



THE CONEJOS COUNTY CITIZEN

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Wednesday, July 3, 2024

75¢



NEWS IN BRIEF

1974 Centauri HS 50th class reunion

LA JARA — The 50th class reunion of the Centauri High School Class of 1974 will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, July 19, at the Calvillo's Mexican Restaurant, 400 Main St., Alamosa. Cost is \$25 per person.

For more information, call any of the planning committee members: Tom Medina at 719-588-0401, Melanie Woodward at 719-580-0338, Laurie Kay Quintana at 719-480-3146, Dennis Ortiz at 719-588-7283, Hazel Madrid, or Vivian Gallegos at 719-206-0118.

Glory Days offering prize money for parade floats

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bond for Corral set at \$5M

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — After allegedly shooting three men, one of whom died, and leading multiple law enforcement agencies on a 14-hour manhunt, Alamosa resident Henry Corral is being held in the Alamosa County Detention Center on a \$5 million bond to be paid in cash only.

Bond was set by Alamosa County Judge Jason Kelly, presiding, when Corral, 44, appeared in court Wednesday afternoon related to his arrest for

one count of murder in the first degree and two counts of criminal attempted murder in the first degree plus aggravated robbery, tampering with evidence and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

District Attorney Anne Kelly addressed the court, stating that Corral had “executed one man and tried to execute two others”, was going to be charged as a “habitual criminal” and poses “an extreme danger to the community.”

She then provided the court with a

summary of Corral's criminal history. Corral has been charged with murder twice before - once in 2000 and a second time in 2016. In both cases, he pleaded guilty to lesser charges of manslaughter and felony menacing,

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Henry Corral, 44, is being held on \$5 million bond in the Alamosa County Detention Center for allegedly fatally shooting one man and critically injuring two others.

Courtesy photo



Independence Day celebrations in Valley



By JOHN WATERS

SANLUIS VALLEY — From pancakes to soapbox races, fireworks, and patriotism, July 4th celebrations will resonate throughout the Valley.

On July 3, South Fork Fire Rescue will host its annual Fish Fry and Ice Cream Social that starts at 10 a.m. The parade begins at 3 p.m. There will be a rodeo at 6:30 p.m., and weather permitting fireworks in the evening.

On July 4th, the Alamosa Kiwanis Club will hold its annual Pancake Breakfast from 7 to 10 a.m. in the SLV Federal Bank parking lot at 401 Edison Ave. in Alamosa. This is a great way to prepare for the following parade at 10 a.m. The San Luis Valley Community Band under the direction of Dr. Kerry Heart will play from 8 to 9 a.m.

The Young Professionals of Alamosa will kick off the July 4th celebrations hosting the annual Independence Day Parade. The fun

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The July 4th Parade starts in downtown Crestone at noon with festivities happening all day in town.

Photo by John Waters

Results of county commissioner races

STAFF REPORT

SANLUIS VALLEY — Tom McCracken, incumbent Saguache County Commissioner District 1 fended off challenger Adam Kinney with 503 votes to 373 votes. Turnout was 33.86% of active votes. McCracken and Republican challenger Marcus Weir will be on the November general ballot.

McCracken told the Valley Cou-

rier, “I wish to thank all the dedicated supporters who worked so hard at their own time and expense to facilitate my primary win. I am humbled by the trust placed in me and will work hard to realize the common visions we share.”

Other SLV County Commissioner races:

In the Conejos County District 1 Democratic primary, Erwin Romero

received 673 votes to the 220 votes received by Guillermo De Herrera. Republican candidate Delfino Garcia will be on the general election ballot.

Results in the Conejos County Commissioner District 3 Republican race showed Justin Rogers received 573 votes to the 357 votes received by Lucas Larson. Rogers will face off with Democrat Joseph

Baroz in the general election.

In the Costilla County Democratic District 1 primary, incumbent Robert Espinoza won with 396 votes to the 126 garnered by Frank Martinez. Republican Brandy Napier was unopposed. In County Commissioner District 3, Democrat incumbent Stephen Romero will be on the November ballot as will Republican, Augustine Esquibel.

Congressional district race may be a contest based on issues

News Analysis

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — In Congressional District 3, (CD3) candidates Republican Jeff Hurd, and Democrat Adam Frisch will face off in the November general election. They won the primary election held on June 25.

With former incumbent Congresswoman Lauren Boebert deciding to switch Congressional Districts from CD3 to CD4 earlier this year, the primary race for the Republican

nomination was wide open, drawing a field of six candidates.

The top two Republican contenders in the primary race were Ron Hanks, a former lawmaker who positioned himself as an ardent supporter of Donald Trump, and Jeff Hurd, a political newcomer and attorney from Grand Junction.

Hurd had declared his intention to challenge Boebert before she switched districts. That announcement garnered endorsements from some of the top “establishment” Republicans

Please see RACE on Page 2A



Democratic Congressional District 3 candidate Adam Frisch.



Republican Congressional District 3 candidate Jeff Hurd.

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will begin at 10 a.m. and run from east to west on Main Street. The theme for this year's parade is SUPERHEROES!

At 9:30 p.m. the San Luis Valley Federal Bank will host its 26th annual fireworks show at the Alamosa County Fairgrounds at 8784 Old Stanford Rd., Alamosa.

On Friday, July 5th, the Young Professionals of Alamosa (YPA) will host the 3rd annual Block Party for America on the 400 block of San Juan Avenue in Downtown Alamosa. The party will run from 6-10 p.m., alongside Visit Alamosa's First Friday. The event will offer local brews, a patriotic photo backdrop by Mya's Events, a locally owned foam pit for bubbly fun for all ages and showcase local musical acts on the main stage.

The event will offer family-style seating, thanks to High Peak Event Rentals, to encourage food pick-up at nearby locally owned restaurants. YPA strives to bring the local and visiting community together to celebrate the best of Alamosa. Come celebrate with us.

During First Fridays in Downtown Alamosa, the Sangre de Cristo Natural Heritage Area and Visit Alamosa will honor the 1878 founding of Alamosa with the Moving of the Gem Saloon at the Market on Main Street. The Denver Rio Grande Railroad completed the rail line from Fort Garland to Alamosa and moved buildings including the saloon. Everyone is encouraged to wear period clothing and take the historic walking tour.

Crestone and Baca Grande will celebrate Independence Day on July 4th with activities in downtown Crestone starting at 9 a.m., with a 5K run. The parade through town begins at noon with a rendition of the national anthem at 12:15. Cheap Therapy takes the stage in the town park at 12:30. The first round of the Soapbox Derby is at 3 p.m. with finals for a \$250 prize at 5:30 p.m.

Not to be missed are the mesmerizing drummers from Shumi Hikari Taiko at 3 p.m. also in the park. At 5:30 p.m., The River Arkansas will play bringing their indie-Americana and honky-tonk swing to the audience.

Saguache-Moffat-Villa Grove-Crestone fire departments will have a Four Station Fourth of July celebration

on 4th Street in Saguache beginning at 4 p.m. This down-home party will have food, dancing, kids activities, and fireworks.

Creede will host three days of events beginning on July 4th at 9 a.m., with the Colorado State Mining Championships behind Basham Park downtown. The giant, annual parade will begin downtown at 10 a.m. Historically, about 10,000 people attend this event. Fireworks start at dusk at Mountain Views RV Park south of town. On Friday, events begin at 9 a.m. and continue through the day and end at the Creede Rep with a 7:30 p.m. performance of "Importance of Being Earnest," and a 9:30 show of "Boomtown." Saturday events include street vendors, a



File photo

On July 4th, the Young Professionals of Alamosa will host an Independence Day Parade downtown that starts at 10 a.m.

beer garden, and a Farmers' Market. There will be a 7 p.m. performance of "Young Frankenstein," at the Creede Rep., and an 8 p.m. dance at the Elks Lodge. For more information, visit www.creederep.org and creede.com/4th-of-July.

