



Happy 4th of July

1892 - 2024

'...there is no night in Creede.'

Volume 47, Number 27

Creede, Colo. 81130

Thursday, July 4, 2024

75¢

NUGGETS

Community Notes
for Mineral County

Monday Night Jam Band performing in Creede

CREEDE — Mark your calendars for Creede Arts Council's upcoming Music in the Park concert from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 7, in Creede's Basham Park.

The Monday Night Jam Band, an eclectic group of Creede musicians, will be performing a range of rock, blues, folk and funk.

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

Del Norte Rotary Golf Tournament

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Rotary Golf Tournament is scheduled for July 19 at the Rio Grande Club and Resort in South Fork.

Pre-registration only. Deadline to register is July 12. The cost is \$130 per person; lunch is provided. Format is four-person scramble with 9 a.m. shotgun start.

For more information or to register, email mike@truelocalbank.com

DN Public Library Summer Reading

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Public Library's Summer Reading program started June 17 and will go through July. You can still register and participate. This summer's theme is "Adventure Begins at Your Library."

This summer's program includes weekly activities on Thursdays from 4:30-5:30 p.m.; next one is July 11 at the library.

Also go to the Del Norte Town Park and read the latest story "Jules' Voyage to the World of Bees" in the Adventure Walk, then come to the library for a free honey stick. This book will only "bee" around for a little longer because High Valley Community Center will be sponsoring a new story. Look for it soon.

The library also has Colorado Native Wildflower seed packets available courtesy of Generation Wild.

Ladies Aid prepares for annual rummage sale

Group is celebrating 125th anniversary this summer

By LYNDIE FERRELL

CREEDE — With Fourth of July celebrations happening this week, the Creede Ladies Aid is ready to come out and celebrate its quasiquicentennial

(125th) year with the community they are proud to serve. The organization has been hard at work planning for their rummage sale and the two-day event is set to capture the love, pride and joy the society has for Creede.

Creede Ladies Aid is ready to celebrate its 125th anniversary. This organization is the oldest community organization in Creede's history and

in honor of that heritage, the group is planning to celebrate all summer with a variety of events geared toward the community they love to serve.

On July 17 and half a day on July 18, the Virginia Christensen Multi-use Facility will be transformed into a treasure trove of used items, antiques and so much more. From baked goods to auction items to help raise

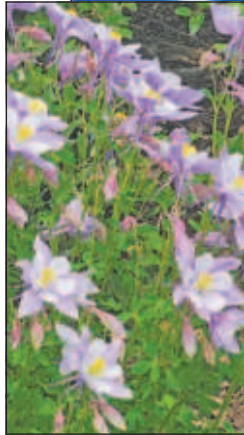
funding for the organization, there is something for everyone at this area-favorite event.

Beginning two days prior to July 17, Ladies Aid will be receiving donations from anyone who may have something to give for the rummage sale and if someone needs help gathering or transporting the items, they need only

Please see SALE on Page 2A

Some beautiful mountain scenery

The rain has made for some beautiful backdrops in the San Juan Mountains as early wildflowers, green meadows and amazing views surround the Valley. Now is a wonderful time to get out and safely enjoy the great outdoors.



Photos by Lyndie Ferrell



US 160 Wolf Creek Pass Fiber Optic Project begins next phase on July 8

CONTRIBUTED

The US Highway 160 fiber optic installation project, between Pagosa Springs and the east side of Wolf Creek Pass, will resume work on Monday, July 8. The project takes place between Mile Points 144-174 on US 160.

To date, 169,000 linear feet (32 miles) of conduit, 42,000 linear feet (8 miles) of electrical conductor, 113 manholes, and 160 pull boxes have been placed between the ski area to Pagosa Springs city limits along with the fiber installation.

Construction activities for the 2024 season will include the installation of an overhead variable message sign, installation of new guardrails, installation of cable racks (or cable supports) within manholes, repairing damaged conduit, installation of variable speed limit signs, installation of new closed-circuit cameras and installation of a new weather monitoring station. Completion of the project is scheduled for late fall of 2024.

