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News in Brief

Are you interested in being a member of the SLVREC Board?

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Petitions for the nomination of director candidates for the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (SLVREC) are now available. Members can find information online at slvrec.com (About Us tab, "Annual Meeting").

For a petition packet, call Michelle Trujillo at 852-3538 or email mtrujillo@slvrec.com to have a petition packet mailed or pick up at SLVREC's office at 3625 US Highway 160 West, Monte Vista.

At the June 11, SLVREC Annual Meeting, two directors will be elected: one from Costilla County, District 2 and one from Alamosa County, District 4.

Completed petitions must include 15 valid SLVREC member signatures and be returned to SLVREC no later than Thursday, April 11, (or Thursday, April 4 to have a brief bio included in the Annual Report). It is recommended to obtain 20 signatures in the event that any of the signatures are invalid. Call Trujillo at 719-852-3538, with any questions.

If you're interested in having a brief bio included in the Annual Report and online, contact Jennifer Alonzo at jalonzo@slvrec.com by Thursday, April 4.

High School Honor Bands at Adams State is March 9

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University (ASU), Top of the Nation High School Honor Band, a program similar to the ASU choral honors program, will host about 60 musicians to ASU this weekend and have a free concert under the direction of James M Lind, Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at Adams State. The concert will be held in Richardson Hall on the university campus at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 9, and the public is welcome to attend this free event. Lind said he is excited to welcome clinicians Andrew Trachsel and Mark Emery to the program.

Mattive of Monte Vista elected National Potato Council President

Council installs 2024 Executive Committee during NPC Washington Summit

CONTRIBUTED

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Potato Council (NPC) installed its 2024 roster of Executive Committee members this week at the organization's annual Washington Summit. During the Annual Meeting of the Voting Delegates, Bob Mattive, of Monte Vista, was

elected to serve as the Council's President for the next 12 months.

Having grown up on a small farm in Brighton, Mattive began taking on leadership roles in high school — as class president and president of the 4-H Club. Now, the partner of Worley Family Farms, LLLP, in Monte Vista, will continue to serve the industry in his newly appointed

Please see MATTIVE on Page 2A

Bob Mattive, of Monte Vista, was elected to serve as the National Potato Council's President for the next 12 months.

Photo courtesy of the National Potato Council / Bill Schaefer Photography



Honoring the 'face of Colorado potatoes' — Jim Ehrlich



Photo courtesy of National Potato Council
Christina Herrick, produce editor for The Packer, presented Jim Ehrlich, at left, with the 2024 Potato Person of the Year award at the National Potato Council's 2024 Washington Summit. Outgoing NPC President RJ Andrus, right, thanked Ehrlich for his nearly two decades of service to the potato industry.

By CHRISTINA HERRICK
The Packer

WASHINGTON — When presented the award as the 2024 Potato Person of the Year, Jim Ehrlich was speechless — well, almost.

"I'm extremely humbled," he told *The Packer*, which presented the award Feb. 26 in conjunction with the National Potato Council during the 2024 NPC Washington Summit. "I have been so blessed to work for the potato industry and the wonderful people in the industry. I've made great friends from all across the country. There's nothing more noble than producing food for people to eat."

Potato Person of the Year recognizes an individual who has gone

above and beyond the call of duty during the past year to further the potato industry. Award winners have devoted a significant amount of time promoting potatoes to consumers and representing the industry on trade missions and in front of regulatory agencies.

Ehrlich, dubbed the "face of Colorado potatoes," has served as the executive director of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee for the past 18 years after the late Tom Ford approached him to take over the post. Ehrlich announced his plan to retire this year.

While he plans to step back, Ehrlich said he intends to stay connected to the industry.

Please see EHRlich on Page 6A

Kindness Club contributing to Craft and Nature Fair

Group will have an activity for children

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Facilitator of the Bill Metz Elementary Kindness Club, Francisca Archuleta is excited about the Monte Vista Crane Festival and the booth that the students will have at the Craft and Nature Fair on March 8-10.

"These students are all about promoting kindness," Archuleta said. "There are 12 members of the Kindness Club all together. The members range from grades third, fourth and fifth. We have four members out of each grade. The kids are excited about holding a booth this coming weekend. They are all about promoting kindness and talking about the club. The Crane Festival is definitely a good time for us to do this, as there is so much positivity and kindness out there during the



Courtesy photo

The Bill Metz Elementary Kindness Club will have a booth at the Craft and Nature Fair during the Monte Vista Crane Festival on March 8-10. They will have an activity for children.

festival too."

The Bill Metz Elementary School Kindness Club is an organized group that promotes kindness and compassion.

Last year, the club helped the City of Monte Vista plant a tree in front of City Hall for Arbor Day. The club also attended a

Please see CLUB on Page 6A

Big R in MV adds 'safety gate' in parking lot

People will not be able to cut through to get to market

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Monte Vista Big R recently installed a safety gate between the company parking lot and the parking lot of Top Value Market. The gate stops vehicles from going through Big R's parking lot to get to the grocery store.

Senior Operations Manager for Big R Sid Ducharme said the gate has been in the works for some time.

"This gate has been something that we have been thinking about for quite a long time," Ducharme said. "We started working on this over a year ago. The reason for the gate is first of all, we went through Monte Vista as a town. We also checked with the fire

Please see GATE on Page 2A

GATE

Continued from Page 1A

department to find out if we could do this. They will have keys for the gate in case that is needed. What is happening is strictly a safety issue. I visit the store often. This is a safety gate. This isn't a gate we put up to try to make anyone angry. This is strictly for safety reasons."

Ducharme said that what was happening between the two parking lots that he could see is that people were "flying" through the Big R parking lot, essentially going way too fast, to get to the grocery store next door.

"We have semis that we unload out there in the parking lot," he said. "We have countless customers, plus our employees go out and help load people. This is all a safety issue. We of course appreciate any customers from the grocery store that want to shop with us too, but the way that some of them have been driving has become a big safety issue for the stores."

Ducharme said that the new gate should slow things down. He realizes it may be an inconvenience for some, but they will get used to it.

"I am sorry if this is an inconvenience to customers of the grocery store next door. This really is about safety," he said. "I don't think this will affect anybody's sales. The grocery store also has an entrance. This is a small inconvenience, but we do not want to risk anybody getting hurt, customers or employees."

Valerie Sandoval was shopping at Big R on Sunday, March 3, and said she appreciates the change.

"I live here in Monte Vista. I honestly have seen people driving carelessly through here," she said. "I have seen



Photos by Marie McColm

Big R official says the gate was added for the safety of its employees, customers and delivery drivers.



Monte Vista Big R added a safety gate to stop people from going through its parking lot to get to Top Value Market.

people driving through all the lanes and parking spaces just to get to the grocery store. It's a short cut, but elderly people shop here at Big R and go to the grocery store for groceries and even prescriptions. These reckless drivers can hit someone, or run over someone elderly, or even run over somebody's kids. My

opinion is, let people go around to the grocery store entrance. If people get mad because that inconveniences them, the thing to look at is, they would be a lot madder if a loved one got hit or killed. This gate will help prevent that. Some residents may be upset over it, but I appreciate it."

MATTIVE

Continued from Page 1A

role as President of the National Potato Council. Mattive, who most recently served as NPC's First Vice President and Vice President of Environmental Affairs, was elected to a one-year term on Feb. 26.

"I've always been interested in environmental issues and legislative affairs," said Mattive, who was initially introduced to NPC as a delegate from Colorado. His involvement with the federal policy-focused organization brought about a national perspective and he served on different NPC committees throughout the years. Mattive also serves on several Colorado agricultural committees and boards. "I've learned a lot and I know we have to work hard and work together to keep relevant, educate the next generation, and continue advocating on behalf of our growers and industry partners."

Mattive became a part of the fourth-generation Worley Family Farms when he and his wife Gail (Worley) were invited by her father to join the operation in 1982. When he started farming with his father-in-law, the operation raised about 500 acres of potatoes. Today, the farm raises around 1,800-1,900 acres of potatoes and 2,000 acres of other crops. The business is now also co-managed by their sons Grant and Reid and nephew Matthew Smartt.

For Mattive, environmental stewardship is second nature. "As with most industries, technology has become a large part of our organization. We irrigate all of our acreage with computerized center pivot irrigation systems and utilize GPS operating systems in most of our tractors and other equipment," said Mattive.

The full NPC Executive Committee roster includes:

- President – Bob Mattive, Monte Vista
- First Vice President and Vice President, Trade Affairs – Ted Tschirky, Pasco, Wash.
- Vice President, Legislative Affairs – Dean Gibson, Paul, Idaho
- Vice President, Environmental Affairs – Ben Sklarczyk, Johannesburg, Mich.
- Vice President, Finance and Office



Bob Mattive

Procedures – TJ Hall, Hoople, N.D.

• Vice President, Grower Outreach and Industry Relations – Chris Olsen, Othello, Wash.

