

MORSELS

Community Open Classes at SLV Fair

MONTE VISTA — Community members can exhibit their items at the San Luis Valley Fair next month via the Community Open Classes. People can compete in different indoor projects like quilting, photography, canned goods, leather crafts, baked goods, and gardening. There is no fee, no pre-registration. Check-in is available on Sunday, Aug. 4, from 4-6 p.m. or Monday, Aug. 5, from 9-11 a.m.

For more information, contact Brandy Meyers at 719-849-1522 or Janae Naranjo at 719-480-4212.

1974 Centauri HS 50th class reunion

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

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

Open Quilt Show returning to SLV Fair

MONTE VISTA — The SLV Fair is bringing back the Open Quilt Show. This is a show only; entries will not be judged. The goal is to showcase the wonderful talent in the San Luis Valley. It is open to all ages, and there is no entry fee. People can also submit the quilt's story, if there is one.

People can bring their quilt on Tuesday, Aug. 6, from 8-10 a.m. For more information, call Janae Naranjo at 719-480-4212 or Brandy Meyers at 719-849-1522.

Rhythms on Rio lineup has 'something for everyone'

Long running music festival set for Aug. 2-4

By R. SCOTT RAPPOLD

DEL NORTE — Rhythms on the Rio, the San Luis Valley's largest and longest-running music festival, will return to Del Norte on Aug. 2-4.

Organized by the South Fork Music Association, it has been held annually since 2006, except 2020 and 2021, to raise money to put musical instruments in the hands of San Luis Valley kids. Last year the event raised \$15,000 for local school music programs.

This will be the third year it has been held in Del Norte, after the festival grounds in South Fork were sold for an RV park. It attracts

Please see RHYTHMS on Page 7A

Daniel Donat's Cosmic Country will be performing on Saturday, Aug. 3, at Rhythms on the Rio. He will be performing to sets, including a recreation of Bob Dylan's 'Nashville Skyline.'

Courtesy photo



RG County commissioners have work session on SB 24-131

By LYNDIE FERRELL

RIOGRANDECOUNTY — During a work session on July 10, Rio Grande County Board of Commissioners discussed Senate Bill 24-131 which prohibits carrying firearms in sensitive spaces.

According to the description of the bill, "The act prohibits a person from knowingly carrying a firearm, both openly and concealed, in the following government buildings, including their adjacent parking areas:

State legislative buildings, including buildings at which the offices of elected members are located;

A building of a local government's governing body, including buildings at which the offices of elected members or the chief executive officer of a local government are located (local government buildings); and

A courthouse or other building used for court proceedings."

Please see SESSION on Page 7A

Wynonna dazzles on the Stampede stage

Country music legend sang many of her hits

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Country singing legend Wynonna brought that "true country bass" to kick off the 102nd annual Ski-Hi Stampede.

Thursday's crowd helped themselves to the delicious annual Monte Vista Rotary Chuck Wagon Dinner before the concert and took in the sights at Wright's Amusements carnival before heading into the concert venue.

Country music icon Wynonna Judd stepped onto the stage in a black

Please see CONCERT on Page 5A



Photos by Brian Williams

The Ski-Hi Stampede continued Friday with a parade in Downtown Monte Vista. Friday's Grand Marshals Domey, left, and Rodney Salazar, right, wave to the crowd from the back seat of a classic convertible.



Country singing legend Wynonna kicked off the 102nd Ski-Hi Stampede by performing at the annual concert on Thursday in Monte Vista.

Covered Wagon Days just weeks away



By LYNDIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — As this busy summer begins to slide toward fall in the Valley, Del Norte is gearing up for its annual Covered Wagon Days and the four-day event is set to be a grand time for all.

Beginning on Thursday, Aug. 1, the town will be a great place to come for an afternoon of fun, farmers markets and music in the park. Kathy's Fabric Trunk will be hosting

Covered Wagon Days in Del Norte are only a few weeks away.

File photo

the annual quilt show and the Rio Grande County Museum has opened an antique quilt and clothing show for all to enjoy. The San Luis Valley quilt Guild will be selling their \$10 items to raise money for several charity projects for the coming year.

The Town of Del Norte will be hosting its Thursday night Music in the Park and Mercado Del Norte will be set up in the Del Norte Town Park for an evening of live entertainment and fun for the entire family.

