with Colorado's Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), along with members of the state's Economic Development Committee (EDC), came to the San Luis Valley on Wednesday for a first-ever, in-person tour of the area prior to holding a regularly scheduled Economic Development meeting.

The visit, facilitated and hosted by the San Luis Valley Development Resource Group (SLVDRG), started off with a presentation by Matt Prince, General Manager of the Colorado Pacific Rio Grande Railroad. The recent purchase of

the railroad by the Soloviev Group has resulted in re-vitalizing railroad operations, including (but far from limited to) the goal of improving targeted railroad crossing and installing some very costly but high priority crossing lights in various parts of Alamosa County.

The day's visit concluded with a festive, standing room only dinner at the Friar's Fork where specific members of the community were invited to sit down and break bread with state officials, most of whom were visiting the San Luis Valley for the first time.

Sarah Stoeber, executive director of SLVDRG, addressed the crowd, not only welcoming OEDIT and EDC to the region but also speaking about the importance of including agriculture in all discussions, not only because of the important role it plays in the history and culture of the area about also in recognition that agriculture is the primary driver of the region's economy. **Please see OEDIT on Page 4**

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.



Photo by Jasmine Hussman, City of Alamosa

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

Peace officers honored and remembered

STAFF REPORT

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

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

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

Memorial Day, proclaimed as May 15.

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

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

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

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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

Dairy Queen in Monte Vista is hiring a full-time Assistant Manager to help us continue to grow. Applicants must have previous QSR management experience. Salary based on experience. PTO, Health insurance, and 401K available. Email resumes to MVDairyQueen@gmail.com.

WANTED: Saguache County Road and Bridge and Landfill is looking to hire an Assistant Supervisor Starting at \$67,000/year - DOE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must possess a current Colorado Class "A" Commercial Drivers License CDL with a heavy semi-truck endorsement and a current medical certificate. Applicants should have a high school diploma along with an extensive working knowledge of methods, operating rules, and equipment for road construction and maintenance operations. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County, please note that after a "conditional" offer is made, we may require disclosure of other information personal to the applicant. The prospective employee will also be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening, before being hired. Road & Bridge and Landfill Assistant Supervisor is a full-time salaried position - qualified candidates will be responsible for assisting the head supervisor with the coordination and supervision of labor, maintenance crews, and equipment while reconstruction, resurfacing, and general county road maintenance are performed. This position is expected to work during road emergencies so you should be available to work nights, weekends, and holidays when needed. This position will assist the head supervisor in reviewing and evaluating employee performance, directing procedures to ensure compliance with established budgets, ensures that all purchases conform to departmental needs and goals. This position is also responsible for assisting the head supervisor with the Landfill department, providing information for reporting, monitoring the gas wells, and assuring compliance with all Colorado Department of Health regulations. This is only part of an extensive list of requirements for this position. In addition to the salaried rate, the County Employee benefit package includes vision, dental, and health insurance coverage, paid time off, and a generous 401a retirement plan. Applications and a complete job description are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Office, 305 3rd Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 - 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website - saguachecounty.colorado.gov under the Road and Bridge Department tab. Please fill out and submit both applications: The Saguache County Application and the Drivers-Application. Completed Assistant Supervisor applications - must be made to the attention of Hiring Committee and can be hand-delivered to the Road and Bridge Office located at 305 3rd Street in Saguache, mailed to Saguache County Road and Bridge Hiring Committee - PO Box 476 Saguache, CO 81149, sent by email to mhashbarger@saguachecounty-co.gov, or faxed to 719-655-2543. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until a qualified candidate is hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (6-19)

WANTED: Saguache County Road and Bridge and Landfill is looking to hire a Head Supervisor Starting at \$71,000/year - DOE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Applicants are preferred to possess or may be required to possess a current Colorado Class "A" Commercial Drivers License with a heavy semi-truck endorsement and a current medical certificate. Applicants should have a high school diploma along with extensive knowledge of methods, operating rules, and equipment for road construction and maintenance operations. Prospective employees applying with Saguache County, please note that after a "conditional" offer is made, we may require disclosure of other information personal to the applicant. The prospective employee will also be required to submit and pass a pre-employment drug screening, before being hired. The Road & Bridge and Landfill Head Supervisor is a full-time

salaried position - qualified candidates will be responsible for the coordination and supervision of labor, maintenance crews, and equipment while reconstruction, resurfacing, and general county road maintenance are performed. This position is expected to work during road emergencies so you should be available to work nights, weekends, and holidays when needed. The Head Supervisor reviews and evaluates employee performance, prepares the annual budget, and monitors all expenditures and revenues. This position is also responsible for the Landfill department, reporting to the State of Colorado Department of Health and the Board of County Commissioners, and assuring compliance with the Colorado Department of Health regulations. This is only part of an extensive list of requirements for this position. In addition to the salaried rate, the County Employee benefit package includes vision, dental, and health insurance coverage, paid time off, and a generous 401a retirement plan. Applications and a complete job description are available at the Saguache County Road and Bridge Office, 305 3rd Street, PO Box 476, Saguache, CO 81149 - 719-655-2554 or on the Saguache County website - saguachecounty.colorado.gov under the Road and Bridge Department tab. Please fill out and submit both applications: The Saguache County Application and the Drivers-Application. Completed Head Supervisor applications - must be made to the attention of Wendi Maez and can be hand-delivered to the administration building located at 505 3rd Street in Saguache, mailed to Saguache County Administrator - Wendi Maez PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149, sent by email to wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov, or faxed to 719-655-2635. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until a qualified candidate is hired. Saguache County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (6-19)

