



# THE CONEJOS COUNTY CITIZEN

Volume 135, Number 26

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

75¢

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Cash prizes for top floats at Stampede parades

**MONTE VISTA** – The top floats in the 2024 Ski-Hi Stampede parades will receive cash prizes. The Ski-Hi Stampede parades will be on July 12 and 13 in downtown Monte Vista. The theme for this year's parade is "Heroes Among Us."

Absolute Shine donated \$1,500 that will go to the first-place float; SLV Auto Repair donated \$1,000 that will go to the second-place float; and Pepper Equipment donated \$500 that will go to the third-place float.

Registration forms can be picked up at Finer Blessings, 730 1st Ave., Monte Vista. The Ski-Hi Stampede Committee is organizing the parades. The 102nd annual Ski-Hi Stampede kicks off with a concert on July 11, featuring Wynonna, followed by three days of PRCA action on July 12, 13 and 14. For more information, visit online [www.skihistampede.com](http://www.skihistampede.com).

### Glory Days offering prize money for parade floats

**LA JARA** – The 2024 La Jara Glory Days celebration will take place on Saturday, July 27.

Most years, the town strives to add a few more attractions to bring the community together to celebrate life in the little town.

This year, the town received a substantial donation from a generous benefactor, who has requested that they use the funds specifically to enhance and improve the parade.

To that end, the town would like to invite all business friends, community organizations, clubs, and anyone one else who may be interested, to ignite their float building creativity. They will have three categories: 1. Floats; 2. Marching Bands/Drill/Dance Teams; and 3. Clubs, organizations, saddle clubs, 4-H, Scout troops

The top three winners in each category will receive cash prizes (first place will receive \$1,000, second place will receive \$500, and third place will receive \$250). Winners will be selected by a panel of judges.

For more information, contact Town Manager Larry Zaragoza at 719-274-0553 or 719-992-4073.

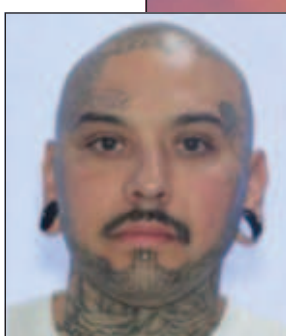
## 14-hour search for shooting suspect ends with citizen tip

*Henry Corral, accused of fatally shooting one, injuring two*

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

**ALAMOSA** — The 14-hour search for Henry Corral, wanted for the alleged fatal shooting of one man and critical injuring of two others, concluded on Sunday evening when Corral was taken into custody at 6:45 p.m. by law enforcement.

*Please see SUSPECT on Page 2A*



Henry Corral

Courtesy photos

Firefighter extinguishes the Chevrolet Avalanche Corral reportedly set on fire.



## RiGHT - conserving land, water, and way of life for 25 years

By KYLER BROWN

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — Twenty-five years ago, a group of concerned folks decided to protect all the things we hold dear about the San Luis Valley.

Under the threat of the latest water exportation schemes, land grabs, and a shifting environment, some of the founders, such as Cathy McNeil, Chris Canaly, Karen Hendenderson, Susan Pierce, Pete Magee, and Mike Wisdom decided to create the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, or

*Please see RiGHT on Page 2A*

## Centennial School District thanks former superintendent for guidance

CONTRIBUTED

**SAN LUIS** — The mission at the Centennial School District is to provide the best education for all students utilizing a variety of research-based curricula and cultural resources; effective communication among parents, community and staff; and collaboration to create a safe learning environment to provide opportunities to our students for success in a global society.

That said, Centennial's previous board members would like to acknowledge Superintendent Toby Melster for a job well done. The 2023-24 school year was his last for the school district.

*Please see MELSTER on Page 6A*



Courtesy photo

Centennial School District's previous board members present a plaque and plant to Superintendent Toby Melster. The 2023-24 school year was Melster's last for the district. Pictured left to right Centennial School District former board members, Lucas Casias, Carlos DeLeon, former Superintendent Melster, and previous board members Lori Espinoza, Christopher Rodriguez and Joseph Arellano. These previous board members hired Melster.

## Stillhouse Junkies to perform in Cole Park June 30



CONTRIBUTED

**ALAMOSA** — The Alamosa Live Music Association is again providing free live music in Cole Park all summer long, with its Sundays at Six concert series. Sundays at Six 2024 will kick off on June 30 with Stillhouse Junkies, who will enliven the park with their rousing bluegrass tunes.

Check them out at <https://stillhousejunkies.com/>, then head on over to Cole Park at 6 p.m. and enjoy some

quality live music right here in Alamosa. Grab your dinner and dessert from Tacos Martinez and Frosty Acres Rolled Ice Cream, whose food trucks will be on site selling their delicious offerings at each concert this summer.

And please bring a non-perishable item for the food drive to benefit the Alamosa Food Pantry. Can't make it to the concert? Catch the show livestreaming on ALMA's Facebook

*Please see JUNKIES on Page 7A*

Stillhouse Junkies will kick off the Alamosa Live Music Association's Sundays at Six on June 30 with a concert at Cole Park in Alamosa.

Photo by Renee Cornue Studio

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# RiGHT

Continued from Page 1A

RiGHT. It was this wisdom that led to protecting local lands with a local land trust.

Through the years of hard work and determination, 57 easements, 32,000 acres, and miles of river have been conserved. Pete and Leah Clark were the first easement RiGHT successfully conserved. Pete became a longtime, passionate board member to help other landowners steward their easements through the steep learning curve he and the land trust experienced.

Protecting values important to keeping the “richness of the Valley” was what RiGHT was created to do, remembers Angie Krall, past president, and board member. There are a multitude of values that are worth protecting. From wildlife migration corridors to surface irrigation rights, the ways conservation benefits private landowners, and the public are numerous. Davie Colville, an easement holder with

RiGHT, notes that “conservation easements are a way to protect the open space, the landscape, a way of life and a place for future generations to enjoy!”

Many staff, executive directors, board members, donors, and volunteers have spent countless hours of effort to capture this beauty for future generations. Guy Keene, current RiGHT board president, said “RiGHT has, from day one, conserved agricultural lands with the goal to keep them as viable working lands through the use of conservation easements. RiGHT added the twist of forever tying the water rights associated with those lands to the easements so they can never be separated.”

Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust has provided a long-term foundation for the conservation of open spaces, working lands, wildlife habitat, and places for the future generations to enjoy.

Long time board member Doug Clark says it best, “Conservation easements provide for farming/ranching and wildlife for many, many generations into the future. To be a part of such a large space-time effort makes this all worth living for and exciting!”

We are proud of all the success RiGHT has had over these last 25 years, but this is only the beginning. The next time you see an elk munching along a ditch bank or hear on to the kids along the Conejos or smell sweet clover along the Rio Grande... think of all the things that conservation has done to keep the valley a magical place. RiGHT feels so privileged to be a part of it!

Please join us to celebrate our 25th anniversary on the Scott Ranch east of South Fork, on June 28, for food, fun and music by The Riffers. For more information, visit online [www.rightslv.org](http://www.rightslv.org).

# Alamosa Kiwanis Club has flipped flapjacks for 50 years

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The 4th of July in Alamosa begins with the iconic Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast. The all-you-can-eat tradition celebrates 50 years in 2024.

The event begins at 7 a.m. and continues until 10 a.m. in the Alamosa San Luis Valley Federal Bank parking lot. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, ham, orange juice and coffee are served up by Alamosa Kiwanis members, the Adams State University football team and other volunteers on Independence Day.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children aged 5-12; free to children aged 4 and under. Purchase tickets at the breakfast or in advance at the Alamosa State Bank or the First Southwest Bank.

Alamosa Kiwanis appreciates the many sponsors of the annual pancake breakfast.

Alamosa Kiwanis is a member of Kiwanis International with a mission dedicated to improving the world,



Courtesy photo

**The 50th Annual Alamosa Kiwanis 4th of July Pancake Breakfast begins at 7 a.m. in the San Luis Valley Federal Bank parking lot. Pictured, members Liz Hensley and Andy Rice keep the griddle hot during the 2022 event.**

one child and one community at a time. Proceeds from the Alamosa Kiwanis breakfast benefit the children of the Alamosa community. For more information about the club, email [alamosakiwanisclub@gmail.com](mailto:alamosakiwanisclub@gmail.com).

# SUSPECT

Continued from Page 1A

According to a statement from the City of Alamosa, “an alert citizen,” contacted law enforcement saying they had seen someone who matched Corral’s description, leading to his capture and arrest.

Corral is facing charges of suspicion of murder in the first degree, two counts of criminal attempt first degree murder, tampering with physical evidence, possession of a weapon by a previous offender and criminal attempt of aggravated robbery.

What caused the altercation between the four men, or the nature of their association is still under investigation. Joe Dzuris, Alamosa County coroner, has identified the man who died of his wounds as Aurelio Piña, 61. Piña was transported to a local emergency room where, Dzuris says, he was pronounced deceased.

The identities of the two other men have not been released, but the Alamosa Police Department confirms that both sustained critical injuries and were transported to the Front Range where they continue to be in serious to critical condition.

Shortly after 2 a.m. on Sunday morning, officers were dispatched to the Sunset Inn, 1310 W. 8th St., on a report of shots fired. When they arrived on scene, they found three victims who had been shot, one of whom died of his wounds.

Corral fled the scene in a Chevrolet Avalanche, heading south-southwest out of Alamosa to the area of County Road 106 and the 12 South where he crashed the vehicle. Officials state Corral then set the Avalanche on fire and attempted, unsuccessfully, to carjack another vehicle before fleeing on foot – barefoot, it appears, as his shoes were found at the scene of the burning vehicle.

Law enforcement officers from APD and the Alamosa County Sheriff’s Office were immediately on the scene with authorities focused on the area around CR 106 and the 12 South, which is largely undeveloped and sparsely populated with ranches, outbuildings and significant space in between. Multiple calls went out for assistance from other agencies.

Residents of Alamosa County became aware of the situation at 4:50 a.m. when a “Reverse911” call advised people to stay inside and lock their doors.

Beginning in the early morning and throughout the day, law enforcement did a laborious house-by-house search throughout the area, “primarily for the safety of the residents,” APD

Police Chief George Dingfelder said at the time, “with the priority to get Corral into custody as soon as possible.”

There were also aircraft with thermal imaging capabilities, he said, and the Chaffee County SWAT with drones also equipped with it.

Mid-afternoon on Sunday, when the Valley Courier reached out to Dingfelder for an update, he said the search area had been expanded from 10 South to 15 South and further west into Rio Grande and Conejos counties, not because of any information but “given how long it’s been, that’s how far he could have traveled.”

Dingfelder also said that the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force and agents with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, described as “the best of the best,” had arrived on the scene.

And then, at 6:20 p.m., law enforcement got a break when a citizen reported seeing someone who matched Corral’s description north of CR 10S and east of CR 106, outside of the area where law enforcement was searching.

“A lengthy foot pursuit with law enforcement officers from APD SWAT, Alamosa County Sheriff’s Office, Adams State University Police, US Marshals and CBI Fugitive Task Force officers led to Corral being taken into custody without further incident.”

Corral was transported to San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center for



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

**The parking lot of the Sunset Inn was back to normal by Sunday afternoon with no sign of that morning’s events.**

injuries resulting from the crash of the Chevrolet Avalanche and then transferred to a Front Range hospital for treatment. APD officers accompanied Corral to the hospital and upon his release, transported him to the Alamosa County Detention Center.

Corral is known to local law enforcement, as confirmed by ACSO Division Chief Ken Anderson who said Corral was arrested for domestic violence on Trinchera Road just two weeks before.

Dingfelder also described Corral as having an “extensive criminal history across the state of Colorado,” but provided no details.

“The capture of Corral,” Dingfelder said in a statement, “involved the majority of agencies from across the San Luis Valley, including Alamosa Police Department, Alamosa Fire Department, Monte Vista Police Department, Adams State Police Department, Alamosa County Sheriff, Conejos County Sheriff, Chaffee County Sheriff SWAT, Colorado State Patrol, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Bureau of Investigation Fugitive Task Force, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, BLM Rangers, US Forest Service Rangers, and the US Marshals. At the height of

the manhunt, over 80 officers from these agencies were going door to door looking for Corral and searching by ground and air.”

Dingfelder thanked the community for its support, including “Woody’s Q Shack for drinks and water, SLV Health and Alamosa County Commissioners for food, and Alamosa County Shield 10-78 and SLV RETAC for breakfast and lunch for all the first responders who were investigating this horrific crime and searching for the suspect”

As of Monday afternoon, Corral was not yet scheduled for arraignment.

## FULL-TIME SALES

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## 403,356 miles and counting

This past week I helped shuttle some fishermen's rigs and one of the trucks had 403,356 miles on it. Not only was this remarkable vehicle still running, but I also honestly think it ran as good and as quietly as the day it was driven off the showroom floor.

Miss Trixie and I have been shuttling some vehicles for a local fly shop and so Ol' Dutch has found himself getting to compare every make and model of truck and SUV out there over the past few weeks. And it's been a real eye-opening experience, let me tell you.

Ol' Dutch has long been a General Motors products purchaser as I seem to get a whale of a deal any time I trade for a new one. I have, of course, looked at other brands made in the good old USA, but always seem to come back to GM.

Very early in my driving years — shortly after the Model T went into production according to Miss Trixie — a company I worked for had all Dodge trucks. And they were the cheapest ones a person could buy at the time, so my impression of them was not that great. I think it was the daily crawling under the one I drove to plug in the transmission wire that probably soured me like a "pickle my puss" gummy bear. And I really have never liked the body style of any Ford. Like they say, "beauty is in the eye of the beholder" and I just don't feel like beholding a Ford.

So, I've ambled along with my Chevy and GMC trucks all these many long years and they seemed to work out just fine for me with no major hiccups. And like they say, "don't change horses in the middle of the river" so I stuck with what I knew and I "thought" I was satisfied.

That is until this past week. There I was just minding my own business, happily satisfied with my paid off Chevy truck when I was asked to drive a truck that came from far East Asia. I still recall the moment when Miss Trixie drove me up to the truck that needed to be moved downriver. Thinking back, I believe I heard angels' wings. Or something like that.

