



“Gateway to the San Juans”

Volume 150, Number 28

Del Norte, Colo. 81132

Thursday, July 11, 2024

75¢

OFFICIAL PROGRAM
San Luis Valley
Ski-Hi
Stampede
 Thursday, Friday,
 Saturday & Sunday
 July 11 - 14, 2024
 Published Wednesday, July 10, 2024
 Valley Publishing 719-850-2634 Valley Center 719-850-2593

OFFICIAL PROGRAM
San Luis Valley
Ski-Hi
Stampede
 — Inside this week's
 Del Norte Prospector

Tidbits

Emmanuel Chapel VBS is July 22-26

SOUTH FORK — Standing Strong in Today's Battle for Truth is the theme of Vacation Bible School, July 22-26, at Emmanuel Chapel in South Fork. It goes from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. daily for ages 5 to 13. For more information or to pre-register, call 719-850-2634.

Sangre de Cristo School BOE Meeting

MOSCA — The Sangre de Cristo School Board of Education regular monthly meeting has been moved to Tuesday, July 16, in the school Library at 8751 Lane 7 North, Mosca, at 6 p.m. Copies of agendas are posted at school site, website, the Hooper and Mosca Post Offices, and the Mosca Pit Stop. Meetings are open to the public.

Del Norte Rotary Golf Tournament

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Rotary Golf Tournament is scheduled for July 19 at the Rio Grande Club and Resort in South Fork. Pre-registration only. Deadline to register is July 12. The cost is \$130 per person; lunch is provided. Format is four-person scramble with 9 a.m. shotgun start. For more information or to register, email mike@truelocalbank.com.

San Juan Sports celebrates 50 years of adventure in Creede

By LYNDIE FERRELL

CREEDE — San Juan Sports is celebrating its 50th year in business on July 13. The store will be closing the section of Main Street in front of the store and having a giant street party to celebrate 50 years of adventure and a lifetime of service to Creede.

George Ameel started the business as “San Juan Hiking” in June 1974. It was located where the Creede Olive Oil company is now. When it first opened, the business focused on hiking gear and custom T-shirts but over the years it expanded to include some apparel and in 1980 moved to its current location, at 102 S. Main St., and changed its name to San Juan Sports.

San Juan Sports became a staple of Creede, and a place people could go for all their outdoor adventure needs. Their slogan quickly became, “Before you go out, come in!”

Ameel was a popular local resident and often was seen at the 4th of July parades, skate-skiing down Main Street or working in the community hosting mushroom forays and wildflower workshops.

In 2006, Ameel began considering selling the store and in 2011 Amy and Michael McNeil bought it from him, and his wife
Please see 50 YEARS on Page 2A



Photos courtesy of San Juan Sports
San Juan Sports in Creede is gearing up to celebrate 50 years of business in the small mountain town and plans to honor the original and current owners of the store.



Monte Vista Coop celebrates 75 years



CONTRIBUTED
MONTE VISTA — In 1949, a group of forward-thinking farmers formed the Monte Vista Coop to pool resources to buy in bulk. Today, 75 years later, the Monte Vista Coop has more than 8,000 members and offers farming and ranch necessities. At the annual membership meeting, MV Coop General Manager Eric Hinton thanked the employees and
Please see MV COOP on Page 6A

A recent aerial photo of the Monte Vista Coop at 1901 E. Highway 160 on the eastern edge of Monte Vista. Courtesy photo

Del Norte Grande Ave. work begins for revitalization project

CONTRIBUTED
DEL NORTE — The Town of Del Norte, Colorado Department of Transportation and contracting partner RMS Utilities will begin a Main Street Revitalization project on July 8. Construction will include new curb and gutter,

sidewalks, ADA compliant curb ramps, pedestrian streetlights, crosswalks, pavement markings, signage, drainage improvements, water service lines and fire hydrants alongside US Highway 160 (Grand Avenue) in the Town of Del Norte from Alder Street east to Cherry

Street. The project is expected to be completed by January of 2025. **Travel Impacts** Working hours will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Crews will begin working on one block at a time. Motorists will encounter

partial lane and shoulder closures throughout the project work zone and in the intersections. Vehicles, bikes and pedestrians should expect some travel impacts throughout the construction of this project. Pedestrians can expect
Please see PROJECT on Page 6A

CPW applauds USFWS decision on Rio Grande chub, sucker

CONTRIBUTED
MONTE VISTA — Generations of Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff were rewarded for their work this month as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced its decision to not list the Rio Grande chub and Rio Grande sucker under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Colorado Parks and Wildlife commended the USFWS for its June 17 decision that acknowledged critical partnerships that have ensured neither species is in danger of extinction or likely to become in danger of extinction. “CPW staff have worked tirelessly for decades to ensure Rio Grande

chub and sucker continue to persist,” said Matt Nicholl, CPW’s Assistant Director of Aquatic Wildlife. “The responsibility of successfully managing these two species deeply aligns with our mission, and we are thankful for the continued support and collaboration with all of the partners who have made this announcement possible.” CPW along with several agencies and species experts consulted with the USFWS during its status review for each of the cool-water fish species that occur within the Rio Grande Basin. For several decades, CPW and multiple partners including federal agencies, states, tribes, municipalities,
Please see CHUB on Page 2A



Rio Grande sucker Courtesy photo

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South Fork to host 3rd annual Arts and Craft Fair

By LYNDSIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — With the Third of July Celebration over, the South Fork Friends Foundation will be hosting their third annual Arts and Craft Fair on July 17 at the South Fork Visitor Center.

According to South Fork Friends Foundation President Luke Brennan, this year's Art Craft Fair will be bigger and better than last year and will feature some wonderful artists from across six states. There will be a food truck, ice cream truck, kettle corn, Drift Away coffee/lemonade truck and much more.

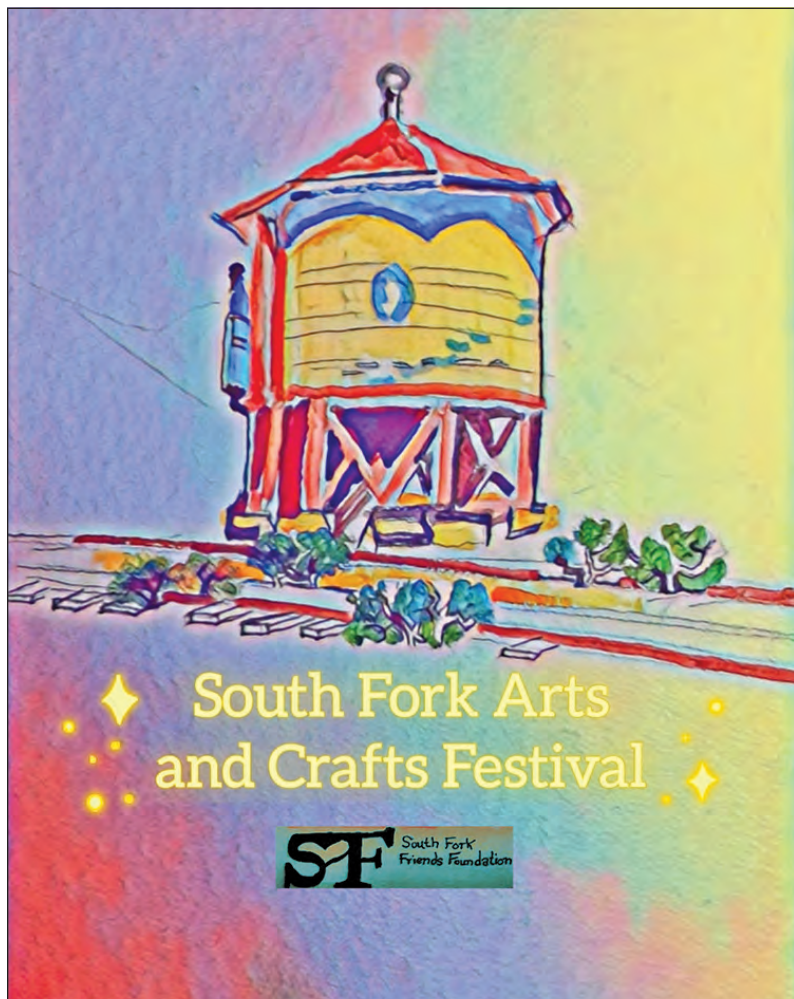
This third annual event features 40 artists with various items including woodworking, painting, jewelry, sculpture, pottery, and more.

"We have some really great artists coming this year who joined us last year and we also have some new ones bringing in some great stuff. This is a great way to come out and support local and visiting artists and a great way to enjoy a day in South Fork," said Brennan.

The show will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on July 17.

In addition to the artists, there will be several local food vendors.

There will also be an opportunity to learn how to create tie-dyed T-shirts with onsite lessons for



people of all ages.

"It will be twice as large as last year's event," said Brennan.

For more information, call the South Fork Visitor Center at 719-873-5512.

CHUB Continued from Page 1A

non-government organizations and private landowners have worked to conserve the two species and implement long-term management actions to ensure their persistence.

"CPW has provided steady leadership in the recovery of Rio Grande sucker and Rio Grande chub, though this progress has always been mediated through strong partnerships," said CPW Native Species Aquatic Biologist Daniel Cammack. "Through a shared commitment to execute the meaningful and collaborative conservation actions, the future for these important native species is bright."

Historic accounts suggest that Rio Grande chub and sucker were some of the most common fishes in the Rio Grande and its tributaries, though declines were evident as early as the late 1800s because of dewatering, habitat degradation and invasive species establishment. Recognizing significant declines, CPW initiated conservation efforts of these species

in the early 1990s.

Work included translocations to establish new populations, broodstock development, genetic testing, invasive species removal and habitat protection and enhancement. CPW identified both species as Tier I Species of Greatest Conservation Need under the State Wildlife Action Plan and designated Rio Grande sucker as State Endangered and Rio Grande chub as a Species of Special Concern.

Over the past three decades, CPW and its partners have completed five chemical reclamations and numerous habitat and connectivity enhancements related to these species. The CPW Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility (NASRF) in Alamosa has served a critical role in recovering both fishes, innovating novel culture techniques and writing the book for production methods of these fish.

"Since 2002, NASRF has stocked nearly 450,000 Rio Grande suckers in

20 waters and 1.2 million Rio Grande chub in 11 waters," Cammack said.

CPW maintains two Rio Grande sucker broodstocks and seven Rio Grande chub broodstocks to sufficiently represent genetic diversity within Colorado and has produced fish for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to support repatriation projects for the partner agency.

Cammack said CPW's aquatic biologists have worked tirelessly to monitor and conserve aboriginal populations and to identify suitable habitats for reintroduction efforts.

"Synergy between field biologists and hatchery staff has translated to reestablishing multiple populations of both species in the San Luis Valley," he said. "This progress is especially evident for Rio Grande sucker, as there were only two self-sustaining populations of this species in Colorado by the early 2000s. Now, there are eight established sucker populations with multiple other reintroduction sites

50 YEARS Continued from Page 1A

Charlene, in February of that year. In April 2011, San Juan Sports went under construction to remodel the look and layout of the store.

The new rustic and eclectic look gave San Juan Sports a special welcoming feeling when customers walked in the doors. Soon, a new tradition would begin where folks that bought new shoes would toss their old ones over the sign out front and this soon became a permanent part of the store's history.

In 2018, the owners busted through the south wall and extended San Juan Sports to the space south of the original building, which had been a dream of Ameel's for a long time. In 2020, Amy and Michael's dream became a reality when they opened Sunnyside Bar, a beer and wine bar located inside San Juan Sports.

a dairy topper from the Sunnyside Dairy that was found under the floor while running plumbing for the bar. Since it opened, Sunnyside has become "Creede's Living Room" hosting karaoke, game nights, sports events, live music, town events and even birthday parties.

In September of 2023, Ron and Deb Durre, of Monte Vista, purchased the store and continue to honor its legacy and push its boundaries. In May 2024, they opened Swee-T's, two doors down from San Juan Sports and it is the town's ice cream and souvenir shop.

When asked what advice he had for the next 50 years, original owner Ameel said, "Go with the flow! And listen to your customers!"

For 50 years, San Juan Sports has been the place to go for all outdoor gear. Now it's also the place to go to get a drink, meet up with friends, get

the latest trail reports, sing your heart out, meet up for a race, gear up before a backpacking trip, and, most of all, gather with friends.

For the 50th celebration, attendees will be able to have drinks from Sunnyside Bar outside on the street. There will be burgers and hotdogs served as a fundraiser for the Creede boys basketball team, a bounce house for the children and music all day.

Lucky Overton and the Yardangs will be performing at noon, Corey and the Contradictions (FKA The Bent Ears) performing at 3 p.m., and The O's, a singing along, dancing along, drinking along, and playing along type of band, will perform at 6 p.m. San Juan Sports is also encouraging anyone who has ever worked at the store to attend. Ameel, the founder of San Juan Sports, will be there as well as the new owners, Ron and Deb Durre.



Photo courtesy of USFWS

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will conduct prescribed fires in the Valley for the remainder of June and through July.

Prescribed burns planned for national wildlife refuges

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be conducting limited prescribed fire operations on the Alamosa, Baca, and Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuges to remove slash piles of natural materials including wood and brush to improve wildlife habitat.

Professional fire personnel from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mid-Plains Fire Zone, along with state, and federal partners, as needed, will conduct the fire operations. Planned target dates for burning will be during the remainder of June and through July. The Refuges' Auto Tour Routes and Walking Trails may be temporarily closed to the public during fire operations for safety concerns.

"For your safety, please avoid these areas. Areas will re-open as soon as

possible based on fire activity and safety," officials stated.

Smoke will be visible to local residents, towns, and highways during the day and may last for a few days following burning operations. Signs will be posted along the nearest major roads and all burns will be monitored until they are declared completely out.

For up-to-date information, contact Alamosa and Monte Vista Refuge Manager Suzanne Beauchaine at 719-589-4021 x1003 or Assistant Refuge Manager Dean Lee at 719-589-4021 x1008, or Baca Refuge Manager Ty Benally at 719-256-5527.

Additional general information can be found on the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SanLuisValleyRefugeComplex.

showing great promise."

Following the 2014 petition to list these species under the ESA, CPW coalesced with multiple state and federal agencies, tribal entities and other stakeholders throughout the species' range to form the Rio Grande Chub and Sucker Conservation Team.

In 2018, a Conservation Agreement with 12 signatories, including CPW, was finalized to implement carefully coordinated conservation measures for both species to mitigate the threats that could eventually lead to their federal listing under the ESA. The conservation team collaborated on a Conservation Strategy for each species, which was adopted in 2021.

Over the past two years, species experts from CPW have served on the Technical Advisory Team to sup-

port USFWS in developing a Species Status Assessment (SSA) for each species. This included providing thorough input on early drafts of the SSA and enhancing the scientific accuracy and defensibility of this document to support an informed listing decision.

