

Crestone Seed Exchange is this weekend

By MARIE MCCOLM

CRESTONE — The Crestone Seed Exchange will take place on Saturday, March 23, at the Little Sheperd in the Hills Episcopal Church, 155 North Alder St., Crestone, beginning at 11 a.m.

Organizer Christina Lakish spoke about the event and how it got started.

“I didn’t start the event, but I am a gardener. The coordinator for the Crestone Community Gardner originally started the seed exchange. I organized it with her last year, and then took over organizing the event this year,” she said.

Lakish said that the event has been going on for

more than a few years now. It is open to people from all over the Valley.

“We all share our extra seeds,” she said. “These may be seeds that we didn’t use this year. We also share extra seeds that we may have saved from the year before.”

Lakish is a vegetable gardener but also enjoys growing flowers in her garden.

“I really enjoy this event. The event is fun. Where the seeds are concerned, it kind of ends up being that people bring what they have, and people take what they need,” she said.

Lakish also explained that if people are new to

the exchange and don’t have any seeds to share, that they are still welcome.

“It started out just being the town of Crestone, but because the gardening culture is so interconnected, word got around, and it just kind of ended up being people coming from all over the area,” she said.

Lakish said she is looking forward to the seed exchange and explained that there is also a garden festival that will follow later.

“We do the seed exchange, which is cool, but we also have a garden festival later, usually in May. During the garden festival we have speakers, and people can also trade or sell starts. The festival is

much more about getting in the dirt and planting things at that time of year, than anything else. It’s fun for everyone,” she said.

Lakish stated that one thing she really enjoys about the seed exchange is that it’s all free.

“We don’t sell anything, we just trade,” she said. “The seed exchange is free. I like the fact that it’s accessible to everybody. All seeds are welcome at the trade. Any kind of seeds that people might be able to use, people are welcome to bring and exchange.”

For more information or to ask questions about the seed exchange, contact Lakish at christinalakish@gmail.com.

Shorts

Del Norte Easter Egg Hunt set for March 30

DEL NORTE — Del Norte Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, March 30, at 1 p.m. at the Del Norte City Park. This is a community event sponsored by the Del Norte Christian Association (DNCA). All are invited to the Easter egg stuffing on Friday, March 22, at 7 p.m. at the DNCA building lower floor at 595 Pine St.

DNCA is seeking volunteers to help load the plastic eggs and donations of small “wrapped” candy.

For more information on the event or participation, call or text Greg Porter at 719-849-8415.

Town of Del Norte sponsoring latest Adventure Walk

DEL NORTE — The Town of Del Norte is the newest sponsor for the Del Norte Public Library Adventure Walk. The book used for the walk is titled “Total Solar Eclipse, A Stellar Friendship Story.”

Food bank distribution set for March 23

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Food Bank will be open for its March distribution on Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. to noon. Anyone in need of food assistance living in the Del Norte or South Fork area is welcome.

If you are unable to attend during distribution hours and need food assistance, call 719-850-2643.

SLVREC board meeting March 28

MONTE VISTA — SLVREC will have the regular meeting of the board of directors on Thursday, March 28, at 9:30 a.m. located at 3625 US Highway 160 W, Monte Vista. This is a change from the regular meeting day. Advance notice is required to attend the meeting, call Michelle Trujillo 719-852-3538.

Center woman gives back through running

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — Denise Garcia, daughter of Richard Garcia who is the director of the Poor Boy Car Club, ran a marathon in Denver on Saturday. The run was entitled the Erin Go Bragh 7.777 K Run. The run is for St Patrick’s Day.

The run donates to a charity called Growing Home.

“I decided to do this run, and donate some food to Growing Home,” she said. “The food was all bought with money from the Poor Boy Car Club. It made me feel great to donate on behalf of the club. My dad was happy about the donation, as we like to support good causes all over Colorado. I was also happy to do the run.”

Growing Home is a Westminster charity that helps people in North Metro Denver. The charity helps people with long-term needs and partners with agencies throughout the community. The charity assists with housing, food, and areas of lifelong stability for people in need.

Garcia is no stranger to donating to charities. She has helped her dad make donations for years with the car club and enjoys giving back to the community.



Courtesy photo

Center’s Denise Garcia ran a marathon in Denver on Saturday. The run helps a charity Growing Home. It’s just one of the ways Garcia supports the community.

Garcia’s other reason behind the run was her health. Garcia recently underwent brain surgery after struggling with epileptic seizures

for many years.

“I have battled with Epilepsy since I was about 12,” she said. “I

Please see GARCIA on Page 2A

Center Conservation District receives grant for tree planting

CONTRIBUTED

CENTER — The Center Conservation District has received a \$2,575 grant from the Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) for the Center and Rio Grande Conservation Districts’ Property Tree Introduction project.

The purpose of the Center and Rio Grande Conservation Districts’ Property Tree Introduction project is to introduce trees to the Districts’ property at the USDA Service Center, 48 W County Road 10 N, Center, which hosts the USDA Service Center building and 126 acres of irrigated cropland. This project’s main desired outcome is to provide wildlife and pollinator habitat to encourage effective crop pollination. Additional benefits of this project include improved soil health, windbreak, shade, and beautification of the property.

A unique combination of tree and shrub species will be planted and showcased on the property. The variety of selected species will not only provide the formerly stated benefits but also introduce local landowners to a diversity of species

Please see GRANT on Page 2A

Dedicated crew of Saguache Firewise has a productive season

By DANIEL JOHNSON

Saguache County Firewise

SAGUACHE COUNTY — It’s been a highly productive fall and winter for the Saguache County Firewise Program, in its 15th year, mainly due to the skills and dedication of the workforce.

Kevin Matz, the Baca Assistant Fire Chief, was instrumental in helping do assessments and complete hands-on mitigation projects since we were funded again back in September. His chainsaw talents and ability to jump into the Site Boss role when we got spread out and split the crew made us versatile

Please see FOREWOSE on Page 8A

Saguache Firewise crew; Left to Right, Benjamin Antoniewicz, Jake Marcus, Cory Wolfe, Daniel Johnson Kevin Matz.

Photo courtesy of Saguache Firewise



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OBITUARIES

Edith Jacqueline Wilson (Larsen)

Edith Jacqueline Wilson (Larsen) of Del Norte, Colo., passed away peacefully on March 9, 2024. Edie was born on April 28, 1932, in Scranton, Pa. After relocating to upstate NY at a very young age, her family lived in a 3-room converted chicken coop in Youngs Station, NY, where she assumed cooking responsibilities for the



family by age 11. She earned her BS degree from Hartwick college in Oneonta, followed by a master's degree in nursing from Syracuse University.

Shortly after graduating with her first degree, her brother John bought a car from a dealership owned by Ralph Larsen in Oneonta. John quickly realized that Ralph might be a good pairing for Edith, so he introduced them. We do not know if the car was a lemon, but Edith most certainly was not. After a courtship of only three months, including many meals at The Old Mill near Mount Upton, they were married in 1954.

They lived in Oneonta for several years, where Edie worked nights to support the family while Ralph worked on his graduate degree. They later moved to Cazenovia, where she taught nursing at Morrisville College.

In 1972 the family moved to Norwich to be more centrally located to Ralph's property development projects. Again, she worked nights while keeping the house clean and home-cooked meals on the table. She became head nurse of ICU at Chenango Memorial Hospital and in charge of infection control. In the 1980's, she taught nursing in poor regions of Peru via the Institute of Cultural Affairs. She was also a hospice nurse and volunteered at a clinic in San Diego for underprivileged people.

Animals held a special place in Edith's heart. At one time, she was fostering 14 dogs and several horses, gently rehabilitating, and socializing them for adoption. She was also a big contributor to local projects in Del Norte as well as international charities. She was known as a kind and generous spirit.

Edith was predeceased by her husband Ralph, her parents John Wilson and Edith Wilson (Waldron), and her two brothers John and Bob.

She is survived by her four children Eric Larsen (Pam) of Norwich, Cristi Larsen of Del Norte, Colo., Mark Larsen (Lekkie) of Norwich, and Curt Larsen of Del Norte. Her grandchildren are Carrie Larsen, Lindsey Miles (Eric), Rachel Flanagan (Michael), Jessica Santos, Alexander Larsen, and Emma Larsen. There are also five great-grandchildren.