For there it sat in all its splendor and glory, a brand-new Toyota Tundra truck. I can still recall the awe I felt as I climbed up into the cab and was immediately immersed in first class appointments all around me. This was not the 1988 Toyota pickup that my son drove through high school with the cramped-up leg room, tiny cab and small engine. No-sirree-bob this was a



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

horse of a different color for sure. This Tundra beast drove like a new Caddy and handled extremely well. I was smitten. It reminded me of the first time I saw Miss Trixie to tell you the truth. A mind-bending experience. Or something like that.

Which leads me to the title of this expose "403,356." That exact mileage was found on a 2005 Tundra I drove and while not the expansive cab of the newer ones, it was full size for the day and quite comfy if I might say so myself.

I could not believe my eyes when I glanced down at the odometer and there it was for all to see, almost a half million miles on that truck. And what was most amazing is it drove and ran perfectly and was as quiet as a church mouse on Sunday morning. I know, right? Most vehicles with that age, not to mention high mileage, are starting to show the effects of potholes and there are rattles and noises galore in them. But not this little workhorse. She just ran along like a sewing machine on zigzag.

I parked the aged truck and gave her a pat on the hood as I walked away, a slight tear appearing in my eye. Or not. I sure enjoyed that ride and couple that with the new ones I got to drive, and Ol' Dutch is wanting to trade the old Bowtie for a Yota.

I am praying that temptation stays far from me but so far, it's sitting in my hip pocket as I look online at those Japanese wonders. Say a prayer for me to resist.

*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.*



## An ugly tower threatens Bears Ears National Monument

My Navajo homeland is the great expanse of land between four sacred mountains in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah.

It is our place of origin and Navajo spiritual traditions are rooted here. Even when we were forcibly removed from our homeland by the federal government's Army in the 19th century, our spiritual and cultural connection to these lands has never been extinguished.

Utah Navajos still make use of this historic homeland, which is now known as the 1.35-million-acre Bears Ears National Monument, designated by President Obama in 2016. It is where we practice our ceremonies; gather herbs, firewood and cedar poles; hunt for game; rejuvenate our spirits and caretake our sacred places. Because the monument closely involves us, Navajo and other tribes in the area have been pushing for tribal management.

For many years, the Navajo and other local tribes — Hopi, Uintah, Ouray Ute, Zuni and Ute Mountain Ute — worked together to gain federal protection for this land. But what we gained is now threatened by developments that defile and dishonor the cultural and spiritual significance held by Navajo and other Native peoples.

The most recent example is the plan to build a 460-foot telecommunications tower on a parcel of land owned by a Utah state agency, the Trust Lands Administration. The land that would

house the tower is in the heart of the Bears Ears National Monument.

If erected, this alien-looking tower will be a spear in the heart of the Bears Ears area. I am also saddened to think there will likely be more inappropriate developments on Utah Trust Lands within Bears Ears, now that the state has derailed a proposed land exchange between the Trust Lands Administration and the federal government.

The land exchange would have helped ensure that Navajo homelands are managed to protect our cultural and spiritual traditions. Now these lands — our heritage — face death by a thousand cuts.

The company placing the telecommunications tower has applied for and received a conditional use permit from San Juan County. But the company must also apply for and receive a variance from the county, because any tower higher than 35 feet is prohibited. So far, it has not applied for a variance.

The National Park Service opposes the tower and has submitted comments to both the Utah Trust Lands Administration and San Juan County. The federal agency said the tower would blight the viewshed, diminish the area's dark skies, and harm habitat for several threatened and endangered bird species.

For more than a century my people have had to fight for our rights. In 1868, when Navajos were finally allowed

to return from forced exile, we were confined to a reservation south of the San Juan River. It was much reduced in size from our original homeland.

The prime lands higher up near the water and lush vegetation of Bears Ears were denied us. Nevertheless, these lands have always been a part of our cultural traditions, despite a documented history of racial injustices levied against Utah Navajos.

At every level, from county to state to the federal government, that history includes violations of voting rights, education and civil rights. All had to be litigated in federal court. Through all of that, Utah Navajos have fought to conserve and protect the public lands we traditionally used.

These lands need to exist as nature intended — to regenerate traditional plants and provide homes to wildlife that in turn sustain Navajo cultural traditions.

The Utah Trust Lands Administration and the federal government have a chance to do the right thing for Bears Ears. I urge the state of Utah and the federal government to restart discussions about a land exchange.

Otherwise, more out-of-place and inharmonious developments such as this 460-foot blinking tower could come to dominate the Bears Ears landscape.

*Mark Maryboy is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He served from 1984 to 2000 as a San Juan County, Utah, commissioner, and from 1990 to 2006, he was a delegate to the Navajo Nation Council.*



by Mark Maryboy

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THE CONEJOS COUNTY **CITIZEN**

THE CONEJOS COUNTY CITIZEN (USPS 308-760) is published weekly (every Wednesday) at 835 First Ave., Monte Vista, CO 81144, by Valley Publishing. Successor to the La Jara Gazette and Antonito News-Ledger as a Colorado statutory publication meeting the requirements of CRS (1973) 24-70 et seq. Official newspaper of the Towns of La Jara and Antonito, and sole legal newspaper published in the County of Conejos. Established June 11, 1892

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# Renovation and resurrection of the historic county courthouse

*‘Historic on the outside, modern on the inside’*

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA— Members of Alamosa’s Chamber of Commerce got an exciting first look on Wednesday at Valley-Wide Health’s plans to renovate and repurpose the historic downtown county courthouse.

Located at 4th Street and San Juan Avenue, the “old courthouse” is less than a block off Alamosa’s Main Street, the main thoroughfare that dissects the Central Business District. But it’s more than location that makes the courthouse a key piece of the downtown landscape.

Built in 1936 as part of the Work Project’s Administration, the building is an impressive structure built using more than 450,000 bricks that were produced at a kiln north of Alamosa using local sand and clay. Built in a U shape overlooking a courtyard, the historic courthouse is an excellent example of the Mission Revival style of architecture.

When the county built a new complex of offices for county services and courts on Independence Way, the courthouse downtown was vacated, and it has been vacant ever since. That is, until 2023 when Valley-Wide Health Systems merged with SE Health Group, and the organization needed much more space to accommodate the increase in staff and services provided to the community.

Wednesday’s presentation was made by Kristina Daniel, Chief Operations Officer of Valley-Wide Health Systems; Joe Aldrich, Director of Facilities; Krista Martinez, Director of Marketing and Services; and Jessica Massie, an architect with RTA Architects, the Colorado Springs-based company who is contracted to develop the design that will guide construction.

RTA Architects is known for working on health care, education and retail projects with special attention paid to community engagement and historic preservation, Massie said.

As she described the project, the courthouse is made up of four buildings, with the fourth – the jail – being



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

The original Alamosa County Courthouse at 4th Street and San Juan Avenue to be renovated to serve as a new facility for Valley-Wide Health Systems, offering ‘excellent support services in a centralized location.’

added in 1938, two years after the building was completed.

The building is on the National Historic Register and the goal is to “keep it on the register,” so the renovation will only include “a light touch” to the exterior of the building.

It occupies a total of 19,000 square feet with its strongest element being the “arcade,” the succession of contiguous archways that run the lengths of the buildings.

As part of the renovation, those archways will be enclosed in glass, preserving the distinctive look of the building’s exteriors while allowing more flexibility for entrances in the interior.

Valley-Wide has a goal of providing integrated care and the three buildings built in a U shape overlooking the courtyard will house Behavioral Health - in one building, Primary Care - in a second building, and Physical Therapy - in the third building. There will be a centralized reception area, supporting, as Daniel described it, the goal of offering “excellent support services in one centralized location.”

Massie also shared an interesting fact that only adds to the historic feel of the project.

In examining the building’s structure, it was discovered that materials

from the railroad were also used in its construction, including at least one railroad tie that serves as a support beam. Woodwork around the tie helps it to aesthetically blend in with surrounding wood.

There is also a time capsule buried on the property that Aldrich, director of facilities, suggested might be excavated long enough to add new items from this age to serve as a reminder of the past when uncovered by future generations.

The project’s overall design includes some best practices when constructing spaces that support overall health. Opportunities for natural light (daylight) to be included in the design support the circadian rhythm, that 24-hour internal clock in the human brain that controls alertness and sleepiness. Different textures are also included

in the design, which contribute to the reduction of stress. And finally, the design includes Safe Spaces for quiet, private conversations or opportunities for solitude and meditation. The thinking, at least for now, is that the design of the courtyard may play a crucial role in creating those types of spaces.

With the development of the design now completed, the “next steps” to completing this extraordinary renovation include submitting the construction documents, targeted for August, and completing the permitting process which will be ongoing from August to November. In October, it is hoped that construction will begin with a completion date projected to be around September of 2025.

In his discussion, Aldrich made it clear that there were about 20

local contractors with the skill to be involved in the project and, while construction is ongoing, the courtyard will be used as the “lay down” for materials, minimizing any obstruction around the property with an emphasis on keeping the sidewalks along 4th Street and San Juan passable as well as the alleys.

While the timing of the purchase of the building may have been fortuitous for Valley-Wide, given how the organization is growing, it may also have been extremely so for the building, itself, which Massie said was “already showing signs of blight.”

Against that backdrop, not to mention a real step in revitalizing downtown Alamosa, the historic courthouse serving as a new facility for Valley-Wide can only be looked at as a win-win for all involved.



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# Jury acquits Thrash of all charges

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — The trial of Robert Thrash, 31, the bondsman charged with second-degree murder and burglary for fatally shooting Phil Lucero in December of 2022, ended this week with Thrash being acquitted on all charges.

On the afternoon of Dec. 8, 2022, Thrash and his friend, 31-year-old David Heinstein, went to the residence of Veronica Lazoya where they had been told Lucero was staying. Lucero had failed to appear in court on drug charges, violating a bond of \$1,000, posted by Thrash who was employed at Always Open Bail Bonds.

As came out in the trial, both Thrash and Heinstein were armed when they entered the residence, with Thrash going in first and Heinstein entering when he heard yelling inside. Upon entering, Heinstein already had his weapon pulled and a struggle ensued between Thrash- who was armed, Lucero - who was not, and Heinstein.

During the struggle, Lucero managed to gain control of Heinstein's gun and shoot Heinstein in the arm. In response, Thrash fired his weapon at Lucero, striking him multiple times. Lucero later died of his injuries.

It was a complicated and rigorous case involving DNA samples, conflicting testimony and multiple witnesses, including Thrash, who took the stand in his own defense.

As also came out in the trial, the state of Colorado provides little guidance or regulation on what is considered to be legal, reasonable or appropriate conduct by bondsmen, many of whom, in the nature of their job, find themselves in volatile situations.

The trial lasted six days, including an entire day devoted to jury selection, with closing arguments made late in the afternoon on Monday. However, instead of excusing the jury with directions to come back the next morning to deliberate the case, District Judge Crista Newmyer-Olsen, who mentioned a full docket, excused the



Courtesy photo

**Robert Thrash was acquitted of all charges by a jury of his peers**

jury to go into deliberation, indicating that she would order dinner for the jurors and seeming to encourage them deliberating into the night.

However, after close to five full days of testimony with some days going past 5 p.m., the jury was unanimous in their acquittal of all charges filed against Thrash after three hours of deliberation.

When asked to comment on the outcome, Riley Selleck, defense counsel for Thrash, said, "This was justice for Robert Thrash. Robert saved the life of David Heinstein and probably his own."

"During this trial, Robert was portrayed as being violent and out-of-control. The district attorney called him 'Rambo.' Nothing could be further from the truth. Robert is a calm and intelligent young man. On the day in question, he did the right and necessary thing."

When asked for comment, 12th Judicial District Attorney Anne Kelly gave the following statement.

"We are obviously disappointed with the outcome. I appreciate the hard work of the Alamosa Police Department in enabling my office to bring this important case to the community. This case highlights the need for clarity from our legislators around regulation of the bondsman industry," she said.

# Three dogs lost in fire

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — A manufactured home in the Town and Country Mobile Home Park on the west edge of town was a total loss Monday morning, taking three family dogs with it.

Devan Haynie, deputy chief with the Alamosa Fire Department (AFD), said the three human occupants of the home at the time of the fire were treated on scene by Alamosa EMS for smoke inhalation but were then released. No firefighters were injured.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, Haynie said.

AFD responded with three trucks and 12 personnel with assistance from Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control with one truck and five personnel. Firefighters were on scene for about two hours.



Courier photo by Keith R. Cerny

**Alamosa Fire Chief Bill Stone checks radio traffic as AFD firefighters battle a blaze on Monday that destroyed a manufactured home on Alamosa's west side, killing three family dogs.**

# Altercation at carnival after hours ends with stabbings

*One person hospitalized with serious injuries*

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — An altercation at Cole Park on Thursday night resulted in three males - a 22-year-old and two 17-year-olds - suffering knife wounds. The wounds were the result of an altercation that occurred shortly after Carnival on the Rio, a 4-day event sponsored by the City of Alamosa, had closed for the night.

As described in a press release sent out by the City of Alamosa on Friday morning, shortly after 10 p.m. on Thursday night, the Alamosa Police Department was notified of a disturbance at Cole Park.

When APD officers arrived on the scene, they found a 22-year-old Alamosa man who had been stabbed. They also found a 17-year-old juvenile with a cut

on his hand.

Officers were later notified by local hospital staff that a second 17-year-old, also with a stab wound, had been transported to the hospital by private vehicle.

A subsequent investigation by detectives and officers determined the teens had a history of disagreement, which led to the initial altercation. During the altercation, one of the teens produced a knife and stabbed the other teen and the 22-year-old man.

It is unknown at this time what the involvement of the 22-year-old man was during this incident. Detectives continue to interview witnesses and suspect(s) and will confer with the 12th Judicial District Attorney's Office on appropriate charges for those involved.

In its press release, the city stated the carnival organizer had hired private security for the event, but this incident took place when the carnival had shut down.

Police and city Parks and Recreation staff met with carnival organizers on Friday morning to ensure adequate and increased security would be present for the remaining three days of the carnival. In addition, APD will increase patrols during the event as calls for service allow.

The 22-year-old man, whose name was not released, sustained serious life-threatening injuries and was listed in stable condition at San Luis Valley Health Regional Medical Center. The two teens, who were not named due to their age, sustained injuries and were treated and released.

This is an isolated incident involving people known to each other and was not a random act of violence. This is also an ongoing investigation, and no further information will be released at this time.

This is the second year in a row that there has been a violent incident at Carnival on the Rio in Cole Park after the carnival had closed down for the night.

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# MELSTER Continued from Page 1A

Melster worked to always make sure that Centennial students and staff were safe and had what they needed.