"The fiber optic cable will connect with existing fiber that was installed in 2017 along a 16-mile stretch of the US 160 mountain corridor from Wolf Creek Pass east tunnel to the community of South Fork," explained Julie Constan, CDOT Regional Transportation Director. "The project will provide additional safety through the use of high-tech equipment and signs to warn all Wolf Creek Pass travelers about changing road and weather

Please see OPTIC on Page 2A



Courtesy photo

During the 2023 work season, an installation crew pulls fiber optic cable through recently buried conduit along US 160 Wolf Creek Pass east of Pagosa Springs.

Woodcarver's Rendezvous to mark 33 years in Creede

By LYNDIE FERRELL

CREEDE — The annual Woodcarver's Rendezvous in Creede is celebrating 33 years of artistic talent in the small mountain town and though the event has been dwindling in numbers over the past several years, it plans to mark the occasion and have a fun and interactive time as always.

The event began 33 years ago when founders Fran and Ivan Vanaken, who after years of teaching the art of woodcarving in schools to students, thought Creede would be the perfect place to start a woodcarving club. According to the history, Fran invited members of another club based out of the Front Range to the area to see if they were interested in hosting an event in Creede. It didn't take long for word to spread about the unique venue and beautiful location before the Woodcarver's Rendezvous took hold.

This year's event will feature over 15

Please see WOODCARVER'S on Page 2A

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Chad Spearman



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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.

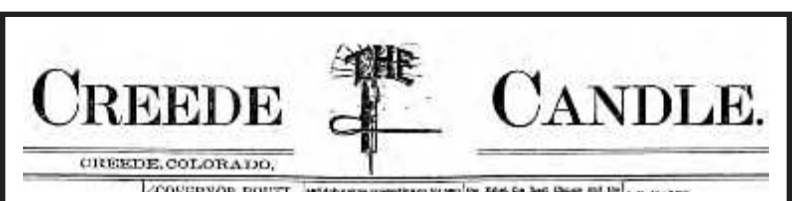
"We are so grateful to GOCO for this opportunity to enhance our capacity and excited to continue supporting local agriculture, conservation, and restoration efforts," said Laura Cusick, Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust's interim executive director. "This funding ensures that RiGHT can conserve more acreage, 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.

Great Outdoors Colorado (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.



100 YEARS AGO

The Creede Candle
July 5, 1924

Local Siftings

The Del Norte Irrigation Co. is getting ready to start construction work on the reservoir on North Clear Creek putting in a sawmill to cut lumber and timbers for a number of cottages and buildings.; Creede people spent the Fourth of July at various places including Del Norte or quiet picnics in the hills.; Judge B.T. Poxson and Mayor Norman Emperius and families of Alamosa were in town taking a short vacation at their summer cottages near Wagon Wheel Gap.; Ralph Peacock and family arrived from Detroit to look after his oil property near Durango and will return here next week.; F.A.

Tilton and wife of Detroit Mich., arrived Wednesday. Mr. Tilton is a stockholder of the Mid West Mining Company looking over the property.

Up River Notes

Mrs. Chester Off and children of Del Norte are visiting the Officer family this week.; Several upriver folks attended the dance given in Creede last Friday and all reported a good time.; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Workman and children spent the fourth celebrating at Hermit.; A rainbow trout of six pounds was caught by Mr. Unitedz of Del Norte last week in the river at Wright's ranch. A minnow was the bait which was used to the undoing of the water baby.

WOODCARVER'S Continued from Page 1A

instructors that come from all walks of life to teach the art of woodcarving to participants. The event takes place in the underground community center located north of town where instructors and vendors will pack the long corridors with a wide variety of wooden homemade gifts and classes for participants.

The event begins on Saturday, July 13, and continues all week long with live and silent auctions, classes, lectures from several instructors, daily drawings and ends with a banquet to close out the week. The event is made possible through the auction items that are donated by participating artists that come to not only share their expertise in the art of woodcarving but to share their

personal works of art as well.

