

Saguache County Museum to celebrate 65 years

By MARIE MCCOLM

SAGUACHE — The Saguache County Museum is proud to announce 65 years of service to the community. The museum is kicking off the celebration on Sunday, May 26, Memorial Day.

The museum will be open with free admission beginning at 9 a.m. that day. There will also be a traditional parade beginning at 11 a.m., with the theme “Just Like We Used To.” The Mountain Valley School Lifestyles Class has chosen to

direct the parade. They will be providing the emcee for the parade and putting together all the fine details for it. The Grand Marshall for the parade will be Judy Bunker.

The excitement does not stop there. There will also be vendors in Otto Mears Park all day, along with a car and antique tractor show all day. There will also be barrel train rides for the kids following the parade. The antique tractor club will be hosting the rides for the children.

Awards will be handed out to winners in

various categories of the parade, car show, and other events that will be taking place that day, including vehicles, float entries into the parade, dancing, and a children’s bike decorating contest.

Food will be chosen, and lunch will be served at noon, along with a community play. Both will be held at the Community Building in Otto Mears Park with the play beginning at 1:30 p.m., after lunch. The play is titled “Valley Echoes.” The play will portray historical people

of Saguache County and is under the direction of Virginia Drake.

The Saguache County Museum began in 1959 as a municipal improvement venture, in celebration of Colorado’s Centennial Anniversary. Saguache County had just finished building a new jail, and the old one was set to be demolished. Members of three different clubs who collaborated on the idea for the museum, asked Saguache County not to demolish the

Please see MUSEUM on Page 2A

Shorts

Ribbon cutting for Genesis Wellspring is April 18

MONTE VISTA — The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce is having a ribbon cutting for Genesis Wellspring at 12 p.m. on April 18, at 133 Adams St.

Genesis Wellspring Ltd is an alternative and holistic health wellness center.

The nonprofit provides board certified (ANMCB) natural health care, education, testing, bulk herbal apothecary, homeopathics, supplements and tools for wellness for adults and children.

Annual Variety Show set for April 13 in Creede

CREEDE — The Creede Arts Council’s 29th Annual Variety Show is at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, at the Ruth Humphrey’s Brown Theatre. Talented local people, both new to the show and returning performers, will delight the audience with an eclectic mixture of music and dance.

Creede favorites Richie Ormsby, Caldera and the Monday Night Jam Band will perform along with other familiar performers and some new talent.

The CAC will also hold a silent auction of non-performance-oriented talents from residents and items from local businesses. Winners of the silent auction must pay for the items at the end of the show.

To make a reservation, contact 719-658-2333. Reservations will not be accepted after 3 p.m. on April 13. Tickets will be available at the door, starting at 6:15 p.m. on April 13; \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. CAC accepts cash, checks, and credit cards. Reservations are recommended.

Keenan makes Dean’s List

TACOMA, WASH. — Liss Keenan, of Alamosa, made the fall 2023 Dean’s List at the University of Puget Sound for achieving at least a 3.7 grade-point average, completing all of their enrolled courses without withdrawals, and having no incomplete grades.



Photo by Marie Mccolm

La Puente Enterprises Director Jessica Ornelas cuts the ribbon at the grand re-opening of Rainbow’s End in Center as food bank volunteer Anita Rodriguez and store manager Samuel Salazar hold the ribbon on the right.

Rainbow’s End in Center holds Ribbon Cutting and grand Re-opening Celebration

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — On Saturday, April 6, downtown Center had about 25 smiling people who entered the freshly painted Rainbow’s End building laughing and excited to enjoy the newly re-opened thrift store and food bank.

The store was rocking with a live DJ playing lots of music for the celebration. Tamales and other delicious food were laid out on a table at the store, for all the attendees

to enjoy. People walked up and down the aisles purchasing items and enjoying the event that marked the grand re-opening of the store after it had closed while it was being revamped and remodeled.

The ribbon cutting for the store took place about 11:30 a.m. shortly after La Puente Enterprises Executive Director Lance Cheslock arrived. La Puente Enterprises Director Jessica Ornelas used a big pair of red scissors to cut the ribbon in front of the

store, marking the official grand re-opening of the store.

Ornelas was excited about the project that she had been overseeing. She walked into the store, after cutting the ribbon, and danced the cumbia in one of the aisles with store manager Samuel Salazar, as both enjoyed the music that was playing.

Ornelas said, “This is truly exciting, and I feel so blessed to be here today, and witness the opening *Please see OPENING on Page 2A*

Gear Head Gala to host car show in Center on April 27

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — High school students Mario Jaymz Varo, Max Almanza, and Angel Rios are part of the group called Gear Head Gala and will be hosting a car show at the end of April.

Varo is excited about bringing this event to Center.

“We are planning on having two food vendor trucks at the show,” Varo said. “One of food, and one with different drinks. We are going to be holding a raffle. We have different companies donating different things, including auto cleaning bundles for raffle give aways. Auto Zone will be donating to us, and we have also talked to O’Reilly’s. We have other giveaways for our raffles too. It’s going to be a really great time and we hope everyone will come out and join us.”

The car show will be taking place in front of Town Hall in Center on April 27 and will begin at 10 a.m. Varo believes that the show will help businesses in the area.

“It will bring some popularity there, and it will definitely benefit the town by bringing people in,” Varo said.

Varo said that there will be plaques given away, and other prizes for more than one of the winners.

“We will be giving out a few *Please see GALA on Page 7A*

CSU Extension grateful for CPAC’s support

Donations still being accepted

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — On March 21 at the monthly Colorado Potato Administrative Committee (CPAC) meeting led by the executive director Jim Ehrlich, the San Luis Valley Colorado State University Extension Foundation was gifted \$25,000. This donation is going toward the Endowment Fund being used

Please see SUPPORT on Page 2A



Photo courtesy of Mollie Wells, Area Specialist 4-H Youth Development

Staff at SLV CSU Extension accepting \$25,000 donation from CPAC.

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Photo by Marie Mccolm

People shop at the Rainbow's End store in Center after it re-opened on April 6.

OPENING

Continued from Page 1A

of something that is going to help this community so much. We are so happy that we are able to finally reopen and help the community with so many great resources. There are so many people that helped with this, Lance, Sam, Shirley Garcia, Anita, Lalo Marquez, and Gabby, it wouldn't have been possible without them. Here's to helping the community. We are here for the community. We want to help the town of Center flourish and thrive."

Executive Director Cheslock was also excited about the celebration.

"Of course, I am extremely excited to be here today," Cheslock said. "All the profits and everything stay in this community. The generosity of the stuff that is given to the community will get converted into dollars here, or to

giving things away, or to the food at the food bank. Whatever it is, it stays right here. It's just a fantastic feeling. Jessica, Sam, and so many volunteers have put so much love into this place. I am on cloud 9. I love the graphics. I love all of it. We have a lot of new inventory coming in too. Hats off to Jessica, Sam, and everyone that has worked hard for this. We love the community of Center."

Salazar spoke about the dedication and hard work that had been put into the final touches and finishing the store.

Salazar pointed at Cheslock and said, "We of course could not have done any of this without that man right there, he is wonderful and really made this happen. Without him pushing us we probably wouldn't be

here. This last month has been crazy. We had a couple of people come down from our Alamosa store to help with painting. Anita, from the food bank, and her family, and the elders from her church really got the painting done for us. This is an example of the community coming together for the community. It feels good to see the people come together and help here. I feel excited and amazed. I feel like all the hard work me and Jessica, and everyone else that helped is definitely paying off in big ways. Honestly, we just opened, and I have never made this much money in an hour. I am truly excited to be here today and see this."

For more information about the Rainbow's End store in Center, contact Ornelas or Salazar at 719-589-8778.

SUPPORT

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for the hiring of the second 4-H youth specialist and 4-H programing.

"CPAC is a huge supporter of the SLV 4-H program that helps promote leadership and life skills education for our SLV youth," officials stated.

Beginning in 2021, the SLV Extension office has been in a rebuilding period. After years of instability and a reduction of staff, Larry Brown has stepped into the leadership role to rebuild the extension in the San Luis Valley.

In just two short years, the full-time staff has doubled, now operating with a Director/Ag Specialist, a Youth Development/4-H Specialist, a Family and Consumer Science Specialist, a Juntos 4-H Specialist, and office administrator. The newest addition, made possible by 3 years of funding from the Outcalt Foundation, is a second 4-H Specialist.