"We realize that many times parents/staff/students were not satisfied with some of his decisions, but he always kept the district in mind and kept to policy," the board stated.

Melster brought in close to \$8.4 million in grants over his six years of employment with the school district. Which is a yearly average of \$1.3 million. He brought these grants in with some help from others in the district.

### Grants and Services Awarded From 2018-Present

2018-2019

- AIM - XL 79,989. A plan was developed to promote and support student and staffs health and well being

- EARSS \$124,844. Was a grant for Services and Support of at Risk Students

- Computer Science \$1,000. Provided funds for teachers to attend a two-day gathering to learn about computer science and its applications in the classroom for elementary level teachers.

Total \$205,833.

2019-2020

- Computer Science \$5,250

- Make It Happen \$68,444. Allowed continued work on health and well being for staff and students, provided funding for initiatives, programs, and incentives to promote healthy choices and self well being

- SSD/SAFER \$584,041. Security Upgrades

- New Cameras and Operating System

- Card Access for Doors

- Front Entrance Security Vestibule

- LED Lighting

Total \$657,735

2020-2021

- Connecting Colorado Students \$150,000.

- Connecting Colorado Students \$1,500,000. These Funds were obtained to improve and expand connectivity to student's individual households for reliable, consistent, and strong internet connection

As a result of the planned work the infrastructure and overall system of the school was also upgraded with new servers, switches, and such

Total \$1,650,000.

2021-2022

- Connecting Colorado Students \$1,352,249.

- SAFER \$215,376. Equipment and hardware purchased allow-

ing the school to bridge directly with emergency personnel during any type of emergency on school grounds. The equipment included two sets of primary radios located in the main building and shop/bus barn that can be accessed by staff to initiate bridge in an emergency. The grant also included an additional 8 radios that can be distributed throughout the building to different staff for daily use and will also have the capability to work when the bridge is initiated allowing the radios to communicate directly with emergency personnel

Total \$1,567,625.

2022-2023

- BEST \$1,058,697.83 BEST grant was applied and awarded for purchase and installation of a new roof due to inadequacies from the previous roof when the school was built

- DOLA \$1,531,655. Additional funds were awarded for an increase in the solar field array that allows the school to use renewable energy to operate the building without use of Xcel electrical sources, the grant also allowed the school to install a battery backup system that allows the school to operate for a set period of time during an electrical outage

- EASI \$40,000. This grant is being used to develop and implement a five-year strategic plan that focuses on instructional strategies and improving student achievement as well as working on board norms and board governance

Total \$2,630,352.83

2023-2024

- EASI \$40,000.

- COPS School Violence Prevention \$324,693. This grant is being used to increase the number of cameras and card access points in the building adding another level of security, once completed 95% of the buildings doors will be on card access and the number of cameras will be doubled eliminating blind spots and unmonitored areas

- Sangre de Cristo National Heritage \$25,000. Grant awarded to perform studies and inspections of the Garcia School for revitalization, a second grant will be applied for to perform the work which will end in the school being a learning center and building for community gatherings

Total \$389,693.

Miscellaneous

- Archery in the Schools Equipment \$4,234.

- Trinchera - Basketball Uniforms \$8,000.

- Boys & Girls High School

- Trinchera - Wood Shop Equipment \$1,500.

Total \$13,734.

- Trinchera Blanca Foundation Renewable 4 Years at \$20,000 per year.

Total \$80,000.

The district also benefited from a partnership with San Luis Valley Behavioral Health to secure a full-time mental health professional that works in the school and is available to our students. The professional comes at no cost to the district and the salary is paid through San Luis Valley behavioral health. Typically, an entry-level professional will earn approximately \$40,000. The total for the last two years would be an additional \$80,000 and this does not take into consideration benefits such as insurance and retirement.

Also, the district will be in line for an approximate \$1.1 million energy rebate that will come back to the district in the form of actual money. So, not only will the energy savings performance work guarantee a net zero or net positive with energy costs, but the district will also have an additional \$1.1 million for use as they see fit. Melster's idea was to look at using that money or part of it as a match with either DOLA or another entity for teacher housing. With the solar savings on energy costs and the rebate the district will be well positioned to make teacher housing more of a reality.

The Energy savings Performance Contract allows the district to apply for a federal tax refund due to installing renewable energy, the solar array. According to Honeywell the district will be eligible for \$1,116,978.

A new van was purchased for transporting the SPED students to Centauri and Alamosa.

There was also a new tractor purchased by the district with four attachments and a trailer to haul the

tractor and other items if needed.

### Additional Accomplishments

- New curriculum for Science and Math including accompanying materials for teachers

- Budget has remained stable and sustainable

- Increases to the base salary for five years as well as giving step increase

- Two new buses purchased without negatively affecting general fund

- \$1 million unassigned funds assigned for long term and short-term planning

- \$300,000 given to CEA for teacher recruitment and retention

- No critical exceptions found during audits

- Budgeted for Assistant Principal

- New routing program for buses which included tablets in all buses and associated app for parents to monitor buses when operating

- Currently fully staffed with teachers

When the board spoke to Melster regarding all these accomplishments, he said that he was only able to obtain these grants by having the help of others.

He added, "I feel comfortable for finding and assisting with the applications, with some being more of myself writing and others more of an equal/shared writing."

- Member of the Rural Colorado School Alliance Board

- Worked with other rural superintendents to draft stance on

proposed legislation, policies, and lobbying efforts of Alliance

- School Financing
- COVID Mitigation and Quarantine

- Remote Learning
- Specific funding for rural schools

- Member of Commissioners Rural Education Council

- The Commission consisted of rural superintendents and other administrators from rural schools with the purpose of discussing pressing issues centered on rural schools and the issues they face and deal with

- The commission's purpose is to ensure that rural schools and the obstacles and issues they face in providing a relevant and engaging education are not lost in the bureaucracy of CDE.

"In closing the board would like to say, Mr. Melster, Toby you were not just a great superintendent, but you were an amazing friend. We will miss you and thank you so very much for everything that you did for our students, our staff and this district.

"We wish you all the best in your future endeavors and please know that you will always have family in San Luis. On behalf of Mr. DeLeon, Mr. Arellano, Mr. Casias, Mr. Rodriguez and myself (Lori Espinoza) we would like to present you with this plaque and a plant. We know you love your plants and a plant was much easier than a years supply of bacon. Take care and God bless you on your new journey."

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## Freedom from Judgement and Criticism

Years ago, I was truly one of the most critical and judgmental people I knew. It was my "default" setting.

If I was at the mall or even at church, I could look at someone and immediately make three or four judgments about their clothes, hair, behavior, or family. Or if I walked into someone's home, everything could be absolutely perfect, but somehow I would notice that one corner of wallpaper that was ripped slightly.

I'll admit, judging and criticizing others was something I rather enjoyed doing before God began to change me. However, little by little, He used His Word to begin showing me truth about myself.

I'll never forget one day in particular. I had just finished judging someone and knit-picking them about something in my thoughts, when the Holy Spirit so clearly spoke to my heart and said, "Joyce, you look at everyone else with a magnifying glass, but you look at yourself through rose-colored glasses."

I got the point! The truth is, we can be pretty quick to recognize what's wrong with other people and see all of their issues. However, even though we may have some of the same problems ourselves, we usually have good excuses to justify them.

Look at what Jesus says in Matthew 7:5: "You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye" (NIV).

I love this—it's so practical. Jesus is basically saying, "You love to point out everyone else's faults, but you should really begin with yourself. Until you get yourself straightened out, you can't really even help anyone else!"

We need to forget about what everyone else is or isn't doing, present ourselves before God, and let Him do a work in us. The truth is, the more we allow God to change us, the less we

are bothered by the faults of others.

Our circumstances may never be perfect, and the things we don't like about our family, friends, or co-workers may not change, but God can do something even better: He can change us.

These days, if there's something about my husband, Dave, that I think needs to change, I will pray and ask God for help. But even then, my attitude is completely different than it used to be.

Now, I'll pray something like, "Lord, if it's Your will, I ask You to help Dave change in this area. But first, if the problem is really me and not Dave, please show me. Show me if there's anything I need to change."

Sure, there are times when we may need to sit down and talk with a friend or family member about their weaknesses or faults for the health of the relationship, but even then, it should be done with humility and love. Our motive should always be to help them.

Psalms 51:6 (AMPC) says, "Behold, You desire truth in the inner being; make me therefore to know wisdom in my inmost heart."

And Ephesians 4:15 (AMPC) says, "Let our lives lovingly express truth [in all things, speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly]..."

God wants to reveal the truth to us. He desires for us to face anything that is coming between us and Him... things that are holding us back from His good plan and purpose for our lives.

I've learned to ask God on a regular basis, "Show me truth. And help me to face the truth You show me... especially what You show me about myself."

Can I tell you something? All of those days when I was constantly judging and criticizing others...I wasn't happy. First, I wasn't walking in love with people, and I was also



sowing seed for others to judge and criticize me.

But even beyond that, there is such freedom when we can learn to "live and let live"—when we can focus on our own growth and change, and leave the spiritual progress of other people up to God.

When I look back at all of the years I pestered Dave and pressured him to change, it's almost comical! And now that I have allowed God to change me, I can truly say that I love and enjoy my husband for who he is...and there's freedom in that.

Let God begin with you. I encourage you to pray, "Lord, please show me the truth about myself. Please change me so I can better help the people around me."

As you do, the Holy Spirit—the "Spirit of Truth"—will start to show you things about yourself...and help you walk in new levels of freedom.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-part teaching resource Living a Life of Total Freedom. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://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](http://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.

# Service With Pride

# Two day care staffers charged with child abuse

# JUNKIES

Continued from Page 1A

*Children's Garden director called law enforcement*

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Two staff members with the Children's Garden Early Learning Center appeared in county court on Tuesday for arraignment in connection with allegations of child abuse. According to Veronica Vasquez, Assistant Director, the staff members have been terminated from employment.

The two individuals, charged separately, were identified as Savannah Perales and Amber Rosario. Neither was arrested in connection with the allegations but, instead, were issued summons to appear in court.

According to documents obtained from the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office who assisted the Alamosa Police Department in investigating the case, a review of a videotape by the facility's director, Denayea Martinez, prompted the call to law enforcement.

The date of the video was April 23 and taken in a classroom of toddlers, where both women were working.

Martinez told ACSO Deputy Sergio Cazares that one segment of the video showed an incident where a staff member, identified as Perales, "forcefully picks up a child, forces the child into a chair and while doing so the child hit her head on the chair." The child was then "forcefully pushed" into a table, after which she



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Children's Garden Early Learning Center is located at 1304 San Juan.

begins to cry.

As described in ACSO's investigative report, a second segment of the video, recorded 30 minutes later, showed an individual identified as Rosario "forcefully pulling a child across the room by his arm" and "lifting him off the ground with her left hand."

Cazares then viewed the videotape and confirmed that Martinez's description was accurate.

He also spoke to the parents of the child who had been pushed into the table and was told that a "thin red mark" had appeared on the child's stomach.

When interviewed by Cazares, Rosario said that she remembered the incident and was "confused" as to why she was being issued a summons. She felt the complaint had been filed out of retaliation for her reporting another teacher.

According to Rosario's statement, Perales had thrown shoes at the child's face, causing him to cry and prompting Rosario to pull him in front of the camera in the room to document what

was happening.

Cazares told her there was no camera footage of Perales throwing shoes at the child.

Perales was out of state when ACSO reached out to her to issue the summons. When she returned to Alamosa, Cazares went to her home and explained the reason for the summons. The investigative report does not indicate any further conversation.

According to documents obtained from the court, Perales has been charged with suspicion of child abuse, a class 1 misdemeanor, and is scheduled to appear in court for a pre-trial conference on Aug. 14.

Rosario, who has been charged with suspicion of child abuse, a class 2 misdemeanor, is scheduled for her pre-trial conference on Aug. 10. She indicated at her arraignment that she plans to represent herself. "I have nothing to hide," she said.

The Valley Courier reached out to the director of Children's Garden Early Learning Center for comment but did not receive a response prior to press time.

page: <https://www.facebook.com/almalivemusic>

Note that in case of rain, the concert will be held indoors, to Leon Memorial Hall, at 201 Richardson Ave., at Adams State University.

A crowd-thrilling trio from the hills of Colorado, Stillhouse Junkies share the kind of strangely charmed chemistry that elevates both artist and audience alike. Since forming in 2017, the Durango-bred band has offered up a hypnotic and high-energy form of roots music anchored in the free-flowing interplay among the three lifelong musicians (Fred Kosak on guitar and mandolin, Cody Tinnin on upright bass, Alissa Wolf on fiddle).

While they've gained major traction in the bluegrass world in recent years — including winning the IBMA Momentum Band of the Year award in 2021 — Stillhouse Junkies ultimately inhabit a genre-blurring and subtly inventive sound informed by everything from blues to classical to Texas swing. When matched with their nuanced songcraft and soul-stirring harmonies, the result is a one-of-a-kind musical experience that immediately transports the listener into a more enchanted state of mind.

With their fourth album due out in 2024, Stillhouse Junkies have now achieved such triumphs as touring in the UK and Europe and taking the stage at leading festivals like MerleFest and Grey Fox. Whether they're performing at house concerts or playing to crowds of thousands, the band balances the dizzying intricacy of their musicality with plenty of freewheeling improvisation. "We make sure to leave a lot of wide-open spaces for group improv at our shows," says Tinnin. "We're not that

interested in playing it safe; the goal is always to connect and play off each other as best we can."

Continuing this summer: ALMA is again partnering with RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) of Alamosa County and the Food Bank Network of San Luis Valley by having a food drive at each Sundays at Six concert this summer, to benefit the Alamosa Food Pantry. All are invited to contribute a non-perishable item or two for this food drive. Look for the receptacles under the ALMA tent at each concert. Some ideas of much-needed items include canned meat (tuna and chicken), peanut butter and other nut butters, low-sodium canned veggies and beans, healthy snacks (low-sugar granola bars, dried fruit, etc.), gluten free items, healthy canned or boxed meals (chili, etc.), shelf-stable milk and milk alternatives. Help us address food insecurity in Alamosa County.