Students that register for the event can learn everything from carving walking sticks to mastering the art of creating wood figures with a chisel. Participants learn how to make Christmas ornaments, wooden drums, wood burning techniques and so much more. There are even classes that teach the art of stone carving, making jewelry, watercolor painting, and bead crocheting.

Though the event has slowed over the last few years, with fewer and fewer participants, event coordinators are preparing for a much more successful year this year and ask that anyone wishing to participate in any of the classes, can preregister online or do walk-in registration during the week. Registration for any left-over

openings in the many classes being offered will be available on the first day of the event.

Not only do visitors come to learn new art forms, but they also stay to enjoy the many shops in and around Creede, take time to enjoy the outdoor recreation opportunities and visit the Creede Repertory Theatre. The Ladies Aid Bazaar will be taking place at the old gym on July 17 and 18. The Bazaar is a wonderful place to go in between woodcarving classes to find a special gift or something needed around the home. Participants of all ages are sure to find something to do for the entire week, so don't miss out and register now!

For a full class schedule or to preregister for the event, visit www.creedewoodcarvers.com.

OPTIC Continued from Page 1A

conditions, enforced lowered speeds and the westside hairpin turn where many crashes have occurred."

Traffic Impacts

• Daytime work hours range from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

• Vehicles will be reduced to a single-lane, alternating traffic intermittently in either direction

• Lane closures, guided by flaggers, will have up to 15-minute delays

• The speed limit will be reduced to

40 mph through the work zone

Project Information

For additional information about this project:

• Webpage: www.codot.gov/projects/us160-wolfcreekpass-fiber

SALE Continued from Page 1A

call for help. Email Janet Harrison at janetbaltesharrison@gmail.com, to schedule a pickup.

For the past 125 years, Ladies Aid has helped the Creede community in so many ways and while looking back through the years, only one word comes to mind, "blessed."

"This is really exciting for us, and it makes me very proud to be a part of this organization. When you look at the bigger picture and look back through the years and all the good things the Ladies Aid has done for Creede and the support of the community for us, it's just amazing," said Ladies Aid Member Janet Harrison.

As their quasiquintennial year gets started, the committee planning events is looking for recipes, photos, historical anecdotes or any other historical information

about the organization from anyone willing to share. The theme for the year beyond the whimsical word "quasiquintennial" is Hearts and Hands Moving Mountains. This theme will be present in everything the organization plans to do this summer.

Though details are still being worked out, the group plans to participate in the Fourth of July Parade, to host a community celebration and to hold their annual Ladies Aid Rummage sale for two days in July.

Through the years that Ladies Aid has served Creede they have done everything from providing the first safety net for Creede residents including supporting other local organizations like the Mineral County Search and Rescue, the Creede Repertory Theatre, Creede Early

Learning Center, the local veterinary clinic, the Care and Share Program and more.

Not only do they support other local organizations, but the group also provides medical help and other financial assistance, grocery vouchers for fresh food for families in need, bereavement dinners for mourning families, make and sell migrant worker and foster child bags and much more.

"We are just so proud of the work we do and the community we serve. It is our greatest blessing, and we want to make sure and thank the many women who are here during the summer, our generous and outstanding men who come out every year to help and to the Creede community for all of the support. This will be a great year, so get excited," said Harrison.

FULL-TIME SALES

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

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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 said crackers, but we were all raised



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

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 byproducts 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



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

much about the water we depend on.

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

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



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 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.

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Be 'Bear Aware' while camping and backpacking in Colorado bear country

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

DENVER — Colorado is home to a large population of black bears, estimated at 17,000-20,000 in the state. As humans venture into Colorado's great outdoors to spend time in nature, it is important to take active steps to avoid conflicts with bears.

Most conflicts between people and bears can be traced to easily accessible human food, trash or other attractants with strong odors. A bear's natural drive to eat can overcome its fear of humans. When bears become too comfortable around humans, they can destroy property or even threaten human safety.