The team's focus now is to secure permanent funding for a second 4-H agent. Historically in the San Luis Valley Area Extension Program there have been two full-time Youth Development/4-H Specialists on staff.

Serving the youth of six counties can be overwhelming for even two Specialists. Because of limited funding, it has been twelve years since we had two Youth Development/4-H Specialists. In those 12 years they have had a single specialist on staff for six years and the other six years they did not have a Youth Development/4-H Specialist, at

all. The enrollment and quality of the program has suffered due to inadequate staffing.

"We are extremely grateful and appreciative of all who have generously jumped on board and contributed to the project. Once our funding in the endowment fund is secured, this community driven project will

leave a lasting legacy for our youth," officials stated.

Donations are still being accepted at the SLV CSU Extension Office. You can drop them off at 1899 E Highway 160, Monte Vista, or mail donations to: PO Box 30 Monte Vista, Co 81144. For more information, contact the Extension Office at 719-852-7381.

OBITUARIES

Jeffrey John Gonzales

Jeffrey John Gonzales, a self-employed Carpenter known for his loving, competitive, outgoing, and fun personality, passed away on April 1, 2024, in Pueblo, Colo. He was born on Nov. 22, 1979, in Del Norte, Colo.

Jeffrey's proudest accomplishment was his son Lukas with whom he shared a special bond and cherished spending time together. A true outdoorsman, Jeffrey enjoyed the simplicity of nature through fishing and hunting, finding peace and joy in the great outdoors.

Jeffrey was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather Andrew Gonzales, paternal grandmother Marcella Martinez, maternal grandfather Jack VanBibber as well as his uncle and Godfather John VanBibber.

His legacy continues through his surviving family and friends. He is survived by his beloved son Lukas Gonzales; loving father Larry Gonzales; caring mother Jeri Gonzales; grandmother Margaret VanBibber; brother Kris (Jess) Gonzales; sisters Jana (Tim) Kehr and Leesa (Matt) Gonzales; nieces Andrea, Harlee, Cali and Khloe; nephews Jaxxon, Andrew; Aadin and Uriah and God-daughters Janessa DiCamillo and Eyvori Jacquez as well as a numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and extended family - all of whom will carry his memory with love and affection.

To those who had the privilege of knowing him even briefly or being touched by his warmth and spirit, Jeffrey John Gonzales leaves



behind a legacy of love, strength, and an unwavering zest for life that will forever be remembered and cherished. May he rest in peace.

Cremation was selected and a Vigil Service with Recitation of the Rosary will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Monte Vista immediately followed by a Memorial Mass beginning at 11:30 a.m.

To express words of comfort or share memories with the family, view a video tribute or to live stream the service, please visit www.mvmortuary.com

Mountain Valley Mortuary is assisting the family.

MUSEUM

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jail, so that the site could be used as a "historical place."

The establishment was saved and became the Saguache County Museum. It was collaboratively decided that the little museum would be opened as a celebrated display of history, in Saguache Town Hall.

The museum is celebrating 65 years this year. There are volunteers who make up the board of directors for the museum. The museum is completely non-profit and is also separate from the Saguache County government.

The museum opens annually on

Memorial Day and closes for the season on Labor Day.

Everyone is invited to enjoy the fun events and partake in all the festivities that are planned to honor the 65 years that the museum has been opened, the anniversary of the Saguache County Museum.

There is also still time to sign up to be a part of the parade. The last day to sign up will be May 15.

For more information on the parade, contact Laura Abeyta, Chair of the Parade Committee at lauraabeyta01@gmail.com.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Total eclipse of the heart

This month finds Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie still in Texas building on the house, going to grandkids' ball games, selling cattle and yes, you guessed it, seeing the total eclipse of the Sun.

I read somewhere last week there was going to be an eclipse of "the sin" and got all excited thinking a new wave of morality was coming around finally. Alas, people prefer sinning, I do believe.

The Ponderosa where we abide our winters in Texas is smack dab in the middle of the full eclipse set to occur today. As I am writing this on Monday and you won't get it until Thursday, it will be too late for you to come down to see it. Others, however, did.

It's the most amazing thing to Ol' Dutch that things that were once tidbits of interest are now blown up by the news media into a gargantuan event. It's been advertised so much and for so long that people were making hotel reservations last fall to be here for the four minutes of darkness.

Not only that but local governments went into a tizzy and shut down schools and other facilities and called in extra emergency responders in a panic that hundreds of thousands of Sun worshippers were going to flood into their small towns.

Because we are the highest point in the county, Miss Trixie was thinking about renting out viewing spots here at the farm. Viewers would have the opportunity to be closest to the Sun in all of Hunt County. Selfishly, though, we're keeping it between us, Cooper and the cows.

It's been such a huge lead up to this eclipse that yesterday we even saw a guy out in the country practicing his camera set up for today. Now that's dedication. Or insanity, I am not sure which.

Alas, there are kids out of school, people off work, governments in a panic and emergency responders sitting around just waiting for a mass panic to set in later today.

Now Ol' Dutch has long been a believer in the "smoke and mirrors" theory that governments use to keep us occupied while they are up to something else behind our backs. And I can't help to think this is just another one of those sleight of hand moves by them.

For while everyone is waiting around for the sun to go dark like



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

it does every day at sundown, they are up to some shenanigans that they do not want you to know about. I guarantee you that someone is getting rich off of our tax dollars somewhere while people stand around like Chicken Little looking up at the sky.

The blessed event is supposed to happen about 1 p.m. and here we sit in Texas with overcast skies which will prevent seeing the Sun go dark at least today. But, we are still being told to be outside looking up as the skies are to clear suddenly at the moment of best viewing.

And not to be outdone, the retailers rushed special viewing glasses out to the mindless public but anyone that would trust their eyesight to a cardboard pair of glasses with plastic lenses that cost about 29 cents to produce needs to line up for a mental evaluation, too. Remember that this marketing is being done to a people who are now 29 boosters into shots for COVID.

In lieu of a real miraculous event similar in scope to the Resurrection and clearing skies, we are not going to see anything but darkness. One writer covering the dark day asked people where they will be when the Sun goes dark and all I could think to say was "in the dark." Been there, done that. It ain't that great.

If you missed the experience, you can still tune up Bonnie Tyler singing her 1983 hit song, "Total Eclipse of the Heart" with me and sit in the dark and reminisce about better days.

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.



Courtesy photo

Public Affairs Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest Gregg Goodland writes about why we should respect the spring road closures.

Why we should respect the spring road closures

I've worked for the Forest Service for over 30 years. There are several aspects of managing your public lands that have been very flexible and have changed, sometimes even drastically over my career, in terms of how the agency operates. Thankfully though, many things remain the same and are fairly predictable. A few that immediately come to mind include, logging, grazing, and recreation. As trees mature and become valuable, we'll seek to use those trees for wood products. The changes to that are when we will log and where we will log. As for the grazing, we'll turn the sheep and cattle onto the forest each year with possible adjustments for the changing conditions brought on by drought or other environmental and human factors. Finally, the many recreation uses will happen without fail, and many of those we can set our calendars by. In fact, our calendars are set with many action points that are designed to help us manage the forest resources and are based on that timeless change of seasons that we individuals value as part our yearly lives.

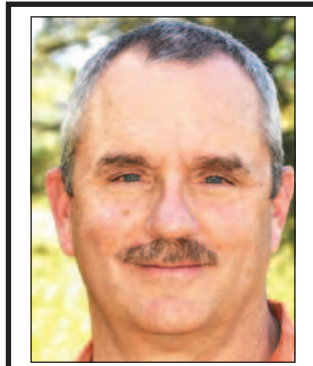
It happens every year around this same time. In fact, our target date is March 15 each year. With the groans of many avid forest users, we close the gates or barricade roads to keep motorized traffic off. The intent is the same every year. Allow the roads to dry out and remain viable as an indefinite transportation corridor through the forest. Here's how it works.