"CPW biologists played a significant role in the writing of this strategy, which details specific conservation actions and collaborative approaches that will reduce and/or eliminate threats to the long-term viability of both species," Cammack said. "Following this announcement from the USFWS, we look forward to continued partnership with the conservation team as we continue to advance conservation goals for these unique species."

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Rescue on the Rio

As most of you know, Miss Trixie and I have been driving for Narrow Ridge Outdoors/ Mountain Man Rafting for several years now. It's a fun endeavor, we get to meet all kinds of great people, and we work with a bunch of stellar youngsters, which is always invigorating.

Just this past week we were busy shuttling vans down to pick up rafters who were enjoying a great day on the river when someone flagged us down on the highway. She had seen our logo on the van and said, "I am so glad to see you as there are some people who have fallen in the river and need help badly."

Disclaimer: what follows may or may not be an accurate reflection of events.

So, we kicked into our rescue training mode and quickly found these poor folk clinging to rocks in the raging rapids, all life about to ebb from their cold bodies. Trixie remarked that they were a lot "older" people and I think she said that since she herself is starting to add on years like a runaway abacus.

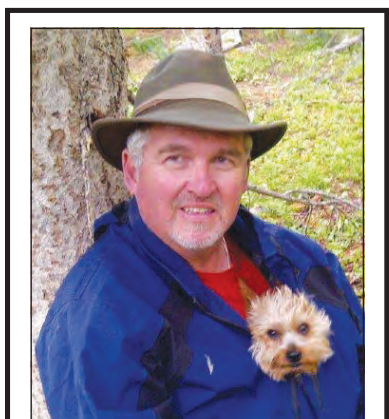
But anyway, Ole Dutch and Miss Trixie assessed the situation and realized that the kayakers were close to unconsciousness so we both dove into the torrent disregarding the threat to life and limb of our own bodies. All I could think about as I swam out to them was poor little Cooper being an orphan if I did not live through the ordeal.

A few quick powerful strokes brought us to them and while Ole Dutch secured a firm grip on the gentleman and began an exit to the shore, Miss Trixie had quite another predicament to face. For you see the poor woman lost her grip just as Miss Trixie got to her and slipped away into the raging torrent. She made one last grab for the drowning woman and miraculously came up with a handful of pigtailed with which she was able to tow her to shore.

As I write this, Miss Trixie's eyes have gone to rolling around in her head like marbles. I have offered her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, but she has refused to be rescued thus far.

Back to my story, even though we were now safe and sound on the bank, the poor kayakers were in miserable condition having been subjected to the icy water of the river for many hours. Fighting near hypothermia ourselves we nonetheless were able to carry these folks to the warm van and get them inside. We then began rubbing their extremities trying to keep them from going into shock or having a heart attack and certain death.

Miss Trixie saw that the woman was in really bad shape and given her history of survival on Mt. Everest, she grabbed Cooper and like a mini hot water bottle, thrust him down against



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

the womans ample bosom.

Gathering every ounce of reserve strength ourselves, we were finally able to drive back down the valley and deliver them into safe hands for further treatment and we counted our lucky stars that it was not worse than it had been.

Both Miss Trixie and I were exhausted beyond description, but we had rafters and fishermen depending on our delivery of vehicles, so we just changed clothes and hit the road. Ole Dutch had to "man up" and Miss Trixie put on "her big girl panties" in order to complete our jobs and not disappoint those depending on us that day.

You never know each day when you begin how the Lord will use you to help others I guess, and this day was no different in that regard. Being in the right place at the right time is sometimes all it takes to be a blessing to someone else.

Miss Trixie is now full-on frowning at me over the description of the rescue and wants me to clarify some parts of it before I submit it for publication.

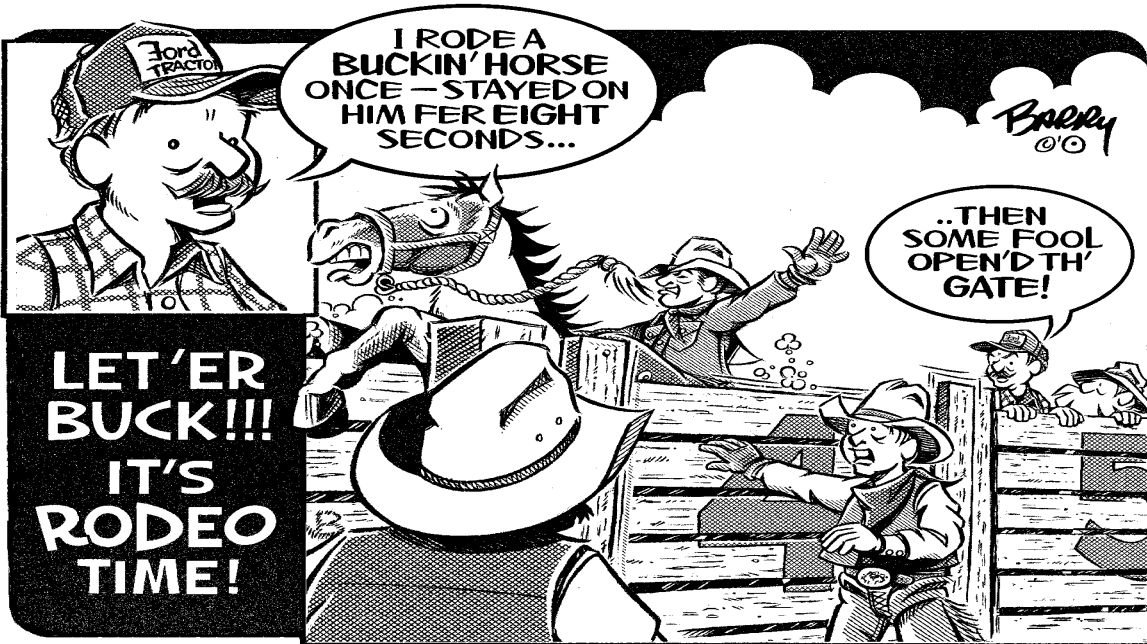
Well, in fact a woman did flag us down and knew that Mountain Man has a reputation of rescuing folks in dire straits, that's true. And two people did fall out of their kayak and in fact, they were very cold and in danger of hypothermia when we found them. Another truth. And we did take them back to town to safety and warm clothes.

But the rest of the story is what they call Literary License and makes it a lot more interesting at least. (Plus, do not fear, Cooper was not harmed in any way.)

And if you enjoyed that one you should hear the one about Little Sarah and the grave up on Del Norte Peak. It's a dandy.

As Miss Trixie always says, Ole Dutch never lets the truth get in the way of a good story.

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.



LET 'ER BUCK!!! IT'S RODEO TIME!

Sharing memories

The following article by Tom L. Thompson, titled The Sign of Memories, was first published in The Last Word column of the Rocky Mountaineers Rendezvous, a newsletter for a great group of Forest Service employees from the Rocky Mountain Region, many of them long retired. I had the honor of providing the photograph used for that story.

While I am a bit younger than Mr. Thompson, I share the same sentiment and warm feeling as I pass the National Forest signs across the country. Thompson served as the Deputy Regional Forester of the Rocky Mountain Region for 12 years and before that, as the Forest Supervisor on the Siuslaw NF in the Pacific Northwest Region. He retired as the Deputy Chief with responsibility for the National Forests and Grasslands.

The Sign of Memories



Photo courtesy of Rio Grande National Forest

The Rio Grande National Forest Sign on Highway 149, just north of South Fork.

As you travel across the country and come upon a National Forest or Grassland entrance sign, how does it make you feel? Especially, if it is a well-maintained sign, I just get this warm feeling of being home where I belong. In a sense it is a feeling of welcome, of security, of pride, of gratitude, and of just plain old comfort.

I have visited every national forest and grassland sometime in my 78 plus years, and from as early as I can remember to now, I have always had that same special feeling knowing that the Forest Service entrance sign signals a very special place ahead and it belongs to all of us. It is not for sale, and it will always be there, just for us.

In reflecting back on my early years, I think to a large degree it was a Forest Service sign that probably led me to a career in the Forest Service. Growing up on the high plains of southeastern Colorado it was quite a distance to the mountains of Colorado. On a very clear day if you were on a high point, you could sometimes make out the tops of the mountains off to the west. Every year our family set out on what I considered to be the most special week of the year and went off to the mountains. Like so many families the discovery of the National Forests started at the end of World War II.

Toward the end of World War II in 1945, my dad, who had worked at the Pueblo Air Base all through the war, was treated to a weekend fishing trip on the upper Rio Grande

River by a grateful doctor who was indebted to my dad for all the neighbor-in-the-apartment next door mechanic work he had done on the doctor's Buick during the war years. With this experience my dad came to love the Rio Grande country and thus began what became a lifetime of annual visits back there.

I don't have vivid memories of my first trip there in 1946 at six months of age, but I do have many, many wonderful memories of those early great adventures for our family on the Rio Grande National Forest as I grew up. The log cabins where we stayed were built in 1926 and surrounded by National Forest. The cabins were one room with two beds, a wood stove, a table, a bench and a few chairs, no electricity, no running water, and the outhouse was shared with a few other cabins. There was fishing right out the door, clear crisp air at over 10,000 feet elevation, views of elk on the slopes every evening, and lots of space with aspen and spruce forests in every direction.

Every year when we would make our annual trip there, I so much looked forward to coming to the Rio Grande entrance sign because we were within a couple hours of being at the cabin. The dirt road up to the cabins was a very rough road, not paved like today, but that made it even more special because it was a "trip".

So early on I had a love for the Forest Service and at age 10, with the help of borrowed stencils from my uncle I made an official Forest Service sign for my room out of 4 x 11-inch piece of 3/8 inch plywood and even drew the Forest Service shield on the lower right corner. In looking at this sign today and the craftsmanship, the artistic touch, and the layout, I can see why I never did all that well in art classes. Even so the sign gave my room in our basement an identity and reminded me of a place off to the west where I yearned to be.

My own family continued with this tradition of making at least one trip to the Rio Grande as best we could over the years. In the mid-nineties we decided to begin using cabins down river a way that had electricity and indoor plumbing. There is a special spot on the ridge up near Spring Creek Pass in an open parklike meadow where I sat with my grandfather probably seventy years ago. I have sat there with my dad, my mom, my sons and daughter, and now my grandchildren and every time I come to the Forest entrance sign for the Rio Grande there are memories, but there is also so much gratitude that these places are still there and will be there for my grandchildren's sons and daughters and their grandchildren.

Gregg Goodland is the Public Affairs Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest and has had the honor of serving with Tom Thompson as organizers of the Memorial Grove ceremony for several years.



Land Water and People
By Gregg Goodland

The Del Norte Prospector



THE DEL NORTE PROSPECTOR (USPS 151-640) Published weekly (every Thursday) by Valley Publishing. (719) 852-3531 at 835 First Ave., Monte Vista, Colorado 81144-1423.

Established in 1874 and consolidated with the Monte Vista Tribune and San Luis Valley Graphic. Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144

Main office, Want ads and Subscriptions: (719) 852-3531
Periodical postage paid at Monte Vista, Colo., 81144

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

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

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South Fork sells out for Third of July, hosts large crowd honoring Independence Day

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — The smell of cooking catfish filled the mid-morning air on the Third of July as celebrations got underway in South Fork on Wednesday.

The annual South Fork Fire Rescue (SFFR) fundraiser had already drawn a huge crowd by the time 11 a.m. came around and as the line of people wrapped around the building, it was confirmation of the day that was yet to come.

The South Fork Fire Department building was packed to the brim with people enjoying the deliciously prepared meal. This South Fork tradition has brought hundreds to the area every year and is the only fundraising event the department hosts throughout the year. The South Fork Ladies Auxiliary alongside several South Fork Fire Rescue members and volunteers make the event a huge success every year and this year was one for the books.

By 1 p.m., the SFFR volunteers realized that they had sold out of their food for the first time ever.

Throughout the day, the South Fork Farmers Market offered wonderful local goods from various vendors and a great place to catch a seat in the shade underneath the many trees by the South Fork Visitor Center. By the afternoon, small clouds offered a reprieve from the growing heat as people gathered along the Frontage Road for the annual South Fork Third of July Parade.

The parade began with the marching of the San Luis Valley Color Guard and those in attendance gave their attention to the marching Veterans as they walked down the road holding the flags high. Men, women and children paused in their celebration to honor the flags and then the fun began in earnest.

South Fork Fire Rescue made its way from the catfish fry and lined up with the other wonderful floats, ATVs, OHVs, horsemen and women and much more. Colorful trucks lined with streamers and red, white and blue decorations brightened the sunny afternoon as participants tossed candy, popsicles and more. Children squealed with delight as they dashed to grab treats as the floats passed by.



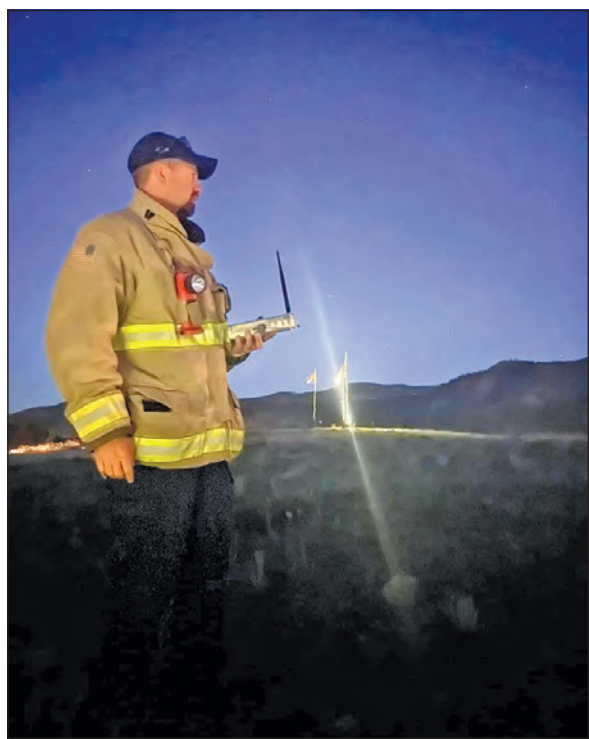
The annual South Fork Fire Rescue Catfish Fry sold out for the first time in the event's history on July 3.

Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

The South Fork Third of July Parade was a sight to be seen as colorfully decorated trucks, ATVs, OHVs and floats made their way down the Frontage Road on the west end of town that afternoon.



Photos courtesy of Linette Mye-Schmidt
South Fork Fire Rescue manned a wonderful firework show on the Third of July in South Fork. The display lit up the night sky for more than 20 minutes.



The afternoon ended with a quiet winddown just before the rodeo by Burris and Sons in the Rickel Park Rodeo Grounds.