"Properly storing your food, using bear boxes and bear-resistant canisters and locking your property keeps you safe and can save a bear's life," said CPW Area 15 Wildlife Manager Adrian Archuleta, who covers the Durango area. "If you have ever a sighting here in Durango, please report it to CPW, so we can be aware. If a bear does come into camp, try to scare it away. Yell, bang pots and pans, or use your car horn, air horn or a whistle and make sure the bear has an escape route. When you are backpacking or camping in an undeveloped area, secure your food properly and avoid attracting bears."

CPW recommends the following outdoor best practices to minimize encounters with bears:

CAMPING

When camping in bear country, the easiest way to avoid bears is to not have anything in your campsite that has a smell that will attract them.

- Safely store food, beverages and toiletries in campsite lockers called bear boxes (if provided), in bear-proof containers away from your tent or locked in the trunk of your vehicle.

- Stash your trash. Put all trash in bear-

proof trash receptacles or bear canisters.

- Keep a clean campsite. Scrape grill grates after use and clean used dishes.

- Never bring food or anything that smells like food - which includes toiletries, sunscreen and even the clothes you wear when cooking - into your tent.

- Lock cars and RVs whenever you leave your site and at night and close windows.

What if a bear tries to enter a campsite?

Try to haze it away with loud noises such as yelling, banging pots and pans together, or use your car horn or an air horn to scare the bear away. Notify CPW park staff if a bear enters a campsite. As an extra precaution, carry bear spray when you go camping.

BACKPACKING & HIKING

Understanding bear behaviors and your surroundings can help avoid unwanted encounters with wildlife on trails.

- Stay alert at all times. Avoid using headphones and be extra cautious at dawn and dusk.

- Keep dogs leashed at all times.

- Never feed or approach a bear.

- Double bag food and pack out all food waste (including apple cores or banana peels) to avoid encouraging bears to see trails as a food source.

- Practice the "Know Before You Go" Leave No Trace principle, as some areas may require approved bear-resistant food containers for food and garbage (e.g., Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness).

- Respect forage areas. If your usual trail runs through berry patches, oak brush or other known food sources, be extra vigilant. Make extra noise by periodically clapping or calling out to alert bears to your presence.

What if you surprise a bear on a trail?

Stay calm, stand still and speak to it in a firm tone of voice. The bear will

most likely identify you and leave. Never run from a bear. If the bear does not leave, slowly wave your arms to make yourself look bigger. Continue facing the bear, slowly back away and keep slowly moving away until the bear is out of sight. If the bear gets within 40 feet, use bear spray.

If a bear attacks, do not play dead. Fight back with anything available, including trekking poles, small knives, or even your bare hands.

Sharing outdoor spaces with wildlife makes Colorado a wonderful place to live. Bear sightings from a safe distance can be a rare and wonderful experience for outdoor enthusiasts. Staying bear aware while on trails and camping helps keep bears wild and helps reduce human-bear conflicts.

For more resources and information on how to be "bear aware," visit cpw.state.co.us.



Photo Courtesy of CPW

When camping in bear country, the easiest way to avoid bears is to not have anything in your campsite that has a smell that will attract them.

Injured hiker found by SAR teams



Photos courtesy of South Fork Fire Rescue

On Thursday, June 27, at 2:45 a.m., the Alpine Search and Rescue Team from South Fork Fire Rescue was paged out to an injured hiker. This was a mutual aid response with members from Saguache and Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue participating. The hiker was at 11,000 ft. in the Willow Creek drainage of Sangre de Cristo range with a broken ankle. SAR Teams worked with rope belay and a wheeled litter to bring the patient down to a usable landing zone for helicopter evacuation. The Cañon Helitack Crew provided air support for this rescue.

Results of county commissioner races

STAFF REPORT

SAN LUIS 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 voters. McCracken and Republican challenger Marcus Weir will be on the November general ballot.

McCracken told the Valley Courier, "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.

Your Community Connection

Take a Peek This Week and see what you've been missing!

- Neighborhood News & Events - Local Editorial Perspectives
- Local Politics & Talking Points
- Health, Business & Financial Features
- Area Homes for Sale or Rent
- Full-time & Part-time Local Jobs
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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 onboard, but we have nurses on staff 24-7. Our doctors can call in and prescribe [meds] we are trying to get patients medications like Suboxone [opioid dependence treatment medication] we can definitely do that."