• Immediate Past President – RJ Andrus, Idaho Falls, Idaho

As a grower-led organization, NPC is managed by an Executive Committee and Board of Directors, which oversees its operations and provides guidance on its policy activities. Board members are appointed by the Executive Committee from recommendations submitted by state potato grower organizations and hold office for one calendar year.

NPC is the voice of U.S. potato growers and industry members in our nation's capital. NPC protects potato growers' interests in Washington, D.C. by addressing issues that affect the potato industry, from policy issues debated in Congress to regulatory issues proposed by federal agencies.

The NPC 2024 Washington Summit is a forum for potato industry members to discuss, define, and advocate for the policy priorities impacting their businesses and protecting their ability to farm. From Feb. 26 – March 1, growers and industry stakeholders took the results from its latest economic impact study, "The Current and Potential Impact of Expanded Potato Exports," to Members of Congress and the administration to advocate for issues such as keeping potatoes in federal nutrition programs, promoting free and fair-trade agreements, and protecting tax policies that support the long-term health of family-owned farming operations.

OBITUARY

Joyce Elizabeth Roden

Joyce Elizabeth Roden (née Riggs), a humble servant of God was called to her eternal rest on Feb. 22, 2024, at the age of 83 in Creede, Colo. Born March 27, 1940, in Big Spring, Texas, her life was a testament to the virtues of faith, hope, and charity.

Professionally, Joyce served with humility as a bookkeeper in the banking industry. She was known for her meticulous attention to detail and strong work ethic.

Joyce's leisure time was an extension of her love for creation through sewing and painting. Her time was a cherished gift that she bestowed upon her family, including her daughters, grandchildren, and the extended family of her community, through acts of selfless volunteering. Joyce was a devoted member of the Creede Baptist Church.

The legacy of Joyce's love is carried forth by her children Melanie (Bo) Freedle, Rhonda (Duane) Young, and Jeff (Nancy) Roden;



of over four decades, Van D Roden.

A Celebration of Joyce's life, a life lived in the grace of God's love, will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 11 a.m. at the Creede Baptist Church in Creede, Colo. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that offerings be made in Joyce's memory to Operation Christmas Child as expressions of our collective gratitude. A fundraising page has been set up on her behalf at <https://fundraise.samaritanspurse.org/fundraiser/5305599> or to the Creede Baptist Church-Operation Christmas Child Nana.

Creede Baptist Church in Creede, Colo., will be assisting the family with services as they prepare to honor Joyce's journey of faith and the gentle footprint she leaves on the sands of time.

Rogers Family Mortuary of Monte Vista are in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes, and words of comfort for Joyce's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

her six grandchildren Kimberly Cain, Justin Roden, Jordan Roden, Isabelle Freedle, Casper Freedle, and Zachary Young; and one great-granddaughter, Kyla Rhoades.

She now joins in Heaven her earthly ancestors, including her parents Jefferson H Riggs and Lora Gobbel Riggs; her brothers Felton Riggs, Delbert Riggs, and Tommy Riggs; her sister Jackie Phillips (Harris); and her beloved spouse

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Get the lard out

Anyone that has ever been involved with sports has had a coach yell “get the lead out” usually paired with an anatomical part of your body that is synonymous with your neighbor’s donkey. That phrase has been used “since Hector was a pup” and generally means to get moving faster.

Many attribute “getting the lead out” to soldiers who had to reload lead balls faster or, more likely, to horse racing where lead was added to the saddles to even up the differences in the jockey’s weight and thus even the competition.

But wherever it came from, it’s been used a lot to get slowly moving people into a more generous state of propulsion.

Just the other day Ol’ Dutch got to thinking -- a dangerous proposition according to Miss Trixie -- about what he had read on the Internet about lard. Yes, that lowly concoction made from the fat of animals that grandma used to cook everything from grits to fried chicken.

Old fashioned lard, just like a lot of things that we were sold a bill of goods for lately, was given a death sentence many years ago in favor of mass-produced oils. We were fed a continuous crock of bull about the dangers of lard and the great things to come from the new oils. We were then given Corn Oil, Canola Oil, Vegetable Oil, Sunflower Oil, Rape seed Oil and of course to go with that last one, Virgin Olive Oil.

Not to be outdone on the last one we also have Extra Virgin Olive Oil but for the life of me I don’t have a clue how you can rate virginity on any kind of scale regardless of its purity. But they do and people buy it for an inflated price.

But regardless of semantics, the food industry proclaimed the dangers of using lard and they laughed all the way to the bank with the proceeds from the sale of the bottled oils that they produced. Now it seems that using lard like your grandmother did is better for you than all the processed, preservative-laden slickness they sell in clear bottles at the store.

This rush to supposedly better products also included the replacement of butter with oleo, margarine and other unrecognizable mixtures of chemicals which were supposed to be better for you. And of course, they now find out that the plain old butter is better for you. And you may ask just why they would



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

do such a thing and I can tell you this. No matter the situation in this old world, if you follow the money trail long enough you will come to the reason something occurs. So yes, people made a killing producing oils from all kinds of things and selling them to people under the guise that it was better for you than what your own past generations had used and prospered on. And they seemed to do just fine too.

Of course, the key to anything we consume is not so much what we eat but how much of it we let go down the old gullet. But I am sad to think that for most of my life I have been deprived of the scrumptious goodness of fried chicken cooked in a cast iron skillet filled with lard.

I cannot see that eating all those other concoctions has really benefited me a whole lot either and that adds to the disappointment that I have for missing out on so much good food. Of late Ol’ Dutch has had to put a whip to himself and Miss Trixie to “get the lead out” as we are building a house and doing a lot of the work ourselves.

And now I am going to start a new campaign to “get the lard out” and start having some tasty fried chicken, okra, steaks, gravy and cornbread. I’ll at least be living the last years of my life in comfort and satisfaction.

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 or on Twitter at TroutRepublic.



War comes home to my small town

At the coffee shops in Talent, the little Oregon town where I live, the conversation is often about the high cost of housing or the way the weather has been dramatically changing.

But lately another topic has crept in — the escalation of violence in Israel and Palestine.

That might seem surprising since my town is more than 7,000 miles from Gaza, where in just a few months more than 29,000 people have been killed and nearly 2 million have been driven from their homes. But what is happening there reverberates here in its own way.

For one thing, much of the funding for Israel’s assault on Gaza comes from U.S. taxpayers. Since Israel was formed 75 years ago by displacing more than 700,000 Palestinians from their communities, the United States has provided the Israeli military with more than \$225 billion in today’s dollars.

“A lot of us are questioning why our elected officials sign off on billions for military spending overseas with such ease,” said Rianna Koppel, a solar-energy worker who lives in our community of 6,000.

Koppel is a member of a local group of Jewish residents, affiliated with the national organization called Jewish Voice for Peace. They have organized a series of protests, film showings and Hanukkah events, all aimed at encouraging elected officials to support a change in U.S. policy.

They say their focus is on four goals: “bringing about an immediate and

permanent ceasefire, freeing hostages and prisoners held by both Hamas and Israel, getting much needed humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza, and ending U.S. military aid to Israel.”

Responding to those concerns, the mayor and city council of Talent sent a letter to our representative in Congress and our state’s two U.S. senators, urging them to support those same four goals.

Jason Clark, the town councilor who drafted the letter, said that he is “deeply saddened and horrified by the loss of all innocent life in this conflict and that it has been allowed to go on for this long.”

He added, “People all over the world want a negotiated solution that provides peace and justice for both Israelis and Palestinians. More military aid just provokes more resistance and makes a negotiated solution harder to achieve.” One recipient of the letter from our town, Oregon Democratic Senator Jeff Merkley, joined the call for a ceasefire.

Of course, this issue is highly controversial, and not everyone in the valley where I live agrees that it needs to be open for public discussion. In November, local rabbis organized what they said was a Rally Against Antisemitism. One of them, whose synagogue was fundraising to send military equipment to Israeli soldiers, equated criticism of Israeli government policies with antisemitism and urged residents to “call it out.”

To be sure, antisemitism is present in many rural western communities like ours. A few days after Thanksgiv-

ing, law enforcement agencies in four towns within a few miles of my home reported that during the night, antisemitic material had been deposited outside hundreds of local residences. The material directed residents to a video that included laudatory clips of Adolf Hitler.

But local critics of the Israeli assault on Gaza, supposedly to rid it of Hamas, say hateful antisemitic attacks like we have seen here recently make it even more important to speak out for a just peace in Palestine and Israel.

“Incidents of antisemitism and Islamophobia are increasing, not just around here, but all over the world as a side effect of this war,” Koppel said. “We need our elected officials to help find a better way.”

Matt Witt is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He is a writer and photographer in Talent, Ore.



Writers on the Range
by Matt Witt

LETTER

Local funeral directors privileged to serve their communities

Editor,
Doug Manning, a best-selling author, former Pastor, and grief expert wrote “The calling of the funeral director is to be there when someone is in need. To be there no matter the time or the conditions. To be there with words of comfort and concern. To be there to give quiet guidance through the storm. To be there for the final tribute that honors a life. There is no higher privilege.”

