

San Luis Valley GRADUATES
Class of 2024

Schedule of San Luis Valley Graduations

Alamosa May 25 - 9 a.m. - High School Stadium	Del Norte May 25 - 2 p.m. - Upper Rio Grande School Gym
Antonito May 26 - 9 a.m. - High School Gym	Manitou May 18 - 3 p.m. - Moffat School Gym
Byron Springs DELTA Center/ Monte Vista Online Academy May 11 - 10 a.m. - Jean Wheeler Center	Monte Vista May 27 - 9 a.m. - High School Gym
Canon City May 25 - 10 a.m. - Canon City High School	Mountain Valley May 18 - 7 a.m. - High School Gym
Castle Rock May 25 - 11 a.m. - High School Gym	Silt May 24 - 7 p.m. - Silt High School
Central May 23 - 9 a.m. - High School Gym	Sanger de Cristo May 24 - 6 p.m. - High School Gym
Creede May 25 - 11 a.m. - High School Gym	Silt May 20 - 7 p.m. - High School Gym
Crowley May 23 - 9 a.m. - High School Gym	Slavens Grande May 24 - 9 p.m. - High School Gym
Crested Butte May 17 - 2:30 p.m. - Crested Butte Charter School	

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

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Inside this week's
Monte Vista Journal

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News in Brief

Sharon Adams Memorial Dedication

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

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

Wildfire season is focus of RGNF series April 24

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

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

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

Genesis Wellspring grand opening, ribbon cutting

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — On Thursday, April 18, Genesis Wellspring had a ribbon cutting and open house celebration.

The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce and the OptiMysitics Citizen's Action Network hosted the ceremony. Approximately 25 people were present when co-owner-operator Terry Carroll and her husband and co-owner Brian Carroll cut the red ribbon in front of her new business.

Please see OPENING on Page 2A

Approximately 25 people were present when Genesis Wellspring co-owner-operator Terry Carroll and her husband and co-owner Brian Carroll cut the red ribbon in front of her new business on April 18.

Photo by Marie Mccolm



Ribbons of Courage recognizes law enforcement



Organization donated ribbons to MVPD during National Crime Victims' Right Week

Please see RIBBONS on Page 2A

Lani Welch, director of the organization Ribbons of Courage, and Ribbons of Courage volunteer Larry Garner donated ribbons created in support of the National Crime Victims' Rights Week campaign to the Monte Vista Police Department

Photo by Marie Mccolm

MVHS senior named a 2024 Dell Scholar

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — Monte Vista High School recently announced that senior Manuel Ochoa was selected as a 2024 Dell Scholar. This scholarship recognizes his outstanding academic achievements, leadership skills, and commitment to pursuing higher education.

As a Dell Scholar, Ochoa will receive a \$20,000 scholarship disbursed over his academic career, providing invaluable

financial support for his college journey. In addition to the financial award, Scholars will benefit from personalized, multifaceted support designed to address academic, financial, and emotional challenges that students may encounter while pursuing their degrees.

One of the key benefits of the Dell Scholars program is the provision of a laptop with a 4-year warranty, ensuring that Ochoa has the necessary technol-

ogy to excel in his studies.

Additionally, he will receive textbook credits totaling up to \$2,000 over four years.

Beyond financial assistance, Dell Scholars like Ochoa have access to comprehensive life support services, including resources and connections for scholars and their families to navigate stress, debt, and other life circumstances. The

Please see SCHOLAR on Page 2A



Manuel Ochoa

Monte Inked raises awareness, tattoos for a cause

By MARIE MCCOLM

ALAMOSA — On Saturday, April 20, at the Adams State University Student Union Building Court, Monte Inked tattooed for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The tattooing was approved by the Adams State board. The owner of Monte Inked LLC, Yolie Trujillo, was excited and pleased with the flash sale.

"We were so honored to have students, faculty members, and staff come down and receive tattoos from us," she said. "Today we did well over 100 tattoos at the university. It was a good turnout. This was the first of what we hope will be many. They like to do things like this at the college. This month was Sexual Assault Awareness month. We combined it with Suicide Awareness and

Please see INKED on Page 2A

Monte Inked set up shop at Adams State University on April 20 and tattooed for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Courtesy photo



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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Merritt Tyler Cerny

ALAMOSA— Tyler and Megan Cerny of Alamosa welcomed their first child on March 31, 2024, Easter Sunday. Merritt Tyler Cerny was born at SLV Health weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces and 19 ¾ inches in length.

Paternal grandparents are Keith Cerny and Beth Cerny Tooker, both of Alamosa, and maternal grand-

parents are Walter Gylling of Lajara and Miriam Baines of Alamosa. Paternal great-grandparents are the late Robert and Elsie Cerny, and the late Francis and Mary Alice Rea of Nebraska. Maternal great-grandparents are Julie Campbell of Alamosa and the late Robert Campbell, and Nathel Gylling and the late Ivan Gylling.

RIBBONS

Continued from Page 1A

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — On April 17, Lani Welch, director of the organization Ribbons of Courage, and Ribbons of Courage volunteer Larry Garner donated ribbons created in support of the National Crime Victims' Rights Week campaign to the Monte Vista Police Department.

Monte Vista Police officers thanked Welch and Garner for the donation. Welch thanked the MVPD for helping victims and doing what they do for their community.

"It means a lot to gain the support of law enforcement around the Valley, showing their support for Crime Victims' Rights Week," Welch said. "We have been able to gain the support of the majority of law enforcement throughout the Valley this year. We look forward to

continuing to grow these relationships all over the Valley. We are a crime victim support organization. Our goal is to be able to help victims of all different types of crime. We have a lot of different organizations that help victims of specific crimes. We still have other victims that fall through the cracks, that need support also."

Garner added, "This was pretty new to me when I first started with it. I am starting to do some research and talk to different people about this cause. I am glad to be involved and helping with this."

Welch's goal is to have an office in Monte Vista and to start support groups. Welch said she hopes to obtain volunteers who will help with assisting victims in court cases and with the support groups. Welch plans to create support groups to

help adults, teens, and children.

Welch thanked the following agencies for supporting Ribbons of Courage and the National Crime Victims' Rights Week campaign - the Mineral County Sheriff's Office, Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office, South Fork Police Department, Del Norte Police Department, Saguache County Sheriff's Office, Center Police Department, Alamosa Police Department, Alamosa County Sheriff's Office, Manassa Police Department, Conejos County Sheriff's Office, Costilla County Sheriff's Office, Blanca Police Department, 12 Judicial District Judges, 12th Judicial District Attorney's Office and Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center.

For more information on Ribbons of Courage, contact Welch lani.ribbonsofcourage@gmail.com or 719-480-1588.



Photo by Randy Ellis

Genesis Wellspring is an Optional Holistic Total Health and Wellness Center. Their location is 133 Adams St. They are currently stocked with herbs, teas, stone grinders, seeds, and offer tips and advice for overall wellness through board certified private consultations.

OPENING

Continued from Page 1A

Terry Carroll thanked everyone for coming and Heather Hillin, director of the Monte Vista Chamber, congratulated the business and welcomed them to the community.

Terry Carroll said, "I feel really blessed today. There are some people who have come out that are people that I have worked with before, previous clients. There are some people that I have never even met. This just blesses me. I am blessed today."