Friday will feature the annual Veteran's Dinner at the High Valley Community Center with proceeds going toward Veteran services

Please see DAYS on Page 7A

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OBITUARIES

Larry Eugene Carpenter

Larry Eugene Carpenter, a longtime Valley resident, passed away in Alamosa, Colo., on July 4, 2024, surrounded by his family. He was born on May 22, 1941, in Center, Colo., to LT and Alice Carpenter.

Larry graduated from Sargent High School in 1959 and began farming in the Sargent community. He met his loving wife of 60 years, Connie Helms, and they married on Dec. 31, 1964. Together they raised their four children on the family farm growing potatoes and Coors Barley.

In 1988, they moved to Great Bend, Kan., and then to Greeley, Colo., where Larry continued farming. In 1995, they returned to the San Luis Valley and purchased Alamosa Truck Brokers. Larry retired from the brokerage in 2006 and began driving a shuttle van for Blue Peaks Day Services, a job that brought him great joy.

Larry was an active member of the Sargent community. He was a member of the Sargent Community Church, drove the athletic bus for many years, and during the basketball season you would find him in the Sargent Gym at the scorekeeper's desk. He was a member and served on the board of the Monte Vista Potato Association, a longtime member of the Monte Vista Elks, and in his later years a member of the Kiwanis Club of Alamosa serving a term as President and was the pancake chef for the 4th of July breakfast.



Larry had a love of the outdoors and enjoyed hunting, fishing and being in the mountains. Many weekends were spent with his family at Santa Maria fishing and riding motorcycles in the summer and snow machines in the winter. He enjoyed many hunting seasons with his son and brother. Larry believed the mountains and their beauty were his church and the best way to honor his faith was spending time as a family enjoying the great outdoors.

Larry is survived by his wife, Connie, who stood with him for 60 memorable years; his children, Lynnette Carpenter, Steve Carpenter (Janalyn), Karen Goodwin (James), and Susan Seder; his seven grandchildren, Jade (Micaela) Gale, CJ (Samantha) Carpenter, Katelyn

Brown, Jace (Jude) Carpenter, Micalyn (Brady) Covert, Cadence Seder, and Tyson Tellez; and his three great-grandchildren, Bentlee, Cecilia and Tripp. He is also survived by his siblings, Donald Carpenter, Carolyn Gustafson, Mary Ann Arnett, Theresa Harrison, and Vicki Jones (Art), as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents Lawrence "LT" and Alice Carpenter, and his siblings Warren Carpenter, Virginia DePriest, and Isla Jean Crawford.

Larry was a man of few words. He will be remembered as a quiet and gentle soul by some, an ornery prankster by others, and a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle and friend by many. He will be greatly missed.

A graveside memorial will be held on July 27 at 9:30 a.m. at the Alamosa Cemetery with a Celebration of Life Service at the Cattails Golf Course Knee Knockers Restaurant beginning at 11:30 a.m. with lunch following.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Larry's name to Alamosa Hospice del Valle or the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Wildlife and Conservation Division.

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

(Harriet) Lynn Knight-Montaño

(Harriet) Lynn Knight-Montaño passed away peacefully on the morning of June 22, 2024, in Crestview, Fla., at the age of 83. Born May 3, 1941, in Frankton, Ind., she was one of nine children to Helen (Soots) and Woodrow Knight.

In her early 30's Lynn moved to Colorado and on Jan. 14, 1988, she wed (Alex) Manuel Montaño. After Manuels passing in 2009, Lynn remained in Colorado until 2020 when she moved to be near family in DeFuniak Springs, Fla.

She enjoyed collecting antiques, loved her pets and was an amazing family historian.

Lynn was preceded in death by her husband Manuel of Colo.; mother, Helen Albrecht of NY; father, Woodrow Knight of Ind.; sisters, (Shirley) Arleen of Fla., Vella of Fla., Ginger of Ind., (Margaret) Peggy of Ky., Donna of NY; brothers, (Lawrence) Larry of Ind., (Theodore) Teddy of Fla., many dear family members and friends.

Lynn is survived by her sibling (Charles) Charlie Albrecht of NY; stepdaughters, Kimberlee and Michelle of Colo., Taileigh of N.M., TJ of Ga.; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, cousins and friends that she loved dearly.