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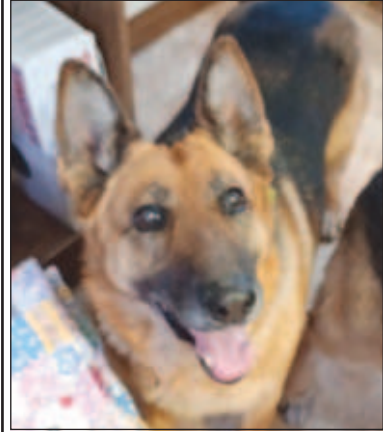
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Valley Wide Classifieds

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Del Norte High School is seeking a qualified Secondary Business Teacher. We are seeking an experienced, hardworking 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)

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37 Wanted
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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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SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Beginner

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

S	A	G	S		B	O	S	O	N		S	A	F	E	
A	M	A	H		C	R	A	P	E		A	R	I	A	
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Photo courtesy of Sarah Stoeber, executive director SLVRDG

Staffers and executives with Colorado's Office of Economic Development and International Trade, Economic Development Council and San Luis Valley Development Resource Group stand in front of a distinctive Colorado Pacific Rio Grande Railroad engine. The railroad was highlighted by SLVRDG as one of the most exciting, new business ventures to be a part of the SLV economic landscape.

OEDIT

Continued from Page 1

ing force of the Valley's economy. In special recognition, she also introduced those in attendance to a small but mighty group of high school students from Monte Vista's Future Farmers of America program, who genuinely impressed the crowd with their confidence in speaking to a large group and delightful sense of humor.

"If you ever need to get a job done well," Stoeber said after the group sat down, "make sure to include

someone who's been involved with FFA. They are some hardworking people."

Eve Lieberman, OEDIT executive director, also took a moment to make a few comments about the purpose of visiting the San Luis Valley, praising the area for its rich cultural diversity and history and stating it was "meaningful to have people on the ground, making connections and building relationships that will last into the future."

Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske told the Valley Courier, "I really enjoyed speaking with staff from OEDIT and learning about the incredible programs they have. I know we already have two businesses in the valley - Adams State and SLV Health - that are involved in Enterprise Zone projects. I was just amazed to learn about programs I knew nothing about and look forward to exploring more possibilities in the future."

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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!

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193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

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

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Beautiful Golf Course Lot/Approx. 0.290 Acres
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VITALITY FARMS/ Approx. 160 Acres
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UNDER CONTRACT



Commercial Lot with Easy Access/ Approx 1.42 Acres
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Look At The View!/ Approx. 11.140 Acres
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MARKET

Continued from Page 1

Pena, the store is being renovated and recently had a specialized contractor, Adept Solutions of Colorado Springs, work on removing lead-based paint and asbestos. With the help of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund, the Acequia Institute, which is working on behalf of the market, received a grant on May 14 for \$200,416. The grant will cover the cost of asbestos abatement and lead-based paint and mold removal, making it possible for the market to reopen this summer.

"As the only full-service grocery store in San Luis, Colorado, the re-opening of San Luis Market will help ensure Coloradans in the valley have access to healthy food in a safe store, and I am glad the state could provide a grant to help reopen this community landmark," said Governor Jared Polis.

"We're committed to supporting disproportionately impacted and underserved communities in Colorado," said CDPHE's Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division Director, Tracie White. "The Colorado Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund transforms properties, and helps small businesses, like the San Luis Peoples Market, keep their community healthy by providing essential services."

In a recent tour of the market, Pena laid out his vision for the store which will offer as many local products as possible, some will come from the nearby 181-acre farm owned by the institute. As part of that local branding, the market is now called the San Luis Peoples Market. The vision is to turn the market into a community food co-op. Due to the hazardous material renovations underway, this reporter was allowed a brief glimpse of the market-to-be.

Pena is focused on nutrition, "When we bought the market it had hundreds of cans of Campbell's soup, and we still have them and we won't be selling them." We will be stone-grinding tortillas, we have heirloom bolita beans and we just received new drought lentils to grow."

Pena is also starting a local chapter of the mutual aid society, "Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos. The society was founded in 1900 to protect Hispano workers from discrimination and provide loans, unemployment aid, and funeral assistance. The Concilio Superior building that serves as the group's headquarters is undergoing restoration.

The grant from the Colorado Department of Agriculture is the second influx of funding to the town recently.

The Town of San Luis has also recently received a federal \$500,000 — Environmental Protection Agency (EPA funded through the bipartisan infrastructure law. The funds are all revitalization-focused, with projects ranging from the removal of asbestos, mercury, and other hazardous materials.

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

The San Luis Peoples Market said it plans to host a grand reopening ceremony during Santa Ana Fiesta days, which falls on the last weekend of July.



Photo from the Denver Public Library Digital Collections
In 1857, Jose Dario Gallegos opened Gallego's Mercantile in San Luis. Generations later, it had a name change to the R&R Market. Today the store is called the San Luis Peoples Market. In this 1876 photo, customers gather in front of the market with a horse-drawn carriage.

Left: Lynette Ramirez, (left to right) and Dr. Devon Pena from the San Luis Peoples Market are joined by Kathy Ben from Adept Solutions as they discuss the progress being made to remove hazardous materials from the market.

Photo by John Waters

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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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Thank you for your service



Courtesy photo

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

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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

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

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Under Contract

Lots 11 & 12 in Rito Hondo Estates in Quiet Neighborhood
\$90,000 | MLS #80812/808211
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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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.

719-873-5605
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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Approximately 160 Acres Farmland
\$400,000 | MLS #810432
05299 County Rd. 12 S. Alamosa, CO

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RESIDENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHER
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All Dee's properties are detailed in her blog.

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

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

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