

Hooper Mayor speaks about election, community projects

By MARIE MCCOLM

HOOPER — Mayor Tommy Dentler recently spoke about the upcoming election and other projects slated for the rural town in 2024.

Dentler said the next town board meeting will take place on March 17, and there will be a meet and greet for the trustee candidates. The town board has four trustees. All four trustee seats are up for election.

Five people will be vying for the four seats — three of the incumbents and two newcomers. Interested residents can meet the candidates at the next board meeting where the meet and

greet will be held on March 17.

“This is really up to the people as to how this turns out,” Dentler said. “We are really excited. The good thing is that in the past we had been trying to reach out for people to become trustees, but now we have more applicants than in the past. We have residents reaching out for these positions. It’s exciting that we have people wanting to engage in the community.”

Also, on the ballot for this election year, is a measure that would allow recreational and medical cannabis sales the town with a population of roughly 100 people. A similar

measure failed 25-18 in 2022.

“Two years ago, it failed miserably, so they tried to put it on the ballot again this year. It passed to be on the ballot. We are going to have it on the ballot to see if it actually goes through,” he said.

Dentler said a ground fowl measure will be on the ballot as well.

“We are going to see if we are going to be doing any type of regulation for chickens or things of that nature,” he said.

Dentler also spoke of the projects that are currently going on in the community, including

a project that was started at the Hooper Town Park with new playground equipment last year.

“We want to apply for another grant for the park, to continue with the completed project of finishing up the park,” he said. “The playground equipment was a great addition, but we want to add more. This includes things like getting power to the park, which is something we have been lacking for a very long time. A camera system is going to be put into place. We have our lights that are going to be put up; they are solar powered. A fire pit is going to be added as well.”

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Shorts



SLV GOP announces caucuses, assemblies

VALLEY — The San Luis Valley Republican Party has scheduled county caucuses and assemblies county by county through March.

Here is a schedule by county:

ALAMOSA

Caucus, March 9, 3 p.m., Ortega Middle School

Assembly, March 23, 3 p.m., Society Hall

CONEJOS

Caucus and assembly, March 7, 6:30 p.m., La Jara Senior Citizen building

COSTILLA

Caucus and assembly, March 7, 7 p.m., Blanca/Ft. Garland Community Center

MINERAL

Caucus and assembly, March 9, 5 p.m., Underground Community Center

RIO GRANDE

Caucuses, March 7, 6 p.m., Precincts 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, Nazarene Church, Monte Vista

Precincts 2, 3, 11, Rio Grande County Annex building, Del Norte

Precinct 10, South Fork Library Assembly, March 21, 6 p.m., Rio Grande County Annex building, Del Norte

SAGUACHE

Caucuses, March 7, 6 p.m., Precincts 1, 2, 6, 7, Mountain Valley Cafeteria, Saguache

Precincts 3, 4, 5, Moffat School Cafeteria, Moffat

Assembly, March 23, 3 p.m., Mountain Valley School, Saguache

To pre-register for any caucuses, go to caucus.cologop.org.

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

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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.

Photo by Marie Mccolm



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 a 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

Please see CROWDS on Page 8A

Adre Baroz pleads guilty to all charges in Los Sauces murder cases

Julius Baroz and Francisco Ramirez plead guilty to lesser charges

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — After three and a half years of court proceedings, Adre Baroz, 29, has pleaded guilty to all charges in connection with the murders and dismemberment of five people whose remains were found in two burn pits in Los Sauces in late November of 2020.

Over a period of several months, as forensic pathologists examined the remains, the victims were identified as Korina Arroyo, Selena Esquibel, Xavier Zeven Garcia, Myron Martinez and Shayla Hammel. As court documents in each case obtained by the Valley Courier revealed, those five individuals were murdered between Aug. 25, 2020, to Nov. 13, 2020.

Baroz pleaded guilty to five counts of murder in the first degree, a class 1 felony, with each count carrying a sentence of life in prison with no hope of parole; five counts of tampering with remains of a deceased human body, a class 3 felony, which will carry

a sentence of 4-12 years for each count; one count of assault in the first degree with serious bodily injury, a class 3 felony, which will carry a minimum sentence of 10 years and a maximum of 32 years in prison; second degree kidnapping, a class 3 felony, which will carry a sentence of 10-32 years; and second degree assault, a class 4 felony, which has a sentencing range of 5-16 years.

For the “lesser” felony charges, Baroz will serve anywhere from 45 to 140 years in prison. However, in the resolution reached between Baroz’s defense counsel, David Lipka, and

Please see BAROZ on Page 7A



Courtesy photo

CBI photo of Adre Baroz when a statewide bulletin was issued naming him as suspect in the murders.

OBITUARIES

Delen Coln

Delen Tadlock Davis Coln reached for God's Hand on Feb. 16, 2024, at the age of 85 years. She passed quietly and peacefully surrounded by family and friends. Jesus came calling, asked if she was ready, and she said, "Oh Yeah".

Delen was born on June 24, 1938, in Ft. Worth, Texas, to Hardy and Dorene Tadlock.

She enjoyed Bible Study, singing hymns, cheering for sports teams and rodeo events and being Memaw. In her earlier years, she enjoyed camping, river rafting, skiing, and gardening.

Delen was married to Bob Davis (divorced/deceased) for 28 years and Greg Coln (deceased) for 24 years.

Survivors include Lauren (Wayne) Sheldrake, Dan (Deanna) Davis, Tim (Denise) Davis, Tina Thomas (Rick), eight grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, Hardy Tadlock, Jr. (Mary Jane), and last but not least her loyal canine companion, Stormy.

She was a special light and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Services will be held in both Texas and Colorado as noted below:

Saturday, March 23, 2024, at 11 a.m. at The Hills Church, North Richland Hills, Texas, (small chapel)

Friday, July 19, 2024, at 11 a.m. Graveside at Creede, Colo., (Cemetery)

Contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.



Jack Lawrence Bever

Jack Lawrence Bever, a longtime Monte Vista resident, whose life journey began on Dec. 14, 1938, in Torrington, Wyo., completed his earthly chapter on Feb. 17, 2024, at the Colorado State Veterans Center.

Jack's formative years were spent in the close-knit community of Monte Vista, where he graduated from high school in 1956. His thirst for adventure led him to join the United States Navy, where he served with distinction in San Diego, Japan, and Guam.

Jack became a member of Monte Vista Community Methodist Church at a very young age. In 1985, Jack became a founding member of the Wednesday morning breakfast club at the Monte Vista Community Methodist Church. Jack never missed a Wednesday until the pandemic of 2020. His dedication to his faith community did not go unnoticed, as he was honored with the Quiet Disciple award for his humble servitude. Jack also served as an usher at his church for many years.

Professionally, Jack's love for the rails translated into a fulfilling career with Union Pacific and the Denver Rio Grande and Western Railroad. His analytical mind and passion for excellence propelled him to a distinguished career at CDOT, where he worked as an engineer and project manager for 35 years. His contributions to the field were significant, and his work ethic was admired by his colleagues and peers.

Jack's personal life was a tapestry woven with love for his family and the great outdoors. He and his wife Vicki, united in marriage for 61 years, shared a love for adventure as members of the Valley Jeep Club. Together, they supported the Ski-Hi Swim Team for 15 years, traveling and cheering with the same enthusiasm that Jack brought to all his endeavors. His passion for hunting and fishing was only matched by the joy he felt watching his children play sports.



He is survived by his beloved wife, Vicki, and their children John (Coleen) Bever of Crested Butte, Colo., Kari Valdez of Loveland, Colo., Tom (Teresa) Bever of Ft. Collins, Colo., sisters-in-law, Janet Worth Schmidt of Monte Vista, and Cathy (Bob) Woolley of Holdrege, Neb. Jack's legacy continues through his eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, who will carry forward his values and zest for life. He also leaves behind a host of cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents Jack and Ruby Tilden Bever, his sister Barbara Bever, and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

His passing creates a void in the fabric of his family and community, but his memory will be cherished and celebrated by all who were fortunate enough to cross paths with him.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday March 2, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. at Monte Vista Community Methodist Church. Visitation will be held immediately following the service at the church. Memorial contributions may be directed to Monte Vista Community Methodist Church.

