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News in Brief

2024 irrigation season start dates

The Division 3 Engineer of the Colorado Division of Water Resources announced that the irrigation season began on April 1, for surface and groundwater irrigation structures for all areas of the San Luis Valley.

This announcement is to comply with the State Engineer's Rules and Regulations regarding the setting of an irrigation season in Division 3.

For more information, contact the Division of Water Resources at 719-589-6683.

SLV Spay and Neuter April schedule

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The mobile clinic at SLV Spay and Neuter will be in Fort Garland on April 5 and 6. The clinic will be in Moffat on April 13 and in Antonito on April 19 and 20. The cost for cats is \$60 and \$85 for dogs. To book an appointment, visit www.slvna.org.

SLV National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center grand opening

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced the grand opening of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex Visitor Center will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday, April 19. It is located east of the city of Alamosa on Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge at 7824 El Rancho Lane.

Meet refuge staff and Friends of the San Luis Valley Refuges. The Friends will provide light refreshments. They will be on hand to talk about the refuges, answer questions, and from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. there will be a guided bird walk.

For more information, call Suzanne Beauchaine at 719-588-3473.

LOR Foundation donates \$1,500 to MVHS FBLA students

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — On Tuesday, March 26, the LOR Foundation donated \$1,500 to the Future Business Leaders of America club at Monte Vista High School. The money was given to assist the business students with their attendance at the state competition for FBLA to help with expenses associated with the trip. The sponsorship will help with the cost of travel, meals, and lodging.

The students were excited about the scholarship and publicly thanked the LOR Foundation for their help.

The LOR Officer for Monte Vista, *Please see FBLA on Page 2A*



The LOR Foundation donated \$1,500 to the Monte Vista High School Future Business Leaders of America club to help the students attend a state competition in Denver this week. *Courtesy photo*

Monte Vista Elks and Monte Vista Police Department host Easter Egg Hunt

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Approximately 150 people, including adults and children, attended an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30, at Chapman Park. The hunt was a collaboration between the Monte Vista Elks Lodge and the Monte Vista Police Department.

Children were lined up for the hunt ready and excited, holding various multi-colored Easter baskets, eagerly awaiting their chance to hunt eggs at Chapman Park.

Before the hunt began, Joy Werner, trustee of the Monte Vista Elks, spoke to the attendees about the hunt and how it would work.

"We want to thank all our volunteers for their help," she said. "We want to thank the Monte Vista Police Department for their help. We want to let you know that the Easter Bunny is on his way to see everyone."

Please see HUNT on Page 4A



On Saturday, March 30, approximately 150 people attended an Easter Egg Hunt at Chapman Park in Monte Vista. The event was a collaboration between the Monte Vista Elks Lodge and the Monte Vista Police Department. *Photo by Marie Mccolm*



Photo by Evert Brown
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Spring bird walks organized by Friends of SLV National Wildlife Refuges

CONTRIBUTED

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Each spring, many birds come to the San Luis Valley and spend the summer nesting here to raise their brood. Members of the Friends of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuges have organized a schedule of spring bird walks.

They are open to the public and free. No need to sign up. Simply come to the designated place on the designated day arriving by 8 a.m. ready to hike. Dress for the weather and wear suitable footwear. Hats are helpful. Bring binoculars, a camera, water and snacks, and sun and insect protection. All walks will end *Please see WALKS on Page 2A*

Coming to America — The journey to asylum

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — A single mother with two children is living in Venezuela. She goes to the open market where she buys enough food to last her family for a few days, if she's careful.

She pays the American equivalent of \$1 for a head of broccoli, \$2 for some tomatoes and onions and \$2 for a few eggs. In a country where the minimum monthly wage is the equivalent of \$5.40, she has \$.40 left over for electricity, water and phone service.

A monthly wage of \$5.40 is less than one-tenth of the \$57 per month the United Nations has set as the threshold

of extreme poverty. And with inflation soaring out of control, bolivars (currency in Venezuela) will be worth even less next month.

The young woman works at three different jobs every day to support her tiny family, but she worries for the safety *Please see JOURNEY on Page 2A*

A small family smiles at the camera, hopeful for the future. They are in an encampment on the Mexico - United States border waiting for the opportunity to enter the United States and apply for asylum. Photo taken over Easter weekend, 2023.

Courtesy of LC





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WALKS Continued from Page 1A



Photo by Evert Brown

Great Blue Heron

- April 20 — Spring Migration Meet at refuge headquarters, Alamosa Refuge
- April 27 — Spring Migration Meet at parking lot of Malm Trail in Alamosa
- May 11 — Spring Migration Meet at parking lot of Malm Trail in Alamosa
- May 18 — Spring Migration Meet at Monte Vista Refuge Visitor Center parking lot
- June 29 — Nesting season Meet at parking lot of Malm Trail in Alamosa
- July 13 — Water birds Meet at Monte

- Vista Refuge Visitor Center parking lot
- Directions
- Monte Vista Refuge Visitor Center. From Monte Vista, drive south on State Highway 15 for 6 miles to the refuge's entrance. Turn east into the refuge.
- Alamosa Refuge Headquarters. From the junction of Highways 17 and 160, drive east on Highway 160 for about 3 miles to El Rancho Lane. Turn right (south) on El Rancho and drive south, over the railroad tracks. The refuge headquarters is on the left (east) just

- inside the main gate.
- Malm Trail parking lot. In Alamosa, follow 12th Street east to the Alamosa Recycling Center. Then drive about 1,000 feet on South River Road watching for a turnoff to the left into a parking lot. The street number is 8210 S. River Road, Alamosa.
- Walk leaders**
- Tim Armstrong — Retired Adams State University Biologist.
- Suzanne Beauchaine — Manager of the Alamosa and Monte Vista National

- Wildlife Refuges.
- Mike Blenden — Retired Project Leader of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuges.
- Evert Brown — Retired University of Wyoming/Casper College Biology Professor, Bald Eagle Watch.
- Lisa Clements — Project leader for the Monte Vista Winter Bird Count.
- John Rawinski — San Luis Valley "go to" guy for answers to bird questions. For more information, call Evert Brown at 307-315-8003.

JOURNEY Continued from Page 1A

of her children. They're left alone much of the time or watched by neighbors and family members. She worries that they're so vulnerable.

But all of this is secondary to the latest and largest threat that has entered her life. A member of El Tren de Aragua, the most powerful and violent gang in Venezuela, has visited her house — twice.

The first time, he offered her money — even the false promise of a house of her own — in exchange for something she would never consider. When she refused, he said if she did not give him what he wanted, she would be killed as an example to others. The member of El Tren de Aragua is demanding the unthinkable: give him one of her children to be raised as a guerilla and indoctrinated into the gang.

She can't go to the police; they're paid by the gang to do nothing. Even worse, they would tell the gang she tried to report them, which would mean instant death — not just in revenge but, again, as a message to others.

She thinks of moving to another city, another state, even across the country but she knows it's useless. El Tren de Aragua would find her — her actions cannot encourage others to do the same thing. She has only one choice, only one place to go where she will be safe and

can work to support her children. She must go to the United States and ask for protection.

"This is one of the stories I hear over and over from some of my clients," says Charles Nicholas, an immigration lawyer with a practice in Denver who has contacts in the San Luis Valley. Nicholas — who specializes in representing people from El Salvador, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Venezuela — agreed to be interviewed to provide some general insight into understanding the basic factors impacting the influx of people applying for asylum in the United States.

"They'll leave their extended families," he continues, "their homes, their culture, the food, the only life they've ever known to come to the United States. They have to. If they stay, they must either give up one of their children or be victims of violence. They have no choice but to leave. The things some of my clients have experienced in their home country is unimaginable for us here in the United States."

The young woman and her children are now facing a journey where, like thousands of others, they will walk almost 3,000 miles, traveling through seven different countries and crossing the Darién Gap, a 70 mile stretch of jungle that connects Central America to

Panama. Once considered an area that only the most prepared should travel, the Darién Gap is remote, roadless, mountainous and dangerous because of the mud during the nine month rainy season, the snakes that inhabit the jungle and the robbers along the route.

Not all of his clients are similar to the young woman. "I have at least two clients who are lawyers, several police officers who were cops and were calling out the system for its corruption or clients who were in the military. In some countries, the difference between police and military isn't that distinguishable.

"But they're being told to do things that are wrong. They saw that the last guy who refused was murdered, so they gather up their family and make a very dangerous trip to come here — a trip where a great risk involved. They're vulnerable and exposed and may be robbed or assaulted or worse along the way, but they come because they literally cannot stay where they are."

Once they arrive at the southern border, different challenges await.

"Immigration law is complicated," he says.

Someone seeking asylum is coming to the U.S. for protection from persecution in their home country. To be granted asylum and allowed to live and work in the U.S., a person must be able to prove

they have been persecuted on the basis of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or for being a member of a particular social group.

As Nicholas explains, it is 100% legal for a person to apply for asylum. It's been a part of federal law governing the United States since 1972. But applicants can only apply for asylum if they are physically in the U.S. — they have to come here to apply.

Because many of the countries people are fleeing are authoritarian dictatorships or extremely corrupt, the vast majority of people seeking asylum do not have documentation to enter the country. Consequently, they are detained, charged with Unlawful Entry — a civil, not criminal, charge.

"That is as far as some people go. If they have a criminal record, fraudulent documents or prior removals, they'll be kept in detention and then returned to their country."

But those with no problems that make them inadmissible proceed in the process and are then interviewed to see if they have "credible fear" and qualify under one of the classes.

If the answer is no, they'll be detained and sent back to their country. If the answer is yes, the person will be released and given a court date to appear before a judge, sometimes with a cell phone or ankle monitor.

"Those are removal proceedings with an immigration judge to make a determination if the person is removable, which they are — presumptively — because they entered without documentation. At that point, the only course of action is asylum, and those proceedings can take years."

About six or seven months after they have submitted an application, people will receive a work permit and, in a separate mail, a social security card so that they can work. At that point, they'll pay taxes and must abide by the same laws as everyone else until their case goes before



Courtesy of LCA

A mother and child wait to enter the United States in a camp on the Mexican side of the border with the United States.

an immigration judge. During that time, as long as they don't commit a crime and check in with ICE as required, they cannot be removed the country.

"The term 'illegal' isn't accurate and it's been used to paint this picture of criminality in people. You leave Venezuela because it's not safe for your family. You come to the United States and apply for asylum. Are you an 'illegal alien'? No. You're exercising your right to seek asylum under the 1980 Refugee Act that says a country can't send someone back to a country they came from where they might be subject to persecution and torture.