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

"Our goal is we are trying to create this continual treatment, if somebody comes in, we are trying to not let them go out on the street. We use the

encouragement to ask, 'What is your goal, what needs to happen, do you have adequate housing, do you need in-patient treatment? Do you need sober living?'

"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 Laska said, "I am glad you are looking at residential in-patient because that is the gap we have in the San Luis Valley, and we appreciate you are working toward that."

"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



File photo

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

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.

Newcomer's Guide to Gardening in the San Luis Valley

By EMILY FOLTZ

CSU Extension - Colorado Master

Gardener

SAN LUIS VALLEY — We have some crazy tough plants here in the Valley, and surprisingly some of them are roses.

There's a decades old rose bush growing in the piled up dirt on the side of our dirt road. It collects tumbleweeds all winter and the county regularly buries the lower half of it when they grade the road. Despite this complete mistreatment, it covers itself in brilliant orange-red and yellow blossoms every June. Growing nearby it, I found a smaller, similar rose bush hidden under a pile of tumbleweeds, a two-stemmed beauty with arching branches draped against the split rail fence, each branch decorated with multiple orange-red blossoms. Let me introduce you to the Austrian copper rose, a gorgeous, rugged, "species rose" with a no nonsense, can-do demeanor.

Austrian copper rose is a variant of the non-native Rosa foetida species rose. It often grows as a dense shrub 4-6 feet tall and wide, although I've found several growing as smaller 2 to 4 stem bushes. Its blossoms are usually a beautiful orange-red with yellow centers, but occasionally it has all yellow flowers or a mix of both.

Unlike roses that are bred for particular attributes, species roses like

the Austrian copper rose develop in the wild. When grown in the garden, they are typically low-maintenance plants that choose to flower even when they've been ignored. Species roses often bloom only once for a few weeks in spring or summer, but some have a second lesser bloom in the fall. They often produce beautiful rose hips, the fruit of the rose, that provide fall and winter color as well as food for wildlife.

In addition to the Austrian copper rose, I've seen two other sturdy species roses growing in the valley. One is the Persian yellow rose, another variant of Rosa foetida. It was lighting up multiple gardens in Alamosa last month. Historically, the Persian yellow rose has been used to develop new rose cultivars because of its vivid yellow color. Once you see it, you'll understand why. It is stunning! It grows as a large shrub 4 to 7 feet tall and when it flowers in its one heavy flush, it is covered with vibrant yellow blossoms in the most spectacular show of color.

The Valley also has Rosa woodsii, or Woods' rose (also called wild rose and mountain rose). This species rose is one of Colorado's native roses. It has delicate blossoms ranging in color from pale pink to fuchsia. After its blossoms fade, it produces beautiful deep red rose hips that persist into winter.

You'll find Woods' rose growing in the mountains, along streams, and

along our country roads where it too tolerates getting dirt piled on it by the road graders. It will grow in full sun or part shade, and is very drought tolerant. It loves to spread but is containable. Mine lives on the sunny east side of the house where it is bounded by a walkway. Woods' rose can grow as a large shrub measuring 3 to 6 feet tall, but my roses grow as multiple, individual, straight and curved stems no more than a foot high. They gave us a beautiful show of pink blossoms for much of May.

I'd love to hear what roses you've grown here in the valley. Have you had luck with other rose varieties? Please share your experiences and your photos!



Photos by Emily Foltz

Persian yellow rose.

Send me an email at slvgardening@gmail.com.



Woods' rose.



Austrian copper rose.

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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Independence Day celebrations in Valley

By JOHN WATERS

SAN LUIS 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 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



Photo by John Waters

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

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.

an 8 p.m. dance at the Elks Lodge. For more information, visit www.creederep.org and creede.com/4th-of-July.