RACE Continued from Page 1A

in the state, as many felt that Boebert's antics were no longer viewed favorably by many in her district.

While the primary race between Hurd and Hanks was, at times, expected to be somewhat close, by the end of Tuesday night, it was called for Hurd who came in at the end leading Hanks by 14 percentage points.

On the other side of the aisle, Democrat Adam Frisch was the sole candidate to run for the seat. Frisch announced his campaign within days of former opponent being sworn into office for her second term, and Frisch has been on the campaign trail, literally every week, since then.

Once a race that even the pundits didn't pay attention to, CD3 became

highly competitive in the last election, specifically due to Frisch, himself a political newcomer at the time, coming within 546 votes of taking Boebert's seat in Congress.

The seat is now viewed as one that may determine the majority in the House of Representatives, which makes it even more important.

In a brief interview with the Valley Courier Hurd on Thursday morning, said,

"I'm going to work hard to get the [Republican] party united" He continued, "I'm going to work hard to earn every vote from Republicans but also unaffiliated and maybe even some Democrats.

"My priorities are those things that

are most important to voters. The cost of living, the cost of housing and the price of a gallon of gas."

That was a bit of a switch from February when, speaking on a non-partisan show called Action 22, Hurd had listed security at the border as the number one priority.

Hurd was also quoted by Colorado Public Radio as saying he was focused on rural areas but he has since expanded his sites.

"I'm going to work for voters everywhere, from people in the cities to small towns, families and small businesses, farmers, ranchers and people like employees of the power company in Craig where workers are looking at losing their jobs. And I know I have

to earn every single vote.

"I think voters are wanting someone to work more than to shout, and I'm a person who can do that. I believe in what I'm doing and in trying to be the kind of representative that I would want."

After the results of the primary were known, Adam Frisch's campaign issued the following statement.

"First, I would like to thank all the candidates who ran in CD3's Republican primary and personally congratulate Jeff Hurd. My hat always goes off to anyone who is willing to stand up to represent their country and community. It's unfortunate, however, that both political parties often cater to the extremes and prioritize party loyalty over the best interests of the country. It's why I entered this race. I won't be a yes man for either party. I'll be an independent voice of reason for rural Colorado to cut infla-

tion, secure the border and protect a woman's freedom to make her own health care decisions."

Frisch then focused in more closely on Hurd.

"The last thing our district needs is another corporate lawyer funded by corporate PAC money. My presumptive opponent won't have the backbone to stand up to Washington interests. He will choose a federal abortion ban over trusting the women of CD3 to have the freedom to make their own health care choices and he threatens one of our most precious resources: water. One of Hurd's biggest backers is actively working to take San Luis Valley's water to the Denver metro area," said Frisch.

Frisch is referring to former Colorado Governor Bill Owens, one of the primary investors in Renewable Water Resources (RWR) a scheme to export water out of the San Luis Valley.

CORRAL Continued from Page 1A

respectively. After he was released from the Department of Corrections, "He tried to kill his girlfriend by strangling her," Kelly said.

Kelly requested the court set bond at \$10 million, to be paid in cash, as a means of assuring that Corral would remain in jail and the community "would be protected."

Defense counsel James Waldo viewed the amount as excessive, saying, "That might as well be an imaginary number." He cited two other clients he was representing who were involved in a "shoot-out" and their bond was \$3 million with a \$300,000 cash surety.

Judge Kelly said he had reviewed Corral's criminal history and "the charges are as serious as they can be." He went on to say, "We want to assure the public is protected," and set bail at \$5 million, cash.

According to an arrest affidavit received from the court, officers with the Alamosa Police Department were dispatched to the Sunset Inn, 1310 W. 8th Ave., on a report of shots fired shortly after 2 a.m. on the morning of Sunday, June 23. Dispatch said the caller reported two men had been shot. Upon arriving, APD officers found two men in a room, one of whom had been shot in the head while sitting in a chair.

The victim, later identified as Aurelio Piña, 61, died from his wounds. The second victim, 37-year-old Gabriel Piña, had been shot twice. He was identified as Aurelio's son.

The arrest affidavit states that an APD officer, attending to Gabriel Piña, asked him who shot him. Piña named Corral as the shooter.

The affidavit further states that "it's important to note that Corral's long-time girlfriend... was later located in the hotel, as well."

After allegedly shooting Gabriel and his father, Corral left the room and encountered Manuel Flores, 43, in the hallway. Corral then allegedly shot Flores five times, including in various parts of his body and face.

APD learned that Corral reportedly ran out of the building and, driving a Chevrolet Avalanche, fled west on 8th Street into a more rural part of the area, driving so fast that, according to the document, he "flew over two irrigation ditches" and landed, getting stuck in a field near County Road 106 and CR12 South.

When a resident nearby attempted to help, Corral tried to hijack the resident's truck and, when he was unsuccessful, set the Avalanche on fire and fled on foot.

Authorities believe Corral did that to destroy evidence, specifically a cell phone and weapon, Kelly said.

When Alamosa Fire Department and Colorado State Patrol were dispatched to a crash in the area, they determined the vehicle belonged to Corral, leading law enforcement to believe he was still in the area. That initiated an intensive search that involved more than 40 officers as well as CBI and the U.S. Marshals.

After a report from a citizen who spotted someone matching Corral's description, he was taken into custody at about 6:30 p.m. Sunday night.

Although no motive for the shooting is stated in the affidavit, it is noted that Flores had recently been released from prison, was visiting from Denver and was a childhood friend of Corral's girlfriend. The two had been spending time together.

The affidavit also states that Corral's girlfriend said they had been discussing separation or divorce.

Unrelated to the arrest affidavit, the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office has confirmed that both Corral and his girlfriend had been arrested for domestic violence on June 11.

Corral's next court appearance is scheduled for July 2 at 1:30 p.m.

FULL-TIME SALES

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

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Let the celebrations begin

As you read this, most of us will be celebrating the 4th of July and the founding of our Great Nation.

Some 248 years ago our forefathers signed the Declaration of Independence, and we embarked on a great adventure as a nation. Most of the founding fathers lost their fortunes, lands, families and even their very lives in the epic struggle to cast off the yoke of bondage that Great Britain had long held over our people. And in that selfless struggle, they created a country that has outlasted the perils that assaulted us on every side.

And yes, I know we have our problems and it's obvious that we are lacking in true patriots in our leadership as they enrich themselves at our expense. But all in all, we have a great nation, and the opportunities are endless for men and women here to have at least some measure of success if they work hard enough.

Ol' Dutch is not sure where the idea of a cookout on July 4th came from, but it surely was a great idea whomever dreamed that up. We do know that George Washington himself gathered the boys together and had a shindig to celebrate the signing of the Declaration.

Evidence of that bar tab is listed as follows; 54 bottles of Madeira, 60 of Claret, 22 of Port, 8 of hard cider, 12 beers, 7 bowls of alcoholic punch and 8 bottles of whiskey. Now I don't know how many people were present at that party, but it sounds like they got a tad pickled at the least.

And good for them. They had endured terrible hardships and deprivations and I think they probably deserved to tie one on for a change.

And while we are also going to have a party, ours will be a lot more reserved in nature. We will have Brats and hamburgers and all the fixings that Miss Trixie is so good at making. And will be joined by friends and neighbors to celebrate this great day in history.

I am not sure where the idea of fireworks came to celebrate the 4th, but it's long been one of Ol' Dutch's favorite things. There is nothing that calms the soul like shooting off a ton of loud, bright, explosive, popping, noisy fireworks both with and at one another.

Growing up we were able to get a lot of great fireworks and so we had a blast, literally. And yes, once in a while some kid would lose a finger or two due to careless handling of



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

said crackers, but we were all raised on the premise that natural selection took out the weak and stupid, so we didn't think much about it.