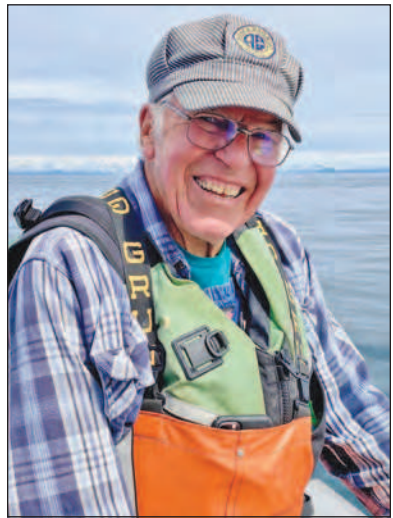
Rogers Family Mortuary is in the care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes, and words of comfort for Jack's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

Charles A. Gustafson

Charles Albert Gustafson passed away peacefully on Feb. 13, 2024, in Anchorage, Alaska. Charles was 80 years old. Born on May 3, 1943, in Denver, Colo., Charles was the oldest of three children raised by his mother and father Stasie and William Gustafson. Charles grew up in Creede, Colo., and graduated from Creede High School, being one of six in his class. Growing up Charles was an avid skier and basketball player.

After high school, Charles attended Adams State College, in Alamosa, Colo., where he received an Industrial Arts Education degree. This is where he met his wife Carolyn and made many life-long friends. Upon graduation in 1966, Charles and Carolyn drove to Alaska in "Old Blue", a 2WD Dodge pickup. This was Charles's first of 93 trips up the Alcan! During those trips, he visited many Home Depots and was excited when he finally hit his 100th store.

Charles taught woodshop and



coached basketball at Dillingham High School. He was proud that by the time he left Dillingham, the students taking woodshop were 51% male and 49% female. Charles shared his love of woodworking with all ages, holding workshops in the evenings for adults in the community.

After retiring, Charles and Carolyn

tried to move Outside but kept returning to Alaska. Charles spent countless hours supporting his grandkids in their hockey, dance, soccer, and orchestra interests. Charles' favorite pastime was spending time with family and friends on his boat in Prince William Sound, Kachemak Bay, and Resurrection Bay. He jokingly called himself "Cabin Boy", and spent his time on the boat baiting hooks, cussing skates that were caught, and gaffing halibut. Charles had a love of living life to its fullest.

Charles is survived by his wife, Carolyn Gustafson, his son Sven (Kathy), his daughter Gwen Welch (Roy), and grandkids Steven (Sidekick), Julie Bell (Tinkerbell), Bryce (Buddy), and Cassie Rose (Sunshine).

A Celebration of Life will be held on March 16 from 1-4 p.m. at St. Elizabeth's Ann Seton School Gym, located at 2901 Huffman Road — park in back parking lot and enter the lower level.

James (Jim) Howell Boydston

James (Jim) Howell Boydston passed away after a courageous two-year battle with cancer on January 27, 2024, in Canon City, Colorado. Born on September 9, 1948, in Rifle, Colorado, to Gladys (Williams) and Lawrence Boydston, Jim's life was a testament to the education and development of his students & athletes and his love for his family and the great outdoors.

Jim is survived by his wife Peggy of 52 years, sister Connie (Torrance) Hughes, son Kyle (Kristi) Boydston, daughter Erin (Lance) Kohler, son Davin (Amanda) Boydston, grandchildren Riley (Dixie) Boydston, Maddie Kohler, Meghan Kohler, and Ellie Boydston, as well as aunts, uncles and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. Jim is preceded in death by his parents Lawrence and Gladys Boydston, and brother Larry.

Jim graduated from Riverside High School (Silt and New Castle, Colo.) in 1966, and graduated from Western State College in Gunnison, Colo., with his BA degree in 1971. He earned his Master's Degree in Education in 1980 also from WSC.

Jim worked for the Boys Club of America in Denver and Grand Junction from 1972-75. Jim and Peggy moved to Pritchett, Colo., in 1975 where he began his teaching and coaching career. He also taught and coached in Branson, Colo., and

Turner, Mont., before returning to Pritchett in 1985 as Superintendent. Jim served as Superintendent of Pritchett School District until 1993, and for Creede School District from 1993-2003. His influence extended beyond his own school districts, as he chaired the Southeastern Colorado BOCES, served as the Southeastern League President, served on various Colorado High School Activities Association committees, and as a CHSAA Board of Control (Legislative Council) member. As an educator and leader, Jim improved both academics and athletics at every school he served, and left a legacy of dedication, mentorship, and belief in every young person who crossed his path.

Jim was an avid outdoorsman, with his hunting and fishing activities honed from an early age by his dad, Lawrence, his brother-in-law, Torrance, and an ornery gang of retirees, led by Hal Boydston and Oscar Hoggatt. He knew many of the best fishing holes and hunting spots in Colorado and enjoyed sharing them with his kids, grandkids, and friends. Jim also loved sports, participating in baseball, basketball, football, and track and field throughout his childhood. He competed in track & field and basketball at Western State College, and played town-team basketball into his 40's. Jim was a long-time fan of the Broncos, Nuggets,



Rockies, and Avalanche.

Some of Jim's favorite activities in retirement included traveling with Peggy, family hunting and fishing trips, playing cards with his card buddies, attending his grandkids' games and concerts, and hiking to a mountain ridge with any of his kids or grandkids.

Jim's wise counsel, sense of humor, and quiet presence will be missed by all who knew him.

A memorial service will be held on March 11 at 1 p.m. at The Steeple Events Center in Canon City, Colo.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to The Humane Society of Fremont County or Fremont Regional Hospice.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Rosa Parks gives a talk in my small town

That's an antique, kid

Having grown up around a lot of older people, I got to experience life from their perspectives, some of which pre-dated 1900. My grandfather Kirk was born in 1889 in Dodge City, Kan., and so was probably about 65 by the time I was born, which was quite old in those days when people just did not live too long.



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

Because of our connections to Dodge City, I can recall that everyone out there called each other "kid." No matter who you were or age of the person it was "hey kid" when you met. And since one of the things my family was noted for was their love of antiques, everything in their house was of old manufacture, including themselves.

From an early age we learned not to touch the round glass cabinet and were admonished with, "be careful kid, that's an antique" multiple times with each visit to their house. And true to form, Ol' Dutch also has a certain appreciation for antiques of all sorts and am dangerous to take to any garage sale or auction as can be attested to by Miss Trixie. I just love that old stuff. Which got me to thinking — a dangerous pursuit according to Miss Trixie — about just what it takes for anything to be considered a true antique.

The Internet for sale sites is filled with stuff that is purported to be antique but mostly it's just old to the person who has it for sale. I know I had a 1967 Chevelle car one time and it was considered an antique and so I could get a cheap tag for it. Looking online it appears that now they say any car over 45 years old qualifies for that status.

But other things are antiques also and I love the old furniture especially the stuff made out of oak wood. Ol' Dutch has a few items passed down from the family that are very old, so I know I am safe to assume they are truly of that status. And looking online, anything like that must be 100 years old to be considered an antique. So, there is a baseline that a person can at least measure against to assess the value of some "treasure" they keep.

After reading all about that age requirement, I got to thinking about all the stuff I see advertised online as "antique" for sale. And I began to wonder just how in the wide, wide world of sports, people come up with the idea it is actually an antique? I think it may

have to do with their age in fact and anything that they don't know what it is, or if it was produced before they were born then they call it that. It does not seem to matter if they are 40 or 85, that is the age they seem to use in classifying what they have for sale as antiques and pricing it accordingly.

I think the most interesting thing about collecting old stuff is if you think about it, all of it was thrown out way back when it was out of style and worn out and some poor person, who did not have a "dresser" took it home to use. They didn't think they had a treasure but were simply glad to have a drawer to put grandpa's drawers in. Yep. Old worn-out junk. I guess the mere fact that it survived the trash bin now all these years later added value to it so now items that were sat on the curb are sometimes worth a lotta money.

Ol' Dutch keeps trying to impress upon Miss Trixie of those facts and none more important than how my own personal value is skyrocketing with every birthday that I have. She often reminds me that she in fact found me sitting on the curb, so I need to consider my true value in that. But I do have solace in knowing that if I hang around long enough, I will reach the age of a true antique and my value will rise to meet my own opinion of my worth.

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.

It was 2 p.m. on a recent Sunday in the western Colorado town of Paonia, population 1,500, not an ideal time to gather a crowd to meet the famous Rosa Parks, the woman who kicked off the modern civil rights movement.

Yet surprisingly, about 100 people gathered at the Blue Sage Center, almost all of us white, to hear what really happened in the mid-1950s. Chairs kept getting added.

The bare stage didn't have a chair, just a table with water. Becky Stone, one of the scholar-actors with the Colorado Humanities Black History Tour, quietly entered. Rosa Parks was 42 and all of 5 feet tall in 1955 when she refused an order from a bus driver to give up her seat to a white passenger.

