

San Luis Valley GRADUATES
Class of 2024

Schedule of San Luis Valley Graduations

Alamosa May 25 - 9 a.m. - High School Stadium	Del Norte May 25 - 2 p.m. - Upper Rio Grande School Gym
Antonito May 24 - 6 p.m. - High School Gym	Moffat May 18 - 5 p.m. - Moffat School Gym
Byron Springs DELTA Center/ Monte Vista Online Academy May 11 - 10 a.m. - Jean Ritchie Central Auditorium	Monte Vista May 24 - 7 p.m. - High School Gym
Center May 25 - 10 a.m. - Crestone High School	Montezuma Valley May 18 - 10 a.m. - High School Gym
Centennial May 25 - 11 a.m. - High School Gym	Sargents May 24 - 7 p.m. - Sargents High School
Creede May 25 - 10 a.m. - Crestone High School	Sangre de Cristo May 24 - 7 p.m. - High School Gym
Crestone Charter May 17 - 2:30 p.m. - Crestone Charter School	Sargent May 20 - 7 p.m. - High School Gym
Chaparral May 25 - 9 p.m. - High School Gym	Sierra Grande May 24 - 5 p.m. - High School Gym

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Congratulations SLV Grads!

RG BANK

Inside this week's Center Post Dispatch

Shorts

Sharon Adams Memorial Dedication

MONTE VISTA — The Sharon Adams Memorial Dedication ceremony is planned for 5:30 p.m. on May 1 at the west main entrance of Sargent High School.

A community baked potato dinner will follow in the school cafeteria from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation is \$10 per person and supports Sargent Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). Live music will be provided by Celtic Knotz, including Kerry Adams.

Wildfire season is focus of RGNF series April 24

SANLUIS VALLEY — Wildfire season is upon us here in the San Luis Valley. Join Doug Currie, Forest Fire Management Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest as he talks about the local fire season outlook and how he is preparing for it. Currie has nearly 30 years of experience in wildfire response, prescribed fire and incident management throughout Alaska, the southern and western U.S.

The online program will be held Wednesday, April 24, at 5 p.m. in partnership with the San Juan Mountains Association. Visit the Rio Grande National Forest website or Facebook page, for event information.

This event is part of the Rio Grande National Forest's Forest Specialist Series, a once monthly online presentation to share information with our community.

Potter receives wastewater operator of year award

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — The Town of Center's Water Wastewater Supervisor, Rebecca Potter, recently received the Colorado Rural Water and Wastewater Operator of the Year award. Potter also recently received her Class B Wastewater Treatment Operator Certification.

Potter said, "I was really surprised to receive this award, but I also felt very honored. The award is from the State of Colorado, for me this is a pretty big deal, so I am very

honored. It's been a struggle being in the industry as a woman, because it can be male dominant. I only know of a handful of other women in the industry. The fact that I am in it, and I am doing it, and I have been appreciated for what I have accomplished, I am really honored and very surprised."

Potter said Town of Center has a unique and different wastewater system.

"I am the Water Wastewater Supervisor for the town of Center. I

run the Wastewater treatment plant which is on a Bio Code System. It's the first of its kind in the country. It's technology that is widespread through Germany and Austria, and

Please see AWARD on Page 2A

The Town of Center's Water Wastewater Supervisor, Rebecca Potter, recently received the Colorado Rural Water and Wastewater Operator of the Year award.

Courtesy photo



Moffat Volunteer FD to host a Cajun Boil and Silent Auction

By MARIE MCCOLM

MOFFAT — The Moffat Volunteer Fire Department is excited to host an upcoming Cajun Boil and Silent Auction on June 8, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Fire Station, 430 Reynolds Ave.

The event has become an annual favorite and will feature the ever-popular Cajun boil chock full of sausage and seafood. As an alternative to seafood this year attendees can also enjoy Cajun blackened chicken with savory red beans and delectable rice. Families are encouraged to bring their children. The fire department will be serving some tasty macaroni and cheese for all ages.

Moffat Volunteer Fire Department Capt. *Please see MOFFAT on Page 2A*

The Moffat Volunteer Fire Department is excited to host an upcoming Cajun Boil and Silent Auction on June 8.

Courtesy photo



Crestone Charter School to go with a four-day week

By JOHN WATERS

CRESTONE — Nestled at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in Saguache County is the Crestone Charter School which serves 91 K-12 students. The school will transition to a four-day week starting in August for the 2024-2025 academic year.

The school was founded in 1996 and in 2012 moved into its current facility and is part of the Moffat Consolidated School District No. 2.

Charter schools are tuition-free, public schools that have the flexibility to be innovative, entrepreneurial, self-governing, and yet are held accountable for student and operational performance.

The schools are independent public *Please see SCHOOL on Page 2A*

The Crestone Charter School will have a four-day week starting in the fall.

Photo by John Waters



Wynonna to headline Stampede concert

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — Longtime country artist and multiple-award winner Wynonna Judd will be the featured act for the Ski Hi Stampede concert on Thursday, July 11, as the 100-year plus event moves up a week earlier than normal.

Up-and-coming artist Max McNown will be the guest artist. Tickets will be available soon at skihistampede.com.

Wynonna is one of the most widely recognized and awarded female country musicians in history. In all, she has had 19 No.

1 singles, including those with The Judds. Her solo albums and singles are all credited to — and performed under — the singular stage name, Wynonna.

She first rose to fame in the 1980s alongside her mother, Naomi, in their mother-daughter country music duo, The Judds. They released seven albums on Curb Records, in addition to 26 singles, of which 14 were No. 1 hits.

In 2023, Wynonna was named the best country music artist, picking up the "country champion" award at the "People's Choice Country

Awards".

McNown is a singer-songwriter from Bend, Ore. His soulful music attracted international attention on TikTok and other social media platforms, which built an engaging and committed fanbase.

His powerful lyrics and resonant vocals led to collaborations with renowned producers and songwriters and the opportunity to audition in front of Katy Perry, Lionel Richie, and Luke Bryan during the 2023 season of "American Idol."



Looking for a new AG lender? Look no further!

Chad and Lee are both lifelong farmers/ranchers and have vast experience both in the field and in the office. We have a lending team and support systems for your operation whether it's Cow/Calf, Hay, Chickens... whatever your operation demands, we can help.

Please call us today! Chad - 719-657-4550 • Lee - 719-657-4553

www.TrueLocalBank.com

Member FDIC Lee Crowther

SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1A

schools with rigorous curriculum programs. Each charter school is different, thus offering parents a variety of choices so they can select the school that best fits their child's unique learning style.

In a welcome statement to the community, Thomas Cleary, Director of the school states, "It takes a village to raise a child. At the Crestone Charter School, our devoted community and staff nurture students to develop at the level of the whole person. A proficiency-based learning model provides students with a strong academic base, yet true education encompasses more. From its inception, the Crestone Charter School has sought out staff with diverse teaching experiences, but who are also dedicated to thinking outside the box and paying attention. We have thus created unique educational programs, such as our travel and ski initiatives, without losing the commitment to academics that gave our school the John Irwin Award for Excellence."

The school has experiential learning programs that include swimming at the Hooper pool and a ski program at Monarch. This last winter the ski program included 49 students, 12 mentors, and six vans and busses. A new aspect of the ski program this school year was students mentoring students, where beginners are paired with more experienced skiers. According to Cleary, "This meets so many aspects of our school's mission such as creatively structured experiential programming developing character, self-esteem, critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, responsibility for self and others, and so much more."

MOFFAT

Continued from Page 1A

Sam Eastman is excited about the upcoming boil and spoke about it.

"We are going to have a lot of different events going on at the Boil," Eastman said. "We are excited to have everyone come out and join us. We want everyone to have fun. It's not going to be an event where you just come and eat. We are going to have small indoor games. We will have a silent auction going on. We are going to have music. There will be door prizes given out. We have something for everyone. We are going to be serving up some great food too."

Eastman said the boil is for a good cause and will help their growing fire department.

"We are trying to raise funds right now to get some new equipment," Eastman said. "We are looking at getting new personal equipment, new hand tools. A lot of the gear that we have is getting to the point where it is outdated. Being in Saguache County, we don't necessarily have all the funding to obtain the new equipment that we need. We really rely heavily on the fundraisers that we have."

AWARD

Continued from Page 1A

its finally making its way to the US." Potter stated that the system that is used in the Town of Center takes two different types of treatments. Potter stated that the reason that the treatments are combined is for efficiency.

Potter is no stranger to the wastewater industry, having been involved in the field for 8 years now. She said she first started with the industry as a simple need for a job, but then she fell in love with the industry because it was so interesting. Potter was also excited about obtaining her job in Center and moving into a higher position.

"I started off at Baca Grande in Crestone, and I also worked for the



Courtesy photo

The Crestone Charter School offers experiential learning including a popular ski and snowboard program at Monarch Mountain.

"With Alamosa shifting over [to a four-day week] my understanding is we were the last school to have more than a four-day week. When it comes to parents and families there was a mix of interest. From the staff's perspective, it was highly appealing. When it comes to staff retention, there is value in the shorter week. If two schools are offering the same dollar amount and one of them has a four-day week and the other does not, I know which one I would choose, said Cleary." The Alamosa School District began a four-day week beginning in the 2023-2024 academic year.

Cleary said he first proposed the idea of a shorter week to parents about two years ago, and they were split evenly in favor and against it. Many parents were concerned about the loss of Friday activities, "particularly the Monarch ski and snowboard program that we run for the upper grades fourth through twelfth grade. We do swim programs for the younger students. Parents were also concerned about the length of the day. Our Friday had been a four-hour

day. There were concerns about the overall length of the school day and the start time.

"The compromise I came up with was to add a half an hour to the end of Monday through Thursday and to retain ten Fridays of experiential learning." Cleary said that the compromise has overwhelming staff and parent support. The governing council of the school approved the change to a four-day week.

According to a 2023 study conducted by Oregon State University, over 1,600 schools in 24 states are using the Four-Day School Week.

The school is currently working with the Boys and Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley to provide programs at the school.

On May 17, the school will hold the Class of 2024 Graduation at 2:30 p.m.

The school is growing and has several positions open including in the greenhouse, experiential education and instructional support. For more information, see the website at www.crestone-charter-school.org Interviews are scheduled for April 19.

Eastman stated that a year ago, they had three people in the department.

"This year we have grown from three people to 10 people," Eastman said. "We are trying to keep building the department too. We are also trying to find more volunteers for the fire department."

Eastman stated that the department was established in 1977. Eastman's father Bill, who is the current Fire Chief, has 38 years of experience working with different fire departments. Eastman stated that the department is also a part of the northern Saguache County Fire District.

"We help with Saguache fires, Villa Grove Fires, Crestone Fires. We help with a lot of different fires. When we get called out, all of us go too," Eastman said.

Eastman stated that part of the department is also medical certified, and all the firefighters in Moffat are also EMR certified as of January, which is just a step below EMT certified.

Eastman stated, "We are also

looking forward to hopefully having a med unit based in Moffat within the next year too."

Eastman stated that he is really looking forward to the boil and he hopes that enough people attend that they run out of food.

"It would be great to run out of food," Eastman said. "You know, this is also for the community too, a chance for everyone to get together. Along with the food, we have also had some great donations from different places. We got a set of Vortex Binoculars donated from Valley Gun Shop in Monte Vista. Good Speed donated a \$50 coupon. Bobolicious Coffee is donating coffee and some gift baskets. Lots of other great stuff too. We appreciate all the donations. There's going to be great door prizes. We really hope everyone will come out. We will be holding the boil at the Fire Station."

For more information, visit the Moffat Volunteer Fire Department's Facebook Page or contact the Moffat Volunteer Fire Department at 719-256-4225.

City of Monte Vista for Wastewater. I heard about the opening here in Center; that they were going to need somebody to run their plant and be at that level, so I saw the opportunity for growth and a challenge, and I took it," Potter said.

Potter stated that her favorite part of her job is that it's different every day, and it's a big challenge.

"Whether you are troubleshooting the pumps, or the different treatments. I think it's interesting to learn about microbiology and how all that works. There is a lot that I like but my favorite thing is, I love the different challenges every day," she said.

Potter stated that when she received the award for doing what she

loved it was wonderful. She thanked Dave Diss at the Colorado Rural Water Association for nominating her, and for all he has done to help her. She also thanked everyone who voted for her and her family for being so supportive and understanding.

"In order to do this job, you have to be state certified, so you have to put in a lot of study hours for testing," Potter said. "I sacrificed many hours at home to study, instead of spending time with my family and kids, it was important to me to be successful. I also want to thank the crew behind me for helping me be so successful by working together. We are just a great team. It's a great job, and I am very honored by the award."

CAC opens Call for Entry for Annual Mountain Shootout

CREEDE — The 2024 Mountain Shoot Out Call for Entry is now open. The deadline for entry is May 26.

CAC will have its traditional opening reception on June 14 at 5 p.m. at the Creede-Mineral County Visitor Center. The photographs will be displayed in the Visitor Center through Sept. 15.

This year's judge, Cheré Waters, will select first through third place awards and two Honorable Mentions. Visitors will vote for their favorite photo, and the winner will receive the People's Choice Award. The winning photo will be purchased by the CAC, framed, and displayed at the Creede & Mineral County Visitor Center.

For more information and to download the call for entry form, visit the website at <https://creedeartscouncil.com/mountain-shootout-photography-exhibit>.



Del Norte community invited to adopt a tree

By LYNSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — The Town of Del Norte recently announced that it was awarded funding through the Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) in the amount of \$3,000 and is inviting homeowners to come and adopt a tree through this free program.

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

The town will be using half of the funding to continue work on their tree trimming program and the other half to purchase 12 trees of varying types. According to the town, they will be buying 12, 15-gallon trees such as Maple, Hackberry, no thorn Honey Locust, Kentucky Coffee Trees and more.

Through the Adopt-a-Tree Program, homeowners around Del Norte can come into the town, fill out

an application and choose the tree they would like to plant. Homeowners who are awarded the tree will need to commit to caring for the tree as long as they own their home. The best part about the program is that the Town of Del Norte will come dig the hole and plant the tree for homeowners! And it is all free!

Trees must be planted either on the front of the property or on the green belt facing the street.

"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."

Through the program, the town hopes to plant four of the trees purchased on April 25 in honor of Arbor Day which is April 26 this year. Homeowners can visit the Del Norte Town Hall, 140 Spruce St., during business hours, which are Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. or call 719-657-2708, for more information.

PROTECT

WHAT MATTERS MOST

Whether you are home or away, protect what matters most from unexpected power outages with a Generac Home Standby Generator.

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac Dealer for full terms and conditions.

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE

CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE

(719) 900-0326

FREE 7-year Extended Warranty* – A \$735 Value!

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

OPINION & EDITORIAL

A firm foundation

As you all know, Miss Trixie and I are in the middle of building a house. When most people say that it means they are having workers come and do it for them, but for us, we are literally building a house.

We are nailing the nails and screwing the screws, the last part of that really sounding a tad perverse. But anyhow we are in the middle of that process also known as "testing your relationship."

Why just yesterday Miss Trixie remarked that we work together so well, and I had to admit we are like two peas in a pod. A cow pea and a sweet pea. Two totally different and opposite things.

To give you an example this is how our day generally goes. Ol' Dutch will decide on what project to undertake and having done it a thousand times before or perused Youtube for instructions starts the process.

I get the materials and tools and start in. It's at this point that Miss Trixie starts asking questions. Which goes on non-stop for the rest of the day. And I am not sure if she really wants to know as the tone is somewhat accusing in nature.

That question-and-answer period is followed up by her perusing the Internet to prove I am wrong and then if that does not work she calls up an "expert" to see if they can add anything to fuel that fire.

It's at this point that the rhubarb begins. Also known as "a fight." For if there is one thing that men cannot stand when working its conversation let alone corrective conversation. I mean really ladies. Just look at how we drive. We would rather drive around lost for two hours than ask for directions. So just leave us alone in our ignorance.