In many states you can still get some great boomers to enjoy the day but of course, some people in different governing bodies have decided that they know "best" for us and have outlawed all but the weakest fireworks around.

Gone are the cherry bombs and M-80's of days long past and now even the rockets and mortars that fly so high and make wondrous decorations in the night sky are often outlawed and forbidden. It's a crying shame actually that we cannot even be trusted to shoot off some bright star shells and here in Colorado they don't give us much.

So, Ol' Dutch will once again be relegated to watching the local city sponsored fireworks display out his back door. And while it's not even close to the same as shooting them off myself, it's one of the best public displays around.

My grandfather had his solution to the ban on big boomers as he would step out the back door in the dark and shoot off his 10-gauge shotgun. Considering the origins of the celebration being a war, it may just be closer to what the founding fathers would have approved of anyway.

I hope this 4th of July finds you with family and friends and that you will stop and consider the sacrifices of the many who went before us so that we might enjoy living in this great country.

Kevin Kirkpatrick and his Yorkie, Cooper, fish, hunt, ATV or hike daily. His email is Kevin@TroutRepublic.com. Additional news can be found at www.troutrepublic.com or on Twitter at TroutRepublic.



Ditch 'inefficiencies' give us wetlands

Imagine Westerners waking up one morning only to discover that many of their most cherished wetlands have dried up, gone. This is not fiction during these times of determining the true value of water.

Most wetlands in the arid West owe their existence to the "inefficiencies" of unlined irrigation canals and flood irrigation. But when well-intentioned urban folks insist that irrigation companies use water more efficiently by piping their ditches, the result may be more about loss than water "saved" for rivers.

One of the least-known truths in the West is that many of our wetlands are the result of irrigated agriculture. For example, an irrigation company in northern Colorado irrigates about 24,000 acres, thanks to 146 miles of ditches.

The area served by the irrigation company also has approximately 1,300 acres of wetlands, and it's no accident that most of those wetlands lie below a leaking ditch. A study by Colorado State University discovered this connection using heavy isotopes to create hydrographs of groundwater wells, ditch levels and precipitation. This is a West-wide issue.

We all know that climate change has been causing hotter, drier weather, and that helps reduce the flow of the Colorado River that 40 million Westerners depend on. In the Laramie Basin of Wyoming, 67% of its wetlands are attributed to agriculture. In North Park, Colo., close to 75% of all wetlands are by-products of irrigated agriculture.

Decades ago, Aldo Leopold wrote, "There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One, you think that heat comes from the furnace and two, you think that breakfast comes from the grocery store."

May I add a third? We don't know much about the water we depend on.



Photo courtesy of Dave Marston
Since 1917, five generations have lived along the Animas Consolidated Ditch outside of Durango, Colo. Patty Zink is pictured.

Farmers and ranchers produce two "goods," a private good and a public good. They're compensated for the private one by producing food. Their public goods, ecosystem services, are not compensated, though they include wetlands, biodiversity and plants sequestering carbon.

But knowing that rural agriculture uses 79% of the Colorado River's water, our urban neighbors tell their rural counterparts to conserve water or, better yet, sell it to them.

Meanwhile, the environmental community would like rural agriculture to use less water so more could stay in the rivers to help fish and provide recreational opportunities.

Clearly, there are too many demands for the West's diminishing water supply. Drinking water, ag water, river health. Where do wetlands fit in? Wetlands cover 1% of the West's land surface, yet half of our threatened and endangered species rely on them. Wetlands serve a similar function to

our kidneys: They filter out impurities from human land uses, making our environment healthier.

Perhaps it's time for all of us to wise up a little. Many of these wetlands are human created; that is, they were created by farmers and ranchers and are not "natural." Many will disappear in the pursuit of water conservation. Must it be water conservation and efficiency at all costs?

Will we prioritize water for urban uses, including urban sprawl? Or will we support more water staying in our rivers to create a healthier environment? Will water for food production be considered a necessity? Do green lawns trump healthy rivers and wetlands?

With more informed conversations about our region, talks between rural and urban neighbors, perhaps we could pursue a triple bottom line: water for food production, water for urban uses, and, yes, water for our region's rivers, streams and wetlands.

Wouldn't we all like that? Let's figure out how to make that happen.

Rick Knight is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit that seeks to spur lively conversation about the West. He works at the intersection of land use and land health in the American West.



By Richard Knight



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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 on-board, 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?’

“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,



File photo

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

and we appreciate you are working toward that.

“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.”

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.

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.



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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.

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 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 So-

ciety 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 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.

Founded by Spencer and Julie Penrose in 1937, El Pomar Foundation has an established legacy of general-purpose grant making. The competitive process remains the Foundation's primary vehicle for organizations to receive funding. Also, over the past 87 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.

GOCO board awards \$294K to RiGHT for staffing, training

CONTRIBUTED

DENVER — The Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) board awarded a \$294,375 grant to Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust (RiGHT) to hire two new conservation staff positions and provide staff training in the San Luis Valley.

The grant is part of GOCO's Planning and Capacity program, which invests in projects that address opportunities, explore issues, engage communities, and examine trends in the outdoors.

RiGHT will hire two new staff positions and enhance staff training to promote conservation and restoration in the Valley. With this added capacity, RiGHT expects to create cost and administrative efficiencies, increase the donor pool and donations by as much as 30%, and advance 2-3 new conservation easements per year, while better serving and representing the region.

A conservation connector position will help RiGHT's three program directors conserve new properties, steward lands with conservation easements, and restore ecosystem function on public and private lands. Additionally, an administrator/events and outreach coordinator will engage the community through events and targeted fundraising, and support the executive director in administrative and operational tasks. To better represent the population of the Valley, RiGHT hopes to recruit a local candidate for one or both positions.

Staff training will include Esri geographic information system (GIS) mapping and drone operations, allowing the organization to conduct these activities in-house and reduce outside contracting costs

while supporting staff retention through professional development opportunities.

"We are so grateful to GOCO for this opportunity to enhance our capacity and excited to continue supporting local agriculture, conservation, and restoration efforts," said Laura Cusick, Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust's interim executive director. "This funding ensures that RiGHT can conserve more acreage, further protect water rights, and include more voices from the community we serve in the San Luis Valley."

RiGHT has served the San Luis Valley since 1999 and, as the organization embarks on its 25th year,

they're celebrating over 32,000 acres conserved via 57 easements, 95% of which are on working lands.

To date, GOCO has invested more than \$8.7 million in Alamosa County and partnered to conserve 30,453 acres of land there. GOCO funding has supported San Luis Valley Generation Wild and Alamosa City Ice Rink, Montaña Azul Park, and Rio Grande Healthy Living Park, among other projects.

GreatOutdoorsColorado (GOCO) invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state's parks, trails, wildlife, rivers, and open spaces. GOCO's independent board awards competitive grants to local governments and land trusts and makes investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Created when voters approved a constitutional amendment in 1992, GOCO has since funded more than 5,700 projects in all 64 counties of Colorado without any tax dollar support. Visit GOCO.org for more information.



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Courier photo by Keith R. Cerny

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

Three dogs lost in fire

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — A manufactured home in the Town and Country Mobile Home Park on the west edge of town was a total loss Monday morning, taking three family dogs with it. Devan Haynie, deputy chief with the Alamosa Fire Department (AFD), said the three human occupants of the home at the time of the fire were treated on scene by Alamosa

EMS for smoke inhalation but were then released. No firefighters were injured.

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

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

Altercation at carnival after hours ends with stabbings

One person hospitalized with serious injuries

STAFF REPORT

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

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

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

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

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

It is unknown at this time what the

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

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

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

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

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

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

Routine traffic stop yields drugs, cash

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — An Alamosa man was arrested for unlawful possession and distribution of a controlled substance on Wednesday afternoon during a routine traffic stop, the Alamosa Police Department reported.

During the stop, APD K-9 Goose alerted officers on scene that there may be narcotics in the vehicle the man was driving.