Edith requested no calling hours or funeral service, but a celebration of life will take place in Del Norte, Colo., on March 23. A Norwich area celebration of life will take place on a date to be determined in Norwich, NY.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to: The Conour dog shelter, 2825 Sherman Avenue, Monte Vista, CO 81144719-852-3366.

Arrangements in care of Strohmayer's Funeral Home of Monte Vista.

Paul Carlton Douglas

Paul Carlton Douglas, 66 a lifelong resident of Colorado, was tragically lost on March 6, 2024, in Villa Grove, Colo. Mr. Douglas was born Nov. 9, 1957, in California to Jim Franklin and Ella May (Wilson) Douglas.

Mr. Douglas had a very successful career as a mechanic, particularly in the mining industry. He traveled the world doing mine startups and consulting. Paul made friends easily and was always available to help anyone in need. He will be greatly missed by a great many people.

Mr. Douglas is survived by his wife Paula K. Douglas of Villa Grove, Colo., brother David (Leona) Douglas of Washington and many nieces and nephews.

There will be a Celebration of Life on July 4, 2024, details will be announced.



Online condolences may be sent to the family at lewisandglenn.com. Arrangements are with Lewis and Glenn Funeral Home.

Celebrate Colorado Ag Week by cultivating connection between farmers and consumers

CONTRIBUTED

COLORADO — Agriculture Week is just around the corner, and Colorado is getting ready to celebrate the crucial role agriculture plays in our state's diverse economy, heritage, and culture. In all corners of the state, anyone can join as we celebrate the bounty of Colorado agriculture between March 17-23.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture will hold a public forum on the Front Range on March 19 to give communities around the Denver metro area a chance to meet department staff, ask questions, discuss urban agriculture, and learn more about CDA's programs.

The Colorado Agricultural Commission will meet in Denver on March 20, near the Colorado State Capitol to celebrate the proclamation of March 20 as Colorado Agriculture Day. Ag Commission members will join the Colorado State Senate and later meet with Governor Polis as he issues the proclamation.

Additionally, CDA is co-sponsoring the 2024 Colorado Coalition to Enhance Working Lands (COCEWL) summit in the San Luis Valley, with events over two days at the Rio Grande Farm Park Education Center in Alamosa and Jones Farms Organics in Hooper. The event is meant to help SLV



Photo by John Waters

The Colorado Coalition to Enhance Working Lands summit will be held at the Rio Grande Farm Park Education Center on March 21. There will be a field trip to Jones Farms Organics on March 22.

producers share ideas about how to respond collectively to shared challenges while enhancing working lands. Registration is required to attend.

As the agency grows, CDA's goal has been to increase outreach

to agricultural communities by connecting directly with the people who live in those communities.

For more information and to register for the agriculture summit in Alamosa on March 21 and 22, visit <https://cocewl.org/summit/>.

GRANT

Continued from Page 1A

that can be grown on their properties in the San Luis Valley.

The Center & Rio Grande Conservation Districts' Property Tree Introduction project will take place in early May with assistance from the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative (RGWCEI), and students from local schools who will learn about the benefits of

trees and proper planting, care, and management. This project is one of the many community forestry projects that the Center and Rio Grande Conservation Districts have and will continue to host.

The Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) is a non-profit whose mission is to preserve, renew and enhance community forests statewide. The CTC awarded \$113,463 in grants to 29 organizations in 2023. These grant projects allowed recipients to plant

and manage trees in community forests across Colorado. Grants are made possible through the Colorado State Forest Service, the Xcel Energy Foundation, Colorado Public Radio, and our CTC members and supporters. Since 1991, the CTC has awarded grants to 235 communities and organizations totaling more than \$1,239,000. These grants have been matched with more than \$8 million in community money and in-kind services.

GARCIA

Continued from Page 1A

had brain surgery in 2019. At that time, I didn't realize that I liked to run. After the surgery, I thought about it and thought, you are finally not having seizures, because I used to have about 3-4 per week. I was also overweight, so I decided to start running. I have been running for about 5 years now. The first race I did was the Rio Frio in Alamosa. Once I did that I was addicted to running. Now that I run, I also like to give back, after what I have been through. This is something very near and dear to my heart."

Garcia said that this year she will

be running four races, and the Erin Go Bragh 7.777 K Run was a part of her schedule.

Garcia said that she also has plans to donate to other races.

"I also want to donate some more food to a food bank for the Summer Breeze run. I will donate there as well this summer," she said.

Garcia believes in carrying on the tradition of donating to good causes, and she also enjoys doing other good things in her community.

"My husband and I through the church also go out every third Sunday of the month. We give back to our

community," she said. "We like to tell the community about events and take the kids goodies. We recently gave some kids goodies for Easter. We help people that do not have a lot, and we love doing it. We always try to reach people in different ways."

Garcia said she will continue to donate and is looking forward to helping with the Poor Boy Car Clubs big car show this summer.

"The events the club puts on are always for a good cause," she said. "I love to be a part of all of that and can't wait for the upcoming car show to help more people at that event as well."

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

You're not the boss in wilderness



By JOHN CLAYTON

When my friends and I encountered the fresh grizzly bear scat, we were deep in Wyoming's Teton Wilderness, 20 miles from a trailhead. I'd seen grizzlies before — from the car. But this experience was on a whole other level. I felt vulnerable, nervous. I also felt fully alive.

the land should be left as unexploited as possible. It defined wilderness as being "in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape."

That feeling owes much to the Wilderness Act, which became law 60 years ago, in 1964. When President Lyndon B. Johnson created a nationwide system of wild landscapes "untrammelled by man," it gave physical expression to an unusual attitude toward land.

Preserving wildness calls for restraint. It calls for motorized users, e-bikers, mountain bikers, pilots, snowmobilers, technical climbers with hardware and drone flyers to recreate somewhere else. Yet hiking, hunting, boating, fishing and horseback riding are all allowed in wilderness, as well as grazing if grandfathered in.

The attitude could be summarized as: In the wildest parts of America, humans come second. What comes first is the land, its water and its wildlife. If the grizzly that left those droppings had confronted us, and I'm glad it never did, we lacked the resources of civilization to protect us.

The Act's primary author, Howard Zahniser loved hiking in wild places, and he was determined: In eight years of lobbying the Congress for The Wilderness Society, he helped rewrite the bill 65 times. By the time the Act overwhelmingly passed — 73-12 in the Senate and 374-1 in the House — Zahniser had died of heart disease at the young age of 58.

If I'd fallen off a cliff, there would be no cell service to call 911. If a freak snowstorm made us cold, wet and miserable, all we could do was suffer. In wilderness, Mother Nature won't kiss a boo-boo to make it better.

The Act is often discussed in terms of the acreage it protects, now comprising 806 wilderness areas and 112 million acres, roughly half of that in Alaska. Yet it's really about nature being the boss.

There's something elemental about being on your own, exposed. You've made a choice based on your values about the outdoors. As a result, you feel the power of larger forces — and sometimes, if you're lucky, even the power of yourself.

In wilderness, we recognize that always getting our way can devalue ecosystems. It can harm wildlife, clean water, fresh air and other widely shared resources. It can cause us to scorn Indigenous people's connections to the land when we should be honoring them.

Before the Act became law, American culture prioritized pulling all the resources we could out of the land by drilling, mining, dam building, logging, over-grazing. We barged through habitat, flattened forests and plowed prairies. We replaced old growth with board-feet of timber, canyons with cubic meters of water, and grasslands with barrels per day of oil. We're still doing that on 95% of public land.

Wilderness is not the only place we embrace not getting our way, just as the U.S. Capitol building is not the only place we embrace democracy, and Civil War battlefields are not the only places we honor fallen soldiers. With wilderness as reminders, we can also consider not being the boss in a city park or backyard, while watching birds or growing native plants.