"Common sense needs to drive immigration policy. Not us and them. Not politics. There's no open border policy. That's just politics. There's an immigration system that's really dysfunctional. Everyone can agree on that. The system isn't working.

"Until we can see everyone as human beings with the same needs and wants and hopes and fears, it's going to be really hard for common sense to be applied, which is what we really need."

Charles Nicholas can be reached at www.charlesnicholas.com.

FBLA Continued from Page 1A

Ivette Atencio, was excited to help the students.

"I feel very honored to help our local schools and our students with their educational endeavors. No student should be limited to their educational opportunities due to financial barriers. This funding will also help alleviate any financial worry that the students' families may have about the trip. I am very happy to have the opportunity to help with this," she said.

The idea for the sponsorship began when Monte Vista High School business teacher John Naranjo reached out to the LOR Foundation to request help. Naranjo reached out as there are 21 students who are set to compete at the state FBLA competition this week.

According to Atencio, while the school was able to cover most of the trip, donations and sponsorships are always helpful as many schools require more funding to completely cover trips. This ensures that there is

less financial strain on students and their families.

The \$1,500 that was awarded by the LOR Foundation will help cover anything that the school cannot cover.

Future Business Leaders of America, better known as FBLA, is one of the largest business student organizations in the world. According to FBLA.org, students in FBLA gain like-minded business socialization skills, and networking connections. The organization helps prepare students for career development in business beyond their high school and college years.

FBLA helps students build and obtain confidence in themselves, through recognition awards and there are even ways students can use FBLA to obtain scholarships for continuing education.

The FBLA state competition allows students to compete in different areas to obtain leadership and awards. There are different competitive events

and subjects at the competition including Public Speaking, Business Law, Entrepreneurship, and Accounting.

According to the LOR Foundation website, the LOR Foundation is a private nonprofit organization that works with individuals and business organizations to help with projects that benefit rural areas. The LOR Foundation helps with funding, support, and resources.

The LOR foundation seeks community, social, and individual input on how to kick start projects that benefit many rural areas in the Mountain West area. The LOR Foundation helps improve the quality of life for many individuals and organizations by assisting with money and resources. LOR stands for Livability, Opportunity, and Responsibility.

For more information on FBLA or the LOR Foundation you may visit their online websites and Facebook Pages.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Little things in big packages

It looks like we got through another Easter this past weekend which means all the candy is on sale at the Big Box stores. I am not sure how that system works for them but it appears to me they way over-buy on all the sweet confectionary goodies prior to the actual Holiday which also means if you are patient you can score big on big bags.

Way long ago the only candy bars a person could get were the full-size ones but someone had the great idea to package itty-bitty ones in a big bag so that people could feel like they were not overeating. Now, however, folks eat ten of the small ones, making up in volume with quantity. All those small items in a big bag got me to thinking — a dangerous proposition for Ol' Dutch according to Miss Trixie — about little things in big packages.

Now before you make some derisive statement about the size of my brain



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

in a big package, that's not what we are talking about here. We are talking about things of small size that seem to come in massive packaging comparatively.

Just the other night as Ol' Dutch was standing at the vanity dosing

out his daily pill quantities, I noticed just how small the pills were in relation to the size of the container they came in. And there was no rhyme or reason to how they were packaged as it seems the tinier the pill, the larger the bottle was. I have no idea who or how these things are packaged up as I have to order them through a mail order service as getting them local well, just does not make sense.

But regardless of the method the medicine shows up on time and in the right quantity, I think. Pharmacy error rates can range from .00003% (or 43 in 1,420,091 prescriptions) to 55% (or 55 in 100.) You know I don't mind being in the bottom percentage of mistaken meds but 55 out of 100 would be a little too risky even for my blood.

But come they do and the last order came with really large bottles for little pills. I have to assume that

due to the volume of medication this pharmacy puts out that the pill filling probably has been taken over by machines. This means that a whole slew of pharmacists were put out of work due to the modernization of the industry. But don't be concerned as I think I know where those same pharmacists are now working after they left Big Pharma. They went to Amazon.

You may ask just how Ol' Dutch came to such a mind-blowing conclusion and I am so glad you asked that. It's like this. Miss Trixie has long been an Amazon ordering phenomenon in her own right and has taught Ol' Dutch the ins and outs of the trade. So almost daily it seems we get some package from the great Santa Claus in the sky and boxes show up with the regularity of a Metamucil-induced colon cleanse.

And one thing you will find that there is no rhyme or reason to the

packaging as some tiny little item will arrive in a box big enough to ship a small child in. (Something Ol' Dutch thought about doing a time or two while raising kids.) Which just goes to prove that ex-clinical workers who were involved in the pharma trade are now running the show at Amazon. The upside is with the arrival of the big boxes every day seems like Christmas and every child in us is happy to get the big present.

So, get out there quick and score some of those small candy bars in a big package before it's too late. And feel good about how few calories you are consuming in each one as you down the tenth candy bar.

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.

Culture wars and an embattled Utah monument

Utah's Bears Ears National Monument rarely leaves the news. The political tussle over this stunning expanse of red rock canyons exemplifies all the cultural dissonance in the rural West.

Three presidents have signed Bears Ears proclamations. Barack Obama established Bears Ears National Monument in 2016, but supporters were devastated when Donald Trump eviscerated the monument the following year, reducing its area by 85%. In 2021, President Joe Biden restored the original boundaries and then some.

What's clear is that Bears Ears remains reviled by Republican officials and cherished by Indigenous tribes and conservationists.

The monument, 1.36 million acres in southeast Utah, lies within San Juan County. The Navajo Nation covers 25% of the county, and Native people account for more than half of the 14,200-person population. Just 8% of the county is private land while another 5% is state trust land.

The rest — 62% of the county — is federal land owned by the people of the United States and administered by the Departments of Agriculture and Interior. This immense commons testifies to the sublime difficulty of the place — beautiful enough to warrant preservation as national parks, monuments and forests. But it's also arid enough to attract only a few 19th-century settlers to what had been Indigenous homeland for millennia.

I think it's fair to say that San Juan County's white residents never

envisioned challenges to their political power. But in 2009, the feds came down hard on generations of casual pothunting by local white families. Then, after a century of oppressing their Indigenous neighbors, lawsuits strengthened Native voting rights. The county commission became majority Navajo from 2018 to 2022.

Native influence keeps expanding. The five tribes of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition first envisioned a national monument and became co-stewards for these 1.36 million acres. They have a champion in Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, an enrolled member of the Laguna Pueblo tribe, but such historic changes make the dominant culture uneasy.

In February, Utah Governor Spencer Cox dramatically withdrew from a Bears Ears land exchange poised for completion. This swap of state trust lands for Bureau of Land Management lands would hugely benefit the state. Details were already negotiated; each side compromised; the stakeholders were largely content.

But in 2024, Utah politics are stark, compounded by distrust and disinformation.

At statehood in 1896, Utah received four sections per township to support public schools and universities. The Utah Trust Lands Administration manages these scattered lands — blue squares on ownership maps — but blocking up these blue squares into manageable parcels means trading land with federal agencies.

Such trades aren't rare and can be grand in scale. A 1998 negotiation between Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and Utah Governor Mike Leavitt traded Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument's 176,000 acres of school sections for BLM land elsewhere — along with a hefty \$50 million payment to Utah from the U.S. Treasury. Utah Trust Lands still brags about the deal on its website.

But the old guard is up in arms about the draft Bears Ears Resource Management Plan released for public comment on March 8. The BLM's preferred alternative emphasizes traditional Indigenous knowledge and land health.

Any such gestures toward conservation elicit local outrage about the feds "destroying" the pioneer way of life. The subtext: the people long in charge don't want to lose power.

Denouncing federal overreach is always a sure win for Utah politicians. In this year's Republican primary, San Juan County-based legislator Phil Lyman is challenging the incumbent governor with fierce anti-public lands rhetoric. Governor Cox will need to protect his right flank.

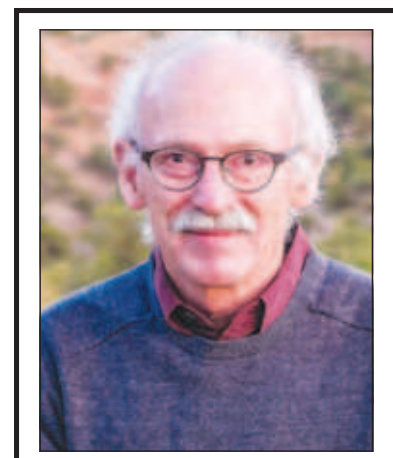
Meanwhile, school trust lands within Bears Ears remain at risk. The tallest structure in Utah, a 460-foot telecom tower with blinking red lights, could rise on state land in the heart of the monument. It's been approved by county planners, and the Trust Lands Administration could add poison pills on other lands proposed for exchange.

The elected leaders of Utah have

decided that the monument's integrity and the needs of the state's children matter less than political gamesmanship.

The five tribes of Bears Ears know better: "It is our obligation to our ancestors...and to the American people, to protect Bears Ears." Their big hearts will win in the end.

Stephen Trimble is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writer-sontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He lives in Utah and will publish the 35th anniversary edition of his book "The Sagebrush Ocean: A Natural History of the Great Basin" next winter.



Writers on the Range
by Stephen Trimble

LETTERS POLICY

Letters are welcome and encouraged. They should be fewer than 300 words, unless arranged beforehand with the editor, and they are subject to editing for length and clarity.

All letters must be signed by the author and include a phone number and address where the author can be reached (these are not for publication). Letters forwarded from other organizations or sent to staff and not for print must be designated as such. Letters over 300 words and without contact

information will be returned to the sender or discarded.

We will accept one letter per person, per subject, per four issues. We reserve the right to reject letters for reasons we believe are appropriate. Please send letters to Letter to the Editor c/o Valley Publishing, PO Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or e-mail to bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com (Attention: Letter to the Editor). Deadline for letters is 5 p.m. Friday.

Political letters may be limited due to space constraints.

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HUNT

Continued from Page 1A

The age groups are going to be 0-5, 6-9, and 10-12, she said. Some of the eggs had prizes. Wener also stated that if there were attendees that did not want to take the plastic eggs with them, they could put them into a plastic bag and they could be used next year.

The Easter Bunny arrived in a Monte Vista Police Department car, with the lights on top of the car flashing. The Easter Bunny stepped out of the car wearing a blue vest and pink bowtie, hopped over to where the volunteers were laying eggs and waved at all the kids, while the eggs were being placed by them.