Terry Carroll, who is a Board-Certified Traditional Nature Path and a Master Herbalist, spoke about her upbringing and how she became interested in the business.

"I have really been an herbalist all my life," she said. "My grandmother is Native American, so I grew up that way. As a young woman, I got started in natural health, because I saw a lot of my friends with diabetes, strokes, heart attacks, all these things. Well, I began reading stuff about nutrition and I became very interested in natural health and healing people naturally."

Although Terry Carroll has worn many different hats in her life, in-

cluding being a financial advisor, she said that natural health interested her the most.

"It has interested me so much," she said. "I raised my kids this way you know, I do believe in natural health and wellness."

Terry Carroll said that before opening the storefront she used to go to a lot of her clients personally. She's excited to now have a place where her clients can come to her. She was also invited to teach classes on home health care and herbal first aid. She is looking forward to teaching the classes in South Fork and at the Home Lake Assisted Living Center.

Terry Carroll said that she is available for health and wellness consultations. She is also certified to perform tests to determine wellness and proper PH in clients. Her store also has various wellness items for sale, including Bulk Herbal Apothecary, homeopathic items, and supplements and tools for wellness.

Genesis Wellspring is an Optional Holistic Total Health and Wellness Center. Their location is 133 Adams St. They are currently stocked with herbs, teas, stone grinders, seeds, and offer tips and advice for overall wellness through board certified private consultations.

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SCHOLAR

Continued from Page 1A

program also offers a teletherapy service that connects students to professional counseling, childcare support, and additional life circumstance assistance.

Ochoa plans to major in Graphic Design and is considering attending either Colorado Mesa University or Adams State University in the fall, both

offering additional significant academic scholarships.

"We are so excited to see Manuel recognized as a Dell Scholar," said Principal Jose Ortega. "We have no doubt that he will continue to achieve great success in his academic and professional endeavors."

INKED

Continued from Page 1A

Mental Health Awareness. We did like the semi colons, a lot of my body my rules, type of stuff. We love to support causes, and this is a cause that we really wanted to support. We were very honored to do it."

Trujillo, who has been a tattoo artist for over 12 years and owned and operated Monte Inked LLC for over 3 years now, was excited when Adams State contacted her about 2 months ago.

"The college knows that we do a lot of these types of things at the shop," Trujillo said. "Every year, we do Mental Health Awareness. So, when we were contacted, we were super excited about doing this event. To be approved by the Adams State Board is huge to us. We heard that this is the first time ever that a tattoo shop has been approved to be on campus and tattoo, so it was exciting."

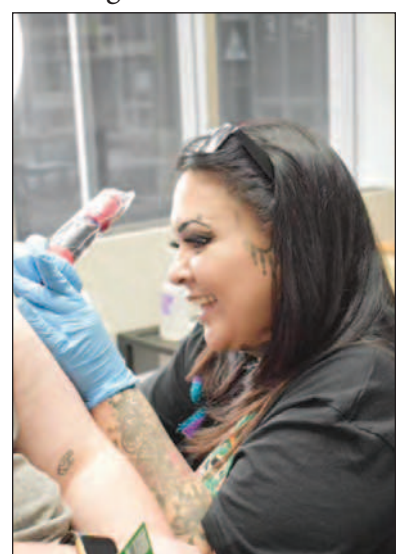
Trujillo stated that Monte Inked LLC is very supportive of different causes.

"Last year we did over 300 tattoos for Mental Health Awareness," she said. "We do self-harm cover-ups for about half off, if not more. I do gang affiliated tattoo cover ups for free. We also cover up scars for women who have had breast cancer and had to have mastectomies. We cover those for free. We are definitely a shop who really cares about people, and different causes."

Trujillo said that people should not be forced to walk around with things they are uncomfortable with.

"I wanted to have a tattoo shop that not only creates beautiful art for people, but also helps people," she said. "Sometimes it's not all about money, it's about helping people and making people feel good about themselves. We have always told our clients, if they ever need a place to come hang out, diffuse, if they ever even just need someone to talk to, we remind people that they are not alone. We want people to come down, hang out, talk, we are here for people. We love our jobs, but we love and care about people too."

Trujillo first became interested in tattooing when she was younger. She has always been an artist but wanted



Courtesy photo

The owner of Monte Inked LLC, Yolie Trujillo, pictured, said they did more than 100 tattoos.

to tattoo when she saw how beautiful it looked. She stated her biggest inspiration for tattooing is her sister. Trujillo is grateful to be doing what she loves because she stated that for her it's a passion and it never feels like work. She stated that the group at her shop is more like family than co-workers.

"I have an amazing crew of over 15 people who all work at the shop that are like family. We try to treat everyone that comes to see us the same way too. We love the community of Monte Vista and love what we do," she said.

Trujillo feels passionate about being able to tattoo for Sexual Awareness Month, at Adams State College. She stated her and her crew felt very fulfilled by being able to provide so many people with tattoos that would hopefully help them feel empowered by what they have gone through.

"We care about the cause, and we care about people. We look forward to going to many more future events," she said.

Trujillo stated that for anyone who had missed the sale at the college that they are holding a \$20 flash sale this weekend for the same cause at her shop that is open to everyone.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

A firm foundation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whether it be buildings or women’s



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

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

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

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

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

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

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

In Wyoming, tormenting a wolf is not a big deal

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

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

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

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

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

The new Born to be Wild specialty license plate has already generated more than \$60,000 toward Colorado wildlife department’s nonlethal-conflict prevention fund for wolves. If a wolf, bear or moun-

tain lion causes a livestock loss, the producer is eligible for compensation, as in a case in early April, where wildlife staffers reported that wolves had killed two calves.

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

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

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

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

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

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



by Wendy Keefover

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

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

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

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

Evaluating the dual impacts of drone technology for fish conservation efforts

By DARIUS MAEZ

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

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

There are two different ways to drone fishing: the

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE Monte Vista JOURNAL

THE MONTE VISTA JOURNAL (USPS 360-660) Published weekly (every Wednesday) by Valley Publishing. (719) 852-3531 at 835 First Ave., Monte Vista, Colorado 81144-1423.

Established in 1888 and consolidated with the Monte Vista Tribune and San Luis Valley Graphic.

Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144

Main office, Want ads and Subscriptions: (719) 852-3531

Periodical postage paid at Monte Vista, Colo., 81144

POSTMASTER: Send change of address to P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144

Subscriptions: \$45 one year in the San Luis Valley; \$40 one year seniors (65 and older) in the San Luis Valley; and \$55 one year out of the San Luis Valley. (719) 852-3531

San Luis Valley Publishing, LLC

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Judge to rule on La Sierra issues in week-long hearing

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA —The “special master” appointed by Judge Kenneth Plotz to settle disputes between access holders to La Sierra and its owner has scheduled a week-long hearing for May 13-17 in the Alamosa District Court.

The purpose of the hearing is to settle three issues, including the right of access holders with land abutting La Sierra to keep their gates that directly open into the ranch for personal access. The hearing will also settle the right of access holders to fix and maintain roads for better access.

Finally, the issue of the right of the owner to fence around any structures within the ranch will be addressed.

The court-appointed “special master” has indicated that he may want to hear from every landowner with abutting land with gates so they can justify their need for such gate(s). Currently, there are 27 identified gates.