But the Wilderness Act acknowledged that in some places,

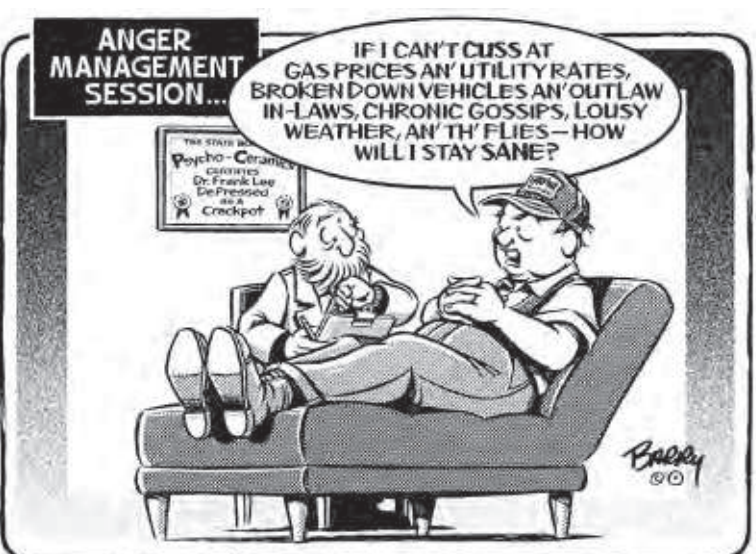
Threats to keeping wilderness wild, however, have never subsided. Sixty

years have brought us innumerable technologies to help us get our way while recreating in nature. And as we've realized that making nature more accessible might make it more inclusive and its fans more diverse, some of us are tempted to relax recreational restrictions in wilderness.

That would miss the point. "We must remember always that the essential quality of the wilderness is its 'wildness,'" Zahniser said. "We must not only protect the wilderness from commercial exploitation. We must also see that we don't ourselves destroy its wilderness character in our own management programs."

Honoring wilderness ideals is especially important today because it represents the same lesson that we should be learning from climate change: People can't control nature. Thanks to the Wilderness Act, we can celebrate that some places remain free of our habit of changing everything — just because we can.

John Clayton is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit that promotes lively dialog about the West. He lives in Montana and writes the newsletter Natural Stories.



Claim to fame

It appears that Spring has sprung at least in Texas where Miss Trixie and Ol' Dutch have taken to spending their winters of late. You always can tell when it's close as the Big Box Stores load up on flowers and vegetables by the pallet load. It must be lucrative as the dickens as those same box doors often catch a late frost which kills every plant they have in stock. Regardless of the risks, the stores all rush and hurry to be the first with tomato and pepper plants on the shelves.



Trout Republic by Kevin Kirkpatrick

We have been busy as the proverbial beaver as we are building a house and doing most of the work ourselves. It's quite a task to take on at my advanced age but it appears I may actually pull this one off. So chasing materials gets to be a weekly occurrence as I use it up about as fast as I can buy it. Which gets me out and about driving to and fro at least in the immediate area.

Why, just the other day I found myself driving through Kingston, Texas, a wide spot in the road, and saw a sign declaring it as the birthplace of Audie Murphy.

I think that most of the readers have probably heard of him but if not, he was the most highly decorated soldier ever born. He worked to support his family after his father ran off leaving the mother with 12 children to support and so in the 5th grade found himself picking cotton instead of going to school.

Long story short, he enlisted in the Army after the attack on Pearl Harbor and due to some unbelievable heroic actions, became a famous soldier. Returning home to the USA, he became a movie star and so you may see him on the television even today in some Western movies.

Seeing the sign about his birthplace I am reminded of how towns will grasp at the birth of some famous person as though their very presence at that juncture in life makes the town noteworthy and famous, too. I recall growing up reading about Dwight Eisenhower and that he was from Abilene, Kansas. But later in life I learned he was actually born in Texas but grew up in Abilene and Kansans thought enough about him to build a whale of a museum there.

For you see there is just not enough

famousness going around for towns to have someone important born there so towns will just tag-along on celebrity coattails if that person even visited there once. That's why in these parts of Texas there is the birthplace of Audie Murphy, the homeplace of the Murphy family, plus several towns have Memorials declaring Audie Murphy "a son" of their fair township.

And not to be outdone by having actual heroes or people of renown being from or passing through a place, we have also begun to celebrate where made up persons have been. Why just the other day I saw where the bench where Forrest Gump sat for a movie scene is quite the tourist attraction and people come from far and wide to see it and sit in it if possible. Now don't get me wrong, it was a good movie, all things considered, but I have to wonder if people actually think Forrest was a real person to be celebrated as such.

I guess it sells tickets and in this day and age that seems to be what is most important. So today as Ol' Dutch drives into town I am going to take special note of Audie's birthplace sign just a few short miles from here. And maybe, just maybe erect one of my own announcing "Ol' Dutch was here" for future generations to ponder and wonder.

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.

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be returned to the sender or discarded.

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Mount Blanca lit up after storm



Mount Blanca lit up after a recent snow-storm that brought much-needed moisture to the Valley.

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

¡Viva La Causa! Long Live the Cause!: The Art of Change exhibit in Fort Garland

History Colorado

CONTRIBUTED

FORT GARLAND — A new exhibition highlighting the intersections of art and activism is at the Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center through May 11.

Using 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 — ¡Viva La Causa! Long Live the Cause!: The Art of Change explores themes of identity, equality, and courage in the face of injustices.

“This exhibition reflects the struggles of many who have spoken against social inequities; while celebrating the artists who have documented pivotal moments in history,” said Lucha Martinez de Luna, Associate Curator of Hispano, Chicano, Latino History and Culture. “Artwork displayed in ¡Viva La Causa! helps instill a sense of hope and perseverance in the many who sacrifice and continue to advocate for a just and equitable future.”

With more than two dozen pieces of art, spanning multiple mediums and materials, ¡Viva La Causa! Long Live the Cause!: The Art of Change features bold declarations, provocative imagery, and striking narratives. Visitors to the exhibition will engage with the legacy of social justice movements in Colorado while also investigating the ways artistic creations reflect and inform the identities

of social movements and the people behind those movements.

“Social justice activism is one of the prominent threads that weaves Colorado into what it is today, and in every generation, artists create works as a form of protest,” Martinez de Luna said. “Through art, activists address the struggle for social justice and equality, encourage social change, and memorialize causes and individuals which have defined the modern world.”

Included in the art displayed in ¡Viva La Causa! are the works of:

Internationally acclaimed muralist, painter and sculptor Emanuel Martinez who has created iconic artwork that serves as some of the most famous iconography for the Chicano/a/x rights movement

Jodie Herrera, a painter, muralist, and activist (artist + activist) who is best known for creating semi-photorealistic oil paintings of remarkable women as well as murals that reflect the social justice issues of the time and space in which they are created

Denver-based photographer Juan Fuentes who has documented the gentrification of Black and Latino neighborhoods in his hometown as well as prominent protests against police brutality, including the George Floyd protests of 2020

Floyd Tunson, a highly regarded artist in the Rocky Mountain region who creates art that explores the realities of racial injustice and systemic racism faced

by communities of Color

¡Viva La Causa! Long Live the Cause!: The Art of Change is open now through May 11 at the Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center in Fort Garland. The Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center is located at 29477 Colorado Highway 159 and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission for kids 18 and under is free every day.

For individuals interested in further exploring ¡Viva La Causa! Long Live the Cause!: The Art of Change, Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center will hold a panel discussion on Saturday, May 11. Lucha Martinez de Luna, Associate Curator of Hispano, Chicano, Latino History and Culture at History Colorado, will lead this discussion alongside several contributing artists with works in the exhibition.

About the Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center Fort Garland was built in 1858, 10 years after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo,



Photos 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.

during American expansion into the west. Today, visitors can explore life in a nineteenth century military fort by



Visitors to the Fort Garland Museum can view Tierra o Muerte by Emanuel Martinez and many other works as part of the ¡Viva La Causa! Long Live the Cause!: The Art of Change exhibit through May 11.

walking the parade grounds and touring five of the original adobe buildings.

The Fruitful vs. the Frustrated Life

In John 15:16 Jesus says, “I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last” (NIV). In fact, the Bible has a lot to say about how Christians bear fruit—and there are two ways that we can do it. One is by displaying the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). And the second way is by getting out in the world where God has planted us and being good to people.

I’m talking about helping people who are hard to love or don’t seem to deserve it. Or giving to the poor and getting involved with people so you can make a difference and help make their lives better, rather than spending all of your time trying to make yourself happy.

I’ve discovered that being selfish and self-centered never makes anyone happy. Living for God is really just the opposite of that. God does want to bless us and give us the things we need, but when we give our lives to Him, our purpose is to serve Him.

In Matthew 12:33 (NIV) Jesus says, “...The tree is recognized by its fruit.” And this is how people know who we are. Just as you recognize an orange tree by the oranges it produces, you know a Christian by the fruit of their lifestyle.