A Celebration for Lynn and interment will be held on a later date near DeFuniak Springs, Fla. Those wishing to attend are asked to contact her family.

Angelina Ortega

This obituary is in the loving memory of our mother. She died at the golden age of not quite 88 years old. She passed on with her two children at her side at the

Alamosa hospital. She will be missed by all who knew her. Please say a prayer for her.

DEATH NOTICE

William L. Kuhlke

Beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, teacher and mentor to many, William L. Kuhlke, passed away peacefully after a brief illness on June 17, 2024, in Alamosa, Colo. He is survived by his wife Betty Jean Myers, his children, and grandchildren.

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

SLV 911 Emergency Telephone Authority offers reverse 911

By JOHN WATERS

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Residents throughout the Valley can receive emergency reverse 911 messages through the San Luis Valley Emergency Telephone Authority by visiting the website www.slve911.org.

In 2009, Connecticut became the first state in the nation to utilize a reverse 911 system and 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 during the 2012 Sandy Hook — Newtown Connecticut school shooting.

To receive the emergency messages, visit the website, www.slve911.org and next to the text, "If we can't REACH you, we can't ALERT you. Register for FREE emergency alerts," and click on "sign up here."

After clicking on the above, you will be directed to the signup questions. After creating a profile and submitting information you will have created an account and be ready to receive emergency messages.

"For many years, the emergency planners and SLV 911 Board have been using Everbridge [slve911.org] to alert citizens to emergencies that may affect them," said Donna Wehe,

Director of Communications and Public Information Officer, San Luis Valley Health. "At SLV Health, we promote the slve911.org website in our newsletter to encourage all staff, their families, and neighbors to sign up. Once per year, all users should login and update their account information.

"On a personal note, there was a fire in my former neighborhood that could have escalated, and many of us were put on 'pre-evacuation' notice. I was not registered at the time and would have been unaware of the dangerous situation had it not been for a concerned neighbor who was going door to door alerting us. Ever since then, I have been promoting the use of this tool."

As previously reported in the Valley Courier, Alamosa County residents can also visit the county website at www.alamosacounty.colorado.gov and sign up for a separate reverse 911 system. Residents can sign up for both systems.

The slve911.org system can send messages to cell phones, land lines, text, email and work phones.

Visit www.slve911.org and the Alamosa County website at www.alamosacounty.colorado.gov, to receive notices.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Summer on the wane

It's hard to believe but the summer is half over for most of us, and more so, I guess, for those who have kids in school.

That start date seems to have gravitated to an earlier and earlier time as the years have gone by and now some kids must start in early August.

It was not too long ago that school did not start until after Labor Day but with the advent of air conditioning in the classroom, they now start in what normally would still be called summer.

Miss Trixie says that only Ol' Dutch's schools ever started after Labor Day. And maybe she is right. Ol' Dutch was a handful way back then and a late start to school gave the teachers more of a break from this nonsense.

But in modern days, with this early start, the tourists will start packing up their campers, cars and trucks and heading back to wherever they came from after a sojourn in the beautiful Rocky Mountains.

For the folks past the years of herding kids around, they now start to look south for warmer climes, and it seems like they are leaving Colorado earlier and earlier every year in a mad rush to secure a favorite spot in Arizona or South Texas.

Even though the summer seems fleeting already and soon to pass into the proverbial books, there still is plenty to look forward to in the next two months. First and foremost is the huge Ladies Aide garage sale in Creede this week.

It's a grand time of fun and laughter amongst friends and culminates with a mad rush as people are allowed to fill bags with "treasures" the last hour or so of the sale. (On Thursday, July 18 this year. So, if you are reading this on Thursday morning, get yourself to the Virginia Christensen Center in Creede before 3 p.m.)

It's not free but for a nominal fee you can buy a bag and fill it to the brim with anything that is left over and if you buy enough bags, you too can have a garage sale with the purchased stuff. But regretfully it also means Miss Trixie brings home more junk.

I had told her some time ago that whatever amount she brings in, the same amount has to go out and now all of Ol' Dutch's things are outside. That didn't work out quite the way I planned and should teach me to legislate ill-advised rules.