The night ended with a spectacular firework display set off by the South Fork Fire Rescue team. The display lit up the night sky, drawing the crowd's attention for more than 20 minutes. Now, with the Third of July celebrations behind, the town is preparing for the annual Logger Days Festival. For more information or a full schedule of events, visit www.southfork.org.

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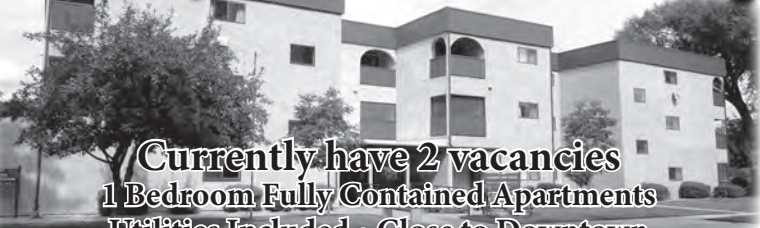
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Thousands celebrate Independence Day in Creede

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

CREEDE — Main Street was lined with thousands of people on Thursday, July 4, for the annual Fourth of July celebration in Creede.

Children laughed and giggled as they ran through the street waiting for the parade to start. Cheers from the crowd watching the mining competitions could be heard over the hum of excitement and conversation as horsemen and women made their way down the street with flags to start the parade.

As the array of colorful and uniquely decorated floats made their way down the street, one stood out from the rest. The Creede Ladies Aid, dressed in different period garb danced and laughed as they meandered through the crowd also celebrating their quasiquintennial year as the oldest known organization in Creede's long history. One hundred and 25 years of service and dedication to the Creede community gave them more than one reason to celebrate.

Afte the parade, the crowd dispersed to enjoy the summer day with all kinds of activities including the annual Days of 92 Mining Competitions. Mining enthusiasts from all over the southwestern US come to compete in the three-day competition that tests their abilities in some of the most popular, age-old mining techniques. From hand mucking to Jackleg drilling, the competitions captivate the crowds and highlight the challenging work of a hard rock miner.

Vendors lined the Kentucky Belle parking lot that offered everything from homemade housewares to delicious treats like local honey, delectable spices and more.

The town was covered in delicious scents from sunup to sundown. Local



The Days of 92 Mining Competitions brought people to the arena behind Basham Park in Creede. Competitors came from all over the US for a chance to compete.

restaurants like the Creede Hotel had live music while offering their unique and wonderful cuisines.

Food was not the only thing keeping folks in town as they wandered along Main Street shopping in all the shops and the Creede Famers Market.

There was something for everyone throughout the day and as the afternoon turned to evening, the Creede Repertory Theatre rolled out its red carpet and put on another showing of this year's most talked about play, "Young Frankenstein."

The show started at 6 p.m. to allow people to get out just in time for the firework display.

Now that Creede has finished celebrating the Fourth of July, the town will shift gears and prepare for the Woodcarver's Rendezvous and coming the first week of August, the Creede Rock and Mineral Show. For more information or a full schedule of events, visit www.creede.com.



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

The Fourth of July celebration in Creede brought thousands to Main Street for the annual parade. The Ladies Aid Society of Creede won Best of Show of the parade for their unique style of clothing that spanned 125 years.



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MV COOP

Continued from Page 1A

members for their contributions. "Another year has swiftly passed for Monte Vista Coop, and our unwavering dedication to meeting your needs remains steadfast. I extend my sincere gratitude to our employees and members for their invaluable contributions, which propelled us to another successful fiscal year," he said.

Hinton spoke about the highlights of the past fiscal year and welcomed a "newer" board of directors.

"In 2024, we donated over \$150,000 to various causes and continued our support for graduating seniors through scholarships, nurturing the next generation of leaders," Hinton said. "We have a newer Board of Directors that is extremely focused on your company's future. We welcome your involvement in different coop committees and activities, along with providing any feedback. As always, my door remains open, and I look forward to engaging with more of you in the coming year. I wish all of you a healthy and prosperous year ahead."

Each department is strategically operated with the best interests of area farmers and ranchers in mind, helping to keep the local economy robust and thriving.

Whether engaged in farming, ranching, recreation, or just living, fuel products are a necessity for everyone. Therefore, the Monte Vista Coop Energy Division delivers diesel, gas, and propane. The service department installs and services both

residential and commercial propane tanks, and heaters.

Fuel is one of the necessities for a farmer or rancher. That is why the Monte Vista Coop delivers diesel, gas, and propane along with having a service department that installs both residential and commercial propane tanks. The Monte Vista Coop Energy Division offers a wide range of products and services, along with years of experience.

Now through Sept. 30, the Monte Vista Coop Energy Division August Propane Special is expanding to the Summer Fill Special. People can get the same great special delivered during a multi-month period beginning July 1-Sept. 30. During the Summer Fill Special, people can switch to an MVC tank and get tank rent waived until April 2025. MV Coop offers Budget Billing, where a person can spread their annual propane cost over 11 equal payments beginning in July. People can also receive an additional discount if they sign up for reoccurring monthly payments.

As a Cenex brand dealer, the Monte Vista Coop provides all the conveniences people are accustomed to: 24-hour pay at the pump gas diesel fuel, freshly made cold and hot foods and tasty snacks and beverages at the C-Store location in Monte Vista. Download the MVC Loyalty app and start earning points toward selected purchases at the MVC C-Store.

The Monte Vista Coop Car

Care Center offers tires, batteries, accessories, plus a mobile tire service truck. Whether at the station, on the road, or at the farm, MV Coop can provide complete tire service for any size vehicle with excellent service provided to all customers.

The Monte Vista Coop Equipment Division prides itself on matching each customer's unique needs with the Kubota that will serve them best. They also offer quality hay and potato equipment services and products.

Fertilizer is also another necessity for Monte Vista Coop members. MV Coop's Agronomy Division provides conventional and organic fertilizers, crop protection products, seed, and a variety of other agricultural products. At three locations, the Monte Vista Coop Agronomy Divisions can mix customized fertilizer blends to meet a grower's unique needs and field conditions, and with the capability to spread dry or liquid at a variable rate, MV Coop brings even more value to customer's bottom-line profitability. MV Coop now offers drone applications.

The Monte Vista Coop Farm Store is a hardware store with an agricultural emphasis. Carrying everything from paint and plumbing to tack and clothing, the Monte Vista Coop Farm Store is a major retail location for farmers and non-farmers alike. They also carry a large selection of PJ and Orange Line trailers, Troy Bilt mowers and tractors, stoves, top quality pet foods, lawn and garden fertilizer and products, and Powder River Cattle Equipment.

With feed warehouse locations in Alamosa and Monte Vista, the Monte Vista Coop Feed Division provides premium feed, essential livestock products, and educational insight.

Monte Vista Coop is passionately committed to providing its customers with the highest quality products, most innovative solutions, and services delivered with integrity and



Courtesy photo

In 1949, the Monte Vista Coop opened in a small building near the railroad tracks, across from what is now Polished Edge in Monte Vista. The building is no longer standing.

professionalism.

"This year, the Monte Vista Coop celebrates its 75th anniversary. The Monte Vista Coop would like to thank our members, customers, employees, and community for your dedication and support through the years. We look forward to serving you for many more years to come."

Stay connected to us on Facebook, Instagram and its website, MVCoop.com.

Known General Managers of the Monte Vista Coop

- Don Spencer - 1961 - 1972
- Andy Anderson - 1972 - 1976
- Doyle Smith - 1976 - 1981
- Roger Polfer - 1981 - 1983
- Gerold Palmgren - 1983- 2006
- Aaron Hackerott - 2006 - 2007
- Mike Kelley - 2007 - 2012
- Mike Boothe - 2012 - 2019
- Eric Hinton - 2019- present

Timeline of Monte Vista Coop

1949 - Opened the Monte Vista Coop in a small building near the

railroad tracks, across from what is now Polished Edge in Monte Vista. Building is no longer standing.

Early 1960s - moved into building across the highway, south of Loves in Monte Vista.

1974 - Moved the Coop to the main office location where MVC is located today.

1981 - Merger with Alamosa and Monte Vista Cooperatives.

1998 - C-Store was built in Monte Vista.

2021 - Dry Fertilizer Shed and Crop Protection Shop were built.

Original 1949 Board Members

- George Benton
- Forrest Bishop
- Ernest Bloxson
- Walter Brink
- Orvil Drake
- W.J. Drake
- Herb Edwards
- Raymond Entz
- Dale Hodgell
- Paul Lincoln
- Arthur Martin

PROJECT

Continued from Page 1A

sidewalk closures.

Access to business will be maintained but may be temporarily altered.

Motorists are urged to watch for construction personnel and equipment in the work zone.

Project Benefits

The project is part of CDOT's Revitalizing Main Streets grant program that enhances transportation safety and strengthens the connection of people to main streets and central economic hubs.

"We are pleased to be the recipient of this grant program," said Mayor Shelly Burnett "The project in downtown Del Norte will encourage physical activity and enhance our local economy through several improvements to the town's infrastructure."

New Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) sidewalks, curb ramps and crosswalks will make pedestrian crossings accessible to people with disabilities, required by federal law.

Improvements along the corridor will provide safer access and mobility for residents and visitors.

New lighting allows better visibility for locals, businesses, and travelers.

Colored concrete to add esthetics for Del Norte's business district.

For additional information about this project:

- Project webpage: www.codot.gov/projects/
- Project hotline: 719-589-4263
- Project email: frontdesk@rmsutilities.com
- Town of Del Norte Office: 719-657-2708

Enjoying Life God's Way

I have this burden to see people enjoy the life that Jesus died to give them—and I want to see people not just talk about it but walk in it. John 10:10 (AMPC) says, "The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)."

The thief, in these particular verses is Satan. But John 10 tells us that while the thief comes only in order to steal, and kill, and destroy. Jesus came, that we may have and enjoy life and have it in abundance, to the full, until it overflows. What a scripture! Not only are we alive, but we should enjoy being alive.

When Jesus came to give us life, He didn't come just to give us breath—we were already breathing! Instead, He came to give us life as God has it, life as God knows it! But not only does He want us to have and enjoy life, but He gets radical and says: In abundance, to the full, until it overflows.

God wants us to enjoy life just for the sheer sake of enjoying life! But He also wants us to enjoy it because we are His ambassadors. The Bible says in Corinthians 5:20 that God is making His appeal to the world through us. If you are a born-again believer, you are a direct representative of Almighty God. You and I are showing the world what God is like. We're advertisements for having a personal relationship with Jesus.

With this in mind, it's no wonder Satan wants to keep so many people in the body of Christ sad, and mad, and operating in all kinds of wrong fruit: Judgment, criticism, gossip, backbiting! He wants to keep people depressed and angry and stressed out and full of strife. He doesn't want us to have any joy because it might make others want to know God!

It's also important to enjoy your life, because you don't want it to pass you by and leave you with regrets. I know this sounds awful, but when I was raising my children, I loved them and I was a responsible parent, but I look back now, and I did not enjoy my children the way that I could have. And do you know why? Because I was a

workaholic. And I was so busy keeping everything neat and tidy and clean—but that dirt will be there tomorrow. And that doesn't mean you just live a sloppy life, and you never clean up things and take care of things, but I can remember my kids wanting me to stop working and play with them. And I always said something like, "I can't do that, I've got work to do." Well, you know what? You're always going to have work to do, so, you need some balance in your life because some things are passing you by. And you don't want to come to the end of your life and look back with regrets.

The only way you can keep from having regrets is to do something about making better choices right now. And the truth of the matter is, you may not really be enjoying the journey. If we are letting the devil steal from us, we need to make a decision. We need to put our foot down and say, "That's it, devil. You have stolen my joy long enough. I'm determined that I'm going to learn how to enjoy my life."

When I say, "enjoy your life," I'm not just talking about vacations, Friday night when the work week is over, and payday. I'm talking about enjoying everyday life. That's why I called my program "Enjoying Everyday Life." Because most of life is not some big hilarious event. It's Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. And we have years of that. Most of life is very ordinary. It's about going to work, and driving in traffic, and taking out the trash, and dealing with the grouchy neighbor.

But thank God, we have the power of the Holy Spirit to help us deal with things that ordinary people cannot deal with. We are supernaturally anointed to live ordinary life in a supernatural way. You can be happy in situations where nobody else could be happy if they didn't have Jesus in their life. Why? Because it's not our situations, it's the joy of the Lord that is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10).

And I believe that's the first place we have to start is by saying: "God really does want me to enjoy my life!" Somehow Satan has sold us the



lie we shouldn't enjoy it. But John 17:13 (AMPC) tells us, "And now I am coming to You; I say these things while I am still in the world, so that My joy may be made full and complete and perfect in them [that they may experience My delight fulfilled in them, that My enjoyment may be perfected in their own souls, that they may have My gladness within them, filling their hearts]."

We need to lighten up and stop being so deadly serious about everything, including our own faults. We are no surprise to God. He told Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you and I approved of you as My chosen instrument" (Jeremiah 1:5). Stop being against yourself and picking on yourself and examining all your faults all the time, and just say: "You know what? I am what I am and I love God and I want to change, and I'm changing all the time, and He's changing me every day from glory to glory, but this is what you got today and I'm going to enjoy myself because God loves me."

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

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

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

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SLVH launches 'milestone' renovation project

CEO Konnie Martin: 'A significant change that our patients deserve'

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — With the help of a \$1 million grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), San Luis Valley Health (SLVH) will be renovating a permanent structure to create five private rooms in an area of the hospital named "Three South."

"The total project budget is about \$3.1 million," SLVH CEO Konnie Martin told the celebratory crowd of supporters who filled the lobby of the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center last Wednesday. "Without this foundational funding from the USDA — a key piece in making this project happen — it would

not have been possible for us to have achieved such a significant change."

In a nod to the USDA directors who were present for the announcement, Martin added, "I also want to acknowledge how special it is to celebrate this accomplishment with USDA leaders, one former (Armando Valdez) and one current (Crestina Valdez), who are also known to us as friends and neighbors."

The project will not increase the numbers of in-patient beds at SLVH, but will, instead, renovate existing space to create the private rooms that can accommodate the need for isolation, when needed. The rooms will also be updated to meet current standards of care, will have an up-to-date healing aesthetic and, of course, provide patient privacy.

Although the idea of the renovation has been a long-standing goal for SLVH, the possibility of it becoming a reality dates back almost three years to 2021 when the USDA announced Recovery Grant Funding was available.

But the situation that created SLVH's undeniable need for renovation preceded the grant even being made public.

"In 2021, during the pandemic, RMC (SLV Regional Medical Center) was the only facility in this south-central region of the state accepting positive COVID patients," Martin told the group. "Conejos County Hospital and Rio Grande Hospital provided care to less acute patients and patients recovering from COVID."