Landowners with direct gates to La Sierra should contact Joseph Quintana at quintanajc60@gmail.com or 719-48-9483 to ensure everyone has an opportunity to present their case.

CAC opens Call for Entry for Annual Mountain Shootout

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

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

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

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



CARNEGIE CORNER

Here are our latest additions at the library: Good Night, Irene by Luis Alberto Urrea; The Sunlit Man by Brandon Sanderson; The Rest by J.C. Watson; The Book that Broke the World by Mark Lawrence; Hush, Hush, by Becca Fitzpatrick; A Killing on the Hill by Robert Dugoni; Toxic Prey by John Sanford; Sharing Too Much by Richard Paul Evans; We’ve Got Issues by Phillip C. McGraw, M.D.; Feline Fatale by Rita Mae Brown; I Have Called You by Name by Jerry B. Jenkins; A Calamity of Souls by David Baldacci; Chasing the Horizon by Mary Connealy; Matterhorn by Christopher Reich; Pay Dirt by Sara Paretsky; The Murder Inn by James Patterson; It Had to Be You by Mary Higgins Clark and Alafair Burke; Murder in the Tea Leaves by Laura Childs; Just for the Summer by Abby Jimenez.

Commuting to work and have nothing to listen to? Want to take a trip down nostalgia lane and have someone read you a story? Come in and see if you can find your favorite authors in our audiobook section!

Have you taken advantage of our ILL program? That is our Inter Library Loan program. We can order books from another library if we don’t have what you’re looking for. Ask at the desk about this and we are happy to assist!

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

Photo courtesy of Emily Folz

Newcomer’s Guide to Gardening in the Valley

By EMILY FOLZ

Colorado Master Gardener

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

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

To jumpstart my knowledge base, I completed the Colorado Master

Gardener Program last year. As a friend told me when I finished it, “You’ve got a lot of book knowledge. Now you just need to put something in the ground!”

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

But first, full disclosure. I am a lazy gardener. I love planting summer annuals in June, knowing they’ll continue to bloom until the first frost. I love to see flowering shrubs come to life despite a bit of neglect. I am surprised each year when perennials

rise from their winter bed and fill my garden with color when I’ve done nothing to deserve it. Last June, I saw a lilac bush off Highway 160 in full, glorious bloom. Given its location, I suspect it hasn’t been tended to for years. That is my kind of plant! And I was delighted last June when wild iris, golden banner, and lilacs came to life near my house.

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

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

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



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Firefighting air tanker stationed at Kent Rominger Airport

By LYNSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — Rio Grande County Airport and Emergency Manager Brian Burrell recently announced that the Kent Rominger Airport will be the temporary home to an Air Tractor 802 Single Engine Air Tanker that will be available to fight wildland fires in surrounding areas.

The San Luis valley is known for its high winds and as spring quickly approaches, the wind becomes a threat for fire danger in the Valley. According to Burrell, he had been planning to bring a firefighting aircraft to the airport and after going through the emergency plans for the airport, decided it was time to find a company to do that.

“These aircraft are strategically positioned throughout the state of Colorado. The aircraft sits until they are needed, and a contract has to be created once a need for this type of aircraft is required but the process goes really smooth once it is initiated.

We live in an area where if a wild land fire does occur, we have to wait up to six hours or more to receive help. Having an aircraft like this stationed here would be a huge help,” explained Burrell.

CO Fire Aviation is the company that is stationing the 802 Single Engine Air Tanker at the airport in Del Norte and is one of the major companies that provide these types of aircraft during fire emergencies throughout the state.

According to CO Fire’s mission statement, “As a state of Colorado company engaged in wildland fire suppression operations, we are challenged with working in high-risk and dynamic environments that are not always predictable. It is the responsibility of each employee, cooperators and contractor to conduct aviation operations that have been planned properly, approved by management, that utilize the correct equipment and personnel, and are carefully executed per company Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to minimize risk. Safety is CO Fire Aviation’s first priority, and CO Fire Aviation’s corporate leadership will always foster a culture that encourages employees to communicate unsafe conditions, policies or acts that could lead to accidents without fear of reprisal. All CO Fire Aviation’s employees will embrace the four components of a Safety Management System (SMS) which are identified as policy, risk management, assurance, and promotion, are critical to the success of safe operations.

Each CO Fire Aviation unit will staff all exclusive use, as well as, all Call When Needed/On Call contracted aircraft, assigned to any suppression missions, with fully trained and experienced personnel throughout the entire contract period. Additionally, CO Fire Aviation will ensure that any required support functions such as air tanker base reloading sup-



Photo courtesy of RGC Emergency Manager Brian Burrell

An 802 Single Engine Air Tanker is stationed at the Kent Rominger Airport in Del Norte and will help fight wildland fires. Rio Grande County Emergency and Airport Manager Brian Burrell announced that CO Fire Aviation, a Colorado-based wildland firefighting aircraft company, plans to have the aircraft in the area for at least a year.

port, and fueling operations will be filled with trained and experienced personnel.”

Burrell explained that fire danger this time of year is high and that it is important to be prepared.

“We never want to use the aircraft, but to have it accessible. That is the thing that matters. It will also help economically. A pilot would be stationed here as well as a crew while firefighting operations are underway.

They will be using community resources and bringing money to the area. It really is a good thing for the San Luis Valley,” he said.

The aircraft will be at the airport for the foreseeable future.

First Southwest Community Fund welcomes Jeannie Beier as Director of Lending

CONTRIBUTED

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

FSWCF has experienced significant growth over the past few years. The Director of Lending is a new role in response to this growth. This senior management position was created to ensure that impact goals of key organizational program initiatives are met, with

a focus on delivering loan products and development services to target markets through bank and community partner marketing channels.

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

As Director of Lending, Beier will be responsible for designing and implementing financial products and services that are responsive to target markets; lending production, underwriting and closing,

marketing and outreach to target markets, relationship-building with community partners and referral sources and technical assistance advisors. Her primary responsibility will be to deploy capital and technical assistance resources in an active, healthy loan program that is responsive to the needs of the community.

“Jeannie’s expertise and deep understanding of lending principles, risk

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

Beier was born and raised in Omaha,

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

More Than a Conqueror

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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Emergency services dispatch employees celebrated

By REYNA MARTINEZ

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

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

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

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

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



Left to right, Commissioner Vern Heersink, Commissioner Van Ry, Melanie Teem, Dispatcher, Sean Garcia, Dispatcher, Cameron Decker, Communication Director

Courtesy photo

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

By USDA

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

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

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

contribute to the economic vitality and well-being of the communities intertwined with our forests."

"The Secure Rural Schools program is just one of the ways the Forest Service supports communities nationwide," said Forest Service Chief Randy Moore. "This funding aids schools and roads, reimburses counties for national forest emergency services, and assists in creating community wildfire protection plans – all critical programs designed to enhance the quality of life in these communities."

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

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

The Forest Service retains some of the funding to support projects that improve forest conditions and support jobs in rural communities. Resource advisory committees made up of residents representing varied interests and areas of expertise review and recommend the projects that meet their local needs.