I would admit that she does see mistakes that I am making and is helpful in so many ways but I am too tired today to admit that. It used to be that when I got into a fight with my significant other it meant that there was sure to be a make-up session to follow but now it just means we are both tired, shake hands and go to bed.

I actually did the foundation to this house myself and it was difficult at best. The two grands and son #1 came and helped and we got the cement in the forms and it seems to be holding up at this point. Which is good because a good foundation is paramount to success in any endeavor.



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

Whether it be buildings or women's bodies, a good foundation is the key to looking good. For just as a good base keeps a building nice and tidy so women's foundation wear keeps shapes and lifts to support her upper stories.

Ol' Dutch got to thinking about such things – a dangerous proposition according to Miss Trixie – and I thought about the leaning tower of Pisa in Italy. That leaning pile of stones has been doing so for some time and they even went in and did some work on the foundation to help slow that process.

But something must be amiss over there as just last week another famous tower started to lean precariously and is in danger of falling now too. Some people are shocked and amazed that such things can happen but what else can you expect from a person who eats round pizza from a square box served in triangle shapes. It just doesn't make sense.

Thinking such as that can lead to failures all across society I think and so we here in America have come up with square Pizzas in square boxes served in square pieces. And you don't see our towers leaning either. Point taken and proven all in one quick paragraph.

So, say a prayer today for Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie as we are going to try and install another large door which if not for my long suffering patience would surely end up with her and I coming unfixated.

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.

In Wyoming, tormenting a wolf is not a big deal

It's legal in Wyoming to chase coyotes and run over them with snowmobiles, but recently, a man used his snowmobile to run down a wolf until it was disabled. Then he taped the wolf's mouth shut and paraded the animal around a local bar, taking photos to commemorate the event. Finally, he killed the wolf.

According to news reports, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department fined the man \$250. His only crime: possession of a live wild animal. The more we learn, the worse this disturbing story gets. Most recently, one news outlet released video footage from the state game department showing the muzzled wolf splayed out on the bar floor.

The single upside to this incident is that it has brought scrutiny to the state of Wyoming's bureaucratic indifference to wolves and other wildlife.

We now know that the responsible management agency can't effectively punish one of the worst acts of cruelty ever exposed in the state. But is that any wonder when we consider that the state funds ineffectual predator-control programs that kill wolves and other wild animals indiscriminately?

This failure stands out starkly when compared to neighboring Colorado, now hosting reintroduced wolves. Although Colorado Parks and Wildlife reported recent wildlife-rancher conflicts, two state agencies, which held many meetings with the public before wolves came back to the state, are already working with those ranchers to prevent and mitigate losses and to provide generous compensation funds.

The new Born to be Wild specialty license plate has already generated more than \$60,000 toward Colorado wildlife department's nonlethal-conflict prevention fund for wolves. If a wolf, bear or mountain lion causes a livestock loss, the producer

is eligible for compensation, as in a case in early April, where wildlife staffers reported that wolves had killed two calves.

Most states have limits on "manner of take," defined as what methods are permitted to kill wildlife. But in what Wyoming calls its "predator zone" that's a whopping 85% of the state where wolves, coyotes, red foxes, raccoons, porcupines, jack rabbits and stray cats can be killed using any method.

Methods include hounding, baiting, neck snares, leg-hold traps, shooting wildlife from aircraft and M-44 "cyanide bombs," courtesy of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services.

This is all usually undertaken to protect sheep and cattle and grow mule-deer herds for hunters. But conservation biologists find otherwise.

We know that livestock losses attributable to wolves and other native carnivores are rare. Using government data, the Humane Society of the United States found that losses to cattle and sheep caused by wolves, cougars and grizzly bears amounted to less than 1% of those domestic animal inventories in every state containing those wildlife species. amounted to less than 1% of those domestic animal inventories in every state containing those wildlife species.

Recent reports have indicated that the Sublette County Sheriff's office has opened an investigation into the killing of the wolf, and we hope officials will move forward with new charges.

Meanwhile, "wildlife advocates in Wyoming, energized by the wolf torture allegations, plan to push for policy reform," reports the news outlet Wyofile. In Wyoming now, it is legal and routine to pursue coyotes by running them down with snowmobiles. The "sport" even has



by Wendy Keefover

a name: "Chasin' fur."

The plight of wolves in Wyoming, along with those in neighboring states Montana and Idaho where similar practices are allowed, highlights the need for increased protections for these animals. On April 8, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was sued by several wildlife organizations to restore protections for wolves in the Northern Rockies.

In the meantime, a case as shocking as this must never recur. At the least, Wyoming lawmakers need to eliminate its predator zone and strengthen animal cruelty laws. In Colorado, wild animal or not, such an incident would be classified as "aggravated cruelty to animals."

That is the decent thing to do for animals, and when we take into account the links between cruelty to animals and interpersonal violence, we should see it as essential for a civil society as well.

Wendy Keefover is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring conversation about Western issues. She works for the Humane Society of the United States as senior strategist for native carnivore protection.

Evaluating the dual impacts of drone technology for fish conservation efforts

By DARIUS MAEZ

Piloting drones and fishing the open seas were two separate pastime activities and before the global COVID-19 pandemic, were hardly even comparable. Since then, the use of drones for recreational fishing and conservation has become a popular practice generating conflict with other anglers, raising concerns for fish stocks, and helping aid in fisheries management.

Drones are self-propelled airborne devices that have no on-board pilot and were developed for military purposes during the Second World War. They also come in different sizes; drones with rotary wings tend to be smaller and can be launched by hand, which makes them a favorite for drone fishing. There are two different ways to drone fishing; the

line could be attached to the drone from the fishing pole and the drone can fly as far as the fishing line allows it to and drops the line, allowing the angler to reach distances further out than casting would. The other option for drone fishing allows anglers to fish from their drone, where the drone is equipped with a reel like motor that can drop line in and out of the water and carry fish back to shore.

While using drones for fishing can be very effective, it also comes with conservation risks. Drones with cameras allow anglers to pinpoint ideal fishing habitats far from the shore allowing areas that anglers couldn't reach before to be exploited. Large fish hooked hundreds of meters away are likely to experience exhaustion and physical disturbance, increasing their chances of being consumed by other predators.

In many parts of the world the use of drones is regulated by law; an official ban on the use of drones for fishing is needed in Colorado, as well as an increase in the use of drones for fishery conservation. The use of drones in particular raises questions from the ethical standpoint of "fair chase." The "fair chase" law is defined as the ethical, lawful pursuit, and taking of any free-ranging wild game animal in a manner that does not give the hunter an improper or unfair advantage over the game animals ("The Principles of Fair Chase"). Furthermore, the use of drones for hunting has been banned in Colorado which can easily be supported and implemented into the fishing scene.

I've been fishing my entire life and look to it as a stress reliever, while for others, fishing brings in

a large amount of food. Using drones creates an unfair advantage, however they can be used to observe marine wildlife, including species that are critical to the health of aquatic ecosystems, tracking movements, behaviors, and numbers without disturbing the animals, and used to catch illegal fishing activities to bring back a sense of security while also allowing habitats to remain relatively untouched. Ultimately, I think drones used for fishing shouldn't be allowed and fishery conservation groups need to expand their use of drones in the field.

Darius Maez is attending Colorado State University to get a degree in wildlife biology and graduated from Centauri High School in 2020. This is an opinion editorial article that he wrote for one of his classes.

CENTER POST-DISPATCH

THE CENTER POST-DISPATCH (USPS 775-900) Published weekly (every Thursday) by Valley Publishing. (719) 852-3531 at 835 First Ave., Monte Vista, Colorado 81144-1423. Official newspaper of the Town of Center, and a legal newspaper in Saguache County.
Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144
Main office, Want ads and Subscriptions: (719) 852-3531
Periodical postage paid at Monte Vista, Colo., 81144
POSTMASTER: Send change of address to P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144
 Subscriptions: \$45 one year in the San Luis Valley; \$40 one year seniors (65 and older) in the San Luis Valley; and \$55 one year out of the San Luis Valley. (719) 852-3531
 San Luis Valley Publishing, LLC

Brian Williams..... GM/Editor
 Marie Mccolm
 Monte Vista Journal/Center Post Dispatch Reporter
 Lyndsie Ferrell..... South Fork/Creede Reporter
 Diane Drekman..... Conejos/Costilla Reporter
 Shasta Quintana Circulation
 Ellie Bone Composition
 Roxie Beutler Classified
 Richard R. Quintana..... Mailroom Supervisor/Press

www.centerpostdispatch.com

Mammoth opens on Main Street in Alamosa

Store gives 'souvenirs' a whole new look

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — A new store has opened on Main Street in Alamosa, and it takes the idea of “souvenirs” to an entirely new level. Starting with its name “Mammoth,” which store owners Deb Hankinson and Lew Petersen chose after reading a Facebook post from a park ranger that said mammoths once roamed the San Luis Valley, every item available for purchase was carefully chosen — and, in some cases, created — with the uniqueness of Alamosa and the San Luis Valley in mind.

Located in the space previously occupied by May-Wa Chinese restaurant, Mammoth has been transformed by Hankinson and Petersen along with partners, Jo and Dale Parent, into a space that is colorful and vibrant yet with a warm and rustic feeling.

Mammoth is stocked with an extraordinary variety of “good quality, good price point” items, all communicating in one way or another the aspects that make Alamosa and surrounding areas so special.

From children’s books about Dark Skies to extremely soft stuffed animals — including “gators,” in a nod to the Gator Farm — to coffee cups commissioned with designs of the Great Sand Dunes to specially designed refrigerator magnets to pillows with photos of wildlife taking selfies to limited but carefully selected high quality art work by local artists on the walls to cotton t-shirts that won’t be seen anywhere else, Mammoth celebrates Alamosa in a way that tourists — and undoubtedly no small number of locals — will appreciate.

“We’ve tried to provide good quality at a good price point and a good variety,” Hankinson says. “If you want to just spend \$3 or \$4 on a keychain, we’ve got that. But if you want to buy a t-shirt that will last you ten years, we have that, too.”

And with an eye toward sustainability and preserving the environment, many of the items are made using recycled or repurposed materials, such as the old horseshoes from a local rescue operation that have been painted and are on sale.

The appealing environment and lovely design of Mammoth is credited to Hankinson, who was an architect before she and her husband, Petersen — a software engineer, jointly decided to leave their corporate lives behind and move to the Valley.

The quality of merchandise is credited to Jo Parent. “Deb has taught me a lot,” Parent says.

Even with all that, it is also likely that Mammoth will become well known for its food.

The first thing customers see when they walk in the door is a large counter filled with freshly made fudge.

“I wanted to add the fudge because of what Jo can do,” Hankinson says.

Jo (Parent) worked at a KOA campground in Yellowstone National Park for years where she became a fudge aficionado, and her talent is immediately apparent in both the taste and the varieties of fudge that range from strawberry cheesecake to orange swirl to cappuccino (which is amazing) to rocky road to chocolate jalapeño and others.

“We make the fudge here and we’ve taught all the staff how to make fudge,” Hankinson says. “We’re always trying new recipes and looking for feedback from the people.”

Starting next week, Mammoth’s will also open their Spud Café, featuring eight different kinds of “loaded” potatoes (sourced from Monte Vista,

of course), including specialties such as taco and cheese enchilada potatoes.

“We’re going to give the locals an option for lunch,” Hankinson says, “and that will help to carry us through the season when there aren’t a lot of tourists.” Right now, they’re focused on the lunch crowd but may expand to dinner at some point in the future.

“There’s just still a lot to do,” she says with a bit of a sigh, a comment that draws agreement from the three others.

In a conversation with the Valley Courier, it becomes immediately apparent that nothing in Mammoth was done by happenstance.

Entrepreneurs at heart, Hankinson and Petersen own the KOA Campground east of Alamosa off of Highway 160 where, along with the Parents, they have transformed the site into a surprisingly beautiful spot with high-quality amenities.

Looking to expand into other areas while keeping the KOA, they were interested in opening a business in the downtown area. That led them to contacting Kathy Woods, economic developer with the City of Alamosa, to find out what real estate was available downtown.

The building formerly occupied by May-Wa seemed the best option and — thanks to Nicky at Porter Realty — the purchase was completed on Dec. 13, 2023.

“When we bought the building, we thought the location was a great opportunity, just for the building itself,” says Petersen. “But when we thought about possibilities, we thought what does Alamosa need?”

That brings the KOA Campground into the picture where the souvenir shop at the KOA — that “did really, really well, just great” — showed what was needed.

“We had a couple of other ideas,” Petersen says, “but we thought there’s nothing in town that is specifically related to Alamosa. So, we decided on a souvenir shop.”

Since then, the four have invested tremendous “sweat equity” in the property, repurposing the space from a restaurant into a retail store with a commercial kitchen. Any additional labor that was needed was drawn from the local workforce and materials, like the rough sawed wood used on the walls, came from an Amish business associate specializing in that type of lumber.

And now, with the doors being opened for business on April 2, the same attention to detail that



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Mammoth opened on Main Street on April 2. Pictured left to right: Deb Hankinson, Lew Petersen, Jo Parent, and Dale Parent.

characterizes the KOA Campground is evident everywhere in Mammoth.

But the commitment to the project goes far beyond just owning a retail business in the city and a KOA campground in the county.

Hankinson is on the board of directors at Visit Alamosa and both she and her husband plus the Parents are committed to the success of the community.

Decisions made in selecting merchandise were made so as not to interfere with businesses already in operation. For example, only a limited number of local artists are featured to not compete with other businesses offering local art on Main Street. The same is true of the houseware and jewelry items they offer.

“There may be a little overlap, but our goal is to fill the gap,” Hankinson says. But that gap is evident in other ways, as well.

Starting on May 5 — Cinco de Mayo — Mammoth will be open seven days a week. “When the tourists come, we want to be open in the evening. If you’re going to be a tourist definition, you really need to be open seven days a week. I’ve heard people say it’s too hard to find staff, but we haven’t had that problem, at all,” she says.

Currently, Mammoth has created five new jobs and anticipate, when the Spud Café opens, hiring another two.

She attributes their success in hiring to using Indeed, which brought them “high-caliber people” from Alamosa, Monte Vista, Manassa and Romeo.

All four are also focused on being able to promote the area to customers coming into Mammoth about the array of interesting things to do. Hankinson



Photos courtesy of Deb Hankinson

Interior of Mammoth, a quality souvenir shop with a Spud Café now open on Main Street in Alamosa.

says they plan to send staff to Visit Alamosa for training on being an ambassador to the area.

In looking at the big picture, when asked if their philosophy is best described as “when one succeeds, all succeed,” Hankinson does not hesitate.

“Absolutely right,” she says. “That’s exactly how it works.”

Mammoth is located at 620 Main St. in Alamosa. Open Tuesday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5:50 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Home Loans

Purchase | Refinance | Construction

Rental Home Loans

Purchase | Refinance | Construction



Call Alamosa 719-589-2536 or Monte Vista 719-852-5933 today!

Your Future Begins Today!