"At the time we wrote the grant, we were averaging 22 patients a day — bed placement for patients presented significant challenges, both for patients with and without COVID. We were also getting calls from other areas of the state — and even out-of-state — who didn't have beds available for COVID patients who needed them."

"And RMC's hospital rooms are semi-private and over-crowded with medical equipment, entering and exiting staff, bathrooms that don't meet ADA requirements, and lack patient privacy."

When the grant was made public, its goals — supporting immediate health care needs, helping to prepare for a future pandemic, increasing access to quality health care services and improving community outcomes — seemed tailor-made for SLVH, and an application was submitted.

"It was a perfect fit," Martin said.

"We've been looking for something like this for a long time," Karla Hardesty,



Photo by Donne Wehe, Director of Communications, SLVH

The atmosphere was festive in launching a project that will meet a long-term goal. Pictured left to right: Ryan Kessinger — Contractor, GH Phipps; Jeremy Gonzales, SLVH, Director of Facilities; Crestina Martinez, USDA State Director of Rural Development; Steve Watkins, Contractor, GH Phipps; Konnie Martin, CEO SLV Health; Tim Agnew, SLVH Project Manager, and Karla Hardesty, SLVH Board of Trustees, Chair.

chair of the SLV Health Board of Trustees, told the Valley Courier. "We're really excited to offer this to our patients. It will be a lovely asset to our facility."

"We're focused on improving access of care to our community across the Valley and even beyond, especially in the summer when we get people here from other places. I also think it's very forward-thinking for us to be thinking about upgrades to our facilities. Patient quality is first and foremost but so is a good experience when people are going through hardships. They're not here because they're feeling good. They're here because they need quality medical care. We're able to do that having top notch facilities."

Hardesty went on to add, "We're fortunate to have partnerships with the USDA. It's very supportive of poor, rural communities to make these investments

and sustain our financials and our communities' access to care."

When asked what message she thinks an investment like new private rooms sends to the funders, Martin told the Valley Courier, "I think this shows federal agencies that leaders believe in what we're doing here and we're worthy of this kind of investment. And we're going to do good things with federal money and turn it into a community solution."

When asked what message adding five private rooms sends to the patient population of the Valley (and beyond), Martin responded, "We believe our patients deserve the best health care we can provide. Having private rooms with better visitation and state-of-the-art equipment is what our patients and our community deserve. And that is our goal every single day."

Mo Lowda & the Humble in Cole Park July 14

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Live Music Association is once again providing free live music in Cole Park all summer long, with its Sundays at Six concert series. The series continues on July 14 with the indie rock of Mo Lowda & the Humble. Check them out at www.molowda.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



Courtesy photo

Mo Lowda & the Humble will be performing on July 14 in Cole Park as part of the Sundays at Six summer concert series.

Pantry. Can't make it to the concert? Catch the show livestreaming on ALMA's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/almalivemusic.

For more information, like ALMA on Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, or visit www.almaonline.org.

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SLV Regional Airport to receive federal funds

By JOHN WATERS

WASHINGTON, DC – The San Luis Valley Regional Airport in Alamosa will receive \$456,849 in federal funding for snow removal equipment.

On July 2, U.S. Senators John Hickenlooper and Michael Bennet celebrated an additional \$10 million in new funding from the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for infrastructure improvements at 16 Colorado airports.

“From Yuma to Montrose, Colorado’s airports help connect rural communities and power local economies,” said Hickenlooper. “Our Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is delivering much needed improvements to make air travel safe and accessible for all Coloradans.”

“Colorado’s regional and municipal airports are an important part of our state – they connect our communities and boost local economic development,” said Bennet. “This funding will support airports across Colorado as they

make critical investments to meet our changing needs.”

The investments are funded through the FAA’s AIP and the Airport Infrastructure Grants (AIG) program, which deliver funding for airports nationwide to improve runways, taxiways, and airport signage, lighting, marking, and facilities. The programs receive funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which Hickenlooper helped negotiate. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has provided over \$399 million to Colorado airports across the state for infrastructure improvements since being signed into law., which deliver funding for airports nationwide to improve runways, taxiways, and airport signage, lighting, marking, and facilities. The programs receive funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which Hickenlooper helped negotiate. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has provided over \$399 million to Colorado airports across the state for infrastructure improvements since being signed into law.

Annually, the Airport Improvement

Program receives \$3.3 billion in federal funding. In other previously announced financing, the San Luis Valley Regional Airport in 2023 received \$2,012,948 to construct an Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting building and an additional \$550,000 for the facility in 2024.

The San Luis Regional Airport in Alamosa will receive \$456,849 from the federal government for snow removal equipment.

Photo by John Waters



Photo by John Waters

According to the National Weather Service, June was the second warmest and second wettest on record. Seen here are the Rio Grande and the Blanca Massif on a recent early July afternoon.

June weather review

By NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

COLORADO — June of 2024 saw a meandering ridge of high pressure across the Rockies, which brought periods of very warm temperatures, as well as periods of abundant available moisture and heavy rainfall to portions of south central and southeast Colorado.

Alamosa recorded 2 inches of precipitation through June. This is 1.57 inches above normal and makes June of 2024 the second-wettest June on record, just behind the 2.58 inches of precipitation recorded in June of 1969. For the month of June as a whole, above-normal temperatures were experienced across south-central and southeast Colorado, with generally above-normal precipitation across south-central Colorado and pockets of above-normal and well-below-normal precipitation across southeast Colorado.

The preliminary average temperature in Alamosa for June was 64.3 degrees. This is 3.7 degrees above normal and makes June of 2024 the second-warmest June on record in Alamosa, just behind the 64.5-degree average June temperature in 2012. The average June maximum temperature in Alamosa was 82.3 degrees,

which is 2.1 degrees above normal. The average June minimum temperature in Alamosa was 46.3 degrees, which is 5.4 degrees above normal.

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File photo

El Pomar approves \$44K to SLV groups

By JOHN WATERS

COLORADO SPRINGS — The El Pomar Foundation trustees approved \$44,000 allocated to eight nonprofit organizations and government entities in the San Luis Valley at the Foundation's May Trustees meeting.

Through the Foundation's grant making process, the following entities were awarded grants:

- Adams State University Foundation, Inc. (Alamosa) — \$10,000 for School of Nursing infant and pediatric mannequins; competitive
- CASA del Valle, Inc. (Alamosa) — \$5,000 for general operating support; regional merit
- City of Creede — \$5,000 for food for youth at the Virginia Christensen multi-use facility; regional merit
- Manassa Saddle Club, Inc. — \$2,500 for general operating support; regional merit
- San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society (Alamosa) — \$2,500 for general operating support; regional merit
- South-Central Colorado Seniors, Inc. (Alamosa) — \$4,000 for Homebound meal delivery service; regional council
- Town of San Luis — \$5,000 for Sangre de Cristo Cultural Heritage Center piano; competitive
- Valley Citizens Foundation for Health Care, Inc. (Del Norte) — \$10,000 for cottage and geodome homes in the Community Wellness Center.

Adams State University honored the El Pomar Foundation with the 2015 Willis Fassett Jr. Award. President David Tandberg, Ph.D., appreciates their belief in the nursing program.

"Support from the El Pomar Foundation helps us train qualified providers for rural health care," Tandberg said.

Monica Wolfe, Director of grant recipient, South Central Colorado



Photo by Adams State University. In this May photo, graduates of the Adams State University School of Nursing are about to receive their BSN degrees. The El Pomar Foundation has awarded the school \$44,000.

Seniors, said, "We are gratefully thankful. The El Pomar Foundation has been a huge cheerleader for all the non-profits in the Valley, and we appreciate that. The funding will go to meet the needs of our services for our seniors."

Aileen Peek, Executive Director of the San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society said of the \$2,500 the group received from the foundation, "The San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society greatly appreciates the donation of \$2,500 from El Pomar Foundation. In this impoverished area that money goes to running our no kill shelter near San Luis. Dogs are in dog parks all day, dependent upon weather conditions, and not housed in kennels except at night. Our Society also helps with donations to CatsAlive and refers callers to veterinarians, behavior help and other shelters."

"The Town of San Luis is working closely with several organizations to re-establish the Sangre de Cristo Cultural Heritage Center as a destination point for Coloradans to not only learn the history of the oldest Town in our State but also as a place to experience the current cultural happenings in Southern Colorado, be that music, film, sculpture, painting, etc. The El Pomar Foundation is the latest organization to contribute to

Please see EL POMAR on Page 8

The annual Ski-Hi Stampede will be in Monte Vista on July 11-14 at the Ski-Hi Complex.

Ski-Hi Stampede is back, earlier than ever before

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — Preparations for the annual Ski-Hi Stampede are underway, just a little sooner than usual. Everything kicks off on July 11 and runs through July 14. That's right, what usually takes place at the end of July, is sooner this year.

The Stampede Committee made the

announcement following last year's event, with the goal of drawing more professionals to the PRCA rodeo the Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista.

Wright's Amusements will be here beginning on Wednesday, July 10. The carnival will be in town for five days, complete with adventure-filled rides, tasty treats, fun-filled games, and much

more.

On Thursday, July 11, the annual Rotary Chuck Wagon Dinner will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. right before the big kickoff concert.

This year Country Music Hall of Fame member Wynonna Judd is headlining the concert on July 11 at 7:30 p.m. **Please see STAMPEDE on Page 2**

Reverse 911 can save a life

By JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA — On Sunday, June 23, at 4:51 a.m., many San Luis Valley residents were alerted of an emergency by the Reverse 911 system maintained by Alamosa County.

The reverse system operates across the country and sends emergency calls, texts, and emails alerting people to various events including natural disasters, evacuations, school emergencies and safety threats.

In 2009, Connecticut became the first state in the nation to utilize a

reverse 911 system and now they are deployed across the U.S. and Canada. In 2004, reverse 911 was used in Granby, Colorado to notify residents of a bulldozer rampage. Reverse 911 was used in during the 2012 Sandy Hook — Newtown Connecticut school shooting. And locally the system has been used twice locally in the last few weeks.

If you did not receive the message sent out last Sunday morning, signing up to receive the notifications is easy. Go to the Alamosa County website

at www.alamosacounty.colorado.gov and go to the red tab on the site, "Sign Up for Alamosa County Emergency Alerts," and click on it to be directed to the Hyper-Reach website and sign up. The website was launched in 1995 by the Asher Group, a computer service provider.

According to the company, Hyper-Reach is a leading provider of mass, enterprise and team notification systems for public safety, other government agencies and companies throughout North America.

Hope in the Valley brings addiction treatment services to region

By JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA — Valerie Gurule-Duran, Clinical Director from the Hope in the Valley recovery center in Alamosa briefed county commissioners on June 26 regarding progress the addiction treatment facility has made recently.

Gurule-Duran told the commissioners, "We are a community-led program, we currently offer a detox that is a social, medical withdrawal detox. We don't carry narcotics onboard, but we have nurses on staff 24-7. Our doctors can call in and prescribe [meds] we are trying to get patients medications like Suboxone [opioid dependence treatment medication] we can definitely do that.

"We also have a partial hospitalization program, that is five hours a day, five days a week where they participate in groups. We are using a curriculum out of a company based in Los Angeles that is evidence-based and it covers many aspects [of recovery.] We also have outpatient treatment, which is three hours a day, three days a week.

"Our goal is we are trying to create this continual treatment, if somebody comes in, we are trying to not let them go out on the street. We use the encouragement to ask, 'What is your goal, what needs to happen, do you have adequate housing, do you need in-patient treatment? Do you need sober living?'"

Please see HOPE on Page 8



File photo

Hope in the Valley recovery center has been open in Alamosa since May 22.

STAMPEDE

Continued from Page 1

Wynonna is world renowned and known both as a solo artist and duet artist with her beautiful late mother, Naomi Judd. They were known on stage as The Judds. According to the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame, Naomi and Wynonna formed one of the most successful duos in country music history, recording 14 number one singles between 1984 to 1989. The Judds recorded many memorable songs such as, "Momma He's Crazy," "Rockin' with the Rhythm of the Rain," "Give a Little Love," and "Grandpa," along with one of their most notable songs, "Love Can Build a Bridge." Due to unexpected illness, Naomi retired in 1991, and in 1992, Wynonna made her debut as a solo artist and released many more successful albums. Max McNown, a singer and songwriter from Bend, Ore., is the opener for Wynonna.

Stick around for the after-concert dance featuring the Justin Kemp Band, who will also perform nightly following the rodeo action on July 12 and 13 beginning at 9 p.m. Friday night Colorado's oldest PRCA rodeo returns to town, and brings all the thunder with it, including broncos, roping riders, the ever-popular barrel racers, kids' mutton busting, and bull riding. There will be rodeo action on July 12 and 13 evenings and July 14 in the afternoon. Downtown parades will take place July 12 and 13, beginning at 10 a.m. The parades are always filled with colorful floats from local businesses, and plenty of candy and treats are always thrown for all the kiddos and crowds to enjoy. For more information on specific times and where to get tickets, visit skihistampe.com.

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)				
		7/4	7/3	7/2	7/1	From	7/4	(inches)		
		2day	3day	4day	5day	7day				
Moravian 69	04/05	0.27	0.14	0.23	0.22	0.41	0.65	0.87	1.10	1.42
Moravian 69	05/05	0.27	0.14	0.23	0.22	0.41	0.65	0.87	1.10	1.42
Early Wheat	04/05	0.27	0.14	0.23	0.22	0.41	0.65	0.87	1.10	1.42
Early Wheat	05/05	0.27	0.14	0.23	0.22	0.41	0.65	0.87	1.10	1.42
White Wheat	04/05	0.27	0.14	0.23	0.22	0.41	0.65	0.87	1.10	1.42
White Wheat	05/05	0.27	0.14	0.23	0.22	0.41	0.65	0.87	1.10	1.42
Winter Wheat	10/01	0.22	0.12	0.20	0.20	0.34	0.54	0.74	0.94	1.24
Potatoes										
Norkotah	05/05	0.28	0.15	0.24	0.23	0.43	0.68	0.91	1.14	1.44
Centennial	05/05	0.16	0.08	0.12	0.10	0.23	0.35	0.46	0.56	0.68
Nugget	05/05	0.17	0.09	0.13	0.12	0.25	0.39	0.51	0.63	0.78
Alfalfa	Est.	0.31	0.16	0.27	0.25	0.47	0.74	0.99	1.25	1.62
Lawnglass	Est.	0.26	0.14	0.22	0.21	0.39	0.62	0.83	1.04	1.35

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 up June 8 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

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\$1,595,000 | MLS #815364
11 Iron Bridge Place South Fork, CO

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OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®
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UNDER CONTRACT

Mountain Outlook /Approx. 69.750 Acres
\$245,000 | MLS #806781
000 County Road 13 Del Norte, CO

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UNDER CONTRACT

2 Bedroom, 1 Bath 1,440 Sq. Ft. on 198.07 Acres
\$2,777,700 | MLS #812760
5295 County Road 28 Monte Vista, CO

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CLASSIFIED INDEX

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

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

07 Help Wanted

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

Jr/Sr High Language Arts Teacher needed at Del Norte Jr/Sr High School. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License with a secondary Language Arts endorsement. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, DNHS Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Mrs. Hardy at 719-657-4020. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.urtigers.co.