The melting snow pack has been slowly saturating the ground below. Dirt road surfaces that are soaking wet are easily damaged by heavy vehicles. Tires can create endless ruts in the soft mud that will channel water down along the road

surface preventing the waters' escape into the ditches. This can result in two aspects of negative impacts to our natural resource. First, if left unchecked, the ruts will channel increasingly more water into them, and they will become more resistant to drying. The ruts are likely to grow deeper and possibly pull all vehicle tires into them, further increasing the depth of the rut and its determination to keep you there overnight.

Rutted roads can increase the speed that water exits the roadbed. The faster the water flows, the more opportunity it has to transport the sediment that was once the nice road surface, down into the ditches. Ditches are designed to move water away from the road. However, faster moving water can carry the sediment into nearby waterways.

You might be led to think that the water is off the road. Mission accomplished. The problem is that the fast-flowing water carried all that sediment with it and the clean stream becomes cloudy, which leads to water quality deteriorating. Just like us, the fish and other aquatic life in those waters very much appreciate having clean water. Poor water quality can result in meager reproductive cycles for the fish and all the cool insects that live in the water. The fine silt also has the potential to cover and suffocate those critters and any eggs that may be placed in a gravel bed. A quality gravel bed allows the smaller species to access the oxygen from



Land Water and People
By Gregg Goodland

the water yet remain relatively protected from predators.

As a spring progresses, the roads will eventually dry. That is one of those sure things I mentioned. About four years ago, mother nature decided that the spring should last an extra 6 weeks to a month. Roads stayed closed due to late-season snow and early rains that kept vast swaths of the forest

wet and rather dangerous to drive a vehicle on. But, alas, even that spring gave way to summer, the roads dried and we could return to using them for our extensive recreational activities as well as logging operations.

This year, I've heard distressing reports of selfish individuals driving around our gates and barricades. Please understand that the closures are not enacted as a means to arbitrarily restrict people from public lands. Rather, the closures stand as a testament to the agency's commitment to provide the best land stewardship we can. Also understand that the roads are closed to motorized vehicles, but you can always access those areas on foot. I urge you to respect those spring closures. Park at the bottom and walk in. Or wait. It will only be a few weeks and the roads will be dry and re-opened.

Gregg Goodland is the Public Affairs Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest. As an avid outdoor enthusiast, he encourages individual stewardship and responsible use of our public lands.

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Teddy Bear Clinic: positive associations for foster kids and doc visits

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — Did you know that stuffed animals get boo-boos too? When they do, they go to the Hope and Home Teddy Bear Clinic.

When children enter the foster care system, they do so with a history of hurt, brokenness, and distrust of people. Many children in foster care can recall the day they had to visit a doctor to have their health and wellbeing assessed — sometimes including documentation of injuries or evidence of neglect. Can you imagine how traumatic this would be to a young child who feels alone in the world? Enter, the Teddy Bear Clinic.

Hope and Home's "Teddy Bear Clinic" is all about helping children create positive associations with the medical community. Foster children bring their favorite stuffed animal in for a wellness check, which includes a general workup, an eye exam and a dental cleaning. In some cases, a "stuffy" in really bad shape may require a visit to the triage unit for MRI's, X-ray's, and surgery.

We are happy to sew up a bear in need of more stuffing, glue on a new eyeball, or provide a bandage or two for a "scraped knee." While all this may be make-believe, the healing and catharsis a child experiences is real.

Getting to meet real doctors and nurses and comfort their stuffed animal through each station of the Teddy Bear Clinic is deeply therapeutic for children who have only known fear and confusion in the context of a doctor's visit. We would like to say a huge thanks to SLV Health for sponsoring this transformative event



Courtesy photo

A Teddy Bear Clinic is scheduled for April 20 at Hope and Home in Alamosa.

both financially and through volunteerism.

While The Teddy Bear Clinic is designed for children in foster care, any child can come. It will take place on Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Hope and Home, 605 3rd St., Alamosa.

If you have ever considered



becoming a foster parent, this event would be a great opportunity to meet some local professionals and get more information. To RSVP, email Annie Reed, at areed@hopeandhome.org.

CPW, Dept. of Ag provide information on range riders, budget proposals to state legislature to assist ranchers, livestock owners

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

DENVER — Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and the Department of Agriculture (CDA) provided information today on range riders and budget proposals to the state legislature to assist ranchers and livestock owners. CDA and CPW are working on a plan to get on-the-ground assistance within the next two weeks with range riders.

CDA's budget request to the legislature includes funding to hire range riders, who are boots-on-the-ground support to livestock producers to help protect herds from wolves. A human presence like a range rider can help detect wolves and deploy non-lethal deterrents to avoid depredation of livestock. While this request for range riders is pending at the legislature, CDA and CPW are deploying other available resources to provide immediate support and are working on a plan to deploy on the ground assistance through range riders this month.

Additionally, CPW and CDA are working closely with the herd owner and producers in Grand County to coordinate an immediate response to the depredation incident from April 2. The state agencies, which work together through a Memorandum of Understanding, have been building the capacity to anticipate and prepare for any predator livestock incidents and are working towards deploying range riders to help with non-lethal deterrence.

A dedicated Wolf Depredation Compensation cash fund has \$175,000, provided from the state's

General Fund, in its balance and will receive \$350,000 additional General Funds per fiscal year to keep a healthy balance in the fund on an ongoing basis. For the current fiscal year, CPW has spending authority for up to \$175,000 from this fund to compensate livestock owners for wolf depredation. CPW requested increased ongoing spending authority of up to \$525,000 per year beginning FY 24-25 in the department's budget proposal, which is currently being considered by the General Assembly as part of the Long Bill.

CDA has a \$580,936 General Fund request included in the Long Bill under consideration by the state legislature in FY 2024-25 and \$424,647 General Fund ongoing to provide non-lethal wolf depredation assistance, including range riding and supplies to Colorado's farmers and ranchers through a network of three wildlife managers.

When a depredation is confirmed, livestock producers will be eligible for fair market value compensation if a claim is submitted. CPW provides reimbursement for damages caused by gray wolves to livestock defined in C.R.S. 33-2-105.8 and animals used for guard/herding purposes and may provide conflict minimization materials under its Gray Wolf Compensation and Conflict Minimization Program. Following the recent incident in Grand County, CPW staff will continue contacting producers in the area, and encouraging the use of appropriate non-lethal deterrents available through the agency.

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Cold water presents danger, life jackets can help save lives

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

RIDGWAY, Colo. – Colorado’s lakes and reservoirs are opening to more recreation with the arrival of spring, but cold water temperatures can present a serious risk. Wearing a personal floatation device can save lives.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife rangers have already responded to multiple incidents this spring involving paddlesports recreationists falling into the water.

One kayaker died and another was hospitalized last Saturday after they fell into the water at Chatfield Reservoir. Two kayakers who fell into the water at Ridgway Reservoir the weekend before were rescued after they spent 15 minutes in the water.

In both cases, water temperatures were in the low 40 degrees, and all four kayakers in these two incidents were not wearing life jackets at the time they went into the water.

“Our lakes and reservoirs, while especially inviting in the spring after a long winter, can quickly become perilous without the proper precautions,” said Ridgway State Park Manager Johnathon Freeborn. “The recent incidents on our waters serve as a stern reminder of nature’s unpredictability and the vital importance of wearing a personal floatation device. A PFD is more than a piece of safety equipment; it’s what stands between you and tragedy. Wear a life jacket — it could save your life.”

The instinctive reaction when a

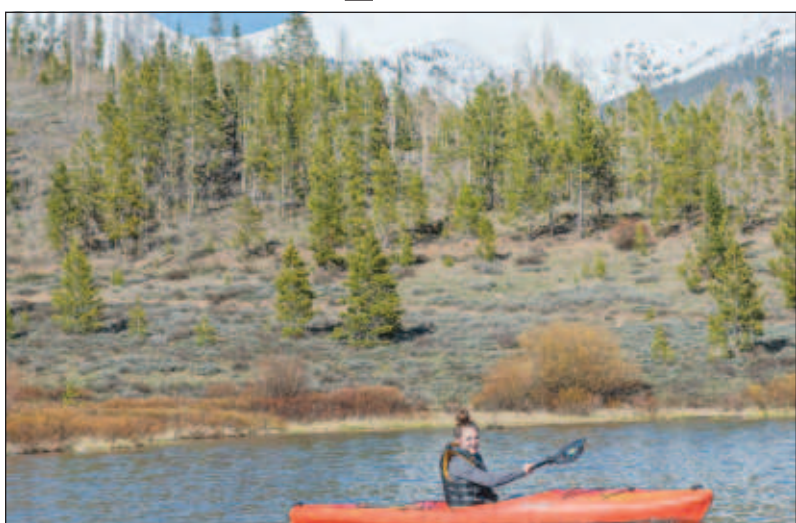


Photo by Dustin Dorskocil/CPW

A paddler wisely wears a life jacket while kayaking at State Forest State Park.

person hits cold water is to gasp, which can lead to inhalation of water. Hypothermia can set in quickly, and use of arms and legs to swim can be quickly impaired as blood flow is directed to a person’s core. This can all lead to unconsciousness or swimming failures as muscles become numb.