First Reading of Ordinance #926 An Ordinance directing codification of an amendment to the Monte Vista City Charter passed by the Monte Vista City Election on November 3, 2015, concerning "Publication By Title Only" of City Ordinances
No. 4820 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

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Visitors flock to new fish and wildlife center

By JOHN WATERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

tive to their eggs or fledglings. This can potentially expose nests to predators and decrease breeding success and slow recovery.

The trail closure reduces the con-

flicts between human activities and the flycatchers during the nesting season when they are most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of disturbance.


The reopening of the trail is ex-

pected when the nesting season is completed, on or about Sept. 1.


The Friends of the San Luis Valley Wildlife Refuges is offering free Saturday morning bird walks that

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


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SLV Apothecary grows with new location

By JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA— SLV Apothecary, the local old-time herb tea shop which also has foods from local cultivators and producers, has expanded to a new State Avenue location on the south side of Alamosa. The location boasts a kitchen and is at 1617 State Ave. The store is open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The apothecary moved into their current location in mid-January from the old downtown Alamosa venue and now has all the needed permits to operate the kitchen that offers lunch for sale and the galley for guest chefs.

The shop is owned by CaRi Conari and Danielle Wobith, the shop offers many custom tea blends including Insomnia Tea which includes Valerian leaf and flower, orange peel, and chamomile, and Easy Digest Tea a blend of leaves, lilac blossoms, fennel, and rosemary.

The business began in Alamosa two years ago after the two met and decided their skills complemented each other and the business was born.

Wobith describes the location as, “a grocery store — apothecary. There is the food bank on one side and we are on the other. We bring an apothecary and groceries to an area that does not have one, so that is exciting. Local farmers can come and bring their produce, meats, and product.”

The new location is about twice the size of the former location.

Smith is also the proprietor of InfiTea Farm, a business, “Where I cultivate the herbs and make tea blends, tinctures, and salves. I also do hydrosols.”

Smith grows herbs including lovage, lemon balm, and lemon

verbena at the Rio Grande Farm Park in Alamosa. Smith added that she engages in no-till agricultural techniques at the farm and focuses on producing perennial plants.

“Our main goal, other than selling our products, is selling San Luis Valley-produced products. Our focus is SLV products, Alamosa, La Jara, Crestone, Saguache, and Monte Vista,” Conari said.

On a recent visit, this reporter purchased a loaf of turmeric, onion sourdough bread from Tumbleweed Bakery that was exquisite. The San Luis Valley-based bakery takes pride in using mostly locally grown grain that is stone ground into unrefined flour which preserves the plentiful nutritional benefits found in unprocessed berries/seeds. “We are proud to be the San Luis Valley’s naturally leavened, whole grain, wholesale bakery,” according to the website of the bakery.

The new location has a large walk-in refrigerated unit that unfortunately needs \$4,000 in repairs. The two are seeking a grant from the Colorado Department of Agriculture to cover the cost. Conari said that having the cold space working will assist in their mission of bringing regenerative and local agriculture to market.

The duo also gathers herbs in the wild, Wobith harvests the herb Oshá, in the San Juan Mountains at an elevation of about 10,000 feet. According to the University of Kansas Native Medicinal Plant Research Program, “The root of *Ligusticum porteri*, known as Oshá, has long been esteemed — particularly among Native Americans and Hispanic populations in the Southwest and Mexico — as a traditional remedy for colds, sore



Danielle Wobith (left), and Cari Conari owners of the SLV Apothecary in their new location at 1617 State Avenue in Alamosa.

Photos by John Waters

throat and other ailments. Its use as an herbal remedy has increased significantly in the North American natural products market over the past two decades.”

Local producers are a hallmark of the apothecary and products include bread and pizza dough from Tumbleweed Bread, locally grown meat, and mushrooms from Alpine Valley Mushrooms in Saguache. Conari says the pioppino mushrooms are excellent on pizza made from the dough made locally.

The apothecary also offers classes such as a Sleeping Tincture Class on April 13 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Participants can learn about herbs that can help you get rest. The cost is a suggested donation of \$20.

On April 20, there will be an Earth Day dinner featuring local farmers and producers that will include local



This new location of the SLV Apothecary on State Avenue in Alamosa is much larger than the previous location the purveyor of fresh, local foods, herbs, teas, and more.

handmade potato gnocchi, rosemary cheddar, and fresh chive cheesecake, and much more.

The cost is \$30 per person and seating is limited. SLV Apothecary can be reached at 719-496-6114 or www.slvapothecary.com. Guest Chef Desiree from Gracie’s Farmstand will oversee the dinner.

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

Centauri HS Student Council donates hospital hope basket to CCH

By SAN LUIS VALLEY HEALTH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fort Garland Museum receives reaccreditation

By JOHN WATERS

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

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

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

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

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



Courtesy of History Colorado

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

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

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

Please see MUSEUM on Page 2

SdCNHA receives grant to enhance youth programs

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



New office for South-Central Colorado Seniors

By JOHN WATERS

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

Please see SENIORS on Page 2

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

Courier photo by John Waters



Blake to graduate with doctorate from Arkansas State Univ.

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

of South Carolina.

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

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

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



Photo by John Waters

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

MUSEUM

Continued from Page 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

SENIORS

Continued from Page 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SdCNHA

Continued from Page 1

cal and environmental preservation.

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

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

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

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

By SAN LUIS VALLEY HEALTH

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

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

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

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

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

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



Courtesy photo

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

Tree pruning workshop in Center

By COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE

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

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

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

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

The following pruning topics will be covered:

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

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

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

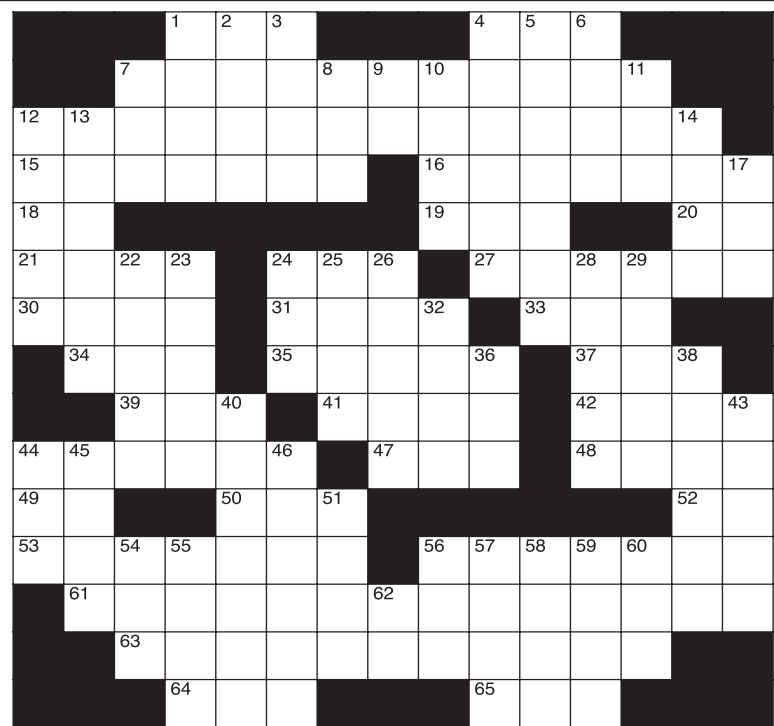
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CLUES ACROSS