Sundays at Six 2024 is generously sponsored by:

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# Forefathers of the Colorado Division of Aeronautics receive Lifetime Achievement Awards

## Valley's Entz and former Gov. Romer honored by CAB

### CONTRIBUTED

**WATKINS** — The visionaries behind the creation of the Colorado Division of Aeronautics were honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Colorado Aeronautical Board (CAB) for their crucial roles in its establishment. Colorado's 39th Governor, Roy Romer, and former Colorado State Senator Lewis Entz received their awards on Thursday, June 6, during a ceremony at the Colorado Airport Operator's Association (CAOA) Spring Conference.

Entz, 92, served 14 years as county commissioner for Alamosa, followed by 16 years as a house representative (1983-1998). During his first eight years, a new law set term limits. He served a full eight-year second term, and then he spent another six years in the Senate (2001-2006). Entz was born in Monte Vista and currently resides in Hooper. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1951-53.

On May 24, 1988, on the tail of Senator Entz's aircraft, Colorado Gov. Romer signed House Bill (HB) 88-1250 into law, leading to the creation of the Colorado Division of Aeronautics under Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S) 43-10. This legislation marked a significant milestone in Colorado's aviation history, particularly with the creation of the

Colorado Aviation Fund and the Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant Program (CDAG). Funded by aviation fuel sales taxes, the CDAG Program has contributed over \$1 billion to the Colorado Aviation System.

Since its inception, the Division has been essential in developing, maintaining, and enhancing Colorado's aviation system. It oversees various critical initiatives, including funding airport improvements, promoting aviation education, and enhancing the safety and economic viability of the Colorado Aviation System.

"Governor Romer and Senator Entz came from different political parties, but they worked together to promote and protect aviation and airports for the good of all Coloradans", said CAB Chair Kent Holsinger.

Romer, a licensed pilot for 70 years, served as Colorado's Governor from 1987 to 1999. He frequently used his personal aircraft for business, demonstrating his advocacy for aviation and his vision to improve Colorado's infrastructure, with aviation as a key element.

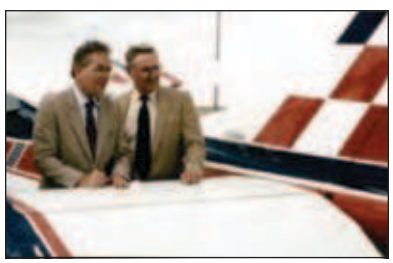
Sen. Entz, the bill's sponsor, was also a licensed pilot. He represented Colorado's rural communities and had a personal connection to small rural airports. His legislative vision supported both large busy airports and small rural airports, which are vital to their communities. He is also a member of the Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame.

Today, the Colorado Airport Sys-



Pictured left to right, Colorado Division of Aeronautics Director David Ulane, Colorado Gov. Roy Romer, Colorado State Sen. Lewis Entz, and Colorado Aeronautical Board Chair Kent Holsinger pose for a photo on June 6, when Romer and Entz were awarded Lifetime Achievement Awards by the Colorado Aeronautical Board.

tem includes 76 public-use airports, with 14 offering scheduled air service. According to the 2020 Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study, Colorado airports support 345,661 jobs, generating \$16.2 billion in annual payroll and \$48.6 billion in total annual business revenue.



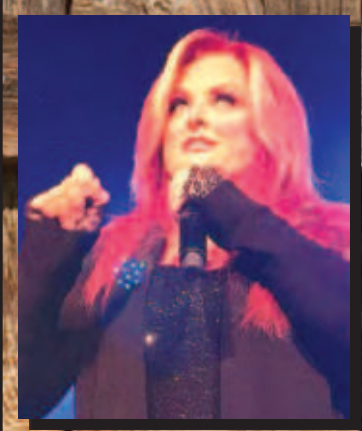
On May 24, 1988, on the tail of Senator Lewis Entz's aircraft, Colorado Gov. Roy Romer signs House Bill (HB) 88-1250 into law, leading to the creation of the Colorado Division of Aeronautics under Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S) 43-10.

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### Friday Night PRCA Rodeo

July 12, 7:00 p.m.

### Saturday Night PRCA Rodeo

July 13, 7:00 p.m.

### Sunday Matinee PRCA Rodeo

July 14, 2:00 p.m.



## Rodeo performances sponsored by Pepper Equipment Company



# Lifestyles

Serving the entire San Luis Valley

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

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

## South Fork gears up for 3<sup>rd</sup> of July celebration

By LYNDSIE FERRELL

**SOUTH FORK** — Nothing says summer more than long sunny days that fade into beautiful nights, especially those that end in epic firework shows like the one that is an annual celebration in South Fork on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July.

For several years, the Town of South Fork has celebrated Independence Day one day early to the delight of locals and visitors.

This year, the Town of South Fork is preparing for another wonderful day filled with everything that makes a small mountain town in Colorado the perfect place to celebrate everything American. From catfish

fries to farmer's markets packed with local fare, South Fork will be the place to be on July 3.

To kick the celebrations off, the South Fork Fire Rescue will be hosting its annual Catfish Fry fundraiser. This event has been a staple in South Fork for many years, bringing crowds of more than 200 hungry people to the forefront with their generosity and love of a home fried catfish meal with all the fixings.

Vendors from all over the southwestern part of the state set up in the parking lot behind the South Fork Fire building located just south of Highway 160 in South Fork. Vendors offer many different types of arts

and crafts. Vendors are open from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and the catfish fry is from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Be sure to hop online and get tickets today. Visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-annual-catfish-fry-fundraiser-tickets-920846485627?aff=FacebookTicket](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-annual-catfish-fry-fundraiser-tickets-920846485627?aff=FacebookTicket).

**Please see THIRD on Page 10**

**South Fork is a great place to kick off Independence Day celebrations in the San Luis Valley. Come enjoy a Catfish Fry with South Fork Fire Rescue, an afternoon parade and a rodeo put on by Burris and Sons on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July.**

File photo by Lyndsie Ferrell



## Creede looks to 4th with an explosion of fun

By LYNDSIE FERRELL

**CREEDE** — Summer is in full swing in the San Juan Mountains and Creede is getting ready to shell out its best with this year's Fourth of July celebrations. Over the years, Creede's popularity has grown due to this summertime event.

Thousands of people venture to the small mountain town tucked away in the San Juans to celebrate the nation's holiday and have some serious fun while doing it. Luckily for those visiting this year, there will be a shuttle to bring people to town during the busiest times of the day from the Creede School located south of town.

The City of Creede has partnered with the Creede School District to offer a shuttle service to take people to the heart of town for events like the annual Fourth of July

**Please see FOURTH on Page 10**

**Creede's Fourth of July celebrations are not to be missed and this year promises to deliver the annual fun everyone has come to enjoy.**

File photo by Keith Cerny



## 2024 Colorado Byways awards presented at symposium

CONTRIBUTED

**ALAMOSA** — Four organizations have been recognized for their outstanding contributions to the state's Scenic and Historic Byways. Colorado's Scenic and Historic Byways Commission presented awards for Protection, Partnerships, Promotion, and Placemaking at this year's Byways Symposium.

The first award, for Protection, was given to Keep It Colorado, for their outstanding stewardship of statewide resources. Their efforts included releasing "Conserving Colorado: A 10-year Roadmap for the Future of Private Land Conservation," a statewide plan to help prioritize preservation efforts. Keep It Colorado focuses on five areas, including a forum, policy advocacy, health and sustainability solutions, coalition-building, and advancing a conservation culture.

Colorado Electric Byways, a collaboration between the Colorado Energy Office, Colorado Department of Transportation, and Colorado Tourism Office, received the

Partnership award. These agencies collaborated to engage communities along the Byways to apply for grants to install Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. Once a Byway corridor has met specific guidelines, the team then recommends the Byway be approved by the Byways Commission to be a designated Colorado Electric Byway. Colorado has 17 Electric Byways to promote to electric vehicle owners.

The third award recognizes Promotion, through ColoradoByways.com, to History Colorado and the Colorado Tourism Office. A branded URL has provided a successful landing page on Colorado.com and was funded through the Colorado State Historical Fund, with matching funds and coordination from the CTO. In 2023, the landing page baseline analytics showed a total of 512,328 total views and 194,918 article views. The pages have had robust views, strong engagement, and lots of time spent with the content (one minute+ average time spent per "byway" page).

**Please see AWARDS on Page 10**

## Free seed packets available for pickup across Colorado

CONTRIBUTED

**DENVER** — Generation Wild, a movement from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) that seeks to reconnect kids with nature, is calling on Colorado's kids to help Save the Bees this summer.

Generation Wild is distributing over 100,000 free packets of "Wilderflower" seeds — a nod to Generation Wild's friendly spokescreature, Wilder — and is encouraging kids and families to plant the seeds in their backyards. Wilderflower packets are now available for pickup at local libraries and more partner locations across the state.

This initiative aims to make our state more beautiful, more ecologically diverse and more friendly to pollinator friends — all while rewilding Colorado's kids.

"The Western Bumblebee popula-

tion has declined in Colorado by 72% (CBS News), and we're calling on kids across Colorado to Bee the Change!" said GOCO Executive Director Jackie Miller. "Through this effort, kids will be empowered to improve the environment and learn firsthand what helps our local ecosystems thrive. Most importantly, they'll be outside engaging with nature in a fun and personal way — and Generation Wild knows that 'Kids Grow Better Outside.'"

The Wilderflower mix was developed in partnership with Applewood Seed Co. and packets are now available for pickup at local libraries and designated partner sites including more than 80 Little Free Library boxes.

By distributing 100,000 Wilderflower packets, Generation Wild is providing more than 56 million seeds

for planting in every nook and cranny of the state. All seeds are regionally-native to Colorado, which is important for sustaining the living landscape of bees, birds and other animals.

Additionally, Wilderflowers use less water than non-native plants. This is especially important as we strive to conserve Colorado's precious water resources.

"Applewood Seed Co. was excited to jump in and help Generation Wild identify a seed mix that is native to the Colorado region and the American West, containing a diversity of flower species to attract and support Colorado's pollinator populations," stated Norm Poppe, CEO of Applewood Seed Co. "We hope efforts like this continue to educate the public on pollinator con-

**Please see SEEDS on Page 9**



Courtesy photo

**Generation Wild is distributing over 100,000 free packets of 'Wilderflower' seeds and is encouraging kids and families to plant the seeds in their backyard.**

# Summer Fun Quilt Show coming to Alamosa in July

**CONTRIBUTED**  
**ALAMOSA** — The Alamosa Public Library and the San Luis Valley Quilt Guild are partnering to bring the community a gorgeous Summer Fun Quilt Show. The library, located at Alamosa City Hall, 300 Hunt Ave., will host an opening reception with refreshments, curated by San Luis Valley Quilt Guild members, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 6. Stroll through the Alamosa Farmers Market at Sixth and Ross streets; peruse the shelves of titillating books at Spines Book Sale, spon-

sored by the Friends of the Alamosa Public Library; and then stop by the library to enjoy the Summer Fun Quilt Show and opening reception. The quilts will be on display from Tuesday, July 2, through Saturday, July 20, at the Alamosa Public Library which is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The library is closed on Thursday, July 4. For more information, contact the Alamosa Public Library at 719-589-6592.

# ESTIMATED CROP WATER USE

*Weather Data from SLV Research Center located on the 9N and Hwy 285*

Crop	Date Planted	Daily Crop Water use for Dates Shown (in./day)				Accumulated Water Use (ET) From 6/20 (inches)				
		6/20	6/19	6/18	6/17	2day	3day	4day	5day	7day
Moravian 69	04/05	0.18	0.22	0.31	0.31	0.40	0.71	1.03	1.33	1.67
Moravian 69	05/05	0.18	0.22	0.31	0.31	0.40	0.71	1.03	1.33	1.67
Early Wheat	04/05	0.18	0.22	0.31	0.31	0.40	0.71	1.03	1.33	1.67
Early Wheat	05/05	0.18	0.22	0.31	0.31	0.40	0.71	1.03	1.33	1.67
White Wheat	04/05	0.18	0.22	0.31	0.31	0.40	0.71	1.03	1.33	1.67
White Wheat	05/05	0.18	0.22	0.31	0.31	0.40	0.71	1.03	1.33	1.67
WinterWheat	10/01	0.18	0.22	0.31	0.31	0.40	0.71	1.03	1.33	1.67
<b>Potatoes</b>										
Norkotah	05/05	0.12	0.14	0.18	0.17	0.26	0.44	0.60	0.75	0.90
Centennial	05/05	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.08	0.14	0.20	0.25	0.32
Nugget	05/05	0.06	0.06	0.08	0.07	0.11	0.19	0.26	0.32	0.38
Alfalfa	Est.	0.21	0.25	0.36	0.36	0.46	0.82	1.17	1.52	1.91
Lawngress	Est.	0.18	0.21	0.30	0.30	0.38	0.68	0.98	1.27	1.59

For the latest ET information, call 719-754-3494 extension x40 for Center, x36 for Center #2, and x38 for La Jara. Use the crop maturity and planting data and weather station closest to your own. Find this upJune 8d table each day at this web address: <http://aes-slvrc.agsci.colostate.edu/daily-crop-water-use-report/>  
 This information is provided by the SLV Research Center (Colorado State University) and the Colorado Potato Certification Service. For info, call 754-3494 x26 or e-mail: [andrew.houser@colostate.edu](mailto:andrew.houser@colostate.edu)

# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



**5 bedroom home - Borders Public Lands - RV STORAGE!!**  
 \$500,000 | MLS #  
 95 Hubbard Trail, South Fork, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
 LUXURY HOME BROKER  
 M: 719-873-5605



**NEW PRICE**  
**1,270 Sq.Ft. Off-Grid Cabin on 5.24 Acres - Creek!**  
 \$272,500 | MLS #809447  
 7641 Indian Creek Rd. Fort Garland, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
 LUXURY HOME BROKER  
 M: 719-873-5605



**NEW PRICE**  
**3 bedroom cabin bordering National Forest**  
 \$397,500 | MLS # 812823  
 99 Aspen Dr. South Fork, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
 LUXURY HOME BROKER  
 M: 719-873-5605



**28 Acres on the Rio Grande River in South Fork**  
 \$1,550,000 | MLS #807305  
 27000 US HWY 160 South Fork, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
 LUXURY HOME BROKER  
 M: 719-873-5605



**Approx. 0.280 Acres Near Rio Grande Club**  
 \$53,500 | MLS #794077  
 23 Fairway Drive South Fork, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
 LUXURY HOME BROKER  
 M: 719-873-5605



**UNDER CONTRACT**  
**Approximately 160 Acres Farmland**  
 \$400,000 | MLS #810432  
 05299 County Rd. 12 S. Alamosa, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
 LUXURY HOME BROKER  
 M: 719-873-5605