Wearing a life jacket will keep your head above water and support your body should your swimming ability fail or you become unconscious.

“It can be deceiving when we start getting warm-weather days and it’s nice outside, but everyone recreating on the water should be aware the water is still really cold and remains cold until at least mid-summer here in Colorado,” said Scott Rist, Park Manager of Crawford, Paonia and Sweitzer Lake State Parks. “Having

the proper gear and a life jacket on is imperative for anyone recreating on the water.”

Windy conditions can exacerbate danger on the water for paddlers. Getting blown off course can happen quickly, and returning to shore can be difficult going into a headwind or when facing waves. That can lead to paddlers expending a lot of energy to navigate and maintain balance. When a paddler loses balance and goes into the water, it can also be easy to become separated from a kayak or paddleboard. “There are several cell phone apps that will tell you hourly wind predictions,” Rist said. “Knowing when conditions are going to change can be the difference between life and death. The user has a responsibility to know before you go.”

Eligible Coloradans encouraged to apply for Colorado’s Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) by April 30 deadline

By COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

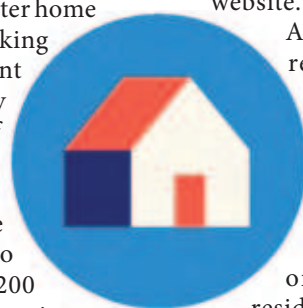
DENVER — April 30 is the last day to apply for Colorado’s Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP). LEAP helps eligible individuals and families pay a portion of winter home heating costs by making a one-time payment directly to the utility company on behalf of each LEAP-eligible household. This season, eligible families can expect to receive between \$200 to \$1,000 in energy assistance, depending on the type of heating fuel, household income and other factors.

“It’s not too late for Coloradans to apply for LEAP,” says Theresa Kullen, LEAP manager. “The extra money that LEAP provides to help pay home energy bills can make a difference for the nearly 500,000 Coloradans who have reported finding it very difficult to pay basic household expenses

recently.” To qualify for LEAP, Coloradans may have an income of up to 60 percent of the state median income. This equates to a household income of less than \$71,112 a year for a family of four. For a further breakdown of income requirements, visit the LEAP website.

Additionally, LEAP recipients must pay home heating costs directly to a utility company or landlord as part of their rent and have at least one U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident of the U.S. living in the household.

To access the LEAP application, visit cdhs.colorado.gov/leap. Online applications are processed through the Colorado PEAK system. You can also call the HEAT HELP line at 1-866-HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435) to receive an application via mail or email or visit your local county department of human services office to pick up or drop off an application.



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State Troopers cracking down on impaired drivers

Surge enforcement set for San Luis Valley Region

CONTRIBUTED

COLORADO— The Colorado State Patrol will conduct saturation patrols through the San Luis Valley area, which includes the counties of Alamosa, Costilla, Conejos, Rio Grande, and Saguache. The enforcement event will occur from Friday, April 12, through Sunday, April 14.

This region has experienced 65 fatal crashes and an additional

235 serious injury crashes over the past five years. Most of these incidents occurred late Friday and into Saturday nights. The leading causal factor for these crashes is impaired driving.

State troopers will be dedicated to the detection and apprehension of drivers who may be impaired by or otherwise under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of these substances.

“We will also be increasing enforcement on excessive speed and a lower tolerance on those driving over the limit; both regarding alcohol and speed,” officials stated.

The agencies participating in the surge of enforcement include the statewide DUI team with the Colorado State Patrol and Troop 5B.

If you encounter a suspected impaired driver, the driver should be avoided by getting out of the way. Contact the Colorado State Patrol after you pull over by calling *CSP (*277), 9-1-1 or 719-589-5807. Be prepared to provide the following information: vehicle description, license plate number, location and direction of travel, driver description, and the driving behavior being demonstrated. All emergency calls can be made to 9-1-1.



Photo courtesy CDPS

Trooper stands on the side of the road.

2024 Summerfest on the Rio – seeking food and craft vendors

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — Alamosa’s iconic “Welcome to summer in the San Luis Valley” is back for 2024 from Friday, May 31, to Sunday, June 2. Yes, Sunday is back.

This annual festival provides extensive arts and craft talents, food, musical entertainment for the entire family and many activities for kids. Situated along the winding Rio Grande in the beautiful and spacious Cole Park, the festival is known for its music, family fun, and culinary delights.

Arts and crafts as well as food vendor applications are being accepted now. The deadline for vendors to apply is Monday, April 15, for food and Saturday, May 25, for arts, crafts and information booths. “Summerfest is a great way to show off your goods and have fun with your business,” organizers stated.

Reasonable sponsorship

opportunities are available as well. Go to www.summerfestontherio.com, for more information.

We are also looking for community-minded people to volunteer for a couple of hours during the festival to help sell and pour beverages. This small but valuable commitment helps keep the

festival free to attendees by avoiding staffing costs.

“Plus, giving back to the community feels good too; you may even get a few drink tickets,” organizers stated.

To sign up or for more information, contact info@summerfestontherio.org.



The #1 Key to Having Peace

Peace is an amazing gift God offers us. I know what it's like to live without peace—upset most of the time, anxious, fearful, and worried. It's miserable! Since I've discovered how to live with God's peace, I will do anything I need to do to have it.

We have to understand the value of peace if we're going to have it. Because if you think it's really no big deal to lose your temper, worry, be stressed-out or upset all the time, you won't do what you need to do to live with peace.

I think it's interesting that one of the last things Jesus told His disciples before His crucifixion was about peace. John 14:27 (AMP) says, “Peace I leave with you; My [perfect] peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. [Let My perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge.]”

In John 20:19, “Peace to you!” is the first thing Jesus said to His disciples after His resurrection. Verse 21 says, “Then Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you...’” Notice the word “again.” He must have wanted them to realize how important it was to maintain their peace.

Take a moment to think about how much peace you have. Do you worry, get upset or feel stressed-out often? Many people do...but that's not the way God wants us to live.

A lot of Christians pray for God to give them peace, but they need to realize that as believers in Christ, they already have His peace. We need to pray for God to help us learn how to walk in peace.

Philippians 4:6-7 (AMP) says: “Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. And the peace

of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours].”

We can learn a lot about how to pray powerful, effective prayers by studying Scripture. Instead of praying for peace, notice that in Philippians the apostle Paul is encouraging believers to trust God in every circumstance so they can have His peace as they go through challenges.

If we don't have peace and we want it, we have to be ready to make some changes. The world around us probably isn't going to change, so we need to change our approach to life. We need to make a conscious decision to trust God in every area of our lives, every day.

We're called believers, and that's what we're supposed to do: Believe God! When we trust Him, we enter His rest and can enjoy our lives.

Years ago, I remember when God helped me to learn this lesson as I studied James 4. In verses 1-4, we see what causes quarrels, strife and discontentment. Verse 2 (NLT) says, “You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.”

Wow! This is basically saying, “You want something, so you strive to get it your way or make it happen on your own, but it doesn't work. If you would just ask Me, I would help you.” It's important to point out here that God won't just give us anything we ask for. He loves us and wants what's best for us, and when we ask for things that are in His plan and purpose for us, He will give them to us.

I used to think I wanted a lot of things that ended up making me



miserable after I managed to get them. But once I started giving up my will and asking God to do what He wants to do in my life, I experienced peace and contentment that I'd never known before.

It was so freeing for me to give up trying to run my own life and instead focus on seeking God and trusting Him to give me what He wants me to have. Psalm 37:4 (AMP) says, “Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires and petitions of your heart.”