To the large majority of funeral directors in this country and our state,

these thoughts are reflective of the call to service we feel as men and women in the funeral industry.

In the past few months, especially in Colorado, the spotlight has been focused on the tragedies that have affected many families regarding the irresponsible acts of a very small minority of people associated with funeral homes. We are often reminded of the sales of body parts in Montrose a few years ago, the issues at a funeral home in Leadville, and more recently

the alleged improper storage of close to 200 decedents in Penrose and as of this past week cremated remains and a body found in Colorado Springs in relationship to a funeral home that had closed over a year ago.

With all that is going on, it is important to know that legislatures are working on new bills, to put protections in place for families and their loved ones.

As a member of the Colorado Funeral Directors Board, we are working with legislatures to ensure that the

bills presented benefit the families of Colorado.

Where I grew up, the local funeral directors were an active part of the community, they went to our churches, served on our local non-profit boards, and were active in local civic groups. These were individuals that the community looked up to and held in high regard.

In the San Luis Valley, the local funeral homes that we have do much the same. We serve the communities

of the San Luis Valley with dignity and compassion. We all strive to honor the life of the decedents in our care to the best of our abilities. The funeral home staff that serves the community strives to provide the highest quality of service in our ways.

Much like the town I grew up in, as your funeral directors, we live, worship, and share in the same community as those we serve.

*Stephen Hunzeker
Mountain Valley Mortuary*

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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Courtesy photo Quizbowl winners, left to right, Kandace Pargin, Madeline Mitchell, and Donovan Heineman of Sargent FFA.

Ribbons of Courage closer to helping victims

OptiMystics throws support to group as a fiscal agent

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Ribbons of Courage Director Lani Welch has obtained a fiscal agent — OptiMystics Citizen's Action Network — to help support the organization while they are working on their non-profit license.

OptiMystics President Adam Lock is excited to help.

"We have the ability to selectively offer services, such as being a fiscal agent, to other non-profit organizations," Lock said. "We can aid them by providing this fiduciary oversight. I first met Lani Welch when she was spearheading the recall on the DA Payne campaign. I was very impressed then with her passion for a cause. When she approached us about being a fiscal agent, we asked her to come and do a short presentation on Ribbons of Courage. Our group gave her a unanimous yes."

Welch has been working on the organization since last year in February.

"We are a crime victim support organization," she said. "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."

Welch said that she was a victim and from that Ribbons of Courage was formed.

"Through what I went through, well that is where I developed the idea of the organization. Because of what I went through, I realized how many people fall through the cracks," she said.

Welch said that many people have family members that were victims, that

have never received any type of help.

"Our goal is to help anybody that may be associated with a crime as a victim. We want to help them," she said.

Welch said that she feels fortunate to have had people who were amazing in her journey and took the time to hear her story. One of them being Senator Cleve Simpson.

"He is someone who was willing to listen to me and give me courage," she said. "My Mother also was another one. Everyone needs someone to listen to them and give them courage. They gave me the courage to fight through what I went through, and they have given me the courage to start this organization. I can't thank them enough. I want to give back."

Welch said she was in a cycle of abuse from age 3 to age 46.

"Just because you have been a victim of a crime once, doesn't mean you have to stay in that cycle. My goal is to be able to help people heal after a crime, instead of people following victim to the cycle of the crime," she said.

Welch said that though they are still in the process of putting the organization together, having the OptiMystics as their fiscal agent should expedite it.

"The OptiMystics were a support system from the beginning. They wanted to help us from the start, but our initial board wanted to try it alone. The new board decided to pursue the OptiMystics, as a fiscal agent and it has all worked out for us."

Welch said that for the organization to begin assisting people, they need insurance.

"We want to start assisting people, but without insurance, I can only speak to people on my own, but not as part of the organization," she said. "We have had donations, but the type of donations that we need that will help us obtain this insurance are the tax-deductible

donations. The OptiMystics have been a huge support, and we are grateful to them, and their help with this."

Welch's goal is to have an office in Monte Vista and to start support groups. Welch said, she hopes to have volunteers who can help victims in court cases and with support groups. Welch plans to create three different types of support groups to help adults, teens, and children. The fiscal agent will help with the beginning stages of everything.

"We need the fiscal agent to help with all the financial until we can obtain our 501C3, this is going to be such a great help. I am grateful to the OptiMystics for the support," she said.

According to the IRS website, a fiscal agent acts as a financial institution and is responsible for safeguarding and receiving grant funds, monies, and donations. Legally the agent is obligated to maintain records of disbursement related to the grants, monies, and donations, and any and all types of other money disbursed to the organization they are supporting.

OptiMystics Vice President Mark Renshaw said they are happy to provide support to Ribbons of Courage.

"We all think this is a positive direction for Rio Grande County," he said.

"The closest thing we have is Tu Casa. Becoming the organization's fiscal agent just seemed like the right thing to do. Ribbons of Courage is not trying to compete with Tu Casa; the organization is trying to be supportive of people who need the support. If something happens to a family in Del Norte or South Fork, it's a pretty big track to get over to Alamosa. The OptiMystics are glad to be able to help with something local for others too. We are happy to help this organization and board."

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

Future farmers attend leadership event at ASU

CONTRIBUTED

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Sargent Future Farmers of America (FFA) took a group of students to participate in the District IV Leadership Development Event contests at Adams State University on Feb. 14.

District IV is made up of Sargent, Sangre De Cristo, Monte Vista, Centauri, Alamosa, Sanford, and La Veta FFA Chapters.

Leadership Development Events (LDE's) consist of a variety of contests that allow students to demonstrate

a variety of skills such as public speaking, critical thinking, and communication.

Creed Speaking

First Place — Makenzie Consaul

Second Place — Durae Naranjo

Extemporaneous Speaking

First Place — Westen Burkhardt

Prepared Speaking

Second Place- Ellaree Rockey

Third Place-Jessica Buser

All first-place winners have qualified to represent District IV at the State LDE contests in June.

San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2023-2024

BOYS

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Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area awards History Fair Scholarships to students

CONTRIBUTED

The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (SdCNHA) presented seven students with \$4,000 worth of History Fair Scholarships. SdCNHA provides annual scholarships to students who participate and compete in the Regional History Fair, with projects based on this year's theme "Turning Points in History" that involve local history, culture, or traditions.

Laila Martinez, Violet Sandoval, Tynnley Buhr, Samuel Malouff, Parker Mitchell, Joseph Torres, and Joshua Ortiz were the students who received an SdCNHA scholarship for 2024.

The Regional History Fair took place at Adams State University and was hosted by the Adams State University (ASU) Department of History, Anthropology, Philosophy, Political Science, and Spanish (HAPPSS).

The Regional History Fair is part one of the National History Day competition that takes place nationwide.

Students participate in a project-based learning curriculum that emphasizes critical reading and thinking, research, analysis, and the drawing of meaningful conclusions. Students can complete these projects in groups or as individuals in one of five categories: documentary, paper, exhibit, performance, or website.



This year's round of annual Regional History Day submissions demonstrated the broad array of historical topics rooted in history from the San Luis Valley, five documentaries and two exhibits qualified for the SdCNHA scholarship.

Martinez created a documentary titled; "Spanglish to the Valley Speakers of the San Luis Valley." Laila interviewed many individuals who talked about Spanglish spoken in the valley.

Buhr created a documentary titled, "The Cumbres and Toltec." She shared many historic photos and information on the historic train.

Mitchell also created a documentary titled; "Cultivating the Future: Evolution of Potato Breeding." He talked about the different genetically modified potatoes in use today.

Sandoval shared an exhibit titled, "Maestas Case". On the exhibit, she shared about one of the first desegregation cases that happened in Alamosa.

Malouff created a documentary titled, "The Cumbres and Toltec Railroad." He shared historical information and photos of the narrow-gauge train.

Torres had a documentary titled, "The History of the SPMDTU and the Maestas Case." In the documentary, he interviewed a member of the SPMDTU and shared about work being accomplished on the historic build-



Photo by Julie Chacon
From left to right: Violet Sandoval, Board Member Sharleen Farmer, Samuel Malouff, Tynnley Buhr, Board Member Barbara Kruse, Joseph Torres, Joshua Ortiz, and Board Member Jason Medina. Not pictured: Parker Mitchell

ing in Antonito. He also shared about how the SPMDTU was involved in the Maestas desegregation case.

Ortiz created a senior exhibit titled, "The Gettysburg of the West: How the Colorado Volunteers and Fort

Garland helped win the Civil War."

"The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area congratulates all students who participated in this year's competition and is excited to see what heritage area youth come up with

next year," SdCNHA officials stated.

For more information on National History Day, visit www.nhd.org. For more information on SdCNHA scholarships and fieldtrip grants, visit www.sangreheritage.org.

CAC annual Variety Show auditions April 2 and 4

CREEDE — The Creede Arts Council recently announced that the 29th Annual Variety Show will be taking place on April 13 at 7 p.m. at the Ruth Humphrey's Theatre in Creede.