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



61. Famed R.L. Stevenson novel
62. City in Finland
63. Small finch
64. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
65. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
22. Very willing
23. Partner to "oohed"
24. Turntable
25. Major Hindu deity
26. Move head slightly
27. Plain-woven fabric
28. Die
29. Shipped as cargo
30. Something highly prized
31. Individual thing or person
32. Humbled
33. Speak indistinctly
34. No seats available
35. Financial obligation
36. Green vegetable
37. Tough outer skin of fruit
38. __ Spumante (Italian wine)
39. Troubles
40. Singer Charles
41. Camper

CLUES DOWN

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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03 MEMORIALS
04 LOST & FOUND
05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
06 PERSONALS
EMPLOYMENT
07 HELP WANTED
08 WORK WANTED
09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
FOR RENT
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58 MOTORCYCLES
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05 Notices

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

07 Help Wanted

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



Approx. 0.280 Acres Near Rio Grande Club
\$56,000 | MLS #794077
23 Fairway Drive South Fork, CO
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Approx. 6 Acres, Beautiful Views in Bear Creek
\$99,000 | MLS #803984
61 Red Tail Court South Fork, CO
DEE PLUCINSKI
LUXURY HOME BROKER
M: 719-873-5605




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



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



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




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



1,270 Sq.Ft. Off-Grid Cabin on approx. 5,241 Acres
\$279,000 | MLS #809447
7541 Indian Creek Rd. Fort Garland, CO
DEE PLUCINSKI
LUXURY HOME BROKER
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Dee Plucinski
Dee-: Formally known as Diane Chapman, Local Luxury Home Broker. Licensed in 2011; knows the area and knows real estate.
719-873-5605
Dee@SteffensCoRealty.com



Two Adjacent Commercial Lots in South Fork
\$49,000 | MLS #810125
64 Vista Street South Fork, CO
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Approximately 160 Acres Farmland
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All Dee's properties are detailed in her blog.



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

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

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

April is Limb Loss Awareness Month

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

around barefoot and wear properly fitted footwear.

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

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

control. It will also help wounds heal more quickly.

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



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

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

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

Sharon Adams Memorial Dedication

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

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

**17TH ANNUAL
LA JARA AMISH SCHOOL
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We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society by contributions, donations, volunteering and general support at Conour Animal Shelter.

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0 - 25 lbs.	\$80.00		Petite - Small vessel needed
26 - 50 lbs	\$140.00		Small-Medium Vessel needed
51 - 75 lbs.	\$175.00	\$200.00	Medium-Large Vessel needed
76 - 100 lbs.	\$200.00	\$275.00	Large Vessel needed
101 lbs. & up	Animals over 101 lbs. are ineligible for Group fee	\$300.00	Extra Large Vessel Needed

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

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

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

MV Cinco de Mayo Street Festival to benefit MV Food Bank

By MARIE MCCOLM

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

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

OptiMystics President Adam Lock is ecstatic about the event.

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

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

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

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

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

swaying to the music until the end of the festival.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Courtesy photo

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

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

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

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

Lock is grateful for the support from the community.

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

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

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

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

SOLD

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

BRUCE STEFFENS
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M: 719-580-0770

SOLD

2 Bedroom, 6 Bath, approx. 3,280 sq. ft. and 36.34 Acres
\$895,000 | MLS #803698
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River Island Ranch Approx. 5.27 Acres
\$131,000 | MLS #802486
147 Explorer Way South Fork, CO

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Approx. 1.170 Acres on the South Fork River
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Sun House Farm Approx 1,910 Acres with Home
\$12,900,000 | MLS #807640
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UNDER CONTRACT

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Large Warehouse Approx. 6,579 sq. ft. on 1.57 Acres
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\$975,000 | MLS #804903
4036 County Rd. Z Capulin, CO

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San Luis Valley

GRADUATES

Class of 2024

Schedule of San Luis Valley Graduations

Alamosa

May 25 • 9 a.m. • High School Stadium

Antonito

May 24 • 6 p.m. • High School Gym

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

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

Centauri

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

Centennial

May 25 • 11 a.m. • High School Gym

Center

May 25 • 10 a.m. • Viking Gym

Creede

May 23 • 6 p.m. • High School Gym

Crestone Charter

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

Del Norte

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

Moffat

May 18 • 3 p.m. • Moffat School Gym

Monte Vista

May 24 • 7 p.m. • High School Gym

Mountain Valley

May 18 • 10 a.m. • High School Gym

Sanford

May 24 • 7 p.m. • Sanford High School

Sangre de Cristo

May 24 • 6 p.m. • High School Gym

Sargent

May 20 • 7 p.m. • High School Gym

Sierra Grande

May 24 • 5 p.m. • High School Gym



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

Wednesday, April 24, 2024



Congratulations SLV Grads!

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

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 Mountain Valley 12
 Sanford 13
 Sangre de Cristo 14
 Sargent..... 15
 Sierra Grande 16

Good Luck & Congratulations!

Antonito High School



Kevyn Aragon



Darius Cisneros-Gomez



Karizma Gallegos



Luke Garcia



Zanita Garcia



Jasiah Jiron



Luz Elena Parra Ramirez



Annika Sisneros

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

Class Colors: Pink, Black & Metallic Silver

Class Flower: Lily & Baby Breath

Class Song: Pack my Hometown — Eli Winders

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



Byron Syring DELTA Center - MV Online Academy



Jacob Adams



Jayla Balderrama



Elizabeth Berlanga



Ender Cadnapaphornchai



Taegan Coleman



Paige Cordero



Laura (Jade) Davoudlarian



Diamond DeHerrera



Alorah Duzenack



Osvaldo Galindo



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Cyrus Guymon



Ryen Haas



Tristan James



Carson Klein



Jordan Leeson



Christopher Lopez



Ana Lamsargis



Leeann Manzanares



Ian Milian



Zaylee Samora



Hunter Sims



Alona Tafoya



Mikayla Torrence



Chanel Tucker



Christopher Valenzuela



Natalie Velazco



Mariekah Vigil



Camri Wolf



Dyana Zamarripa

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

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



Centauri High School



Kaleb J. Anderson



Logan T. Bagwell



Isaiah A. Baroz



Zachary J. Bechaver



Deven S. Brady



Taylor I. Bright



Nathaniel M. Casias



Andre Cervantez Maez



Leon A. Chacon



Aundre L. Chavez



Diego J. Chavez



Delainey O. Christensen



Taven B. Cornum



Colton D. Creery



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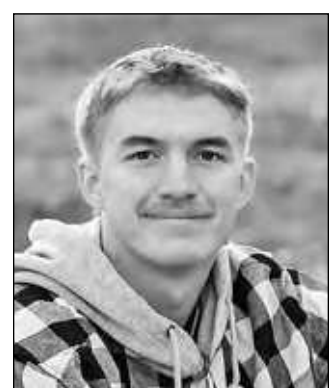
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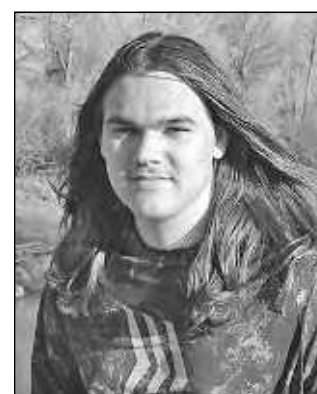
Colton J. Johnson