**DOMESTIC WELL SEPTIC SOLAR** **NEW PRICE!**  
**Hunting Cabin on 40 Acres - Bordering National Forest**  
 \$220,000 | MLS #812863  
 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath Del Norte, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
 LUXURY HOME BROKER  
 M: 719-873-5605



**Luxury Mountain home on 15 acres in Bear Creek**  
 \$1,399,000 | MLS #813316  
 682 Bear Creek Circle, South Fork, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
 LUXURY HOME BROKER  
 M: 719-873-5605



**Secluded cabin on 20 acres - Gated Community**  
 \$975,000 | MLS #803394  
 3023 Bear Creek Circle, South Fork, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
 LUXURY HOME BROKER  
 M: 719-873-5605



**Dee Plucinski**  
 Luxury Home Broker  
 Licensed in 2011  
 I know mountain land  
**719-873-5605**  
 Dee@SLVluxuryproperties.com

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**RESIDENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHER**  
**LICENSED & INSURED DRONE PILOT**

All of my properties are detailed in my BLOG  
 Please scan -->





**Rito Hondo Estates- 18 Rural Mtn Lots Avail**  
 17.5 & 35 Acre Lots  
 Owner Financing Available  
 West of Antonito in the Conejos Canyon CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
 LUXURY HOME BROKER  
 M: 719-873-5605



**Custom mtn cabin + adjacent full apartment**  
 \$575,000 | MLS #  
 Borders Natl Forest  
 595 Aspen Dr. South Fork, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
 LUXURY HOME BROKER  
 M: 719-873-5605



**Luxury Home on 42 Acres - Borders Natl. Forest**  
 \$850,000 | MLS #815205  
 4100 Wilderness Canyon Rd. La Garita, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
 LUXURY HOME BROKER  
 M: 719-873-5605



**UNDER CONTRACT**  
**3 bedroom home on 5 acres near Alamosa**  
 \$369,500 | MLS #810965  
 532 Lane 8 N. Monte Vista, CO

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
 LUXURY HOME BROKER  
 M: 719-873-5605

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

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



## CLASSIFIED INDEX

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b><br/>01 TICKETS<br/>02 CARD OF THANKS<br/>03 MEMORIALS<br/>04 LOST &amp; FOUND<br/>05 NOTICES/BAZAARS<br/>06 PERSONALS<br/><b>EMPLOYMENT</b><br/>07 HELP WANTED<br/>08 WORK WANTED<br/>09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES<br/><b>FOR RENT</b><br/>10 APARTMENTS<br/>11 ROOMS<br/>12 HOUSES<br/>13 MOBILE HOMES<br/>14 BUSINESS PROPERTY<br/>15 WANTED TO RENT<br/>16 VACATION<br/><b>REAL ESTATE</b><br/>17 REAL ESTATE<br/>18 LOTS &amp; ACREAGE<br/>19 FARM &amp; FARMLAND<br/>20 BUSINESS PROPERTY<br/>21 MOBILE HOMES<br/>22 PROPERTY WANTED</p> | <p><b>MERCHANDISE</b><br/>23 LAWN &amp; GARDEN<br/>24 GARAGE SALES<br/>25 AUCTIONS<br/>26 ANTIQUES<br/>27 APPLIANCES<br/>28 HOUSEHOLD GOODS<br/>29 MUSICAL ITEMS<br/>30 ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS<br/>31 HEALTH<br/>32 FUEL &amp; HEATING<br/>33 BUILDING MATERIALS<br/>34 OFFICE EQUIPMENT<br/>35 HEAVY EQUIPMENT<br/>36 MISCELLANEOUS<br/>37 WANTED<br/>38 MACHINERY, TOOLS &amp; EQUIPMENT<br/>39 SPORTING GOODS<br/>40 AUTO PARTS<br/><b>FARMER MARKET</b><br/>41 FARM EQUIPMENT<br/>42 FEED &amp; SEED<br/>43 FARM PRODUCTS<br/>44 FARM SERVICES</p> | <p><b>ANIMALS</b><br/>45 ANIMAL BREEDING<br/>46 PASTURE FOR RENT<br/>47 HORSES &amp; CATTLE<br/>48 PETS &amp; SUPPLIES<br/>49 ANIMAL CARE<br/>50 LIVESTOCK<br/><b>RECREATIONAL</b><br/>51 BOATS &amp; EQUIPMENT<br/>52 CAMPING EQUIPMENT<br/>53 TRAILERS<br/>54 SNOWMOBILES/ATV'S<br/>55 R.V.'S/CAMPERS<br/><b>FINANCIAL</b><br/>56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY<br/>57 INVESTMENTS<br/><b>TRANSPORTATION</b><br/>58 MOTORCYCLES<br/>59 VEHICLES WANTED<br/>60 CLASSIC CARS<br/>61 4X4'S<br/>62 VANS<br/>63 TRUCKS<br/>64 AUTOS FOR SALE<br/><b>SERVICES</b><br/>65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES<br/>66 CHILD CARE</p> |
|---|---|---|

## RATES

**15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications**  
**\$19.50 + 95¢ each additional word.**

**Garage Sale Ads: 15 Words or less for 1 week**  
**\$12 + 35¢ each additional word.**

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

### Convenient ad placement:

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

### Check your ad the first day:

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

**Our ad policy:** Valley Publishing accepts all classified advertising except that which it deems objectionable to its readers. Credit or replacement ads will not be given for early ad cancellation.

## DEADLINE

**Thursday 5:00 pm**

**Call 719-852-3531**  
or email: [rbeutler@valleypublishinginc.com](mailto:rbeutler@valleypublishinginc.com)

## Easy Payment Options

We accept Visa, Master Card, American Express, Discover, Checks, Money Orders & Cash



## 05 Notices

For information on meetings for ALANON NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS AND ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Please visit [slvaa.org](http://slvaa.org) or call 719-937-5083.

## 07 Help Wanted

All season farm work including upkeep of yard and work at the elevator. Experience preferred. Must be at least 21 years old and have your own transportation. Must be able to pass drug test, background, and reference checks. \$18-20/hour DOE. Please send your resume to [lwagner@excelpersonnel.com](mailto:lwagner@excelpersonnel.com). (7-17)

Power Zone Equipment is looking to hire a full-time Certified Electrician with a Master Electrician's license. Pay range of \$30-\$40/hr with benefits package. Deadline to apply 6/30/24. Send resume to [greg@powerzone.com](mailto:greg@powerzone.com) or call 719-754-1981 to apply. (7-3)

Rio Grande County is hiring! Available full-time positions with

competitive pay and benefits include Assessor's Office Appraiser Trainee, Public Health Nurse, Road & Bridge Equipment Operator, Detention/Dispatch Deputy, Detention/Dispatch Sergeant and Corporal, Jail Cook, Sheriff's Road Deputy, Weekend Court Administrative Assistant, Social Services Legal Technician Manager, Child Welfare Case Aide, Public Health Deputy Director, and Human Resources Specialist. Benefits include medical, retirement, and paid time-off. Visit [www.riograndecounty.org](http://www.riograndecounty.org) for details including applications and job descriptions or pickup at Human Resources: 925 6th St., Rm. 200, Del Norte, CO. (7-3)

**Mechanic: JT Timber Falling is hiring a full-time heavy equipment and truck mechanic in Blanca, CO.** \$25-\$45/hr depending on experience. Monday - Friday schedule. Benefits are available. Call 719-379-4066 or visit [jttimber.com](http://jttimber.com) to apply. (7-10)

The SLV Landfill is accepting applications for a part time Scale



## PUBLIC AUCTION July 6th, 2024 Saturday 9:30 am

**Location:** 6571 County Road 12 South, Alamosa, CO. Auction site is South of Alamosa. Take Hwy 285 S to Rd 12 South head west approx. 1/2 mile. Watch for signs.

**Auctioneer's Note:** Items on this auction are in good to excellent condition. The antique items are in excellent condition. Check our FB page for more pictures.

- Equipment**
- 966 IHC Tractor
  - NH Side Delivery Rake
  - JD 9 ft Mower Conditioner
  - 3 pt Round Bale Unroller
  - Claas Rollant 46 Round Baler



- Antique Items**
- Buffet w/ Mirror
  - Crystal Glasses
  - Secretary
  - Baronet China - Sylia Pattern
  - 6 - Rhythm Rose Plates
  - 2- Tintem Alfred Meakin Cups
  - 4-Rose Pattern Snack Sets
  - Ore Cart
  - High Boy Dresser w/Mirror
  - Telephone Drop Leaf Side table
  - Several Lamps
  - Sewing Cabinet
  - Glass & Crystal Serving Dishes



- Shop Equipment**
- Fuel Tank on Stand
  - Sev. Extension Cords
  - Gun Safe

- Household**
- 4-Post King Bed
  - Kenmore Washer & Dryer
  - Side by Side Refrigerator
  - 3- Drawer Filling Cabinet
  - 2-Night Stands
  - Chest of Drawers
  - Sewing Machine w/Table
  - Kitchen Table w/ 4 Chairs
  - Roll Top Secretary Desk
  - Curio Cabinets
  - Couch
  - Love Seat
  - Recliner
  - Bed Frames
  - Lots of Dishes
  - Entertainment Center
  - Flat Screen Entertainment Center
  - Several Quilted Wall Hangings
  - Quilts & Bedding



- Lawn & Garden**
- JD LA125 Lawn Tractor
  - Lawn Chairs
  - Lawn Sweeper
  - String Trimmer
  - Patio Furniture
  - Horseshoe Bench
  - Yard Umbrella

Many Items too Numerous to Mention

Check out our face book page for pictures!

Lunch Available

**Terms: Cash or Good Check**  
Nothing to be removed until paid for Not responsible for Loss or Accident  
**ALL ITEMS SOLD "AS IS WHERE IS" no warranties expressed or implied**  
Announcements sale day take precedence over printed material

Sale conducted by: **VALLEY AUCTION SERVICES, LLC**

719-588-3979 or 719-588-3978

Auctioneers: Dale Adams & David Brown

## 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](mailto:bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com)

## VALLEY PUBLISHING SEEKS REPORTER IMMEDIATELY

For the Conejos and Costilla areas. Writing and photography experience necessary. Send resume, writing and photography samples to Valley Publishing Inc., P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or email [bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com](mailto:bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com)

# Valley Wide Classifieds

**Clerk.** Requires working the front office, waiting on customers, weighing loads, processing credit cards, handling cash transactions, cleaning and maintaining the office. Also fill in for Office Assistant as needed. Must be willing to work in all types of weather and be able to work a fluctuating schedule including alternating Saturday's. Position open until filled. \$16.00 per hour 20-30 hours per week. Applications can be emailed to officemanager@slvlandfill.com or returned to the office. Download the application at slvlandfill.com. (6-26)

**The Town of Del Norte Board of Trustees is accepting letters of interest to fill two appointed positions on the Planning Commission.** The Planning Commission takes part in charting the course of growth and development within Town limits while learning more about local planning. The Planning Commission members are appointed by the Del Norte Town Board there are two terms (two-year term and four-term) and they meet on

the third Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. to review and make recommendations on subdivision proposals, zoning, conditional use applications. If you are interested in serving on the Del Norte Planning Commission. Applicants **MUST BE** qualified electors (live Town limits) of the Town of Del Norte. If you are interested in serving on the Planning Commission, please call Town Hall at 719-657-2708 to receive an application or email/mail letters of interest with application to Del Norte Town Hall at 140 Spruce Street, Del Norte, Colorado 81132, or email to delnorte1860@outlook.com. Deadline for letters of interest and application is July 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. (7-3)

**Jr/Sr High School Behavior Interventionist / School Assessment Coordinator,** needed at Del Norte Jr/Sr High School for the 2024-2025 school year. We are seeking a hard-working and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic team. Applicants must have a Colorado Teaching License. Please

## Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL • TRASH REMOVAL  
RECYCLING • DUMPSTERS • ROLL-OFFS  
CREEDE • SOUTH FORK • DEL NORTE • MONTE VISTA  
(719)658-3060 • www.MDSWASTEANDRECYCLE.COM**

# SUDOKU

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

**Fun By The Numbers**

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

Level: Intermediate

### Here's How It Works:

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

U	N	B	I	D		A	H	A	B		S	W	B	S	
G	E	O	D	E		R	E	P	E	A	T	E	R	S	
L	O	S	A	N	G	E	L	E	S	L	A	K	E	R	
I	N	K				I	T	O		P	I	L	A	W	
						S	B	E		S	E	B	E		
			S	I	D	E			P	A	I	R	E	D	
S	C	A	R					O	A	K	S		P	A	C
U	L	N	A		C	L	A	N	S			C	E	B	U
B	U	T		V	A	I	R					R	E	A	D
	B	A	S	I	N	S				C	A	T	S		
			P	A	N	T		C	A	B					
	B	L	I	N	I			A	A	R			P	E	S
G	O	U	N	D	E	R	T	H	E	K	N	I	F	E	
S	E	C	E	S	S	I	O	N			I	N	T	I	S
A	R	E	S		T	O	N				P	E	A	K	S

## BUFFET IS BACK! ~ Sundays Open to Close

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

**Google**  
Customer Reviews ★★★★★  
"I think this was really good and fun to watch the tv. the wing we're awesome and good pizza."  
— Amy B.

**MOUNTAIN PIZZA & TAPROOM**

**Law Enforcement, Firefighters, EMTs and our Veterans always receive 20% off!**  
30483 Highway 160, South Fork  
Open DAILY — 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Easy Online To-Go Orders:  
[MountainPizzaTapRoom.com](http://MountainPizzaTapRoom.com)

# Write your own Classified Ad

**Regular Classified Ad Deadline-Thursday 5 p.m.**  
15 Words or less for 4 weeks - 4 publications  
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1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
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17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24

Words: \_\_\_\_\_ Times: \_\_\_\_\_ Price: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Valley Wide Classifieds

submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Annie at 719-657-4020. Applications can be found online at: urtigers.co. (6-26)

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rates. Quick service. Call anytime, available weekends and evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593.