I’ve said often that you won’t be recognized as a Christian just because you have a Christian bumper sticker on your car or you wear Christian jewelry or go to church every week. Most of the time people won’t care what you have to say if your behavior doesn’t back it up.

The fruit of our lives is seen in our behavior—what we do to help others and our attitudes—as well as what we

say. It’s the visible expression of the invisible work that God is doing in us.

Jesus says in John 15:8 (AMP), “My Father is glorified and honored by this, when you bear much fruit, and prove yourselves to be My [true] disciples.” In other words, we’re not proving anything to anyone simply by what we say. It’s the fruit of our lives that proves who we really are.

So it’s good for us to frequently ask ourselves: Who am I helping in my life? How am I making a difference or making someone else’s life better?

The key to bearing good fruit is found in John 15:5 (AMP), which says, “I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for [otherwise] apart from Me [that is, cut off from vital union from Me] you can do nothing.”

Jesus is telling us that as we spend time with Him in prayer and by studying the Bible, His Spirit is working in us, changing us little by little (2 Corinthians 3:18), causing us to reflect His image or characteristics more and more. It’s a progressive transformation that takes time and requires a consistent commitment throughout our lifetime.

If you aren’t spending regular time with Jesus and growing in your relationship with Him through prayer and Bible study, I want to challenge you to reevaluate your priorities and put first things first. The truth is we put our time into what we really want to do. And if something is truly important to you, you will find time to do it.

God created you because He loves you, He wants to have a personal relationship with you, and He wants to do amazing things in you and



through you. Every day is a gift from God and it’s so precious!

Ephesians 3:20 (AMP) says that God “is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly more than all that we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dreams], according to His power that is at work within us.” He has a plan for you and He will give you everything you need to fulfill your destiny as you seek Him and grow stronger in your faith in Him.

I want to encourage you to focus on Jesus and live by the wisdom He reveals to you in His Word. If you choose today to help someone else, not only will you be happier, but you’ll find that good fruit brings true satisfaction and fulfillment.

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

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

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Great Sand Dunes National Park to receive bison conservation funding

By JOHN WATERS

SANLUIS VALLEY— The National Park Service has announced it will fund \$7.4 million for bison conservation in Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, Yellowstone National Park, and Glacier National Park. The funding is part of the Inflation Reduction Act.

In March 2023, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said, “The American bison is inextricably intertwined with Indigenous culture, grassland ecology, and American history. While the overall recovery of bison over the last 130 years is a conservation success story, significant work remains to not only ensure that bison will remain a viable species but also to restore grassland ecosystems, strengthen rural economies dependent on grassland health and provide for the return of bison to tribally owned and ancestral lands.”

The Nature Conservancy transferred 9,362 acres of the Medano-Zapata ranch to the park in 2022, consisting of inholdings within the park. This transfer will support bison habitat.

At the time, then-park Superintendent Pam Rice said, “The transferred land includes important springs and wetlands that support a rich diversity of life.”

According to a park service ungulate (animals with hooves) management plan, the park will have an initial genetically pure bison herd consisting of 25-50 animals. The plan mentions the possibility the herd may increase to 580 bison. A request for comment from the park regarding the potential number of bison was not returned by press time.

National parks across the United States will use this Inflation Reduction Act funding to prepare for the impacts of climate change, protect species, restore ecosystems, and invest in conservation jobs.

“This investment in conservation demonstrates an unprecedented commitment towards tackling the climate crisis and strengthening America’s resilience,” said NPS Director Chuck Sams in a press release. “From restoring species to cleaning up abandoned mines in our national parks, this investment will support ongoing efforts to protect and preserve our nation’s most cherished places.”

The American bison is an essential component of grassland ecology and an iconic symbol of American culture. The species once numbered 60 million in North America, with the population centered in the central United States.

Many Indigenous cultures, especially in areas where the species was most abundant, developed strong ties with bison and relied upon them for sustenance, shelter, and cultural and religious practices. In the 19th century, bison were nearly driven to extinction through uncontrolled hunting and a U.S. policy of eradication tied to intentional harm against and control of Native American Tribes.

By 1890, only several hundred wild bison remained. In addition to depriving Tribes of a critical resource and lifeway, the persecution of bison contributed to the decline of healthy grassland ecosystems and, eventually, to the Dust Bowl. The loss of the keystone species, coupled with land conversion, led to declines in other important grassland wildlife, such as migratory birds and pollinators.

Beginning in the early 20th century with the support of President Theodore Roosevelt, conservationists and scientists made a collective effort to restore the American bison. Roosevelt was a co-founder of the American Bison Society, a group dedicated to saving the animal from extinction. Conservation and restoration efforts have increased the number of wild bison in the United

States from fewer than 500 to more than 15,000.

Although wild numbers have recovered dramatically, they are functionally extinct to both grassland systems and the human cultures with which they coevolved.

According to the U.S. Department of the Interior, “Our attention and efforts must turn toward the ecocultural restoration of bison as native North American wildlife. Significant conservation work is necessary not only to ensure that bison will remain a viable species but also to restore ecosystem function, strengthen rural economies dependent on grassland health, and provide for the return of bison to Tribally owned and ancestral lands.”

“The imperative for ecocultural restoration is made even more urgent by climate change. Warming temperatures exacerbate the pressures on grasslands, with historic droughts, wildfires, and invasive species threatening the grassland ecosystems and the communities they support. The best science shows that returning bison to grasslands can enhance soil development, restore native plants and wildlife, and promote carbon sequestration, thereby providing benefits for agriculture, outdoor recreation, and Tribes. In addition, restoring bison and healthy grasslands.”

The park service has had great success in bison recovery and reintroduction. Wind Cave National Park began bison conservation in 1905. When Theodore Roosevelt National Park was established in 1947, there were no bison in the park. After 29 bison were introduced a decade later, the herd increased and has grown to an estimated 600-800. In the 1960s, Badlands National Park reintroduced



Photo by National Park Service

Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve will receive funding for bison conservation and may have a herd in the park by 2029. Bison are extremely fast and can run at speeds of up to 35 MPH. They are very agile and can spin around quickly and jump high fences. In May 2016, President Obama signed the National Bison Legacy Act designating the American Bison as the National Mammal of the United States.

50 animals from Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Today, Badlands has an estimated bison population between 1,000 to 1,200. The park is now a source of creating bison herds across the United States.

Of the approximately 15,000 wild bison in the United States, the Department of the Interior manages 11,000 bison in herds across 4.6 million acres of U.S. public lands in 12 states. The Yellowstone National Park herd is the largest at approximately 4,800 animals. Most herds contain between 300 and 500 bison. Tribes have collectively

restored an additional 20,000 healthy bison on Tribal lands, particularly in the Northern Great Plains and Intermountain states.

In addition to funding bison conservation, the park service recently that announced parks in the Colorado River basin will also receive approximately \$4.6 million to assess the effects of climate change and inform Colorado River management plans, as well as to remove invasive species and protect at-risk species. Another \$4 million will go to fourteen national parks across the arid Southwest to restore

native plants and reduce the vulnerability of river systems to climate change.

In 1889, Roosevelt wrote this in his journal about bison, “I have a half-melancholy feeling, few indeed are the men who now have or evermore shall have, the chance of seeing the mightiest of American beasts, in all his wild vigor, surrounded by the tremendous desolation of his far-off mountain home.” Through Roosevelt’s efforts and those of the National Park Service, today, millions of visitors annually enjoy sightings of bison, our national mammal.

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Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The Del Norte Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Del Norte hosted a Meet the Candidates night on March 12. There are three mayoral candidates running for a four-year term and five candidates running for three open seats on the Del Norte Board of Trustees.

Town of Del Norte hosts Meet the Candidates

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — The Town of Del Norte in partnership with the Del Norte Chamber of Commerce hosted a Meet the Candidate night on Tuesday, March 12, at the High Valley Community Center.

The public was invited to ask questions of three mayoral candidates — incumbent Chris Trujillo, and challengers Shelly Burnett and resident Shawn Goforth.

In addition to the mayoral candidates, the audience was also introduced to the five candidates running for three open seats on the Del Norte Board of Trustees — Andrew Velasquez, Jonathon Medina, Louie Velasquez, Sarah A. White, and Bobby L. Lopez.

The meeting started with host Milcah Hawk, a long-time resident of the area and educator for many years, introducing the candidates and explaining the format.