If you sing, dance, act, perform magic, juggle — all the above — then the CAC is looking for you. Auditions for the show will be taking place on Tuesday, April 2, from 6-7 p.m. at

the Creede Community Church and again on Thursday, April 4, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Creede Community Church.

All types of acts are encouraged to audition. Acts must be performance ready and appropriate for a wide range of audience, including families.

For more information or to schedule an audition, call 719-658-2333.

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EHRlich

Continued from Page 1A

“My roots are in agriculture deep,” he said. Bob Mattive, NPC’s incoming president, said he’s known Ehrlich for a long time, having somewhat similar paths to a career with potatoes. Mattive said Ehrlich is a selfless person whom many consult about for anything from marketing to legislative issues on state and national levels.

“He’s worked hard for our potato industry in Colorado and also on the national scene,” Mattive said. “He’s been very proactive. ... People look to him as a resource if they need to find out something about potatoes in Colorado. Jim is their go-to person.”

Mattive said Ehrlich was instrumental in organizing a tour of Colorado packing facilities for a delegation from Mexico, which was a critical moment to build relationships as U.S. potato exports to Mexico grew. Ehrlich also helped organize tours for the EPA and Colorado legislators to help them better understand the concerns and needs of the potato industry, Mattive said.

“Jim has really been good about bringing those people to the [San Luis Valley in Colorado] to get

a firsthand view of some of the things that we do to produce potatoes,” he said.

Ehrlich held previous roles with Coors Brewing Co. and JDE Farms. He also gives back to the community as vice president of San Luis Valley Health Hospital’s board of directors and as the current president of the San Luis Valley Overall Extension Advisory Board, where he has served as a board member for more than 20 years.

When asked what his favorite memory of his time with the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee, Ehrlich said he fondly enjoyed his time in Washington, D.C., over the years at NPC’s Washington Summit, as well as some of the things he and his fellow Colorado delegates experienced.

“We actually left one of our fellow growers at the airport one day on our flight back. And then we had another grower that was sick on the plane, and we kept downplaying it, and he had to have his gallbladder removed the next day,” he said. “It’s just the friendships you make and the experiences you have. They’ve been awesome.”

CLUB

Continued from Page 1A

city council meeting and spoke about preventing bullying, during Domestic Violence Month in 2023.

The club strives to bring students and everyone together in their school. The club consistently reminds students of their worth, and how special they are. The club also promotes healthy self-esteem, by using kind words and compassion. The club acts as mentors and uses their kindness to help students believe in themselves and show students how they can make a difference in this world, by staying positive and always being kind.

Archuleta is proud of the club members and stated that younger students are also seeing the positive results that the club is making.

“There are younger students that look at the club and have commented on their excitement about being a part of the club when they get older. You can really see the mentorship here it’s so wonderful to see that the club is making a difference for younger students as well,” she said.

Kindness Club members have information that they will be giving out at their booth. The students have printed out cranes to give to children along with crayons, so that children can color the cranes.

Archuleta said, “The kids can take the crayons with them. Our members are excited about doing this for kids that attend the festival. The students love to spread the word about the club. They like to talk to people about positivity. The students enjoy helping people who may be having a bad day, or students that may be getting bullied. We have a group of members here, that the main goal for them is to help people and take care of people. It’s nice to know that there is that help there. Our students enjoy the club and what they do. They are looking forward to having a booth and being a part of the festival this year and promoting kindness.”

For more information on the Kindness Club, contact facilitators, Archuleta or Lorelyn Buss at Bill Metz Elementary School.

Spend Your Time Without Acquiring Regrets

Imagine we’re at a graveyard. You look at a tombstone and see the person’s name, the date they were born, and when they died. In-between the dates there is a dash. I think it’s interesting that a person’s whole life—from the time they are born until they die—is represented by that dash.

The question is: What are you doing with your dash?

Time goes by so fast, and you don’t want to get to your later years in life and have nothing but regrets. David talks about this in the Psalms. Psalm 39:4-5 (AMPC), says, “Lord, make me to know my end and [to appreciate] the measure of my days.... Behold, You have made my days as [short as] handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing in Your sight. Truly every man at his best is merely a breath!”

It’s so important for us to invest our time in the important things of life. Because you don’t want to spend your life climbing the ladder of success only to find out your ladder is leaning against the wrong building when you get to the top!

First Peter 5:8 (AMP) says we should “be sober [well balanced and self-disciplined]....” This is the key to living with purpose, making your time count. Are you living a balanced life, getting enough sleep, drinking enough water, taking care of yourself so you have the energy you need to do what God is leading you to do?

Are you focused on the important things—your relationship with God, spending time with family and friends? The people in your life are more important than money. Are you striving to store up material possessions that are already in the process of decay and will someday end up in a junk yard? That’s what happens to all the things we “worship” here.

There is nothing wrong with having nice things and enjoying them, but we cannot afford to put them before the really important things. So I ask you again: What are you doing with your

time? Are you investing it or wasting it?

Wisdom is doing now what you will be happy with later on. A good example of this happened when I had a hip replacement in 2015. After the surgery, I healed very well and quickly. The doctor said it was because I was in great shape physically before surgery. I was in great shape because I’ve spent lots of time working out, eating properly, getting good sleep consistently, and doing other healthy habits. I paid the price, investing my time in ways that bought me strength and helped me to recover successfully.

Here’s another example: I only have six teeth that don’t have crowns on them. This is because when I was growing up, I never went to the dentist unless I had an emergency. My dentist finally said, “If you’re not going to come in for your regular checkups and cleanings, then don’t call us when you have an emergency.”

Because I wouldn’t take the time to go to the dentist on a regular basis and take care of my teeth like I should have, I ended up spending more time getting my teeth repaired later on. It takes a lot of time to get your teeth crowned—and a lot of shots and pain!

The bottom line is if you take a little time to do the right thing to begin with, then you won’t be forced to take a lot of time later on taking care of problems that could have been prevented in the first place.

I’ve discovered eight simple, practical ways you can avoid wasting your time:

Stop getting upset about things you can’t do anything about. Be determined to keep your peace in every situation (John 14:27).

Don’t complain (Philippians 2:14). It’s useless and changes absolutely nothing. The more we talk about problems, the bigger they seem to become.

Don’t try to “buy” time by getting less sleep. This actually causes you to lose more time because when you’re

Moving Up Higher

with Joyce Meyer



tired, you make more mistakes than you would if you were properly rested. And every mistake costs time to fix.

Stop hurrying. This also causes us to make mistakes and waste time.

Enjoy what you have instead of craving and going after things you don’t have (Ecclesiastes 6:9).

Don’t live in the past. You can’t go back and do anything over again. Let it go and get on with life (Philippians 3:8-13).

Take time to deal with little problems and you won’t spend more time later dealing with big ones.

Identify things that hijack your time and be firm in avoiding them.

We all have room for improvement in our lives. I want to encourage you to make a decision to begin making changes, with God’s help, in the areas you need to grow in. You’ll have abundant life in Christ (John 10:10) and make your “dash” count as you invest your time following the plan He has for you!

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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SLV Health receives 2023 Lighthouse Award

By SLV HEALTH

ALAMOSA — Some hard work, dedication to patient care, and revamped processes led to San Luis Valley Health receiving a 2023 Lighthouse Award from the American Excess Insurance Exchange.

Along with the award was a \$12,000 check. SLV Health was recognized for its outstanding achievement in “Reducing Length of Stay for Improved Patient Outcomes.” This national award celebrates excellence through innovation and SLVH is one of five award winners promoting patient safety.

“Our team identified reducing hospital length of stay as a top priority, not only because it helps to enhance access and availability of healthcare

resources for our community members most in need, but it also reduces patient exposures to safety concerns that can occur due to longer stays in hospitals,” says Christine Hettinger-Hunt, Chief Operating Officer for San Luis Valley Health.

SLVH team members identified workflow and communication improvements and will use the funding award to benefit both staff and patients. They agreed to purchase new whiteboards for the patient

rooms and all units at both the Regional Medical Center in Alamosa and Conejos County Hospital in La Jara. These boards will allow for improved communication between the patient and care team during their hospital stay and allow for the care team to learn more about the unique needs of each patient receiving care.

To round out the purchase, SLVH employees have been contributing to a “Pay It Forward” account via personal payroll deduction and other

donations to help support patients with unmet needs. Over the years, employees at SLV Health have been generously donating toward this fund, which has supported various patient-focused projects. The award match from this account will allow SLV Health to upgrade the boards. “This is a perfect opportunity for us to use some of these funds to benefit both patients and the staff who are caring for those patients,” commented Kelly Gurule, Director of the SLVH Foundation.



Courtesy photo

Left to right, SLV Health’s Audrey Reich Loy, Director of Program Operations; Christine Hettinger-Hunt, Chief Operating Officer; Justin Buchholz, DO, Medical Director for the Hospitalist Teams; Felicia Garcia, Discharge Planner; and Amber Marquez, Director of Nursing, RMC Med Surg and ICU.