MDS Waste & Recycle has an immediate opening for a Route Driver. As a Route Driver, you are responsible to follow a route and use the supplied Android tablet to correspond pickups with the route. Professional and respectful communication is required between the office, other drivers, and supervisors to keep a clear picture of field activities. Your route is established and once learned should be completed in a reasonable time frame barring any mechanical or other work-related setbacks. MDS Waste & Recycle offers competitive pay and benefits including paid vacation, paid holidays, insurance, annual reimbursement for work clothes/boots, and reimbursement for personal cell phone. Qualified candidates must have at the minimum a Class B CDL with an airbrake endorsement, excellent communication skills, general knowledge of Android tablets, and work well independently. Let's Talk Trash! Contact our office via email at mdssolidwaste@gmail.com today! (7-31)

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. (7-17)

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Valley Wide Classifieds

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 jt timber.com to apply. (7-10)

12 Houses for Rent
House for Rent in Del Norte, in town. 2br 1ba. Huge yard, large garage. Pets and smokers not permitted. Available July 1. \$900/month, includes water and sewer. Please call 630-728-1728 (7-10)

For Rent in Del Norte: For Use As An Office or Home, a remodeled 1 room, full bath unit in a quaint four-plex in Del Norte. Pets and smokers are not permitted. \$700/mo., inclusive of water and sewer. Available September 1st. Please call 719-850-0750. (7-31)

For Rent in Del Norte: For Use As An Office or Home, a remodeled 1 room, 3/4 bath, spacious living room, unit in a quaint four-plex in Del Norte. Pets and smokers are not permitted. \$800/mo., inclusive of water, sewer, and a small storage shed. . Please call 719-850-0750. (7-31)

16 Vacation
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24 Garage/Yard Sales
Estate Sale: 25 Papoose St. Every Sat & Sun in July. Beauty shop equipment. At 8:00-Noon (7-24)

Aqua Ramon Club Community Garage and Craft sale. July 12th 8:00-3:00. 3 Texas Lane, South Fork, CO. Lots of great stuff. (7-10)

36 Miscellaneous
For sale - Queen sofa bed brown leather (new mattress) \$150; DJ equipment speakers, lights, light stand (will break up) \$3000; Ale-sis Electric Drum Set, 11 pc. with hardware only used Sunday mornings in church (3 years) \$3500; Jacuzzi jetted bathtub (good condition) \$250; Stryker Crossbow 420 fps with bow crank, arrows and case \$2000; Guitar stand holds 5 guitars \$50; New in box 45,000 btu gas water heater (40 gal) reg \$615, selling for \$350. 719-588-0573 (7-10)

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Found together 6/21 near County Road F and 43.5 in the La Garita area









Wick
1 year old

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LOCATION: Quality Timbers & Wood Products
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*Directions: From Alamosa, CO - Go south on Hwy. 285 23 miles to sale site on the right.
From Antonito, CO - Go north on 285 5 miles to sale site on the left. Consignments accepted through Friday, July 12.*

QUILTS
Approximately 20 handmade quilts will be available sale day




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89 Ford F700 cab-n-chassis propane runs excellent
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1 set poly glider rockers
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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

FOR MORE SALE INFO:
Mose 719-982-8900
Edward 719-992-8334
Freeman 719-580-7121
All items sold as is where is.
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Not responsible for accidents, lost or stolen items.
No merchandise removed until settled for.
All announcements on day of sale take precedence over printed matter.
Selling with 2 & 3 rings throughout the day.

MORE CONSIGNMENTS WANTED

FARM - RANCH - TOOLS
12 - 10"x40' PVC 50 psi pipe
Pull behind ditcher
10 - 5x10 chain link gates
3 point hay fork
Ground driver hay rake
Large drill press • 12" wood planer
New ox yokes • New rabbit hutch
Multiple plastic gas cans
Platform floor scales, digital
Large drill press/motor
Large planner/motor
Small bench top drill press
Handy man jacks • Electric miter saw

HORSES
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

THIS IS ONLY A PARTIAL LISTING, MANY MORE ITEMS EXPECTED BY DAY OF SALE.
Lunch will be available by school parents.
Also, baked goods, doughnuts, fry pies & other refreshments will be available.
All Dollar items considered donations.

Rio Grande County celebrates employee's 57 years of service

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**
RIO GRANDE COUNTY — Rio Grande County Board of Commissioners welcomed Jody Kern, Director of Rio Grande County Social Services, alongside Larry Desbien, Director of the Division of Child Support Services and the Colorado Department of Human Services, to their work session on June 26 to celebrate Helen Martinez who has worked for the Department of Social Services for an astounding 57 years. Martinez is the longest standing employee in Rio Grande County and announced her retirement earlier this year. "We have been so pleased to have Helen for all these years. She has done wonderful things in the Department

of Social Service and child support," said Kern. Martinez was presented with a plaque and an American flag for her years of service. The plaque presented by Desbien reads, "CDHS honors Helen Martinez for her 57.5 years of dedicated service, devotion and commitment to serving Coloradans in Mineral and Rio Grande County." Rio Grande County commissioners helped celebrate Martinez and acknowledged that she may be the longest standing county employee in the state besides one other county employee who will be celebrating their 58th year in another location. "We are just so happy to have had her services and we are going to miss having her in the office," finished Kern.



Photos courtesy of Rio Grande County Social Services
 Helen Martinez was presented with a plaque honoring her devotion to her job and an American flag to mark her willingness to serve. Pictured is Martinez with Rio Grande County commissioners Gene Glover, Scott Deacon and Tyler Ratzlaff.



For nearly 58 years, Helen Martinez has helped serve the greater Rio Grande County Community and has now chosen to say goodbye and enjoy her retirement. Pictured is Larry Desbien, Director Division of Child Support Services Colorado Department of Human Services.

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



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

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NEW PRICE



1,270 Sq.Ft. Off-Grid Cabin on 5.24 Acres - Creek!
 \$272,500 | MLS #809447
 7541 Indian Creek Rd. Fort Garland, CO

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

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

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

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UNDER CONTRACT



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

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

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NEW PRICE



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

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UNDER CONTRACT



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

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Hunting Cabin on 40 Acres - Bordering National Forest
 \$220,000 | MLS #812863
 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath Del Norte, CO

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

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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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328 Fir Drive • South Fork

Your Mountain Dream Awaits! Discover this splendid 3 bedroom home perfect for Vacations or Year-Round living, boasting an excellent rental history. Nestled in a hollow brimming with aspen trees, this 3-bedroom, 2-bath home is all on one level, ranch style and easily accessible. Two bedrooms feature walk-in closets. Enjoy an open floor plan with wood and laminate floors, aspen paneling, and abundant sunlight in the living areas. The large kitchen offers plenty of cabinets, an island for eating or work, a laundry closet, and a walk-in pantry. Stay cozy with a grand wood stove, solar heat, backup electric baseboard heat, and ceiling fans. This heavily treed lot provides privacy and tranquility, complemented by a large storage shed. There's ample parking for multiple vehicles, ATVs, or snowmobiles. The backyard, enclosed by an 8-foot privacy fence, is wired for a hot tub. High-speed internet is available, and the Town of South Fork maintains and plows the roads. Conveniently located within town limits, Moments from the Rio Grande Club and Wolf Creek Skiing. It's an easy walk to the Rio Grande River and town amenities. Bring your Fishing Pole and Live Your Dream! Don't let this One get away! Call me for more information and schedule your showing today! More pictures coming soon. MLS# 7894641 - \$350,000



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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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193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

Charming Mountain Retreat with Breathtaking Views Nestled in the picturesque town of South Fork, CO, this finely detailed 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 sitting porch, sip your morning coffee, and observe the local wildlife. Mule deer and wild turkeys frequently visit the serene Ponderosa Valley Estates. A large laundry room with abundant storage, a wash sink, and a washer and dryer adds convenience to daily living. Park your vehicles in the 2-car garage and utilize the detached cement floor garage/workshop with water supply and 110/220 power for all your mountain toys or hobbies. This home is ready for you to make it your own—whether it's your dream residence, a home away from home, or a vacation rental. Explore nearby activities such as skiing, four-wheeling, hiking, and gold medal fly fishing. The Rio Grande River is just moments away. Enjoy the convenience of paved roads, city water sewer system, and your very own well and large .83-acre lot. Priced at \$479,500 this property offers an exceptional opportunity to embrace mountain living. Schedule your private showing today and embark on Your Mountain Adventure in this beautiful, tranquil Ponderosa Valley Estates neighborhood! Don't wait, call and schedule today! MLS#810774 - \$479,500

SOLD



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222 La Lomita Circle • South Fork

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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REALTOR® EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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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Monday Night Jam Band performing in Creede

CREEDE—Mark your calendars for Creede Arts Council's upcoming Music in the Park concert from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 7, in Creede's Basham Park. The Monday Night Jam Band, an eclectic group of Creede musicians, will be performing a range of rock, blues, folk and funk.

This is part of the Creede Arts Council's Music in the Park series of free public concerts. For more information, contact the Creede Arts Council at creedearts@outlook.com or check out the entire summer Music in the Park lineup at www.creedeartscouncil.com.

DN Public Library Summer Reading

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Public Library's Summer Reading program started June 17 and will go through July. You can still register and participate. This summer's theme is "Adventure Begins at Your Library." This summer's program includes weekly activities on Thursdays from 4:30-5:30 p.m.; next one is July 11 at the library. Also go to the Del Norte Town

Park and read the latest story "Jules' Voyage to the World of Bees" in the Adventure Walk, then come to the library for a free honey stick. This book will only "bee" around for a little longer because High Valley Community Center will be sponsoring a new story. Look for it soon. The library also has Colorado Native Wildflower seed packets available courtesy of Generation Wild.

EL POMAR

Continued from Page 1

this effort, awarding the Town of San Luis \$5,000 to go towards the purchase of a Baldwin Grand Piano for the Heritage Center theater. With the purchase of this piano, we are excited to be able to offer a top-quality instrument to attract top-quality musicians to San Luis and bring people from across Colorado to our small Town to experience everything we have to offer," said Teddy Leinbach with the Town of San Luis.

years, El Pomar has either developed or been entrusted with the stewardship of other funds and presenting merit grants in each region recommended by Trustees and regional council members. Competitive applications are accepted on a rolling basis. In an effort to increase impact and establish connections across the entire state, the Regional Partnerships program was established in 2003. Each of the Foundation's 11 regional councils advises El Pomar Trustees and recommends grants to help support its communities. The San Luis Valley Regional Council recommends grants in Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties.

HOPE

Continued from Page 1

"We have been open since May 22, and we have had a handful of people come into the facility and the transformation we are seeing is amazing." Commissioner Lori Laske said, "I am glad you are looking at residential in-patient because that is the gap we have in the San Luis Valley, and we appreciate you are working toward that.

On July 11, Hope in the Valley will hold an open house and ribbon cutting. Details will be in the Valley Courier when they are known. Hope in the Valley can be reached at 719-206-4673 and www.hopealamosa.org. For information regarding meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous in the San Luis Valley, visit www.slvaa.org.

"Thank you guys, this is a resource that is needed," said Commissioner Vern Heersink. Commissioner Arlan Van Ry said, "I can speak from experience, I've never been shy about my recovery. As a Veteran, it is extremely hard to get any kind of treatment. Luckily, I was able to do it on my own. For the other Veterans who struggle with PTSD, one of the side effects is turning to dependency on alcohol or other drugs. If there is any way I can help, and assist with getting Veterans Affairs TRICARE, I am more than willing to help volunteer my time." Van Ry added he just celebrated 1,500 days of sobriety and offered he is willing to talk with any Veteran who is experiencing addiction. TRICARE is the Department of Defense health care program for uniformed service members, their families, and retirees. According to the website of the organization, "Hope in the Valley is more than a rehabilitation center; it's a haven built on empathy, understanding and the unwavering belief in the transformative power of recovery... Hope in the Valley stands tall, not just as a rehabilitation center, but as a living testament to the possibility of transformation, a testament that no matter how challenging the journey, hope can be found, and recovery is within reach."

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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SUDOKU

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

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

		M	E	S	A		S	M	O	K	E						
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	C	A	M			T	R	E	E	S		D	H	A	L		
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THE HOLY MOSES

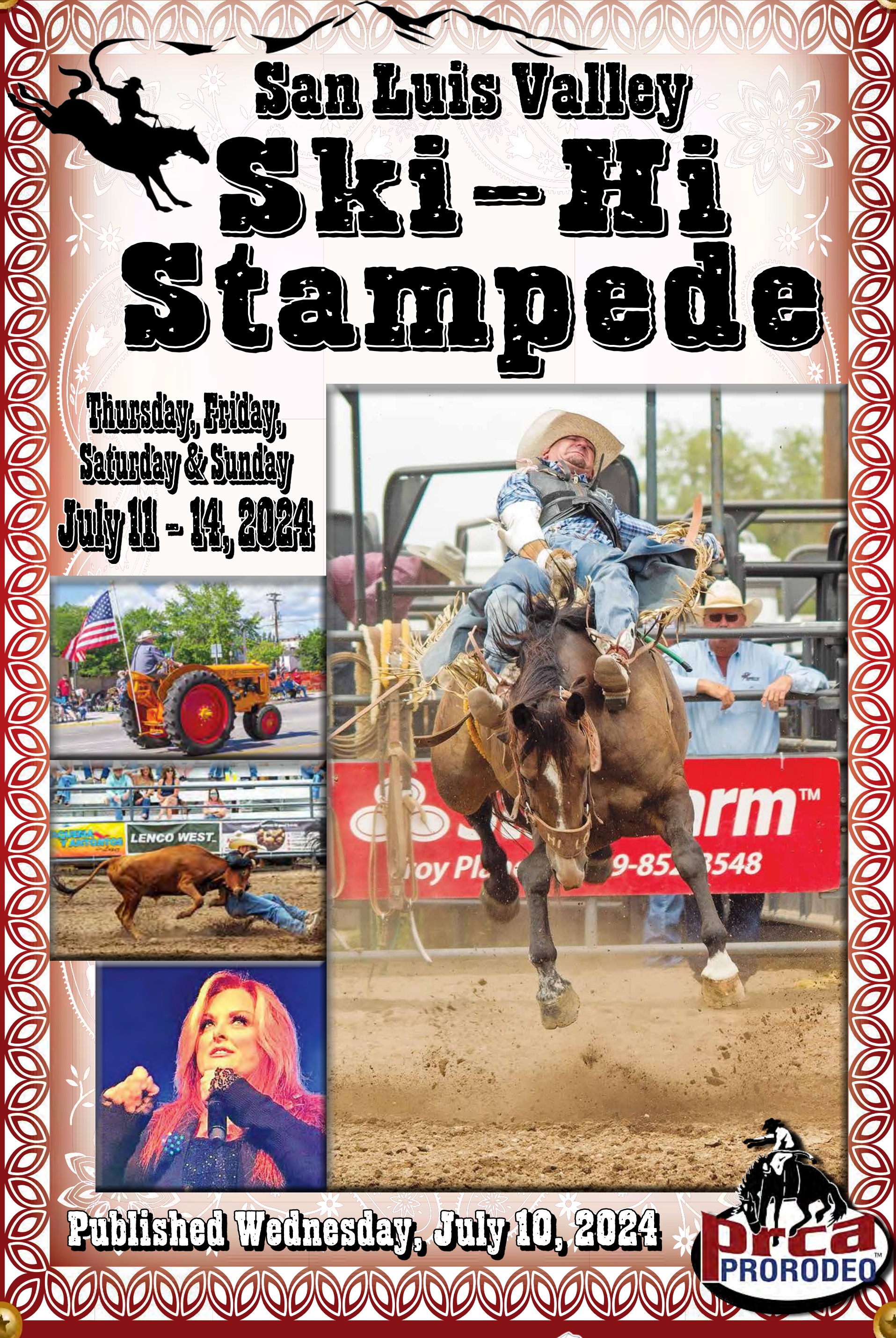


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San Luis Valley Ski-Hi Stampede