“It takes a lot of courage to step forward and serve. So, let’s acknowledge those sitting at this table tonight and how much it takes to come forward and take on things that are hard but also rewarding for our community,” said Hawk.

Each candidate was given the opportunity to introduce themselves, beginning with the first three initial questions and then moving onto additional questions from the audience.

Burnett began by introducing herself. Burnett is a life-long resident of Del Norte and worked for 30-plus years in the banking industry.

“I am a lifelong community member. I do know the culture and I also know our people are not rich. I think we need to try and find ways to help fix our water, but we need grant writer and other flows of income. I don’t believe that we should put the expense all on our citizens,” she said.

Next to speak was Goforth, who previously served as Mayor of South Fork for a short period during 2014 and into 2015. Goforth stated that he has worked for the Wolf Creek Ski Area for several years and has raised his family in Del Norte. Goforth stated that he would like to see the town thrive and if elected, do what his constituents want done.

“I would like to see term limits, audits, a recreational center, park equipment for the river park and I would like to see the bad side of town get cleaned up a little bit better. I would also like to see our city water get better,” he said.

Trujillo was next to speak, stating

that as a long-time resident he knows that Del Norte is a fantastic place where he raised his family and has worked since he graduated from college. Trujillo said he has managerial experience and hopes to use it to continue as mayor of Del Norte.

“My original plan was that I wasn’t going to run again,” he said. “I figured after four terms it was time for someone else to step up. The reason I am running again is because we have so many projects that were put back because of COVID and I would like to get the town infrastructure taken care of.”

Next, the candidates for the trustee position spoke, introducing themselves to the audience beginning with Lopez, who said that he has been in Del Norte for the past 10 years having come here from La Jara.

Lopez grew up in a small town and feels that experience gives him the knowledge of how small towns work.

“My priorities is that I would like to see change. I want there to be more youth involvement. The streets in our town need more work and we need to push to clean up more as a community,” he said.

Velasquez was born and raised in Del Norte and has served on the town board for the past four years. Velasquez said that because he is a current trustee he is aware of what is happening in the town right now and is hoping to stay on for another four years.

“The reason I am running is because the town has a lot of projects like the revitalizing main street and completing the wastewater system. I want to be around to see that all completed,” he said.

White was next to speak, stating that she is a retired educator after serving in her past position as the superintendent of the school district where she worked. White has been in the Del Norte area for 30 years.

“I am here to serve the community. When I think about priority, I think the biggest priority is making sure voices are heard,” she said.

Candidate Medina was not present for the event but sent in a comment stating that he would like to help the town move in a positive direction and that he would like to help the law enforcement get the tools they need to fight crime and drug problems in Del Norte. In addition, Medina stated that he wanted to help the community clean up streets and have more community events.

The election is April 2.

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Moffat archers capture state titles

By JACK SCIACCA
Moffat Pk-12 Archery Coach
 Moffat Pk-12 Schools recently competed in the Colorado State National Archery in the Schools Program 2024 Virtual Tournament. A total of 474 archers from around the state submitted scores. It was one of the largest state tournaments in recent history. The Moffat Middle School Team placed second. Moffat's Middle School, 12-person team, was 88 points behind Olathe Middle School with a team score of 2,900 points. East Grand Middle rounded out the podium with a third-

place finish and a score of 2,824 points. Moffat's coed team effort was made possible by the performances of the following archers: Romeo Eisenhauer, Caiden Cross, Kandra Pollard, Tanner Shellabarger, Matthew Baker, Kyren Plumley, Javad Taylor, Sean Gibson, Madison Payne, Colton Baldwin, Xander Schwartz, and Tori Gibson. Shelby Morley, ninth grade, turned in the highest score across all divisions in the tournament, for the second year in a row, to be named the 2024 High School Colorado State Champion Girl. She scored 282 out of a possible 300 points. This was her fourth time representing Moffat at the podium and the second time capturing a state championship title.

Eisenhauer, in eighth grade, was named the Middle School Colorado State Champion Boy. This was his first season in the National Archery in the Schools Program. He edged out Garrison Reinier of Olathe Middle School, by one point, to secure the title.

The following Moffat archers placed in the top 10 in their divisions:

- Caiden Cross (3rd Place - Middle School Boys Division)
- Aricenli Alvarez (4th Place - Elementary Girls Division)
- Tanner Shellabarger (4th Place - Middle School Boys Division)

- Chase Shellabarger (4th Place - High School Boys Division)
- Matthew Baker (5th Place - Middle School Boys Division)
- Kandra Pollard (6th Place - Middle School Girls Division)

- Javad Taylor (8th Place - Middle School Boys Division)
- Kyren Plumley (9th Place - Middle School Girls Division)
- Alexandra Alvarez (9th Place - High School Girls Division)

and Megan Shellabarger plan to take Moffat's top contenders to the 2024 NASP Western National Tournament in Sandy, Utah, in late April. Donations to offset travel expenses are appreciated and can be made by contacting the school.

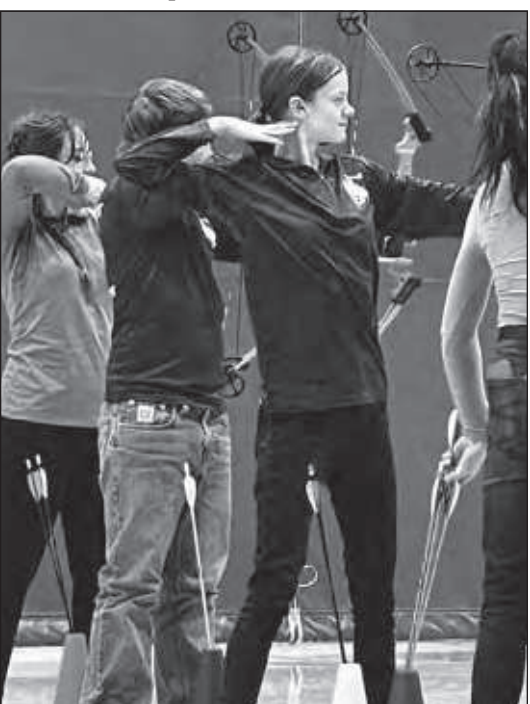


Photo by Alex Moore-Guenther

Moffat School's Shelby Morley, ninth grade, executes a perfect shot in the 2024 Colorado National Archery in the Schools Program State Championship Tournament. Shelby captured the title of Colorado State Champion, High School Girls Division.

Snow County Explorers take Lake City trails



Courtesy photos

On a sunny and warm Saturday, March 9, 12 riders on 10 sleds from the Snow County Explorers, the Creede snowmobile club, rode some of the Lake City trails. The ride started at Spring Creek Pass, across Jarosa Mesa, over to Rambouillet Park, down Sawmill Gulch, up to Slumgullion Pass, down through Oleo Ranch, and then back up to Spring Creek Pass. Most of the route was freshly groomed but unriden with about 4 inches of fresh powder making the ride that much more enjoyable. The group stopped for lunch halfway down Sawmill Gulch, where there was a magnificent view of the snow-capped San Juan Mountains against a perfectly blue sky. The Lake City trails are maintained by the Lake City Continental Divide Snowmobile Club and are groomed periodically by Tom Carl and Jeff Guthmiller.



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Sweat Ceremony and Potluck set for April 6

By MARIE MCCOLM

CRESTONE — A Rainbow Sweat Ceremony and Potluck is planned for Saturday, April 6, from 12 to 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to bring their favorite dish and come and network and speak to others about different cultural and spiritual ideas.

The potluck will take place at a sweat lodge and is being organized by Andrea Beaubien. There will be music, socializing, networking with people of all religions and cultures. The community is invited to attend and celebrate the coming of spring, joy in the Crestone community, and meet and celebrate with the special birthday girl, according to Beaubien.

Baubien has lived in Crestone for over 20 years. Beaubien's husband has Native American ancestry. Her husband introduced her to the spiritual path that she is on now,

including traditional north American indigenous ceremonies.

"We really enjoy helping people," she said. "We lead sweat lodges, vision quests and all sorts of traditional ceremonies here at our home. We have also gone into the woods for vision quests. We enjoy singing songs, and prayers. We enjoy goal setting. I enjoy leading and helping others."

Baubien said that she is looking forward to the ceremonial potluck because she is open to other religions and enjoys meeting people of other spiritual backgrounds and cultures.