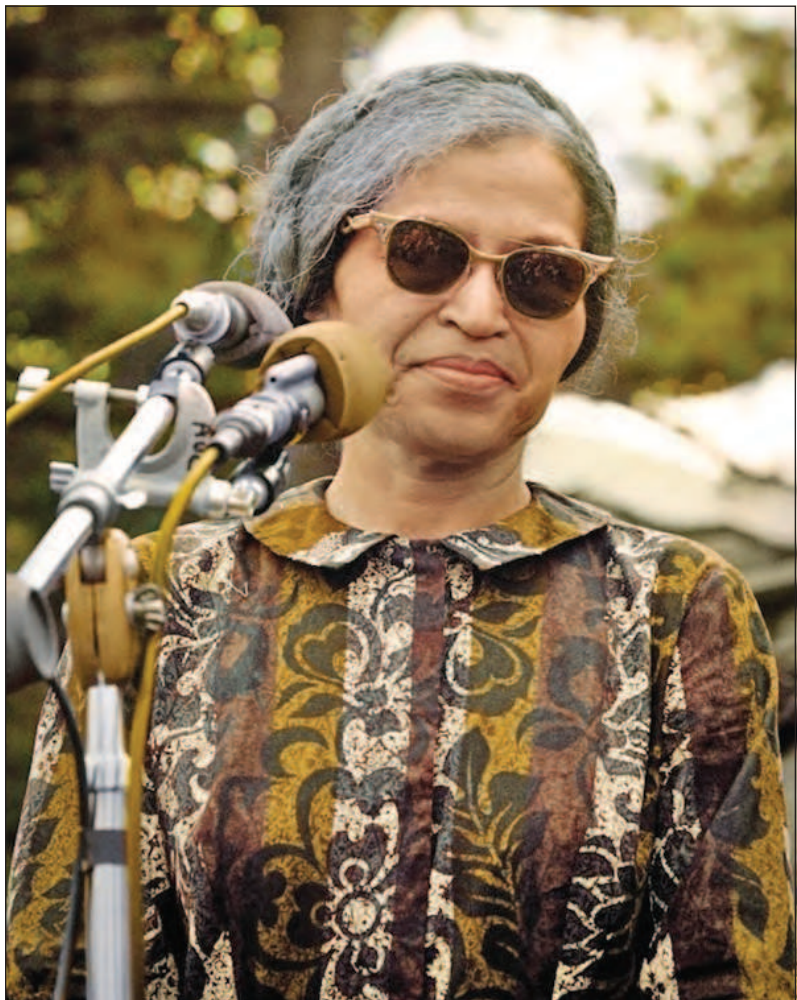
But by some transmutation known only to talented actors, Becky Stone, wearing a cotton dress, sweater and flat shoes, became Rosa Parks, who died in 2005. She seemed a reserved, no-nonsense woman who had all the time in the world to talk.

She wanted to set the record straight, she told us, about why she defied bus segregation in Montgomery, Ala. She said the story that's come down through the years was dead wrong.

Yes, her feet were tired from working all day as a seamstress at a downtown department store, but that's not why she wouldn't sacrifice her seat on the bus. She was "tired of giving in" because of her race.

Every bus was segregated by long tradition, she explained, with whites entitled to the front seats. A middle "colored" section allowed both races but once the bus was crowded, whites had priority and Blacks had to stand or find a seat in the back where Blacks were supposed to sit. Blacks were also expected to board through a back door. Ridership of city buses, she pointed out, was about 75% Black.

There was one insult on the bus she never forgot, she told us. It had happened 12 years earlier, when driver James Blake took her fare but ordered her to get off and board the bus from the back. Just as she got to the door, though, he drove off. From then on, she said, she'd try to avoid riding his bus. On the day of her civil disobedience, however, he



was the driver who called the police and got her arrested.

The desire to confront discrimination in Montgomery had been long simmering, she said, and as secretary of the city chapter of the NAACP, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, she felt she was a good — as in non-threatening — candidate to make a stand. There had been other women who'd refused to relinquish

laws requiring segregated buses were unconstitutional.

Her victory made national news and changed the law, but there were consequences. After she lost her job and withstood multiple threats against her family, she and her husband decided to move to Detroit. She got a tailoring job in the city, but her husband, she said, became depressed.

Her activism continued. She gave talks about how important it was to be unified to challenge segregation, and her example resonated. In the 1960s, Blacks would invite white supporters to travel on Freedom Rides to "sit-in" at lunch counters in the South. Their legal cases led to Jim Crow laws getting slapped down in state courts, followed by passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Applause for Rosa Parks just wouldn't quit after she spoke. She answered questions for another hour, then talked to individuals who gathered around her.

That week, when I met people on the street who'd heard Rosa Parks speak, we agreed: "I wouldn't have missed that for the world."

Betsy Marston is the editor of Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. She was a civil rights activist in the 1960s and lives in Paonia.



by Betsy Marston

and credited him with starting a substitute transportation system of private cars that helped some people get to work who couldn't walk. That was crucial, she said, because the bus boycott lasted more than a year. It ended when the Supreme Court ruled that Montgomery and Alabama

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Colorado saw fewer human-bear conflicts in 2023

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

DENVER — Colorado Parks and Wildlife received 3,526 reports of sightings and conflicts with bears in 2023, which is a 21 percent decrease from the average number of reports received in 2019-2023. Trash continues to be the number one source of conflicts between humans and bears.

Of the 3,526 reports CPW received in 2023, 1,795 resulted in property damage to a shed, garage, home, vehicle, fence, etc. Around 92 percent of property damage reported from bears is linked to an attractant of some kind, with over 51 percent linked to trash, 20 percent to livestock, chickens and beehives, and 19 percent to bird seed, pet food, barbecue grills, coolers and refrigerators.

In 2019, CPW launched a new bear reporting system to help wildlife managers track and quantify bear activity and conflicts across the state. The data collected is used to see overall trends and identify sources of conflict on a localized, regional and statewide level. Since its implementation in April 2019, CPW has recorded 21,310 reports of sightings and conflicts with bears.

The data from the annual bear cycle informs CPW's wildlife managers where bears are at and what they are up to, helping CPW identify

sources of conflict and make educated management decisions. If you see a bear causing trouble in an urban area, call CPW to report it.

In an effort to help communities co-exist with bears, CPW provides local Colorado communities with financial resources to support efforts that reduce human-bear conflicts through its Human-Bear Conflict Reduction Community Grant Program. Last spring, CPW awarded nearly \$1 million in funding to local communities, municipalities, businesses and nonprofit organizations for projects working to create innovative ways to reduce human-bear conflicts and keep communities safe. Follow the links above to learn about human-bear conflict reductions grants and find out if your community is eligible.

“Collaboration with local communities is vital to successfully reducing human-bear conflicts and CPW cannot do it alone,” said CPW Grant Manager Travis Long, manager of the Human-Bear Conflict Reduction Community Grant Program. “Without individuals and communities taking some action and following proper guidelines on living with bears, the number of conflicts will not go down. Fortunately, the funding CPW provides can help empower communities to take the proper actions.”

There are an estimated 17,000 to

20,000 bears in Colorado and every year the majority of incident reports involve bears trying to access human food sources. 2023 was no different with trash continuing to be the number one source of conflicts. Other constant sources of conflict included birdfeeders, livestock and bears accessing open garages and other human-originated items that are left unsecured. These conflicts could all easily be reduced if the public takes some simple steps around their homes and properties to prevent bears from accessing them.

Nature and human behavior play a role in the amount of bear activity that we see annually. Drought conditions and other factors that may influence the availability of natural food crops for bears, such as a late freeze, vary across the state, as does the behavior of people when it relates to human-bear interactions.

In 2023, the majority of the East Slope received adequate temperatures and rainfall to produce natural forage for bears. Compared to 2022, reports on the East Slope remained steady with CPW's Northeast region receiving 905 reports and the Southeast regions receiving 696 reports.

CPW's Northwest region has the largest bear population in the state and received 1,228 reports, a 35 percent reduction from the previous year. Despite good natural forage in



Courtesy photo

Bear cub on its way to an artificial den. This cub was fitted with a GPS ear tag supplied by Cheyenne Mountain Zoo that will allow CPW to track its movement this spring.

the area, an unreasonable number of bears were reported entering homes. Reports remained steady in CPW's Southwest region at 697.