NMLS#421822



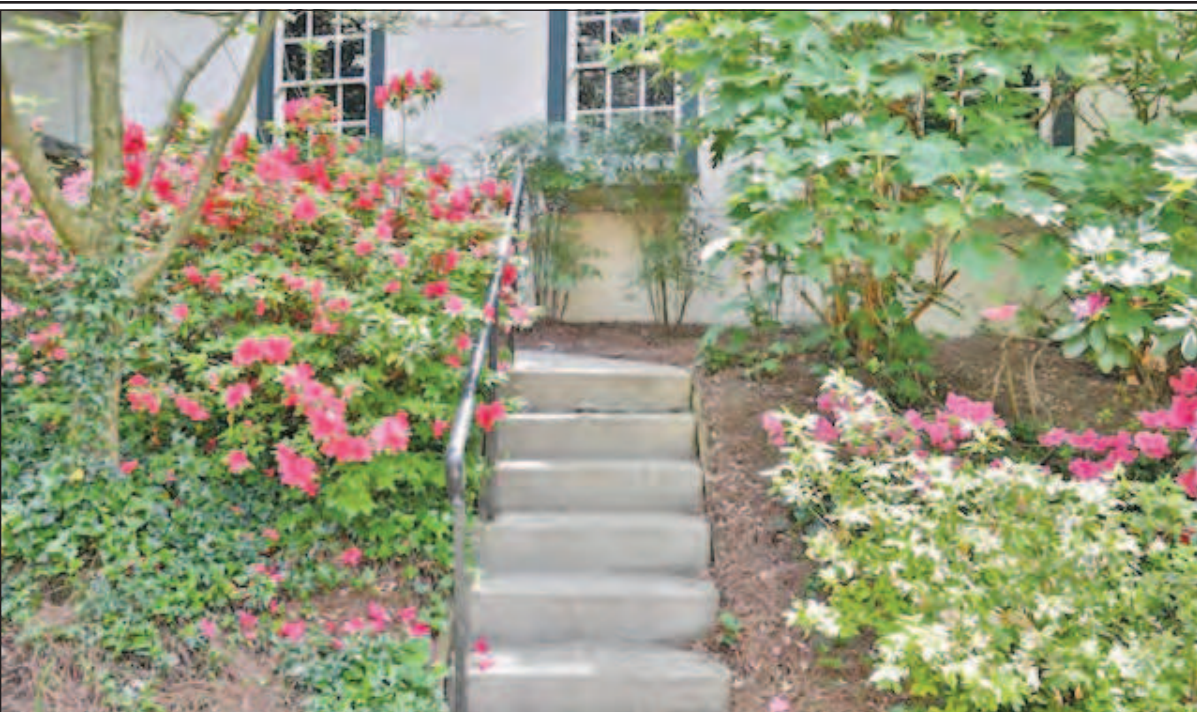


Photo courtesy of Emily Folz

This is a photo of my former home in Kentucky in spring. Acidic soil-loving, thirsty rhododendrons, azalea, and a dogwood tree in bloom.

Newcomer's Guide to Gardening in the Valley

By EMILY FOLZ

Colorado Master Gardener

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Welcome to the Newcomer's Guide to Gardening in the San Luis Valley! I'm Emily Folz, a gardening enthusiast and newcomer to the Valley. I'm quickly learning that gardening here has unique challenges I haven't encountered before. Hailing most recently from Kentucky and North Carolina, I've spent the last few decades gardening in low elevation locations with hot summers, mild winters, long growing seasons, and ample rain. Getting things to grow has been fairly easy!

The SLV is a unique ecosystem. Characterized as a high desert and sitting at an average elevation of 7,664 feet, it receives less than 10 inches of precipitation annually. Its highly alkaline soil, subzero winter temperatures, intense sunshine, year-round high winds, low annual rainfall, and low humidity are very different conditions than I am used to and pose special challenges to gardening.

To jumpstart my knowledge base, I completed the Colorado Master Gardener Program last year. As a master told me when I finished it, "You've got

a lot of book knowledge. Now you just need to put something in the ground!"

Working with the great folks at the CSU Extension Office in Monte Vista and the knowledgeable Colorado Master Gardeners here in the valley, I hope to share the useful information I learn about gardening in beautiful SLV. I also hope to tap into and share the knowledge, experience, and expertise of the many gardeners in the Valley. If you are new to gardening or, like me, new to the valley, this is a place to ask questions to get started on your gardening journey. If you've been gardening here for a while, I'd love to hear about your tricks and tips, your successes, and even your failures. And, best of all, I'd love to see your photos!

But first, full disclosure. I am a lazy gardener. I love planting summer annuals in June, knowing they'll continue to bloom until the first frost. I love to see flowering shrubs come to life despite a bit of neglect. I am surprised each year when perennials rise from their winter bed and fill my garden with color when I've done nothing to deserve it. Last June, I saw a lilac bush off Highway 160 in full, glorious bloom.

Given its location, I suspect it hasn't been tended to for years. That is my kind of plant! And I was delighted last June when wild iris, golden banner, and lilacs came to life near my house.

I love getting my hands dirty in the garden but only when there are no mosquitoes about. This may pose a bit of a problem....

Whether you are just beginning, or you've struggled a bit like we all have, gardening is meant to be enjoyable. And whether you spend one afternoon planting annuals or a full summer cultivating vegetables, gardening can fit your lifestyle. I've come to celebrate the fact that I can be a lazy gardener and have a beautiful garden anyway. I'm looking forward to learning more about gardening here with you!

Have a gardening question or comment? Have a suggestion for what I should plant first? Please send me an email at SLVgardening@gmail.com.

Town of Del Norte awarded DOLA grant for housing infrastructure

Downtown revitalization is another project set to begin

By LYNDIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — The Town of Del Norte recently announced that it was the recipient of a Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) grant in the amount of \$440,275 that will be used to build housing infrastructure on property near the southeast side of town next to 9th street.

A letter from DOLA stated, "DOLA is excited to fund/support local governments who are partnering on affordable housing projects in their communities. Your jurisdiction's successful land use planning and other work that supports affordable housing development has made your jurisdiction/project more competitive for funding in this initiative."

The project has been named the Cherry Street Housing Project and though it is in the early planning stages, the award from DOLA will help get things underway. The scope of the project is to begin a phased approach toward achieving some affordable housing within financial reach of those making 100% of the Average Median Income for the area which is based on the US census and other collected data.

According to the grant paperwork submitted by the town, "Housing will be located on six lots owned by the Town of Del Norte that were acquired from the Del Norte School District when they built the new k-12 grade school building located three blocks away from the proposed site."

The first phase of the project will be to prepare the site by removing the old tennis courts on the property and some tiered earth leveling along Cherry Street. The project will also include repaving of the removed blacktop and new paving of the newly excavated 9th Street on the south side of the property.

"The initial phase of the project is to install water and sewer service including

a new hydrant that does not exist on this section of Cherry Street and connect taps to all six lots to assist in making them buildable for phased future development," town officials stated.

Town Administrator Bernadette Martinez stated that the town is looking to build three duplex units after the initial phase of the infrastructure project is complete and that the town will be seeking funding to build the units.

"This was in part a result of the San Luis Valley Colorado Workforce Housing feasibility study that was completed in all six counties throughout the Valley. We worked with Sarah Stoeber with SLV Development Resource Group and Dawn Melgares with San Luis Valley Housing Coalition. We are really excited to be able to start work on bringing much needed housing to the area," said Martinez.

In addition to these projects, the town is preparing to begin work on revitalizing the downtown area through a grant awarded by the Colorado Department of Transportation.

"The project just went out for bid, and it looks like we will begin work sometime mid-summer. We know that this is a hard time of year to begin a project like this, but it is also the only time of year it can be done," said Martinez.

The downtown revitalization project will begin on Cherry Street on the north side of Highway 160, beginning with gutter and lighting work.

"Once the north side of the highway is complete, crews will move to the south side. This will allow CDOT to have one-way traffic along Highway 160 instead of having to detour," explained Martinez.

The Town of Del Norte has been working for several years to bring these projects to fruition and is excited to share the beginning stages of each with the community.

"We encourage everyone to come and join us for our (trustee) meetings which are the second Wednesday of every month in the town hall meeting room at 6 p.m.," Martinez said.

BUY LOCAL & Invest in Our Community

Eat, drink and shop with a purpose by supporting the locally owned businesses that bring variety, diversity, jobs and economic prosperity to our neighborhoods!

RG BANK

901 First Avenue
Monte Vista
719-852-5933

3416 Mariposa Street
Alamosa
719-589-2536

www.RGBank.bank

Equal Housing Lender

Member FDIC

More Than a Conqueror

Are you fighting a battle right now? I believe we all have battles to fight at different times in life. But I want to encourage you. Whatever you may be facing today know that, in Christ, you are more than a conqueror! Romans 8:37 (AMPC) says, "Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us." Think about it. Meditate on it. Let this truth of God's Word settle in your heart.

As I said before, we each have battles to fight at different times in our lives. Sometimes it's a financial battle; it can be a family or relationship struggle; or we might be in a personal emotional conflict in our soul. Whatever it is, the truth is this war is spiritual...and we must learn to use spiritual weapons in the fight.

What do I mean by that? Well, 2 Corinthians 10:4 (AMPC) tells us that "the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds."

That word "strongholds" refers to areas where the enemy entrenches himself and takes control. It's very important to realize that the greatest part of the fight is often in our minds. The enemy's tactic is to gain ground and build strongholds by influencing our thoughts. Even a lie will become truth to us if we believe it. And Satan is determined to try and make us believe his lies and gradually build these strongholds in our mind.

Pay attention to the things you think about most of the time. Are they thoughts that encourage and motivate you? Or do you more often think of things that actually hinder your progress... things that don't agree with God's Word? If so, it may be that the enemy has gained a stronghold.

For example, I've often talked about when Dave and I were first married. It wasn't very long before he wanted to know what was wrong with me...why I was so negative all the time. I was still very hurt and angry about things that had happened to me in my past. I told him that I'd come to believe if I didn't

expect much good to happen, then I wouldn't be disappointed when it didn't! That attitude was a stronghold in my mind.

These kinds of attacks are spiritual warfare, but remember, as followers of Christ, we are not fighting alone. We have a Mighty Warrior and His host of angels on our side. That makes it a totally different fight. The Holy Spirit is in each of us. He is our Helper, and that makes us more than conquerors (John 14:26, Romans 8:37)!

The Holy Spirit wants to lead us through each battle we face. But there are also some things we can do to prepare ourselves as well.

Eat right and get some rest. You may wonder what that has to do with being a conqueror. Well when you take better care of yourself, you simply feel better, and you will be stronger, more alert and ready.

Guard your heart. Proverbs 4:23 instructs us to "keep and guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life" (AMPC). This includes paying attention to the types of things we listen to, read, and watch. The enemy will try to stop you from moving forward in the things of God, so we need to be careful what we allow into our hearts if we want to live in freedom.

The scripture makes it clear that it's our responsibility to guard our heart. For instance, if we continually watch movies that are full of fear, we may find ourselves battling fear in our own lives. I'm not saying we should never watch TV or entertain ourselves. But we do need to be careful what we allow into our hearts if we want to live in freedom.

Pay attention. Sometimes you may just have a "feeling" about something you're doing or thinking or saying. Many times it is the Holy Spirit trying to guide you in a certain way. I remember one morning I had been studying in my office at home. It was early and I still had on a long nightgown. I was planning to go to the ministry office that day to do some work and I needed to carry some things downstairs. I had gathered some Bibles

Moving Up Higher
with

Joyce Meyer

and a coffee mug in my hands, and just as I got to the top step, I had a "feeling" that I should probably hold up the nightgown so I wouldn't trip over it. But I just dismissed the thought. Then just as I started down the stairs, I almost took a tumble!

Now, I know that is a very simple example, but the thing I'm trying to point out here is, that "feeling" I had was probably the Holy Spirit trying to warn me that I should do something about that gown. But I ignored it and almost paid a high price for it had it not been for God's grace. Needless to say, I won't do that again!

Beware of thoughts like *I know I shouldn't, but...* or *Maybe I should, but...* Learn to listen to that simple unction, that nudge, or knowing. It's most likely the Holy Spirit trying to lead you in the midst of whatever your battle is. Don't ignore Him. He wants to equip you for your battles and help you become more than a conqueror!

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

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

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

Mountainfilm on Tour makes annual stop in MV

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Mountainfilm on Tour made its annual stop in Monte Vista on Thursday, April 11.

Mountainfilm on Tour in Monte Vista is hosted by San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO!) and sponsored by the LOR Foundation, San Luis Valley Federal Bank, SLV Health, Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, the Law Office of Mark Loy, LLC, Sweetgrass Therapeutics, and The Church Project. SLV GO! has been organizing Mountainfilm on Tour for three years.

The short films are a collaboration of breathtaking views, along with personal deep relationships of working people, people who believe in certain things, people of all cultures and ethnical backgrounds, people who overcome obstacles despite having special needs, but most importantly people who enjoy and love the mountains and outdoor areas, and hold something specific and true to their hearts in these areas, this year's tour of films was no exception.

SLV GO! kicked off the event on Thursday, April 11, with a social hour at the Pivot Public House in Monte Vista. The shorts were shown at Vali 3 Theater in Downtown Monte Vista.

About 80 people attended this year's event. There were many different independent films in the lineup this year including "School of Fish," "Wading for Change," "Soundscape," "Tear Down the City," and "Miles to Go." Each film carried its own personal message.

"School of Fish," offers the intimate perspective of a family's struggle to preserve their fishery, rituals and rights, against a mining company, who would bring pollution and possible destruction to a family's peaceful fishery area where they live in Bristol Bay, Alaska.

"Wading for Change," offers a look at culture, creed, and acceptance. In a world where some people don't believe that hiking, biking, and fishing are sports for everyone, the people in this documentary prove that people of different cultures, ethnics, colors, and backgrounds are capable of enjoying the same things that others enjoy as well.

"Soundscape," is the documentary of a man who is blind but can climb and ascend mountains by relying on his other senses to assist him in the navigation of the climb. The film provides amazing views, as you watch this man with incredible courage and

perseverance make these climbs, and thoroughly enjoy every climb that he conquers. This movie is an amazing testament of what anyone can do, if they really want to, despite their special needs.

"Tear Down the City," is the picturesque testament of a man that loves to travel everywhere on a mountain bike. In the film, you see him traveling on streets, through parks, through subways, and even up flights of stairs, all on a mountain bike.

"Miles to Go," is about a team of transgender men, who are all about competition and enjoying the ride. The team enjoys trail racing and each other's company while riding and enjoying the beauty and freedoms of being one with nature and being free to be themselves.

"You could tell people really enjoyed them. People left the theater smiling and talking about the films," Mark Renshaw, a Vali 3 Theater employee, said.

Mountainfilm on Tour that takes place once a year in many different towns and locations. The tour is part of the Mountainfilm Festival that takes place yearly in Telluride.

For more information, visit online mountainfilm.org.

USDA Forest Service invests more than \$232M to support schools, roads, other services

By USDA

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service today announced it is issuing more than \$232 million to support public schools, roads and other municipal services through the agency's Secure Rural Schools program, including \$12,574,121 for Colorado.

The program was reauthorized for fiscal years 2021 through 2023 through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Fiscal year 2023 funds will be paid to 745 eligible counties in 41 states and Puerto Rico.

"National forests and grasslands cover more than 193 million acres, including across rural counties that are important partners in helping sustainably manage resources," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "Thanks to President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Secure Rural Schools program is able to contribute to the economic vitality and well-being of the communities intertwined with our forests."

"The Secure Rural Schools program is just one of the ways the Forest Service supports communities nationwide,"



said Forest Service Chief Randy Moore. "This funding aids schools and roads, reimburses counties for national forest emergency services, and assists in creating community wildfire protection plans – all critical programs designed to enhance the quality of life in these communities."

In addition to Secure Rural Schools payments, the Forest Service is using Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act funding to improve forest conditions, support local economies and create jobs by investing in forest restoration projects, road and trail maintenance, recreation opportunities and wood innovation development.

Over the past 10 years, the Forest Service has distributed \$2.4 billion through the Secure Rural Schools program.

The Forest Service retains some of the funding to support projects that improve forest conditions and support jobs in rural communities. Resource ad-

visory committees made up of residents representing varied interests and areas of expertise review and recommend the projects that meet their local needs.

"To you, it's the perfect lift chair. To me, it's the best sleep chair I've ever had."

— J. Fitzgerald, VA



Pictured is Luxurious & Lasting Brisa™. Ask about our 5 Comfort Zone chair.

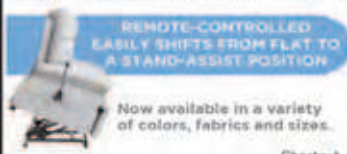
3 CHAIRS IN ONE! SLEEP/RECLINE/LIFT

You can't always lie down in bed and sleep. Heartburn, cardiac problems, hip or back aches – and dozens of other ailments and worries. Those are the nights you'd give anything for a comfortable chair to sleep in: one that reclines to exactly the right degree, raises your feet and legs just where you want them, supports your head and shoulders properly, and operates at the touch of a button.

and promotes back pressure relief, to prevent back and muscle pain. The overstuffed, oversized biscuit style back and unique seat design will cradle you in comfort. Generously filled, wide armrests provide enhanced arm support when sitting or reclining. It even has a battery backup in case of a power outage.