A subsequent search by APD Cpl. Cody Van Ry uncovered a stash of drugs and a large amount of cash, leading to the arrest and detention of Michael Christopher Warner, 47, of Alamosa.

Shortly after 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19, a vehicle with an illegal tint on the windows prompted a traffic

stop by Van Ry and K-9 Goose in the 6000 block of North River Road. The illegal tint was confirmed by a tint meter, according to APD.

Goose was deployed and alerted officers to the possible presence of narcotics in the vehicle, according to APD.

In the search that ensued, officers located fentanyl pills, cocaine, methamphetamine, and a large amount of US currency, which is consistent with narcotic distribution, according to APD.

The discovery led to Warner's arrest and subsequent transport to the Alamosa County Detention Center where he was preliminarily charged with suspicion of unlawful distribution of a controlled substance (Drug Felony 1), unlawful possession of a



Michael Christopher Warner

controlled substance (Drug Felony 2), obstructing a peace officer, open container and illegal window tint.

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



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.

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/SanLuisValley-RefugeComplex.

What Real Love Really Looks Like

Editor's Note: A new Joyce Meyers column was not available this week, please enjoy this column from the past.

I have made it a priority to study about love in the Word of God. Getting a revelation about how much God loves me and learning to receive His love has been life-changing for me. It's the key to being able to really enjoy my life because when I learned how to receive God's love, then I could love others.

This is so important because the best way—the only way—you can have a happy, powerful life is to get your mind off yourself and do something for someone else. Helping people, being a blessing and adding value to other people's lives is what it means to walk in love and follow the example of Jesus.

Ephesians 5:2 (NKJV) says, "Walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God..." Jesus—our perfect and holy Savior—gave His life for us, took all of our sin upon Himself, and shed His blood so we could have a personal relationship with Him and become the righteousness of God. That was His gift to us. And once we experience the gift of salvation, our gift to God is following Jesus' example in the way we live our lives.

Jesus says in John 13:34, "...Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (NIV). If we will learn how to follow this one commandment, everything else in our lives will fall into place. Because when we live a life filled with God's love, then we can become everything we're created to be.

Be a Good Samaritan
In Luke chapter 10, Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan to demonstrate what it means to love God and your neighbor as yourself. In verses 30-37, we read that a man was traveling from Jerusalem to

Jericho when "he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead."

A priest and a Levite both passed by him and neither stopped to help. Verse 33 says, "But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion" (NKJV). Notice that he "had compassion" for this man and he was moved to do something to help him.

He dressed his wounds and took him to an inn where he could get the care he needed. He paid the innkeeper and told him, "Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you" (v35).

There are a few things I want you to notice here. First, the Samaritan was traveling the road and was probably going somewhere he needed to be; he had a plan but he was willing to stop and help this man even if it meant his plan was interrupted.

Also, he gave his best effort to make sure the man had good care and then paid for him to get it. He was obviously willing to pay whatever it was going to cost because he told the innkeeper, "Whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you." So he was planning to come back and make sure everything the man needed was covered.

This Is Love!
Jesus is showing us in this story what real love looks like. First Corinthians 13 lists the characteristics of God's love: it is patient and kind, never jealous, boastful or rude; it does not demand its own way, is not irritable and keeps no record of being wronged. Love rejoices when truth wins out. It never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Love never fails!

Now, if you're thinking, "There's no way I can live up to this list!" I



Moving Up Higher with Joyce Meyer

want to tell you, "Yes, you can!" You can love others like this because as a born-again Christian, you have everything you need to be like Jesus.

It's not always easy because we have to resist the temptation to be selfish, but 1 John 4:4 says that the Spirit of God in us is greater than our enemy. So in Christ, we have the power we need to walk by faith and live a life of love.

It's important to understand that God is not expecting you to be perfect in your love walk or to do it without His help. What He wants is for you to seek Him through prayer and studying the Word, and as you do, lean on Him for the grace to do what He's asking you to do each day.

God is love, so you can rest in the truth that He is patient with you, He's always with you, He believes in you and He will not give up on you. With God's love in your life, you can learn how to live a life of love!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource *What Is Love?* 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 *THE ANSWER TO ANXIETY (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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Colorado Springs to Great Sand Dunes National Park a top road trip for families

CONTRIBUTED

Colorado Springs to Great Sand Dunes National Park was second with voters in a survey of America's Top Family Friendly Road Trips.

The US offers an array of road trip routes that are globally renowned for their expansive skies, breathtaking natural landscapes, and opportunities to meet new people. While many of these journeys captivate adults, they might not always cater to the interests and energy levels of younger travelers, who may have limited attention spans and less interest in lengthy drives focused on geography or history.

However, the country is packed with shorter, child-friendly road trips (and shorter day trips) ideal for young explorers. For example, Florida offers family-friendly adventures with attractions like the Key West Butterfly and Nature Conservatory, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, and Orlando's theme parks such as Disney World and Universal Studios.

Gunther Mitsubishi carried out a survey of 3,000 families, asking them to identify the ultimate family-friendly road trips they aspire to experience this summer.

The top 5 were as follows:

1. Flagstaff to Grand Canyon: Arizona
Coming in first place, the route from Flagstaff to the Grand Canyon offers a variety of attractions. Start with the Lowell Observatory or the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff. Older kids will love the ziplining at the Flagstaff Extreme Adventure Course. On the way to the Grand Canyon, stop in Williams to enjoy a scenic ride on the Grand Canyon Railway. Conclude the trip at the Grand Canyon National Park, where families can enjoy breathtaking views, easy hiking trails, and ranger-led programs.

2. Colorado Springs to Great Sand Dunes National Park: Colorado

Taking the second spot, the trip from Colorado Springs to Great Sand Dunes National Park is filled with exciting stops. Start with the Garden of the Gods or Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. En route to the Great Sand Dunes, stop at the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park for stunning views and thrilling rides. Finish the trip at the park, where kids can play on the massive sand dunes and splash in Medano Creek.

3. Hilo to Kailua-Kona: Hawaii
In third position, the route from Hilo



File photo

Sand Dunes National Park was the destination of a family friendly road trip that began in Colorado Springs. The trip was voted one of the top road trips for families.

to Kailua-Kona offers a mix of natural beauty and historical sites. Start in Hilo with visits to the Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo and Gardens or the Lyman Museum and Mission House. Don't miss the nearby Rainbow Falls, a stunning natural attraction. Continue to Kailua-Kona, detouring to visit Volcanoes National Park with its dramatic landscapes and educational exhibits. End the journey in Kailua-Kona with visits to the Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park, the Kona Coffee Living History Farm, or snorkeling at Kealahou Bay.

4. Boston to Cape Cod: Massachusetts
Fourth on the list is a family trip from Boston to Cape Cod offering historical and coastal attractions. Start in Boston with a visit to the Boston Children's Museum, the New England Aquarium, or the Museum of Science. A walk along the Freedom Trail is also great for exploring the city's history. On the way to Cape Cod, stop in Plymouth to see Plymouth Rock or visit Plimoth Patuxet Museums for a living history experience. Conclude on Cape Cod with beaches, the Cape Cod National Seashore, or a whale-watching tour. The Cape Cod Museum of Natural History is also a great stop for kids.

5. Buffalo to Niagara Falls: New York

Rounding out the top five, a trip from Buffalo to Niagara Falls combines cultural and natural attractions. Start in Buffalo with a visit to the Buffalo Zoo, the Buffalo Museum of Science, or the Albright-Knox Art Gallery. The Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park is also a great stop. Before heading to Niagara Falls, detour to Lockport to take a tour of the Erie Canal locks and enjoy a boat ride through the Lockport Cave. Conclude at Niagara Falls with a ride on the Maid of the Mist, exploring the Cave of the Winds, and visiting the

Niagara Falls State Park.