"I am open to other traditions. I do go to the Hindu Temple here in Crestone and participate. That is what I am really looking for with this lodge is a merging of cultures and religions. A friend of mine is also having a birthday. So, this will be a ceremony for her birthday too. She is from

Creede. I am really looking forward to this and would love to get everyone to come out and attend," she said.

Part of the intention behind the event is so that people can come and connect.

"We have a shared intention here, for people to celebrate a birthday, but also celebrate their religions and their cultural diversities. We are sharing a blessing for her. What we realize is through this we are all connecting to each other too. We might be strangers in the beginning but by the end we will all be really close, like a community," she said. "Spirituality is becoming less common. I feel like here we can start a tradition and help each other here. We can create something new here for everyone to network and enjoy."

For more information on the upcoming event and location, email 1heartofma@gmail.com.



Photo courtesy of Saguache Firewise

Grace Puchtel with a burn pile.

FIREWISE

Continued from Page 1A

and his calm and detailed choice of tactics kept everyone safe.

The second Baca supervisor, Benjamin Antoniewicz who brought his knowledge of wildfire management after two years on the San Juan Hotshot Crew home to share. He split his time between the Greenbelt project and lot mitigation equally and stepped into the site boss position whenever needed.

This past winter, Cody Wolfe braved the biting cold winds and swirling snow on almost every project. He became proficient in ignitions to help folks with their pile burns. He literally moved tons of cut materials to piles or trailers to haul to the mitigation pit and has begun his apprenticeship in wildfire chainsaw use.

Grace Puchtel joined us last summer and became a regular on Firewise projects and is a great asset to the program.

Joshua Fruland made sure the Greenbelt crew had enough folks to operate before joining the lot crew. Wherever he worked, a lot of slash was moved with his signature strap and drag technique. He is also becoming a skilled sawyer.

Our meticulous equipment officer, Jake Marcus, arrived every morning a half hour early to do rig checks and equipment rehab. Whenever needed for a large project, he swung off the Greenbelt crew to do whatever job was necessary. His chainsaw techniques vastly improved this year and I figure he'll make his FAL2 qualifications in the next year or so.

Stevo Hirsch drives the ambulance, day or night, rushing to help folks

through some of their darkest moments. When available, he added his saw skills to projects, until a call for help came and he high-tailed it to get the ambo.

Another EMS responder is Quinn Kenny. He fit in with the crew and learned quickly how we run our dynamic work environment safely, adding his emergency coverage to our projects.

Angie Geis is a great organizer who works in the office one day and help swamp in the field the next. Most of us crave working outdoors and are grateful for those who can sit in front of a computer, which is a vital part of the job. She has a standing invitation to work with my crew anytime she needs to get outdoors and get 'er done.

The Firewise program has been augmented by a few others on occasion this past year. Alexandra Woods, is mainly an EMS person and admin worker, who plans to pursue fire communications but managed to join us a couple times. Popular musician Marcus Daniels was hired on a week-long private job since he is waiting for an opening on the fire department. Former fire chief Ben Brack helped us whenever we hit a huge job and he was available and even Kevin "Popeye" McConnauhay managed to leave his usual Greenbelt Site Boss position for a day on one of the retreat center jobs.

Gratitude to our county commissioners who have supported and funded the Firewise program since its conception. Thank all of you for making Saguache County a safer place to live.



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

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



Courtesy photos

Rio Grande Hospital begins thanking the many donors who have helped bring the Wellness Center from a dream to reality. A huge thanks went out to Del Norte bank, RG Bank and San Luis Valley Bank for their contributions.



RGH gives update on Wellness Center, thanks donors

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

RGH gives update on Wellness Center, thanks donors — Rio Grande Hospital announced recently that the new Wellness Center currently being built near the hospital will be finished by early summer and thanked everyone who has donated to the project.

According to Development and Communications Officer Eva Timberlake, the Wellness Center is on track to

Please see UPDATE on Page 6



SdCNHA hosting Colorado Byways Symposium May 1-4

CONTRIBUTED

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



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

Colorado Byways Symposium 2024 is expecting a little over 200 patrons from across Colorado, the United States of America, and a group from Japan.

The National Scenic Byways Foundation (NSBF) supports this event and will be in attendance. The NSBF is a nonprofit organization serving as

Please see SdCNHA on Page 2

People land in Monte Vista for Crane Festival

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — People from the San Luis Valley and outside of it were in Monte Vista on March 8-10 for the 41st annual Monte Vista Crane Festival.

The Craft and Nature Fair took place all three days at the Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski-Hi Complex.

Dozens of vendors were set up inside with baked goods, homemade items, wood working, specialty art crafts, clothing, and jewelry.

The Monte Vista Emergency Food Bank was at the fair selling all kinds of goodies. The Kindness Club had a booth, Pam Self of the Homelake Veterans Living Center was also at the craft show.

Alfonso Duran was a vendor at the trade show and said, "I am happy to be here. This morning was a sheet of ice coming in. I live in Bailey, Colorado. This is my fourth or fifth time here. I missed the year when there was COVID. This is the first time I have ever come with snow out here, usually it's beautiful when the cranes come in. It's been a little slow this morning, but I bet it will pick up by this afternoon. Same thing yesterday. I enjoyed the Crane Festival. Lots to see."

Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce Manager Heather Hillin was at the vendor event and said, "Things are going well. We have had a lot of people come out. We look forward to a lot more. The snow won't slow it down. I

think it's going well despite the snow."

In addition to the Craft and Nature Fair, there were crane tours that took place mornings and evenings on Friday and Saturday, and Sunday morning. The crane tours ranged from the Baca Wetlands, to Homelake, and the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge. The tours were expert led and included viewing of multiple different wildlife, including ducks, geese, owls, and Sandhill Cranes. The weather was chilly but each morning the buses left for the tours, and the tours were all sold out. New this year was a Spanish led tour.

An art exhibit took place featuring artist Jocelyn Catterson. The movie "Migration" was also shown at Vali 3 Theatre for free. The animated movie followed a family of ducks on the vacation of a lifetime.

Marigold Watson and her daughter Daisy of Crestone were in town in

Please see CRANES on Page 6



Sandhill cranes seen Sunday morning in a grain field at the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge.



People were at the Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge viewing area at sunrise on Sunday to view the Sandhill Cranes.

Photos by Brian Williams

SdCNHA Continued from Page 1

the National Voice of Scenic Byways and Roads, dedicated to strengthening byways and actively advocating for renewed byway federal funding. During the week, symposium attendees will be visiting numerous sites throughout the San Luis Valley. Wednesday, attendees will be viewing the unique dark night skies, on Thursday, they will travel the Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway, and Friday will be numerous breakout sessions throughout the day followed by the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area's Annual Cinco de Mayo Block Party.

The San Luis Valley is a landscape speckled in a diverse cultural richness that dates back over 11,000 years. "As you crest one of the four major road passages into the San Luis Valley, your eyes lay sight on the majestic open skies, it is as if you traveled back in time," organizers stated. The 8,000 square mile alpine desert Valley is tucked away where the southwestern culture of New Mexico tangles together with the western frontier culture of south-central Colorado.

Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway will take people through the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area. "An experience that will immerse you in vast, untouched natural beauty and inspiring narratives of native tribes, explorers, frontiersmen, buffalo soldiers, ranchers, miners, and railroad boomers. Where today you can sand board down the tallest dunes in North America at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, have room to breathe, lay under a blanket of infinite stars in one of the nation's darkest places, and drift through the history between quaint towns of generations past in the back of beyond. This is where Colorado began and where the old west spirit of

honesty, adventure, and small-town hospitality is still very much alive," organizers stated.

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

This state scenic byway links the four Cornerstone Communities of Alamosa, Fort Garland, San Luis, and Antonito, as well as the Great Sand Dunes National Park, the San Luis Lakes State Park, the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge, Zapata Falls, the Medano-Zapata Ranch, the Rio Grande National Forest, the Conejos River, Culebra Creek, and the Rio Grande. Smaller communities along this route include: Mosca, Blanca, San Acacio, Manassa, Romeo, Conejos, Paisaje, Mogote, Las Mesitas, and Fox Creek.