Once all the eggs were laid out,

the first group began their hunt, with children laughing, running, and gathering eggs into their baskets.

The volunteers helped place more eggs in between each hunt. Many children received eggs with prize slips. Prizes consisted of books and toys, such as stuffed animals.

Overall, Werner said that the event was a success.

“I was a little worried about the weather. Each year we do fight weather conditions because we just never know what kind of weather we are going to have this time of year. Overall, I am happy with the turnout and the kids seem to really be enjoying themselves. Everyone looks happy,” she said.



Photos by Marie McColm

Colorado Water Conservation Board issues scholarship

CONTRIBUTED

DENVER — The Colorado Water Conservation Board recently announced that a \$2,000 one-year scholarship is available for a Colorado high school student, or a Colorado college freshman interested in attending a public college or university in Colorado.

Diane Hoppe served in the Colorado House of Representatives from 1999-2006 and was the chairwoman of the House Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resources Committee, the Water Interim Committee, and the Water Resources Review Committee. She also served as the minority whip. Hoppe was a founding member of the Colorado Foundation for Water Education and served as president from 2002-07.

Governor John Hickenlooper appointed Hoppe to the Colorado Water Conservation Board as the South Platte Basin representative in 2012.



Photo by John Waters

Colorado high school and college students interested in water issues can apply for a \$2,000 scholarship from the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

She was elected chairwoman of the board in 2015. She passed away on Feb. 27, 2016. Her family worked with the Colorado Water Conservation Board to establish this scholarship

in her honor. The application form is available at <https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/CWCB/0/edoc/221308/HoppeScholarshipApplication.pdf>.

CSP is asking for assistance in a fatal hit-and-run crash near Fort Garland

CONTRIBUTED

COSTILLA COUNTY — The Colorado State Patrol is asking for the public's assistance in a fatal hit-and-run that occurred Wednesday morning, March 27, east of Fort Garland on Highway 160 near Milepost 265.

At approximately 6:20 a.m. on March 27, CSP Troopers responded to a hit-and-run crash on Highway 160 near Milepost 265, about 7 miles

east of Fort Garland. An unknown vehicle struck a pedestrian, causing fatal injuries to the 66-year-old pedestrian.

The initial investigation revealed the vehicle was traveling eastbound on Highway 160. The pedestrian was outside of his vehicle and in the roadway, according to CSP. The vehicle struck the pedestrian and left the scene continuing eastbound. The driver and

vehicle have not been identified.

Investigators are asking for the public's help identifying the vehicle and driver of this hit-and-run. The vehicle is believed to have damage to the windshield and hood.

Witnesses to the crash or anyone with information on the crash is asked to contact Colorado State Patrol Dispatch at 719-589-9591 and reference case number 5B240265.

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SOIL Sangre de Cristo hosts Rusty Welch on April 15

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — SOIL Sangre de Cristo is hosting independent financial advisor Rusty Welch for a presentation from 5 to 7 p.m. on April 15 at the Pivot Gathering House in Monte Vista.

Welch, of Villa Grove, will be presenting “Growing Your Food Production Business with a 0% Interest Loan”. The event is free and will be available in Spanish and English.

Welch works with small businesses helping them develop their full potential with sound investments and long-range planning. He is knowledgeable in ways to leverage money to create long-term success.

He will demonstrate how purchasing the equipment you need now using a 0% Interest Loan from SOIL Sangre de Cristo will build volume and sales while saving time on physical labor.

Appetizers will be available.

To attend, visit the link online www.soilsangredecristo.org/event-details/soil-sangre-de-cristo-hosts-rusty-welch-in-monte-vista-leveraging-a-0-interest-loan-to-grow-your-business.

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Rusty Welch

Sangre de Cristo gives Investor Members a mindful and positive channel to generate resilience in regional, nourishing food. The board is an “all-volunteer” team. This keeps operating expenses low. The dollars invested stay in the community working repeatedly through the revolving loan fund.

Come celebrate the Colorado Byways and visit the SLV

CONTRIBUTED

There are 13 of Colorado’s 26 byways designated by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation as America’s Byways, which gives Colorado more national designations than any other state. The collection also includes 10 National Forest Scenic Byways and two Bureau of Land Management Back Country Byways. The Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways program has been around since 1989.

The Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission has helped guide the development of the state’s roadways that have exceptional scenic, ecological, cultural, and historic attributes. The Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Program are holding its anniversary Symposium along Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway (129 miles) this year in the San Luis Valley from May 1-4.

Colorado Byways Symposium 2024 is expecting a little over 200 patrons from across the State of Colorado, across the United States of America and a group from Japan. The National Scenic Byways Foundation (NSBF) supports this event and will be in attendance. The NSBF is a nonprofit organization serving as The National Voice of Scenic Byways and Roads, dedicated to strengthening Byways and actively advocating for renewed Byway Federal funding. During the week, Symposium attendees will be visiting numerous sites throughout the San Luis Valley. Wednesday, attendees will be viewing our unique dark night skies, on Thursday, they will travel the Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway, and Friday will be

numerous breakout sessions throughout the day followed by the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area’s Annual Cinco de Mayo Block Party.

The San Luis Valley is a landscape speckled in a diverse cultural richness that dates back over 11,000 years. As you crest one of the four major road passages into the San Luis Valley, your eyes lay sight on the majestic open skies, it is as if you traveled back in time. The 8,000 square mile alpine desert valley is tucked away where the southwestern culture of New Mexico tangles together with the western frontier culture of south-central Colorado. Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway will take you through the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area; an experience that will immerse you in vast, untouched natural beauty and inspiring narratives of native tribes, explorers, frontiersmen, buffalo soldiers, ranchers, miners, and railroad boomers. Where today you can sand board down the tallest dunes in North America at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, have room to breathe, lay under a blanket of infinite stars in one of the nation’s darkest places, and drift through the history between quaint towns of generations past in the back of beyond. This is where Colorado began and where the old west spirit of honesty, adventure, and small-town hospitality is still very much alive.

Along its 129 mile, three-county route, interpretive markers tell the story of the land, the people, and the history that intersects in this place. The scenic drive will take you through the heart of the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage



Area. This state scenic byway links the four Cornerstone Communities of Alamosa, Fort Garland, San Luis, and Antonito, as well as the Great Sand Dunes National Park, the San Luis Lakes State Park, the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge, Zapata Falls, the Medano-Zapata Ranch, the Rio Grande National Forest, the Conejos River, Culebra Creek, and the Rio Grande. Smaller communities along this route include: Mosca, Blanca, San Acacio, Manassa, Romeo, Conejos, Paisaje, Mogote, Las Mesitas, and Fox Creek. There are 22 wayside exhibits along the way that provide interpretation of specific topics and sites. Interpretive topics include the Rio Grande River, the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad, Conejos Canyon, Adams State University, Spanish Entradas, the Aquifers & Closed Basin, the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge, dune formation, Blanca Wetlands, Zapata Falls, Paleo-Indians, Tewa Indians, Blanca Peak, Penitentes, the Alpine Desert, Fort Massachusetts, Fort Garland, Buffalo Soldiers, San Luis the Oldest Town in Colorado, La Vega, Acequias, Stations of the Cross, Lt. Zebulon Pike, Pike’s Stockade, King’s Turquoise Mine, the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Jack Dempsey Museum, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

To register for the event or become a sponsor, visit www.colorado-byways-symposium-2024.com/.



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'Living Energy, Fox and Raven' by Stephen Quiller

Quiller receives American Watercolor Society Award

CONTRIBUTED

Stephen Quiller has received the Marilyn Hughey Phillis Memorial Award with \$2,750 that will be presented at the 157th Annual International Exhibition Awards Banquet on Friday, April 26 at the Salmagundi Club in Manhattan.

This year's entries included artists from 28 different countries. This society was founded in 1866 and Winslow Homer was one of the early exhibitors.

Quiller's painting "Living Energy, Fox & Raven", depicts

an aura energy emanating from a live spruce with a raven and a fox, representing sky and earth.

He also has a feature article in the March issue of Plein Air Magazine. The article is on extended overseas painting travels and how to strategize the maximum painting experience for the artist during their stay. The issue can be purchased in the art section of most magazine stores, or it can be ordered online at- www.pleinairmagazine.com or 561-655-8778

Do you know who is pictured?



Photo courtesy of MV Historical Society

The Monte Vista Historical Society is seeking the public's help identifying the people in this photograph. If you know anything about this photo, call the MV Historical Society at 719-850-7226 and ask for Peg Schall.

Have Peace in the Midst of Life's Storms

In Acts 27 (AMP), there's a great story about the apostle Paul. He was travelling by ship with some people when "a violent wind...[a northeaster, a tempestuous windstorm like a typhoon], came rushing down from the island" (v. 14).

For days they were caught in the storm, and at one point it was so fierce, they were "violently tossed about by the storm" (v. 18) and had to throw the ship's equipment overboard. They ended up without food, hungry, stranded—seemingly without hope.

In that moment, Paul stood in the midst of the survivors and said to them, "I urge you to keep up your courage and be in good spirits, because there will be no loss of life among you" (v. 22). He then shared that an angel of God told him this, and said in verse 25, "So keep up your courage, men, for I believe God and have complete confidence in Him that it will turn out exactly as I have been told."

How could Paul, in the middle of a horrible storm, ask the people to "be in good spirits" and have a good attitude? Because he believed in his heart—without a doubt—"that it will turn out exactly as I have been told."

I love that! It's a great picture of the power of faith in God when all hope seems lost. And we can have the very same faith that Paul had if we will overcome doubt.

We all face storms in life. Some are more difficult than others, but we all go through trials and tribulation. That's why we have the gift of faith. Ephesians 6:16 (NIV) calls it "the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."

Doubt is a type of "flaming arrow" that the enemy uses to attack our faith and cause us to get caught up in fear and anxiety.

We usually experience doubt after we've made a decision. In James 1:6,

the Bible says having doubt is like being tossed about like the wind, which feels like you're trying to go in two different directions at the same time. And it's miserable to be torn between two places, not able to decide what you really believe.

It's in those moments we have to choose whether we are going to believe God or the enemy...God or our feelings...God or what people tell us... God or our circumstances...

When doubt comes against us, we have to lift up the shield of faith. We do this by opening our mouth and saying what God's Word says, rather than grumbling and complaining about the problem. Our faith is released as we say, pray and do the Word. So, in those times, open your mouth and say, "I believe that everything God has told me will come to pass!"