**Need beautiful window blinds** at the best prices? Call THE BLIND GUY at 970-799-0388 for a free

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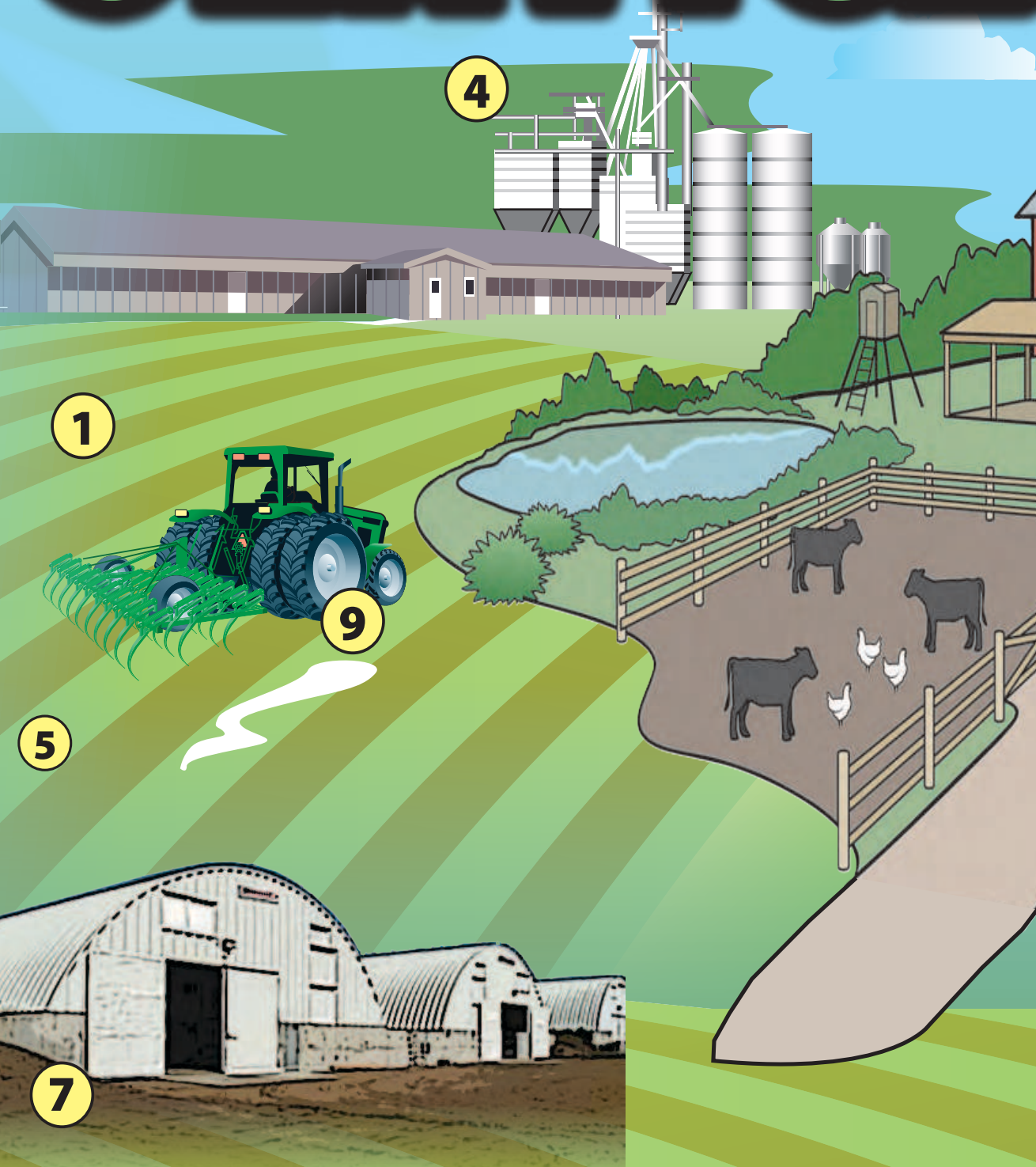
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**Fertilizer, Equipment,  
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**DP Ag Services**

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**Rio Grande Seed & Grain**  
Eric Kimberling • Brett Hemmerling

*When it's time to purchase seed for your farm or ranch, consider this, **Rio Grande Seed & Grain has the largest inventory and best selection of seed available in the San Luis Valley.** Need a custom mix? No problem, just ask. We also offer a Full Line of Ranchway Feeds, Minerals and Tubs.*

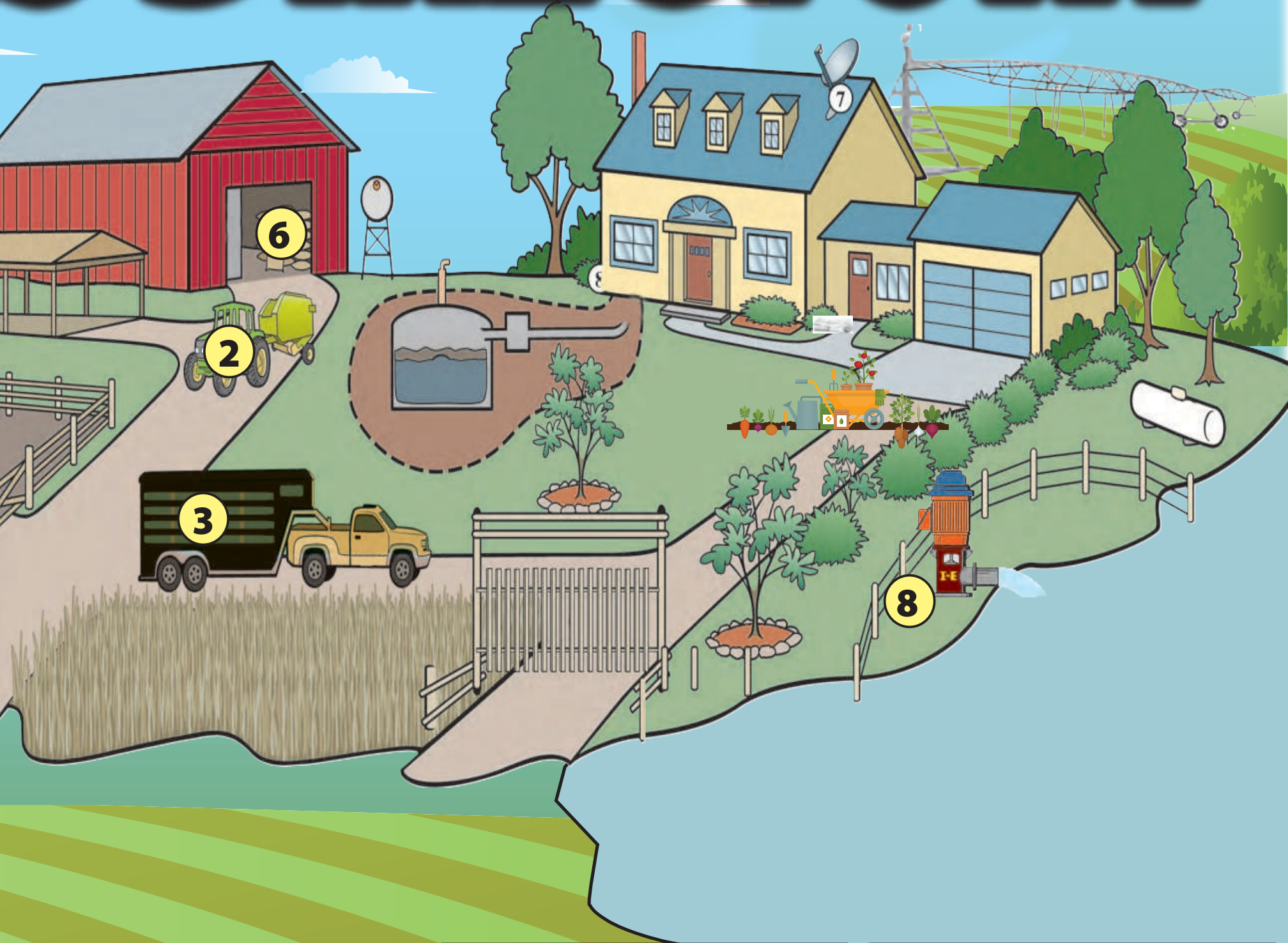
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# SLVH recognizes latest DAISY winner Garcia

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — San Luis Valley Health has another DAISY winner – Ellie Garcia.

Garcia was surprised to be chosen as a DAISY recipient at SLV Health. When the shock wore off a bit, she was all smiles. When she signed the traveling DAISY banner, she commented, “I’m going to sign my name right by Taylor’s because she has been my mentor.”

DAISY awards are given for nursing excellence and can be submitted by co-workers, patients, and family members.

This family member wrote this about Garcia, “My dad came into the Emergency Department in Alamosa with sepsis. The doctor/PA was very pessimistic. However, Ellie was a ray

of sunshine. She explained everything she was doing, taught me how to read the screens, and helped my dad feel comfortable with everything that was going on. While we are still not out of the woods on his treatment, we are in a much better place than we might have been. I think Ellie was a big part of that. Her positive outlook and true care for my dad was so apparent and we are truly grateful for her.”

Former DAISY recipient, Kat Cummins, BSN, RN, read about the award and posed for a photo with the traveling banner. Garcia is the second nurse in the SLVH RMC ED to receive this distinguished recognition.

SLVH Chief Nursing Officer, Roberta Bean, RN, read about the history and origin of the award. She also read the nomination form to Garcia.

At the reception, Garcia met many of the nursing leaders and senior team members at SLVH. She was also surprised when her husband showed up to support her. The traditional cinnamon rolls were served and then Garcia jumped up high to place her name on the wall art for DAISY winners in the RMC lobby.

To nominate a nurse at SLVH for the DAISY award, visit online [www.sanluisvalleyhealth.org/about-us/daisy-nursing-excellence/](http://www.sanluisvalleyhealth.org/about-us/daisy-nursing-excellence/).

Ellie Garcia, right, who works in the San Luis Valley Health Regional Medical Center’s ED takes a photo with her supervisor, ED Director, Monica Hinds, RN.

Courtesy photo



# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate




**Sun House Farm** Approx 1,910 Acres with Home  
\$12,900,000 | MLS #807640  
57075 County Rd C Center, CO

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OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®  
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**Bear Creek Never Disappoints!**  
Approx. 6.640 Acres  
\$144,000 | MLS #813873  
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\$975,000 | MLS #808345  
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**The Stunning Grande Ponderosa!**  
Approx. 2.54 Acres  
\$2,250,000 | MLS #813982  
695 Escondida South Fork, CO

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# South Fork Police Department seeking support for National Night Out event

CONTRIBUTED

**SOUTH FORK** — The South Fork Police Department is having its first-ever National Night Out event on Tuesday, Aug. 6, from 6 to 10 p.m. at Rickel Park in South Fork.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes strong police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live and work.

Most communities celebrate National Night Out by hosting block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and other various community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency

personnel, exhibits and more.

National Project Coordinator, Matt Peskin said, "This is a night for our nation to stand together and promote awareness, safety and neighborhood unity. National Night Out showcases the vital importance of police-community partnerships and citizen involvement. When law enforcement and the community work closely together, some amazing things can happen."

The South Fork Police Department is looking for interested business owners, community groups and individuals to help with South Fork's National Night Out activities.

"We need donations to help pay for the free food, music, and goodies as

well as volunteers to help with family-oriented games and activities. Suggested donation amount from businesses is \$100," SFPD officials stated.

If you would like to help, email at [ojpierce@southfork.org](mailto:ojpierce@southfork.org), the South Fork Friends Foundation, [southfork-friendsfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:southfork-friendsfoundation@gmail.com) or the South Fork Chamber of Commerce, [Info@southforkchamber.com](mailto:Info@southforkchamber.com).

Banners displayed at the event will highlight the names and logos of local business sponsors. A schedule of events, donation form, and volunteer sign-up sheet can be obtained by contacting any of the above groups.

For more information on National Night Out, visit [natw.org](http://natw.org).

# ALMA Sundays at Six begins June 30

**ALAMOSA** — The Alamosa Live Music Association (ALMA) is again providing free live music in Cole Park all summer long, with its Sundays at Six concert series. Head on over to Cole Park at 6 p.m. on most Sundays this summer and enjoy some quality live music.

On June 30, the sound of bluegrass will

fill Cole Park as Sundays at Six officially begins with Stillhouse Junkies. On July 14, indie rockers Mo Lowda and The Humble will wow the crowd, followed by the Chicano funk of Los Mochetes on July 21. Finish July 28 with the indie stylings of Xerephine Band with Sage and Aera. Mojomama will bring their

funky blues rock on Aug. 11, and Aug. 18 will feature the winner of Battle of the Bands 1000 shadows.

The final show of the season is on Aug. 28, with the variety group Groove 'N Motion. The shows will be livestreaming on ALMA's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/almalivemusic](http://www.facebook.com/almalivemusic).

# SEEDS

Continued from Page 1

conservation and the need to protect our native bees and butterflies."

According to a new report from the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, 20% of Colorado's bumblebees are now at risk of extinction. Even in a small area like a backyard, planting Wilderflowers can make a positive impact on the local ecosystem and provide native bees a healthy place to live.

Wilderflowers are native Colorado wildflowers, which means they have adapted to our climate and soil, and don't need pesticides to survive. (Pesticides are another key cause of the decline in bee populations.)

With this initiative, Generation Wild is introducing the Bee Team, which will join Wilder out in the community this summer at various events for kids

and families. Kids can join the Bee Team movement simply by spreading Wilderflowers in their own backyards and in public areas with approval.

In addition to providing seed packets, Generation Wild highlights several other ways for kids and families to get outdoors and take part in this movement, including:

Pollinator Week (June 17-24) is an annual celebration in support of pollinator health. What better time to spread Wilderflowers than during Pollinator Week? Beginning in July, Colorado families can visit stops on the Pollinator Trail, a Denver Park Trust-led initiative to restore native landscapes throughout Denver, providing resilient habitats where nature can thrive.

Pollinators are responsible for one in

every three bites of food we eat. In Colorado, pollinators help produce apples from Paonia, pumpkins from Lafayette, tomatoes from Grand Junction, peaches from Palisade, cantaloupes from Rocky Ford and lots more.

On Generation Wild Day, kids statewide are encouraged to get outside and spread Wilderflowers. Those located in the Denver Metro area are invited to come celebrate at the Children's Museum's Joy Park Free Night from 4:30-8:00 p.m. where they can get free Wilderflower seeds and meet Wilder.

For more information and a statewide directory for where to find seeds in every community, visit [generationwild.com/wilderflowers](http://generationwild.com/wilderflowers). Tag @GenerationWild on Facebook and Instagram to share your Wilderflowers.