Lacey A. Johnson



Brooke L. King



Rodney J. Kirkgard



Faith L. Livingstone



Xavier G. Lopez



Kyanna M. Martinez



Addison N. McCarroll



Camry J. Miller



Skylar E. Montague



Tayden J. Montoya



Cody J. Mortensen



Julia Kae I. Patigdas



Joshua O. Polkowske



Kailyn L. Polzin



Kiara R. Quintana



Ayden O. Romero



Brena E. Roybal



Kallon K. Russell



Shania L. Sandoval



McKenzie J. Schneider



Clarissa J. Sisneros



Kaia E. Skadberg



Ayzlynn M. Sowards



Shelton P. Sowards



Richardson E. Tailleir



Corbyn D. Thomas



Anicia L. Valdez



Antonio A. Valdez Reyes



Riley C. Valdez



Camryn M. Wilfong



Honorary Graduate
Logan Smith

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

Class Colors: Red & Black

Class Flower: Sunflower

Class Song: Party in the USA — Miley Cyrus

Class Motto: What's up brother! — Sketch

Centennial High School



Samuel Aguilera



Anaela Benton



Manny Benton



Diego Franco



Alegria Gamboa



Enrique Molina



Martin Navarro-Pacheco



Romen Portillo



Cecilia Rael



Gisele Rael



Noemi Renteria



Jazmin Salcido



Steven Sanchez III



Rhylina Serna



Devon Vigil



Not Pictured:
Dillan Alter

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

Class Colors: Red, Silver & Black

Class Flower: Red Rose & Sunflower

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

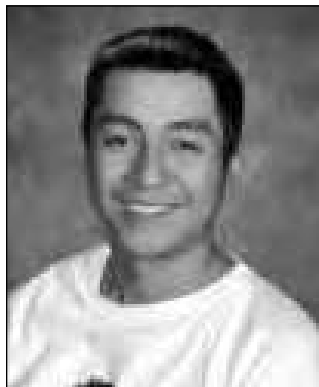
Class Motto: Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind — Dr. Seuss



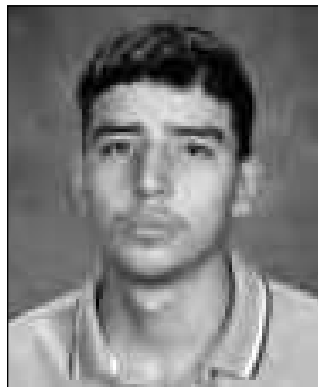
Center High School



Jaime Aguilar



Rashawn Aguilar



Joub Apodaca Laguna



Alexa Bustamante



Leonardo Carrillo Majalca



Jordan Duran



Alanna Garcia



Arazeliz Garcia



Yanelli Garcia

Let's Hear It for Our Graduates!

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

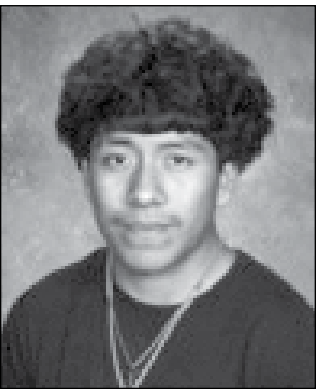


Congratulations, Class of 2024!

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Center High School



Francisco Gregorio Gómez



Monserrat Gutierrez



Selah Harrington



Marcos Hernandez



Marissa Hernandez



Hayle Larimore



Jesenia Limon



Yulisa Maldonado



Cheyenne Martinez



Billy Martinez-Montoya



Kimberly Muro-Ornelas



Ciara Paiz



Javier Ramos-Baca



Alicia Rios



Cristian Roblero Santiz



Willa Seesz Sanchez



Devin Thompson



Shayla Thompson



Lorenzo Trujillo



Jesus Valadez-Feliz



Francisco Villa



Graduation: May 25 • 10 a.m.

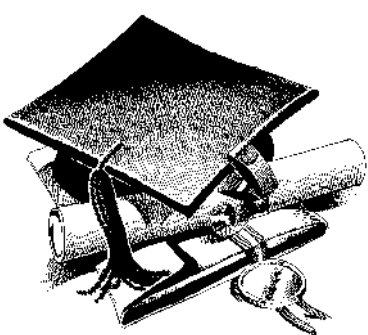
Viking Gym

Class Colors: Blue & Silver

Class Flower: White Lily & Yellow Daisy

Class Song: I Lives — OneRepublic

Class Motto: See You Later Dudes



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

Congratulations,
Center Graduates!
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 DEL NORTE BANK FDIC www.TrueLocalBank.com

The Sky's the Limit

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



Creede High School



Hunter Harness



Garin Heinrich



Tiernan King



Lane Mitchell



Will Roden



Lyric Stecken

Graduation:

May 23 • 6 p.m.

Creede Gym

Class Colors: Hawaiian Print

Class Flower: Savory Moroccan Jelquinium

Class Song: Toes — Zac Brown Band

Class Motto: What could possibly go wrong?



Creede Class Of 2024

Del Norte Creede
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DEL NORTE BANK FDIC www.TrueLocalBank.com

Crestone Charter School



Haley VanWalleghan



Ziah Pesqueira

Graduation:

May 17 • :30 p.m.

Antonito High School

Class Colors: Green, Black & Gold

Class Flower: Black Spider Lily

Class Song: Stayin' Alive — Bee Gees

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



Wishing You a Beautiful Graduation Day

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

Congratulations to the Class of 2024!



Del Norte High School



Nickolas Atencio



Autumn Becenti



Piper Cavaletto



Izabella Colonna



Juanito Dickson



Kaesyn Eagles



Colby Gandy



Joshua Gonzales



Lacey Gutierrez



Kayleigh Haynie



Zack Howell



Destiny LeBlanc



Analicia Ledford-Vigil



Chiara Lambardi



Ashlee Lovato



Peytin Neal



Keith Pierce



Blas Pinon



Marques Quintana



Zachary Romero



Lionel Suarez Jr.



Gage Trujillo



Craig Williams



Cody Worz



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

Class Colors: Peach & White

Class Flower: Azalea

Class Song: Sleep on the Floor — The Lumineers

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



**Three Cheers for
the Class of 2024**

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

**Rio Grande County Museum
and Cultural Center**

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

You Have Arrived

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



Del Norte Class of 2024



Del Norte Creede
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DEL NORTE BANK FDIC www.TrueLocalBank.com