Colorado had two other trip routes voted among the most sought-after by families:

21. Denver to Rocky Mountain National Park

A family road trip from Denver to Rocky Mountain National Park offers diverse attractions. Start in Denver with a visit to the Denver Zoo, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, or the Children's Museum of Denver. Stop in Boulder to explore the Boulder Farmers Market or hike in Chautauqua Park. End at Rocky Mountain National

Park with wildlife viewing, scenic drives, and easy hikes suitable for kids.

39. Fort Collins to Steamboat Springs

A road trip from Fort Collins to Steamboat Springs offers a variety of family-friendly activities. Start in Fort Collins with visits to the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery or the Gardens on Spring Creek. Stop in Estes Park to explore the town or enjoy a scenic drive through Rocky Mountain National Park. End in Steamboat Springs, where families can enjoy the Old Town Hot Springs and Yampa River Botanic Park.

County Court District Court Denver Juvenile Court
 304 Main St San Luis County Colorado
 Court Address:

DATE FILED: June 24, 2024

In the Matter of the Person of: Aurelia Hernandez

Adult:

or

Parent/Petitioner:
for Minor Child:

For a Change of Name to: Aurelia Alicia Hernandez

Division 1 Courtroom

ORDER FOR PUBLICATION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

The Court having read and considered the Petition for Change of Name of Minor Child or Adult finds:

That the statements made in the Petition satisfy the statutory requirements.

That the desired change of name is proper and not detrimental to the interests of any other person.

That the Petitioner has submitted the documentation required in §13-15-101(1)(b), C.R.S. from the fingerprint-based criminal history record check or has provided appropriate certified copies of any dispositions that would constitute a felony conviction in this state or any other state or under federal law.

That the change of name is in the best interest of the minor child.

Individuals over the age of fourteen (14) have submitted the documentation required in §13-15-101(1)(b), C.R.S. from the fingerprint-based criminal history record check or has provided appropriate certified copies of any dispositions that would constitute a felony if committed by an adult in this state or any other state or under federal law.

The Court orders the following publication for a change of name:

1. Name of Aurelia Hernandez
is requested to be changed to Aurelia Alicia Hernandez

2. Pursuant to statute, public notice of this change of name shall be published three times in a legal newspaper published in this county. This publication is to be made within 21 days of the date of this Order.

3. Proper proof of publication shall be filed with the Court upon final publication to receive a Final Decree for a Change of Name.

Date: June 24, 2024
Tamara Sullivan
Judge Magistrate

No. 5223 published in the Conejos County Citizen, Wednesday, July 3, 10 and 17, 2024.

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DF-CD-NP-G421

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July 13, 7:00 p.m.

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July 14, 2:00 p.m.



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Courtesy photos

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

New fitness court project begins in Del Norte Town Park

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — The Town of Del Norte in partnership with the Rio Grande Public Health Department will be installing a new Fitness Court in the Del Norte Town Park. This new opportunity for the community will provide a free space where anyone can go to exercise and enjoy being outdoors while doing it.

According to Mayor Shelly Burnett, the town has been wanting to do something like this for some time.

“We are really excited to begin this project,” she said. “We have a lot of really great things happening around town. The new Voss Field, the Del Norte Library Adventure Walk and now this. It shows how much this community cares.”

The fitness court will consist of seven stations designed to allow hundreds of movements meant to challenge those on a fitness journey. The design is for adults who want to focus on strengthening their core, agility and more.

“It will be a great addition to our

park,” said Burnett.

The Del Norte Town Park has come a long way over the past several years and now hosts several events and attracts guests both locally and from out of town. The Mercado Farmers Market takes place every Thursday evening throughout the summer and is followed by Town of Del Norte’s Music in the Park that so far has featured local bands like The Rifiers and more.

New and exciting things are taking place, and it is hard not to notice.

“We have worked really hard to get a lot of these projects off the ground and our biggest one will start on July 8,” said Burnett. The Downtown Revitalization project will begin on the north side of Cherry Street in just a few weeks.

The town was awarded a grant to begin work on the downtown area two years ago and is now finally in the final stages of planning.

The town hopes to have at least the north side of Grande Avenue complete this year and will begin on the south side of the street in 2025.

Forefathers of the Colorado Division of Aeronautics receive Lifetime Achievement Awards

Valley’s Entz and former Gov. Romer honored by CAB

CONTRIBUTED

WATKINS—The visionaries behind the creation of the Colorado Division of Aeronautics were honored with the “Lifetime Achievement Award” by the Colorado Aeronautical Board (CAB) for

their crucial roles in its establishment. Colorado’s 39th Governor, Roy Romer, and former Colorado State Senator Lewis Entz received their awards on Thursday, June 6, during a ceremony at the Colorado Airport Operator’s Association (CAOA) Spring Conference.

Entz, 92, served 14 years as county commissioner for Alamosa, followed by 16 years as a house representative (1983-1998). During his first eight years, a new law set term limits. He served a full

eight-year second term, and then he spent another six years in the Senate (2001-2006). Entz was born in Monte Vista and currently resides in Hooper. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1951-53.

On May 24, 1988, on the tail of Senator Entz’s aircraft, Colorado Gov. Romer signed House Bill (HB) 88-1250 into law, leading to the creation of the Colorado Division of Aeronautics under Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S) 43-10. **Please see AWARDS on Page 8**

Rio Grande Hospital opens doors to wellness

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE—Rio Grande Hospital rolled out the red carpet on Saturday and welcomed more than 200 people to its new Wellness Center in Del Norte. The project has been in the works since 2017 and was near and dear to many who work at and support the hospital.

Attendees were greeted as they came in the door by local artist Casey McCoy who did an amazing job on the drywall mural in the main lobby of the building. The piece captured the essence of what the Wellness Center was going to be for the community, bringing to life the image that Rio Grande Hospital CEO Arlene Harms helped to make a reality for the greater Rio Grande County community and beyond.

The ribbon cutting ceremony began with a brief statement from Rio Grande Hospital Board Vice Chair and Secretary Emily Brown and Board President Tyler Off.

“This is such a wonderful event. We want to welcome you here for this really



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

Rio Grande Hospital CEO Arlene Harms cuts the ribbon at the ceremony for the grand opening of the hospital’s Wellness Center on Saturday, June 22.

exciting ceremony. The hospital and the board has been talking about this since 2017. This is the result of concepts that Arlene had hearing about but really there was such a big community that came together to make this a reality. Rio Grande Hospital is a community

hospital and the whole this hospital exists is to give back to the community,” said Brown.

The vision of the Wellness Center was to model health and wellness and offer another resource in the region that **Please see WELLNESS on Page 5**



Photo by Owen Woods courtesy of the Church Project

Picture of Madeleine and her dog Marlee on move in day, July 4, 2023.

Church Project grand opening celebration is July 5

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — The grand opening of the Church Project Community Art Center is scheduled for July 5 in Monte Vista. A ribbon cutting will be held at 10 a.m., followed by a Memory Mirror event, a printmaking workshop, an artist talk, and the evening will finish with a dance party from 6 to 8 p.m.

Artist and owner of the Church Project, Madeleine Ahlborn is excited about the upcoming grand opening at 256 S. Broadway St., Monte Vista.

“It’s been a lot of hours of hard work, strong commitment, and dedication. I am excited to see the culmination of

some of this with the grand opening. We aren’t completely done with everything, the building will require more work, but I am enthusiastic about opening the doors to more and creating something to help enrich and immerse the community in the true beauty of all things art,” she said.