Our Perfect Sleep Chair™ does all that and more. More than a chair or recliner, it's designed to provide total comfort. Choose your preferred heat and massage settings, for hours of soothing relaxation. Reading or watching TV? Our chair's recline technology allows you to pause the chair in an infinite number of settings. And best of all, it features a powerful lift mechanism that tilts the entire chair forward, making it easy to stand. You'll love the other benefits, too. It helps with correct spinal alignment

White glove delivery included in shipping charge. Professionals will deliver the chair to the exact spot in your home where you want it, unpack it, inspect it, test it, position it, and even carry the packaging away! You get your choice of Luxurious and Lasting Brisa, Genuine Italian Leather, stain and liquid repellent Duralux with the classic leather look, or plush MicroLux microfiber, all handcrafted in a variety of colors to fit any decor. Call now!



REMOTE-CONTROLLED EASILY SHIFTS FROM FLAT TO A STAND-ASIST POSITION. Now available in a variety of colors, fabrics and sizes.

journey perfect sleep chair 855-296-2863

Please mention code 601448 when ordering



mobility | sleep | comfort | safety enjoying life never gets old™ journey HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

Because each Perfect Sleep Chair is a made-to-order bedding product it cannot be returned, but if it arrives damaged or defective, at our option we will repair it or replace it. © 2022 Journey Health and Lifestyle.



Dental Insurance Physicians Mutual Insurance Company

A less expensive way to help get the dental care you deserve!

- Get help paying dental bills and keep more money in your pocket
- This is real dental insurance — NOT just a discount plan
- Get affordable coverage before your next checkup

Don't wait!

Call now and we'll rush you a **FREE** Information Kit with all the details.

1-833-643-1677 dental50plus.com/monvis



Insurance Policy P150 6210 0519

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Your ad could be here for only \$12/week!

Call 852-3531

Visitors flock to new fish and wildlife center

By JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) held an opening of a new visitor center on April 19 at the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex Visitor Center and Headquarters on El Rancho Lane in Alamosa.

The new office and visitor center are on the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge, which was established in 1963 to provide food, cover, and habitat for migratory birds and wildlife.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior and is the nation's oldest conservation agency. The agency dates to 1871 when Congress established the U.S. Fish Commission to study why the nation's food fishes were declining and to recommend ways to reverse that decline. In 1903, President Roosevelt established the first national wildlife refuge at Pelican Island in Florida.

In the San Luis Valley, Alamosa, Monte Vista, and Baca National Wildlife Refuges are areas set aside for migratory birds and resident wildlife. The refuges are now combined administratively into the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The Alamosa Refuge is 12,026 acres of wetland areas, riparian corridors, wet meadows, and river oxbows. The wetland and river habitats provide a wildlife oasis in this dry region. These habitats support a variety of wildlife, including songbirds, water birds, raptors, deer, beavers, coyotes, and more.

The artificially created wetlands on the 16,279 Monte Vista Refuge which was established in 1952, are intensively managed to provide habitat for a wide variety of waterfowl and other water birds. Mallards, pintails, teals, and Canada geese are common, as are American avocets, killdeers, white-faced ibises, egrets, and herons. Irrigation canals and wells provide precious water to maintain this important wetland habitat.

The Baca Refuge is comprised of 92,500 acres of a highly diverse combination of shrublands, grasslands, wet meadows, playa wetlands, and riparian areas. The refuge was established in 2000.

The three wildlife refuges protect 119,330 acres of habitat in the San Luis Valley. By comparison, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve protects 149,028 acres.

During the grand opening of the visitor center, Refuge Manager Suzanne Beauchaine offered this reporter a tour of the center and discussed the many projects underway for the refuges that will be reported on in the Valley Courier. Beauchaine was also preparing to take visitors on a tour of the refuge as part of the grand opening celebration.

Among those attending the celebration were Erin Minks San Luis Valley Regional Director for U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, Maggie Gaddis with the Colorado Native Plant Society, and Barbara Kraus, history columnist for the Valley Courier

In other USFWS news, the seasonal closure of the Rio Grande Nature Trail on the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge began on April 15. The closure is to protect the federally endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. The diminutive bird is dependent on riparian habitat and utilizes cottonwoods for migration, foraging, and nesting. Disruptive human activities such as hiking and biking can disrupt nesting territory establishment, foraging, and nesting.



Photo by John Waters

The public mingled with employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during the grand opening of a new visitor center at the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge. The center is at 7824 El Rancho Lane, Alamosa off Highway 160.

Disturbances can affect the ability of adult flycatchers to be attentive to their eggs or fledglings. This can potentially expose nests to predators and decrease breeding success and slow recovery.


The trail closure reduces the conflicts between human activities and the flycatchers during the nesting season when they are most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of disturbance.

The reopening of the trail is expected when the nesting season is completed, on or about Sept. 1.


The Friends of the San Luis Valley Wildlife Refuges is offering free Saturday

morning bird walks that last several hours. The next walk is scheduled for April 27 at 8 a.m. and will meet at the Malm Trail in Alamosa. For more information, visit www.slvrefuges.org.


BECAUSE YOUR FOUNDATION IS CRACKED.



EXTERIOR CRACKS



STICKING DOORS



DRYWALL CRACKS

LIMITED TIME OFFER

\$500 OFF*


FOUNDATION REPAIR

BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

CRAWL SPACE REPAIR

CONCRETE LIFTING

719-626-4236



GET A FREE INSPECTION

*Ten percent off any job over \$2500 up to a max of \$500. Coupon must be presented at time of inspection. Offer may not be combined with any other offer. Limit one per customer. Ask inspector for further details. Promo valid through 6/30/2024.

Spring into Savings!





\$50 VISA GIFT CARD

UPON COMPLETION OF APPOINTMENT



\$50 VISA GIFT CARD

UPON COMPLETION OF APPOINTMENT

15% OFF TOTAL SALE*

Does not include cost of materials

- ✓ LIFETIME NO-CLOG WARRANTY
- ✓ MADE ONSITE SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUR HOME
- ✓ THE ONLY ONE-PIECE SEAMLESS DEBRIS SHEDDING GUTTER SYSTEM.
- ✓ SCRATCHGUARD® PAINT FINISH

Call Today for Your **FREE Estimate!**

719-493-9644





*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we will clean your gutters for free.

*All participants who attend an estimated 60-90-minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$50 Visa gift card. Retail value is \$50. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both celebrating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 10 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Except in the states of MD, NY and DC, where the gift card offer is limited to \$25. Offer not available in the states of CA, IL, PA and MI. Expires 4/30/24.

SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE

Emergency services dispatch employees celebrated

By REYNA MARTINEZ

USA — April 14-21 is National Public Safety Telecommunications Week, also known as Dispatch Week.

On April 10, Alamosa County Commissioners presented a proclamation to local Colorado State Patrol Dispatchers. The team is unique as they are one of the few in Colorado that dispatch for EMS, law enforcement and fire departments. They dispatch for six counties and multiple agencies of first responders. This was the first time this team has been recognized locally.

Our Dispatchers are our lifeline! They are our eyes in the dark, our calm voices during a storm, the first and last voice we hear during a 911 call, and our guardians who watch over our heroes.

Just because they do not respond on scene doesn't mean they don't feel the pain when hearing the cries, the fear when hearing the screams and the joy when a life is saved.

Our dispatchers are part of our first responder family, uniting as one team with one mission in mind; to protect and service our community. Without them, we would be lost.



Courtesy photo

Left to right, Commissioner Vern Heersink, Commissioner Van Ry, Melanie Teem, Dispatcher, Sean Garcia, Dispatcher, Cameron Decker, Communication Director Sandra Youngs, Communication Supervisor, Commissioner Lori Laske, Reyna Martinez — SLV RETAC coordinator.

First Southwest Community Fund welcomes Jeannie Beier as Director of Lending

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — First Southwest Community Fund (FSWCF), a non-profit that provides inclusive and equitable access to capital for rural Colorado entrepreneurs, nonprofits and small business owners, is recently announced that Jeannie Beier has joined the team as Director of Lending.

FSWCF has experienced significant growth over the past few years. The Director of Lending is a new role in response to this growth. This senior management

position was created to ensure that impact goals of key organizational program initiatives are met, with a focus on delivering loan products and development services to target markets through bank and community partner marketing channels.

“I am excited to join FSWCF and help our communities in Southwest Colorado. We not only provide access to the tools and resources they need to build their small business, but we also help them build generational wealth,”

said Beier.

As Director of Lending, Beier will be responsible for designing and implementing financial products and services that are responsive to target markets; lending production, underwriting and closing, marketing and outreach to target markets, relationship-building with community partners and referral sources and technical assistance advisors. Her primary responsibility will be to deploy capital and technical assistance

resources in an active, healthy loan program that is responsive to the needs of the community.

“Jeannie’s expertise and deep understanding of lending principles, risk management, and customer centric strategies brings the knowledge and skills that First Southwest Community Fund needs to align our team to the next level of service within the commercial and consumer lending fields,” stated Rosy Aburto McDonough, FSWCF’s executive director. “We are excited

to welcome Jeannie to the FSWCF team!”

Beier was born and raised in Omaha, Neb., and moved to Virginia after meeting her husband. Once her husband, Nate, retired from the U.S. Navy, they moved to Florida and then to Pueblo West, where they currently reside. They have three beautiful daughters, three crazy dogs, and a heckle of chickens. Outside of work, Beier enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, and volunteering in her community.

MONTE VISTA
HOME of the
2863 SHERMAN AVE.

HEAD START
LYNX
(719) 852-3215

NOW ENROLLING FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR!!!

Full Day Preschool: 8:30 AM - 4 PM

For Children Ages: 3 – 5 Yrs.

Families Receiving SNAP Benefits Automatically Qualify!!

- Highly Qualified Staff
- Nutritious Meals & Snacks
- Social/Emotional Curriculum

Online Enrollment Available through Child Plus to Access the

Link go to:

Facebook: MonteVista HeadStart

or

Website: <https://www.mvheadstart.org>

Ahora se inscribe para el año escolar 2024-2025

Preescolar de día completo 8:30 AM - 4 PM

Para niños de 3 a 5 años

Las familias que reciben beneficios de SNAP califican automáticamente!!

- Personal Altamente Cualificado
- Comidas y Refrigerios Nutritivos
- Currículo Socioemocional

Inscripción en línea disponible a través de Child Plus para

acceder al enlace, vaya a:

Facebook: MonteVista HeadStart

or

Website: <https://www.mvheadstart.org>

Lifestyles

Serving the entire San Luis Valley

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

BOXHOLDER LOCAL-RURAL CAR-RT SORT STANDARD MAIL RATE U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 70 Alamosa, CO 81101



Courtesy photo

Pictured left to right to receive the donation from the Centauri High School Student Council, is Kelly Gurule, Director, SLVH Foundation, and students Emma Garrison, Rhett Taylor, Nathaniel Garcia, Joslyn Sowards, EE-YAH-NEE Cordova, Mollie Hostetter, Lindsey Robins, Amy Larson (sponsor), Jaelyn Jackson, and Faith Cooper. Not pictured were students Rye Howsmon, Kaia Skadberg, Ada Pence, and Avery Hostetter.

Centauri HS Student Council donates hospital hope basket to CCH

By SAN LUIS VALLEY HEALTH

LA JARA — On March 28, Conejos County Hospital was visited by Centauri High School Student Council in a hope to spread joy within their community by donating a hospital hope basket for elderly patients.

Centauri's Student Council aims to do philanthropy projects throughout the year and this month the project was brought about by student council

members, Kaia Skadberg, Lindsey Robins, and EE-YAH-NEE Cordova.

The girls started this project in the hope of putting a smile on elderly patients' faces and decided to focus on geriatrics rather than pediatrics, because while both are equally important, elderly patients are often overlooked.

With the help of their sponsor, Amy Larson, and the rest of the council, the project was completed. Together

the council sold Amish fried pies as a fundraiser to finance their cause.

Inside the box contained puzzles, cards, slippers, coloring books, bath sponges, and large-print word searches. The committee selected items that would pass time and hopefully calm nerves. As well as helping the nurses and patients connect.

This was an enjoyable project which the Student Council hopes to continue in the future.

Fort Garland Museum receives reaccreditation

By JOHN WATERS

FORT GARLAND — History Colorado and its six venues, including the Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center have been reaccredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

The prestigious distinction is made to only about three percent of museums nationally, and History Colorado has been accredited since 1972.

In a statement History Colorado said, "This is a recognition that we welcome as an affirmation of our community-centered work, our award-winning exhibitions, and diverse educational programming."

The fort was built as a U.S. Army base in 1858 and was a military post until 1883. Kit Carson became the commander of the fort in 1866. In the 1920s, a proposed demolition of the fort spurred the creation of the Fort Garland Historical Fair Association in 1924 to preserve the historic site. After the Colorado Historical Society (now History Colorado) and the National Park Service rebuffed offers to assume control of the fort, local fundraising enabled the association to buy it in 1929.

The fort changed hands in 1945 when the Colorado Historical As-



Courtesy of History Colorado

George Floyd, I Am the Golden Straw that Broke the Back of Injustice by Jodie Herrera is on display at the Fort Garland Museum.

sociation bought it and the remaining five original structures and began restoration. In 1950 the site opened as a museum.

In a 2015 interview with Rocky Mountain PBS, Jack Rudder, Adjutant with the Fort Garland Memorial Regiment described the importance of the fort in the Valley with this, "A lot of settlements in the area began with FG. Without the Fort, perhaps nothing would have been here."

Please see MUSEUM on Page 2

SdCNHA receives grant to enhance youth programs

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (SdCNHA) has received a grant from the National Park Foundation's Park Ventures program to provide new supplies and equipment for both of its annual youth programs and to enhance the activities and sites students will be taken to in each program.

These programs include their Caminos del Valle Youth Walking Tours and the SdCNHA Heritage

Camp. Both of SdCNHA's programs take place in the spring and early summer every year. The organization will be expanding their numbers to ten students for the Youth Walking Tours this year.

Applications are still open for students interested in participating in the Heritage Camp. The organization hopes that these increased funds will be able to provide more students with access to the history in their home

communities and get them interested in a possible future career in history. **Please see SdCNHA on Page 2**

The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (SdCNHA) has received a grant from the National Park Foundation's Park Ventures program to provide new supplies and equipment for both of its annual youth programs.

Photo courtesy of Alina Marquez with Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area



New office for South-Central Colorado Seniors



By JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA — On a stunning spring day about 20 people attended the groundbreaking ceremony in Alamosa for a new business office for South-Central Colorado Seniors (SCCS) on April 12. Those attending included employees, board members of the non-profit, employees of Alcon Construction, and several county commissioners from Rio

Please see SENIORS on Page 2

Left to right, are Helen Taylor, Lorrie Quintana, board member and Costilla County Commissioner, Stephanie Sales, Ken Anderson, Monica Wolfe, Betty Scott, Gene Glover, Rio Grande County Commissioner, and board member, and Joseph Baroz, Conejos County Commissioner and board member. Employees from Alcon Construction are pictured in the background.

Courier photo by John Waters

Blake to graduate with doctorate from Arkansas State Univ.

CONTRIBUTED

BENTON, ARK. — Lindsay Blake of Benton, Ark., formerly of Monte Vista and Creede, successfully defended her dissertation and plans to graduate May 4 with a Doctor of Education degree in higher education administration from Arkansas State University, Jonesboro.

Dr. Blake, 46, is clinical services coordinator at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock. The week before, the state Board of Regents approved her promotion to the rank of professor. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in education from the University of Kansas and a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University

of South Carolina.

Among other duties, she teaches database research techniques to students in the programs at the university. She supervises the clinical librarian program at the medical center, attending patient rounds and helping resident physicians find the latest information on conditions they see.