Maybe you're doubting whether you can hear God's voice or not. This happens because we usually doubt ourselves more than we doubt God. Now I'm not talking about actually hearing a voice; I'm talking about that knowing we have inside our hearts about what is right or wrong. That's the still, small voice of God. Believers in Jesus Christ all have it, but many don't have the confidence to trust it.

The Bible says in James 1:5 that when we need wisdom, we "should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault" (NIV). This means that even though we aren't perfect, God will be faithful to us and give us what we need if we will ask Him for help. He loves us, blesses us, and uses us in spite of us, because He is faithful! And we never have to doubt that.

I've learned through my own relationship with God that He's not expecting me to be perfect; He wants me to do my best to be in His will and take steps of faith as He leads me, through His Word and the promptings



He speaks to my heart. Remember, He wants us to put our confidence in Him.

God really does want to speak to you personally and lead you in His great plan for your life. So don't be afraid to step out and do what's in your heart. If you make a mistake, you'll learn from it and go on. And if you get off track, He'll help you get where you need to be.

I want to encourage you to study God's Word every day and pray His Word over your life. Make declarations based on Scripture, like, "God loves me. He wants to speak to my heart. I can hear from God. He is faithful to me and will lead me in His will for my life. And I believe it will be exactly as God has told me!"

By God's grace, we can be bold in faith and overcome every attack of doubt during the storms of life.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-part teaching resource *How to Attack Anxiety*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

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

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El Pomar Foundation's Penrose Organizational and Professional Leadership Experience opens applications for 2024 session

CONTRIBUTED

COLORADO SPRINGS — El Pomar Foundation's Penrose Organizational and Professional Leadership Experience (PeOPLE) program is seeking applicants for its 2024 session.

The PEOPLE program partners with Center for Creative Leadership to provide a four-day workshop and training experience designed to help Colorado leaders build and sustain healthy relationships and grow their leadership impact. The goal of PEOPLE is to support leadership across all of Colorado in every sector.

The 2024 PEOPLE session is inviting applications from senior leaders in Colorado, specifically from the nonprofit and government sectors, with five to 10 years of senior management experience and who plan to stay in their current position for at least one year. Applicants must show commitment to learning and self-development, a willingness to coach and be coached, and fully commit to the program through attending all

sessions. The workshop will take place during the day September 24-27, 2024, at the Center for Creative Leadership's Colorado Springs Campus.

Through various personality and 360-degree assessments, experiential learning activities, and individualized executive coaching sessions, applicants will become better equipped to: leverage self-awareness through a deeper understanding of their personality preferences and leadership style; gain skills in giving and receiving feedback to colleagues; and identify individual and organizational development goals and strategies.

Applications open Monday, March 25 and are due Friday, May 24. For further information about the program and to read testimonials from previous participants, visit www.elpomar.org/programs/people/. To apply for the 2024 session, follow this link <https://forms.office.com/r/PqQ39dwnLQ>.

In 1995, El Pomar created Nonprofit Executive

Leadership Program (NELP) — now Penrose Organizational and Professional Leadership Experience (PeOPLE) — to provide an opportunity for executives to tap into their leadership potential and improve their organizations. PeOPLE partners with Center for Creative Leadership to provide an immersive, four-day experience that helps leaders build and sustain healthy relationships and grow their leadership impact.

Each year the program rotates between sectors, focusing on leaders from a specific sector or industry to maximize learning conversations and networking opportunities between

participants from all regions of the state.

El Pomar Foundation is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in Colorado, contributing approximately \$25 million annually through grants in the areas of arts and culture, civic and community initiatives, education, health and human services, as well as community stewardship and leadership development programs to support Colorado nonprofit organizations. Spencer and Julie Penrose founded El Pomar in 1937 with the mission to enhance, encourage and promote the current and future well-being of the people of Colorado.



El Pomar Foundation approves \$92,500 to San Luis Valley organizations

CONTRIBUTED

COLORADO SPRINGS — El Pomar Foundation trustees approved \$92,500 allocated to eight nonprofit organizations and government entities in the San Luis Valley at the Foundation's March Trustees meeting. Through the Foundation's grant making process, the following organizations were awarded grants:

- Adams State University Foundation, Inc. (Alamosa) — \$10,000 for pediatric and infant medical mannequin; regional council
- Boys and Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley, Inc. (Alamosa) — \$50,000 for early childhood learning center; competitive
- \$5,000 for early childhood

learning center; regional merit

- City of Monte Vista — \$10,000 for Monte Vista Kids Connection general operating support; competitive

- Colorado Nonprofit Development Center (Denver) — \$5,000 for Heart of Saguache general operating support; regional merit

- HadaNou Collective (Denver) — \$5,000 for Shooting Stars Cultural and Leadership Center general operating support; regional merit

- Quivira Coalition, Inc. (Santa Fe, N.M.) — \$2,500 for Colorado Coalition to Enhance Working Lands 2024 Annual Summit; regional council

- Upper Rio Grande Animal

Society (Monte Vista) — \$2,500 in general operating support; regional merit

- Valley Citizens Foundation for Health Care, Inc. (Del Norte) — \$2,500 for wellness center; regional merit

Founded by Spencer and Julie Penrose in 1937, El Pomar Foundation has an established legacy of general-purpose grant making. The competitive process remains the Foundation's primary vehicle for organizations to receive funding. Additionally, over the last 85 years, El Pomar has either developed or been entrusted with the stewardship of other funds and presenting merit grants in each region recommended

by Trustees and regional council members. Competitive applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

To increase impact and establish connections across the entire state, the Regional Partnerships program was established in 2003. Each of the Foundation's 11 regional councils advises El Pomar Trustees and recommends grants to help support its communities. The San Luis Valley Regional Council recommends grants in Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache Counties. Council members are regional leaders in the business, nonprofit, and public sectors and provide first-hand information about current needs in their own communities.

To view a listing of El Pomar's funds and grant making areas, visit www.elpomar.org/grant-making/.

El Pomar Foundation is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in Colorado. El Pomar contributes approximately \$25 million annually through grants in the areas of arts & culture, civic & community initiatives, education, health, and human services, as well as community stewardship and leadership development programs to support Colorado nonprofit organizations. Spencer and Julie Penrose founded El Pomar in 1937 with the mission to enhance, encourage, and promote the current and future well-being of the people of Colorado.

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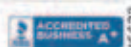


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'We're just like everybody else'

People First organization in Alamosa

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Once every month on a Thursday afternoon, an organization called "People First," meets in the Alamosa Public Library. The group is comprised of thirteen adults with developmental disabilities who are, at the very least, interesting and inspiring and, if the March 21 meeting was any indication, very committed to developing skills that are crucial to who they are as individuals and the lives they choose to lead.

According to information provided by Larry Zaragoza, the organization's advisor, "People First," is a "self-advocacy," and "self-help" organization whose purpose is to create a self-directed, supportive community of adults who have developmental disabilities.

The club has been in existence since 2000, with some members having been a part of the community for "a very long time." That Thursday, thirteen members were present, including two married couples, with another married couple and a few others who weren't able to make it. There was a general consensus that helping each other is a key part of being a member of this community.

When asked what that looks like, Robert, one of the members, says, "We get together and talk about things. Things with each other and things in the world. Sometimes, we go out to lunch."

"Three or four times a year, we go out to celebrate our birthdays," adds Karie, People First's president in Alamosa.

Reaching out to others is also a key element. "We talk to people in the community about the club," says Elvira, People First vice-president. "We talk about what we do and what it means to us."

"I was so excited to find out there was a People First club here," says Amanda, club secretary. Amanda and her husband, Mike, recently joined the club after moving to Alamosa from California. "This community is very important to us."

Encouraging each other is also crucial. "We encourage our members to get outside jobs, if they want to," adds Karie. That prompted a response from the group where a number of the members said they had jobs, some at fast food restaurants, such as Sonic and Taco Bell, and others at Blue Peaks

Development Services. One member was working at two jobs.

Being part of People First also helps to teach its members to be advocates for themselves.

"We need to be good, strong self-advocates," says Amanda. "That means speaking up for ourselves. We don't let our disabilities stop us."

"Feeling strong" and "feeling good about myself," were other answers that were offered.

When asked if, as a group, they have felt the Alamosa community was welcoming, most agreed they felt "somewhat" welcome. But others felt people still needed education.

"We have disabilities," says Elvira, vice-president of the club. "But that doesn't mean we're different from other people." The members of the club have the same interests, talents, strengths and desires that others have. "We're just like everybody else, we just have a disability."

That comment drew a chorus of agreement from the group.

Lavern Valdez, another People First advisor, says the pandemic was very difficult on the group. Prior to the pandemic, members spoke to the Elks, Rotary Club and other groups in Alamosa, experiences that not only helped them gain more confidence but also was a great way to educate other members of the community about what it means to have developmental disabilities.

Since the pandemic, she says the group has not quite gotten back to that level yet.

However, that does not mean they don't have goals on their horizon.

"We're going to learn technology," says Karie.

"We want to show people that [SLV] People First doesn't just sit around doing nothing," says Amanda. "And we're also hoping to walk in the Pioneer Days parade to maybe recruit new members and do fundraisers."

As stated in the information shared by Zaragoza, "The members of People First want to show people who don't know about disabilities that people with developmental disabilities, "are able to live and work among them. They contribute a lot to the communities and enrich those areas where they live."

The members are also clear that they want to have direction in their own lives. As the back of their t-shirt says, "Don't talk about us without us!"

People First meets on the second Thursday of every month at the Alamosa Public Library. Meetings begin at 1 p.m.



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Members of People First, starting in the foreground and going clockwise. Susan, Sharon, Willie, Robert, LaVern (advisor), Karie (president), Sonya, Amanda (secretary), Mike (sergeant at arms), Elvira (vice-president) and Cesar.



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Saving stories of the past

'Once they're gone, they're gone'

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — On Saturday, March 30, Antonito native and documentarian Rick Vigil will be screening his latest work "Cenicero, CO - 1856" at the Alamosa Public Library.

The film, which is about 30 minutes long, is based on an interview with Esperanza "Hope" Lobato-Gallegos, an elder who was born in the San Luis Valley and has spent decades tracing her genealogy back to 1751, when the King of Spain granted to Captain Juan José Lobato, son of Bartolome Lobato, possession of land via the Las Trampas Land Grant. The governor of New Mexico approved the Land Grant for 12 families.

Over the centuries since then, Lobatos-Gallegos' family has served in various positions of distinction, ranging from being elected to the state legislature to Juan Bautista Lobatos who established the first Pony Express route from Southwestern Colorado to Denver. The story is both a personal and historical account of southern Colorado in the early years.