I want to strongly encourage you today to purposely choose to seek God and delight yourself in Him before anyone or anything else in your life. He is the Source of love, joy and peace. And you'll live in peace as you live in Him!

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

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

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SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE



Courtesy photo

Alamosa Home founder Mary Domito, right, is celebrating with new store owners, from left, Tyler and Erin Keck, and Hunter Jack. Jack is a lifelong resident of the SLV and comes from a five-generation family here.

Alamosa Home announces new ownership

Sold to local owners putting the 'home' in Alamosa Home

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — Mary Domito, on Friday, announced that she has sold Alamosa Home, and the furniture store is under new ownership. Domito founded Alamosa Home, located in downtown Alamosa in 2015, and has sold the business to co-owners, Hunter Jack, Chief Operating Officer, and Erin Keck, Chief Marketing Officer.

Domito recently expanded her Taos Lifestyle operation and moved into a 24,000-foot space in Taos, N.M., and commented on the sale.

"I started and branded Alamosa Home after discovering the vibrant town of Alamosa and its surrounding communities. It's been a wonderful nine years, but my future lies in Taos. The store is deserving of local stewards who can take it to the next level," she said.

Operating from a historic 1880-era former Masonic Building at the corner of Main and San Juan streets, Alamosa Home serves six counties in the San Luis Valley. The store is recognized for its fine furnishings, mattresses, bedding, lighting, and rugs. Its popular 'Kid's Cave,' specializes in designing creative bedrooms for children.

New owners, Jack and Keck, are excited to realize their dream of owning a business in their hometown and becoming more involved with the community. Keck will continue her work as the CEO of the Alamosa Chamber of Commerce and will oversee marketing for Alamosa Home. Jack, a former sales manager for Delmar Carpet One in Alamosa, is well-versed in sales and customer

service. Jack's family has been in Alamosa for five generations and will bring the "home," to Alamosa Home.

"I am excited about this opportunity to build on the legacy Mary has created here in Alamosa," said Jack. "Alamosa Home provides an opportunity for growth and a way to become more involved with the communities of the San Luis Valley.

Alamosa Home's line of quality furnishings, industry-leading brands, and dedicated customer service will continue without interruption. Kelly Geddes, store manager with a nine-year tenure at Alamosa Home, will help to ensure the transition is smooth and seamless. Domito will be available as a consultant if needed.

In addition to maintaining the continuity of products and services that Alamosa Home is known for, Jack commented on the new owner's visions for the future.

"There is a lot of opportunity for growth. We want to explore the commercial space as well as provide furniture for families with second homes in our area. We're excited to expand on the store's successful foundation," Jack said.

About Alamosa Home

Alamosa Home is located at 630 Main St., Alamosa. The store specializes in industry-leading furniture, rugs, mattresses, and bedding including Kingsdown, La-Z-Boy, Stressless, Taos Lifestyle's Double-M, Wesley Allen, and more. Alamosa Home serves the residents of Alamosa and surrounding areas of the San Luis Valley offering delivery and financing. Store hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 719-589- 2030 or visit alamosahome.com.

GALA Continued from Page 1A

plaques," Varo said. "Number one, of course, will get best of show. We will also be giving out 10 other plaques though. So, if you get involved with the car show, there is a high chance of you earning something for sure. We want people to be happy and know we haven't wasted their time. We are going to make people feel welcome and like it was worth it for sure."

Varo stated that people from all over the Valley and elsewhere are invited to attend.

"We aren't charging an admission fee," Varo said. "We want everyone to come out and have a good time and enjoy the show. We are only charging the actual participants in the car show, and it's only a \$25 fee."

Varo stated that they also plan to have music at the car show.

Varo stated that the car show is a collaboration between himself and his friends, Angel, and Max.

"For me, the inspiration behind it is I am very into car culture," Varo said. "I am very into cars. With Angel and Max, the passion is there too. We all thought this would be a cool thing to do together, to carry on the car show tradition. We wanted to bring a car show to Center for people to enjoy."

Varo said they will try hard to make it a great event for everyone who attends and participates.

"We want to make this as cool and big as possible," Varo said.

Preregistration is recommended by texting 719-849-8252, but people can also register on the day of the car show. There are also local posters with QR codes available to use to register.



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Governor Polis, Colorado Energy Office announce \$21M to expand EV charging network

Awardees include locations in Alamosa, Ft. Garland, South Fork and Monte Vista

By COLORADO ENERGY OFFICE

DENVER — Governor Jared Polis and the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) announced \$21 million in grant awards Thursday through the Direct-Current Fast-Charging (DCFC) Plazas program. Funded through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program, part of President Biden's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the state's Community Access Enterprise (CAE), these grants create 290 new fast charger ports at 46 different sites across the state, expanding Coloradans access to fast, affordable, and reliable EV chargers. This will increase Colorado's existing public fast-charger network of more than 1,000 ports by about 28%.

"Colorado is leading the way in the shift to electric vehicles by making them more affordable and ensuring that driving them across our beautiful state is just as easy as driving a gas-powered car," said Gov. Polis. "We're grateful to have additional dollars to pair with state funds to accelerate our efforts to become the number one state for electric cars, bikes, and buses."

"Addressing greenhouse gas pollution from transportation is a top priority in our efforts to meet the state's climate goals," said CEO Executive Director Will Toor. "This grant program is a key piece of that puzzle, ensuring Colorado builds enough public electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support 940,000 light-duty EVs on Colorado roads by 2030."

Awardees will install chargers in locations across the state, including Cañon City, Littleton, Dolores, Silverton, Yuma, and Fort Garland. Like the first round of NEVI-supported grant awards, announced in August 2023, these awards aim to fill charging gaps along Colorado's federally designated alternative fuel corridors — a requirement for NEVI funding. CEO also awarded CAE funding for projects in communities without adequate electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure.

To ensure the air quality benefits of electric transportation reach those who are most affected by transportation-related air pollution, CEO prioritized projects in disproportionately impacted

communities. These investments will not only facilitate statewide travel in an electric vehicle, but will also help improve air quality and meet charging needs in communities that currently lack access to fast and reliable EV charging.

"Colorado is building one of the most comprehensive EV charging networks in the country," said Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Executive Director Shoshana Lew. "We believe that nearly every Coloradan will have access to DC fast-charging within a matter of years."

With more than 100,000 EVs registered in Colorado, and the pace of adoption growing, the expansion of the charging network is necessary to meet consumer demand. As of February, there were direct-current (DC) fast chargers located within 30 miles of 78% of the state's geographic area.

Grant awardees include charging station operators, fuel providers, convenience stores, and local governments. CEO will provide funding to support the following EV-charging infrastructure projects:

- 7-Eleven: Aurora, Colorado Springs
- Apro LLC. (dba United Pacific): Colorado Springs, Littleton
- Circle K Stores, Inc.: Brighton, Denver, Durango, Greenwood Village, Pueblo
- EvGateway: Alamosa, Clifton, Dolores, Lakewood, South Fork
- Francis Energy Charging, LLC: Montrose
- Helios Charging Inc.: Monte Vista, Silverton
- Jule (dba eCAMION USA Inc.): Fort Garland, Holyoke, Yuma
- Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc: Burlington, Cañon City, Fountain, Pueblo, Walsenburg
- Phillips 66 Company: Colorado Springs (X2), Grand Junction
- Pilot Travel Centers LLC: Limon
- Tesla, Inc.: Arvada, Aurora, Bennett, Brush, Carbondale, Denver, Frisco, Glenwood Springs, Greeley, Gunnison, La Junta, Lakewood, Longmont, Parker, Sterling, Wheat Ridge
- Town of Avon: Avon

CEO expects many of the chargers supported by the current round of DCFC Plazas awards to become available by the end of 2025, and anticipates continuing to offer two DCFC Plazas funding rounds per year, with the next opportunity expected to open later this year.

Grant funding provides free diapers, wipes and creams



Courier photo by John Waters

Lindsay Meredith, Pauline Palacios, and Silvia Martinez with the Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley hand out free diapers during the Easter event at Adams State University on March 30. Meredith, who is the Chief Operating Officer at the council, said the organization recently received a grant of nearly \$200,000 to provide free diapers, wipes and creams. For more information on the Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley, visit their website at www.eccslv.org.