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Sealed bids subject to the conditions and provisions presented herein will be received until 1:00 PM MT, March 18, 2024, and then publicly opened and read at 95 West First Avenue, Monte Vista, CO 81144, for furnishing all labor, materials, and equipment and performing all work necessary to:

Construct Taxilane – Volume 1 AIP Project No. 3-08-0042-019-2024 and Widen Taxiways – Volume 2 AIP Project No. 3-08-042-020-2024

A full notice to bidders and a complete set of bid documents may be obtained from The Aviation Planning Group, LLC., by calling (208) 602-6725 or by emailing rafael@theaviationplanninggroup.com starting February 19th. Bid documents will be provided electronically, in PDF format. The bidder will be responsible for acquiring, copying, and distributing Bidding Documents (plans and specifications) necessary to bid and construct the project. Hard paper copies of the project will not be provided.

Bids may be held by the **City of Monte Vista** for a period not to exceed **one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days** from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of evaluating bids prior to award of contract.

The right is reserved, as the **City of Monte Vista**, may require, to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the bids received.

Federal Provisions
 This project is subject, but not limited, to the following Federal provisions, statutes and regulations. Reference Division 5 Supplementary Provisions for a complete list of applicable provisions.
 Equal Opportunity Clause and Specifications – Reference 41 CFR § 60-1.4, Executive Order 11246;
 Affirmative Action Requirement – Reference 41 CFR part 60-4, Executive Order 11246;
 Nonsegregated Facilities Requirement – Reference 41 CFR § 60-1.8;
 Notice to Prospective Federally Assisted Construction Contractors;
 Notice to Prospective Subcontractors of Requirements for Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities;
 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise – Reference 49 CFR Part 26;
 Davis-Bacon Requirements – Reference 2 CFR § 200 Appendix II(D);
 Buy American Preference – Reference 49 USC § 50101;

No. 4805 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, February 28 and March 6 and 13, 2024.

NOTICE OF PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE AT TAX LIEN SALE AND APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF TREASURER'S DEED

To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the Hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises, and to the Person in Whose Name the Same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all Persons Having Interest or Title of Record in or to the Said Premises and to Whom It May Concern and More Especially to;

- 1) Audrey May Sawyer Zinsser 1/4, Kathy Ann Penland Mehr 1/8, Sharon Lea Penland 1/8, 1694 Fish Road, Ridgeville, SC 29472; Section: 33 Township: 39 Range: 7 UNT 1/2 INT: SE4SW4 LESS E 100 FT CONT 36.80 AC (3333300619 COP 8857)**
- 2) Daniel Murphy, 1694 Fish Road, Ridgeville, SC 29472; Section: 33 Township: 39 Range: 7 UND 1/4 INT: SE4SW4 LESS E 100 FT CONT 36.80 AC (3333300620 COP 8858)**
- 3) Patricia Murphy Porter, 1694 Fish Road, Ridgeville, SC 29472; Section: 33 Township: 39 Range: 7 UND 1/4 INT: SE4SW4 LESS E 100 FT CONT 36.80 AC (3333300621 COP 8859)**

You and Each of You are Hereby Notified that on the 17th Day of November A.D. 2020, The Then County Treasurer of the County of Rio Grande, in the State of Colorado, Sold at Public Tax Lien Sale to Steven Strohmeier, 868 Kim Court, Hickman, CA 85323, the Real Estate Situated in the County of Rio Grande, State of Colorado, Described Above, and Said County Treasurer Issued the Certificate(s) of Purchase Therefore to Steven Strohmeier.

That Said Tax Lien Sale was Made to Satisfy the Delinquent Taxes Assessed Against Said Real Estate for the Said Year 2019.

That Said Real Estate Was Taxed or Specially Assessed in the Name(s) of **Audrey May Sawyer Zinsser; Kathy Ann Penland Mehr; Sharon Lea Penland; Daniel Murphy; Patricia Murphy Porter**

That a Treasurer's Deed Will be Issued for Said Real Estate to the Said **Steven W. Strohmeier** at 10:00 A.M. on the 28th Day of June, A.D. 2024, Unless the Same Has Been Redeemed.

Said Property May Be Redeemed From Said Sale at Any Time Prior to the Actual Execution of Said Treasurer's Deed.

Witness my Hand and Seal this 29th Day of February, A.D. 2024.
Rhonda Richardson
 RIO GRANDE COUNTY TREASURER

No. 4807 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, March 6, 13 and 20, 2024.

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COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION
CRS 838-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 23-1119

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:

On December 19, 2023, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Rio Grande records.

| | |
|--|--|
| Original Grantor(s) | S.E. Reeves and Thomas H. Reeves |
| Original Beneficiary(ies) | Argent Mortgage Company, LLC |
| Current Holder of Evidence of Debt | Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Argent Securities Inc., Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2004-W11 |
| Date of Deed of Trust | August 13, 2004 |
| County of Recording | Rio Grande |
| Recording Date of Deed of Trust | August 31, 2004 |
| Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.) | 00384161 Book: 0515 Page: 2783-2798 |
| Original Principal Amount | \$173,000.00 |
| Outstanding Principal Balance | \$137,534.26 |

Pursuant to CRS 838-38-103(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.

THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN

Lots 12, 13 and 14, In Block 26, Alpine Village No.7, In Rio Grande County Colorado

Which has the address of: 40 Comanche Peak Road, South Fork, CO 81154*
 *Pursuant to Modification Agreement recorded August 31, 2004 in Book 0515 at Page 2799 at Reception No. 00384162

Purported common address: 40 Comanche Peak Road, South Fork, CO 81154

THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST

NOTICE OF SALE

The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.

THEFORE, Notice is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, 04/17/2024, at Public Trustee Office, 925 6th St. Rm. 103, Del Norte, CO 81132, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorney's fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| First Publication | 2/21/2024 |
| Last Publication | 3/20/2024 |
| Name of Publication | Monte Vista Journal |

IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED
 DATE: 12/19/2023
 Rhonda Richardson, Public Trustee in and for the County of Rio Grande, State of Colorado:

Rhonda Richardson
 By: Rhonda Richardson, Public Trustee

The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:
 Barrett Frappier & Weissert, LLP 1391 Speer Boulevard, Suite 700, Denver, CO 80204 (303) 350-3711
 Attorney File # 0000009926502
 The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.

No. 4804 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, February 21 and 28 and March 6, 13 and 20, 2024.

Southwest Conservation Corps Los Valles Youth Crews: Empowering youth through environmental stewardship this summer

CONTRIBUTED

SALIDA — The Southwest Conservation Corps recently announced the return of the Los Valles Youth Crews program for the upcoming summer.

Dedicated to nurturing the next generation of environmental stewards, the program offers a unique blend of employment, education, and conservation work for youth aged 15-18 in select Colorado counties.

The Los Valles Youth Crews will embark on a range of projects across Alamosa, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral/Rio Grande, Park, and Saguache counties. These projects include invasive species removal, tree planting, trail maintenance and construction, habitat improvement, and community cleanup efforts. Beyond contributing to significant environmental conservation efforts, participants will be compensated at a rate of \$14.42 per hour, working Monday through Friday across two five-week sessions this summer.

“Our program is about so much more than just the critical conservation work we accomplish,” said Samantha López, Youth Program Coordinator at the Southwest

Conservation Corps. “It’s a comprehensive developmental opportunity for our youth. They learn about leadership, team building, communication, and civic engagement, all while earning a wage and making tangible improvements to their local communities.”

The first session runs from May 27 to June 28, with the second session from July 8 to Aug. 9. The program caters to both Day Crews and Camping Crews, providing flexible opportunities for youth to engage in this transformative experience. Friday of each week is dedicated to education, focusing on enriching the participants’ understanding of environmental stewardship and their role in the broader ecosystem.

“We’re calling on our community to help spread the word about this incredible opportunity,” added López. “Whether you’re a parent, teacher, or community leader, you can play a crucial role in connecting us with potential participants who are eager to make a difference this summer.”

For more information on the Southwest Conservation Corps Los Valles Youth Crews program, including how to apply or support,



contact López at slopez@conservationlegacy.org or visit Los Valles Region Youth Crews | Southwest Conservation Corps (sccorps.org).

CARNEGIE CORNER

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — Here are our latest additions at the library: The Counterfeit Countess by Elizabeth White and Joanna Sliwa; The Atlas Maneuver by Steve Berry; Emily Wilde’s Map of the Otherlands by Heather Fawcett; King of Wrath by Ana Huang; King of Pride by Ana Huang; King of Greed by Ana Huang; First Lie Wins by Ashley Elston; At the Coffee Shop of Curiosities by Heather Webber; The Teacher by Freida McFadden; Reminders of Him by Colleen Hoover; After Annie by Anna Qindlen; Three-Inch Teeth by D. J. Box.

Our regular library hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. - Tuesday and Thursday, and 12 to 4 p.m. on Saturday. We are closed on Sundays. Contact us for more information at 719-852-3931.

We have received a generous donation from a patron and have been able to add new titles to our Christian Series books. We have moved the Christian Series books to a new section on the east side of the library across from the Western books. Ask if you need help finding these new titles.