Thursday, Friday,
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July 11 - 14, 2024



Published Wednesday, July 10, 2024



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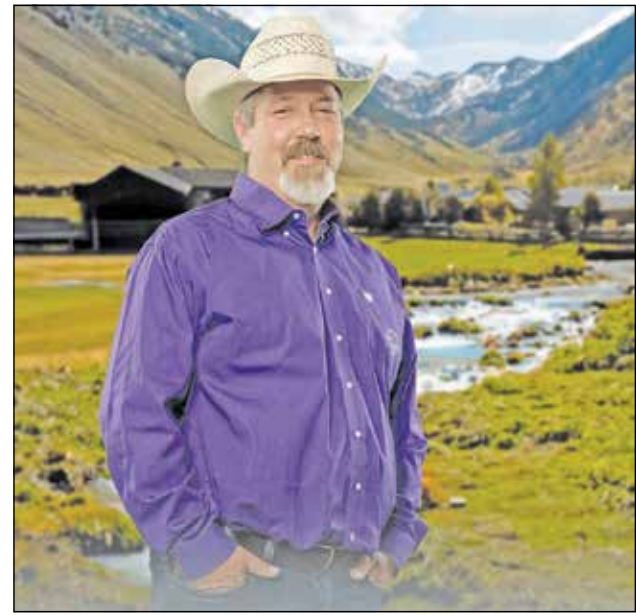
Welcome to the 102nd Ski-Hi Stampede

We are so excited to celebrate our 102nd anniversary this year! On Thursday, July 11, the Monte Vista Rotary Club will be doing dinner

serving roast beef, baked potatoes, beans, with cookies and a drink. After supper, we are pleased to announce another spectac-

ular concert featuring Wynonna Judd with special guest Max McNown. Immediately after the concert, join us for the first dance of the week-

end featuring Justin Kemp. On Friday, July 12, the first rodeo of the event will kick off at 7 p.m. with the world class stock contractor Stace Smith and



announcer Andy Seiler. Friday night is Family Night at the rodeo.

Rodeos will also take place on Saturday the 13th at 7 p.m., and Sunday the 14th at 2 p.m. Saturday's Rodeo theme is "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" - so make sure to wear your pink that day.

There will be parades on Friday, July 12, and Saturday, July 13, at 10 a.m. This year's parade theme is "Heroes Among Us."

Don't forget to take your family to Wright's Amusement Carnival as they exceed our expectations every year.

We hope you don't miss this

opportunity to get out and spend time with friends and family and enjoy what the San Luis Valley community has to offer.

For more information, check out our website at skihistampede.com, like us on Facebook and Instagram, or add us on Snapchat!

Have a great time at the 102nd Anniversary of the Ski-Hi Stampede!

Greg Metz, Stampede Committee President

Stampede Committee



Greg Metz- President • Brandon Rogers- Vice President • Eric Kimberling- Secretary • Nick Malone- Treasurer • Charlie Burd- Director • Karla Willschau- Director • Derek Cooper- Director • John Willschau- Director • Kelsey Kimberling- Director • Ryan Rumley- Director • Mark Deacon- Director • Dave Cooper- Director • Jason Tillman- Director • Helen Smith- Director • CE Glunz- Director • Rocky Southway- Director • Keith Rogers- Director



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Saturday August 10 2024

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Program 6:30 pm

Auction 7:00 pm

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Photo courtesy of www.riderandbethany.com



FOR MORE INFO 719-657-3266 RIOGRANDEHOSPITAL.ORG



Photo by Brian Williams

During the 2023 Stampede, rodeo scholarships were awarded to Blake Denton, left, and Sommer Amos, middle, by the Adams State University Foundation and the Stampede Committee. Applications are available at www.skihistampede.com.

Stampede, ASU partner on annual scholarships

MONTE VISTA — San Luis Valley Ski-Hi Stampede, Inc. and Adams State University Foundation both know the importance of being involved in local communities and supporting local youth.

The San Luis Valley Ski-Hi Stampede and Adams State University Foundation have teamed up to provide three \$3,500 scholarships to any male or female San Luis Valley resident. The scholarships will be awarded to qualifying

applicants during the 2023 Stampede rodeo. Qualifications include in the year of scholarship application, the applicant must have or will be participating either in the San Luis Valley Ski-Hi Stampede Rodeo, San Luis Valley High School Rodeo, San Luis Valley Little Britches Rodeo, or the San Luis Valley Fair as a 4-H or FFA participant; or be a stockholder or child of a San Luis Valley Ski-Hi Stampede shareholder or be a volunteer during the Stampede.



Bring canned food to carnival on Wednesday

MONTE VISTA — Wright's Amusements is again having its annual food drive.

Come down to the carnival on Wednesday, July 10, for opening night – 5 p.m. to midnight. Those who bring two canned food items can purchase an all-day carnival pass for \$25.

This offer will only be available Wednesday, July 10.

Please make sure any food you bring is unopened and unexpired.

Wright's Amusements will be open during the Stampede from 11 a.m. to midnight on July 11, 12 and 13; and from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on July 14.



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Contractor Smith Pro Rodeos provides quality stock

MONTE VISTA — If the bulls look meaner, the horses rougher and the calves and steers more agile, thank perennial Stampede favorite stock contractor Stace Smith Pro Rodeos.

At end of 2023, the torch was passed from father to son as Riffin Smith began running the show for his father, Stace Smith.

Stace Smith PR produces more PRCA rodeos than any other PRCA stock contractor. In addition to PRCA rodeos, Smith Pro Rodeos produces PBR and Bronc Match events throughout the year. It is in large part to his experience that Stace Smith has been named PRCA Stock Contractor of the Year in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. Smith and Harry Vold are tied for the most all-time PRCA Stock Contractor of the Year awards at 11.

Stace has worked at every level of rodeo, beginning as a contestant, then spending time as chute boss, and pickup man. Smith was chosen as pickup man for the Texas Circuit finals in both 2005 and 2007 and continues to pick up at several events.

In 2009, Stace Smith became a shareholder in

Mesquite Championship Rodeo, and in 2014, Smith Pro Rodeos has served as the committee or partners with the committee at 26 of the 39 events produced. This one-of-a-kind experience gives them an inside edge on what it takes to help the committees achieve one of the ultimate goals of spectator sports, putting spectators in seats.

In 2014, Smith Pro Rodeos had seven PRCA rodeos nominated in the four "Rodeo of the Year" categories. Smith Pro Rodeos produces rodeos across nine different states from Mississippi through Texas, Colorado, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

Each performance is carefully planned, from building equal, exciting pens of livestock, to planning the order they will be presented according to the stock and rider's attributes. All timed event livestock come directly from the Smith ranch, so there are no mismatched pens or delivery issues. Because of these efforts, turnouts are at a minimum, so each rodeo is a balanced representation of the sport.

For more information, go online to www.smithprorodeos.com.



Andy Seiler to announce Ski-Hi Stampede

MONTE VISTA — The oldest rodeo in Colorado will be welcoming a familiar voice to announce the goings-on in the arena, this year. Andy Seiler is back handling the announcing duties for Ski-Hi Stampede.

Seiler has been in the business for over a decade and his career has followed an ascendant path being branded "an up-and-coming voice for professional rodeo," by Boyd Polhamus and according to former NIRA Commissioner John Smith. "I honestly believe Andy will be one of the best-recognized announcers in the sport of rodeo."

Rodeo is a family affair for Seiler as he and both parents competed in rodeo. In his high school competition days, he was a three-time champion team roper in the National High School Finals Rodeo. From there he qualified three times for the College National Finals Rodeo during his time at Troy College in Alabama.

To earn some extra money for college expenses, Seiler used his first-hand experience to take up gigs announcing at amateur rodeos. After winning the Walt Garrison Award of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA), Seiler's

first big break came in the form of an invitation from announcer Boyd Polhamus for Seiler to be his co-announcer at the National College Rodeo Finals in 2008.

After three years of working various rodeos including Rodeo Houston, Cervi Championship Rodeo and Harry Vold, he stepped away from the scene to get a "real" job, working for a feed supply company in Florida. During that time, he married his childhood sweetheart. Bringing about his next big break, in the form of another phone call from Polhamus asking Seiler to fill in as the announcer at Rodeo Houston.

From there, his announcing career took off as he was in demand at rodeos across the nation. All this eventually led to a prestigious spot at-mic for the National Finals Rodeo.

Seiler is well suited for his profession as he has plenty of experience with rodeo as well as a broadcast journalism degree. He also knows a thing or two about making the event fun for all ages as Seiler is a husband and a father.

He has announced all over the country in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA).

Tentative schedule of events

Thursday, July 11
 Wright's Amusement Carnival, 11 a.m. to midnight
 5-7 p.m.: Rotary Chuck Wagon Dinner at Ski-Hi Park
 7:30 p.m.: Concert (gates open at 6:30 p.m.): Wynonna and special guest Max McNown
 9 p.m.-1 a.m.: (begins after the concert) Dance: Justin Kemp Band

Friday, July 12
 Family Day at the Rodeo
 Wright's Amusement Carnival, 11 a.m. to midnight
 10 a.m.: Parade
 1 p.m.: Local Rodeo, amateur events and professional slack

7 p.m.: PRCA Rodeo
 9 p.m.-1 a.m.: Dance: Justin Kemp Band.

Saturday, July 13
 Tough Enough to Wear Pink
 Wright's Amusement Carnival, 11 a.m. to midnight
 10 a.m.: Parade
 7 p.m.: PRCA Rodeo
 9 p.m.-1 a.m.: Dance: Justin Kemp Band.

Sunday, July 14
 Wright's Amusement Carnival, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 2 p.m.: PRCA Rodeo
 Saddle Awards

For more information, visit www.ski-histampede.com

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Rodeo couple exhibits trick riding and roping, gun spinning

CONTRIBUTED

A pair of western entertainers will hit the "stage" at the Ski-Hi Stampede on July 12-14.

In the tradition of Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, Rider Kiesner and his partner Bethany Iles entertain with trick riding, trick roping, and gun slinging!

It's an exhibition of the Western arts, heralding back to the old west days of Annie Oakley, the Will Rogers Follies, and the glory days of TV, when westerns were king.

Kiesner and Iles are well-known for their work. Kiesner has performed at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, pro rodeo's world championship, seven times, and has done his act in all 50 states and 15 countries.

Their act is all western: Kiesner trick ropes and does gun spinning tricks, standing on a specially designed platform on his truck, doing such rope tricks as the butterfly, the wedding ring (with 70 feet of rope) and the Texas skip. Iles rides around the arena, doing dangerous yet beautiful trick riding stunts like the suicide drag, the shoulder stand, the liberty stand, the full fender drag, the stroud layout, and one of her newest, the cartwheel vault.

He's no stranger to the art of western talent. When he was nine years old, he got a Will Rogers trick roping kit for Christmas and taught himself to rope. His entire family, including younger brother Roper and parents Philip and Julie, took their show on the road. When Rider turned 18, he got his PRCA card and began his solo career.

Iles grew up with a mother who was



Bethany Iles will trickride at the Ski-Hi Stampede on July 12-14. The talented cowgirl will be alongside trickroper and gunslinger Rider Kiesner.

terrified of horses, but when Iles saw trick riding, she and her twin sister knew that's what they wanted to do.

"My mom, being a good mom, signed us up to take riding lessons, and within a month, we had three head of horses," Iles said. The sisters made their own trick riding equipment and hung off horses, "which is totally not safe," she laughed. Their riding instructor hosted a trick riding clinic, which the girls attended, "and a year later, we had learned enough to do local shows," Iles said.

The two of them paired up in 2018 and have performed at rodeos across the nation.

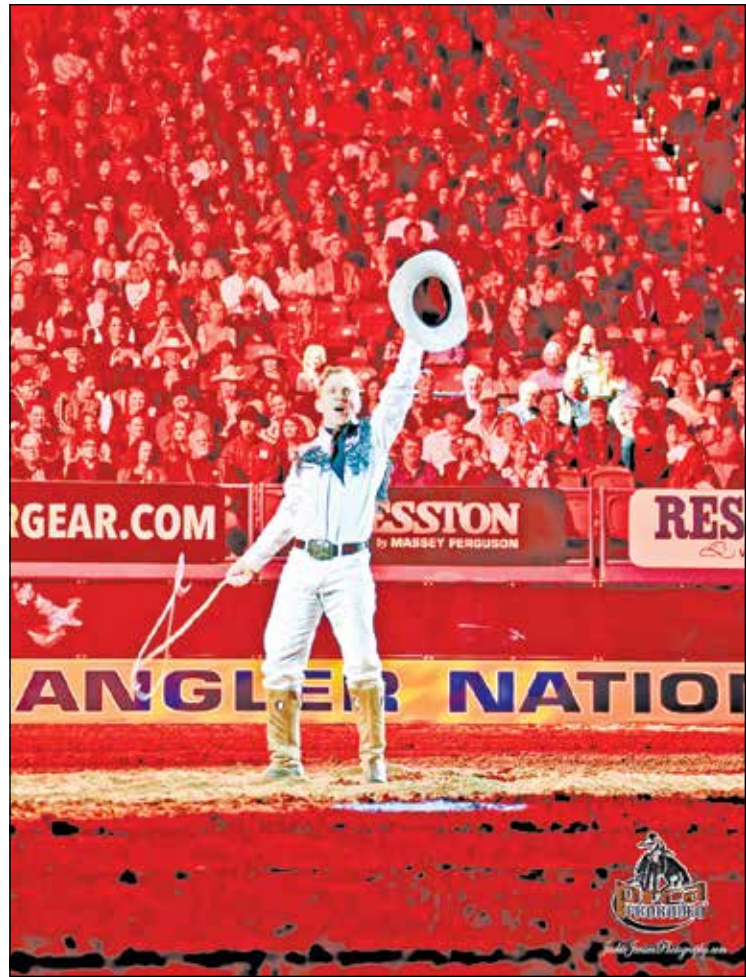
World champion trick roper Rider Kiesner will entertain with his brand of fancy trick roping and fire. The Oklahoma cowboy has been a showman and entertainer for more than 20 years.