She and her husband Brad have a daughter, Taylor, 14, and a son, Grayson, 11.

She is the daughter of Steve and Cynthia Haynes of Oberlin, Kan., and attended Creede and Monte Vista schools. The Hayneses are former owners of the Mineral County Miner, the South Fork Times, the Monte Vista Journal and other area newspapers.



Photo by John Waters

The Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center has been reaccredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

MUSEUM

Continued from Page 1

In recent years the museum has hosted several outstanding exhibits. In 2021, Unsilenced: Indigenous Enslavement in Southern Colorado drew national attention including a feature article in the New York Times.

The Buffalo Soldier's reVision exhibit that ended recently, told the story of formally enslaved black men who

served in the army at Fort Garland in all Black Army regiments and were stationed there from 1875 to 1879.

Currently, ¡Viva La Causa! Long Live the Cause! is on display and highlights artwork created at the peak of two social justice movements: the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and '70s and the Black

Lives Matter movement in the early 2020s to explore themes of identity and empowerment in Colorado. The exhibit runs through May 27.

The Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center is located at 29477 CO-159 and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 719-379-3512, for more information.

SENIORS

Continued from Page 1

Grande, Conejos, and Costilla counties who also serve on the board.

Monica Wolfe, Director at SCCS, said the facility is estimated to cost about \$1.7 million and is expected to be completed by November.

"We did get a grant for this building, this will be our new administrative offices. Currently, we are in a little tiny house on Third Street in Alamosa where we have seven employees. Senate Bill 290 provided the grant," Wolfe said.

SCCS Board President and Rio Grande County Commissioner Gene Glover said, "This is a community building and will represent the whole San Luis Valley, it is being built here in Alamosa due to this being a central location for the entire Valley."

Lorrie Quintana, Board Member and Costilla County Commissioner told the Valley Courier, "This is a well-needed building, if you have seen the movie, Hoarders, with things piled up, that is their office, it is a very tight space."

The non-profit agency provides a variety of services including disease prevention/health promotion, support services, a long-term care ombudsman, SHIP State Health Insurance Assistance Program, and nutrition assistance.

SCCS provides meals and community at the Alamosa Community Center, Antonito Senior Center, Blanca/Fort Garland Community Center, Center Housing Authority, the United Pioneer Church in Del Norte, and at the Little Shepard of the Hills Episcopal Chapel in Crestone.

SdCNHA

Continued from Page 1

cal and environmental preservation.

The National Park Foundation's ParkVentures program awards grants to equity-focused outdoor leaders and organizations for projects and activities that promote access, eliminate barriers, and offer positive, memorable experiences to engage individuals and communities that have historically been excluded from national parks and outdoor recreation. The program's goal is to help people create and strengthen life-long relationships and national parks.

SdCNHA was designated to promote, rehabilitate, and interpret unique historical, geographic, cultural, and natural resources. They endeavor to preserve and protect the integrity of our area and encourage stewardship for all generations through community collaboration.

To learn more about the work SdCNHA does, follow them on social media or visit their website at www.sangreheritage.org.

PROTECT

WHAT MATTERS MOST

Whether you are home or away, protect what matters most from unexpected power outages with a Generac Home Standby Generator.

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac Dealer for full terms and conditions.

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE

CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE

(719) 900-0326

FREE 7-year Extended Warranty* - A \$735 Value!

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

Farm, Homes & Cabins, Commercial, Horse, Garage, Wood Shop

Custom Designed & Value Engineered

Get started at ClearyBuilding.com

- Financing available
- Digital Floor Planner
- Customized, in-house Engineering and manufacturing to suit your needs

800-373-5550 • ClearyBuilding.com

Call us for a FREE consultation

ALAMOSA, CO • 719-589-2112

Featuring:

Business Showcase

Just Arrived
New Yard Spinners!

Shop now for best selection.

658-2848

121 N. Main
Creede

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

This Week's Feature

THE HOLY MOSES

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

It's Worth The Drive

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

Nick & Vicki Kulyk

121 N. Main • 658-2848 • Creede

SLVH offers specialty care in Pediatrics from visiting Children's Hospital

By SAN LUIS VALLEY HEALTH

ALAMOSA — San Luis Valley Health is thrilled to announce a significant enhancement in pediatric healthcare in the Pediatrics Clinic, thanks to a collaboration with Children's Hospital. This initiative brings specialized care teams directly to the patients in Alamosa, making advanced and highly specialized healthcare accessible right where it's needed.

In early April, SLVH welcomed Dr. Joyce Oleszek and the Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine team, along with Dr. Seema Bansal's Neurology team from Children's Hospital. This effort provided families the convenience of specialized care in the familiar setting of their pediatrician's office, demonstrating SLVH's ongoing commitment to healthcare excellence within the San Luis Valley.

A special acknowledgment to Kelly Gurule, SLVH Foundation Director, who played a pivotal role

in securing funding for two new hydraulic patient beds, significantly enhancing the care experience for the young patients. These beds were made possible by the generous donations from SLVH employees through their annual giving campaign, underscoring the collective effort and spirit of the organization.

SLV Health looks forward to hosting the Pediatric Cardiology and Pediatric Development teams from Children's Hospital in the coming months. These specialists (along with the Rehab and Neurology teams) will visit on a rotating basis, further ensuring that children from this community have access to the care they need, when they need it.

For inquiries or further details, please reach out to the SLV Health Pediatric office at 719-589-8004. This collaboration with Children's Hospital, supported by the dedication and generosity of our staff, marks a step forward in providing comprehensive, specialized pediatric care closer to home for the families of the San Luis Valley.



Courtesy photo

The picture is of SLVH's Pediatrician, Dr. Jason Kalan, inspecting the new bed that raises and lowers in the clinic setting.

Tree pruning workshop in Center

By COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE

CENTER — The Colorado State Forest Service will be offering a tree pruning workshop on Monday, April 29, in Center. This workshop will be held at the Kiwanis Building at South Broadway Street and East 5th Street. The primary focus of the workshop will be the pruning of young trees from the ground without the use of a ladder. By using basic tools such as pruning shears and small pruning saws, participants will gain hands-on experience in basic and structural tree pruning techniques.

Trees add value to a property by accentuating a home's architecture, enhancing aesthetics, providing summer shade and offering protection from winter winds. Trees benefits can be improved through pruning young trees to provide clearance over sidewalks and streets will help to minimize the number of large-diameter limbs removed in the future.

"It is better practice to remove branches while they are smaller," says Sam Scavo, Forester at the CSFS Alamosa

Field Office. It is much easier for a tree to heal over a 1- to 2-inch diameter wound versus a 5- to 6-inch diameter wound, the latter caused by removing a larger branch later in a tree's life. It also is much more cost-effective to remove smaller branches than it is to remove larger ones.

The following pruning topics will be covered:

- Developing and maintaining one dominant vertical stem.
- Branch spacing.
- Where to prune.
- How much to prune?
- Basic fruit tree pruning.

Kamie Long, Western Slope Urban and Community Forestry Specialist with the CSFS, will be the guest instructor for the workshop.

The workshop will be offered from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on April 26 in the Center Kiwanis Building. The morning session will be classroom-based, with an afternoon field session. The cost of the workshop is \$20, which includes lunch. Space is limited to 20 participants so be sure to register early. Call 719-587-0915, for reservations.

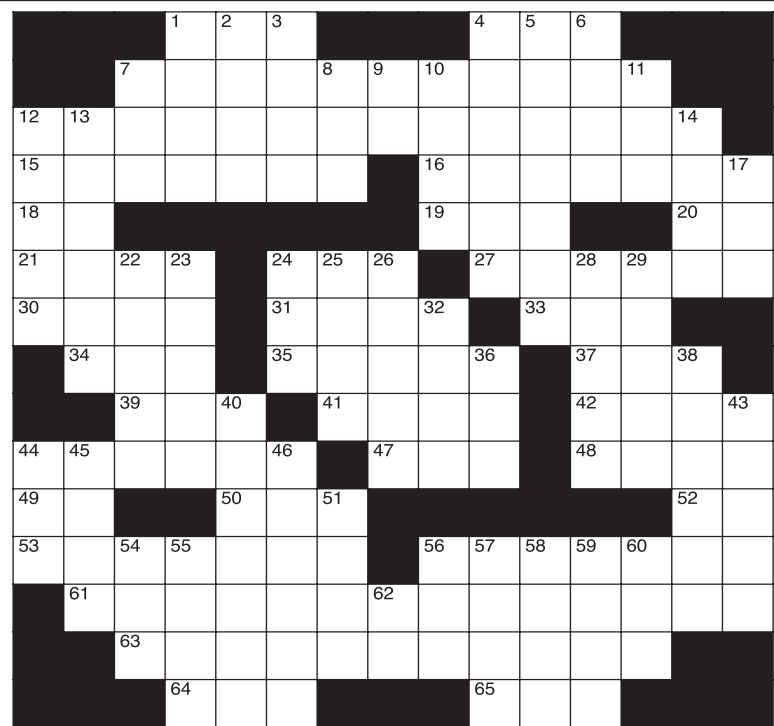
Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL • TRASH REMOVAL
RECYCLING • DUMPSTERS • ROLL-OFFS**
CREEDE • SOUTH FORK • DEL NORTE • MONTE VISTA
(719)658-3060 • www.MDSWASTEANDRECYCLE.COM

CLUES ACROSS

1. A way to drop
4. Bits per inch
7. Ghosts
12. Presents
15. Noises
16. Honorable fourth name in ancient Rome
18. Elevated railroad
19. A way to drench
20. The Tarheel State
21. Lilly and Manning are two
24. Where golfers begin
27. Harvester
30. Unit of subjective loudness
31. Jewish calendar month
33. Dash
34. Armed conflict
35. Daisy __: Broadway actress
37. Jump
39. Get free of
41. A written proposal or reminder
42. Organic chemistry reactive structure
44. African country
47. Cool!
48. Used to treat Parkinson's disease
49. __ route
50. Ed Murrow's home
52. Lethal dose
53. Give cards incorrectly
56. A treeless grassy plain



61. Famed R.L. Stevenson novel
63. In an incisive way
64. Mark Wahlberg's screen partner
65. Criticize
22. City in Finland
23. Small finch
24. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
25. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
26. Very willing
28. Partner to "oohed"
29. Turntable
32. Major Hindu deity
36. Move head slightly
38. Plain-woven fabric
40. Die
43. Shipped as cargo
44. Something highly prized
45. Individual thing or person
46. Humbled
51. Speak indistinctly
54. No seats available
55. Financial obligation
56. Green vegetable
57. Tough outer skin of fruit
58. __ Spumante (Italian wine)
59. Troubles
60. Singer Charles
62. Camper

CLUES DOWN

1. Mountain in the Julian Alps
2. A domed or vaulted recess
3. Trade agreement
4. Larger
5. Edged
6. Data
7. Something curved in shape
8. Root mean square (abbr.)
9. Farm state
10. Pre-1917 emperor of Russia
11. Short-term memory
12. Indigenous peoples of central Canada
13. Honor as holy
14. Monetary unit of Samoa
17. Company that rings receipts

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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

Google
 Customer Reviews: ★★★★★
 "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

MOUNTAIN PIZZA & TAPROOM

Law Enforcement, Firefighters, EMTs and our Veterans always receive 20% off!
30483 Highway 160, South Fork
Open DAILY — 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Easy Online To-Go Orders:
MountainPizzaTapRoom.com

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

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



CLASSIFIED INDEX

ANNOUNCEMENTS
01 TICKETS
02 CARD OF THANKS
03 MEMORIALS
04 LOST & FOUND
05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
06 PERSONALS
EMPLOYMENT
07 HELP WANTED
08 WORK WANTED
09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
FOR RENT
10 APARTMENTS
11 ROOMS
12 HOUSES
13 MOBILE HOMES
14 BUSINESS PROPERTY
15 WANTED TO RENT
16 VACATION
REAL ESTATE
17 REAL ESTATE
18 LOTS & ACREAGE
19 FARM & FARMLAND
20 BUSINESS PROPERTY
21 MOBILE HOMES
22 PROPERTY WANTED

MERCHANDISE
23 LAWN & GARDEN
24 GARAGE SALES
25 AUCTIONS
26 ANTIQUES
27 APPLIANCES
28 HOUSEHOLD GOODS
29 MUSICAL ITEMS
30 ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS
31 HEALTH
32 FUEL & HEATING
33 BUILDING MATERIALS
34 OFFICE EQUIPMENT
35 HEAVY EQUIPMENT
36 MISCELLANEOUS
37 WANTED
38 MACHINERY, TOOLS & EQUIPMENT
39 SPORTING GOODS
40 AUTO PARTS
FARMER MARKET
41 FARM EQUIPMENT
42 FEED & SEED
43 FARM PRODUCTS
44 FARM SERVICES

ANIMALS
45 ANIMAL BREEDING
46 PASTURE FOR RENT
47 HORSES & CATTLE
48 PETS & SUPPLIES
49 ANIMAL CARE
50 LIVESTOCK
RECREATIONAL
51 BOATS & EQUIPMENT
52 CAMPING EQUIPMENT
53 TRAILERS
54 SNOWMOBILES/ATV'S
55 R.V.'S/CAMPERS
FINANCIAL
56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
57 INVESTMENTS
TRANSPORTATION
58 MOTORCYCLES
59 VEHICLES WANTED
60 CLASSIC CARS
61 4X4'S
62 VANS
63 TRUCKS
64 AUTOS FOR SALE
SERVICES
65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
66 CHILD CARE

RATES

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

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

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

Convenient ad placement:

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

Check your ad the first day:

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

Our ad policy: Valley Publishing accepts all classified advertising except that which it deems objectionable to its readers. Credit or replacement ads will not be given for early ad cancellation.

DEADLINE

Thursday 5:00 pm

Call 719-852-3531

or email: rbeutler@valleypublishinginc.com

Easy Payment Options

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



05 Notices

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

07 Help Wanted

San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition seeks an LFLP Outreach Coordinator. Strong communication and computer skills are required. Submit your resume and cover letter to opportunity.slvlocalfoods@gmail.com. Additional requirements can be found at www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/. (4-24)

The SLV Local Foods Coalition seeks an Accountant to oversee finances for our local nonprofit. Send resume and cover letter to opportunity.slvlocalfoods@gmail.com. Additional requirements can be found at www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/.

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

Monte Vista, CO. 81144. Open until filled. (5-29)

Del Norte Bank is seeking a candidate to fill a permanent 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 full time

in the summer and part time in the winter, with an end of season bonus and an hourly rate range of \$14.42 to \$17.00. Please send your resume or application to postmaster@truelocalbank.com by April 30, 2024. Application is available at

TrueLocalBank.com/careers or call 719-657-3376 and ask for Dawn. EOE. (4-24)

Mechanic: JT Timber Falling is hiring a full-time heavy equipment and truck mechanic in Blanca, CO.

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

Earth Knack Top Quality Instruction in Survival & Outdoor Living Skills since 1990

Hand Forge Pioneer Style Blacksmithing Apr 26 - Apr 28
Fantastic Array of Fiber Arts Class May 17 - May 19
Traditional Hide Tanning Methods May 20 - May 23
Rocky Mtn. Survival, Edible, Medicinal Plants Sat July 13
"Smoke In" Wild Tobacco Plant Identification Sun July 14

www.earthknack.com for class details, pricing, registration

earthknackschool@gmail.com

719 256 4909 PO# 508 Crestone, CO. 81131

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

Thinking of Selling in 2024
Expect the Best,
Call Bernadette



exp
REALTY

**Bernadette
Gingrass**

719-850-1993

bmgingrass@gmail.com

License #100072622



193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

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



Bernadette Gingrass

719-850-1993

bmgingrass@gmail.com

License #100072622



0254 Timberline Trail • South Fork

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



Bernadette Gingrass

719-850-1993

bmgingrass@gmail.com

License #100072622



Bernadette Gingrass

719-850-1993

bmgingrass@gmail.com

License #100072622



Valley Wide Classifieds

\$25-\$45/hr depending on experience. Monday – Friday schedule. Benefits are available. Call 719-379-4066 or visit jttimber.com to apply.