Thanks to a very generous donation from one of our patrons, we have also been able to add many new titles to our Large Print books. These books are located in the northwest corner of the library and the new titles will all have yellow stickers on the spines. Come check these out and ask if you have any questions.

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 HILL 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!

CHANGE where you can bring in a gently used puzzle and exchange it for one of ours on the shelf! Please make sure no pieces are missing and that the boxes are secure.



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File photo

The 41st annual Crane Festival is flying into Monte Vista on March 8-10. The festival is collaborative effort of the Friends of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuges, the City of Monte Vista, the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce, and the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Complex.

Crowds will flock to MV for glimpse of Sandhill Cranes

Annual festival set for March 8-10

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — It is that time of year again, the 41st annual Crane Festival is flying into Monte Vista on March 8-10. The festival is collaborative effort of the Friends of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuges, the City of Monte Vista, the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce, and the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Complex.

Soon people will be able to witness the majestic flight of these beautiful birds on their springtime migration through the San Luis Valley. Every year, people flock to the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge to view the cranes.

Along with the festival the Craft and Nature Fair will be held at the Outcalt Event and Conference Center at the SLV Ski-Hi Complex. There will be

photography for everyone to enjoy along with nature art, carvings, baked goods, handmade jewelry, clothing, and much more. It will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Sunday.

Bus-guided crane tours will be available during the festival and new this year, the festival will offer Spanish language bus tours. The new tours will help the festival reach a larger audience. Tickets must be reserved, to ensure a spot on the tour.

There will be morning, afternoon, and evening crane tours during the festival. The tours will leave the Ski-Hi grounds and will be led by specialists who will speak about Sandhill Cranes and other birds as the tour proceeds to the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge.

A special access tour of the Blanca Wetlands is also scheduled.

Drive-yourself-tours at Trinchera Ranch and Home Lake are also available.

All tours will be expert led; the Home Lake Tour will feature John Rawinski, a local ornithologist and author, who will share his expertise on local birds and where to find them. This tour will involve some walking, less than a mile on level ground.

The Trinchera Ranch tour is a half-day tour which will allow attendees to learn more about forestry, wildlife, and fisheries. Visit mvranchefest.org, for more information on specific times, costs and to register.

The Monte Vista Crane Festival is a unique event for all different ages of people.

The Sandhill Cranes are known to roost and feed at the Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge. In the past, attendees have enjoyed viewing and taking pictures of the cranes, early morning when the sun is rising and early evening while the sun is setting.

For more information and to register for events, visit mvranchefest.org.

SLV Seed Exchange celebrating food sovereignty, self-reliance, and community

By JOHN WATERS

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The 14th Annual San Luis Valley Seed Exchange is gearing up for a fantastic event on March 30 and 31. This event continues to be an important community gathering to share seeds, knowledge, and enthusiasm for promoting the mission of making our community more resilient and food secure.

The SLV Seed Exchange is at Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa in Saguache County. The gathering offers many opportunities for attendees to engage in the vibrant local food, gardening, and agricultural communities of the San Luis Valley. Activities will start at 10 a.m. each day, and end at 5 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

The event is a cornerstone of the region's commitment to sustainability, biodiversity, and community resilience. This year's event continues the tradition with an exciting lineup of educational speakers, vendors, and attractions for plant and gardening enthusiasts. This year's theme is "Wild Foods & Medicines of the Valley."

Jae Sanders, executive director of the seed exchange told the Valley Courier the exchange began in Saguache County, "Where neighbors showed up and brought their seeds and they went through them, traded and brought them home. That tradition has been kept alive, now it is just a much bigger event. The community can come, bring their seeds, leave them on the tables and people can collect whatever they want and bring them home. This is a great, big seed swap."

"One of the things I and the board want to highlight is, we think there should be more food and seed sovereignty in the region. That is why I have been doing this for six years, I want our community to have access to food and have that food grown here. This is really about enabling, inspiring and educating



Courtesy photo

Local mycologist Tylor Berreth will speak about Wild Mushrooms in the San Luis Valley and Their Medicinal Use at the San Luis Valley Seed Exchange March 30 and 31 at Joyful Journey Hot Springs in Saguache County.

ing people on providing for themselves and their community," said Sanders.

"That is what this event is about. This is a great opportunity to lift up food production and help our neighbors by sharing. That is why this event is free, the educational speakers are free.

"Food sovereignty is a big deal; we need to support our local farmers and ranchers if we want to have any say in our food system. I'm a local farmer-rancher advocate and the local foods coalition has done a lot to support the seed exchange."

The event is free and there will be vendors selling food related items-and food will be available for purchase.

Sanders is grateful to the many supporters and sponsors of the event including Joyful Journey Hot Springs, Saguache County, San Luis Valley REC Energy Foundation, Saguache County Tourism Council, Crestone Energy Fair, Mountainside Realty and, the San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition.

"It takes a community to put this on, and this builds the community that

Please see SEED on Page 8

Community Ambulance Service presents Fly the Coop 5K run-walk

Event is sponsored by Rio Grande Hospital

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — The second annual Fly the Coop 5K run and walk will be held at 10 a.m. on March 9, during the Monte Vista Crane Festival. The race will begin at the Monte Vista Athletic Club at 2360 Sherman Ave., across the street from the Ski-Hi Complex.

The race is presented by the Monte Vista Community Ambulance Service and sponsored by the Rio Grande Hospital of Del Norte.

This race is for all abilities, ages, and sizes. Make this race as fun or challenging as you like. Runners, walkers, and baby strollers are welcomed as this is a fun family event. After the race, medals will be awarded to

the top three male and female runners and top three male and female walkers. There will also be ribbons for the top three finishers of each age and gender group for both the run and walk. The age groups are: 6 and under, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-15, 16-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90-plus. While waiting for awards, people can have a cookie donated by Sunflour Bakery, and fruit, and water.

This year's proceeds will be used to purchase state-of-the art vacuum splints to help Monte Vista Community Ambulance Service better serve the community.

"We look forward to seeing you at this year's event. If you want to be involved but do not want to walk or run, people can help support the racers," organizers stated.

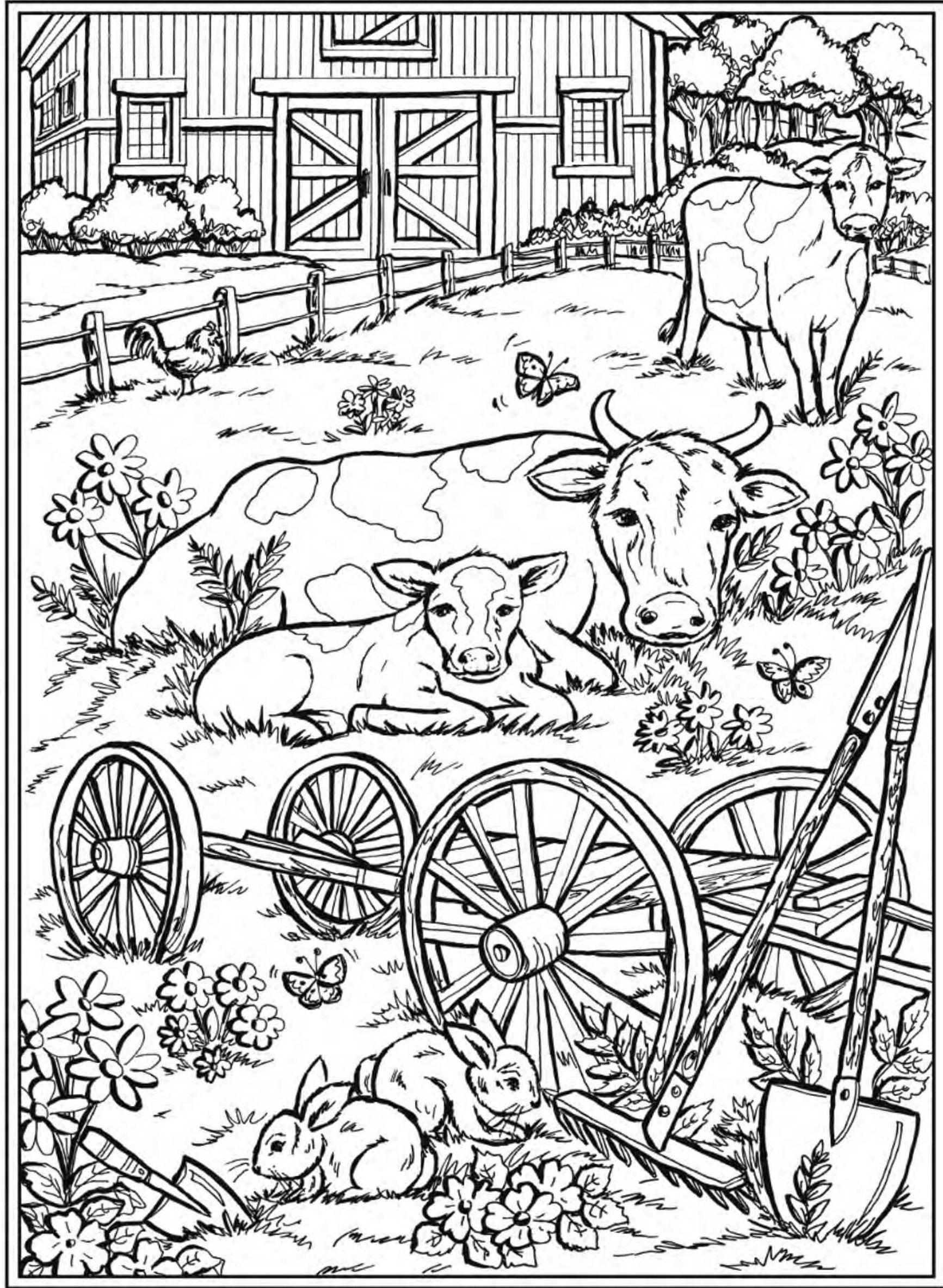
For more information, contact Deb Haverfield at 719-850-7777.