Vigil, who worked as a cameraman for a television station in Colorado for more than a decade, has been filming and producing documentaries similar to "Cenicero" since 2000, all of which are set in Conejos County and parts of Costilla County.

Please see STORIES on Page 6

Sra. Esperanza 'Hope' Lobato-Gallegos, featured in 'Cenicero, CO - 1856', and documentarian and filmmaker Rick Vigil of Down to Earth Media.

Photo courtesy of Rick Vigil



Courtesy photo

Mix and his wife, Rosalie, operate Mix Farms in Center, growing potatoes and barley. Roger Mix was honored as the 2023 CFVGA

Center's Roger Mix honored as 2023 CFVGA Member of the Year

CONTRIBUTED

WESTMINSTER — The 2023-24 Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (CFVGA) President Roger Mix was recognized as CFVGA's 2023 Robert Sakata Member of the Year, during the CFVGA 10th Annual Conference, Feb. 28 in Westminster.

Mix and his wife, Rosalie, operate Mix Farms in Center, growing potatoes and barley. Roger Mix was first appointed to the CFVGA Board in 2015 and later elected by the membership, ultimately serving as a board member for three terms. In February 2023, Mix was elected by the CFVGA Board to serve as its president for 12 months, ending after the Feb. 27-28 conference, due to his being term-limited.

Established in 2017, the first award was presented to then CFVGA President Robert Sakata and is named after him for his excellence in

Colorado produce production and his tireless work to start CFVGA.

"I am honored to be named winner of the Sakata award. It is amazing to see how far CFVGA has come since it was founded in 2014," said Roger Mix. "We currently serve our members through political advocacy, by exploring automated and other options to the ag labor challenges we face, and by putting potential buyers in front of grower members. In addition, CFVGA voting members get free membership in Western Growers and have representation in Washington, D.C. on the issues impacting our operations. I also mention the many avenues CFVGA uses to promote Colorado produce to everyone from consumers to commercial buyers. I couldn't be prouder of what we have accomplished the last decade as a unified organization."

Mix was born and raised in the San

Please see MIX on Page 2

Del Norte receives \$3,000 grant from CTC

CONTRIBUTED

DEL NORTE — The Town of Del Norte recently announced that it will be receiving a \$3,000 grant for the town's Adopt-A-Tree project as well as our ongoing tree trimming and maintenance project from the Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC).

This two-fold project will take place this spring. The tree trimming project will be carried out in the town's two parks and the River Walk. Reynolds Tree Trimming Service is shooting to trim sometime between the third week in March and the first week in April, weather permitting.

The Adopt-A-Tree project's goal is to plant a variety of tree species throughout the town's neighborhoods to increase tree

diversity, shade and beauty. Qualified homeowners must commit to their tree's ongoing care which will include watering, fertilizing and trimming the tree as necessary.

Applications for the Adopt-A-Tree program will be available at Del Norte Town Hall toward the beginning of April. Call 719-657-2708, for more information about this process.

The trees will be planted by the town's Public Works Department and community members as close to Arbor Day, April 26, as possible in celebration of this special day.

The Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) is a non-profit whose mission is to preserve, renew

and enhance community forests statewide.

The CTC awarded \$113,463 in grants to 29 organizations in 2023. These grant projects allowed recipients to plant and manage trees in community forests across Colorado. Grants are made possible through the Colorado State Forest Service, the Xcel Energy Foundation, Colorado Public Radio and our CTC members and supporters.

Since 1991, the CTC has awarded grants to 235 communities and organizations totaling more than \$1,239,000. These grants have been matched with more than \$8 million in community money and in-kind services.

SFPD receives two Kevlar vests from Shield 616

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — On the evening of March 19, residents in South Fork gathered at the South Fork community building to show their support for local law enforcement and to participate in a presentation conducted by Shield616.

Founder Jake Skifstad recounted his first-hand experience as a member of the SWAT team that responded to both the 2007 church shooting and the 2015 Planned Parenthood shooting in Colorado Springs, highlighting the need for proper equipment for all first responders.

South Fork's Chief of Police OJ Pierce partnered with the organization

to receive two vests fully funded by Don Burwell of True Grit Excavating in South Fork.

Shield616 began in 2015 with the hopes of providing support and equipment to Colorado law enforcement and have helped several communities afford tactical equipment over the past 9 years. Through the generosity of local sponsors such as Burwell, law enforcement organizations like South Fork's have and can benefit from the program.

The program is based on serving law enforcement officials in rural communities and through donations, makes expensive equipment like

Kevlar vests affordable. Each vest costs about \$1,400 to purchase through the program and is equipped with everything a field officer would need.

According to the program description, Shield616 was formed with the street cop in mind. The goal of the program is to not only provide the safety equipment needed, but to also offer a resource of support for those that need it after an incident occurs.

The program was formed by Skifstad who was involved in an active-shooter

Please see SHIELD on Page 2

Shield616 visited South Fork this past week to present the South Fork Police Department with two Kevlar vests.

Courtesy photo





Courtesy photo

Shield616 has been helping law enforcement agencies purchase lifesaving equipment, like Kevlar vests, since the early 2000s. The group recently presented vests to the South Fork Police Department.

SHIELD

Continued from Page 1

situation in 2007 in Colorado Springs and again in 2015. It was after these incidents that Skifstad began to look to community organizations for support and donations to provide this equipment to rural communities that may not have the budgets necessary to afford the expensive equipment.

The vision of the program is to rally the community together to show support for local law enforcement and to help sponsor officers who need the active-shooter gear. A lot of the equipment used in these communities is what is known as soft armor and does not adequately protect the

officers from some of the artillery used today. After several years, the Shield 616 program was created to help those communities provide for their local law enforcement by supplying equipment that could withstand higher velocity rounds.

"I would like to thank Jake with Shield616, Don Burwell and the community of South Fork. The support our officers of the South Fork Police Department were shown tonight means the world to us," said South Fork Police Chief Pierce.

Pierce hopes to purchase more vests as additional officers are hired.

MIX

Continued from Page 1

Luis Valley and grew up on his family farm. He has represented CFVGA and helped strengthen its partnership with Western Growers. He also is a valued member of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee and has served as chair of its Industry and Community Committee.

On a national level, Mix has served in multiple leadership roles on the National Potato Council including serving as its president. He is active in many capacities at the regional and local levels and has represented the San Luis Valley on numerous water and labor issues.

According to one of the people nominating him, Mix "has been instrumental in representing the San Luis Valley and has helped unify and direct the shared interests of the potato industry and other produce sectors. He is a clear and conscientious voice for agriculture. His sense of friendliness, humor, and thoughtfulness has made the organization more effective and welcoming for all those around him." The CFVGA is comprised of some



Roger Mix
Member of the Year

280 members, including growers of all sizes and types of production throughout the state, as well as representatives of allied industries. The Colorado fruit and vegetable growing sector contributes nearly \$485 million to Colorado at the farm gate and is multiplied as it goes through the distribution chain. Over 90,000 Colorado acres are in fruit and vegetable production. Learn more at coloradoproduce.org.

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"This is our first time to stop here. The pizza was made fresh with quality ingredients and was delicious! We will definitely come here again! side note: Yes, they have DR PEPPER!" — Gaylez77

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A&B AUCTION SERVICES LLC

Saturday, April 20 at 9:00 a.m.

Pictures posted on our website.

<http://www.aandbauctionservices.com> or email aandbauction@gmail.com

24351 County Road 61, Moffat, CO 811

Directions:

Turn east on county road AA north of Moffat and North on county road 61.

Grain/Tillage

JD 8300 drill with Alfalfa seeder
3pt. Blue jet weed burner
14' IH grain drill
12' Eversman land plane
14' JD disc
5 shank ripper
14' JD disc
14' spring tooth
32' batwing cultivator
24' border drag
Track filler
Gravity box w/hyd auger
2-roll type sprinklers

Trailers

2021 Gator made Goose-neck trailer with Hyd legs and dovetail 15000lb axles 25' plus 10' dovetail
1997 southern 4 horse slant with living qtrs. And tack
22gn Big Tex tandem dually
Lamar Tandem Dump trailer
20' cargo trailer
PJ 20 trailer
2 Horse trailer
Car hauler
1995 24' stock trailer
20' gooseneck stock trailer
3 axle flatbed

Trucks

1976 IH Dump truck
1979 IH truck w/potato bed
1975 Fire truck
1977 Ford w/compact bed
1994 sutphen Fire Truck 8man tilt cab 450 Detroit/Allison auto tranny 500 gal tank.
1977 Ford w/Fire compartment bed
1977 Hazmat truck
1974 f-900 w/hyd bed and water tank
Ford c/50 w/hoist
1971 Peterbuilt dump truck/pup
1999 Freightliner W/ Roll-back bed

TWO AUCTION RINGS

Auction will begin by selling small items until 10:00am approx. Then vehicles, trucks and equipment will begin.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS BEING CONSIGNED DAILY

Haying Equipment

8260 Hesston Rotary 16 Big Bale Head for loader
495 NH windrower
Freeman 200t baler
1120 Hesston windrower
1034NH Stack wagon
Krohn Rotary rake
Darf Wheel rake
Allen 8603 Rake

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Sale will start at 9:00 am under the tent with guns, tack and small items with trees selling at that time.

Large items will start at approx. 10:00.

All guns will be taken to gun dealer on Monday by Auction company to be announced at time of sale. You will then have to go do a background check with the dealer.

Tractors/Equipment

Massey 4710 w/ loader 776 hours nice
4960 JD tractor with Fresh overhaul
650 Bobcat skid steer
863 Bobcat skid steer w/ backhoe
644 JD Loader
JD 4440 with duals
JD 5085M With mounted 18' flail mower 3600 hrs
CAT 416B backhoe
1845 Case Skid Steer
Massey 301 tractor with loader
Ford 8n w/ new tires 12v conversion
Case 580 super L Backhoe
FF 13 Industrial Mini Excavator
JQ 400 Mini Skid Steer
M77 oliver tractor
IH 1066 tractor new clutch (good unit)
Farmall M with loader
Gopher 4x4 loader with pallet forks
JD gator needs work
NH L778 skid steer
NH L778 skid Steer parts machine
Clark 45c loader w/ bale forks
New Holland TL 80A Tractor w/loader
CAT 939 track loader
1971 international loader
9030 BI directional tractor loader
JD 4455 4x4 with duals

Tack

4 off billets
8 pair reins/ bits
8 Rear billets
4 lead ropes
2 Breast collars
6pr stirrup straps
Heiser saddle
Custom pack saddle
16" pleasure saddle
12 cinches
Custom chinks
Custom Batwings
Stirrups
Scabbards
Pack cinches
Saddle bags
Pads
Halters
Hobbles

TWO AUCTION RINGS!