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 initiatives at this station. Please apply at <https://jobs.colorado-state.edu/postings/141377> or contact Sharon at (719) 754-3594 x17

12 Houses for Rent
Remodeled two bedroom, 1 bath home on a corner lot in Del Norte. Near biking/hiking trailhead. Pets and smokers are not permitted. Please call 719-850-0750. \$975/month. (5-8)

For Rent in Del Norte: Remodeled one bedroom, 3/4 bath unit in a quaint four-plex in Del Norte. Pets and smokers are not permitted. Available June 2. Please call 719-850-0750. (5-15)

17 Real Estate For Sale
For sale 31 acres 2 houses, out

buildings 1 share of Romero water located 4 miles north of Antonito on 285. Call 719-843-0182. (5-8)

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

24 Garage/Yard Sales
5th annual 3 family sale 56 Meadow LN Monte, Friday May 3, Saturday May 4, 7am. Everything you can expect plus a black kitchen sink and red couch. (5-1)

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

36 Miscellaneous
For sale Cherokee men's boots, size 12, hiking-working, leather upper. Almost like new. \$50. 719-256-4058. (5-1)

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

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)

Write your own Classified Ad

Regular Classified Ad Deadline-Thursday 5 p.m.
15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications
\$19⁵⁰ + 95¢ each additional word.
Garage Sale Ads: 15 words or less for 1 week
\$12 + 35¢ each additional word.
Free ads: Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Private party only) Call 719-852-3531 for details.

Name: _____

Address: _____





City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

Words: _____ Times: _____ Price: _____

Class: _____ Start Date: _____

Card#: _____ Expiration Date: _____

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

All Classified Advertising must be pre-paid

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



Approx. 0.280 Acres Near Rio Grande Club
\$56,000 | MLS #794077
23 Fairway Drive South Fork, CO
DEE PLUCINSKI
LUXURY HOME BROKER
M: 719-873-5605



Approx. 6 Acres, Beautiful Views in Bear Creek
\$99,000 | MLS #803984
61 Red Tail Court South Fork, CO
DEE PLUCINSKI
LUXURY HOME BROKER
M: 719-873-5605




28 Acres on the Rio Grande River in South Fork
\$1,550,000 | MLS #807305
27000 US HWY 160 South Fork, CO
DEE PLUCINSKI
LUXURY HOME BROKER
M: 719-873-5605



Approx. 2,349 Sq.Ft. and 42 Acres
\$899,000 | MLS #807998
4100 Wilderness Canyon Rd. La Garita, CO
DEE PLUCINSKI
LUXURY HOME BROKER
M: 719-873-5605



Rito Hondo Estates- 18 Rural Mountain Lots
6-35 Acres
\$85,000-950,000
West of Antonito in the Conejos Canyon CO
DEE PLUCINSKI
LUXURY HOME BROKER
M: 719-873-5605




Lots 11 & 12 in Riviere Estates in Quiet Neighborhood
\$76,000 | MLS #80812/808211
Rio Vista Circle South Fork, CO
DEE PLUCINSKI
LUXURY HOME BROKER
M: 719-873-5605



1,270 Sq.Ft. Off-Grid Cabin on approx. 5,241 Acres
\$279,000 | MLS #809447
7541 Indian Creek Rd. Fort Garland, CO
DEE PLUCINSKI
LUXURY HOME BROKER
M: 719-873-5605



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



Two Adjacent Commercial Lots in South Fork
\$49,000 | MLS #810125
64 Vista Street South Fork, CO
DEE PLUCINSKI
LUXURY HOME BROKER
M: 719-873-5605



Approximately 160 Acres Farmland
\$400,000 | MLS #810432
05299 County Rd. 12 S. Alamosa, CO
DEE PLUCINSKI
LUXURY HOME BROKER
M: 719-873-5605

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



All Dee's properties are detailed in her blog.



Valley Wide Classifieds

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

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

38 Machinery, Tools, Equipment
 Wanted - Shopsmith woodwork-ing machine. 2-inch-thick hard-wood planks - cherry, walnut, maple, etc. 719-256-5663. (5-1)

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

42 Feed & Seed
 For Sale: Small Alfalfa bales \$10. Covered—local. Call: 719-480-2089

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

64 Autos for Sale
 2007 Toyota Scion new tires, great gas mileage, runs good, clean inside and out, \$8,000. 719-490-9422 (5-15)

65 Professional Services
 Let me haul off your old appli-ances and recyclable metals for you. Call Chris for prices and to set up a removal 719-395-2071 (TFN)

RELIABLE CARPENTRY 40-plus years-experience in carpentry, painting, stucco, tile, drywall, roof-ing, etc. Drug/Alcohol free. Free Estimates 719-496-7630. (TFN)

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

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

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.

SAN LUIS VALLEY SERVICE DIRECTORY

Alpine Restoration Services Inc 

Restoration Services Offered:

- Mold Testing
- Black Mold
- Flooding
- Plumbing
- Smoke
- Fire
- Tobacco
- Marijuana
- Wildlife
- BioHazard and more!

Local expert restoration services that provide cleanup, remediation and prevention services for your home and business caused by sudden and acute damages quickly and affordably.

Give us a call today at 719-221-8040
Or visit us online at: alpinerestorationservice.com

DOWN THE ROAD AUTO REPAIR SHOP



719.480.8515

JAKE LEDBETTER | OWNER/TECHNICIAN
 SAN LUIS VALLEY, COLORADO

exp REALTY

Bernadette Gingrass

719-850-1993
 bmgingrass@gmail.com

License #100072622

Locked Out? Lost Your keys? Just Need a spare? We've Got You Covered!

Smart Keys • Transponders • Fobs

Serving The San Luis Valley And Surrounding Areas
Call or Text us Today 719-MrK-Lock (719-675-5625)
MrKLock.com

Mr. K Lock & Key
LOCKSMITH
 Commercial • Residential • Automotive

David Miller, Owner
 719-480-2145
 9318 County Road 16
 Antonito, CO

Cozy Home Insulating
For All your Foam Insulation Needs

Call us for a free estimate!

Specializing in open and closed cell spray foam insulation for all applications

- Residential
- Commercial
- New or Existing Construction

Shopping That's Just Your Style

The Rena Marie Boutique

Specializing in memorial, holiday, any occasion t-shirts, apparel, tumblers, coffee mugs, keychains, car and big vehicle vinyl and decals, business cards, and much more.

250 Adams Street, Monte Vista
 Call Marie at 719-937-9629 to place your order today or email mariedina30@hotmail.com

Sanchez Plastering & Masonry

Synthetic Traditional Patches Interior/Exterior Paint



Fully Insured & Bonded
 Fully Licensed
 Work Guaranteed

Owners: David D. Sanchez Jr. & Brandon Sanchez
Call Today (719) 486-6781

CUSTOM MARBLE DESIGN

Call for Free Estimate!

719-849-3990
 E-MAIL: cmd@ibyfax.com

Solid Surface Countertops
 Kitchen Countertops
 Vanity & Table Tops
 Window Sills
and More

Sheri Bongers
 Independent Broker Agent
 720-543-2188
 Sheri@DenverInsuranceTeam.com

Tom Bongers
 Independent Broker Agent
 720-543-2189
 Tom@DenverInsuranceTeam.com

Auto | Home | Life | Commercial | Workers Comp



Your Great Outdoors Specializing in Vinyl Fencing

Wood, Barbed Wire and All Types of Residential & Commercial Fencing

Serving the SLV-Free Estimates
Good Fences Make Good Neighbors!*
(719) 849-1568

* We make no guarantees of your neighbor quality, just high quality fences.

Quality Spray Foam Insulation LLC

Let us fill your needs with **SPRAY FOAM** insulation!
Alvin • (719) 849-5233 catpower@ibyfax.com
 7268 S. County Road 4 E • Monte Vista
 Call us for all your **LOOSE-FILL & BLOW** in Attic Insulation needs!

Mystik LUBRICANTS

PREMIUM OILS & GREASES
DIAMOND OIL CO. LLC
 Agricultural • Industrial • Oilfield
 Commercial • Automotive • Irrigation

Peter Koehn (719) 250-5143 Myron Koehn (970) 209-1142
DIVERSE INVENTORY!

ROOFING BUILDINGS

Metal Roofing Panels & Trims • Garages, Horse Barns, Hay Sheds
 Complete Building packages • 26/29 Gauge, 20 Colors, Numerous Profiles
 Let us find your contractor! • Free Estimates/Quick Turnaround
Your Local Metal Roofing Manufacturer!
SKYLINE METAL
(719)852-0113 M-F 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

A&M WINDOWS & DOORS L.L.C.

~VINYL WINDOWS~
 NEW CONSTRUCTION OR REPLACEMENT
 CUSTOM MADE TO YOUR SIZE.
 MANUFACTURED RIGHT HERE IN THE VALLEY
 ALL TYPES OF DOORS & DOOR HARDWARE AVAILABLE
(719) 589-9952

Rio Grande Hospital offers state-of-the-art wound care

April is Limb Loss Awareness Month

quickly develop into a severely infected wound. Patients often find themselves in the ER with a systemic infection and need urgent treatment.

Anyone with diabetes or cardiovascular disease must examine their feet and legs daily. If a wound does not heal on its own within 30 days, the risk of amputation and early death increases. A recent study shows that lower limb amputations have a three-year mortality risk of 71 percent.

“A chronic diabetic foot ulcer is one of the most common conditions we treat, and early evaluation is critical to help avoid limb loss,” said Dr. Thompson, Rio Grande Hospital Wound Care Center. “With proper intervention, our certified staff, and equipment, most wounds can be healed, and in many cases, amputation can be avoided.”

Wound treatment typically includes debridement or the removal of dead tissue; management of the infection with the application of advanced wound care dressings or medications the RGH has; off-

loading or taking pressure off the area; and keeping blood glucose levels under control. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy or cellular tissue products (skin substitutes) may be recommended when a wound does not respond to standard treatment.

It is essential to be proactive and examine your feet and legs daily. Here are four tips for limb preservation, particularly for individuals with diabetes:

Be on the lookout for early warning signs of a diabetic foot ulcer, including cuts, sores, or blisters on the feet or toes that will not heal.

Because diabetic neuropathy can prevent you from feeling hot pavement or other items that could injure the feet, it is important not to walk

around barefoot and wear properly fitted footwear.

Keep your feet clean, moisturized, and covered! Trim your toenails safely, and if you have difficulty caring for them, seek help.

Manage blood glucose levels. For diabetics, the best way to prevent foot problems is to keep glucose levels under

control. It will also help wounds heal more quickly.

improving the lives of our patients. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 719-657-3277.



Rio Grande Wound Care Center consists of a multidisciplinary team of specialists dedicated to healing wounds, saving limbs, and

CONTRIBUTED

DEL NORTE — April is Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month, a time to educate the community about limb preservation and emphasize the importance of early evaluation and treatment to prevent amputations.

Of the estimated 150,000 lower limb amputations performed in the U.S. each year, approximately 82 percent stem from a diabetic foot ulcer. When a patient with diabetes fails to keep blood glucose levels under control, a lack of blood flow to the lower limbs can result in the development of ulcerations or open sores. Symptoms include redness, increased warmth, or firmness around the wound, swelling, extra drainage, pus, or odor.

Some patients with diabetes can also develop peripheral neuropathy or a loss of sensation in the lower limbs and feet. A simple cut or scrape can remain undetected and

Sharon Adams Memorial Dedication

MONTE VISTA — The Sharon Adams Memorial Dedication ceremony is planned for 5:30 p.m. on May 1 at the west main entrance of Sargent High School. A community baked potato dinner will follow in the school

cafeteria from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation is \$10 per person and supports Sargent Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). Live music will be provided by Celtic Knotz, including Kerry Adams.

**17TH ANNUAL
LA JARA AMISH SCHOOL
CONSIGNMENT AUCTION**

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024 • 9 A.M.

Location: 10725 St. Hwy. 285 • Antonito

CONSIGNMENTS WANTED

Deadline for advertised consignment items is May 1.

Baked Goods & Lunch Available by School Parents

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

Mose (719) 982-8900
Fremon (719) 580-7172
Edward (719) 992-8334

Spring into Savings!

\$50 VISA GIFT CARD
Upon completion of appointment

LeafGuard
Get it. And forget it.™

\$50 VISA GIFT CARD + **15% OFF TOTAL SALE***
Upon completion of appointment. Does not include cost of materials.

- LIFETIME NO-CLOG WARRANTY
- MADE ONSITE SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUR HOME
- THE ONLY ONE-PIECE SEAMLESS DEBRIS SHEDDING GUTTER SYSTEM.
- SCRATCHGUARD® PAINT FINISH

Call Today for Your **FREE Estimate!**
719-493-9644

*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we will clean your gutters for free.

SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE

*All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$50 Visa gift card. Retail value is \$50. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 10 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Except in the states of MD, NY and DC, where the gift card offer is limited to \$25. Offer not available in the states of CA, HI, PA and MI. Expires 4/30/24.

Conour *Managed by Upper Rio Grande Animal Society*

www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org

If you are interested in adopting, call 852-3366
Open Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Sat. & Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m.
Monday & non-business hours by appointment only
2825 Sherman Ave. • Monte Vista

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

Visit Our Facebook Page

RESCUE PETS HAVE BIG PERSONALITY

Hundreds of loving pets lose their homes every day through no fault of their own. Stop in & visit us today to meet the incredible dogs and cats looking for immediate adoption, and forever change the life of a pet in need.

Cremation Service: Cats, Dogs, Ferrets, Birds...

Animal Weight	Semi-Private/Group Fee	Private Fee	Vessel Size needed
Small/ Pocket Pet	\$40.00		Mini - Small vessel needed
Cats	\$80.00		Petite - Small vessel needed
0 - 25 lbs.	\$80.00		Petite - Small vessel needed
26 - 50 lbs	\$140.00		Small-Medium Vessel needed
51 - 75 lbs.	\$175.00	\$200.00	Medium-Large Vessel needed
76 - 100 lbs.	\$200.00	\$275.00	Large Vessel needed
101 lbs. & up	Animals over 101 lbs. are ineligible for Group fee	\$300.00	Extra Large Vessel Needed

Payment is required at time the animal is dropped off.
Animal may be dropped off during business hours only.
Please allow 7 working days from drop off date for animal's return.
Ashes not picked up after 60 days will respectfully be spread over our Conour Garden.

Vaccinate! Your Pets

It is important that all pet owners have their dogs & cats spayed or neutered to control the pet overpopulation and vaccinate to prevent the spread of disease.

All breeds & ages of animals are a "best guess" and are not guaranteed to be accurate. Adoption fee includes: neuter/spay, vaccinations, de-worming and micro-chipping.
This ad space donated by Valley Publishing Inc.

MV Cinco de Mayo Street Festival to benefit MV Food Bank

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — The OptiMystics Citizens Action Network is again bringing to Monte Vista one of the spiciest events in the Valley. The Monte Vista Cinco de Mayo Street Festival will be held on Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The OptiMystics have decided to help the local Monte Vista Emergency Food Bank with the event. All proceeds above the cost of executing the event will be donated to the food bank this year.

OptiMystics President Adam Lock is ecstatic about the event.

“It just makes sense, this is the day where people can come out, have a great time, enjoy the live music and all the festivities. We are excited to offer this huge event once again to the town.

We are hoping to draw an even bigger crowd this year than last year, and we are definitely ready for it,” he said.

In the past the street festival has drawn 1,500 to 2,000 people. OptiMystics Vice President Mark Renshaw said that the idea of thousands of people coming to an event like this is both amazing and fulfilling.

“To think that in only 4 years, the Cinco De Mayo Street Festival has grown this much. I hope we can continue to grow every year and put on a street festival everyone can really enjoy,” he said.

This year, just like years prior, there is a great lineup of events. There will be hip-shaking music provided by DJ Pete Garcia until 3 p.m. From 3 to 6 p.m., UZ Band of Taos, N.M., will be playing live. This award-winning band is known for their variation in music and is sure to keep the crowd

swaying to the music until the end of the festival.