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Smokey the Bear visits the Baca Grande Library

By MARIE MCCOLM

CRESTONE — The Baca Grande Library hosted an open house celebrating their new Saturday hours and introduced their special guest for the celebration, Smokey the Bear.

Approximately 25 people, half of which were children, attended the celebration. Children played in the bouncy house that was set up outside of the library.

Administrative Co-Director for the Saguache County Libraries, Amy Garoutte was outside near the bouncy house, smiling as she directed the children to go inside so that they could meet Smokey the Bear.

Rio Grande National Forest Public Affairs Officer Gregg Goodland read a book to the children. The kids gathered on a large carpet in a circle and were excited as they listened to Goodland read and tell them about Smokey the Bear.

“Smokey was a real bear. He was rescued from a fire as a young cub,” he said.

Goodland said Smokey was in a fire as a small bear and was severely burned. Smokey grew up to help others understand how to prevent fires.

Goodland explained all of Smokey Bears’ important fire safety rules to
Please see SMOKEY on Page 3



Photo by Marie Mccolm

Special guest Smokey the Bear visited the Baca Grande Library to help the library celebrate its new Saturday hours. Children learned about fire safety and met Smokey the Bear.



Great Blue Heron



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Photos by Evert Brown

Bird walks organized by Friends of SLV Wildlife Refuges

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

- April 20 — Spring Migration Meet at refuge headquarters, Alamosa Refuge
- April 27 — Spring Migration

Meet at parking lot of Malm Trail in Alamosa

- May 11 — Spring Migration Meet at parking lot of Malm Trail in Alamosa

- May 18 — Spring Migration Meet at Monte Vista Refuge Visitor Center parking lot

- June 29 — Nesting season Meet at parking lot of Malm Trail in Alamosa

- July 13 — Water birds Meet at Monte Vista Refuge Visitor Center parking lot

Directions

- Monte Vista Refuge Visitor Center. From Monte Vista, drive south on State Highway 15 for 6 miles to the refuge’s entrance. Turn east into the refuge.

- Alamosa Refuge Headquarters. From the junction of Highways 17 and 160, drive east on Highway 160

Please see WALKS on Page 3



Courtesy of Adams State University

The McDaniel Collection was welcomed into Adams State’s McDaniel Hall in a January 24 ceremony. From left: Ed Crowther, Ph.D., president of the ASU Foundation Board; Adams State President David Tandberg, Ph.D.; and Adams State Board of Trustees Chair Duane Bussey.

McDaniel Collection installed at ASU

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — Adams State University and the Adams State Foundation honored the late Dr. John McDaniel with an installation ceremony commemorating The McDaniel Collection, Jan. 24. The collection includes some 260 volumes of the nearly 50,000 that comprised McDaniel’s personal library.

“This collection is a tribute to the mind and heart of a splendid professor and generous benefactor of Adams State University,” said Ed Crowther,
Please see McDANIEL on Page 7

Coming to America — The journey to asylum

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

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

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

A monthly wage of \$5.40 is less than one-tenth of the \$57 per month the United Nations has set as the threshold of extreme poverty. And with inflation soaring out of control, bolivars (currency in Venezuela) will be worth even less next month.

The young woman works at three different jobs every day to support her tiny family, but she worries for the safety of her children. They’re left alone much of the time or watched by neighbors and family members. She worries that they’re
Please see JOURNEY on Page 2



Courtesy of LC

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

JOURNEY

Continued from Page 1

so vulnerable.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Immigration law is complicated," he says.

Someone seeking asylum is coming to the U.S. for protection from persecution in their home country. To be granted asylum and allowed to live and work in the U.S., a person must be able to prove they have been persecuted on the basis of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or for being a member of a particular social group.

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

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

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

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

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

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

About six or seven months after they have submitted an application, people will receive a work permit card, in a separate mail, a social security card so that they can work. At that point, they'll pay taxes and must abide by the same laws as everyone else until their case goes before an immigration judge. During that time, as long as they don't commit a crime and check in with ICE as required, they cannot be removed from the country.

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

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

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

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



Courtesy of L.C.

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

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

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Conour Upper Rio Grande Animal Society

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.

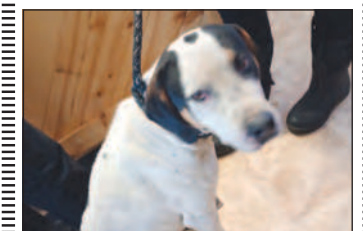


Chuck and Serena our almost 6 month old Shepherd mixes are still looking for their forever homes! Both are playful, loving, energetic and love meeting new people! Chuck and Serena are also fantastic with kids, especially playing with them. Come meet these wonderful balls of love today!



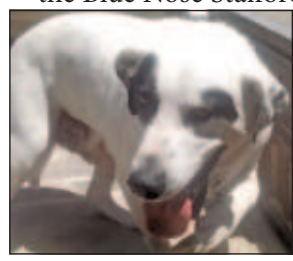
Jelly Bean is the sweetest Husky Pit mix you'll ever meet! She's about a year and a half old, very active and playful, and just wants someone to love! Jelly Bean has done well meeting other dogs and puppies so far, and is only about 40 pounds! Come meet this lovebug today!

LOST & FOUND



Found on 4/2/24 on Huxley Ave in Monte Vista

Our 4 longest residents are Spot the Lab mix, Jethro the Staffordshire mix, Draco the German Shepherd, and Trini the Blue Nose Staffordshire. They are all wonderful gentlemen, just a bit quirky. Their adoption fees are half off this month (\$75)! Please stop in and let one of these goodest boys steal your heart!



Spot



Draco

Please note adoptions go in order of contact made.

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.

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

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

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

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.

Adams State engineers a new path for students

By JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA — Adams State University faculty and staff held an open house in the Engineering Manufacturing Education Center facility that enables students in the San Luis Valley to complete an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering without leaving Alamosa. The university has partnered with Colorado State University in the program.

Ken Marquez, who is the project director at the EMAC said the facility cost \$1.4 million to construct and boasts \$5 million worth of cutting-edge equipment. Those expenses were covered by a \$5.0 million Title Three U.S. Department of Education HSI—STEM (Hispanic Serving Institution, Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) grant. The funds cover five years of expenses for the university.

The facility includes a jet engine that according to Matt Nehring, Ph.D. and Department Chair of Engineering and Computer Science at ASU, enables students to, “Learn about the thermodynamic processes. It is great when we fire it up and it is very impressive. We make real measurements on the thrust it generates and what are the thermodynamic processes.” Nehring added the EMAC has other engines



Photo by John Waters

Alamosa State University undergraduate student Dain Romero is enrolled in the Mechanical Engineering program at the school.

to conduct similar tests. the program, said of the program, “It is really math-heavy and very satisfying to learn all of this new technology. To



Ken Marquez (left) and Sara Noller with Adams State University stand at a CNC Mill (computer numerical control) in the Adams State University/CSU Engineering Manufacturing Education Center (EMEC).

bridge the gap between the theoretical and the physical world is really cool. interesting to see how all of these machines work.” Romero said that after graduation he is interested in robotics. As you can see, it is high-tech and

WALKS

Continued from Page 1

for about 3 miles to El Rancho Lane. Turn right (south) on El Rancho and drive south, over the railroad tracks. The refuge headquarters is on the left (east) just inside the main gate.

- Malm Trail parking lot. In Alamosa, follow 12th Street east to the Alamosa Recycling Center. Then drive about 1,000 feet on South River Road watching for a turnoff to the left into a parking lot. The street number is 8210 S. River Road, Alamosa.

Walk leaders

- Tim Armstrong — Retired Adams State University Biologist.
- Suzanne Beauchaine — Manager of the Alamosa and Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuges.
- Mike Blenden — Retired Project Leader of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuges.
- Evert Brown — Retired University of Wyoming/Casper College Biology Professor, Bald Eagle Watch.
- Lisa Clements — Project leader for the Monte Vista Winter Bird Count.
- John Rawinski — San Luis Valley “go to” guy for answers to bird questions.

For more information, call Evert Brown at 307-315-8003.

SMOKEY


Continued from Page 1

the kids and also pretended to start a fire and had the children help him put it out.

Goodland then told the children to turn around and in walked Smokey the Bear. Smokey was greeted happily by the children. He gave the children a thumbs up and the children gave him hugs and high fives.