Courtesy photo

The second annual Fly the Coop 5K run-walk is scheduled for March 9 in Monte Vista. The first event was held in 2023 during the Crane Festival.

COLORING CONTEST



NAME: _____
AGE: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____
EMAIL: _____
PARENT/GUARDIAN: _____

ONE WINNER FROM EACH AGE GROUP WILL WIN A \$50 MVC GIFT CERTIFICATE

**ENTRY DEADLINE
MARCH 29, 2024**

**WINNERS WILL BE
ANNOUNCED APRIL 1, 2024
AT MVCOOP.COM & MVC
SOCIAL MEDIA.**

Winners will be asked for consent for social media marketing

ELIGIBILITY:
•Child must be between the ages of 3-17 yrs and adults 18 yrs +.

COLORING CONTEST GUIDELINES
•The picture provided by the Monte Vista Coop should be used as the official entry into the coloring contest.
•Coloring must be the original work of the child/ adult submitting the entry.
•The artists name, age, address, phone number, and email (opt), parent/guardian name(s) should be written on the entry form.
•Age categories will include: 7 and under, 8-10, 11-13, 14-17, and 18 +.
•There will be one winner from each age category.
•Only one entry per child/ adult.

QUESTIONS?
Stephanie Schaefer, MVC Marketing Director
Phone: 719-852-5181 Ext. 1054
Email: mvcads@mvcoop.com

TIMELINE
•The coloring contest is in correspondence with the Monte Vista Coop National Agriculture Month celebration - March 2024.
•Deadline to submit entries will be March 29, 2024.
•Winners will be announced April 1, 2024 at mvcoop.com and MVC social media.
•Entries submitted to the Monte Vista Coop can be submitted in hard copy form via mail, dropped off at the Monte Vista Coop main office, or electronic format (email), and must be received by the March 29, 2024 by 5:00 pm.

CONTEST PRIZE:
• \$50 Monte Vista Coop Gift Certificate

MAIL ENTRIES TO:
Monte Vista Coop Ag Month Coloring Contest
ATTN: Stephanie Schaefer
PO Box 111
Monte Vista, CO 81144
Email: mvcads@mvcoop.com

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DEADLINE

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05 Notices

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07 Help Wanted

The City of Monte Vista is accepting applications for the position of Utilities Maintenance Worker II. Utilities Maintenance Worker II is a skilled position with a minimum requirement of a Small Systems Wastewater Certification and preferably a Class D Wastewater Treatment Certification. A HS Diploma, and one year of experience working within a treatment facility is required. The hiring range for this position is \$21.00 to \$24.00 per hour DOE. Candidates will need a valid driver's license and be able to pass a pre-employment background check and drug test. Please visit: <https://cityofmontevista.colorado.gov/government/departments/human-resources> for a complete position description and application. (3-13)

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

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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.

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)

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SLV Fast Friends donates \$2K to Sangre de Cristo HS drum line

By MARIE MCCOLM

MOSCA — Larry Garner, the director of the non-profit organization SLV Fast Friends, made a \$2,000 donation on Thursday, Feb. 22, to help support music at Sangre de Cristo High School drum line — Blue Thunder.

Music Teacher Al Duran was excited about the donation.

“We don’t have a very big budget for the music class, so this money is really going to help the classroom and kids a lot. I am excited to receive this donation from SLV Fast Friends and want to say thank you to Mr. Garner for supporting our kids and music,” Duran said.

Garner was all smiles as he handed the check to Duran inside of the music classroom at Sangre de Cristo High School.

“I am tickled to make this donation to the music department,” Garner said. “I was a band kid. I started when I was 8 years old. All through grade school, junior high and high school I played in the band. I have been a band kid forever. I think band is beneficial to kids, it teaches them a lot of skills that they can use. They get a chance to do something for themselves that matters, like a solo or something,

too. I am very happy about making this donation, and would encourage others, if they are able, to make one to the school, too.”

Garner is no stranger to donations and supporting Valley projects. Garner has directed many different non-profit organizations and enjoys helping children succeed.

Garner has lived in many different areas and raised money to help families with children who are ill and terminally ill, with different expenses and things they might need. Garner has also donated money to help 4-H clubs, and the Monte Vista Kids Connection.

Garner started SLV Fast Friends after having another non-profit organization with a similar name Fast Friends. Garner had decided to close down SLV Fast Friends, due to personal reasons, but wanted to make a final donation to a worthy cause.

“I held the event Dragging Main to help 4-H students last year,” Garner said. “I have decided to close out SLV Fast Friends and wanted to donate to some students who could really use the help. I was talking to my wife, and she mentioned the music department

at Sangre de Cristo High School.” Garner said that after talking to Duran, he felt good about making the donation because Duran had mentioned that the department only had a budget of about \$300 for the class.

“My kids went to school at

Sangre de Cristo, and they didn’t have a music department then,” Garner said. “So, in talking to the principal, the teachers, the superintendent, and hearing about the budget, I figured that making this donation was just the right thing to do. I gave the department a check

for \$2,000.” Garner said that he’s hoping that the department can use the money to help the kids travel, and to repair instruments. He hopes others can be “sympathetic to the cause” and help the students in the music department.



Photo by Marie Mccolm

SLV Fast Friends Director Larry Garner makes a \$2,000 donation to Sangre de Cristo High School music teacher Al Duran on behalf of the non-profit.

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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

SEED SWAP

DOOR PRIZES

FOOD VENDORS

\$2 OFF SOAKING

LOCATION

MOFFAT, CO

SLVSE.ORG

Attend Adams State for free with Adams Promise Scholarship

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — Free tuition and fees at Adams State University — with the Adams Promise Scholarship eligible students can now attend college for no tuition and fees cost.

The Adams Promise Scholarship provides the opportunity to have tuition and fees waived. Eligibility includes first-time incoming freshmen and transfer students who are enrolled full-time on campus at Adams State; who are considered dependents on their parental income tax return; whose parental's adjusted gross income is \$70,000 or less; and students from a county south of Denver, including the San Luis Valley.

The Adams Promise Scholarship will be automatically awarded to qualified students who meet the criteria for each academic year.

“Adams State administration has pledged real support to students who qualify, in the form of the Adams Promise Scholarship,” said President David Tandberg, Ph.D. “Adams State continues to recognize and honor the deep roots of this University and its mission to serve the students who most need our support. The Adams Promise Scholarship is part of that commitment.”

First steps for eligibility include completing the

Free Application

for Federal

Student

Aid

(FAFSA)

and

applying

for admission to Adams State. Application to Adams State is now free.

Adams State financial aid and admissions staff members are available to help with completing the FAFSA and applying to Adams State. For more information visit adams.edu and click on The Adams Promise; call 719-587-7306 or email onestop@adams.edu.



Great Stories Begin Here

3RD ANNUAL EQUIPMENT & CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

**MARCH 16, 2024
AT 10 AM**

**CONSIGNMENT DEADLINE:
MARCH 15, 2024**

*CONSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON SITE MARCH 11TH-15TH.
PLEASE NO ELECTRONICS OR JUNK.



**SALE BILL DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 17TH
ITEMS NOT ON THE
BILL WILL STILL BE
ACCEPTED**



LOCATION:

**Monte Vista Livestock Auction
5660 E Hwy 160
Monte Vista, CO 81144**

FOR MORE SALE AND CONSIGNMENT INFORMATION:

**JOHN YODER: 719-298-2648
MELVIN COBLENTZ: 719-849-3292**

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



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

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



**Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty
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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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Steffens & Company Realty

719-873-5605

**30635 US HWY 160
South Fork**

dee@steffenscorealty.com

Dee - formerly known as Diane Chapman - Local Luxury Home Broker. Licensed in 2011, Dee knows the area and knows local real estate.