There will be a car show hosted by the Stars and Strikes Bowling Alley. People’s choice will once again determine who wins best of show and other awards that will be given out. Rocky Mountain Memorabilia is donating plaques for the car show. There will also be a cruise to the Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake for the residents there. The drive will take place at 2 p.m.

Cornhole can be played from 1 to 6 p.m. on Adams Street. The game is being brought to everyone by the Monte Vista Recreation Department.

There will also be live demonstrations by the Novel Nomad belly dancers at 5 p.m., for all to enjoy, and the Monte Vista Youth Mini Cheerleaders are scheduled to perform at 1 p.m.

New this year is a canine costume contest. People are encouraged to dress up their canines in Cinco de Mayo apparel. There will be prizes given in three separate weight categories. The contest takes place in front of Muddy Paws on Adams Street at 11 a.m. All entry fees for the event will also be donated to the Monte Vista Ambulance Service.

Aso new this year, is the chihuahua and small breed dog races. The races will begin at 12 p.m. on Second Avenue, in front of the Pivot Public House, which is also hosting the event. There will be prizes for the winner. All entry fees will be donated to Conour Animal Shelter.

There will also be cultural talks about Cinco de Mayo at the Vali 3 Theater at 2 p.m.

Vendors will be set up all over the designated areas for the event, which will be from the 100 block of Adams Street down Second Avenue and



Courtesy photo

The Monte Vista Cinco de Mayo Street Festival will be held on Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

east of Adams to Jefferson Street. An event map will be available on the OptiMystics website.

The OptiMystics announced that all the food vendor spots were taken. Craft vendors are still welcome to register on the website.

Some local businesses will also be getting into the spirit by offering local discounts and fun, the day of the event.

Lock is grateful for the support from the community.

“I am ecstatic that so many local businesses and groups have stepped up this year to assist with put-

ting this event on for the community,” he said. “This not only defrays some of the cost for the event but gets so many other entities and people involved in this special event. This is a day to celebrate culture, community, and most importantly unity

“Special thanks to the LOR Foundation, and all of the other businesses, supporters, and people who have stepped up to help and be such a big part of this amazing event. Everyone is deeply appreciated. What this all means is that in the end, we can donate even more to help support our local Monte Vista Emergency Food Bank.”

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

SOLD

3 bedroom, 2 bath 2,589 Sq. Ft. on 35.5 acres
\$975,000 | MLS #808345
6680 County Rd. 13 Del Norte, CO

BRUCE STEFFENS
OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-580-0770

SOLD

2 Bedroom, 6 Bath, approx. 3,280 sq. ft. and 36.34 Acres
\$895,000 | MLS #803698
4617 County Rd. 13 Del Norte, CO

BRUCE STEFFENS
OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-580-0770

River Island Ranch Approx. 5.27 Acres
\$131,000 | MLS #802486
147 Explorer Way South Fork, CO

YVONNE HOFFMAN
BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-580-1901

Approx. 1.170 Acres on the South Fork River
\$239,000 | MLS #811448
149 Lots 2 & 3 Escondida Dr. South Fork, CO

AUNDREA LILLARD
ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 706-622-0799

PRICE REDUCED

Sun House Farm Approx 1,910 Acres with Home
\$12,900,000 | MLS #807640
57075 County Rd C Center, CO

BRUCE STEFFENS
OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-580-0770

3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, approx. 1,904 sq. ft. and 50-Acres
\$625,000 | MLS #811695
13725 Rd. 104 S. Alamosa, CO

TATE HUFFAKER
ASSOC. BROKER
M: 719-298-6560

Steffens & Co. Realty, Inc.
0-719-873-1700
SteffensRealty@GoJade.org
30636 W. US HWY 160
South Fork, Colorado

UNDER CONTRACT

Beautiful Ranch/Home on approx. 3,095 Acres
\$2,200,000 | MLS #810790
19198 county Rd. 15 Del Norte, CO

BRUCE STEFFENS
OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-580-0770

UNDER CONTRACT

4 Bedroom, 4 Bath, approx. 3,804 sq. ft. and 10.320 Acres
\$1,150,000
3372 Bear Creek Circle, South Fork, CO

AUNDREA LILLARD
ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 706-622-0799

UNDER CONTRACT

Large Warehouse Approx. 6,579 sq. ft. on 1.57 Acres
\$150,000 | MLS #811519
1666 S. County Rd. 4 E. Monte Vista, CO

BRUCE STEFFENS
OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-580-0770

UNDER CONTRACT

Amazing Opportunity/Car Wash for Sale!
\$225,000 | MLS #809144
219 Main Street Antonito, CO

TATE HUFFAKER
ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-298-6560

UNDER CONTRACT

5 Bedroom, 4 Bath, approx. 4,572 sq.ft., and 160 Acres
\$975,000 | MLS #804903
4036 County Rd. Z Capulin, CO

YVONNE HOFFMAN
BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-580-1901

STEFFENS & CO. REALTY, INC
30635 WEST HWY 160 • SOUTH FORK, COLORADO
719-873-1700 • WWW.STEFFENSCOREALTY.COM

San Luis Valley

GRADUATES

Class of 2024

Schedule of San Luis Valley Graduations

Alamosa

May 25 • 9 a.m. • High School Stadium

Antonito

May 24 • 6 p.m. • High School Gym

**Byron Syring DELTA Center/
Monte Vista Online Academy**

May 11 • 10 a.m. • Jean Ritchey Central Auditorium

Centauri

May 25 • 10 a.m. • Centauri High School

Centennial

May 25 • 11 a.m. • High School Gym

Center

May 25 • 10 a.m. • Viking Gym

Creede

May 23 • 6 p.m. • High School Gym

Crestone Charter

May 17 • 2:30 p.m. • Crestone Charter School

Del Norte

May 25 • 2 p.m. • Upper Rio Grande School Gym

Moffat

May 18 • 3 p.m. • Moffat School Gym

Monte Vista

May 24 • 7 p.m. • High School Gym

Mountain Valley

May 18 • 10 a.m. • High School Gym

Sanford

May 24 • 7 p.m. • Sanford High School

Sangre de Cristo

May 24 • 6 p.m. • High School Gym

Sargent

May 20 • 7 p.m. • High School Gym

Sierra Grande

May 24 • 5 p.m. • High School Gym



Valley Publishing • 852-3531
835 First Ave. • Monte Vista

Wednesday, April 24, 2024



Congratulations SLV Grads!

Alamosa 719-589-2536 • Monte Vista 719-852-5933 • WWW.RGBANK.BANK

Index of High Schools

Antonito.....2
 Byron Syring DELTA Center/Monte Vista Online Academy.....3
 Centauri4, 5 & 6
 Centennial6
 Center6 & 7
 Creede.....8
 Crestone Charter8
 Del Norte.....9
 Moffat.....10
 Monte Vista.....10 & 11
 Mountain Valley12
 Sanford13
 Sangre de Cristo14
 Sargent.....15
 Sierra Grande16

Good Luck & Congratulations!

Antonito High School



Kevyn Aragon



Darius Cisneros-Gomez



Karizma Gallegos



Luke Garcia



Zanita Garcia



Jasiah Jiron



Luz Elena Parra Ramirez



Annika Sisneros

Graduation:
May 26 • 6 p.m.
Antonito High School

Class Colors: Pink, Black & Metallic Silver

Class Flower: Lily & Baby Breath

Class Song: Pack my Hometown — Eli Winders

Class Motto: How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard. — Winnie the Pooh



Byron Syring DELTA Center - MV Online Academy



Jacob Adams



Jayla Balderrama



Elizabeth Berlanga



Ender Cadnapaphornchai



Taegan Coleman



Paige Cordero



Laura (Jade) Davoudlarian



Diamond DeHerrera



Alorah Duzenack



Osvaldo Galindo



Payton Garcia



Fantaysia George



Sean Gibson



Cyrus Guymon



Ryen Haas



Tristan James



Carson Klein



Jordan Leeson



Christopher Lopez



Ana Lamsargis



Leeann Manzanares



Ian Milian



Zaylee Samora



Hunter Sims



Alona Tafoya



Mikayla Torrence



Chanel Tucker



Christopher Valenzuela



Natalie Velazco



Mariekah Vigil



Camri Wolf



Dyana Zamarripa

Not Pictured:
 Benigno Gallegos
 Angel Garcia
 Christopher Koehn
 Eduardo Martinez-Figueroa
 Hope Salazar

Graduation:
May 11 • 10 a.m.
Jean Ritchey Central
Auditorium
Class Colors: Delta-Black
 OLA-Blue & White



Centauri High School



Kaleb J. Anderson



Logan T. Bagwell



Isaiah A. Baroz



Zachary J. Bechaver



Deven S. Brady



Taylor I. Bright



Nathaniel M. Casias



Andre Cervantez Maez



Leon A. Chacon



Aundre L. Chavez



Diego J. Chavez



Delainey O. Christensen



Taven B. Cornum



Colton D. Creery



Colby S. Crowther



Peyton K. Crowther



Kylie M. Dunnahoo



Allen J. Espinoza



Brandon D. Espinoza



Vaughn A. Fernelius



Mason T. Finehout



Zachery D. Gallardo



Cheyenne D. Garcia



Jalissa J. Garcia



Jordan M. Garcia



Mason Y. George



Danessa G. Gonzales



Joshua C. Hanel



Diego M. Hernandez



Chaz M. Holman



Kaley M. Holman



Saige T. Hostetter



Rye J. Howsmon



Keegan B. Huffaker



Troy J. Huffaker



Jaelyn N. Jackson

Centauri High School



Tyson K. Jaramillo



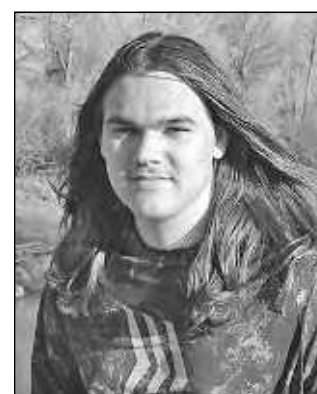
Colton J. Johnson



Lacey A. Johnson



Brooke L. King



Rodney J. Kirkgard



Faith L. Livingstone



Xavier G. Lopez



Kyanna M. Martinez



Addison N. McCarroll



Camry J. Miller



Skylar E. Montague



Tayden J. Montoya



Cody J. Mortensen



Julia Kae I. Patigdas



Joshua O. Polkowske



Kailyn L. Polzin



Kiara R. Quintana



Ayden O. Romero



Brena E. Roybal



Kallon K. Russell



Shania L. Sandoval



McKenzie J. Schneider



Clarissa J. Sisneros



Kaia E. Skadberg



Ayzlynn M. Sowards



Shelton P. Sowards



Richardson E. Tailleir



Corbyn D. Thomas



Anicia L. Valdez



Antonio A. Valdez Reyes



Riley C. Valdez



Camryn M. Wilfong



Honorary Graduate
Logan Smith

Graduation:
May 25 • 10 a.m.
Centauri High School

Class Colors: Red & Black

Class Flower: Sunflower

Class Song: Party in the USA — Miley Cyrus

Class Motto: What's up brother! — Sketch

Centennial High School



Samuel Aguilera



Anaela Benton



Manny Benton



Diego Franco



Alegria Gamboa



Enrique Molina



Martin Navarro-Pacheco



Romen Portillo



Cecilia Rael



Gisele Rael



Noemi Renteria



Jazmin Salcido



Steven Sanchez III



Rhylina Serna



Devon Vigil



Not Pictured:
Dillan Alter

Graduation: May 25 • 11 a.m. Centennial Gym

Class Colors: Red, Silver & Black

Class Flower: Red Rose & Sunflower

Class Song: Good Times Go By Too Fast — Dylan Scott

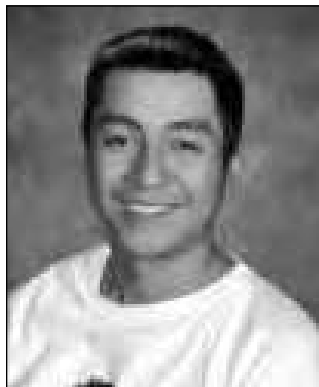
Class Motto: Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind — Dr. Seuss



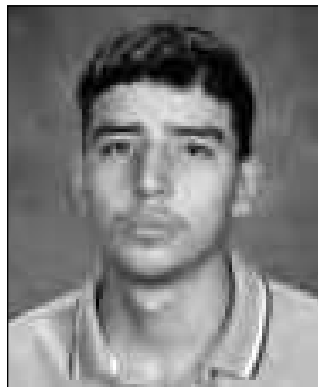
Center High School



Jaime Aguilar



Rashawn Aguilar



Joub Apodaca Laguna



Alexa Bustamante



Leonardo Carrillo Majalca



Jordan Duran



Alanna Garcia



Arazeliz Garcia



Yanelli Garcia

Let's Hear It for Our Graduates!

We're giving a big hand to the dedicated seniors who have worked so hard for this day. Their perseverance and accomplishments make us proud to be a part of this community. Keep up the great work, grads!



CONGRATULATIONS

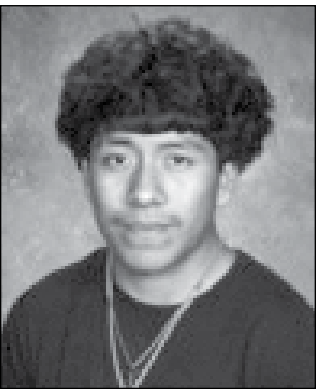
Graduates

Congratulations, Class of 2024!

Valley Publishing

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

Center High School



Francisco Gregorio Gómez



Monserrat Gutierrez



Selah Harrington



Marcos Hernandez



Marissa Hernandez



Hayle Larimore



Jesenia Limon



Yulisa Maldonado



Cheyenne Martinez



Billy Martinez-Montoya



Kimberly Muro-Ornelas



Ciara Paiz



Javier Ramos-Baca



Alicia Rios



Cristian Roblero Santiz



Willa Seesz Sanchez



Devin Thompson



Shayla Thompson



Lorenzo Trujillo



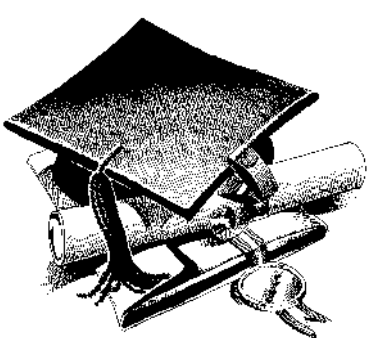
Jesus Valadez-Feliz



Francisco Villa



Graduation:
May 25 • 10 a.m.
Viking Gym
Class Colors: Blue & Silver
Class Flower: White Lily & Yellow Daisy
Class Song: I Lives — OneRepublic
Class Motto: See You Later Dudes



Congratulations!
Center Vikings
Rashawn Aguilar
K&J 345 S. Worth St.
Center
THRIFTWAY (719)754-1937

Congratulations,
Center Graduates!
 Del Norte Creede
 719-657-3376 719-658-0126
 DEL NORTE BANK FDIC www.TrueLocalBank.com

The Sky's the Limit

There's no stopping you now, graduates! Think big, work hard and enjoy your success.



Creede High School



Hunter Harness



Garin Heinrich



Tiernan King



Lane Mitchell



Will Roden



Lyric Stecken

Graduation:

May 23 • 6 p.m.

Creede Gym

Class Colors: Hawaiian Print

Class Flower: Savory Moroccan Jelquinium

Class Song: Toes — Zac Brown Band

Class Motto: What could possibly go wrong?




Creede Class Of 2024

Del Norte Creede
719-657-3376 719-658-0126

DEL NORTE BANK FDIC www.TrueLocalBank.com

Crestone Charter School



Haley VanWalleghan



Ziah Pesqueira

Graduation:

May 17 • :30 p.m.