*Managed by*  
**Upper Rio Grande Animal Society**

[www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org](http://www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org)

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

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

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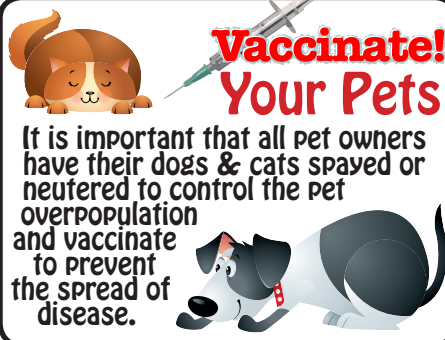
Hundreds of loving pets lose their homes every day through no fault of their own. Stop in & visit us today to meet the incredible dogs and cats looking for immediate adoption, and forever change the life of a pet in need.



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

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



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



All breeds & ages of animals are a "best guess" and are not guaranteed to be accurate. Adoption fee includes: neuter/spay, vaccinations, de-worming and micro-chipping.  
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**#1 Selling Walk-In Tub**  
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- ✓ High-quality tub complete with a comprehensive lifetime warranty on the entire tub
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Now you can have the best of both worlds—there isn't a better, more affordable walk-in tub!

**FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS 15% OFF**  
FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY  
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**SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE**

# FOURTH

Parade. The shuttle will take riders from the Creede School to Loma Street and will run from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. A full map of the route and other information is available on Facebook under Creede Happenings or people can call the City of Creede at 719-685-2276, for more information.

The theme for this year's parade is simply "Creede." Every year people are welcome to join in the parade and are asked to fill out a parade participation form either at Town Hall or by visiting [cityofcreede.colorado.gov](http://cityofcreede.colorado.gov). Those wishing to participate must have the participation form in by July 28.

In addition to the family fun events, the parade, a new shuttle service and the vendors, Creede is also famous for its Days of '92 Mining Competition over two full days in Basham Park.

According to the Creede and Mineral County Chamber of Commerce, "It's only fitting that Creede's largest festival of the year centers around preserving the history of mining. Like many Western mining towns, Creede has always had mining competitions. When the area's mines were operational, the events were sponsored by the different mining companies as morale boosters for the miners. With the mines being mostly closed for more than 30 years, the need to preserve Creede's mining past is as important as ever. Creede is and always has been a close community whose residents pride themselves on the town's storied past."

For more than 46 years now, Creede has hosted a two-day competition that draws mining competitors from across the Southwest region. The competitors are actual miners who come to Creede on July 4th each year to battle for the highly coveted prize of "Best Overall Miner of the Year."

On the first day of the competition, the Colorado State Mining Championships features a taxing gamut of events that test the miners' skill levels physically and mentally. The second day of competition, the Days of '92, has been a staple since the 1960s. When the State Mining Championships came to Creede in the late 1970s, the two competitions were melded into one.

The different events – Jack-Leg Drilling, Hand Steeling, Hand Mucking, Spike Driving, and Machine Mucking – are designed to show spectators the daily life of a hard rock miner.

Spectators can enjoy the mining events in the Basham Park arena in downtown Creede. The events are

# THIRD

Continued from Page 1 — Following the catfish fry, people can go to the frontage road on the western edge of town and grab a seat for the annual Third of July Parade. What makes this parade fun is that everyone is invited to participate. Sign up with the South Fork Visitor Center to join in on the fun.

After the parade there is just enough time to refresh and then go to the Rickel Rodeo Grounds for the Burris and Sons Rodeo. This event features bucking bulls, mutton busting and all top rodeo events.

Later, the annual firework display is put on by the Town of South Fork and South Fork Fire Rescue. The fireworks are shot off from the Rio Grande Club and Resort and can be seen from almost anywhere in town.

For more information or a full schedule of events, visit [www.southfork.org](http://www.southfork.org).

Continued from Page 1 —

free to the public and a permanent grandstand has been constructed for easy viewing. The events begin both mornings at 9 a.m. and usually last until mid-afternoon.

People can also enjoy a special Fourth of July Rodeo by Burris and Sons, see a wonderful performance at the Creede Repertory Theatre and what has been dubbed the most beautiful firework display in the San Luis Valley that night after dark.

For a full schedule of events, tickets, and more information, visit [www.creede.com](http://www.creede.com).

# AWARDS

Continued from Page 1

Local achievements are critical, so the fourth award for Placemaking was presented to the Pawnee Pioneer Trails Scenic and Historic Byway's Committee. While work progresses, the Byway has been consistently working with an engaged committee, a strong leader, updated their logo, map, and Corridor Management Plan, as well as hosted the Colorado Byways Photo Exhibit at Overland Trail Museum.

"These awards recognize the

dedicated work that our Scenic and Historic Byway organizations and agencies deliver," says Heidi Pankow, current chair, and western Byways representative of the governor-appointed Byways Commission.

The Colorado Byways Symposium 2024 was hosted by the Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway and the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area in the culturally rich and beautiful San Luis Valley.

"It is gratifying to get together and recognize amazing achievements at our 35th anniversary event," said Lenore Bates, Colorado Byways program manager. "We appreciate the award winners, participants, sponsors, national presenters, hosts, and volunteers for making the Colorado Byways Symposium 2024 a success. Furthermore, having our Sister-Byways delegates join us from Scenic Byway Hokkaido, have inspired us until we meet again."

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# Saguache County recognizes value, dedication of SAR teams

By JOHN WATERS

**SAGUACHE COUNTY** — In a statement the Saguache County Office of Emergency Management saluted the volunteers of Saguache County Search and Rescue (SAR) for their dedication and professionalism.

“Training to save lives and serve their community on the Sunday afternoon of June 9 showed a true spirit of service. The county thanks REACH Air Med and the crew of Reach 29 for donating their flight time, fuel, and equipment to conduct this training.”

Each year in Colorado, 2,800 SAR volunteers respond to over 3,000 backcountry incidents across the state. According to a 2021 Colorado Parks and Wildlife study, the volunteers spend about \$1,500 of their own money on gas, equipment, and other related expenses

Since 2023, Colorado residents can get a \$29 Keep Colorado Wild Pass when registering a car, motorcycle, recreation vehicle, or light truck through the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The \$29 pass is included in your registration total unless you choose to opt out. It is estimated the pass will bring over \$41 million in revenue to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), \$2.5 million to SAR teams, and about \$1 million to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center.

According to CPW, “Backcountry Safety - Your pass supports the volunteer and equipment needs of search and rescue professionals across Colorado and avalanche safety programs through the Colorado Avalanche Information



Courtesy photo

The Saguache County Search and Rescue volunteers train on June 9 with Reach Air Med and Reach 29.

Center. Because of your support and the tremendous generosity of our search and rescue responders, Colorado will be a safer place to play.”

Just south of Saguache County, the men and women of the Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue (AVSAR) are ready to respond to backcountry emergencies in the county. The

unofficial motto of the group is, “Our purpose is to coordinate and conduct search and rescue operations in Alamosa County so that others may live.” They can be reached at [www.avsar.us](http://www.avsar.us).

# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

## 1408 Bear Creek Circle • South Fork

Exceptional Mountain Retreat nestled within the prestigious gated community of Bear Creek, this Exquisite home at 1408 Bear Creek Circle offers an unparalleled blend of Elegance, Tranquility, and Natural beauty. With 3,882 square feet of meticulously designed living space, this property is a sanctuary for those seeking rest from the everyday hustle. Interior Features: Entryway with Stained Glass Doors: The grand entrance sets the tone, welcoming you into a large, elegant living room complete with a corner fireplace and an adjacent wet bar—perfect for entertaining guests. Large Custom Kitchen: The heart of this home boasts custom alder wood cabinets, beautiful quartz countertops, and a butler pantry with built-in custom shelving and storage cabinets. The kitchen seamlessly leads to a spacious laundry area flooded with natural light, making laundry a pleasant task. Beautiful Dining Room: Accessible from the kitchen, the dining room opens to a spacious awe-inspiring back deck. Perfect place to enjoy that first cup of morning coffee. Stairway to Loft: Ascend the large staircase to the open loft—an ideal space for a game area and home office. 3 Bedrooms: Master Bedroom (Main Floor): Flooded with ample natural light, the master bedroom provides a cozy ambiance. It features a spacious retreat with a jumbo-sized walk-in closet complete with custom shelving and cabinets. The master bath includes a walk-in shower and spa tub for your in-home spa experience. Additional 1 and a 1/2 Bath are Well-appointed and elegantly designed, the bathrooms provide comfort and convenience. Lower-Level Stairwell: Leads to an intimate family room and two spacious downstairs guest bedrooms. Immaculate 3-Car Garage and 1-Car Workshop: With custom cabinets and work benches a dream come true, providing plenty of room for all your tools and outdoor adventure toys. Outdoor Delights: Bear Creek runs through this property, nature's music to your ears. Mountain Views: Wake up to awe-inspiring vistas of the surrounding peaks. The ever-changing canvas of sunrises and sunsets will leave you breathless. Wildlife Haven: Immerse yourself in the enchanting wilderness. Mule deer, elk, and even the elusive black bear occasionally grace the property. Year-Round Adventure: Explore hundreds of miles of ATV trails right outside your door. In winter, hit the slopes at Wolf Creek Ski Area, just 30 minutes away. Tranquil Creekside Strolls: Meander along the community walking trails that follow the gentle curves of Bear Creek. Listen to the soothing sounds of water as you unwind. This is more than a home; it's an invitation to embrace the rugged elegance of Colorado's high country. Escape to 1408 Bear Creek Circle and discover a lifestyle where luxury meets wilderness. **MLS# 813472 - \$1,420,000**



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## 48 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

Mountain Charm - Where Dreams Blossom Nestled in the heart of South Fork, Colorado, this Mountain haven awaits where simplicity meets enchantment. Picture it: a 3-bedroom, 2-bath retreat, bathed in the golden light of the Mountains. With 1,440 square feet and attached large 2 car garage. This home will cradle your memories like a cherished heirloom. This lot steals your breath—a canvas of possibility stretching wide. Here, mule deer and wild turkeys play, visiting often as if drawn by whispers from the pines. No stern HOA rules here; just a neighborhood that nods in camaraderie. Large lot to grow your own garden and enjoy the existing rhubarb patch! Imagine stepping onto your covered front porch, the scent of freshly baked rhubarb pie dancing in the air. Yes, you'll bake your own—pluck ruby-red stalks from the earth, mix them with sugar and secrets, and let the mountains witness your culinary magic. Paved roads with city water and city water & sanitation. Modern comfort wrapped in rustic allure. All this and more, only a short walk takes you to the Rio Grande River, its waters a silver ribbon of promise. Gold medal fishing awaits, and the mountains echo your joy. And when winter blankets the land, Wolf Creek Ski area beckons. Adventure, your faithful companion, stands at your doorstep. Your Dream come true, pick up the phone. Schedule your showing, and step into the pages of Mountain Charm. Your Adventure starts here, give me a call today! **MLS#814960 - \$367,900**



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## 0254 Timberline Trail • South Fork

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



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Perfect 2.0-acre lot to build Your Dream Home. Luxurious Mountain Retreat Awaits: Build Your Dream Home! Nestled amidst the majestic peaks, this pristine lot awaits your architectural vision. Imagine waking up to panoramic vistas that stretch as far as the eye can see—each sunrise painting the sky in hues of amber and rose gold. Welcome to your own private haven, where nature's splendor meets refined living. Breathtaking Views: This parcel of land boasts captivating views in every direction. Gaze upon rolling hills, snow-capped summits, and the meandering Rio Grande River. Whether you're sipping morning coffee or stargazing at night, the scenery will leave you spellbound. Ready for Your Vision. The canvas is blank, awaiting your brushstrokes. With water and sewer readily available, however you will need to secure your water and sewer taps. Picture a modern retreat with floor-to-ceiling windows, seamlessly blending indoor and outdoor spaces. Paved Road Access No rugged trails here—just a smooth, paved road leading to your paradise. Arrive in style. Over Two Acres of Possibility Spread your wings across two gently sloping sprawling acres. Design your oasis—an infinity pool, terraced gardens, or perhaps a meditation pavilion. Outdoor Enthusiast's Paradise For the angler's heart, the Rio Grande River beckons. Cast your line, and reel in memories. Nearby, the National Forest is a playground for hikers, birdwatchers, and seekers of solitude. Your Winter Wonderland Awaits Just 20 miles away, the Wolf Creek Ski Resort cradles you in its snowy embrace. Glide down powdery slopes, cozy up by the fire, savoring the warmth of shared stories. Your Legacy Awaits This isn't just land; it's your legacy in the making. Generations will gather here, creating memories under star-studded skies. Build your dream home refuge—a testament to life well-lived. More pictures coming soon. **MLS#812710 - \$79,900**



**JUST LISTED**

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## 193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

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



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# Staff recognized with Boots on the Ground Awards

By MATTHEW TULLEY

**ALAMOSA** — The San Luis Valley Joint Interagency Oversight Group (SLV Joint IOG) is pleased to honor partner agency staff members with the “Boots on the Ground” award in recognition of employees who exemplify the spirit of cross-systems collaboration.

The award recipients for June 2024 are Cristalray Dominguez and Jamie Dominguez of Shooting Stars Cultural and Leadership Center. Both are co-founders of center and have passion to restore the generational trauma of Alamosa, CO. They were nominated by Don Hanna of PALS (Positive Activities Lead to Success).

“Jamie and Cristal have been incredible community advocates for years. Their hearts for the community, especially Southside residents and the Latino community is palpable. Again and again, they have gone above and beyond to lift up youth and families who too often are overlooked or fall through the cracks. Their sensitivity to the culture of the families and youth they are working with, their ability to share their lived experience, and their deep understanding of the needs of the community, make their efforts particularly valuable and effective. They both serve as shining lights for Alamosa. We are incredibly lucky to have them and the work that they are doing,” from the nomination written by Don Hanna.

Established in 2008 and funded through Colorado House Bill 1451, the SLV Joint IOG currently includes Alamosa and Saguache Counties. Over twenty agencies participate including

the 12th Judicial District, Probation Department, the Colorado Youth Detention Continuum program, Alamosa County Department of Human Services, Alamosa County Public Health Department, Alamosa School District, Center for Restorative Programs, Colorado Division of Youth Services, Colorado Health Partnerships, Crossroads’ Turning Points, San Luis Valley Early Childhood Council, San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group, San Luis Valley BOCES, Signal Behavioral Health Network, Health Colorado Inc., Boys and Girls Club of the San Luis Valley, Saguache County Department of Social Services, Saguache County Public Health Department, Center School District, Moffat Consolidated School District, Mountain Valley School District, Valley-Wide Health Systems Inc., La Puente Inc., Tu Casa, and Teri Sisneros, Family Representative for the SLV Joint IOG.