Miscellaneous

JD 44 Manure spreader (good)
20 large spruce trees
24" water diversion box
Mohrlan Manure spreader
JD v ditcher
3pt dyke filler
10' box blade
3pt post hole digger
Boxes of sprockets/ pulleys
Cylinders
Lawn Mowers
3pt. County line 6' box blade
Cement Mixer /Gas motor
6" spring tooth
2- 40ft containers
1- 20' container
6" pine posts 3-4 foot (150)
Whisper Watt 25k Generator
2 pig feeders
6 pallets new red bricks
5 pallets assorted rock
84" new 3pt rototiller
Selectatill 12' rototiller
7500 bushel Columbia bin
Parma 14' vine beater
8' and 10" aluminum pipe
10" plastic pipe
12" culverts
4 pallets cement block
55 gallon barrels
2x4 and 6 metal studs
Power poles
Big baler twine
New and used barbed wire
Endless fencing panels
12' 14' 16' heavy built gates

Vehicles

2006 Ford F150
2002 Ford F150
2003 Dodge 1500
2000 Ford F350
2004 Nissan Titan
2014 Ram 5500 Laramie/ custom bed
2013 Kia Optima
97 E250 van 5.4 gas
1999 Chevy blazer
1984 ChevyG20 van 6.2 diesel
1971 Chevy 1 ton service truck w/ air compressor
1986 Ford 1 ton flatbed
1964 ford 1ton w/hoist bed 89848 miles
2019 Dodge dually 68k miles

RV's/ATVs

1989 Haulmark 24' 5th wheel
1988 Coachmen Royal
1997 Wilderness 1 slide out

Livestock Equipment & Hay

2 semi loads Gunnison valley grass
12' and 9' railroad ties (good)
Round bale and trough feeders

Antiques

1964 Ford 1ton w/hoist bed 89848 miles
2-Potato planters
Jd Model n Manure spreader
1966 Peterbuilt cabover/show truck call for more info
John Deere B (Needs motor)

Guns and Reloading

AR 223 Olympic arms Varmiter	8 sets of dies
1911-A1 Springfield .45ACP	7lb H1000 Hodgen powder
Beretta Brigideer 9 w/4mags	8lb Hodgen Rotumbo Powder
Winchester mod. 70 featherlite 257	6lb 4831sc Hodgen powder
Roberts Krieger barrel	8lb Reloader 22 Alliant Powder
30-06 Tikki	Assorted Brass
Remington 700 Heavy barrel 308	Several boxes of quality bullets
.17HMR Savage	28 Gauge Ammo
.50 cal Hawken	270 weatherby vanguard
	New cleaning kit
	Colt .22 single action

Sale begins at 9:00 with guns, reloading, small tools, tack & trees. We will use two rings all day!

Auctioneer's Notes: This is a partial listing! Photos will be put on web as it tolerates, call for questions. Inspections Friday April 19th or call. Most small items under tent! A great offering that includes the one farm dispersal as well as many others. Call Brady for any additional information at 719-588-2573.



Col. Brady Stagner
Auctioneer
(719) 588-2573

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- Household
- Benefit/Fundraising
- Equipment Appraisals

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03 MEMORIALS
04 LOST & FOUND
05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
06 PERSONALS | MERCHANDISE
23 LAWN & GARDEN
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25 AUCTIONS
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05 Notices

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07 Help Wanted

The City of Monte Vista is accepting applications for Kids Connection Summer Program Leaders. Duties include, planning, scheduling, and implementing youth program activities. \$15 per hour. Job Description and applications are available at <http://www.cityofmontevista.colorado.gov> or City of Monte Vista, Human Resources, 95 West First Ave, Monte Vista, Co. 81144 (4-17)

CSU-San Luis Valley Research Center is seeking temporary hourly employees to work M-F 8:00am to 4:30pm 30 to 40 hours per week. Aids in the preparation of research field experiments and crops. Provides planting, irrigating, cultivating, harvesting, storing crops and various tasks important to the research initia-

tives at this station. Please apply at <https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/141377> or contact Sharon at (719) 754-3594 x17 (4-24)

The City of Monte Vista is currently accepting applications for Deputy Clerk. This position will perform administrative and clerical work under the supervision of the City Clerk and may assist in the daily operations of the City's municipal court. Candidates must be able to pass a pre-employment background check and drug test. This is a 40 hour per week full-time position. The general starting wage is \$16.79 - \$18.55 per hour plus an excellent benefit package. Please visit: <https://cityofmontevista.colorado.gov/government/departments/human-resources> for a complete position description and application. (4-3)

Del Norte Bank is seeking a candidate to fill a Seasonal position for a Teller at our Creede Branch. Duties will be to accept deposits, loan payments and process withdrawals while maintaining a

balanced cash drawer. Must be personable and pleasant answering the phone and greeting customers. Many other duties will be assigned as needed. The position is seasonal, full time with a hourly rate range of \$14.42 to \$17.00. Please send your resume or application to postmaster@truelocalbank.com by April 12, 2024. Application is available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers or call 719-657-3376 and ask for Dawn. EOE. (4-10)

The SLV Landfill is accepting applications for a Full-Time Administrative Assistant/Scale Operator. Working in front office by waiting on customers, weighing loads, processing credit card transactions. Fill in for the Office Manager as needed. Must work in all types of weather and be able to work a fluctuating schedule altering Saturday's. Position open until filled. \$16.00 per hour, 40 hours week. Applications can be emailed to Kim at officemanager@slv-landfill.com or returned at the office. Download the application at slvlandfill.com. (4-10)

FULL-TIME SALES

Valley Publishing has an immediate need in advertising sales (full-time). Any sales experience is appreciated but will train. Email resume to General Manager Brian Williams at bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com



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17TH ANNUAL

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Fremont (719) 580-7172

Edward (719) 992-8334

Valley Wide Classifieds

Half-Time Tiger Connection Coach (attendance & family connection) needed at Del Norte Elementary School. This will be a 2 year part time classified position paid for with the Stronger Connections Grant. For more information please contact Principal Amy Duda at 719-657-4050 or aduda@urtigers.co. Applications may be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co. (4-10)

Jr. High Cheer Coach needed at Del Norte Jr. High School. Experience as a coach is preferred. Please contact Gilbert "Gibbs" Sanchez, Athletic Director, at: gsanchez@urtigers.co, 719-657-4020; or Annie Hardy, Principal, at: ahardy@urtigers.co, 719-657-4020. Applications may be found on our website; www.urtigers.co. (4-10)

11 Rooms

For rent two-bedroom, 1-bath downstairs \$550. 1145 French St., Del Norte. No pets. 719-849-1942 (4-10)

17 Real Estate For Sale

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

32 Fuel & Heating

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

36 Miscellaneous

Spring sale! Solar panels! 300 watt to 400 watt, regular and bifacial. Call for price! 719-852-0500. (4-17)

Air-tight wood stove. Chevy 4-speed transmission. 719-850-2027 (4-17)

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

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

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38 Machinery, Tools, Equipment

For sale Great Plains solid Stand 12ft drill, 3 point and press wheels. 719-480-9492 (4-10)

DISCLAIMER

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

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

S	N	I	B			A	R	M		R	E	T	E				
E	A	M	E	S		S	E	A			O	D	E	R			
C	R	A	T	E	R	S	I	D			O	D	E	S			
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						V	I	C	I	N	I	T	I	E	S		
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STORIES

Continued from Page 1

The result is a collection of films that form a series titled "A Story to Tell". The project, he says, was born from the Chicano Movement.

The films are about a great deal more than names and dates. It's about the stories the people tell, he says. "I'm documenting our people and our language. The origin of traditions that were started centuries ago and are still continued today. The things that people did to survive in the hardest times when they had nothing. How they worked. What food they cooked. Their spirituality and the ways they showed respect. All those things that are part of our culture."

More importantly, he says, the stories are being told by those people who lived it, whether directly or through the stories that have been handed down through their family's history. That authenticity is crucial in storytelling, he says, as it's so often lacking in other historical accounts.

"You can learn so much more about history from people telling their stories themselves, in their own ways. It makes history so much richer," he says. "For example, 'Cenicero' is about the history of Las Trampas, but it's also about the community of Lobatos that was originally called Cenicero. When the Spaniards first arrived in that area, they looked across the land and said it looked like ashes. Learning things like that add so much." He goes on to add, "Things are so politicized today, these are people telling stories — their stories — without any agenda."

In addition to people owning the films, he believes they belong in libraries and classrooms. A history told in an authentic way is vital for young students today, both those whose families came from the culture represented but also those from other cultures who can learn a period of history they probably knew nothing about.

While working on the documentaries, Vigil has felt a growing sense of urgency because many of the people he's filming are quite elderly. Lobato-Gallegos is in her 90s. Another woman he interviewed was more than 100.

"There's a saying that elders are like books, but when they pass away, those books are gone. The valley is changing. Some people who have lived here for a long time are leaving, and so many people are moving here from other places, and they don't know anything of the past. It's important for us to know our stories, to hear what these people are telling us. If we lose our traditions, we lose our identity. We have to preserve that."

The passion is clear in Vigil's voice, but it is even more evident in his actions. Funding for such efforts is "a nightmare" and, right now, the only form of financial support he has is from the DVDs that he sells. Difficult as that clearly is, that obstacle has not stopped him in the past and there's no sign of it stopping him now.

As a native of the area, he's invited more easily into people's homes "with his cameras and his lights" also thanks, in part, to the support of Father Sergio (Robles), the priest at Our Lady of Guadalupe who also gives mass at all other Catholic churches in Conejos County. Vigil's studio is in his home. And as an experienced cameraman and producer, he produces each documentary himself. He also could not do what he does without the support of his wife and his daughter.

All those challenges would be made infinitely easier if he had people who were willing to support his projects but, even if that doesn't happen, he will continue going on as he has done. He feels a personal commitment to where he is from and the people who tell its stories.

"You can never leave where you are from," he says. "I'm honored to do this." As part of his collection "A Story to Tell", Vigil has a number of documentaries available for purchase.

Vigil will be screening "Cenicero" at the Alamosa Public Library at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 30.

For more information about each of his films, go to Opportunity to Express - Home (downtoearthmedia.org). Anyone wishing to reach out to Vigil, can do so via email at dtem@comcast.net.

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Ribbon cutting held for Rocky Mountain Munitions and Surplus

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for a new Monte Vista business — Rocky Mountain Munitions and Surplus — on 229 Adams St.