We are currently still rafting on the Rio Grande with Narrow Ridge Outdoors/Mountain Man Rafting. 8200 Outdoor Sports is still offering great fishing trips for the neophyte and experienced anglers alike. So, there are a lot of opportunities for



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

those wanting to still have fun.

And this weekend, Logger Days will arrive here in South Fork and a lot of folks will see the skills of modern-day Paul and Paulette Bunyans as they cut and dismember big logs brought to the Community Center from the area forests.

The Wood Carvers are happening this weekend in Creede, and soon the Gem and Mineral show will be there, too. Ol' Dutch will most likely get dragged along to see one or both of these gatherings.

Soon after that the long doldrums of August will start to drag on and by then the slow and low River will call my name and I will head out to wade the cool waters and catch some Rocky Mountain trout.

For Miss Trixie and me, the fall days of September herald in the start of Elk Season for Ol' Dutch and sometimes a bear or antelope or deer even finds its way into our ample larder.

And thankfully that is the case as if not for a bear season some 12 years ago, which was our first real date, Miss Trixie and I would never have begun our blessed journey on this Earth.

So, you and she can blame the Colorado Department of Wildlife and Parks for our cohabitation I guess and the rest, as they say, is history.

Miss Trixie has plenty of time to reflect on that as she lies naked on the bearskin rug I had made from that first hunt.

Well, maybe not lying on the rug but she does reflect a lot on that fateful day, and it causes a furrow to appear on her brow.

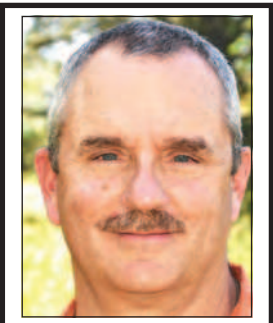
Happy 2024 summer folks, there is still lots of fun out there. Go grab yourself some.

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.



A hike to visit old trees

The sun flashed through the rustling aspens as we quietly hiked a short downhill section of the trail. Reaching the bottom, the sky appeared a dazzling blue above the ridgeline on the short uphill slope in front of us. We anticipated an amazing view as a little spring in our step pushed us up the last 50 feet of the slope.



Land Water and People
By Gregg Goodland

True to form, the Alamosa Canyon appeared in all its grandeur for our viewing pleasure. The prominent feature in our view, Cornwall Mountain projecting its nose for all to see, topped the slopes of the south side of the canyon. Farther back, Conejos Peak displayed her snow speckled slopes, a subtle reminder of where we live. Instantly in awe, we abruptly halted our forward progress to stand and appreciate what was ours for the taking.

Phones quickly took photos as our mouths eventually closed and we regained our composure. I wondered if that entire trail was designed for that single location.

We started the hike from the Comstock Campground in the Rock Creek drainage just south of Monte Vista. Seemingly following an old jeep road, the Alamosa River/Rock Creek Trail #703 quickly gains elevation through the cool forest as you pass over loose rocks and rutted sections, often making you pay more attention to your steps than you care to.

The views from the trail alternate from a dark forest to a more open aspen forest with better light, to open meadows then back into the darker forest. The lush green vegetation, fueled by the ample precipitation from this early summer, was a pleasing sight to most westerners. Not too much fire risk to distract us here.

Probably not quite at their peak, the wildflowers proudly displayed their brilliant colors and unique character. I'm not a flower expert by any means but the commonly known species were all there for us to enjoy. The mountain asters and fire weed mixed in well with the wild rose.

My favorites, Indian paintbrush and columbine were abundant and simply beautiful as they seemingly waved to me in the light breeze. We even saw monkshood and, of course, several species I can't identify.

After a while, the trail became less steep and more flowing-like as it guided us over the casual undulations of the mountain. More time for looking around while we hiked was welcomed. We eventually arrived at that amazing vista point I described earlier. A short pause for better appreciation of the view and we pushed on. I had to see some of my much "older friends."

Not too much farther towards the Silver Mountain Trail #704 junction they appeared, just as they always have. Most of them massive in girth and some of them towering well above the rest of the forest. The numerous old Douglas fir



Photo courtesy of Rio Grande National Forest
Gregg Goodland standing with a large Douglas fir tree on the Alamosa River to Rock Creek Trail #703.

trees are a magnificent feature of this trail.

As you approach the large trees that are next to the trail you must take note of the size and grandeur of those farther away. It will give you a better appreciation for the ones you are compelled to stand under and take photos with.