One concern CPW is aware of from the public is a reluctance to report bear activity over a belief it will lead to the bear being put down. Data shows that of the 3,526 reports wildlife managers received on bears in 2023, only 1.8% led to euthanization. The vast majority led to wildlife officers getting involved early enough to prevent the need to euthanize a bear.

When CPW is made aware, especially when conflicts first begin, wildlife officers can educate the community, make site visits to homes to help them secure attractants and can haze bears in an attempt to reinforce their natural fear of humans. In some circumstances,

wildlife officers can attempt to relocate bears out of conflict areas to alleviate safety concerns or before that animal's behavior escalates to a dangerous level which may require euthanization. However, wildlife officers stress relocation is not a fix-all solution as there is no way to unteach a bear once it learns that homes, garages or vehicles might contain food.

Below is the number of reports and bears euthanized and relocated by CPW annually since 2020:

- 2023: 3,526 reports, 33 relocated, 63 euthanized
- 2022: 4,147 reports, 59 relocated, 94 euthanized
- 2021: 3,598 reports, 51 relocated, 66 euthanized
- 2020: 4,806 reports, 118 relocated, 158 euthanized

MV man sentenced to 30 months after conviction on firearms charges

By U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, DISTRICT OF COLORADO

DURANGO — The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado announced Friday, Feb. 23, that Titus Naranjo was sentenced to 30 months in federal prison and three years of supervised release for possessing firearms after previously being convicted of a felony.

Naranjo, 42, will serve his federal sentence consecutively to a Colorado prison sentence for a felony drug distribution offense.

“Armed drug dealers present a unique danger to our communities,” said United States Attorney Cole Finegan. “Effective coordination between our local partners, like our cooperation with the Monte Vista Police Department and the ATF in this case can and do result in significant consequences and deterrence.”

According to court documents, Naranjo was a well-known drug dealer in Monte Vista. Naranjo had five prior drug-related convictions dating back to 2015 in Rio Grande County, including several felonies.

In April 2021, law enforcement searched Naranjo's residence, yielding a large amount of methamphetamine. In November of that same year, local law enforcement encountered Naranjo while executing a search warrant on a house to facilitate the arrest of another drug dealer and gang member. Officers found a Charter Arms .38 special revolver in one of Naranjo's pockets, and 14 grams of methamphetamine in the other.

“Firearms illegally possessed by violent felons, especially when involved in drug activity, frequently lead to an increase of violent crime within our communities,” said ATF Special Agent in Charge Brent Beavers. “Our commitment remains unwavering in targeting these individuals while working hand in hand with our law enforcement partners to reduce violent crime.”

The Monte Vista Police Department and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives conducted the investigation in this matter. Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey Graves handled the prosecution.

“The Monte Vista Police Department will continue to pursue criminals in our communities who are dealing drugs and poisoning our citizens,” said Monte Vista Police Chief George Dingfelder. “Our commitment to the community is to use all available resources to hold these people accountable for their crimes.”

This case is part of Project Safe

Neighborhoods (PSN), a program bringing together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and gun violence, and to make our neighborhoods safer for everyone.

On May 26, 2021, the Department launched a violent crime reduction strategy strengthening PSN based on these core principles: fostering trust and legitimacy in our communities, supporting community-based organizations that help prevent violence from occurring in the first place, setting focused and strategic enforcement priorities, and measuring the results.



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Basketball 2023-2024

GIRLS
Class 1A

Centennial 48	Lake City 26
Sierra Grande 54	Moffat 12
Creede 62	Antonito 25
Sangre de Cristo 58	Centennial 16
Sierra Grande 62	Creede 41
Sangre de Cristo 36	Sierra Grande 31

Class 2A

Sanford 37	Cotopaxi 24
Sargent 50	Center 39
Del Norte 41	Trinidad 32
Monte Vista 55	Custer County 7
Monte Vista 40	Del Norte 30
Sanford 40	Sargent 24
Sanford 49	Monte Vista 43

Class 3A

Centauri 49	Crested Butte 12
Centauri 42	Montezuma-Cortez 33

Class 4A

Severence 40	Alamosa 29
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BOYS
Class 1A

Centennial 66	Antonito 32
Moffat 57	Creede 45
Sierra Grande 48	Moffat 43
Sangre de Cristo 47	Centennial 40
Sierra Grande 50	Sangre de Cristo 42

Class 2A

Sanford 65	Trinidad 28
Del Norte 53	Cotopaxi 51
Sargent 45	Custer County 32
Monte Vista 55	Center 26
Sanford 59	Del Norte 30
Monte Vista 41	Sargent 36
Sanford 57	Monte Vista 37

Class 3A

Centauri 44	Ignacio 27
Centauri 70	Crested Butte 38

Class 4A

Severence 50	Alamosa 47
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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



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.

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.

More than 70% of Colorado pedestrian fatalities occur in dark conditions

By COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

According to data recently released by CDOT, pedestrian fatalities soared to a record high in 2023, representing 18.6% of Colorado’s total roadway deaths. The majority of the past year’s pedestrian deaths occurred at night or during low-light conditions. With nearly three more weeks of short winter days and extended darkness, CDOT is urging drivers to be cautious and alert while driving at night.

Approximately 74% of the pedestrian fatalities recorded last year occurred at night or in low-light conditions. October had the highest number of pedestrian deaths with 33 fatalities in one month. Over the past four years, October and November

have been the months when most pedestrian fatalities occurred.

“Pedestrians don’t go away when it gets dark out, especially this time of year when the sun sets early and rises late,” said CDOT’s Office of Transportation Safety Director Darrell Lingk. “We need a collective commitment from every road user to prioritize safety. Be alert, be aware of your surroundings and treat driving like the immense responsibility it is.”

In the last decade, pedestrian fatalities in Colorado have surged by 96%, with a 16% increase between 2022 and 2023.

CDOT is urging individuals and local communities to make pedestrian safety a priority. This can be achieved through slower speeds and improved infrastructure, particularly at

intersections where pedestrians cross.

CDOT is actively investing in infrastructure projects to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility as part of the agency’s commitment to equity in transportation safety. Examples include:

- The Boulder County CO 119 Safety and Mobility project focuses on a popular cycling route and incorporates protected bike lanes and features to enhance pedestrian safety.

- The CO 121 Signal Improvements project in Jefferson County replaced antiquated traffic signals with modern equipment, added pedestrian-focused signage and made improvements for people with disabilities by installing ADA-compliant ramps.

- CDOT’s Revitalizing Main Streets program further underscores the commitment to community-driven safety enhancements, with over \$75 million awarded through community grants.

- In Fruita, the Mesa Street Multimodal Improvements transportation corridor that accommodates pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles, safely connecting downtown Fruita.

- In Basalt, the program supports the Midland Avenue Streetscape Revitalization, which will enhance pedestrian space, create public gathering areas, and invigorate the economic and cultural center of the historic community.

Don’t Waste Your Pain

Over the years, I’ve spoken with a lot of people who have gotten stuck in their place of pain. Whether they were abused as a child or suffered from other disappointments in life, they allowed it to keep them from moving forward.

Painful experiences can leave us bitter, offended and focused on the people who have harmed us. However, just because someone treated us wrong, it doesn’t give us the license to treat them wrong. In fact, when we decide to “pay people back” in this way, we’re doing the exact opposite of what God’s Word says to do. Making progress means giving up all offense, hatred, pain, and unforgiveness.

The Lord has used Psalm 37:1-3 (AMP) to literally change my life. It says, “Do not worry because of evildoers, nor be envious toward wrongdoers; for they will wither quickly like the grass, and fade like the green herb. Trust [rely on and have confidence] in the Lord and do good...”

When someone harms or treats us unfairly in some way, our first inclination is to want to get revenge. But if we continue to focus on the injustice and the person who wronged us, it will eat us up on the inside.

I often say that holding a grudge and staying bitter is like taking poison and hoping your enemy will die. It is useless!

I really want you to remember this: Life is not fair, and everything that happens to you is not fair, but God is fair. And if you place your trust in Him and do things His way, He will make it up to you (many times over!) and use what happened for your good.

So, what is “God’s way”? Psalm 37:3 holds the key: trust God and do good....

First, we must trust God with our situation. In the midst of the pain, in the midst of betrayal, rejection, or

disappointment, we need to say: “God, I don’t understand everything that’s happened, but I know You are good. Your Word says You are my Vindicator and that You will make wrong things right. I give my situation to You, asking You to fight on my behalf as I continue to seek You and go about helping other people.”

Now, the second part is just as important: do good.