The children colored pictures of Smokey the Bear and ate cake with Smokey, before finishing outside in the bouncy house.



The library also promoted the Smokey the Bear reading challenge with literature and books on Smokey the Bear. The challenge is set to go on through May 31.



Valley-Wide Welcomes
Vanessa Sonnen, FNP
to
Convenient Care
Community Clinic
1131 Main Street, Alamosa

Vanessa strives to assist patients in obtaining their health goals through education and promoting preventative healthcare, accountability, and autonomy. Early in her career, Vanessa recognized how many ailments and illnesses could be mitigated through education, moving our bodies and screenings. She has previous experience working as an RN in a high risk Labor and Delivery Unit, a Maternal Fetal Medicine Unit, and an Intensive care unit. Vanessa was born and raised in rural Idaho. When her husband began graduate school, she moved to Aurora, CO, and in 2013, they moved to Alamosa. Outside of the clinic, Vanessa enjoys reading, weightlifting, exploring the outdoors and spending time with her husband and beautiful baby. She is also a volunteer member of the Alamosa Homeless Coalition board.

Choose Vanessa Sonnen and Convenient Care Community Clinic when you need a quick visit!

valley-widehealth.org

Complete Clearance Sale!!!

at
Sunshine Country Grocery Store
(store is relocating)

Sale starting April 10 to April 20
(or while supplies last)

10978 South County Road 5E
Monte Vista

Business Showcase

Just arrived, a wide variety of decorative pillows.



The Holy Moses
Mon.-Sat.
10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

658-2848
121 N. Main
Creede


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. - 4:30 p.m.
Nick & Vicki Kulyk
121 N. Main • 658-2848 • Creede



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
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59 VEHICLES WANTED
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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 montevistaclass@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

Water/Sewer Operator Part-Time Pay based on experience Job Title: Water and Sewer Operator Job Description: The Water and Sewer Operator plays a vital role in ensuring the efficient and safe operation of the town's water and sewer systems. Responsibilities include monitoring, maintaining, and repairing water treatment and distribution systems, as well as sewer collection and treatment facilities. To apply, submit a resume to townofromeo@gmail.com or come in during office hours Tuesday or Thursday 9 to 3 for application. You can call 719-843-5785 for more information.

Job Title: Part-Time Maintenance Technician/Parks and Recreation Technician Part-Time Hourly 15-

20 hours Pay rate: \$14.42/hour Job Description: We are seeking a skilled and dedicated Part-Time Maintenance Technician/Parks and Recreation Technician to join our team in maintaining and enhancing the beauty and functionality of our town's parks and recreational areas. As a vital member of our community, you will be responsible for ensuring the upkeep, safety, and cleanliness of our parks, playgrounds, and town buildings and facilities. To apply, submit a resume to townofromeo@gmail.com or come in during office hours Tuesday or Thursday 9 to 3 for application. You can call 719-843-5785 for more information. (4-17)

Deputy Clerk Part-Time Hourly 15-20 hours Tuesday-Thursday and some Fridays Pay Rate: \$14.42 Position Overview/ Job Description: We are seeking a diligent and organized individual to join our team as a Part-Time Deputy Clerk for our small town. The Deputy Clerk will work closely with the Town Clerk and other

municipal staff to ensure the efficient operation of administrative tasks and provide support in various municipal functions. This position offers an excellent opportunity for someone who is detail-oriented, community-focused, and eager to contribute to the smooth functioning of local government.

To apply, submit a resume to townofromeo@gmail.com or come in during office hours Tuesday or Thursday 9 to 3 for application. You can call 719-843-5785 for more information. (4-17)

Mechanic: JT Timber Falling is hiring a full-time heavy equipment and truck mechanic in Blanca, CO. \$25-\$45/hr depending on experience. Monday - Friday schedule. Benefits are available. Call 719-379-4066 or visit jttimber.com to apply. (5-1)

The City of Monte Vista is accepting applications for Kids Connection Summer Program Leaders. Duties include, planning, scheduling, and implementing youth program activities.

\$15 per hour. Job Description and applications are available at <http://www.cityofmontevista.colorado.gov> or City of Monte Vista, Human Resources, 95 West First Ave, Monte Vista, Co. 81144

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 re-

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

Del Norte Bank is seeking a candidate to fill a Seasonal position for a Teller at our Creede Branch. Duties will be to accept deposits, loan payments and process withdrawals while maintaining a balanced cash drawer. Must be personable and pleasant answering the phone and greeting customers. Many other duties will be assigned as needed.

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

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 fine Ranch Style home offers a delightful blend of comfort and 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**

UNDER CONTRACT



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

The position is seasonal, full time with a hourly rate range of \$14.42 to \$17.00. Please send your resume or application to postmaster@truelocalbank.com by April 12, 2024. Application is available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers or call 719-657-3376 and ask for Dawn. EOE.

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

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

District Office or online at: urtigers.co.

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

11 Rooms

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

17 Real Estate For Sale

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

23 Lawn and Garden

Free trees. Crabapple, Chinese elm, aspen. 3-6 feet. Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m. to noon. 219 Dunham St., Monte Vista. Bring a shovel. No early birds please. (4-10)

32 Fuel & Heating

Firewood For Sale. Call or text Mark 662-361-7530 Located in Saguache.

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

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



2 bedroom, 2 bath 1,364 Sq. Ft. on 0.170 acres
 \$225,000 | MLS #772142
 334 S. Broadway St. Monte Vista CO

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



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



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



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



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



Large Warehouse Approx. 6,579 sq. ft. on 1.57 Acres
 \$150,000 | MLS #811519
 1665 S. County Rd. 4 E. Monte Vista, CO

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



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



Approx. 143.68 Acres with Residence
 \$550,000 | MLS #808905
 23227 Co. Rd. J.2. San Luis, CO

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




River Island Ranch Approx. 5.270 Acres
 \$131,000 | MLS #802486
 147 Explorer Way South Fork, CO

YVONNE HOFFMAN
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36 Miscellaneous

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38 Machinery, Tools, Equipment

Wanted - Shopsmith woodworking machine. 2-inch-thick hardwood planks - cherry, walnut, maple, etc. 719-256-5663. (5-1)

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

40 Auto Part

Chevy 4-speed transmission. 719-850-2027 (4-17)

41 Farm Equipment

For Sale PROAG auto align Bale skoop 125r bale stacker. Will haul 12 3x3s, 6 3x4s or 4 4x4s. 719-480-9492

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New book hits shelves at RG County Museum

STAFF REPORT

DEL NORTE — After years of dedicated work, Del Norte native Vernon P. Casias captured his memories in print and published his first book titled "Hell Gate and Beyond" which hit shelves at the Rio Grande County Museum the last week of March.

In this book, Casias writes about his time growing up in the San Luis Valley and at 88 years old, unravels his memories, his Spanish heritage and more.

"I was always so proud of my Spanish ethnicity, and I wanted to share that with someone. One of the main reasons I wrote this book was because a lot of our heritage is being lost and I want to help keep it alive. I hope that I can encourage others to come forward and share their memories and traditions too," said Casias.

Throughout his life, Casias met one challenge after another, beginning with the loss of his father at age 9. During this time, Casias was going down the wrong path, but it did not take him long to find the right path again while growing up in Del Norte.

"It wasn't long before I graduated high school and then went on to pursue a military career. It was during my service that I found a calling for helping people in need," he said.

Casias served in the Airforce during the Korean Conflict and was given top-secret crypto clearance as a trained cryptographer assigned to strategic air command. It was late that he pursued his passion for helping people when he graduated from college with B.S. in Behavioral Science and then graduate school with a degree in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling.

In his book Casias delves into the

origins of the Valley, highlighting his personal heritage from the area including Hells Gate or La Puerta de el Inferno.

"One of the first settlers in El Canero Creek was my 4th generation Grandfather Juan Antonio Espinosa and his wife Maria Rita Teodora Quintana. At this time Colorado had not been settled except for the San Luis settlement," writes Casias.

From childhood memories of Del Norte and the San Luis Valley to his time serving in the Airforce, Casias captivates readers with his stories. The small book is just the perfect length to get a glimpse into what life was like for one person growing up during a time where the San Luis Valley was undergoing constant change whether it was pending war, droughts, or visits from unlikely guests.