They don't mind and their expression rarely changes so they are a safe bet to be photographed with. My wife took a photo of me standing next to a large tree with a trunk that reminded me of the bell bottom pants from the 1970's. It's pretty evident that this tree did, in fact, live through the 70's. My timber specialist estimates it at around 300 years old!

The decision point happened when we reached the trail junction. Do we head down the really cool but consistently steep trail to the bottom of the Alamosa Canyon, or head back for the truck? I had visions of me grumbling about the long uphill trek, and while I love that section of trail, brighter minds prevailed and we turned back for the truck.

It was a glorious Southern Colorado day, and the hike was wonderful, as expected. We never saw another human until after we got back to the truck. And, to my absolute surprise, my heart was warmed by the fact that we never saw even one tiny speck of litter. It makes me proud to be in an area where all the trail users take the extra care to not leave litter from their forest experience. I sincerely hope that this will be the case for everyone this summer!

Gregg Goodland is the Public Affairs Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest. As an avid outdoor enthusiast, he encourages individual stewardship and responsible use of our public lands.



THE SOUTH FORK TINES (USPS 659-530) Published weekly (every Thursday) by Valley Publishing. (719) 852-3531 at 835 First Ave., Monte Vista, Colorado 81144-1423.

Founded Aug. 21, 1975.
Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144
Main office, Want ads and Subscriptions: (719) 852-3531
Periodical postage paid at Monte Vista, Colo., 81144
POSTMASTER: Send change of address to P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144
Subscriptions: \$45 one year in the San Luis Valley; \$40 one year seniors (65 and older) in the San Luis Valley; and \$55 one year out of the San Luis Valley. (719) 852-3531
San Luis Valley Publishing, LLC

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- Monte Vista Journal/Center Post Dispatch Reporter
- Lyndsie Ferrell..... South Fork/Creede Reporter
- Shasta Quintana
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Bareback, bull riding champs determined on Stampede's final day

By KEN HAMRICK

MONTE VISTA — The 102nd Annual Ski-Hi Stampede took place over the weekend with several participants from all over the country and some from out of the country competing.

Two of the rough stock events had their champions crowned on Sunday.

In bareback riding, there was a tie for first place. Gavin French of College Station, Texas, scored 83 points on Desert Inn, and Jade Taton of Kersey recorded the same score on Louisiana Woman.

Finishing in third place was Boyce Kraut of Kim with an 82 1/2 point ride on SW also on Sunday. Fourth place went to Isaac Ingraham of Eunice, La., with 79 1/2 points on Nevada Smith on Sunday. Finishing in fifth place was Spur Lacasse of Calgary, Alberta Canafa with 77 1/2 points on Kicking Feathers on Sunday, and Monte Downare of Hartsel with 77 points on Windy Whisky on Sunday.

The bull riding champion was also determined on Sunday. Scottie Knapp of Albuquerque, N.M., who scored 86 1/2 points on Ironman. Chris McKenna of Walsenburg was the only other qualified ride as he scored 63 points on Short Change on Friday.

The saddle bronc champion was on Friday as Gus Gaillard of Morse, Texas, had an 86.5-point ride on Cool Hand Luke. The runner-up was also on Friday as Kody Rinehart of Rienzi, Miss., scored 84.5 points on Cow Camp.

Blake Starrett of Weatherford, Texas, finished third with 82 points on Karen's Klown on Saturday. Jade Taton followed up his bareback ride with a fourth-place finish with 79 1/2 points on Flirtin' Voice on Sunday. Ean Price of Leedey, Okla., was fifth with 79 points on Bolo Tie on Sunday, and Joe Priebe of Cody, Wyo., and Jack Skavdahl of Harrison, Neb., both scored 76 1/2 points on Sunday. Priebe's ride came on Sweetness, and Skavdahl's was on Deep Water.

In permit bareback riding, Cauy Betony of Tonalea, Ariz., won with 70.5 points on Ghost Ride, and Jacoby Campbell of Brighton was second with 62 points on Crabby Steve. Both rides were on Friday.

In permit saddle bronc riding, Coleman Shallbetter was first with 78 points on Black Silver on Friday. Skinny Parsons of Springdale, Ark., was second with 77.5 points on Maiden Voyage also on Friday.