Moffat High School



Albert Beller



Caleb Boone



Austin Gardner



Leona Hasteley



Jacob Martinez



Ivory McElhaney



Kadence McWilliams



Robert Morley



ShayArta Sidel



Marie Velazquez



Taylor Wallace



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

Class Colors: Green, Gold & Purple

Class Flower: Daisy

Class Song: Stand By Me — Ben E. King

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

Monte Vista High School



Todd Adams



Asia Alarid



Zariah Archuleta



Analicette Arroyo-Archuleta



Nevaeh Bacon



Aaylarhi Bate-Fichter



Shaina Baumgardner



Jeremiah Cale



Jose Castro Angulo



Celeste Chacon



Mika Chapa



Ernest Chiquito



Zakaria Defaye



Isis Delgado-Cervantes



Xavion Duran



Alycia Espinosa



Jacob Gallegos



Kayleigh Garcia

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

Class Colors: Lilac & Sage Green

Class Song: Life is a Highway — Flatts

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

Class Flower: Tulip

Monte Vista High School



Chloe Gerlach



Valerie Goodland



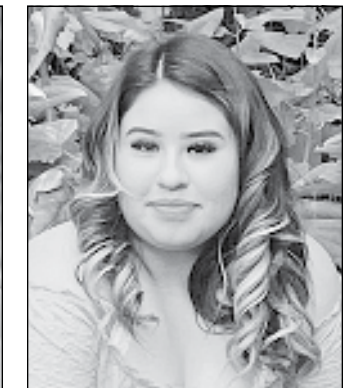
Nevaeh Guerrero



Francisco Martin Hernandez



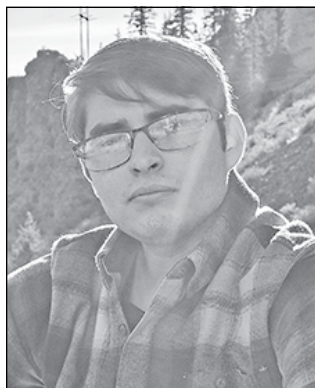
Stefanie Lopez



Magdalena Marrufo



Jaylah Martinez



Luke Martinez



Augustus Miller



Donovan Neal



Jack Noonan



Manuel Ochoa



Destiny Pacheco



Katie Pacheco



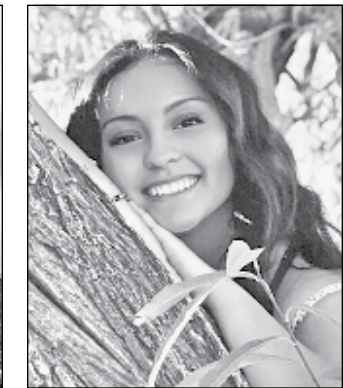
Sean Quintana



Alexia Rivera



Maria Rivera



Allesandra Rocha Avalos



Jordan Rockey



Makyla Salazar



Jasmine Samora



Sara Sarinana



Annika Schaak



Oakley Sisneros



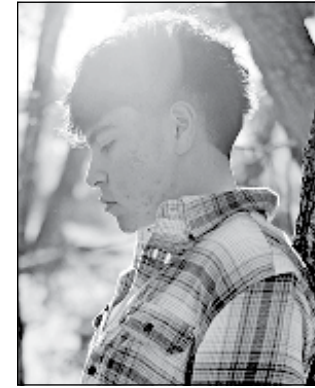
Laura Story



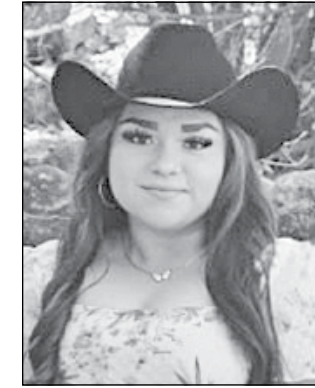
Adrien Valdez



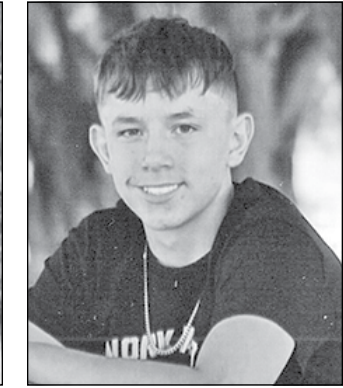
Angelina Vargas



Jizaiah Villagomez



Cienna Villalobos



Ethan Wolfe



Jackson York



SLV GRADUATES!

CONGRATS!

MVC

MVCOOP.COM

CONGRATULATIONS!

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Daisy Grace

**Congrats,
Class of
2024!**



Mountain Valley High School



Joshua Box



Jacob Denison



Logan Gallegos



Giovanni Gonzalez-Mascarenas



Brian Green



Riley Heater



Tristin Helmick



Nova McConnaughay



Mason Merritt-Armenta



Honey Sandoval



Klayt Staudt



Alexandria Tronquet

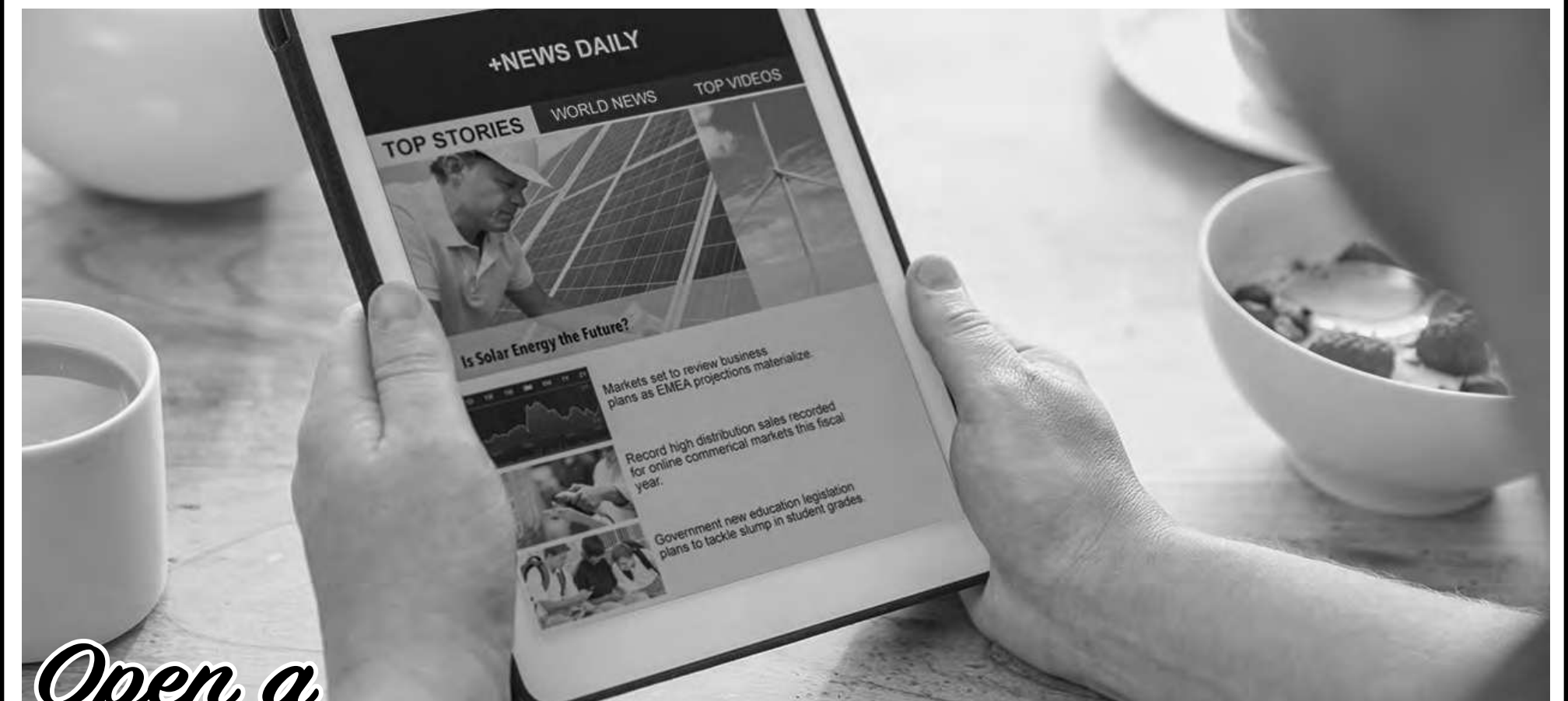
Graduation:
May 18 • 10 a.m.
Mountain Valley Gym