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 beer garden, and a Farmers' Market. There will be a 7 p.m. performance of "Young Frankenstein," at the Creede Rep., and

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Mineral County Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 to review the following application:

- Lot Consolidation of Lots of Lots 22 & 23, Block 1 of Rivercrest Acres submitted by Noel and Melissa Nease

The public meeting will begin at 5:30 pm and will be held in the Commissioner's meeting room in the Mineral County Courthouse at 1201 N Main, Creede, CO 81130. Copies of the applications can be viewed at the County Administrator's office at 1201 N Main, Creede, CO. Written comments can be sent via email to countyadmin@mincocolorado.com or mailed to the attention of the County Administrator at PO Box 70, Creede, CO 81130. Comments need to be received by EOB on Monday, July 8, 2024.

No. 6635 published in the Mineral County Miner, Thursday, June 27 and July 4, 2024.

Reverse 911 can save a life

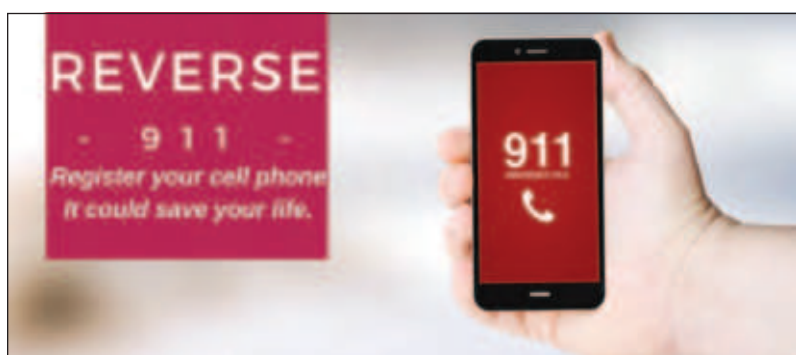
By JOHN WATERS

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 gov-

ernment agencies and companies throughout North America.

DISTRICT COURT, MINERAL COUNTY, COLORADO
Court Address: 1201 North Main Street
P.O. Box 337
Creede, CO 81130

In the Matter of the Determination of Heirs or Devises or Both and of Interests in Property of:

LUTHER JACKSON GIBSON

Deceased

Attorneys for Jackie Wayne Gibson, Petitioner:
CHAYET & DANZO, LLC
Marnie D. Chayet, #28815
Tamaris E. Trujillo, #41193
Tracy L. Brooks, #55020
650 S. Cherry Street, Suite 710
Denver, CO 80246
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Email: Marnie@ColoradoElderLaw.com
Tamaris@ColoradoElderLaw.com
Tracy@ColoradoElderLaw.com

Case Number: 2024PR030007
Division: Courtroom

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION TO INTERESTED PERSONS AND OWNERS BY DESCENT OR SUCCESSION PURSUANT TO § 15-12-1303, C.R.S. AND C.R.P.P. 24

To all interested persons and owners by descent or succession (List all names of interested persons and owners by descent or succession): Estate of Elsie Elizabeth Gibson, Jackie Wayne Gibson, and Linda Gibson Peters.

A petition has been filed alleging that the above decedent(s) died leaving the following property (including legal description if real property):

Description of Property (ONLY IF KNOWN, petitioner may include fractional or percentage ownership)	Location of Property
Property 1: 50% interest as tenant in common	LOT 35 BRISTOL HEAD ACRES # 3 1.006 AC. County of Mineral, State of Colorado 2050 Middle Creek Road, Creede, CO 81130

The hearing on the petition will be held at the following time and location or at a later date to which the hearing may be continued:

Date: August 22, 2024 **Time:** 8:00 a.m.
Courtroom or Division: Probate **Address:** 1201 North Main Street, Creede, CO 81130.

This is a hearing without appearance pursuant to C.R.P.P. 24; attendance is not required or expected.

Note:

- You must answer the petition on or before the hearing date and time specified above.
- Within the time required for answering the petition, all objections to the petition must be in writing, filed with the court and served on the petitioner and any required filing fee must be paid.
- The hearing shall be limited to the petition, the objections timely filed and the parties answering the petition in a timely manner. If the petition is not answered and no objections are filed, the court may enter a decree without a hearing.