In other events, Brady Reneau of Los Lunas, N.M., won steer wrestling in 4.1 seconds on Saturday. Jace Logan of Yampa was second in 5.6 on Sunday, Logan Kenline of Penrose was third in 6.5, Talon Sterkel of Brighton was fourth in 6.8 on Sunday, Jacob Wang of Laramie, Wyo., was fifth in 7.2 on Friday, Zach Hamar of Yuma and Brian Snell tied for sixth in 7.4 both on Sunday, and Hadley Jackson of La Junta was eighth in 7.8 on Friday.

Riley Pruitt of Gering, Neb., saw his 8.6-second run in the slack hold up to win tie-down roping. Jayden Broussard of Broussard, La., was second in 9.1 seconds also in the slack.

Dean Holyan of Coyote Canyon, N.M., was third in 9.5 on Friday, Blaze Byler of Bellevue, Texas, was fourth in 9.7 on Saturday, Roan Hudson of Arcadia, Fla., was fifth in 9.8 on Saturday, Jacques

Trahan of Hackberry, La., was sixth in 10.3 in the slack, Ryan Belew of La Junta was seventh in 10.9 on Friday, and Brody Stallard of Fort Sumner, N.M., was eighth in 11.0 on Sunday.

In women's events, Taryn Boxleitner of Loveland won barrel racing in 15.62 seconds on Friday. Jana Bean of Fort Hancock, Texas, was second in 15.68 on Saturday, Jentry Vandenberg of Bellevue was third in 15.71 in the slack, Amanda

Welsh of Stephenville, Texas, was fourth in 15.86 on Friday, Lorelee Ward of Fort Lupton was fifth in 15.89 in the slack, Codi Hartman of Whitesboro, Texas, was sixth in 15.92 on Sunday, Fallon Taylor of Collinsville, Texas, was seventh in 16.02 on Sunday, C.J. Vondette of Rifle was eighth in 16.07 in the slack, Tara Seaton of Winslow, Ariz., was ninth in 16.13 on Sunday, Madison Bean of Lubbock, Texas, was 10th in 16.19 on Sunday, Rayne Grant of Wheatland, Wyo., was 11th in 16.21 in the slack, and Sarah Kieckhefer of Prescott, Ariz., was 12th in 16.29 on Saturday.

The breakaway roping was a tie between Taya McAdow of Fort Lupton, and Amber Hutto of North Zulch, Texas, who both had times of 2.6 seconds. McAdow's time was in the slack and Hutto's was on Saturday.

The local rodeo consisted of three events — barrel racing, tie-down roping and team roping.

In team roping, which took place on Friday, Monte and Tate Huffaker won in 13.5 seconds. Tate Koenig and Bailey Danylo were second in 18.4, and Brian Cowan and Aaron Laske were third in 19.7.

In local tie-down roping, which was on Friday and Saturday, Travis Canty was the champion in 12.2 seconds. Ryan Canty was second in 20.1, Grant Koenig was third in 23.7, and Tucker Canty was fourth in 25.5.

The barrel racing took place on Saturday and Sunday, and it was won by Rosemary Egolf in 16.67 seconds. Bailey Danylo was second in 16.74, Raelyn Bouet was third in 16.78, and Megan Davenport was fourth in 17.02.



Scottie Knapp of Albuquerque, N.M., rides Ironman on Sunday during the Ski-Hi Stampede in Monte Vista. Knapp won the bull riding event after receiving an 86.5 from the judges.



Jade Taton of Kersey turns in an 83-point ride on Louisiana Woman and finished tied atop the bareback riding on Sunday at the Ski-Hi Stampede in Monte Vista.

Photos by Brian Williams

The World Can't Give It to You

People search for happiness in a lot of places. They look to things like relationships, money, vacations, houses, clothes, and even open doors of opportunity. Yet, while these things can bring a degree of excitement for a period of time, *happiness* is based on what is happening "in the moment."

I was a Christian for several years before I understood that enjoying true peace, joy and fulfillment is the most important thing in life. It's something that goes far beyond happiness to a deeper joy, regardless of our circumstances. And no matter what we own, where we go, or what we do, only one thing can give us this true satisfaction—*God*.

Simply put, without God, we will never truly be able to have everyday joy.