Kiesner is a four-time world champion trick roper and a two-time world champion gun spinner, and the couple is the 2020 PRCA Specialty Act of the Year.

They will entertain during each night of

the Ski-Hi Stampede July 12-14. Performances begin at 7 p.m. on July 12 and 13, with a 2 p.m. matinee on July 14.

To purchase tickets and for more information, visit the website at skihistampede.com.




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Miss Ski-Hi Stampede Queens

1919 Kitty Halferty
 1928 Esther Godfrey
 1933 Agnes Aust
 1934 Dorothy Dorris
 1935 Mickey Gross
 1936 Vivian Goff
 1937 Marian Fennell
 1938 Betty Trueblood
 1939 Bonnie Hocker
 1940 Louise Johnston
 1941 Dorothy Haigler
 1942 Catherine Lague
 1943-45 (no queen)
 1946 Elinor Linger
 1947 Virginia Whitten
 1948 Lucille Ryan
 1949 Donna Glee McOllough
 1950 Marianne Finley
 1951 Betty Jane Johnson
 1952 Loretta Wiescamp
 1953 Charlene Wright
 1954 Ella Mae Noffsinger
 1955 Beverly Mann
 1956 Sue Schroeder
 1957 Gretchen Shellabarger
 1958 Kathleen Grimwood
 1959 Sylvia Claunch
 1960 Diane Selters
 1961 Ann Ulstrom
 1962 Barbie Roberson
 1963 Janice Haws

1964 Donna Selters
 1965 Jody Phillips
 1966 Loretta Morgan
 1967 Clarine Claunch
 1968 Nancy Rhodus
 1969 Marcia Wright
 1970 Cheryl Wright
 1971 Cindy Kane
 1972 Rita Curtis
 1973 Debbie Beiriger
 1974 Jackie Pavlovsky
 1975 Renee Smith
 1976 Cindy Wallace
 1977 Tammy Wiescamp
 1978 Anita Hunter
 1979 Carol Carter
 1980 Laura Wiescamp
 1981 Taina Andre
 1982 Darius DeHerrera
 1983 Sandy Hodgell
 1984 Betty Claunch
 1985 Brenda Rippe
 1986 Frances Slane
 1987 Janell Booth
 1988 Verla Rutgers
 1989 Christy Wintz
 1990 Isabel Jaramillo
 1991 Robin Stagner
 1992 Esther Sanchez
 1993 Michelle Claunch
 1994 Misty Brook Stagner



Courtesy photo

Past Miss Ski-Hi Stampede Queens and Royalty pose for a photo during the parade.

1995 (no queen)
 1996 Tammy Aldridge
 1997 Jennifer Edwards
 1998 Marcia Berggren

1999 Holly Binnian
 2000 Jeanie Andreatta
 2001 Corin Crowther
 2002 Jaclyn Gabel

2003 Kristen Prator
 2004 Johanna Steffens

— List provided by Gretchen Haller

Stampede amateur events announced

MONTE VISTA — The Ski-Hi Stampede Committee announces the 2024 amateur events and rules.

All amateur contestants will participate in the slack-qualifying round of the Ski-Hi Stampede rodeo on Friday, July 12, at 1 p.m.

All participants must be residents of the San Luis Valley — no exceptions.

- Entry fees will be \$100 per person per event.
- Calf Roping - \$100
- Barrel Racing - \$100
- Team Roping - \$200

An individual may enter only once per event.

- Event will be a one go round timed trials.
- The 8 (eight) fastest times, who were successful in the qualifying round, will advance to the Ski-Hi Pro Rodeo performances on Saturday and Sunday, bottom four Saturday and top four Sunday.

• Amateur monies will be paid to the fastest four contestants during Friday's qualifier.

Stock, secretary and judges fees will be

deducted.

Pay off will be as follows:

1st-40 percent; 2nd-30 percent; 3rd-20 percent and 4th-10 percent

• There will be no additional entry fee for participation in the Stampede Pro Rodeo. The fastest time in each event will be the winner of the amateur saddle for the event. The amateur saddle will be presented to the winner at the Sunday performance of the San Luis Valley Ski Hi Rodeo. In the event of a tie for the saddle, tie-breaker will be the best time from the qualifying round.

Individuals and teams will be scheduled in the Ski-Hi Pro Rodeo as follows:

• Number of individuals and teams will be divided equally for each of the two days (Saturday and Sunday) of the Ski-Hi Pro Rodeo.

• Competition order will be from slowest times from qualifier at the Saturday performance to the fastest times at the Sunday performance.

- Example (with eight maximum qualifiers with performance date and running order): Saturday, July 23 – Qualifiers 8,7,6,5; Sunday, July 24 - Qualifiers 4,3,2,1

• Once individuals and teams have qualified, and performance times have been set, there will be no changes or additions even if a qualifier must draw out for any reason.

• All communications about complaints or grievances shall be directed to the Ski-Hi Stampede Board of Directors at a monthly meeting by asking for a spot on the agenda to express the concerns. At no time will sponsors or other individuals be approached about grievances. Any violations of this clause may result in disqualification in this year's eligibility as well as all future year's eligibility in Ski Hi Stampede Rodeo events.

• Registration will be from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Monday, July 8, at the Ski-Hi Stampede Committee Building, 2330 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista. Contestants must have the following

for registration: Entry fee (cash or check; if a participant's check bounces, they will not be allowed to compete for the saddle in the pro rodeo); proof of health insurance; proof of residency (driver's license of 90 days in the Valley)

• Anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a legal guardian or have a notarized release from your legal guardians.

• Team Roping – Must be the complete team!

• All participants must enter in person!

Mutton busting

Participants must be between ages of 5 and 7 years old and less than 50 pounds. They must be a San Luis Valley resident and show proof of age and insurance. Child must be present at entry office to weigh in. There will be a limit of 10 mutton busters per day. All mutton busters must report to the west end of the grandstand before the saddle bronc riding begins. Contestants not reporting on time will not be allowed to compete.

See website for more information and all the rules, www.skihistampede.com.

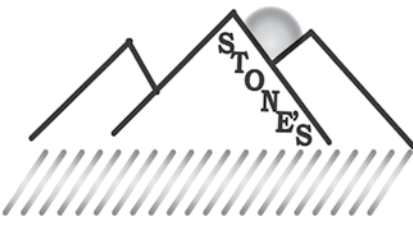
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Wynonna to headline Stampede concert

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — Longtime country artist and multiple award winner Wynonna Judd will be the featured act for Ski-Hi Stampede concert on Thursday, July 11, as the 100-year plus event moves up two weeks earlier than normal.

Up and coming artist Max McNown will be the guest artist. Tickets are available at skihistampede.com.

Wynonna is one of the most widely recognized and awarded female country musicians in history. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wynonna_Judd In all, she has had 19 No. 1 singles, including those with The Judds. Her solo albums and singles are all credited to—and performed under—the singular stage name, Wynonna.

She first rose to fame in the 1980s alongside her mother, Naomi, in their mother-daughter country music duo, The Judds. They released seven albums on Curb Records, in addition to 26 singles, of which 14 were No. 1 hits. In 2023 Wynonna was named the best country music artist picking up the “country champion” award at the “People’s Choice Country Awards”.

McNown is a singer-songwriter from Bend, Oregon. His soulful music attracted international attention on TikTok and other social media platforms, which built an engaging and



committed fanbase.

His powerful lyrics and resonant vocals led to collaborations with renowned producers and songwriters and the opportunity to audition in front of Katy Perry, Lionel Richie, and Luke Bryan during the 2023 season of “American Idol.”



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Stampede Parade Grand Marshals



Ronnie and Carolyn David

Ronnie and Carolyn David were high school sweethearts and have been married for 60 years.

Ronnie graduated from Sargent High School and Colorado State University with a degree in science and physical education.

Carolyn graduated from Monte Vista High School and St. Joseph Hospital School of Radiological Technology in Denver.

They returned to the Sargent area following graduation and Ronnie taught and coached at Sargent schools. Carolyn worked at Monte Vista Hospital, and they also farmed.

They raised three children, Kirk of Monte Vista, Stan of Pagosa Springs, and Marcia Schneider of Abilene, Kan., and have one

grandson, Brody of Colorado Springs.

Their greatest joy was supporting their children and grandson in their various activities and sporting events. There were many hours spent on bleachers and traveling but "what fun it was."

Ronnie served on the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee, the Sargent Steering Committee and two terms on the Sargent School Board. He coached grade school, junior high and high school basketball for more than 20 years, most of that was as a volunteer. For 35 years, he refereed football and basketball both locally and on the state level. "Being around young people adds a lot of joy to your life."

Carolyn volunteered on the Stampede Parade Committee, 9 Health Fair and has been a member of Bethlehem Chapter #56 Order of Eastern Star for 50 years and has enjoyed helping with all their philanthropic work. Carolyn was director at Legacy Assisted Living for 24 years and gained so much enjoyment from serving the seniors of the community.

The David's enjoy spending as much time as possible with family and at Santa Maria Reservoir. Carolyn still enjoys playing bridge, volunteers at the Rio Grande Hospital and serves as a member of the Monte Vista Community Ambulance Board of Directors.

Rodney and Domey Salazar

Domey and Rodney Salazar were born in the little community of Lariat. Growing up they were neighbors, Domey went to Catholic school, and Rodney went to public school.

They met in high school and were high

school sweethearts.

Rodney graduated high school and Domey later got her GED.

They have five wonderful children, who are doing well; nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

After the kids got older, Domey went to work at HeadStart and then with Dr. Hilmes. She also worked at McDonalds Clothing Store. Then later, she worked at Polston Elementary School as a teacher's aide before retiring.

Rodney's first job here in Monte was for Boy's Market, then for John Rogers Motors, who sold to Steinert Motors. Then he went to work for Phillips 66. He was offered a job with the Department of Agriculture (US Forest Service) as seasonal labor. After 32 years of service, he was promoted from labor to mechanic helper, to heavy equipment operator before retiring as supervisor of the forest road maintenance crew.

Rodney served on the board of directors for HeadStart, Colorado Migrant Council and the 12th Judicial Court in Alamosa. He has been a lifetime member of the Monte Vista Elks Lodge,



where he served in various offices with 39 years of service to date.

When they were younger, Domey and Rodney bowled in leagues and hunted. Rodney loved to golf. They also loved to dance.

Nowadays, they enjoy going to casinos and working on their condominium. Rodney just celebrated his 90th birthday with family and friends.

"Life is pretty sweet," they said.

Dance the nights away with the Justin Kemp Band

MONTE VISTA — Thursday, Friday and Saturday night's dances will feature the Justin Kemp Band.

Justin Kemp was born and raised in Hobbs, N.M., on the Texas Border. Growing up in a musical family he was heavily influenced by the great Merle Haggard, George Jones, Keith Whitley, and all of the legends going back to the 1970's.

Once he picked up the guitar at the age of 11 there was no turning back. He began songwriting in high school and pursued music at South Plains College in Levelland, Texas. With the support of his father, David Kemp, who also plays bass and keyboard with the band, the Justin Kemp Band was born.

Justin co-writes many of the original songs the band records along with his father and bandmate David Kemp. Their recent releases include "Borrow A Kiss," "Money In My Pocket," "Better Man," "Heart's Desire" and "Legends Never Die."

Justin and the band tour nationally and he also performs as a duo with David. They have opened for many major acts including Joe Nichols, Chase Rice, Dylan Scott, Travis Tritt, Tanya Tucker, Josh Abbott Band, Kevin Fowler, and Wade Bowen to



name a few.

He likes and covers the music of Luke Combs, Brett Young, Jon Pardi, Midland & Cole Swindell. Justin and the band have toured primarily in the South West.

In 2018 he signed a management deal with Heart Songs Records and he has spent the last year writing, recording in Nashville and continuing to tour with his five-piece band.

Justin Kemp Band was on multiple 2019 Country Artists to Watch lists. His successful single "Better Man" garnered him a place on Apple Music's hot tracks for 9 weeks.

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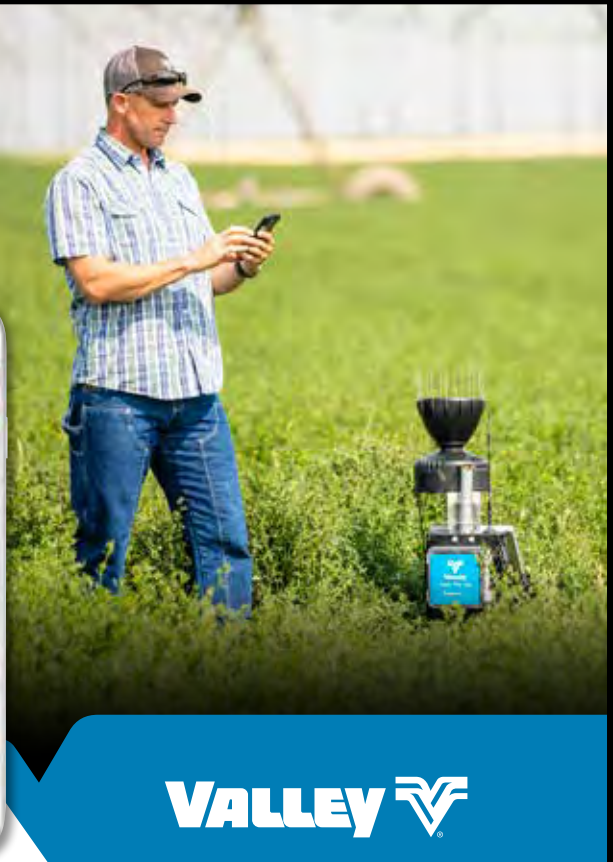
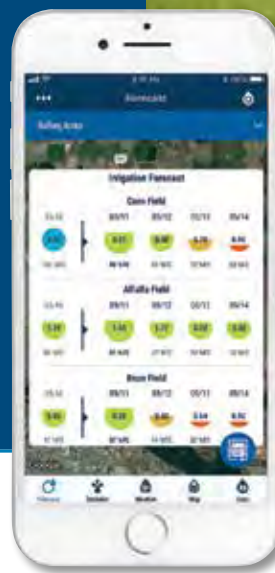
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Still tough enough to wear pink on Saturday

SAN LUIS VALLEY — For more than 100 years, the Ski-Hi Stampede has entertained crowds from all over the country and provided one of the best pro-rodeo events in the state. Not only has the Ski-Hi Stampede brought joy to the Valley, guests to the area and fun for all who attend, they have also provided donations to a local cause and have helped save the lives of many through their generosity.