Ahlborn moved to the San Luis Valley in 2014. She was offered the chance to purchase the beautiful historic building for the Church Project by her former landlord Ron Douglas. Prior to purchasing the building, Ahlborn was renting a space with four other artists, but a couple **Please see PROJECT on Page 6**

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

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



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RATES

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Call 719-852-3531

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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

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)

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

Rio Grande County is hiring! Available full-time positions with competitive pay and benefits include Assessor's Office Appraiser Trainee, Public Health Nurse, Road & Bridge Equipment Operator, Detention/Dispatch Deputy, Detention/Dispatch Sergeant and Corporal, Jail Cook, Sheriff's Road Deputy, Weekend Court Administrative Assistant, Social Services Legal Technician Manager, Child Welfare Case Aide,

Public Health Deputy Director, and Human Resources Specialist. Benefits include medical, retirement, and paid time-off. Visit www.riograndecounty.org for details including applications and job descriptions or pickup at Human Resources: 925 6th St., Rm. 200, Del Norte, CO. (7-3)

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

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earthknackschool@gmail.com
719 256 4909 PO# 508 Crestone, CO. 81131



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

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

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

Equipment

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



Antique Items

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

Many Items too Numerous to Mention



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- Fuel Tank on Stand
- Sev. Extension Cords
- Gun Safe

Check out our face book page for pictures!

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- 4-Post King Bed
- Kenmore Washer & Dryer
- Side by Side Refrigerator
- 3- Drawer Filling Cabinet
- 2-Night Stands
- Chest of Drawers
- Sewing Machine w/Table
- Kitchen Table w/ 4 Chairs
- Roll Top Secretary Desk
- Curio Cabinets
- Couch
- Love Seat
- Recliner
- Bed Frames
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- Flat Screen Entertainment Center
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Auctioneers: Dale Adams & David Brown

Valley Wide Classifieds

The Town of Del Norte Board of Trustees is accepting letters of interest to fill two appointed positions on the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission takes part in charting the course of growth and development within Town limits while learning more about local planning. The Planning Commission members are appointed by the Del Norte Town Board there are two terms (two- year term and four-term) and they meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. to review and make recommendations on subdivision proposals, zoning, conditional use applications. If you are interested in serving on the Del Norte Planning Commission. Applicants MUST BE qualified electors (live Town limits) of the Town of Del Norte. If you are interested in serving on the Planning Commission, please call Town Hall at 719-657-2708 to receive an application or email/mail letters of interest with application to Del Norte Town Hall at 140 Spruce Street, Del Norte, Colorado 81132, or email to delnorte1860@outlook.com. Deadline for letters of interest and application is July 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. (7-3)

24 Garage/Yard Sales

Estate sale, 2nd and La Garita, Creede. Antiques galore. Lifetime of collecting novelty, salt and peppers, old postcards, vintage typewriters, stereoscope 3D viewing photos. Great sale worth trip to Creede. July 4 and 5. 785-312-2169. 785-393-1733 (7-3)

36 Miscellaneous

For sale - Queen sofa bed brown leather (new mattress) \$150; DJ equipment speakers, lights, light stand (will break up) \$3000; Alesis 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)

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

Propane Refrigerators Sold Here. Call For Options and Prices. We Also Stock Solar Powered Refrigerators and Freezers. Bontrager's Variety Store, 9726 S. County Road 3E, Monte Vista. (719) 852-0500 (TFN)

STEEL STORAGE CONTAINERS - Sales, Rentals & Modifications! Containers are water & rodent proof. 8' wide, 8'-53' in length. Call for more information and pricing. **Healdworks, Inc. - Your Total Storage Solution!** 719-850-0346 (TFN)

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

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)

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16 Vacation

Cabin for rent by the night only. Small bath, queen bed, microwave and refrigerator only. 469-446-2499

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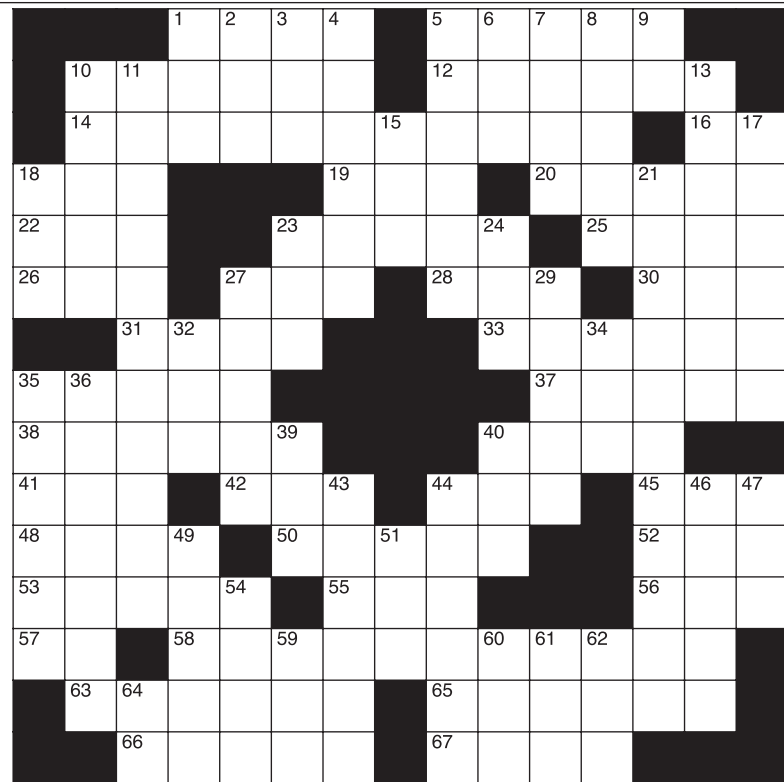
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Flat tableland with steep edges
5. Where there's __, there's fire
10. Talked incessantly
12. Skill
14. Without shame
16. Where teens spend their days (abbr.)
18. Boxing's GOAT
19. Used to anoint
20. Cluster cups
22. Footballer Newton
23. They make up a forest
25. Split pulses
26. Self
27. Post-office box
28. Test for high schoolers
30. Large, flightless bird
31. Expectorated
33. Falsehood
35. Prickly, scrambling shrub
37. French river
38. Told on
40. Hillside
41. Peyton's little brother
42. Soviet Socialist Republic
44. Cathedral city in Cambridgeshire
45. Witness
48. Brews
50. Yellowish-brown
52. Arctic explorers, abbr.
53. Mexican agave
55. A type of "cast"
56. Encourage
57. Atomic #52
58. Relating to position north of south of equator



63. Gadget whose name you forget
65. Another recording
66. Small blisters
67. Dark brown or black

CLUES DOWN

1. Licensed for Wall Street
2. "___ and flow"
3. A very large body of water
4. Accumulate on the surface of
5. Central cores of the stem
6. Angry
7. Ceramic jar
8. Scraped a car
9. ___ route
10. Soviet labor camp system
11. Strong hostilities
13. Vitamin of the B complex
15. Go quickly
17. Toast
18. A team's best pitcher
21. A Philly culinary specialty
23. Small child

24. Unhappy
27. Trims away
29. Characterized by crying eyes
32. Soft touch
34. American spy organization
35. A person's chest
36. Came from behind to win
39. Fall back
40. Nellie __, journalist
43. Great places to kayak
44. Suffer patiently
46. Majestic bird
47. Electroencephalograph
49. Organic compound used as an antiseptic
51. Objects connected to the web (abbr.)
54. Ship as cargo
59. The bill in a restaurant
60. Upper-class young woman (abbr.)
61. Judge in OJ Simpson trial
62. One's grandmother
64. Siberian river

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

Business Showcase

Blast on up to Creede and enjoy 4th of July fun!