Antonito High School

Class Colors: Green, Black & Gold

Class Flower: Black Spider Lily

Class Song: Stayin' Alive — Bee Gees

Class Motto: Don't gain the world and loos your soul, wisdom is better than silver or gold. — Bob Marley



Wishing You a Beautiful Graduation Day

Here's hoping everything comes up roses on your graduation day! May it be filled with happiness, friendship and plenty of fun.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024!



Del Norte High School



Nickolas Atencio



Autumn Becenti



Piper Cavaletto



Izabella Colonna



Juanito Dickson



Kaesyn Eagles



Colby Gandy



Joshua Gonzales



Lacey Gutierrez



Kayleigh Haynie



Zack Howell



Destiny LeBlanc



Analicia Ledford-Vigil



Chiara Lambardi



Ashlee Lovato



Peytin Neal



Keith Pierce



Blas Pinon



Marques Quintana



Zachary Romero



Lionel Suarez Jr.



Gage Trujillo



Craig Williams



Cody Worz



Graduation:
May 24 • 2 p.m.
Upper Rio Grande Gym

Class Colors: Peach & White

Class Flower: Azalea

Class Song: Sleep on the Floor — The Lumineers

Class Motto: People say nothing is impossible,
but I do nothing every day. — Winnie the Pooh



**Three Cheers for
the Class of 2024**

You did it! Years of hard work have led you to this day, and now is your moment to enjoy the accolades. We wish you all the best on your graduation day and in your future endeavors. Good luck, graduates.

**Rio Grande County Museum
and Cultural Center**

(719) 657-2847 • 580 Oak Street • Del Norte

You Have Arrived

Congratulations on your graduation!
A bright future awaits you, and we hope it will be filled with much happiness and continued success.



Del Norte Class of 2024



Del Norte Creede
719-657-3376 719-658-0126

DEL NORTE BANK FDIC www.TrueLocalBank.com

Moffat High School



Albert Beller



Caleb Boone



Austin Gardner



Leona Hasteley



Jacob Martinez



Ivory McElhaney



Kadence McWilliams



Robert Morley



ShayArta Sidel



Marie Velazquez



Taylor Wallace



Graduation:
May 18 • 6 p.m.
Moffat Gym

Class Colors: **Green, Gold & Purple**

Class Flower: **Daisy**

Class Song: **Stand By Me — Ben E. King**

Class Motto: **When you're dead, you're dead but no so dead, if you contribute something. — John Dunsworth**

Monte Vista High School



Todd Adams



Asia Alarid



Zariah Archuleta



Analicette Arroyo-Archuleta



Nevaeh Bacon



Aaylarhi Bate-Fichter



Shaina Baumgardner



Jeremiah Cale



Jose Castro Angulo



Celeste Chacon



Mika Chapa



Ernest Chiquito



Zakaria Defaye



Isis Delgado-Cervantes



Xavion Duran



Alycia Espinosa



Jacob Gallegos



Kayleigh Garcia

Graduation:
May 24 • 7 p.m.
Monte Vista Gym

Class Colors: **Lilac & Sage Green**

Class Song: **Life is a Highway — Flatts**

Class Motto: **Learn from yesterday, live for today, and dream for tomorrow. — Albert Einstein**

Class Flower: **Tulip**

Monte Vista High School



Chloe Gerlach



Valerie Goodland



Nevaeh Guerrero



Francisco Martin Hernandez



Stefanie Lopez



Magdalena Marrufo



Jaylah Martinez



Luke Martinez



Augustus Miller



Donovan Neal



Jack Noonan



Manuel Ochoa



Destiny Pacheco



Katie Pacheco



Sean Quintana



Alexia Rivera



Maria Rivera



Allesandra Rocha Avalos



Jordan Rockey



Makyla Salazar



Jasmine Samora



Sara Sarinana



Annika Schaak



Oakley Sisneros



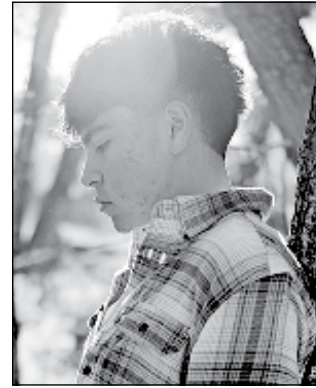
Laura Story



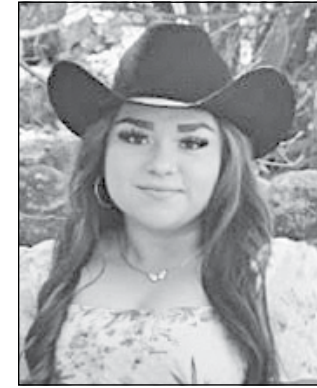
Adrien Valdez



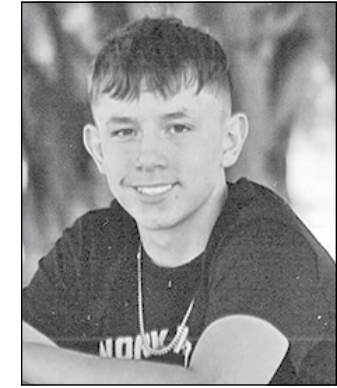
Angelina Vargas



Jizaiah Villagomez



Cienna Villalobos



Ethan Wolfe



Jackson York



SLV GRADUATES!

CONGRATS!

MVC MVCOOP.COM

CONGRATULATIONS!

EST. 2018

THE FINERY

boutique

839 First Ave. • Monte Vista
(719) 852-8849

Like us on Facebook @bebeautifulmontevista

Yours & Mine LLC

Variety Store

129 Adams Street
Monte Vista
719-480-3424
Daisy Grace

**Congrats,
Class of
2024!**



Mountain Valley High School



Joshua Box



Jacob Denison



Logan Gallegos



Giovanni Gonzalez-Mascarenas



Brian Green



Riley Heater



Tristin Helmick



Nova McConnaughay



Mason Merritt-Armenta



Honey Sandoval



Klayt Staudt



Alexandria Tronquet

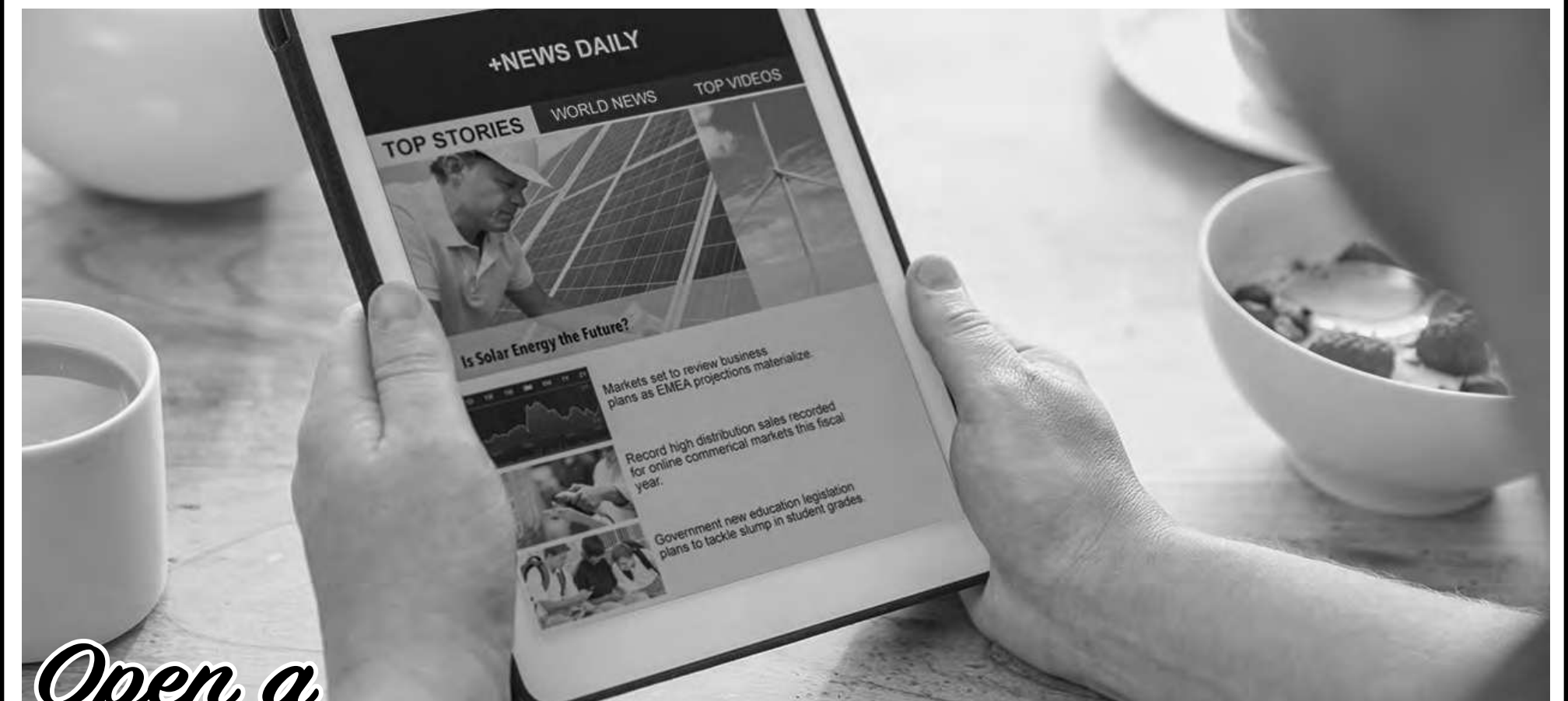
Graduation:
May 18 • 10 a.m.
Mountain Valley Gym

Class Colors: **Pink & Black**

Class Flower: **Tulip**

Class Song: **Good Ol' Days — Macklemore**

Class Motto: **The hardest battle you will face in life is to be no one but yourself in a world which is trying its hardest to make you like everybody else. — E.E. Cummings**



*Open a
New Chapter
in Learning*

Encourage curiosity and a lifelong love of learning with mind-growing ideas and information in your local newspaper.

Valley Publishing
719-852-3531
235 First Ave. • Monte Vista

See How Your Subscription Pays Off!
Get Home Delivery With e-Edition **Only \$45***
Access for an entire year! *In Valley only

SIGN ME UP OR **RENEW SUBSCRIPTION TODAY!**
 Monte Vista Journal Center Post-Dispatch
 Mineral County Miner South Fork Times
 Del Norte Prospector Conejos County Citizen

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

VISA MasterCard Discover AMERICAN EXPRESS

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

check or money order enclosed

P.O. Box 607 • Monte Vista, CO • 81144

(719) 852-3531 • email: office@valleypublishinginc.com

In Print & Online

Sanford High School



Keylee Anderson



Cash Caldon



Sadie Caldon



Jacob Cisneros



Brecken Crowther



Cienna Daniels



Ashley Dominguez-Gonzalez



Mercedes Dunn



Ashli Fairhurst



Demario Gomez-Sisneros



Emmit Larsen



Roj Larson



Sedona Larson



Isabelle Linares



Holly McDaniel



Rylee Price



Makan Quintana



Lincoln Reynolds



James Sanchez



Sarah Schwartz



Alex Sittler



Delton Soffel



Gregorio Slone



Jaimey Turner



Faith Westberg



Tyssen Woods



Looking Forward to a Bright Future

Valley Publishing
Find us on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/ValleyPublishing>

Congrats! You did it!
Class of 2024!
 Wishing you all the best at graduation!
Stone's Farm Supply
 719-754-3453 • 771 E. 3rd • Center

Graduation:
May 24 • 7 p.m.
Sanford High School
Class Colors: Purple & Forest Green
Class Flower: Tequila Sunrise Rose
Class Song: Senior Year — Drew Baldridge

Class Motto: It matters not what you are thought to be but what you are.
 — Publilius Syrus



SLVREC 2024 Scholarship Recipients:

- SLV REC Adams State University Four-Year Scholarship:** Ashley Dominguez, Sanford High School
- Martin Christensen Memorial Lineworker Scholarship:** Joshua Holman, Sanford High School
- Michael Rierson Scholarship:** Sienna Gallegos, Alamosa High School
- Robert Wolfe Scholarship:** Diego Chavez, Centauri High School
- SLVREC Past Director/Tri-State Scholarship:** Kaia Skadberg, Centauri High School
- SLVREC Past Retired GM Ray Villyard & CEO John Villyard/Tri-State Scholarship:** Riley Valdez, Centauri High School
- SLVREC Dependent Scholarship:** Mario Villalba, Alamosa High School
- Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship:** Antonio Reyes, Centauri



Not pictured
Kaia Skadberg

Sangre de Cristo High School



LaKota Douglas



Palma Enriquez



Idahlia Garcia



Seanna Garcia



Jerrick Martinez



Sydney Mason



Isabella Rodriguez



Brenton Sierra



Bryanna Sierra



Kaiden Smit

Graduation:
May 24 • 6 p.m.
Sangre de Cristo Gym
Class Colors: Lilac & White
Class Flower: Purple Rose & Baby's Breath



Seize the Day!

As you celebrate your graduation, we'd like to take a moment to express how proud we are of your hard work and achievement. We hope you will continue to aim high and reach for the stars. Your potential for success is limitless, and we wish you all the best in every future endeavor!

Congratulations and warmest wishes to the Class of 2024!

Valley Publishing

Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyPublishing>



Sargent High School



Giovanni Aguilar



Bailey Asbell



Westen Burkhart



Rylee Echols



Annabelle Heineman



Brooke Hoffstaetter



Cayden Larimore



Hayden Lester



Azmarae Lister



Sydney Lorentzen



Trenton Lovelace



KayleeAnn Martinez



Trenton Paskett



Jesse Pescatore



Jaxon Ritchey



Lane Spearman



Garrett Thomson



Matthew Voss



Gracie Wilson



Corbyn Wright

Graduation: May 24 • 7 p.m. Sargent Gym

Class Colors: Hot Pink & Gray

Class Flower: Pink Peonies

Class Song: Where the Wild Things Are — Luke Combs

Class Motto: I'm here for a good time, not here for a long time.



Congratulations Graduate!

Sargent Farmers Class of 2024!

KEBJ 345 S. Worth St. Center
THRIFTWAY (719)754-1937

Congratulations Class of 2024!

You Get an A+ Keep up the great work!

Stone's Farm Supply
719-754-3453 • 771 E. 3rd • Center

Sargent Grads Keep Shining

You're a bright one, Class of 2024! Keep up the good work.

"Sprouts Wenta-Away"
Wenta Nip & Sanitizing, LLC
Monte Vista, Colorado
(719) 852-0353 • www.wentanip.com

Three Cheers for the Class of 2024

You did it! Years of hard work have led you to this day, and now is your moment to enjoy the accolades. We wish you all the best on your graduation day and in your future endeavors. Good luck, graduates.

Valley Publishing

719-852-3531

235 First Ave. • Monte Vista



Sierra Grande High School



Josiah DeHerrera



Alexia Gonzalez



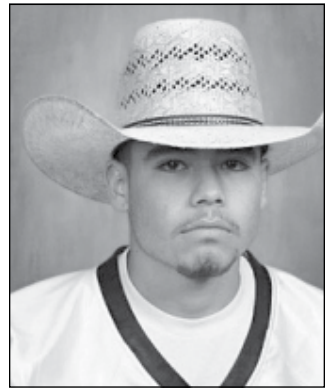
Alexis Johnson



Tyler Kester



Orlando Maes



Derek Martinez



Manuel Miranda



Brian Ontiveros



Jesus Reyes Renteria



NayLani Velasquez

Graduation:
May 24 • 5 p.m.
Sierra Grande High School

Class Colors: Baby Pink, Light Gray, Black & White

Class Flower: Magnolia

Class Song: Rise Up — Andra Day

Class Motto: We'll never be those kids again. — Frank Ocean

Congratulations, Graduates!

Smart Move, Graduates!

Your diploma opens the door to opportunity and success, and we are very proud of your achievement today.

As you celebrate this milestone, please be smart about your safety and the safety of others. Drinking and driving can take away all of your future dreams in an instant. Never get in the car with a driver who has been drinking, and make sure the friends you love stay safe and sober behind the wheel.