No. 6637 published in the Mineral County Miner, Thursday, July 4, 11 and 18, 2024.

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**Wrights
Amusements**

July 10 to 14

**Monte Vista Rotary
Chuckwagon Dinner**

5-7 p.m. • July 11

Local Rodeo

1-4 p.m. • July 12

Friday Night PRCA Rodeo
July 12, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday Night PRCA Rodeo
July 13, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday Matinee PRCA Rodeo
July 14, 2:00 p.m.



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

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Call 719-852-3531

or email: rbeutler@valleypublishinginc.com

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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,

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

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

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

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

Equipment

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



Antique Items

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



Shop Equipment

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

Many Items too Numerous to Mention

Check out our face book page for pictures!

Household

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



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- JD LA125 Lawn Tractor
- Lawn Chairs
- Lawn Sweeper
- String Trimmer
- Patio Furniture
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- Yard Umbrella

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719-588-3979 or 719-588-3978

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)

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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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Please read your ad on the first day of publication. If there are mistakes notify us **IMMEDIATELY**. We will make changes for errors and adjust your credit **but only if we receive notice on the first day the ad is published.** We limit our liability to you in this way and we do not accept liability for any other damages which may result from an error or omission in an ad. All ad copy must be approved by the newspaper which reserves the right to request changes, reject or properly classify an ad. The advertiser and not the newspaper is responsible for the truthful content of the ad. All classified advertising must be pre-paid.

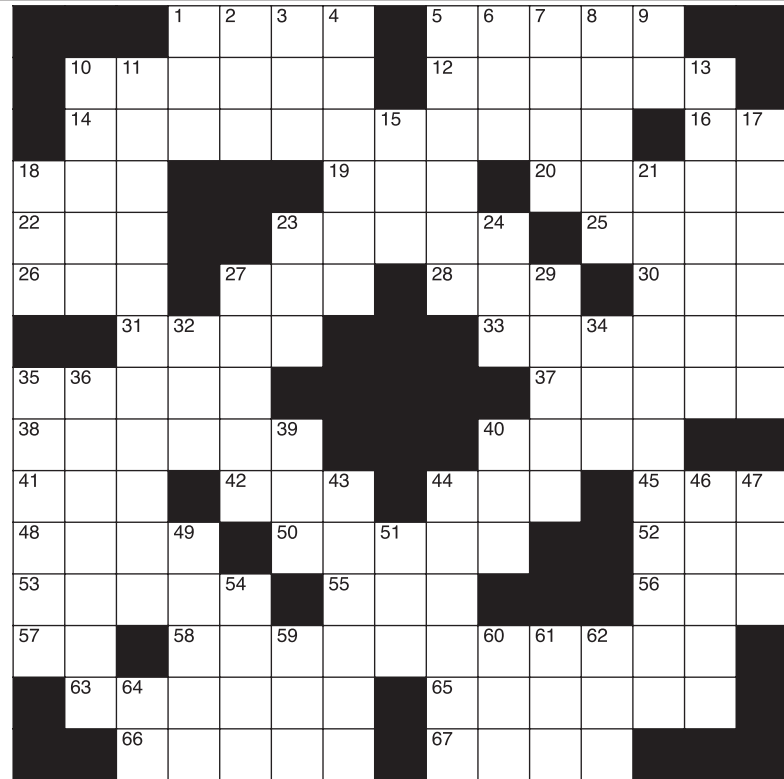
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CLUES ACROSS

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!

The Holy Moses
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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

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

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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
05299 County Rd. 12 S. Alamosa, CO

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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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Custom mtn cabin + adjacent full apartment
\$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



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

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OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-580-0770




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2166 Bear Creek Circle South Fork, CO


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BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-580-1901




UNDER CONTRACT


8 Acre Property with a Large Shop
Stunning Mountain Views!
\$250,000 MLS #813871
1210 Juarez Road Fort Garland CO

TATE HUFFAKER
ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-298-6560

Look At The View! Approx. 2.020 Acres
\$89,900 | MLS #813683
311 Vista De Verde Circle South Fork, CO

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




SOLD

3 bedroom, 2 bath 2,589 Sq. Ft. on 35.5 acres
\$975,000 | MLS #808345
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SOLD

Large Warehouse Approx. 6,579 sq. ft. on 1.57 Acres
\$150,000 | MLS #811519
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\$215,000 | MLS #809144
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SOLD

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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.