I really believe this is our secret weapon. Romans 12:21 says that we “overcome evil with good.” In fact, we will never move beyond our pain if we repay evil for evil.

The enemy’s goal is for us to feel sorry for ourselves and get consumed with our own problems. But during these times, the greatest thing we can do is turn our focus outward and help others with their needs.

I believe when we continue to trust God and remain determined to be good to others even while we’re hurting, there’s nothing the enemy can do to stop us.

The truth is, life isn’t always going to turn out the way we want. Jesus Himself said that we will have tribulation. However, even when bad things happen—even when we suffer disappointments and setbacks we didn’t see coming—God wants to use it for our good.

In fact, the Lord wants us to let Him use our challenges and difficulties as opportunities to help us grow strong in Him. Look what it says in Habakkuk 3:19 (AMPC):

The Lord God is my strength [my source of courage, my invincible army]; He has made my feet [steady and sure] like hinds’ feet and makes me walk [forward with spiritual confidence] on my high places [of challenge and responsibility].

I believe God is saying, “Don’t waste your pain!” If you allow Him, He will use your challenging times to “make your feet steady and sure” and



trust Him like never before.

Each thing we go through helps equip us for our next challenge. Having experience and going through things also help us live courageously. We learn that we can endure difficulties, and that knowledge helps us not to fear the future.

Maybe you’ve been hanging on to some deep emotional wounds that occurred years ago, and it’s preventing you from taking that next step forward. Or maybe some recent disappointments have caused you to want to throw in the towel and give up on the process.

I’m not sure where you are today, but I do know this: If you will put your trust in God and do things His way, He can take even the worst things that have happened and work them out for your good.

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s three-part teaching resource *Burnt But Not Bitter*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

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

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

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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 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 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."

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



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.

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 nonprofit and donations can be made via their website or at the seed exchange event.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Request For Proposal (RFP) Trash and Rubbish Removal

In response to the Saguache County Nuisance Ordinance, Saguache County is seeking contractors for the removal of and disposal of trash, rubbish, debris and assorted waste materials from land located in Saguache County. This shall include, but not be limited to, the removal and disposal of vehicles, trailers, building materials, trash, debris, and various materials that require removal. This position shall be on call or as needed. Bids should include, but not be limited to, hourly rates, and the rate for special material removal that may not be allowed for disposal in a land fill or conventional waste facility. Salvageable materials (excluding vehicles) may be kept by the contractor. Any salvaged vehicles must be taken to the designated vehicle area that will be located at the Saguache County Landfill. If hazardous materials are located, it will be up to the County to contract for that service.

For questions, please email Amber Wilson at atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov or call 719-655-2321. Proposal may be emailed, mailed or hand delivered. Email RFP to atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov, mail to PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or hand deliver to 505 3rd Street, Saguache, CO 81149.

No. 1695 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, February 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2024.

Saguache County Board of Commissioners Seeks Saguache County Planning Commission Members

Saguache County Board of Commissioners are seeking members and alternates from:

La Garita/Center area – member and alternate
Town of Center and surrounding area – alternate
Moffat and surrounding area – alternate
Hooper and surrounding area – member and alternate
At Large for All of Saguache County – alternate
Crestone and surrounding area – alternate

The representative must be a property owner or property manager and reside in the area they are interested in representing. Regular member terms are for three years and the alternate terms are for one year.

Saguache County Planning Commission meets on the last Thursday of each month in the Road and Bridge meeting room. The Planning Commission may also have work sessions throughout each month to work on the Saguache County Master Plan and different items.

Saguache County Planning Commission members and alternates are paid \$100 for every regular meeting they attend, plus mileage reimbursement.

If you are interested, please send a brief letter of interest stating qualifications and interest to: Saguache County Land Use, Attn: Amber Wilson, PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 prior to Thursday, February 29th, 2024. All applicants will be interviewed by the Board of County Commissioners. Should you have any questions please call Amber Wilson at 719-655-2321.

No. 1696 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, February 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2024.

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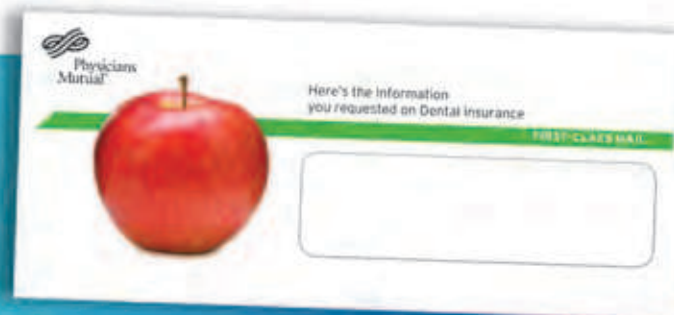
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BAROZ

Continued from Page 1A

special prosecutor, Fred Johnson assigned from the Boulder District Attorney's Office, the life sentences will be served consecutively, totaling 200 years sentencing Baroz to spending the rest of his life in prison.

Baroz went through the court proceedings with, initially, three co-defendants: his brother, Julius Baroz, 33, Francisco Ramirez, 41, and C.J. Dominguez, 31.

Dominguez reached an agreement with prosecutors in December of 2022 when he entered a guilty plea of tampering with a deceased human body, which severed him from the case.

However, Julius Baroz and Ramirez remained as co-defendants until Monday's resolution with the prosecution.

Julius Baroz pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit murder in the first degree of Myron Martinez, which will carry a prison sentence of 16-25 years with 5 years mandatory parole.

Ramirez pleaded guilty to three counts of tampering with deceased human bodies, where he will be sentenced to eight years in the Department of Corrections for each sentence to be served consecutively.

All resolutions reached on Monday were entered after Adre Baroz's plea of not guilty by reason of insanity (NRGI) was withdrawn. On April 29, 2022, Baroz had entered the NRGI plea, which began a protracted period of 22 months where two psychological evaluations — the second one requested by the defense — led to a series of continuance after

continuance due to delays in getting the evaluations completed.

Finally, several months ago, Judge Gonzales stated that "enough was enough" and the case needed to proceed in a timely manner. In fact, today's proceeding was slated as a hearing, based on the assumption that the results of the second evaluation had been completed and in possession of both defense and the prosecution.

When Judge Gonzales entered the courtroom, counsel requested to meet in chambers and Gonzales said, "the case was headed in a different direction."

As Gonzales read each plea deal, he asked Johnson if the victims — in this case, members of the families of the five people Baroz murdered — had any objections to the agreements that had been reached. Although there was mention of some opposition to Julius Baroz pleading guilty to conspiracy with other charges dismissed, Johnson said that, with the sentence enhancer that increased Julius Baroz's sentence, the family was satisfied.

This case originally garnered national attention when, in late November of 2020, the deceased remains of human beings were found in two separate burn pits in the small town of Los Sauces in Conejos County. At that time, Adre Baroz was

identified as a suspect as the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, along with local law enforcement from Conejos, Alamosa and Rio Grande Counties and agencies in New Mexico, began a manhunt.

On Nov. 19, 2020, Baroz, who already had several outstanding warrants in Alamosa for failure to appear on a drug related charge, was taken into custody in Gallup, N.M.

Back in the Valley, investigators immediately began interviewing people associated with Baroz and soon built a case that led to his initial charge in the murder of Selena Esquibel.

Sentencing for Julius Baroz and Francisco Ramirez is scheduled for May 3, at which time victims — should they so choose — may address the court directly as well as individuals who may choose to speak on behalf of any of the defendants.

"These pleas represent a tremendous victory for justice in the Valley," wrote District Attorney Anne Kelly in an email to the Valley Courier. "I am thrilled that we can deliver a result for the families of these victims that may help them move through their nightmare. I cannot express enough how appreciative our community is for the tireless and fearless work of our law enforcement team in achieving this result."

FRIENDS

Continued from Page 1A

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.

MAYOR

Continued from Page 1A

Dentler also said couple of town clean up days were in the works. He added that he would like to talk with the town trustees to organize projects that were low cost but could help the community in other areas.

"I am excited to hear from the trustees about this, to see what they have come up with, and what ideas they have about this," he said.

Dentler also spoke about Hooper's three major annual events.

"We have our Hooper Picnic on June 29, from 1 to 4 p.m. The trustees and I do this for the community, with lunch for everybody in the community. We also do face painting and other fun things too. So, we are excited about that."

Dentler said Hooper Fest is set for Oct. 5 from 1 to 5 p.m.

"This is our fall festival. We have vendors that come out and sell merchandise. We also have taco trucks that come out. That's always a fun time for everyone," he said.