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ESTIMATED CROP WATER USE

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

Crop	Date Planted	Daily Crop Water use for Dates Shown (in./day)				Accumulated Water Use (ET)				
						From	6/27 (inches)			
		6/27	6/26	6/25	6/24	2day	3day	4day	5day	7day
Moravian 69	04/05	0.15	0.17	0.28	0.24	0.32	0.61	0.85	1.12	1.46
Moravian 69	05/05	0.15	0.17	0.28	0.24	0.32	0.61	0.85	1.12	1.46
Early Wheat	04/05	0.15	0.17	0.28	0.24	0.32	0.61	0.85	1.12	1.46
Early Wheat	05/05	0.15	0.17	0.28	0.24	0.32	0.61	0.85	1.12	1.46
White Wheat	04/05	0.15	0.17	0.28	0.24	0.32	0.61	0.85	1.12	1.46
White Wheat	05/05	0.15	0.17	0.28	0.24	0.32	0.61	0.85	1.12	1.46
WinterWheat	10/01	0.14	0.16	0.27	0.24	0.30	0.57	0.81	1.08	1.42
Potatoes										
Norkotah	05/05	0.15	0.16	0.25	0.20	0.30	0.55	0.75	0.97	1.21
Centennial	05/05	0.06	0.06	0.09	0.07	0.12	0.22	0.29	0.36	0.43
Nugget	05/05	0.08	0.08	0.12	0.10	0.15	0.28	0.37	0.48	0.59
Alfalfa	Est.	0.18	0.19	0.32	0.28	0.37	0.69	0.97	1.28	1.66
Lawngrass	Est.	0.15	0.16	0.27	0.23	0.31	0.58	0.81	1.07	1.39

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-slvr.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

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



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

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1,270 Sq.Ft. Off-Grid Cabin on 5.24 Acres - Creek!
\$272,500 | MLS #809447
7641 Indian Creek Rd. Fort Garland, 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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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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Approx. 0.280 Acres Near Rio Grande Club
\$53,500 | MLS #794077
23 Fairway Drive South Fork, CO

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UNDER CONTRACT
Approximately 160 Acres Farmland
\$400,000 | MLS #810432
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DOMESTIC WELL SEPTIC SOLAR **NEW PRICE!**
Hunting Cabin on 40 Acres - Bordering National Forest
\$220,000 | MLS #812863
1 Bedroom, 1 Bath Del Norte, CO

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

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\$575,000 | MLS #
Borders Natl Forest
595 Aspen Dr. South Fork, CO

DEE PLUCINSKI
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M: 719-873-5605




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

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




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

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



WELLNESS

Continued from Page 1

serves the community as a means of preventative health care.

Off was the next to speak. He focused on how the project came to be.

"I want to follow up with a little bit about Arlene's piece in this. She has been a driving force with this even when there was some resistance from the board. We could see the vision, but not as clearly as she could. She turned this into a passion and made this her goal. It is really inspiring what it has become and where we are at today," Off said.

Harms emulated cultures where long life has become something of a norm in places termed as Blue Zones. These locations span the globe and through the concept of preventative health, wellness and community, people who live in these areas tend to live past 100 years old.

Harms was the next to speak, stating that her vision for the Wellness Center began during a conference in 2016 when keynote speakers

addressed the commonalities of Blue Zones.

"Blue Zones are rural, they have lots of community, they have a background and family is very important. I thought to myself, the Valley would be really an easy place to have something like that," said Harms.

Harms said that through her passion and perseverance, she did not work on this project alone. Funding came from the Rio Grande Hospital Board, private donations, donations from local organizations like the Outcalt Foundation, the LOR Foundations, local banks like the Del Norte Bank and RG Bank and several other organizations and businesses.

Harms thanked all the people who worked on the project, including Owners' Representative Joe Aldrich, Phipps Construction and Keyes and Lauer Architects, and many others who pulled together to make this a reality. The ribbon cutting ceremony was followed by refreshments and tours of the property.



People enjoyed tours of the new Rio Grande Hospital Wellness Center on Saturday, June 22, in Del Norte, refreshments provided by the hospital and a grand opening ceremony with keynote speakers, Rio Grande Hospital CEO Arlene Harms, Rio Grande Hospital Board President Tyler Off, left, and Vice President and Secretary Emily Brown, right.

Bottom: Rio Grande Hospital welcomed over 200 people Saturday, June 22, to its grand opening and ribbon cutting event for its new Wellness Center in Del Norte.

Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell



San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



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SOLD

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\$2,200,000 | MLS #810790
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BEAUTIFUL RIVER LOT FOR SALE!
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South Fork, Colorado



La Jara Glory Days offering prize money for parade floats

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

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

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

To that end, the town would

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

The top three winners in each category will receive cash prizes (first place will receive \$1,000, second place will receive \$500,

and third place will receive \$250). of judges. Winners will be selected by a panel

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

PROJECT

Continued from Page 1

of the artists needed to back out on the space. She was unsure of what to do, but knew she wanted to do something else, and knew she wanted it to involve art.

“I think there’s some interesting ideas on how people perceive artists, like you have to be showing in galleries, or you have to always be in your studio working in order to claim the title artist. I am trying to dismantle that idea and show that you can be a great artist anywhere,” she said.

After speaking to Douglas, Ahlborn was given a tour, and then purchased the former church building that is now called the “Church Project.” Ahlborn said she was scared at first and spoke to one of her close friends about it, who assured her that it was “all going to work out.”

“I don’t know how she knew it was all going to work out, but trusting my own instinct, and trusting in them. I think that’s such a beautiful thing. As a human, trusting in other people is very in the moment. And just really thinking about everything, I believe my purpose in the world is to connect people, whether it’s through space, or connecting them to themselves. After thinking about it, I believed it was all going to work out too,” she said.

Ahlborn was concerned about obtaining the financing for the building but with the help of Douglas obtained a loan through the First Southwest Community fund, that helps rural businesses led by women.

“I was very fortunate to be able to obtain this help. In thinking about it though, I really want this building to not only belong to me, but to belong to the community. I want people to feel that and to believe that they collectively own the building too. I have always wanted to figure out a way that I can give back. I think this is something that really aligns with my own personal values, that I can share with the community, I want to be the lead artist, with everyone in the community, having joint ownership,” she said.

Ahlborn said with all the hours she has put into working on the historic building her deep thinking and vision has become clear as to what she wants to accomplish and do with the space.

“My big goal with this community art center is to provide the space and the freedom for people to unlock their creative potential. This has become the vision for Church Project Community Art Center, also,” she said.

Ahlborn has held different art events at the Church Project. She will be hosting workshops for artists and other artists will be hosting workshops. Her idea is to bring many different artist-led events and projects to the building.

Ahlborn will also host a Memory Mirror event the day of her grand opening. The event is to allow anyone who enters the Church Project building to speak and be recorded, regarding any memories they may have of the building when it was a church or of any other memories

they may have of the building. The memories will later be played in an artist display that will take place at Adams State University, with pictures of her working on the building that will be on display, along with the audio playing in the background.

Ahlborn is also looking forward to her idea of having upstairs pews at the Church Project, dedicated in memory of family members for the community. The idea would be for family members to purchase a pew that will stay upstairs, but in front of the pew a plaque of a family member will be placed in memory of that family member.

Ahlborn has many ideas for the Church Project and is looking forward to bringing all of them to life, and giving back to the community that she has come to love so much.

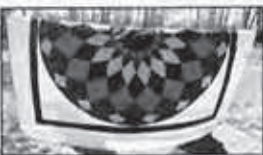

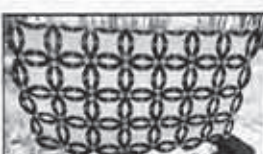


“It’s not going to solve everyone’s problems, but the aspect of creation, and giving people a space where they can come together. I am really trying to encompass a oneness with the world around us, to highlight our similarities versus focusing on our differences, and the only way to do that is to spend time together and build a sense of community. There are a lot of folks that are hungry to connect, and I am hoping this can be a space for that,” she said.

17TH ANNUAL LA JARA AMISH SCHOOL CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024 • 9 A.M.