Class Colors: **Pink & Black**

Class Flower: **Tulip**

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

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



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In Print & Online

Sanford High School



Keylee Anderson



Cash Caldon



Sadie Caldon



Jacob Cisneros



Brecken Crowther



Cienna Daniels



Ashley Dominguez-Gonzalez



Mercedes Dunn



Ashli Fairhurst



Demario Gomez-Sisneros



Emmit Larsen



Roj Larson



Sedona Larson



Isabelle Linares



Holly McDaniel



Rylee Price



Makan Quintana



Lincoln Reynolds



James Sanchez



Sarah Schwartz



Alex Sittler



Delton Soffel



Gregorio Slone



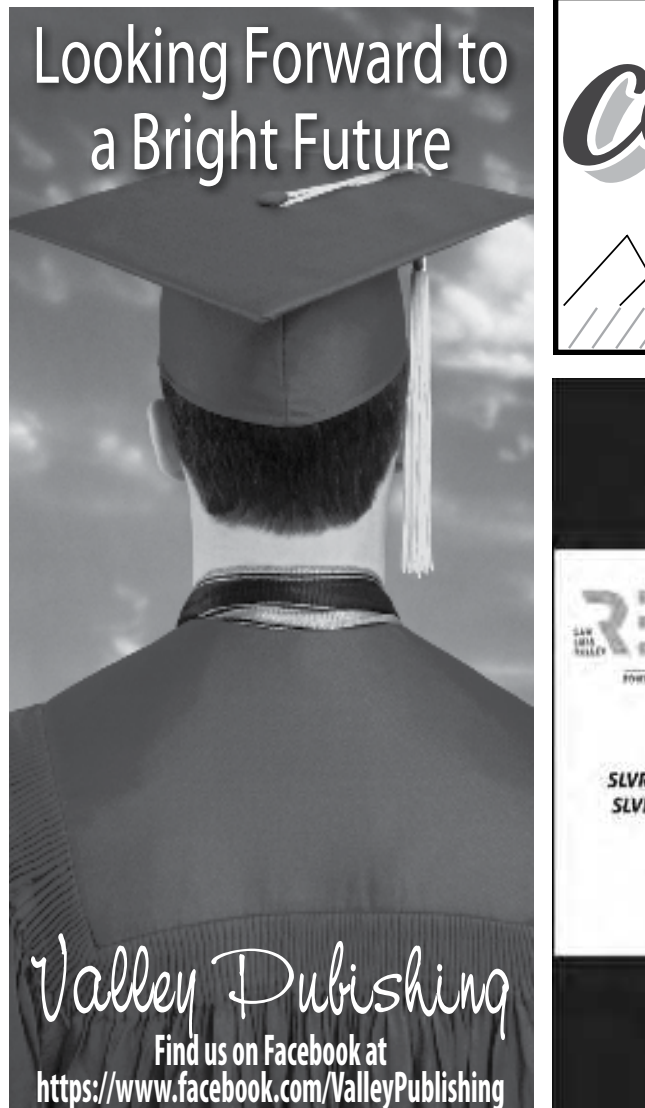
Jaimey Turner



Faith Westberg



Tyssen Woods



Looking Forward to a Bright Future

Valley Publishing
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<https://www.facebook.com/ValleyPublishing>

Congrats!
You did it!

Class of 2024!
Wishing you all the best at graduation!

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

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

SLVREC 2024 Scholarship Recipients:

SLV REC Adams State University Four-Year Scholarship:
Ashley Dominguez, Sanford High School

Martin Christensen Memorial Lineworker Scholarship:
Joshua Holman, Sanford High School

Michael Rieron Scholarship:
Sienna Gallegos, Alamosa High School

Robert Wolfe Scholarship: Diego Chavez, Centauri High School

SLVREC Past Director/Tri-State Scholarship: Kaia Skadberg, Centauri High School

SLVREC Past Retired GM Ray Villyard & CEO John Villyard/Tri-State Scholarship:
Riley Valdez, Centauri High School

SLVREC Dependent Scholarship:
Mario Villalba, Alamosa High School

Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship:
Antonio Reyes, Centauri

Not pictured
Kaia Skadberg

Sangre de Cristo High School



LaKota Douglas



Palma Enriquez



Idahlia Garcia



Seanna Garcia



Jerrick Martinez



Sydney Mason



Isabella Rodriguez



Brenton Sierra



Bryanna Sierra



Kaiden Smit

Graduation:

May 24 • 6 p.m.

Sangre de Cristo Gym

Class Colors: Lilac & White

Class Flower: Purple Rose & Baby's Breath



Seize the Day!

As you celebrate your graduation, we'd like to take a moment to express how proud we are of your hard work and achievement. We hope you will continue to aim high and reach for the stars.

Your potential for success is limitless, and we wish you all the best in every future endeavor!

Congratulations and warmest wishes to the Class of 2024!

Valley Publishing

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Sargent High School



Giovanni Aguilar



Bailey Asbell



Westen Burkhart



Rylee Echols



Annabelle Heineman



Brooke Hoffstaetter



Cayden Larimore



Hayden Lester



Azmarae Lister



Sydney Lorentzen



Trenton Lovelace



KayleeAnn Martinez



Trenton Paskett



Jesse Pescatore



Jaxon Ritchey



Lane Spearman



Garrett Thomson



Matthew Voss



Gracie Wilson



Corbyn Wright

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

Class Colors: Hot Pink & Gray

Class Flower: Pink Peonies

Class Song: Where the Wild Things Are — Luke Combs

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



Congratulations Graduate!

Sargent Farmers Class of 2024!

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THRIFTWAY (719)754-1937

Congratulations Class of 2024!

You Get an A+ Keep up the great work!

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Sargent Grads Keep Shining

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

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Three Cheers for the Class of 2024

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

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Sierra Grande High School



Josiah DeHerrera



Alexia Gonzalez



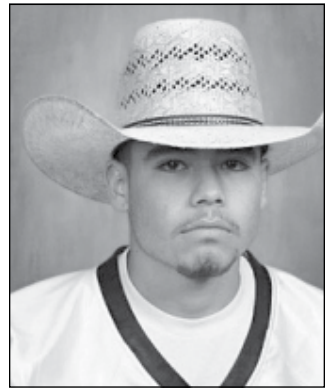
Alexis Johnson



Tyler Kester



Orlando Maes



Derek Martinez



Manuel Miranda



Brian Ontiveros



Jesus Reyes Renteria



NayLani Velasquez

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

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

Class Flower: Magnolia

Class Song: Rise Up — Andra Day

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

Congratulations, Graduates!

Smart Move, Graduates!

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

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