To wrap up the year, Hooper has a holiday party.

"This year it will be Dec. 7, at 6 p.m. We always try to give back to the community right before the holiday season. We are excited about that too," he said.

Dentler said his vision for 2024 is community.

"Having each other's backs in the community and looking out for one another is really important to me," he said. "What happens is, we don't know our neighbors, or our neighbors' neighbors. We also don't talk, even though we live so closely together. So, having that camaraderie again, and having people talk and get out of their houses and hang out together again. This is something that I really want to draw towards in the community. This is one of the reasons that I ran for mayor, with such a small community I really thought we could make a difference and have an impact on the community, you know."



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Spring is right around the corner

By HIGH VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

DEL NORTE — February is almost over!

As we roll into March, we are gearing up for another incredible month of fun and learning experiences. Spring Break is right around the corner, so we will be stuffing as much fun into these next couple of weeks as we can!

Soccer season is upon us! Registration is now closed, but practices will begin mid-March. Games will be every Saturday, beginning April 6 and ending May 11. All our games will be at Chapman Park in Monte Vista this

year. We would love to see you cheering us on at our games!

Last week, all the kiddos bundled up and made the trek to Creede for a Snow Day! We played at the hockey ponds and explored the Creede Mining Museum. We are so thankful for the volunteers at the museum who educated our kiddos.

We are looking forward to the week ahead of us and getting to spend more time with the youth of our community. If you are interested in volunteering with HVCC to hang out with our kiddos, please stop by and talk to us!

Have a great week!

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

CONTRIBUTED

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.



File photos

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

Continued from Page 1A

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 mvcranefest.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 mvcranefest.org.

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Lifestyles

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

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SFFR extrication training

In February, members of South Fork Fire Rescue participated in extrication training at the station. Thanks to the donation of three vehicles, members were able to split into small groups and go through hands-on medical scenarios, patient triage and using tools to extricate patients. Following the regular training, members utilized the extrication tools for a team building game in the station to get the ball through the maze to the finish line.

Photos courtesy of South Fork Fire Rescue



Photo courtesy of Wayne D. Lewis/CPW

Mule deer buck as sunset.

Application period for Colorado big-game licenses begins March 1

BY COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

DENVER — Hunters hoping to draw a biggame license in Colorado in 2024 are urged to review the changes in license requirements and fees in the 2024 Colorado Big Game brochure prior to the March 1 opening of the primary draw application period (March 1-April 2).

CPW encourages hunters to submit their applications early to avoid complications or delays. Get prepared ahead of time so that if problems do

arise, CPW staff members have ample time to assist you. Visit our hunting statistics web page for information from previous draws to help maximize your draw potential.

Important information for hunters to take note of this season includes

Nonresident license allocation modified

Big-game license allocation for bear, deer, elk and pronghorn has been modified from 65% for residents and 35% for nonresidents to 75% for

Please see CPW on Page 7

Great Sand Dunes seeks artist to lead workshop Oct. 5

CONTRIBUTED

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Great Sand Dunes is accepting artist proposals to lead a public program or workshop in their chosen medium (painting, photography, sculpture, music, dance, writing, etc.) on Saturday, Oct. 5.

This is an opportunity for an artist to gain exposure for their work and share their work with participants in a free workshop or program.

The selected artist may also be able to exhibit one or two pieces of their work or conduct a performance at the visitor center in a future year.

The artist will be reimbursed for lodging and round-trip mileage. The workshop and information about the artist's work will also be featured in a press release and the park's social media and website.

To apply, write a summary of your proposed workshop or program (one page or less), along with samples of your work in the form of digital images or a website link to patrick_myers@nps.gov Applications must be received by March 31.

Learn more about artists at Great Sand Dunes at www.nps.gov/grsa/getinvolved/artist-opportunities.htm.

In this 2023 NPS photo, artist Nancy Arbuthnot leads participants in sketching the dunes and mountains in preparation for making their own handmade haiku/watercolor book.

Photo courtesy of NPS



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Is your Lawn and Garden Equipment up to the Challenge of another year of use? If not, come see us for repairs while lead times are short. Current lead time is 1 week. We also sell New and Used Equipment.

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4521 E. County Rd. 12 S.
La Jara

Let's get back to our normal routine

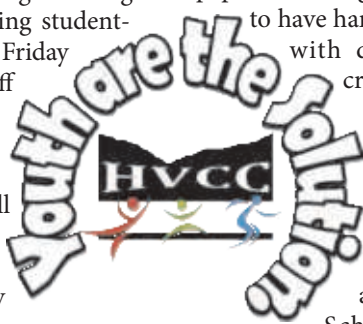
By HIGH VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

DEL NORTE — Last week was a little different than usual with Del Norte School going sledding on Wednesday, holding student-led conferences on Friday and taking a day off on Monday.

The kids were incredibly excited to have a week full of fun and no school, but we think everybody might be ready for consistency in their schedule again.

High Valley Community Center has lots of fun planned for our little friends! We have a snow day in Creede on Friday, Feb. 23. Make sure to send your kiddo with lots of warm clothing so they can stay nice and toasty.

This past week, we learned a



lot about art and how to create our own masterpieces! From a reproduction of the Choir of Angels to creating origami frogs out of paper and racing them, the kids got to have hands-on experience with developing their creativity.

Don't forget that we offer tutoring to grades 7-12 every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday! We are at Del Norte High School on Tuesday and Wednesday from 4-5 p.m. and HVCC on Friday from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Snacks provided!

We would love to see you at HVCC! If you have any questions about what we do or are interested in volunteering, please stop by and say hi.

Have a great week!

SdCNHA 2024 youth programs applications now open

SdCNHA is recruiting SLV youth for annual programs

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (SdCNHA) is now accepting applications from students throughout the San Luis Valley to participate in its two annual youth programs, the Heritage Camp and the Caminos del Valle Youth Walking Tours.

Both are free programs used to educate local San Luis Valley youth on the history, heritage, culture, and traditions of the Heritage Area, which encompasses Alamosa, Conejos, and Costilla counties.

The Heritage Camp is a week-long program held every first week of June for middle and high school aged students to visit historic and heritage sites within the three counties. Students

are provided with meals, transportation around the southern half of the Valley, and interpretation by local historians and educators at each site they visit.

The Youth Walking Tours is a program for high school students. Students research three sites around the Heritage Area and then lead a supervised walking tour of the site for the general public. Students earn a stipend for their work, and are provided with a public speaking course, a CPR and First Aid course, and a self-defense course.

All students interested in learning more about local history and heritage, or future careers in historical or environmental preservation are encouraged to apply. SdCNHA will be accepting applications for the Youth Walking Tours from Feb. 1 until March 1. Heritage Camp applications will be accepted from Feb. 1 until May 15. Applications for both programs are available on SdCNHA's website: sangreheritage.org/education.

Rio Grande Hospital earns Top 100 Critical Access Hospital Award

CONTRIBUTED

DEL NORTE — Rio Grande Hospital (RGH) in Del Norte recently announced it has been recognized as a 2024 Top 100 Critical Access Hospital by The Chartis Center for Rural Health. Chartis' annual Top 100 award program recognizes outstanding performance among the nation's rural hospitals based on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX.

Arlene Harms, RGH CEO said, "We are pleased to be recognized again. I believe it speaks to our commitment to providing quality care to our communities with consistency and compassion. Rio Grande Hospital has a great team that I'm very proud of."

Now in its 14th year, the INDEX is the industry's most comprehensive and objective assessment of rural hospital performance. Featuring

a methodology utilizing publicly available data, the INDEX is leveraged nationwide by rural hospitals, health systems with rural affiliates, hospital associations, and state offices of rural health to measure and monitor performance across a variety of areas impacting hospital operations and finance.

"During an era of profound uncertainty for rural healthcare, the Top 100 rural hospitals continue to provide a unique lens through which we can identify innovation and inspiration for how to deliver high quality care to increasingly vulnerable



populations," said Michael Topchik, National Leader, The Chartis Center for Rural Health. "We're delighted to be able to recognize all this year's Top 100 but especially the more than 40 first-time recipients across both categories. It's wonderful to see so many new facilities join the ranks of our Top 100 alumni."