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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.*

<p>QUILTS</p> <p>Approximately 20 handmade quilts will be available sale day</p>		<p>FARM - RANCH - TOOLS</p> <p>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 planer/motor Small bench top drill press Handy man jacks • Electric miter saw</p>	
<p>ANTIQUES</p> <p>Antique sewing machine</p>		<p>HORSES</p> <p>5 yr old paint pony mare w/ colt, kid broke 4 yr old Morgan/stb Mare green broke 1 yr old Morgan filly 4 yr old trotting bred 90 days training TSS 9 yr old Standard bred gelding 16 HH kid broke TSS 4 yr old trotting mare JND Dominator/sd get it right w/ free breeding to JP Dewycheatumhowe 4 yr old Friesian/paint gelding broke to ride 4 yr old trotting bred mare broke to drive</p>	
<p>BOAT, CAMPER, VEHICLE</p> <p>89 Ford F700 cab-n-chassis propane runs excellent Four Winds Camper 14' Lund boat</p>	<p>HOUSEHOLD</p> <p>1 set poly glider rockers 1 octagon picnic table Sofa NEW in box Multiple chairs - various kinds Miscellaneous furniture • Multiple dressers Dishwasher • Electric stove Potbelly stove • Wood burning stove Glass top coffee table Wooden end table 3 book shelves wooden • 5 lamps Pendleton trade blanket Western art frames Multiple plastic totes</p>	<p>MORE CONSIGNMENTS WANTED</p> 	
<p>FOR MORE SALE INFO:</p> <p>Mose 719-982-8900 Edward 719-992-8334 Freeman 719-580-7121</p> <p><i>All items sold as is where is. Not responsible for items not showing up or being in quality as listed. 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.</i></p>			
<p>THIS IS ONLY A PARTIAL LISTING, MANY MORE ITEMS EXPECTED BY DAY OF SALE.</p> <p><i>Lunch will be available by school parents. Also, baked goods, doughnuts, fry pies & other refreshments will be available. All Dollar items considered donations.</i></p>			

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

By KYLER BROWN

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

Under the threat of the latest water exportation schemes, land grabs, and a shifting environment, some of the founders, such as Cathy McNeil, Chris Canaly, Karen Hendererson, Susan Pierce, Pete Magee, and Mike Wisdom decided to create the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, or RiGHT. It was this wisdom that led to protecting local lands with a local land trust.

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

Protecting values important to keeping the “richness of the Valley” was what RiGHT was created to do, remembers Angie Krall, past president, and board member. There are a multitude of values that are worth protecting. From wildlife migration corridors to surface irrigation rights, the ways conservation benefits private landowners, and the public are numerous. Davie Colville, an easement holder with RiGHT, notes that “conservation easements are a way to protect the open space, the landscape, a way of life and a place for future generations to enjoy!”

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

Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust has provided a long-term foundation for the conservation of open spaces, working lands, wildlife habitat, and places for the future generations to enjoy. Long time board member Doug Clark says it best, “Conservation easements provide for farming/ranching and wildlife for many, many generations into the future. To be a part of such a large space-time effort makes this all worth living for and exciting!”

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

Please join us to celebrate our 25th anniversary on the Scott Ranch east of South Fork, on June 28, for food, fun and music by The

Rifters. For more information, visit online www.rightslv.org.

Cash prizes for top floats at Stampede parades

MONTE VISTA – The top floats in the 2024 Ski-Hi Stampede parades will receive cash prizes. The Ski-Hi Stampede parades will be on July 12 and 13 in downtown Monte Vista. The theme for this year’s parade is “Heroes Among Us.” Absolute Shine donated \$1,500

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

Registration forms can be picked up at Finer Blessings, 730 1st Ave., Monte Vista. The Ski-Hi Stampede

Committee is organizing the parades.

The 102nd annual Ski-Hi Stampede kicks off with a concert on July 11, featuring Wynonna, followed by three days of PRCA action on July 12, 13 and 14. For more information, visit online www.skihstampede.com.

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AWARDS

Continued from Page 1

This legislation marked a significant milestone in Colorado's aviation history, particularly with the creation of the Colorado Aviation Fund and the Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant Program (CDAG). Funded by aviation fuel sales taxes, the CDAG Program has contributed over \$1 billion to the Colorado Aviation System.

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

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

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

Sen. Entz, the bill's sponsor, was also a licensed pilot. He represented Colorado's rural communities and had a personal connection to small rural airports. His legislative vision supported both large

busy airports and small rural airports, which are vital to their communities. He is also a member of the Colorado

Aviation Hall of Fame.

Today, the Colorado Airport System includes 76 public-use airports, with 14

offerings scheduled air service. According to the 2020 Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study, Colorado airports support

345,661 jobs, generating \$16.2 billion in annual payroll and \$48.6 billion in total annual business revenue.

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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

1408 Bear Creek Circle • South Fork

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



NEW LISTING!

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



NEW LISTING

0254 Timberline Trail • South Fork

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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

193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

Charming Mountain Retreat with Breathtaking Views Nestled in the picturesque town of South Fork, CO, this finely crafted 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

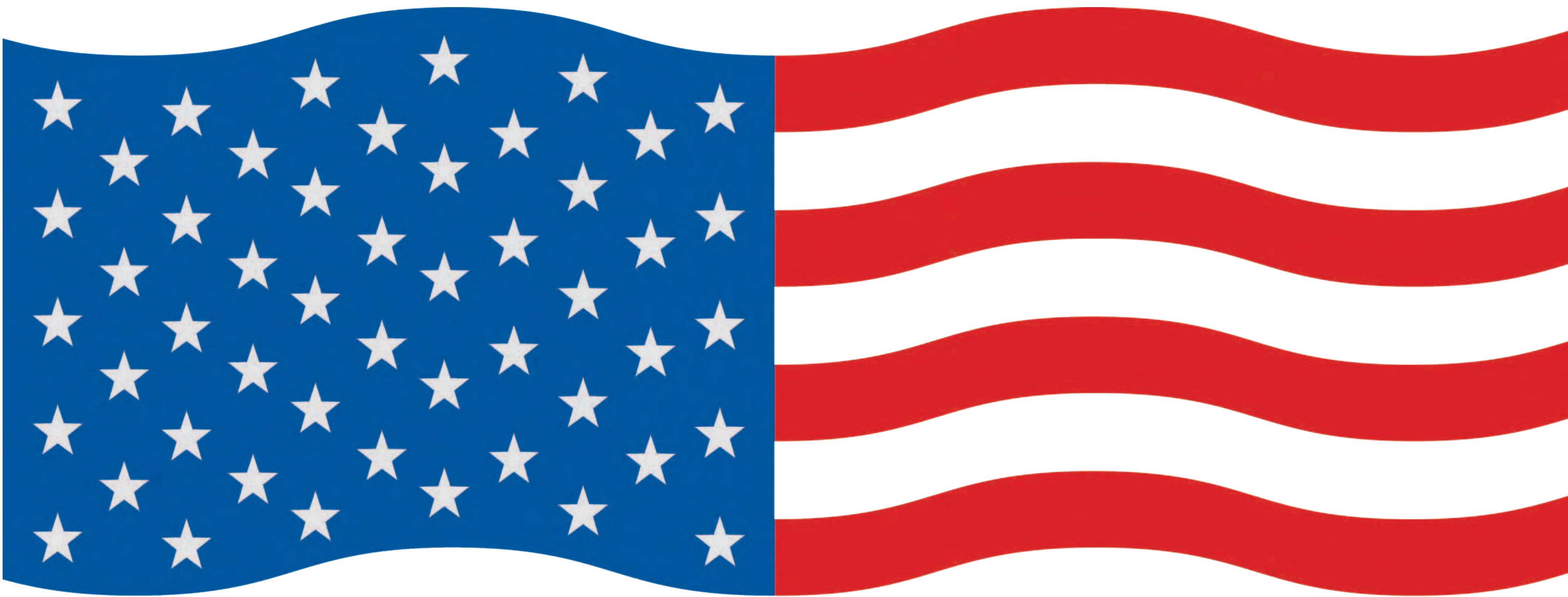
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