"Hell Gate and Beyond" is a unique look at what it was to be a Spanish

heritage family in the San Luis Valley and even touches on the mysterious side of growing up in this area. Casias addresses some of his Spanish traditions while looking into some of the mysteries that surround Del Norte and neighboring communities.

Casias writes, "In my lifetime I can only think of one possible mysterious supernatural experience. It happened in Del Norte in the 1950s in a two-bedroom cinderblock house my brother had built for my mother to rent out which was next to our house..."

Casias now calls New Mexico his home but travels to the area often to see family. He hopes to begin work on a second book which will include more memories from his life here in the Valley. Copies of "Hell Gate and Beyond" are available at the Rio Grande County Museum in Del Norte.



Courtesy photo of Vernon Casias, author of 'Hell Gate and Beyond' spent the last several years looking into his Spanish heritage and is thrilled to announce that his stories of growing up in the San Luis Valley are now available for all to share.

2024 irrigation season start dates

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

This announcement is to comply with the State Engineer's Rules and Regulations regarding the setting of an irrigation season in Division 3. For more information, contact the Division of Water Resources at 719-589-6683.

National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center grand opening

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

of the city of Alamosa on Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge at 7824 El Rancho Lane.

Meet refuge staff and Friends of the San Luis Valley Refuges. The Friends will provide light refreshments. They

will be on hand to talk about the refuges, answer questions, and from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. there will be a guided bird walk.

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

SLV Spay and Neuter April schedule

SANLUIS VALLEY — The mobile clinic at SLV Spay and Neuter will be in Fort Garland on April 5 and 6. The clinic will be in Moffat on April 13 and

in Antonito on April 19 and 20. The cost for cats is \$60 and \$85 for dogs. To book an appointment, visit www.slvna.org.

MCDANIEL Continued from Page 1

Ph.D., president of the Foundation Board and emeritus professor of history. McDaniel joined the Adams State faculty in 1967 and remained excited about history, politics, and teaching his students for 40 years. He passed away on May 2, 2023.

Former students of McDaniel attended the ceremony, along with Adams State President David Tandberg, Ph.D., Adams State Board of Trustees Chair Duane

Bussey, Foundation staff, and Crowther.

Crowther explained the collection is more a memorial than a research compendium. "These books were selected as representative of McDaniel's various interests, including the history of the Gilded Age, the United States Presidency, the Kennedy Era, literature, and opera."

The collection is housed on the first floor of McDaniel Hall, south-east side.



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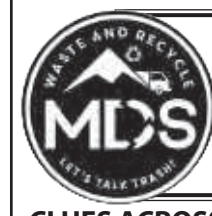
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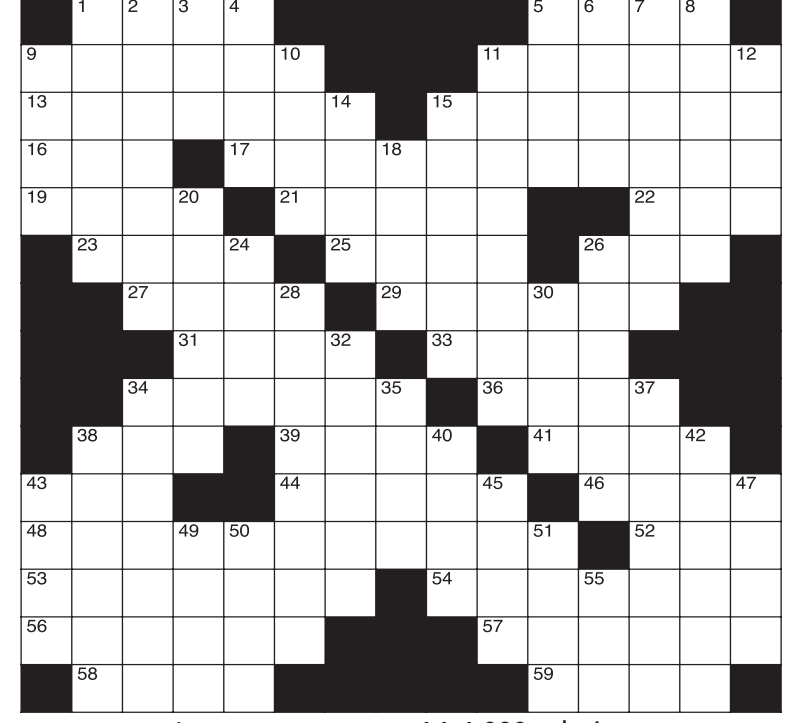
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CLUES ACROSS

- Male children
- Robert Wagner series "Hart to ..."
- Unfolded
- Digestive disease
- Wednesday
- Malignant tumor
- Conscientious investment strategy (abbr.)
- Slowed
- Letter of the Semitic abjads
- Weights of cars without fuel
- Former CIA
- Asian country
- Instead
- Ancient Egyptian King
- Privies
- Shopping trips
- Paradoxical anecdote
- It's on the table
- Ancient Persia ruler
- Small American rail
- File extension
- Days (Spanish)
- Everyone has one
- South American plant
- About ilium
- Vanished American hoopster Bison
- A type of breakfast
- Uncooked

Solution to last week's puzzle

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



- Examined
- Christian recluse
- Strong posts
- Some are for pasta
- Skinny
- School-based organizations
- 1,000 calories
- What one does overnight
- Dwarf planet
- Pipe
- Black powdery substance
- Set of four
- Canned fishes
- North Carolina college
- Secured
- A disgraceful event
- Physical suffering
- The home of the free
- Some are boys
- Satisfy
- Makes very happy
- South American plants
- Modes of transportation
- Female sheep
- Type of torch
- Piece of merchandise
- Jump over
- Wife of Amun

CLUES DOWN

- Ringlet
- Type of complex
- Midway between north and northwest
- It becomes something bigger
- German courtesy title
- Genus of birds
- Marked by public disorder
- Least aggressive
- Russian city
- Insect repellent
- Interruptions
- Scoundrels

Presentation of 'The Woolly West' a huge success

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — Keynote speaker Dr. Andrew Gulliford addressed a full house at the Rio Grande County Museum on Friday, March 29, for his presentation on his recently published book "The Woolly West." The book takes a detailed look into the history of sheep herders in the Valley and surrounding southwest including firsthand accounts from sheep herders.

Gulliford opened by stating that he began his research for the book with a sincere fascination with the operations of sheep herders and it was not long before he found himself in a world that was unique, artistic, and full of devotion.

"It was something that was almost forgotten, something secret but at the same time right there in front for everyone to see," said Gulliford as he began to explain the importance of sheep herding throughout the American West. "I created a new word; sheepscape. And I became very intimate with sheepscape throughout the process of writing this book."

With a little help from his wife, Gulliford attacked his research for his book with passion and increasing fascination with the diversity of sheep herding throughout southwestern Colorado and beyond. The book captivates readers with not only accurate history of the lives of sheep herders and the violent relationships they had with cattlemen as ranching

took on new forms throughout history, but also with the firsthand accounts from shepherders and how they lived among their flocks.

Gulliford spent hours, days and even weeks on end looking for the infamous sheep herder artwork known as arborglyphs that graced the surface of thousands of trees deep within Aspen groves in mountains around the southwest portion of Colorado.

These trees served as not only guides for fellow herders, but as canvases for works of art that are baffling for the public eye to behold. From risqué portraits of human forms to cartoons meant to lighten the burden of being alone for months, sheep herder artwork transforms the basis of the job into something much more personal.

In addition to the arborglyphs, Gulliford also came across monuments he thinks were made by sheep herders as a way to mark locations or to serve as beacons during severe weather so that lost herders could find their way. Stacked rocks that rise towards the sky can be found in several sheepscape locations and are accompanied by the arborglyphs in many cases.

The book gives insight into the San Luis Valley's origins and provides a peek at what life was like for sheep herders throughout the West.

Gulliford's book can be found online at Texas A&M University Press at this address www.tamupress.com/book/9781623499303/the-woolly-west/.



Dr. Andrew Gulliford greeted a full house at the Rio Grande County Museum on March 29 to discuss his book "The Woolly West." Gulliford captivated the audience with his stories and insight into the research he did for his publication stating that he found a passion and fascination with sheep herders throughout history.

Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

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