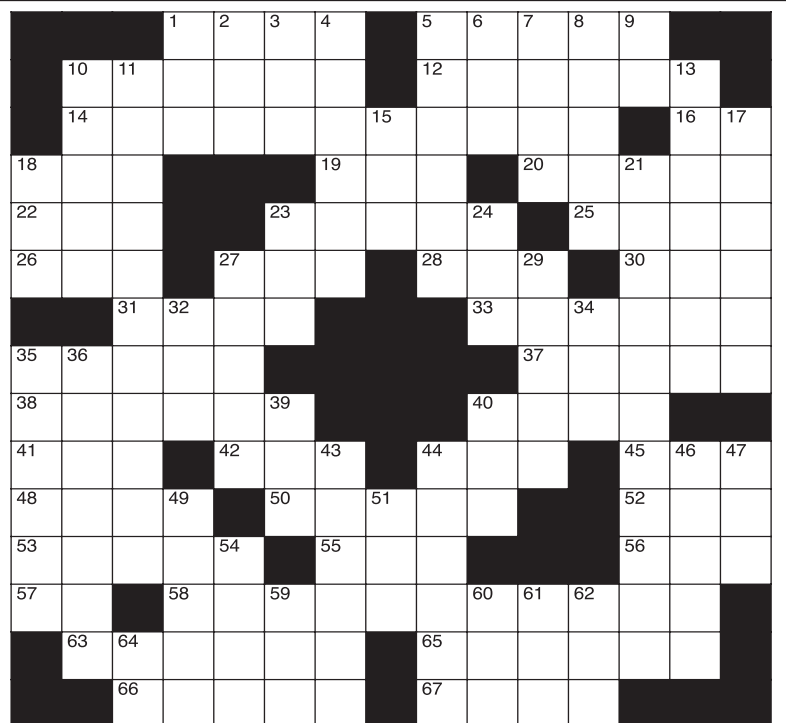
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Flat tableland with steep edges
5. Byproduct of fire
10. Talked
12. Unique skill
14. Unembarrassed
16. Where teenagers go
18. Boxing's GOAT
19. Used to anoint
20. Reproductive structure found in rust fungi
22. Auburn great Newton
23. Some are for Christmas
25. Dried, split pulses
26. Self
27. Where to get your mail
28. High schoolers' test
30. Flightless bird
31. Expectorated
33. Practice of misrepresenting the truth
35. Type of patch
37. French river
38. Told on
40. Hillside
41. Peyton's little brother
42. Soviet Socialist Republic
44. Progressive country musician
45. Witness
48. Brews
50. Yellowish-brown
52. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
53. Mexican agave
55. Type of "cast"



56. Popular breakfast food
57. Atomic #52
58. Position north or south of the equator
63. Gadget
65. Another recording
66. Irregular bulges in cell membranes
67. Dark brown

CLUES DOWN

1. Licensed for Wall Street
2. Partner to flow
3. A very large body of water
4. Accumulate on the surface of
5. Central cores of stems
6. Angry
7. Spanish stew: ___ podrida
8. Fastened with a pin
9. On your way: ___ route
10. Soviet labor camp system
11. Enmities
13. B complex vitamin
15. Go quickly
17. Toast

18. A team's best pitcher
21. Philly culinary specialty
23. Small child
24. Unhappy
27. Trims away
29. Full of tears
32. Touch softly
34. Former OSS
35. A person's chest
36. Came from behind
39. Fall back
40. Nellie ___, journalist
43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
44. Weather
46. Sports broadcaster Ian
47. Electroencephalograph
49. Phenyl salicylate
51. Web of Things
54. Ship goods as cargo
59. The bill in a restaurant
60. Young female
61. OJ trial judge
62. One's grandmother
64. West Siberian river

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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— haydenb442

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- | | | |
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05 Notices

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

07 Help Wanted

Elementary Behavior Interventionist / School Assessment Coordinator / Response to Intervention Coordinator needed at Del Norte Elementary School for the 2024-2025 school year. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team. Applicants

must have a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Amy Duda, Principal at aduda@urtigers.co or contact Amy at 719-657-4050. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co. (3-27)

Instructional Coach needed at Del Norte Elementary School. Candidate should be proficient in all areas of teaching and learning, with an emphasis on professional practice and the teaching and learning cycle. The coach will be responsible for consulting with and supporting the instructional teaching staff in using resources

that impact student learning. The coach will provide support and professional learning to instructional staff as needed. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to Amy Duda, Principal at aduda@urtigers.co. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co. (3-27)

Del Norte Elementary School Teacher needed at the URGSD. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, vibrant and

FULL-TIME SALES

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

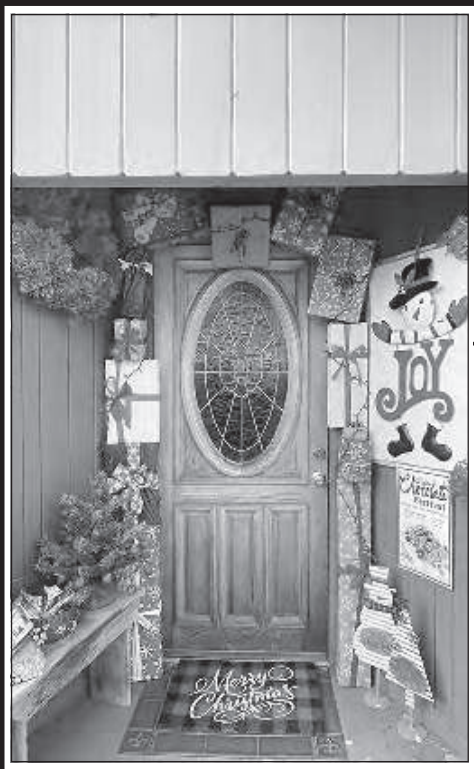
Business Showcase

New shipment of Snoozie slippers has arrived!
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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

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30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



Nestled in the community of Del Norte, this property is a gem. With San Francisco views through the entire residence allowing fishing and recreation itself. Call Bruce Steffens today for a showing appointment.

UNDER CONTRACT

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

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30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



UNDER CONTRACT

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®
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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
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30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado



UNDER CONTRACT

Approx. 246 acres of Rio Grande River front and is zoned for residential. WATER RIGHTS: Lots #28 and #203 out of the 203. RIGHTS: 3 domestic M irrigation well 3095 sq. ft. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms with lg. kitchen and 1 car garage. The guest house is 1486 sq. ft. with a 2 car garage and there's a 2000 sq. ft. pool 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.

\$2,200,000 | MLS# 810790
19198 County Rd. 15 Del Norte, CO

BRUCE STEFFENS
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30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado

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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

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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

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30635 W. US HWY 160, South Fork, Colorado

Valley Wide Classifieds

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)

Del Norte Jr/Sr High School is looking for an energetic and experienced candidate to serve as the district's Strength and Conditioning Coach. This position will assume the responsibility and obligation of establishing and maintaining a strength and conditioning program for all sports. Additional responsibilities include teaching junior high school physical education and high school physical education/weight training courses. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree and either possess or be able to obtain the appropriate Colorado teaching license. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, DNHS Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Mrs. Hardy at 719-657-4020. Applications

can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.urtigers.co.org (2-28)

Cafeteria Staff needed at Upper Rio Grande School District. Must have a high school diploma and some knowledge of working in a kitchen or a willingness to be trained. Pay is dependent on prior experience. Please contact Leslie Martinez at 719-657-4040, x1100 or email her at lmartinez@urtigers.co. (2-28)

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

Lump Coal and Anthracite Hard Coal available. Supplement your wood heating with "lump coal". Burns more consistently & lasts longer so you can do more of what you want & less time carrying wood. 719-849-8261 (3-1)

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

For sale Cherokee men's boots, size 12, hiking-working, leather upper. Almost like new. \$50. 719-256-4058. (3-6)

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



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




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



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



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Valley Auction Services

PUBLIC AUCTION

March 2nd, 2024

Saturday 9:30 am

Location: 8037 South County Rd 2E, Monte Vista CO. Watch for signs.

Auctioneer's Note: Items on this auction are in good condition. Mike had many hobbies and interests the items on this auction are the tools, equipment and items needed to pursue those interests. Check our FB page for more pictures.