Psalm 27:4 has become one of the foundational scriptures of my life. It says, "One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek, inquire for, and [insistently] require: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord [in His presence] all the days of my life, to behold and gaze upon the beauty [the sweet attractiveness and the delightful loveliness] of the Lord and to meditate, consider, and inquire in His temple."

Seek is a strong word. It means "to crave, pursue, and go after something with all of your might." Many people want a greater relationship with God—and they want to have the immense joy and fulfillment that comes with it—but they don't *crave* and *pursue* Him or lay aside other things in order to have it.

I love Psalm 16:11. It says, "You

will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy, at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

The Lord desires for us to *live* with His joy—to be permanently, *consistently* satisfied. This all comes from spending quality time with God...from reading and studying His Word, talking to Him in prayer, or simply sitting quietly in His presence.

The truth is everything we need to live a joyful, successful life is waiting for us in His presence. Because of the sexual abuse I suffered as a child, I was forced to grow up quickly and worry about things a child should never have to worry about. As a result, I never had the chance to be a kid—to enjoy life care-free and simply have fun. As far back as I could remember, I was always tremendously serious and intense.

Maybe you can relate. Maybe life has thrown you some curves and left you joy-less. Or maybe you are so caught up in the hurry and worry of everyday life that you've forgotten how to simply stop, have fun, and enjoy yourself. If so, I want you to look at Matthew 11:28. Jesus says, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest. [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls]."

Jesus offers us *rest* and *relief*. It's the rest we need to live in the world and deal with stressful situations without letting them upset us, ruin our health or steal our joy. It's a supernatural rest we can only find through a personal relationship with Him—it's not something we can find in the



world.

What is our part? We simply need to go to Him! Jesus never promised us we'd have a trouble-free life, but He said we can live above our circumstances. With His grace, wisdom, peace and strength, we can deal with stress and trouble and maintain a good attitude. His rest is a rest we can have in our souls—our mind, will and emotions.

Having this rest is like giving your soul a vacation. It means that no matter what's going on, you don't have to worry about it and try to figure everything out. It's a wonderful place to be, because when your soul is at rest in Christ, your emotions are stable and you have peace and joy.

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

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

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

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CONCERT

Continued from Page 1A

country and western style blazer, with light blue trim on the arms and pockets, gemstones on the sleeves, and a sharp black cowboy hat adorned with sparkling rhinestones. Her long, red, wavy hair cascading from under the hat and framed her beautiful smiling face.

The crowd went wild as she stepped to the front of the stage, complete with a blue string electric guitar and opened with the fan favorite "I Saw the Light." Many in the audience sang along with Wynonna.

During her 90-minute set, Wynonna sang "I Hear You Knocking," "I Know Where I Am Going," "Rock Bottom," and "Hey Good Looking," all the while speaking casually with the crowd throughout the evening.

"Is this really happening? We are in Colorado," Wynonna said. "I am so glad to be here with you, it's been a long journey to get out here. Rodeos are my absolute favorite places to play, I was 18 years old when I played my first rodeo. You all are my kind of people."

"I wish the rest of the nation did life like you all do," she said with big smile.

Wynonna pointed to a woman in the audience holding a baby and said, "Glad you brought the baby and some headphones for her, too. She doesn't know who I am, and she don't care, but mamma does and that's what matters."

Wynonna explained that for those in the crowd who did not know who she was, that she was an artist who was formerly known as the Judds musical duo with her late mother, Naomi, who died in 2022.

The Judds were one of the most successful acts in country music history, winning five Grammy Awards for Best Country Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal, and nine Country Music Association awards. They also charted more than 20 singles on the Billboard Hot Country Songs charts, including fourteen that went to number one.

The Judds disbanded in 1991 and Wynonna began a solo career. Wynonna has released eight studio albums, a live album, a holiday album, and two compilation albums, with over 20 singles.

In 2022, Wynonna was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame as a member of The Judds. Wynonna has five songs that are number one and she was part of 14 top hits with

the Judds.

Wynonna told the crowd she loved country music because it was so "real." At one point, she looked up to the sky and said, "Thank you Mamma."

Wynonna sang some of her greatest hits, including "No One Else on Earth," "Tell Me Why," "Only Love," and "Grandpa." She invited the crowd repeatedly to sing along with her, and they did.