The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce was present along with the OptiMystics Citizens Action Network. Heather Hillin, manager of the Monte Vista Chamber, congratulated the three partners in the business as Reyes Nevarez cut the red ribbon in front of the store, with a large pair of scissors. The business partners — Nicholas Pieper, Nevarez, and Trysten Ogden — along with their media representative and online sales director, Gage Steffens, all stepped into the store to proudly show what they have for sale. About 16 people attended the ribbon cutting and open house.

Pieper spoke about the store and what the store has inside.

“The store has been open for about six weeks now,” Pieper said. “Everything we have is pretty much strictly military surplus. We do have a few survival items, a lot of cold weather gear, including some level 7, special operations cold weather jackets, ready for negative 60 degrees Fahrenheit. That’s definitely our prize item right now. We also are going to be adding first responder and more survival items, and some fishing gear as well.”

Ogden spoke about the specialty ammunitions and firearms they will be carrying in their store soon.

“Our goal is by September to be manufacturing our own ammunition on a proprietary design and within the next 18 to 24 months we are hoping to be manufacturing our own firearms also on proprietary designs,” Ogden said.

Ogden explained that the only hold up on the ammunition and firearms is paperwork. It was explained that between the FFL, the Federal Firearms License, and state limitations on ammunitions, that it does get expensive and is also time consuming for the application.

Ogden said that Nevarez is working on obtaining some grants to help the business with more inventory and with firearms and ammunitions.

Ogden also said that if it’s possible, depending on the legal end of it, they would also like to repair firearms, but

that is something that they will have to investigate more.

Pieper said he thinks that the specialty firearms and ammunitions are going to help establish the store.

“We just have to get to that point first, but we are hoping that it will be soon,” Pieper said.

The idea for the store began with Pieper, Nevarez, and Odgen attending the Marine Corps. Pieper stated that there aren’t many stores around the Valley that carry military surplus and they wanted to bring something different that people had a use for to the town and give back to the community.

The three also spoke of their different visions for the store and what they hope to accomplish.

Ogden said, “Most of the major ammunition manufactures, in the last four years have effectively cornered the market in terms of pricing of ammunition but they also constantly talk about shortages of supplies, with their prices constantly going up too. The four of us are all supporters of the second amendment. The goal is to be able to provide the quality of the higher end things at bulk ammo prices, because there is no second amendment, with no ammunition.”

Nevarez said, “With so much that’s going on within the ammo industry right now, it kind of makes it hard to enjoy shooting. The goal would be to have ammunition that performs really well, at a good price. That sounds like a dream come true to me.”

Steffens who is helping with the advertising and marketing end at the store said, “I just came into this a couple of weeks ago on the marketing end. It’s good to be a part of it all. I honestly just want to see the store do good; I want to see the store do well.”

Pieper said, “My answer is a conglomeration of all three of what has been said. I think Trysten is going to make the history books with his designs, but ultimately seeing us succeed is my driving goal.”

All three were excited about the ribbon cutting and open house. Pieper said, “We want to thank the City of Monte Vista, the Monte Vista Chamber and the OptiMystics, for helping us out with this ribbon cutting today. Thank you for acknowledging us. We are excited about bringing the

store to the community. We just want to thank everyone. We look forward to bringing in more people and growth with success.”

For more information, visit the store at 229 Adams St., Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held last week for Rocky Mountain Munitions and Surplus in Monte Vista. The business was started by from left to right, Nicholas Pieper, Reyes Nevarez and Trysten Ogden.

Photo by Marie Mccolm



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0254 Timberline Trail • South Fork

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

Bernadette Gingrass

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

CELEBRATING **SLV NON-PROFITS**

March 30, 2024

A special tribute to Local Non-Profit Organizations

Published jointly by the *Valley Courier* and *Valley Publishing*.



THE DEPOT

**610 STATE AVENUE
ALAMOSA, CO**

**San Luis Valley Development
Resources Group and
Council of Governmentants**

SLVDRG.ORG

Department of Local Affairs

CDOLA.COLORADO.GOV

**Visit Alamosa
ALAMOSA.ORG**

**Alamosa Chamber of Commerce
ALAMOSACHAMBER.COM**

**Community Foundation of the
San Luis Valley
CFSLV.ORG**

*Alamosa's economic, community and tourism
development organizations - in one central location.*



San Luis Valley Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited (TU) is America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation Organization

- San Luis Valley Chapter of TU is a volunteer organization with members from across the country
- Often mistaken for a fishing club, TU is composed of dedicated anglers and conservationists

Recent SLV Trout Unlimited Projects

Jim Creek - An on-going project to protect habitat of this Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout stream

- Home to a core conservation population of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, this project has protected and restored over two miles of riparian habitat and enhanced stream habitat
- Work will continue in 2024 with workdays scheduled for June 7-9

Conejos River Meadows Resilient Habitat Project - Completed in the fall of 2021 a few miles downstream from Platoro, this project enhances wintertime/refuge habitat and connectivity during low flow conditions on a 2-mile section of the Conejos River.

- Provides a model for projects that benefit fish habitat and wild self-maintaining trout populations all while providing benefits

to irrigation water users below a working reservoir

- Project is possible thanks to Conejos River Anglers donating proceeds from their annual Superfly contest
- Over \$35,000 raised and donated to SLV TU since the Superfly began in 2008.
- The 2024 Superfly event is scheduled for April 5-7.

Sand Creek Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Reclamation Project

- Located in Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve
- The most extensive Rio Grande Cutthroat reintroduction project ever completed in Colorado
- SLV Trout Unlimited provides support for partners in this project including Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the US Forest Service and the National Park Service.
- Phase 1 was completed in the fall of 2020. Included removal of all non-native species. Reintroduction of cutthroat began in 2022 and Phase 2 will begin in 2024 on lower Sand Creek.

Other recently completed projects:

- Habitat improvement on the Hidden Mile of the Conejos River

- Two new boat ramps on the Rio Grande River
 - Rio Grande River fishing access map, updated and available at local shops
 - Provide monetary support for projects by other conservation organizations in the SLV
- Conejos River Anglers - Partners on all of our Conejos River projects.**

- SLV Trout Unlimited is grateful to Conejos River Anglers for their generous support
- The fly shop located in Mogote, Colorado - owned and operated by the Blankenship family
- The shop does 100% of the work to organize and host the Superfly event in order to give back to the resource and enjoy it at the same time. The 2024 Superfly event is scheduled for April 5-7.

Annual Fundraiser Auction

- Annual Fundraiser Auction - Features live online and on-site auctions, bucket drawings, casting contest. The 2024 Auction will be held on June 1st at Knee Knockers Bar and Grill at Cattails Golf Course in Alamosa beginning at 4 PM.

Education

- Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and

Education Initiative's Annual Beaver Creek Youth Camp held on two weekends in June. SLV Trout Unlimited provides support and expertise for the hands-on classes at the camp.

- Trout in the Classroom (TIC) - A National Trout Unlimited program that connects students with their watershed. SLV presently provides support for TIC programs at Antonito, Monte Vista and Moffat High Schools.
- Provide monetary awards for Coldwater Conservation at the SLV Regional Science Fair

Membership - We are trying to grow our membership and encourage any community member interested to become involved. If you are considering joining us, please contact us at slvtroutunlimited@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page or our website at [www.https://troutunlimitedslv.org/](https://troutunlimitedslv.org/). We would love to talk to you about TU and welcome your interest!

"Our mission is to bring together diverse interests to care for and recover rivers and streams so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon."

The San Luis Valley Museum was established in 1993 and is a nonprofit 501 (c)3 corporation.

Our mission is to enrich human lives and to educate our visitors to respect and value our local cultural diversity

and heritage around the San Luis Valley and beyond. We serve a broad community base and feature a wide variety of international wildlife, art, historical artifacts, native plant life and educational programs throughout the year. We are located at 401 Hunt Ave. Alamosa, CO and are open to the general public from 10-4 Tues-Sat.



THE SAN LUIS VALLEY MUSEUM



Center *for* Restorative Programs

Here's a bit about each of our programs:

Diversion team: We work with youth and adults referred from the justice system and other referring agencies. Our programs focus on taking responsibility, understanding the impact of one's actions, and working to repair harm that was caused.

School Team: We collaborate with SLV schools and after-school sites to help build cultures focused on Restorative Principles.

Wraparound Team: We work with families to create individualized plans that meet their unique and complex needs, based on the strengths and culture of each child and family.

Intensive Case Management Team: Our programs include Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) and other community programs designed to support individuals who are struggling with substance use. We utilize harm reduction, wraparound, and Restorative Justice principles.

To learn more about our work in the community, please visit our website at www.restorativeprograms.org

Mission

Strengthen community in the San Luis Valley by building connection, transforming conflict, and healing relationships.

Vision

Restorative Practices are the foundation of a healthy and just community throughout the San Luis Valley.

Values

Relationship: We all have a need for healthy connection and relationship with others. All people deserve the opportunity to build healthy relationships rooted in deep understanding.

Community: Community is built on complex and interdependent relationships, including interpersonal, organizational, and systemic. A healthy community requires mutual understanding and respect rooted in deep listening and authentic communication.

Meaningful Accountability: Our words and actions have ripples of impact. True accountability is possible when we own the impact of our words and actions, when we take responsibility for our own behaviors and allow others to take responsibility for theirs, and when we strive to repair harms as meaningfully as possible.

Equity and Justness: We currently live in a society where systemic obstacles in the justice system, education, and access to resources often negatively impact marginalized groups. Preventing and repairing harm in individual relationships and within systems helps interrupt racism, misogyny, homophobia, and other forms of oppression, allowing everyone to have greater access to achieving their full potential.

Empowerment: We all have the right to transform our lives and heal from the impact of harm we have caused or experienced. When we have agency to act and speak on our own behalf we grow stronger and more resilient.

Dignity: Every person has dignity and value. Our community is stronger when each person has an opportunity to be heard and respected, particularly those that have been historically marginalized.

We can be reached at our office, 716 Main Street or (719) 589-5222, Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm.



(Happy homeowner, Nina and her new baby getting the keys to their new home)
"This is something that I've always wanted, my own home in which I helped build. I learned building skills that will last me a lifetime."

**-Nina Vigil-
 Homeowner, Mutual Self-Help Client**



CRHDC Brings Homeownership Pathways to The SLV

CRHDC is committed to helping families achieve their goal of Homeownership in the SLV.

Now is the time to make your dream of homeownership a reality!

Our homes have 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car garage designs, and 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car garage designs.