The Stephanie L. Miner Women's Imaging Center at San Luis Valley Health in Alamosa was created when Miner, a local teacher, was diagnosed with breast cancer after her fourth child was born. When Miner lost her fight with cancer, her family approached SLV Health with the idea and starting funds for a center where women could go for early detection, prevention and all the state-of-the-art equipment needed to fight the disease.

It was in 2006 that the members of Ski-Hi Stampede board of directors approached the hospital and asked if they could help by becoming a part of a nation-wide program known as "Tough Enough to Wear Pink." The Saturday, July 23, program is an initiative supported by Wrangler and has participants from around the country.

"The Ski-Hi Stampede Committee's commitment to the TETWP campaign has raised more than \$100,000 to directly benefit the Stephanie L. Miner

Women's Imaging Center," stated Kelly Gurule, SLV Health Foundation director.

The Stampede committee, in conjunction with the San Luis Valley Health Foundation, is encouraging everyone to participate. All staff and volunteers for the event will be wearing pink throughout the festivities. "We know everyone is proud to be "Tough Enough to Wear Pink," said Gurule.

Tough Enough to Wear Pink was created by project founder Terry Wheatley in 2004. Wrangler presented the pink western shirts during the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo that same year and has continued as the head sponsor for events nationwide. The program has raised cancer awareness as well as raised funds for research, equipment and to help families with financial assistance. The amount of money raised has been staggering in the 18 years since the program's inception.

Wrangler donates all funds raised that come through their program to the national Breast Cancer Research Foundation that has been dubbed one of the best charitable programs in the nation. According to the website, "The Breast Cancer Research Foundation" (BCRF) was founded in 1993 by Evelyn H. Lauder as an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated



Courtesy photo

SLV Health Foundation picture for the Tough Enough to Wear Pink and making the pillar for \$100,000 of donations — pictured are Brandon Rogers, Rocky Southway, Charlie Burd, CE Glunz, Cliff Edwards, Greg Metz, Amy McKinley, Bob Carlucci, Rosalee Martinez, Jason Tilman, Kelly Gurule, Keith Rogers, Sheila Hicks, Derek Cooper, Roxanne Sittler, Duane Bussey, Karla Willschau, Kelsey Kimberling, Helen Smith, Nick Malone, Eric Kimberling, Mark Deacon. Missing David Cooper and John Willschau.

to funding innovative clinical and translational research. In 2010, BCRF awarded \$33 million to 172 scientists across the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, and Australia. Currently, more than 90 cents of every dollar donated is directed to breast cancer research and awareness programs."

Gurule was pleased to talk about the things the donations have done for the

center to date. Funds from previous years have been used to purchase equipment and maintain the center so the services provided there can be available to those that need them.

"There is one thing that people really need to understand," said Gurule. "The money that is raised here stays here in the Valley to help local residents and provide local services."

The women's imaging center in

Alamosa directly benefits from the funds raised during Ski-Hi Stampede, so keeping the money local is of the utmost importance. Breast cancer awareness, prevention and early detection is paramount in the fight against this disease.

Through these efforts, women from all over the world have the tools and support necessary to overcome the disease and find new hope in life.

Mutton Busting, an unforgettable experience



Photo from 2021

MONTE VISTA — Nobody expects to break or ride a sheep, but it has a benefit. It's a chance for little kids to get a taste of adventure, a feel for what it's like to be a cowboy. They might get bruised and they'll definitely get dirty, but it's an experience they will never forget. Mutton busting is the sport of bareback sheep riding. Kiddie competitors challenge themselves and the sheep to see who can hold on the longest as they try for a qualifying time in the rodeo arena.

Mutton busting is similar to bull riding, except that the contestants wear more protective gear and are closer to the ground. A sheep is held still, either

in a small chute or by an adult handler, while a child is placed on top in a riding position. Once the child is seated, the sheep is released and usually starts to run in an attempt to get the child off. Often small prizes or ribbons are given out to the children who can stay on the longest.

There are no set rules for mutton busting, no national organization, and most events are organized at the local level. However, children who begin as mutton busters could go on to be top Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) money winners or, at least, tops on the hometown rodeo circuit.

The vast majority of children participating in the event fall off in less than 8 seconds. Age, height and weight restrictions on participants generally prevent injuries to the sheep and implements such as spurs are banned from use. In most cases, children are required to wear helmets and parents are often asked to sign waivers to protect the rodeo from legal action.

The practice has been documented as having been introduced to the National Western Stock Show in Denver, at least by the 1980s when an event was sponsored by Nancy Stockdale Cervi, a former rodeo queen. At that event, children

ages five to seven who weighed less than 55 pounds could apply, and ultimately seven contestants were selected to each ride a sheep for six seconds.

There are no statistics about the popularity of the sport, but anecdotal reports suggest thousands of children participate in such events every year in the U.S. Supporters consider the event both entertaining and a way to introduce young children to the adult rodeo "rough stock" riding events of bull riding, saddle bronc, and bareback riding, and they may liken its rough-and-tumble nature to the way youth sports such as football are played.



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Parade route

Stampede parade basic info
Friday and Saturday, July 12 and 13
Lineup will begin at 8:30 a.m.
 Highway 160 closes at 9 a.m. and the line moves forward. The parade starts at 10 a.m. Be prepared to line up early and wait.
 The parade route travels west on 1st Avenue (Highway 160), turns south on Davis Street, then turns east on 2nd Avenue and returns to Safeway.



Parade entry numbers will be issued when the entry form is returned to the Colorado Potato Administration Office, 1305 Park Ave., Monte Vista. FAX 719-852-4684. Place the number on the left front (driver side) of your entry. Horse entry numbers are to be placed on the left side of your horse. Please secure all four corners so judges can identify your entry quickly. Entry numbers are not required for bands, entries not wanting to be judged. Award winners will be announced Saturday.

During the parades: no group or individual may stop to perform or hold up the parade. All performances must be done while moving forward. Groups with small children must be able to keep up with the parade pace to avoid gaps. No candy or trinkets may be thrown

from your entry. Nothing can be shot from an entry. If you wish to hand out items, you must have walkers that walk along the edge of the street and distribute them. These rules are in place for the safety of children who may run into the street.

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Barrel racing is an exciting sport

Sports fans and athletes have a plethora of sports to enjoy in this country and around the world, and those options include equestrian events. Equestrian sports have a deep-rooted history and have inspired some avid fans, including those enamored with the sport of barrel racing.

Barrel racing originally was established as an event for women on the rodeo circuit. While men rode bucking broncos and bulls and competed in roping events, women displayed horse speed and stamina in barrel racing competitions. Today, barrel racing primarily is a female sport at both the collegiate and professional levels.

Barrel racing can be an entertaining experience for spectators and a rewarding one for riders. The goal of the barrel race is to complete a perfect pattern in the least amount of time, so the rider who completes the pattern the fastest wins the competition.

The pattern riders face is a complicated cloverleaf design. Riders can choose to enter the first barrel to the left or the right. They circle the barrel and proceed across to barrel number two, then finish out at the third barrel, where they will complete the pattern and exit the course. The approach to the first barrel should be carefully timed and executed to set the stage for the rest of the course.

An official distance between barrels exists for professional races. Riders cover 90 feet between barrel one and two. There is 105 feet between barrels one and three and between barrels two and three. Finally, 60 feet marks the distance between barrels one and two and the entry/exit "score" line.

According to Michigan State University Extension, barrel racing requires a mild-tempered horse with natural

athletic ability. Horses need to be fast, agile and intelligent. A hot-headed horse is not a good choice because he may fight the rider and cause injury. Riders also must be in tune with their horses' movements and sit correctly in the saddle to allow the horse to hug the sides of each barrel. Riders need to be both physically fit and capable of planning ahead to accommodate their horses' speed.

Experts advise riders to run horses through repetitive drills to improve their performance. A horse learns by release and will think he's done a good job if a rider moves on to a new task. If riders are unhappy with a turn, they should return to the same barrel over and over until it is mastered, as riders need their horses to remember the good techniques. Horses can do drills running straight lines as well as circles. Soon both horse and rider should develop a feel for each other and move more intuitively together.

Although barrel racing has been around for a long time, one of the premier governing bodies of the sport was only established 66 years ago. The Girl's Rodeo Association was formed when 38 cowgirls came together in San Angelo, Texas, to create an organization dedicated to the promotion and advancement of women in the sport of rodeo. In 1981, the association changed its name to the Women's Professional Rodeo Association, and it remains one of the most influential sanctioning bodies in the sport. It also is the oldest women's sports association in the United States and the only one governed entirely by women.

In 2007, the WPRA instituted the My Horse's Choice Junior Division for girls ages 17 and under. The junior division introduces a whole new group



Photos from 2021

of members to the ranks of professional competition and allows mothers and daughters to compete for world points at some of the same events.

Barrel racing is most popular in the western and southern areas of the United States and some parts of Canada. To learn more about a particular racing circuit or the sport of barrel racing, visit www.wpra.com.



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Renowned rodeo champions

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association has produced its fair share of memorable performers over the years. One



of the more prestigious honors a rodeo rider can earn is the PRCA All-Around Cowboy Champion, which is given to the rodeo competitors who are most successful in two or more events. The following are a handful of rodeo competitors to win multiple All-Around PRCA All-Around championships.

- **Trevor Brazile:** The record holder for most all-around titles, Brazile eclipsed former record holder Ty Murray in 2010 when he won his eighth all-around championship. The 2014 season marked the ninth straight year the Texas-born Brazile was named the PRCA All-Around Cowboy Champion.

- **Ty Murray:** Though Murray's record for most all-around championships has been eclipsed, he remains one of professional bull riding's most recognizable faces, having crossed over into popular culture with appearances on television shows such as "Walker, Texas Ranger," "WWE Raw" and "Dancing With the Stars."

- **Lewis Feild:** A member of the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, Feild is a three-time winner of the PRCA All-Around Cowboy Championship, with three consecutive wins from 1985 to 1987. Feild's son, Kaycee, is an accomplished rider as well.

- **Tom R. Ferguson:** The Oklahoma-born Ferguson is another legend of rodeo, having won six all-around championships during the 1970s. Ferguson was also something of a trailblazer in rodeo, as he was the first rodeo competitor to earn more than \$100,000 in the arena in a single year, a feat he accomplished in 1978.

- **Larry Mahan:** Upon winning the PRCA All-Around Cowboy Championship in 1970, Mahan became the first rodeo competitor to win five such championships in a row. Mahan's 1973 comeback even garnered him some acclaim and attention in an unlikely place: Hollywood. "The Great American Cowboy," a documentary film from Kieth Merrill, focused on Mahan's comeback and battle with Phil Lyne for the world championship. The film would win the 1973 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature.

- **Jim Shoulders:** The first competitor to ever win the bareback, bull riding and all-around events at the PRCA Championships, Shoulders also had a successful career outside of the rodeo arena, where he was a notable presence in print and television advertisements for jeans, boots and beer.

Bull riders' gear protective as well as functional

Many fans of sports like baseball, basketball and football enjoy wearing jerseys of their favorite players when attending a game, watching at home or gathering with fellow fans to watch somewhere in public. While it's nearly impossible to attend a professional sporting event today without seeing someone decked out in the same attire as their favorite player, such sightings are less likely to occur within the sport of rodeo.

Unlike baseball and basketball uniforms, the gear worn by many professional bull riders has more practical applications, namely to protect riders as much as possible. The following is a rundown of the gear professional bull riders wear during competition.

- * **Headgear:** While many professional bull riders are allowed to wear cowboy hats during competitions, the Professional Bull Riders, Inc., mandates that all new members who turned 18 years of age on or after Oct. 15, 2012, wear helmets. Those born before that date do not have to wear helmets, but some choose to do so to protect their heads from potentially threatening blows. In addition, bull riders can wear face masks to shield their faces and jaws from injury.

- * **Vest:** A protective vest is worn by bull riders to absorb shock and dissipate any blows to the body. The vest also was designed to protect riders' torsos from punctures caused by direct contact with the bulls' hooves and horns during competition.

- * **Glove:** Bull riders only wear one glove, which is on the hand they use to grip the bull



Photos from 2021

rope. This leather glove makes it easier to grip the rope and offers some measure of protection to riders' hands and fingers.

- * **Chaps:** Riders wear chaps on their legs, and

professionals often wear chaps emblazoned with logos of sponsors. Chaps offer extra protection for a rider's legs against the hooves and horns of the bull.

- * **Bull rope:** The bull rope, which is equipped with a handle braided into the rope, is a rider's only anchor during a ride. The rope is flat and braided from nylon or grass and goes around the bull's girth area behind the animal's front legs.

- * **Boots:** Bull riders' boots include a special spur ridge on the heel, and this helps their spurs to remain in place. Some riders wear pull-on boots, while others prefer boots that lace up.

- * **Spurs:** Spurs help bull riders stay in position once the ride begins. These spurs come equipped with dull rowels, which are the revolving disks at the end of spurs. The rowels are dull so they do not injure or cut the skin of the bull.

More information about bull riding is available at www.pbr.com.



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Photo from 2023

2023 Stampede Concert was a hit



Stampede carnival offers fun for all

MONTE VISTA — The Wright's Amusements Carnival is expected to be at full capacity for 2024.

Based out of Elbert, Colo., Wright's Amusements has been in operation for over 50 years. The carnival is a part of Stampede tradition and features a variety of attractions from children's rides to newer varieties of thrill rides.

In 1962, Floyd Wright and his two brothers, Frank and Charles, launched a traveling carnival that put family fun first. A half century later, Floyd Wright's nephew, John Ring, runs the show in the same treasured tradition. "My life — my heritage—is all about making sure people have a great time," says Ring. "What better

'job' is there?"

There are several options that are available for purchasing carnival tickets. Pre-order armbands are available at the Ski-Hi Stampede Office. On Wednesday, July 10, the carnival will hold a canned food drive. Those who bring two canned food items can purchase an all-day carnival pass for \$25.

There will be fun for all ages at the 102nd Ski-Hi Stampede and the attractions that Wright's Amusements provides will be no exception.

Wright's Amusements will be open from 5 p.m. to midnight on July 10, and during the Stampede from 11 a.m. to midnight on July 11, 12 and 13; and from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on July 14.

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