3D Virtual Tours • Prompt, Easy Communication

Video Walkthroughs

Residential Photographer

Licensed and Insured Drone Pilot

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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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



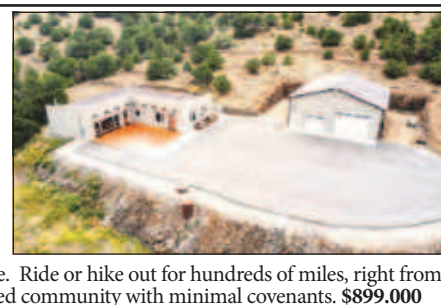
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242 Birch \$69,000
MLS#810124 and 64 Vista \$49,000
MLS#810125. Two adjacent commercial lots in South Fork, each .35 acres. Right behind Mtn Pizza. Easy paved access off of Hwy 160.



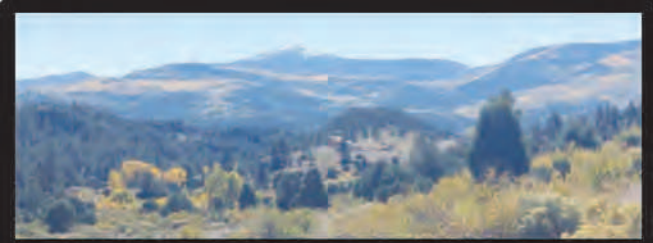
**Dee Plucinski • Steffens & CO. Realty
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4100 Wilderness Canyon Road - Mountain Luxury at the end of the road, secluded and private, this gorgeous, bright, energy-efficient home sits on 42 acres bordering the National Forest with views of the Natural 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



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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



YEAR-ROUND CREEK FRONT! Idyllic location with picturesque Mountain, Bear Creek Canyon views and live water runs the entire length of this 7.52-acre lot. Paved roads buried fiberoptic and electric to lot. Well and septic will need to be installed. Hike the Bear Creek Canyon trail, walking/horseback access to National Forest from the subdivision and owner access to the Rio Grande River. Hundreds of miles of ATV trails close by skiing at Wolf Creek within 30 minutes.

\$171,750 | MLS# 801331
1416 Bear Creek Circle, South Fork, CO

YVONNE HOFFMAN
BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-580-1901
O: 719-873-1700

30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



THE SUN HOUSE FARM has a total of 1910.5 +/- acres with 1,433 acres under pivot irrigation, which is 12 center pivots and all in excellent condition. 25 irrigation wells. Each Pivot has two wells. Two homes, one for hired help and one main home with corrals/sheds. Farmers Union water rights on the entire 1,910.5 acres. Call Bruce Steffens today for more information.

\$15,000,000 | MLS# 807640
57075 County Road C, Center, CO

BRUCE STEFFENS
OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-580-0770
O: 719-873-1700

30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



Nestled in the community of Del Norte, this property is a gem. With San Francisco Peak views through the entire residence allowing fishing and recreation on its own. The residence itself is a masterpiece with its 1/4-mile of river access from the main road. Call Bruce Steffens today for a showing appointment.

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

BRUCE STEFFENS
OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-580-0770
O: 719-873-1700

30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



Approx. 36.34 acres of Del Norte. This property has 2 bedrooms, plus 2 brand new appliances. Two sunrooms with outdoor patios on each side of the house. It has a 3 car detached garage with a 2 bedroom apartment above. Check out the greenhouse and/or chicken house along with a 2-story barn with horse stalls. Experience the beauty of the Colorado landscape in this amazing mountain retreat. Call Bruce Steffens today for more information.

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

BRUCE STEFFENS
OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-580-0770
O: 719-873-1700

30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



Amazing business opportunity located in Antonito, CO. This car wash is in the perfect location, and is the only one for many miles! Much work has recently been done to the property including new cement being poured in both bays. This car wash is completely up to date and is ready to put money into YOUR pocket. Don't pass up an amazing opportunity to own this cash flowing property.

\$225,000 | MLS# 809144
219 Main Street, Antonito, CO

TATE HUFFAKER
ASSOCIATE BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-298-6560
O: 719-873-1700

30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



Approx. 246 acres of Rio Grande River front and is zoned for residential. WATER RIGHTS: L #28 and #203 out of the L. 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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O: 719-873-1700

30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado

STEFFENS & CO REALTY, INC.
O: 719-873-1700

30635 W. US HWY 160
South Fork, Colorado

The **FLYING W Ranch** is level, buildable, accessible year around, and is close to neighboring towns. This acreage is located 5 miles east of Monte Vista on Hwy 160 and 4 miles north on County Line Road.
7 available lots
Lot 2 - 35+/- acres Lot 3 - 37+/- acres
Lot 4 - 83+/- acres Lot 5 - 35+/- acres
Lot 6 - 35+/- acres Lot 8 - 81+/- acres

Call Bruce Steffens for pricing and additional information.

\$2,700 - \$2,900 per acre
TBD County Road 100, Del Norte, CO

BRUCE STEFFENS
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M: 719-580-0770
O: 719-873-1700

30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado

Pronghorn Ranch is a gated development located 2.5 miles south of the town of Del Norte. Here the panoramic view encompasses the mountains, valley, and visually interesting rock outcroppings. Natural grasses and evergreen trees dot the landscape. The large parcel lots offer space to grow and privacy. There are 29 available lots ranging in size from 35 to 88-acre parcels. Call Bruce Steffens today for more information.

\$87,000 - \$180,000 per lot
Pronghorn Ranch Development
Del Norte, Colorado

BRUCE STEFFENS
OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-580-0770
O: 719-873-1700

30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado

SEED

Continued from Page 1

is out there. This is about the community connections that get made and the chance interactions people have. Everyone just loves it, they bump into neighbors they haven't seen, and share seeds, this is a niche group; people who are gardening, or growing food. This is just a really sweet event."



Photo by Ameille Warner, Dandelion Creative

The annual San Luis Valley Seed Exchange is more than the exchange, attendees can learn about local food cultivation, ethnobotany, mycology and more.

- Highlights of this year's event include:
- **Local Vendors:** Explore a variety of offerings from local artisans, growers, and producers showcasing the best of what the San Luis Valley has to offer. Sanders said she expects to have between 25 and 30 vendors.
 - **Food Options:** Enjoy delicious food offerings crafted from locally sourced ingredients, highlighting the rich flavors of the region.
 - **Seed Swap Table:** Participate in the time-honored tradition of exchanging seeds, fostering biodiversity, and promoting the preservation of heirloom varieties.
 - **Door Prizes:** Anyone in attendance is eligible for a chance to win exciting prizes generously provided by event sponsors and supporters.
 - **Speaker Series:** Dig into the theme of "Wild Foods & Medicines of the Valley" with engaging presentations from eight knowledgeable speakers, offering insights into the rich botanical heritage of the region. Spanish interpretation will be available for the speaker series happening in the yurt.
- Sanders said she is excited that this year the event will have eight speakers including the following:
- **Dr. Kristy L. Duran** is a sixth-generation native to the San Luis Valley. As a professor at Colorado Mesa University, she worked with the CSU Extension Office to create the Ute Ethnobotany Garden and will speak about plants and ethnobotany of the San Luis Valley. Duran also taught at Adams State University and is currently on the faculty at Metropolitan State University in Denver.
 - **Tylor Berreth** is a mycologist who owns Saguache-based Alpine Valley Mushrooms with his wife Danielle. Tylor will speak about Wild Mushrooms in the San Luis Valley.
 - **Teresa de Jesús Vigil** is a rural herbal practitioner who is familiar with natural healing methods traditional in the upper Rio Grande bioregion. She will speak about Reflections on Herbal Use by Our Ancestors. Sanders said she is looking forward to recording de Jesús Vigil and it may be the first time anyone has recorded her.
 - The seed exchange will include a **Community Sharing Hour:** Take the stage and share your passion, projects, or announcements with fellow attendees during this interactive session dedicated to community engagement and collaboration.
 - **Discount Soaking at Joyful Journey:** The event program contains a \$2 coupon for soaking at Joyful Journey Hot Springs Spa.

The organizers of the seed exchange are actively seeking sponsors. Various sponsorship levels are available, providing businesses and organizations the chance to show their support for community-based initiatives and sustainable agriculture. For sponsorship inquiries, contact Ame Warner at 719-207-2597 or via email at marketing@jjhotsprings.com.

Volunteers are needed to help throughout the event. To sign up as a volunteer or vendor or for more information, reach out to Sanders at 575-999-5319 or slvseedex@gmail.com.

For those interested in becoming the Executive Director of the San Valley Seed Exchange, email Sanders at the email address above.

Stay informed about the latest updates regarding speakers, sponsors, and vendors by visiting www.SLVSE.org. The San Luis Valley Seed Exchange is a non-profit and donations can be made via their website or at the seed exchange event.

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| | 9 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 2 | | | |
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| | | | | | 5 | | 4 | |
| | | 5 | | 2 | | 9 | | 1 |

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: Advanced

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

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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

Thinking of Selling in 2024
Expect the Best,
Call Bernadette



exp REALTY

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

193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

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



UNDER CONTRACT

exp REALTY

Bernadette Gingrass
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 bmgingrass@gmail.com
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 - 7" wide x 2" tall** ----- \$70 per week

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