There are 22 wayside exhibits along the way that provide interpretation of specific topics and sites. Interpretive topics include the Rio Grande River, the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, Conejos Canyon, Adams State University, Spanish Entradas, the Aquifers and Closed Basin, the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge, dune formation, Blanca Wetlands, Zapata Falls, Paleo-Indians, Tewa Indians, Blanca Peak, Penitentes, the Alpine Desert, Fort Massachusetts, Fort Garland, Buffalo Soldiers, San Luis the Oldest Town in Colorado, La Vega, Acequias, Stations of the Cross, Lt. Zebulon Pike, Pike's Stockade, King's Turquoise Mine, the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad, Jack Dempsey Museum, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

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



Batterson, Dennis Streets Capital Improvement Project

MONTE VISTA — With summer quickly approaching, the City of Monte Vista is gearing up for its summer construction schedule.

The first project is the completion of the Batterson, Dennis Streets Capital Improvement Project. The city has worked with a contractor for this phase of the project, ACI and has determined

that the project will begin on April 1. The construction will begin on Batterson from 4th Avenue to Lariat.

Construction will then proceed to Dennis Street from Lariat to 4th Avenue and the final phase will be construction on 4th Avenue from Batterson to Highway 15 (South Broadway).

Door hangers will be sent out to

the properties affected by the street closures as the project gets closer.

During the construction the following streets will be closed to through traffic:

- 4th Avenue from Dennis to State Highway 15 (S. Broadway)
- Batterson Street from 4th to Lariat Road
- Dennis Street from 4th to Lariat Road

SPEAKER SERIES — Habrá interpretación en español durante las conferencias. —

WILD FOODS & MEDICINES OF THE VALLEY



Join us for the

14TH ANNUAL SAN LUIS VALLEY SEED EXCHANGE

SAT. MARCH 30

10AM — 5PM

TERESA DE JESUS VIGIL
Herbal Use of Our Ancestors

DR. KRISTY L. DURAN
Plants & Ethnobotany of the SLV

DAVID MAURIELLO
Medicinal Properties of Hops

COMMUNITY UPDATES
Let the community know what you have to offer, what you need help with, or what you're up to.

MILES FILIPPELLI
Simple Cannabis Medicine Making

CARI CONARI
Regional, Herbal Medicine Making

SUN. MARCH 31

10AM — 2PM

ADAM SIEMILLER
SLV Fruit Crops & Food Forests

PENN PARMENTER
Responsible Collecting of Wild Seeds

TYLOR BERRETH
Mushroom Species of the SLV & Their Medicinal Uses

FREE EVENT

FAMILY FRIENDLY LOCATION

SEED SWAP 

DOOR PRIZES MOFFAT, CO

FOOD VENDORS

\$2 OFF SOAKING

LOCAL VENDORS • TRADE • NETWORK
LEARN • SOAK & STAY

SLVSE.ORG

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

Thinking of Selling in 2024
Expect the Best,
Call Bernadette



exp



REALTY

Bernadette
Gingrass

719-850-1993

bmgingrass@gmail.com

License #100072622

193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

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




Bernadette Gingrass

719-850-1993

bmgingrass@gmail.com

License #100072622




0254 Timberline Trail • South Fork

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



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

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



CLASSIFIED INDEX

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RATES

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

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

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

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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

Elementary Behavior Interventionist / School Assessment Coordinator / Response to Intervention Coordinator needed at Del Norte Elementary School for the 2024-2025 school year. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team. Applicants must have a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Amy Duda, Principal at aduda@urtigers.co or contact Amy at 719-657-4050. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co. (3-27)

Instructional Coach needed at Del Norte Elementary School. Candidate should be proficient in all areas of teaching and learning, with an emphasis on professional practice and the teaching and learning cycle. The coach will be responsible for consulting with and supporting the instructional teaching staff in using resources that impact student learning. The coach will provide support and professional learning to instructional staff as needed. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able

to obtain a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to Amy Duda, Principal at aduda@urtigers.co. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co. (3-27)

Del Norte Elementary School Teacher needed at the URGSD. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team for the 2024-2025 school year. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Amy Duda, Principal at aduda@urtigers.co or contact Amy at 719-657-4050. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co. (3-27)

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

Field Inspectors Needed - Colorado Certified Seed! The Colorado Seed Growers Association is looking for reliable and energetic individuals to inspect certified seed fields. This is a seasonal position and requires individuals that are

FULL-TIME SALES

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

Business Showcase

We can "bearly" contain our excitement over our new arrival of decorative bears!



The Holy Moses
Mon.-Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
658-2848
121 N. Main Creede

This Week's Feature



THE HOLY MOSES

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

It's Worth The Drive

Mon.-Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Nick & Vicki Kulyk
121 N. Main • 658-2848 • Creede

DISCLAIMER

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

Valley Wide Classifieds

self-motivated, responsible and have experience in Agriculture or Natural Resources. If you are interested, please contact Linda Munk at the Colorado Seed Growers Association for more information: 970-491-6202 or linda.munk@colostate.edu. (3-27)

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

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

The City of Monte Vista is currently seeking a dynamic and experienced individual to fill the role of Chief of Police. This position offers an exciting opportunity

for a proven leader with a strong commitment to community safety and effective law enforcement practices. Salary range \$95,000 - \$105,000, plus benefits. Position open until filled, EOE. Please visit: <https://cityofmontevista.colorado.gov/government/departments/human-resources> for a complete position description and application. (3-27)

The City of Monte Vista is currently accepting applications for an Equipment Operator I position. This position will perform skilled work in equipment operations, maintenance and repair work of streets, etc. This position may be asked to perform work for the Water/Sewer Dept and the Parks Dept. A valid Colorado Class B CDL License with air brakes is highly desirable. Requires HS diploma or GED equivalent and one-year prior experience as equipment operator. Candidates must be able to pass a pre-employment background check and drug test. This is a 40 hour per week full-time position. The general starting wage is \$16.75 - \$18.00 per hour plus an excellent benefit package. Please visit: <https://cityofmontevista.colorado.gov/government/departments/human-resources> for a complete position description and application. (3-27)

Conour *Managed by Upper Rio Grande Animal Society*
www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org
If you are interested in adopting, call 852-3366
 Open Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m. -4 p.m. & Sat. & Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m.
 Monday & non-business hours by appointment only
 2825 Sherman Ave. • Monte Vista

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

Visit Our Facebook Page

LOST & FOUND

Found 3/15 at 510 French St. in Del Norte

Chuck and Serena are still looking for their furever homes! They're about 5 months old now, love kids and other dogs, and are ready to adventure. Please stop in and give these adorable floofs a home!

We want to say Thank You to everyone who came out to our open house, and to all those who made it possible! We wouldn't be where we are today without the support of our wonderful community!

The dogs have been a bit rough on our hard/super chewer toys lately and we're running low! They're a staple of playtime around here and we would really appreciate any that could be donated! Thank you all!

Please note adoptions go in order of contact made.

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

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

5299 County Road 12 S. Alamosa
 160-acre circle planted in Alfalfa. Two shares of Commonwealth Ditch and use of Carmel Drain. Zimmatic Pivot, three stock wells. Waverly area. MLS#810432 \$400,000

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28 acres on the Rio Grande River in South Fork.
 Approx 1/2 mile of prime fishing - own to the middle of the river. \$1,500,000. MLS#807305

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61 Red Tail Court
 - 6 acres with incredible views in the gated subdivision of Bear Creek, South Fork, CO. Owner financing is available for this gorgeous lot. MLS#803984 \$99,000

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Rito Hondo Estates - 18 Rural Mountain Lots Available
 West of Antonito in the Conejos Canyon OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE
 \$950,000 home on 35 acres located on lot #2
 \$85,000 (6 acre lots)
 \$200,000 (17.5 acre lots)
 \$400,000 (35 acre lots)
 \$950,000 (35 acres with home)

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7541 Indian Creek Road Ft. Garland
 Off Grid Cabin on 5 acres ON THE CREEK \$279,000. Virtual tour and Drone video available. MLS#809447

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719-873-5605
 30635 US HWY 160 South Fork
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 Dee - formerly known as Diane Chapman - Local Luxury Home Broker. Licensed in 2011, Dee knows the area and knows local real estate.

All Dee's properties are detailed in her blog.