Equipment & Misc.		Shop Equipment
2 HD cement mixers Davis Backhoe 3pt hook-up Miller portable Welder on trlr 7 sets metal Scaffolding w/alum. deck boards "nice" 20' fiberglass ext. Ladder 10' fiberglass step Ladder 100 sq ft (aprx) Pine T&G Paneling Scrap Iron		Delta Drill Press Oxy Acetylene Torch Millermatic 35 wire feed Welder Lincoln 225 amp Welder Milwaukee handheld band saw Several handheld Grinders Metal welding table Assortment of handtools Craftsman 3 ton floor jack Craftsman shop vac 2 elec. Air compressors Die Hard Battery charger Sev sets Jack Stands Craftsman ATV jack
Trailers & Camper 16' Pace American enclosed trlr 20' Spirit enclosed car trlr 5'X12' Dump trlr 16' Car trlr w/winch 1998 Lance overhead PU camper "nice"		
Sporting Goods Gary Fisher bicycle Cannondale bicycle Weight bench w/weights Sev sets golf clubs Softball equip. Tents	Lawn & Garden Ingersoll riding mower Husqvana chain saw Poulan limb saw/ hedge trimmer Stihl weed eater Snow plow for PU Craftsman push lawnmower	
Household 2 Antique Dressers Armoire Metal patio set Desks Queen bedroom set		

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CPW Continued from Page 1

Residents and 25% for nonresidents for most hunt codes. High-demand hunt codes remain at 80% for residents and 20% for nonresidents.

Mandatory testing for chronic wasting disease

In 2024, CPW will require mandatory submission of CWD test samples (heads) from all deer harvested during rifle seasons from specific hunt codes. Not all hunt codes in a unit were selected for mandatory CWD testing. Hunters that harvest a deer in the specified hunt codes will be required to submit their deer head to a CPW submission site for testing. There will be no charge for mandatory testing. Get more information about where and how to submit a CWD sample at cpw.info/cwd.

If a hunter is not selected for mandatory testing but wants to know whether their harvested deer or elk has CWD, they can submit their animal's head and pay a testing fee of \$25. In 2024, testing fees for voluntary submissions will be waived for all moose statewide and all deer from hunt codes that were not selected for mandatory testing but are within the same GMUs that were selected for mandatory testing. Voluntary submissions are accepted annually statewide.

Gray wolves and coyotes: how to spot the differences

Be aware that gray wolves are now another one of the more than 960 wildlife species on the landscape in some areas of Colorado. CPW reintroduced 10 wolves to Colorado in December 2023 as part of the implementation of the Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan. Coyotes and gray wolves can look similar from a distance, so CPW created a handout to help you spot the differences.

Remember that the gray wolf in Colorado is protected by the federal Endangered Species Act and state law. Penalties for illegally killing a gray wolf can vary and can include fines up to \$100,000, jail time and loss of hunting privileges.

Northwest Severe Winter Zone

Effects of the severe winter of 2022-2023 are still being felt by wildlife. In response, CPW has implemented several changes for this hunting season. See the digital big game brochure and the CPW fact sheet for details.

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- Rifle antlered licenses became limited in GMUs 3, 301, 4, 441, 5, 14, 214 and 11, 211, 12, 13, 131, 231, 23, 24.

- New hunt codes, EM003O2R, EM003O3R, EM011O2R and EM011O3R were created to allow for limited antlered rifle licenses for the 2nd and 3rd seasons for the 2024 and 2025 hunting seasons.

Bear's Ears (E-02)

- Either-sex hunt codes in GMUs 3, 301, 4, 441, 5, 14, 214 were changed to antlered only: EM003O1R, EM003O4R, EM004O4R,

EM005O4R.

Ranching for Wildlife - Bear's Ears (E-02) and White River (E-06)

- An antler point restriction will be instituted for all antlered elk taken on Ranching For Wildlife properties located in the Bear's Ears (E-02) and White River (E-06) elk herds for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 hunting seasons.

Pronghorn (PH-09)

- The severity of the 2022-23 winter had significant impacts on the pronghorn population in DAUPH-09 (GMUs 3, 301, 4, 441, 5, 13, 14, and

214). Doe pronghorn hunting for all methods of take in this area will be closed for the 2024-2025 season.

Plan your hunt

If you have questions about setting up accounts, planning hunts or applying for licenses, call center agents and hunt planners are available Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at 303-297-1192. Hunting resources are available at cpw.state.co.us/bg.

Be sure to read the "What's New" pages in the big game brochure and the sheep and goat brochure to get a full list of game management unit

specific changes for 2024.

"The Colorado Big Game brochure is a must-have resource for planning a hunt and it's available at all CPW office locations and online," said CPW License, Reservations & Customer Operations Manager Danielle Isenhart. "We encourage all hunters to apply early and check their online accounts to ensure their contact information and credit card information is up to date. Hunters will receive email updates on their draw results and the status of their payments."

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2024: Creede Repertory Theatre looks to 'season of discovery'

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

CREEDE — Each year is a unique and inventive season for the Creede Repertory Theatre and this year, the organization is looking to rediscover what CRT is, what it means to the community and what it can be for anyone who has not discovered the theatrical company that sits above 8,000 feet of elevation.

Interim Artistic Director Kate Berry recently spoke with the Mineral County Miner about what the coming 59th season at CRT will look like and what the theatre is hoping to share with theatregoers from all over the world.

"We are excited about the coming season. It will be a season of discovery, rediscovery and every play has that element of discovery. We are celebrating 50 years of Christy Brandt who has been an integral part of CRT, and we are really happy to celebrate her," said Berry.

To kick the 59th season at CRT off, the first production comes to the stage through a playful and innovative take on a classic character. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is exactly what is great about CRT. Directed by Christy Montour Larson, this play is sure to captivate audiences and add that mysterious flare that CRT has become known for. This play opens May 25 and runs through Sept. 14.

"Mystery and mayhem... From the award-winning mastermind of mayhem, Ken Ludwig ("Sherwood"; "Dear Jack, Dear Louise"), comes a fast-paced comedy about everyone's favorite detective solving his most notorious case. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson must crack the mystery of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" before a family curse dooms its newest heir. Watch as five actors deftly portray more than 40 characters. Does a wild hellhound prowl the moors of Devonshire? Can our heroes discover the truth in time? Get your deerstalker cap on — the play's afoot!"

Next up is another well-known production that is sure to bring tears of laughter to anyone who sees it. Beginning on June 8 and running through Aug. 31 Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein" hits the stage ready to make audiences laugh all summer long.

Directed by Amanda Berg Wilson with music and lyrics by Brooks and based on the book by Brooks and Thomas Meehan, "A monstrously hilarious musical... The grandson of the

infamous Victor Frankenstein, Frederick Frankenstein (pronounced 'Fronken-steen') inherits his family's estate in Transylvania. With the help of his sidekick, Igor (pronounced 'Eye-gore'), and sultry lab assistant, Inga, Frederick finds himself in the mad scientist shoes of his ancestors. Eventually, of course, the monster escapes and hilarity continuously abounds. Young Frankenstein has all of the panache of the classic film from Gene Wilder and Mel Brooks with a dose of theatrical flair, so you'll be 'Puttin' on the Ritz' and having a monstrously good time!"

The fun doesn't stop there. Opening on June 28 and running through Sept. 8, this classic play offers the perfect setting for some intricate costume designs. Set in the Victorian Era, Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" will capture the creative essence of CRT and show off the artistic talent that comes to the stage every year.

Directed by Berry and starring Brandt and Annie Butler, this production will bring audiences through time. "A classic comedy of manners... The most renowned of Oscar Wilde's comedies tells the story of two bachelors, John 'Jack' Worthing and Algernon 'Algy' Moncrieff, who create alter egos named Ernest to escape their tiresome lives. They attempt to win the hearts of Gwendolyn and Cecily, two women who, conveniently, claim to only love men called Ernest. The pair become tangled in a tale of deception, disguise, and misadventure. This classic comedy of manners pokes fun at Victorian sensibilities with some of the best loved characters to be found on the modern stage. Our production features Christy Brandt as Lady Bracknell and Annie Butler as Miss Prism."

Finally, the season rounds out with a play set in the San Luis Valley. "Prima's Guide to Funerals" by Leonard Madrid will run from July 12 through Sept. 14. This play is directed by Yesenia Garcia Herrington, and this will be the play's world premiere set in the San Luis Valley. The production will also be hitting the road and will be performed at the San Luis Valley Federal Bank Theatre at Adams State University for three performances in September.

"A comedy in one funeral... Three cousins (primas), an urn, and one really long day. It's the day of her mother's funeral and Arcie is losing her grip. But her cousins Nando and Clara are having none of it. A fast-paced and hilarious

world premiere set along the waters of the Rio Grande in the San Luis Valley of Southern Colorado, 'Prima's Guide to Funerals' tells the story of family, laughter, grief, love, and finding yourself alongside the ones who know you the best: your primas."

More details about the Creede Musical Arts Collective, the annual KiD Show production and the Young Audience Outreach Tour will be announced soon.

The Creede Repertory Theatre is ready to kick off its 59th season with a season packed with discovery.

Courtesy photo



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