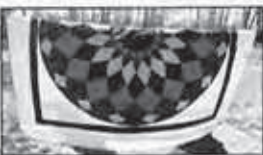

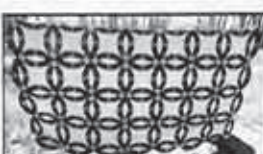


“It’s not going to solve everyone’s problems, but the aspect of creation, and giving people a space where they can come together. I am really trying to encompass a oneness with the world around us, to highlight our similarities versus focusing on our differences, and the only way to do that is to spend 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.*

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<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: 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

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



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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 Mountain Style 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



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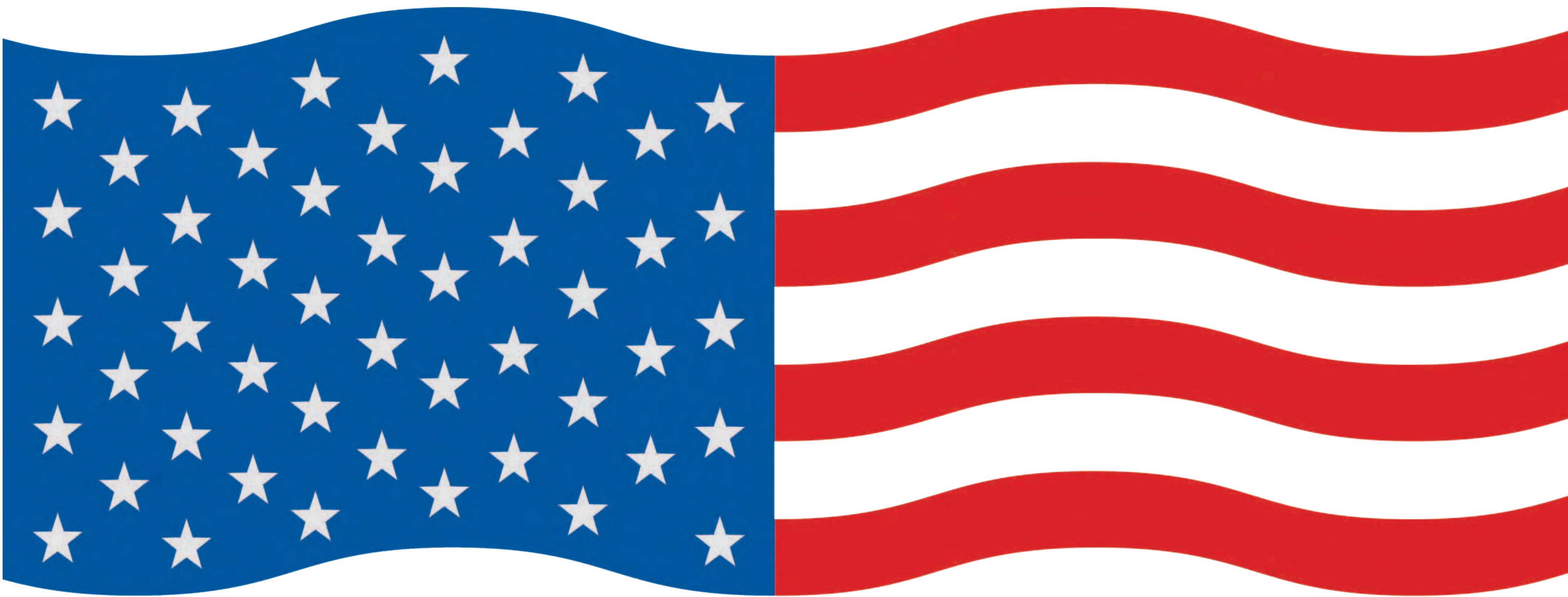
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