The goal of the SLV Joint IOG is to develop collaborative approaches for the provision of individualized, strength-based, family-centered, and culturally sensitive services to children, youth, and families. The SLV Joint IOG works to increase the quality and appropriateness of services while encouraging cost sharing and reducing service duplication and fragmentation.

**Award recipients for June 2024, Boots on the Ground, from left to right: Cristalray Dominguez, Don Hanna and Jamie Dominguez.**

Courtesy photo



# Adams State University offers free help on the FAFSA

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

**ALAMOSA** – FAFSA Fridays have begun. Every Friday, until further notice, Adams State University offers free assistance in completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). FAFSA Fridays are held from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Adams State’s One Stop Student Services, on the first floor

of the SUB (Student Union Building), located on First Street in Alamosa.

In addition, Adams State is hosting free FAFSA webinars from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, until further notice. The webinars provide information on how to complete the FAFSA and address persistent issues being faced by students, their parents-guardians,

and high school and college advisors and counselors. This is an open offer of support to students, their families-guardians, and school staff in recognition of the crisis with the implementation of the new FAFSA. Anyone is invited to attend, no matter where the student will attend (or attends) college.

All college students, regardless of

institution, need to file the FAFSA each year to qualify for scholarships, grants, and other forms of student aid. This includes the Adams State Promise, free tuition, and fees for up to four years for qualifying students, and the Grizzly Partner Scholarship for San Luis Valley high school graduates, \$2,200 for room and board; or \$300 a year for SLV students who

commute to campus.

Adams State Financial Aid staff will help all prospective students, regardless of college choice. For more information, contact the Adams State One Stop Student Services at 719-587-7306 or onestop@adams.edu. To access the webinar link visit adams.edu and click on the FAFSA Fridays graphic.

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<p><b>ANTIQUES</b></p> <p>Antique sewing machine</p>		<p><b>HORSES</b></p> <p>5 yr old paint pony mare w/ colt, kid broke 4 yr old Morgan/stb Mare green broke 1 yr old Morgan filly 4 yr old trotting bred 90 days training TSS 9 yr old Standard bred gelding 16 HH kid broke TSS 4 yr old trotting mare JND Dominator/sd get it right w/ free breeding to JP Dewycheatumhowe 4 yr old Friesian/paint gelding broke to ride 4 yr old trotting bred mare broke to drive</p>
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<p><b>HOUSEHOLD</b></p> <p>1 set poly glider rockers 1 octagon picnic table Sofa NEW in box Multiple chairs - various kinds Miscellaneous furniture • Multiple dressers Dishwasher • Electric stove Potbelly stove • Wood burning stove Glass top coffee table Wooden end table 3 book shelves wooden • 5 lamps Pendleton trade blanket Western art frames Multiple plastic totes</p>		<p><b>THIS IS ONLY A PARTIAL LISTING, MANY MORE ITEMS EXPECTED BY DAY OF SALE.</b></p> <p><i>Lunch will be available by school parents. Also, baked goods, doughnuts, fry pies &amp; other refreshments will be available. All Dollar items considered donations.</i></p>

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# HOW TO GUIDE



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A Publication of Valley Publishing, Inc. and Valley Courier

**Summer 2024**

# Consumer **How To** CHOOSE THE RIGHT UNIVERSITY FOR YOU

## Tips for Finding the Right University

While a fresh crop of high school graduates is set to walk across the stage at high school commencement ceremonies across the country, for the many students about to become high school seniors now is an important time to start thinking ahead. That's because the college application process is about to begin.

Choosing a college is a big choice for parents and children alike. For parents, it's a financial commitment they've likely been preparing to make since the day their child was born. For kids, it's more than likely the biggest decision they've ever faced. Before the process begins, consider the following tips for choosing the right college.

- Consider a possible career path. Most 18-year-olds have no idea what they might want to do for a living, and that's perfectly fine. When looking at colleges, kids should look at all of the programs they offer, and make a list of the programs that most interest them. This isn't choosing a career (as many students change majors while in college), but rather doing some preliminary research about what you may want to study. For students who really have no idea what they might want to study, consider applying to a larger state school, as those often offer the most programs of study, meaning a student won't have to transfer once they do decide on a course of study.

- Make a list of what you want out of a school. For some kids, going to school too far away from home is a frightening prospect, while others might embrace the freedom. Also, schools vary greatly depending on the size of the college. Some students might prefer a smaller, more close-knit college community, while others might prefer a larger school with more students. Students should make a list of what their personal preferences are and seek out schools that match those preferences.

- Discuss finances. Thanks to the ever-increasing costs associated with higher education, finances figure heavily into the college decision. While parents would love to send their children to their first choices, sometimes finances mandate otherwise. Parents and children should discuss how much they can afford to spend, and how realistic some college choices might be. While financial aid and scholarships are options, they aren't always enough to cover tuition and room and board costs. Rather than risk a heated argument when it comes time to make a decision, parents and children should get on the same page with respect to what's affordable as soon as possible.

Most high school students dread junior year. Not only is it one of the most difficult, but it is also one of the most important years when it comes to applying to colleges. Students have to take the SATs, visit schools and make other college-related decisions. With so many colleges out there, how do you know which ones to apply to, let alone know which one to finally go to? Believe it or not, you can make these decisions stress free. Here are a few simple steps for kids to follow that will make the whole process easier on everyone.

- Write down reasons for wanting to attend college. Though your reasons can be to become a doctor or study art history, they don't have to be limited to getting a degree. You might want to live in another part of the country or be in a community with a lot of artists. Then, prioritize the list of criteria. (Revise the list a few times during your search since your priorities are likely to change.) By deciding what's important to you and what takes priority, it will be easier to find schools that interest you.

And if this still sounds overwhelming, many students also factor in school size, location, academic philosophy, courses of study, reputation and extracurricular activities when applying to various colleges.

- Make a list of ideal colleges. Once you've established why you want to go to a school, try to find schools that offer what you're looking for. Michael Fleischner, vice president of college guide publisher Peterson's, says you should apply to between four and seven schools. You want to name at least seven schools, preferably more. Place schools that meet all of your criteria towards the top of the list and colleges that only have one towards the bottom. However, don't disregard the schools at the bottom of the list. What's important to you might change as you go through the process. If this school has a great architecture program and is within your price range (we'll get to that in a minute), it might end up being a better possibility than you first thought.

- Get information. See as many colleges as you can in person. Though a cafeteria might look really fun and full of life in an online virtual tour, you'll never get its real vibe until you have lunch there. While at the school, take advantage of it as much as you can. Take a tour of the campus, ask current students questions, and sit in on a class. Some schools even offer a chance to stay in the dorms with a current student — a great opportunity to experience dormitory life firsthand.

Of course, if it's completely unrealistic to head cross-country just to visit one campus, a virtual tour is better than nothing. Also, many university Web sites include student pages and blogs by current and former students which can provide insight into campus life. Read the college paper online to get in the loop on campus happenings and issues. On top of that, there are numerous books and magazines that describe campuses and schools. College fairs enable you to pick up information and chat with alumni. And local alumni branches can put you in touch

with previous students.

- Think about money. Figure out who will be paying for college. If you, the parent, will be paying for everything, establish how much you are willing to spend. If the student will be responsible for part of or all of his educational costs, he or she will need to figure out how to pay for it, such as taking out student loans, applying for financial aid or working a part-time job while going to school. Whoever is responsible, it's important to get an early start on researching financial aid since federal forms are usually due in January of a student's senior year in high school. In the end, be realistic about how much you want to spend on education. But if you love one school that is out of your price range, apply to it anyway. Check out [faisa.ed.gov](http://faisa.ed.gov) for information on federal loans and college Web sites for financial aid information on individual schools. You might be surprised by how much merit-based financial aid you may receive and end up paying less than you would if you attend a state school.

- Narrow down your options. Now that it's time to figure out where you'll actually apply, take a look back at your initial list and assess if your priorities are still the same. If they're not, juggle your list as well as the ranking of schools based on your criteria. Also, you might be able to eliminate some schools based on what you found out when you were gathering information. For example, if you want to go to a school with a football team and found out that George Washington University doesn't have one, it would be a waste of money and time to apply there.

Now is also the time to assess how your academic standing matches up with that of the university and how your financial situation factors in. Keeping all of these things in mind, you should now be able to select four to seven schools that you would like to apply to. According to CNN Money, it's a good idea to choose both an academic and financial "safety" school. That way, even before your acceptance letters and financial aid packages are sent out, you will not only have a school on your list that you will most likely get into, but it will be one that you can afford as well.

- Reevaluate acceptance schools. After the applications were sent in and you've received your acceptance letters, there's one more big step: Deciding on which school to attend. Reevaluate the schools you were accepted to based on your list of priorities and financial situation, considering how much financial aid you've received, student loans, and whether you'll have to work during school. If you can, revisit the colleges. It might sound silly, but it's different looking at a school once you've been accepted, and a second visit can answer any last-minute questions or concerns.

Whatever college you finally decide on, make sure that it is your decision and that you feel good about it. Don't go to a school just because a friend, boyfriend/girlfriend or even a parent wants you to go there. If you listen to your inner voice, you'll make the right decision for you.



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# What you should know about peripheral artery disease and chronic wounds

RIO GRANDE HOSPITAL — Peripheral artery disease (PAD) is a common circulatory problem stemming from fatty build-up, or atherosclerosis, in the arteries. Also known as peripheral vascular disease (PVD), PAD causes blood vessels in the limbs to narrow, significantly reducing blood flow and sometimes causing the development of a wound that is slow to heal. If left untreated, these wounds can become infected and put patients at risk of sepsis, gangrene, or amputation.

PAD affects over 8.5 million U.S. adults and over 113 million people worldwide. Risk factors include aging, diabetes, obesity, and smoking. Symptoms include pain, cramping, discoloration, and swelling of the legs or feet. If you've been diagnosed with PAD and have a chronic wound that hasn't healed within 30 days, it's very important to have it evaluated and treated in order to save the limb and control the disease.

Types of Chronic Wounds in Patients with PAD/PVD:

Here are the three of the most common non-healing wounds for patients with PAD/PVD:

**Arterial ulcers:** Also referred to as ischemic ulcers, these are caused by damaged or blocked arteries which are unable to get nutrient-rich blood and oxygen to the lower extremities. This causes an ulcer or a break in the skin. Arterial ulcers are typically located on the foot or ankle.

**Diabetic neuropathic ulcers:** Many patients with peripheral artery disease also suffer from diabetes. Approximately 25 percent of individuals with diabetes will experience a non-healing open wound or diabetic ulcer caused by pressure or trauma on the lower limbs or feet. Because diabetic neuropathy causes a loss of sensation in the limbs, many patients don't know they have an ulcer until it becomes infected.

**Venous ulcers:** When patients have poor blood circulation in the legs, the blood can back up and "pool" in the veins, causing an ulcer. This can cause a painful open wound and edema, or swelling, on the ankles or lower leg.

Tips to Manage PAD:

With lifestyle changes and a commitment to treatment, PAD can be managed. Here are eight tips to help:

Lose weight (if overweight) or maintain your current healthy weight

Maintain a structured exercise program

Eat a well-balanced, heart-healthy diet

Control diabetes and high blood pressure

Stop smoking

Limit alcohol intake



Avoid standing for long periods of time

Wear compression wraps/stockings

At Rio Grande Hospital's Wound Care, we're using advanced wound care modalities and hyperbaric oxygen therapy to treat non-healing wounds caused by peripheral artery disease, including venous and arterial ulcers. Chronic wounds can be diagnosed, effectively managed and healed, oftentimes within eight weeks. If you or someone you love has a non-healing wound, give us a call at 719-657-3277 for more information and assistance.





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Consumer

# How To SAVE BIG AT TRINIDAD STATE

— *eSports comes to Trinidad State*

**20% off for local residents who take at least 15 credit-hours**

From Center to San Luis, from Aguilar to Weston, southern Colorado residents are taking advantage of **Trinidad State's Learn Local Scholarship**. The scholarship, backed by the Trinidad State College Educational Foundation, helped pay tuition during the fall 2020 semester for 92 full-time students who live Las Animas, Huerfano, Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties. Their total savings was \$42,320.



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eSports is an explosive industry encompassing the world of competitive, organized video gaming representing the next generation of sports and entertainment. Trinidad State College is excited to present the first collegiate eSports team in Colorado at the community college level and part of the National Junior College Athletic Association eSports (NJCAA). Equivalent to traditional sports offered at Trinidad State, such as cross country and softball, eSports offers digital gaming experiences to promote teamwork, social skills, strategic thinking and planning, managing success and failure, maintaining academic standing, and promoting pro-social values. Competition is fierce, and the Trinidad State team will be playing in tournaments with colleges from around the country for prizes and championships. Games will be streamed with a live streaming service called Twitch, in addition to opening up the arena for in-person spectators during competitions.

In the fall of 2021, eSports players will be invited to play in Trinidad State's new, state-of-the-art gaming area. The well-equipped

eSports arena will be furnished with heavy-duty gaming computers, ergonomic furniture, and a comfortable atmosphere to enhance the players' gaming experience. eSports is a growing industry; the U.S. experienced an increase of 118 percent in full-time jobs in 2019, and the eSports market is on track to surpass \$1.5 billion by 2023. Players can also begin to prepare for a career in eSports. Jobs in eSports include playing professionally, marketing, coaching, advertising, arena maintenance, shout casters, videographers, reporters, influencers, video game design, consultants, and owners. Collegiate eSports

players are the new generation of sports athletes, gaining attention and momentum worldwide.

Trinidad State will also offer computing and technology courses in fall 2021, including computer networking. Computer networking courses will start students on a path towards cybersecurity, network administration, cloud computing, or preparing to be a computer information systems specialist. Technology and careers in technology are only growing in demand; education, industry certifications, and hands-on learning will prepare students for well-paying and stable employment in technology.

**Please contact Serena "Sully" Sullivan by email at [serena.sullivan@trinidadstate.edu](mailto:serena.sullivan@trinidadstate.edu) for more information. An interest form for eSports is available at [trinidadstate.edu/esports/index.html](http://trinidadstate.edu/esports/index.html)**



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