3D Virtual Tours • Prompt, Easy Communication
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Lots 11 & 12 in Riviere Estates Two lots together in a quiet community. VRBO & Air B&B OK subject to town guidelines. All utilities are available at the lot line. MLS 808212

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 (719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

23 Fairway Drive - OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE
 - this beautiful lot is a 1-minute walk from the Clubhouse on the Rio Grande Club and Resort in South Fork. Flat and easy to build, this lot has water, sewer, electricity, landline phone and high-speed internet at the lot line. MLS#794077. \$56,000

Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

242 Birch \$69,000 MLS#810124 and **64 Vista \$49,000** MLS#810125. Two adjacent commercial lots in South Fork, each .35 acres. Right behind Mtn Pizza. Easy paved access off of Hwy 160.

Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

4100 Wilderness Canyon Road - Mountain Luxury at the end of the road, secluded and private, this gorgeous, bright, energy-efficient home sits on 42 acres bordering the National Forest with views of the Natural Arch, Ghost Mine Ranch, near Del Norte. Ride or hike out for hundreds of miles, right from your backyard. Gated community with minimal covenants. \$899,000

Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty
 (719) 873-5605 • dee@steffenscorealty.com

Valley Wide Classifieds

11 Rooms

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

17 Real Estate For Sale

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

32 Fuel & Heating

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

Lump Coal and Anthracite Hard Coal available. Supplement your wood heating with "lump coal". Burns more consistently & lasts longer so you can do more of what you want & less time carrying wood. 719-849-8261 (3-6)

36 Miscellaneous

1970 Ford D-250 Camper Special runs driver stop restorable \$500. I buy patches 719-849-0975. (4-3)

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

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

D	A	T	A			S	P	T		P	V	A				
A	R	A	B	S		A	L	I		P	A	I	N			
P	A	R	E	R		D	A	M		A	D	I	T			
S	A	T	I	S		D	N	B		I	R	I	S			
						A	M	E	N	A	B	L	E			
P	R	E	M	A	T	U	R	E	L	Y						
C	H	O	P	P	E	D		D	E	W						
T	O	N	G	A						O	C	A	L	A		
						C	P	A		C	O	R	O	N	A	S
						H	A	M	S	A	N	D	W	I	C	H
						A	D	E	L	A	I	D	E			
A	L	A	E			A	Z	T		S	A	B	E	R		
D	O	H	A			C	O	T			A	I	L	E	D	
A	B	E	D			E	N	E			R	A	B	B	I	
R	E	D				S	S	R			S	A	S	S		

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— Carol V.

CRANES

Continued from Page 1

front of the Sandhill wings mural on the side of the Elks Lodge in downtown Monte Vista, taking pictures.

Watson said, "My daughter was all excited about taking a picture in front of these wings. This is her first time experiencing cranes, she just turned 5, and she giggled when I took her out to the refuge, and she watched the cranes flying around. I would recommend locals and out of towners to come to this every year. I come every year. This is an experience that you will never forget. Whether you go on a crane tour or drive yourself there, I did both, you just can't forget the beauty of the cranes, how they roost, how they fly, and how they

play together. It is one of the most breathtaking experiences I have ever had. I also now have memories with my daughter, and I know she won't forget it either. An amazing experience for the San Luis Valley and Monte Vista."

The fifth annual Swoop of the Cranes art project was also on display throughout downtown. Blank steel cranes were painted by local artists and hung on light poles right before the Crane Festival for people to enjoy.

Even though the festival is over, the cranes will be here for a couple of weeks. Local and out of town residents are encouraged to drive to the refuge and experience the cranes during their spring migration.



The Craft and Nature Fair took place all three days of the 41st annual Monte Vista Crane Festival at the Outcall Event and Conference at SLV Ski-Hi Complex.

Photo by Marie Mccolm

UPDATE

Continued from Page 1

open by June and the hospital plans to celebrate the grand opening in style.

"We are on track for the finish of the Wellness Center and our hope is to have a community grand opening by early summer. Construction on the project is nearing completion and we can't wait to share it with the community," she said.

The Wellness Center project began before 2020 to not only offer patients at the hospital and their families a place to stay but also to offer patients a way to learn about how to be healthier living through several different programs.

At the beginning of the planning phase of the project, Rio Grande Hospital CEO Arlene Harms looked at what are termed Blue Zones throughout the US and through her research and with the help of several different organizations and people they began to form a plan for what the Wellness Center would look like.

Blue Zones are in about five or six different countries throughout the world and are known for their healthy living lifestyles and longevity of the residents.

One group here in the US is known for the healthy living habits formed by its members which is group of Seventh-day Adventists. The group is in the Loma Linda area in California. The group has made headlines in certain circles for their residents who live almost a decade longer than the average person and they attribute this fact to their lifestyle.

The Wellness Center will have a community center where members of the community can come host meetings, meet for coffee or utilize resources offered by the center. It will be an intersection for employees who can take their breaks there, there will be games, books and computers to use, and help families that have members in the hospital.

The center will also house a teaching kitchen so that families can come and learn how to cook healthy meals; a greenhouse and herb garden; an educational room; meditation room; access to the nearby trails and hiking as well as so much more. For more information, visit the hospital's website at www.riograndehospital.org.

Now, with the project nearing completion, the hospital wanted to begin thanking those who have donated, beginning with local banks who have generously helped the project.

Shon Davis, the President and CEO of RG Bank, spearheaded a banker's forum for local banks in September of last year. RG Bank has always supported Rio Grande Hospital. Davis also sits on Rio Grande Hospital's Foundation Board, and in his short time on the board, he has made significant improvements in fundraising and brings valuable input to the board.

"I want to thank Shon for his commitment to Rio Grande Hospital," Timberlake said. "A huge thanks goes out to RG Bank, Del Norte Bank and San Luis Valley Bank and to everyone who helped make this dream a reality."

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30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



Looking for your dream property to build your mountain retreat? This stunning 5.2 acre lot offers sweeping mountain views that will take your breath away! With gated access, you can enjoy privacy and security, ensuring that your mountain getaway will be your own personal haven. The property comes with private access to the Rio Grande River, so you can fish, kayak or simply enjoy the beauty of Colorado's most iconic rivers. Don't miss your chance to own this piece of paradise!

\$131,000 | MLS# 802486
147 Explorer Way South Fork, CO

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\$895,000 | MLS# 804698
4617 County Rd. 13 Del Norte, CO

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O: 719-873-1700

30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



SOLD

Nestled in the scenic beauty of Del Norte, this 3.2 acre ranch with San Francisco Creek flowing through the center of the property allowing fishing on your own land. The residence itself is secluded, ensuring privacy with its 1/4-mile driveway that shields it from the main road. Call Bruce Steffens today for a showing appointment.

\$975,000 | MLS# 808345
6680 County Road 13, Del Norte, CO

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30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



Great home located in Romeo, Colorado! This 1569 Sq. Ft. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath home has plenty of space on 0.400 acres. This home has had many extensive improvements completed recently, from new skirting, to new vinyl flooring. The spacious lot has room for all your vehicles and toys. The home is ready to move in and is very comfortable! Town water and sewer assure minimal problems with utilities. The home is solid. If you're looking for a great deal in today's market, this one is for you!

Call Tate Huffaker today for more information.

\$150,000 | MLS# 810416
103 Antonito St. Romeo, CO

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Lot 6 - 35+/- acres	Lot 8 - 81+/- acres

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UNDER CONTRACT

Large warehouse 6000 square foot potato storage facility in Monte Vista, Colorado. It has a good system and is on approximately 1.2 acres. Come take a look at it!

\$150,000
16655 County Road 4 E.
Monte Vista, Colorado, 81144

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30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



UNDER CONTRACT

Approx. 246 acres on Rio Grande River front and is zoned for residential. WATER RIGHTS: L #28 and #203. RIGHTS: 3 domestic M irrigation well 3095 sq. ft. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms with lg. kitchen and 1 car garage. The guest house is 1486 sq. ft. with a 2 car garage and there's a 2000 sq. ft. steel shop with concrete floor. The property has approx. 1 mile of Rio Grande River front with lots of trees and native grasses. Call Bruce Steffens today for more information.

\$2,200,00 | MLS# 810790
19198 County Rd. 15 Del Norte, CO

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30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado

Tumbler online at Wolf Creek Ski Area



Courtesy Photos by Scott DW Smith
Wolf Creek Ski Area in Southern Colorado recently debuted its newest chairlift, the Tumbler. The Tumbler Lift has been running successfully for the past four weeks. To ensure all systems were working efficiently, Wolf Creek had a soft opening of the lift on Feb. 10.



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