Homeowner gets to choose their: custom pro panel metal roofing, LVP flooring, Cabinets & countertops, Exterior paint color, Garage door style & color, and design their landscaping plan.

Appliances includes refrigerator, stove, dish washer, and microwave oven.

Call us today to see if you qualify to have a brand-new home built.

719-589-1680



Community Resources
& Housing Development
CORPORATION



SERVICES INCLUDE:

MUTUAL SELF-HELP HOME CONSTRUCTION

FREE HUD HOUSING COUNSELING

FREE HOMEBUYER EDUCATION CLASSES

DOL RENTAL ASSISTANCE

MORTGAGE LENDING 100% FINANCING

TURNKEY CONTRACTOR BUILT HOMES



"THE PROGRAM HAS GIVEN ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD MY OWN HOUSE AT A REASONABLE AND AFFORDABLE COST THAN IF I HAD PURCHASED OR BUILT ONE ON MY OWN. THESE ARE GOOD HOMES AND THE PEOPLE WITH CRHDC HAVE BEEN GREAT TO WORK WITH"

**-DANIEL SMITH-
 Homeowner, Mutual Self-Help Client-**



Tu Casa, Inc.

Empowering all children and adults to live healthy, violence-free lives

589-2465 or visit our website at www.slv Tucasa.net.

gency Shelter, Relocation Assistance, Emergency Financial Assistance, Help Filing a Protection Order, Court Accompaniment, Information & Referrals, and Outreach/Education programs, including healthy relationship classes.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering is a great way to make connections and give back to the community. Tu Casa, Inc. is currently looking for hotline volunteers.

For more information about how to apply to be a volunteer, please contact the volunteer coordinators at Tu Casa, Inc.

Tu Casa — Megan Lang

megan@slvtucasa.net

SLV CAC — Shelly Martinez

shelly@slvtucasa.net

More Information

For more information about Tu Casa, Inc. and the services provided or current involvement/career opportunities, please contact Theresa Ortega at (719)



Tu Casa, Inc. staff - Nov 2023

About Tu Casa, Inc.

Since 1979, Tu Casa, Inc., a 501©(3) nonprofit, has provided free, confidential, bilingual advocacy, and outreach services to children and adult victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, and child sexual abuse throughout the 6 rural counties of the San Luis Valley, Colorado.

The Children's Advocacy Center of the San Luis Valley (SLV CAC) is a child-focused facility based program, in which representatives from many disciplines work together conducting joint forensic interviews and making team decisions about the investigation, treatment, management, and prosecution of child sexual abuse cases. Tu Casa, Inc. services include a 24-hour hotline which can be reached at (719) 589-2465, Sexual Assault Nurse Examinations, Wellness Exams, Forensic Interviews, Individual and Family Advocacy, Emer-

32,000 ACRES AND COUNTING OF WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVED... WHILE KEEPING WORKING LANDS WORKING.



RIO GRANDE
HEADWATERS LAND TRUST

Conserving our land, water, and way of life in Colorado's San Luis Valley.

- Conservation Easements
- Ecological Restoration
- Education & Community Projects

Come Celebrate RiGHT's 25 Years Serving the SLV
Enjoy food, beer, games and live music from
DON RICHMOND AND THE RIFTERS

- 🕒 4 PM - 7:30 PM
- 📍 Jansen Ranch on the Rio Grande near South Fork

**FRIDAY
JUNE 28
2024**

Visit www.rightslv.org to learn more, or stop by our office in Del Norte!

SAN LUIS VALLEY IMMIGRANT RESOURCE CENTER

225 6th Street, Suite B, Alamosa CO 81101
(719) 587-3225 www.slvirc.org



Providing services to residents of the San Luis Valley since 2002

Our mission is to connect and empower immigrants with resources to achieve legal documentation, fulfill their economic needs, and integrate into the community.



Legal Assistance Program

- Family petitions, naturalization, and more
- BIA Accredited; Minimum-fee basis

Por Ti Misma Program for Crime Victims

- Immigration legal assistance – U-Visa and VAWA Self-Petition
- Housing and Utility assistance

Punto de Vista Education Program

- English and Citizenship Prep classes

SERVING ADULTS 60 AND OVER WITHIN THE SAN LUIS VALLEY South-Central Colorado Seniors, Inc., AREA AGENCY ON AGING

What is and are the responsibilities of an Area Agency on Aging?

An Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is a public or private nonprofit organization designated by a state to address the needs and concerns of all older persons at the regional and local levels.

Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) respond to the needs of older adults and their family caregivers in the communities they serve. They are advocates, planners, funders and educators, as well as providers of information and referral services. **AAAs** work with public and private partners to respond to the unique needs of older adults and family caregivers in their areas. From the frail older person who can remain at home with the right supportive services, to the older adult who benefits from the wellness and socialization opportunities provided at senior meal sites, **AAAs** offer services that make a difference in the lives of older adults across the state they are located.

AAAs coordinate the provision of low-cost, comprehensive, quality care for older adults (60+) by helping older adults and their families navigate the complex system of services. In their local communities, **AAAs** maximize service potential and avoid duplication of effort by partnering with local agencies. They also co-sponsor events of interest to older adults and

caregivers.

For over thirty years **AAAs** have maximized private and public resources to ensure that essential services are available to minority, frail, rural, and low-income older persons. The sixteen **AAAs** in Colorado play a pivotal role in assessing local needs, developing programs, and creating service plans that build upon local community strengths. They also advocate for improved services for older adults and their families.

AAAs were established under the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1973. **AAAs** provide or fund services in five broad categories:

v Community-Based Services, such as adult day care, transportation, and senior meal programs

v Elder Rights, including assistance for persons 60+ with financial and legal concerns, and ombudsman services for residents of long-term care facilities

v Information and Assistance to access essential services

v In-home Services, such as Meals-on-Wheels, food shopping, housekeeping, home modifications, and personal care

v Support for Caregivers, including educational opportunities and offering respite (a short break from caregiving responsibilities

for family members)

With more than 40 years experience as the designated Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for the six-county region, South-Central Colorado Seniors, Inc. plans and provides these comprehensive services to address the needs of the region's population of older adults. We are the establishment of comprehensive, coordinated system of community-based supportive and nutrition services for the San Luis Valley's older adults.

We are also an Aging and Disabilities Resource Center for Colorado (ADRC), and provide information and assistance as well as Options Counseling for both older adults and adults 18+ living with a disability. This program helps simplify access to long-term services in the community.

We ask you to please be aware of your senior family member, friend, or neighbor. Are they in need of a friend? Are they in need of a meal? Are you on your way to the store and can pick something up for them?

Nutrition being our largest program, we serve congregate meals for adults 60+ at 10 locations Valley wide. Please join us for an enjoyable healthy meal for lunch at any of the following 10 meal sites. Dine-in.

If you know of a friend, family member or neighbor that is homebound, home-delivered meals are available. Inform them or refer them to South-Central Colorado Seniors, Inc., Area Agency on Aging.

• CONGREGATE MEAL SITES – (DINE-IN)
• HOMEBOUND MEALS PACKED AND DISTRIBUTED FROM EACH MEAL SITE BELOW
Meals served 12:00-12:30 at each site

• Alamosa –
Alamosa Senior Center, 92 Colorado Ave., Alamosa

• Antonito –
Antonito Senior Center, 701 Main St., Antonito

• Blanca/FG – Wednesdays only
BFG Comm Center, 17591 Hwy 160, Blanca

• Center - Currently Grab n' Go Meals
(Call 719-589-4511 for more info & reservations)

• Crestone – Monday, Wednesday & Friday
Little Shepherd of the Hills, 155 N Alder St., Crestone

• Del Norte –
Pioneer United Church, 630 Spruce Street, Del Norte

• La Jara –
Northerners Senior Center, 43 Main Street, La Jara

• Monte Vista –
Tri-County Senior Center & Housing, 311 Washington St., Monte Vista

• Saguache – Grab n' Go meals
Dept. of Social Svcs., 605 Christy Ave., Saguache. Call 719-589-4511 for reservations

• San Luis –
Costilla County Senior Center, 1101 Salazar, San Luis

Eligibility for home-delivered meals: In-Home Assessment. Contact Administration Office for assessment or more information – 719-589-4511



Cash Donations are accepted and needed to help sustain services.

LOCAL AREA AGENCY ON AGING
South-Central Colorado Seniors, Inc.
P.O. Box 639,
1116 3rd Street, Alamosa, CO 81101
719-589-4511

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TO HELP STABILIZE SLV FAMILIES EXPERIENCING ECONOMIC INSTABILITY, FOOD INSECURITY, AND HOMELESSNESS.

WAYS TO SERVE YOUR NEIGHBORS

- PREPARE AND SERVE A MEAL AT THE SOUP KITCHEN
- HELP A RECENTLY HOUSED FAMILY SETTLE IN
- ORGANIZE DONATIONS AT OUR CENTRE THRIFT STORE
- LEND YOUR SKILLS TO BUILD THE ALAMOSA FOOD BANK
- DISTRIBUTE SUPPLIES TO THOSE WHO ARE UNSHELTERED

READY TO GET STARTED?



LA PUENTE HAS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES, FAMILIES, AND ABILITIES

SCAN THE QR CODE OR CONTACT DIRECTOR.VOLCOOR@LAPUENTE.NET
719-587-3499

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

- INVITE US TO SPEAK AT YOUR CHURCH, SCHOOL, ETC.
- SCHEDULE A COFFEE CHAT WITH US AT MILAGROS!
- GIVE US A CALL
- TAKE A TOUR OF OUR SERVICES
- PARTICIPATE IN OUR COMMUNITY EVENTS



OUR NEXT UPCOMING EVENT: SAT. APRIL 20, 2024 10 AM TO 1 PM

JOIN US AT COLE PARK FOR OUR CROP WALK ACTIVITY FAIR FOCUSING ON HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY. THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL AGES! LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING
EMAIL DIRECTOR.VOLCOOR@LAPUENTE.NET



PLEASE REACH OUT TO US:
719-589-5909
LAPUENTEHOME.ORG
@LAPUENTEHOME





SANGRE DE CRISTO

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



Alicia Reisinger



Rose Villalpando



NPS/Patrick Myers



Reynaldo Rabago

PRESERVE  PROMOTE  PROTECT



Jozette Sandoval



Robert Ruybalid

SANGREHERITAGE.ORG



The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (“SdCNHA”) was designated to promote, rehabilitate, and interpret the unique historical, geographic, cultural, and natural resources. We endeavor to preserve and protect the integrity of our area, and encourage stewardship for all generations through community collaboration.