Wynonna lit up the stage, dancing, walking around and entertaining the crowd. At one point, she introduced her husband, Cactus Moser, who plays the drums fiercely in her band. Moser bantered with Wynonna to the delight of the crowd, even stealing a kiss on stage.

"Thank you for showing up for me tonight," she said. "Out of all my husbands, I love you the best," she said with a chuckle. The crowd went wild. Then Moser announced that he was from Colorado, with Wynonna adding that he was from Montrose.

Moser came from behind the drum set and stood next to his wife Judd and they played and sang a couple of songs together. Wynonna dedicated her song "Love is Alive," to Moser, and anyone in the audience who needed some inspiration that night.

Judd finished her set with "No One Else on Earth," but returned an encore song, that was followed with a firework display.

Max McNown, of Bend, Ore., got the crowd revved up for Wynonna with a crisp 30-minute performance playing a blend of original material and some well-known covers.

McNown sang a piece he wrote for his brother, Brock, who is battling cancer, called "Can't Hide Light." Brock was on the stage filming his brother's performance.

"This next song is really close to my



Photos by Brian Williams
Max McNown, of Bend, Ore., got the crowd revved up for Wynonna with a crisp 30-minute performance.



Wynonna lit up the Ski-Hi Stampede stage Thursday night, dancing, walking around and entertaining the crowd.



heart. My older brother Brock, who is taking photos right there. I wrote this

song about everything he has gone through, and how there's always a

light in it, and it never ever went out so, you can't hide light," McNown said.



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Faith Hinkley Veterans Memorial Park Fundraiser July 27

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — The Faith Hinkley Veteran's Memorial Park Fundraiser is being held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 27, at Chapman Park in Monte Vista.

The event will raise funds toward the completion of the Memorial Paver Installation Project, at Faith Hinkley Veteran's Memorial Park. This is sure to be a memorable event and will honor local fallen heroes and all the brave women and men who have served.

The City of Monte Vista is hosting this event. This is going to be an exciting experience from beginning to end for the entire family. There will be a poker run, a car and motorcycle show, vendors, food trucks, a beer garden, and music from a DJ and live bands. There will be kids games, a cornhole tournament, a dunk tank, and much more.

The Faith Hinkley Memorial Park Project began March 10, 2011. The City of Monte Vista, partnered with the Monte Vista School District to create the beloved park to celebrate and remember the lives of fallen U.S. Army Sgt. Faith Hinkley, and U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Glen E. Martinez. There have been many donations over the years from local businesses, and residents to help finish the park. This year, a stone will also be added by local businessman Bob Richards, and James Pacheco of the Polished Bean, for World War II Veteran George Blake, a Homelake Veterans community resident who passed away recently.

The fundraiser will help complete the Memorial Park project. Everything kicks off at 9 a.m. at Chapman Park

with a poker run hosted by Larry Garner. Registration for this event opens at 8 a.m. The \$20 fee for the run also gets you into the car show; any licensed vehicle, cars, trucks, and motorcycles are welcome to attend the run. At 9 a.m., everyone will follow Garner from Chapman Park, and the poker run will visit five historic sites. According to Garner, everyone from the run should be back by around 12:30 p.m.

At 10 a.m., the park activities will open for everyone to enjoy. Registration for a cornhole tournament will take place at 10 a.m., with the tournament starting at 11.

From 12 to 4 p.m., there will be live music, in this order, Marc Albion, The Rooster/Mikey Dynamic Drum Duo, OI Scratch, and the SLV Big Band. At 2 p.m., the car show will commence, and at 5 p.m. there will be non-traditional fun awards given out for the car show, and at 6 p.m. the event will end.

All day long vendors will be selling their wares in the park, there will also be a lot of fun games going in the park for the kids to enjoy, including bouncy houses, and there will be a dunk tank, too. Nine food trucks are scheduled to be at the event. The food trucks will range from Mexican to American and all that's in between. There will also be a beer garden hosted by Colorado Farm Brew.

Students from the Byron Syring DELTA Center created some amazing T-shirts that will be available at the event for purchase for \$25.

The City of Monte Vista would like to thank all of the amazing sponsors that have donated to the event including, Valley Tractor Repair LLC, the Nazarene Thrift Store, RG

Bank, The LOR Foundation Inc, Poole Agribusiness, H&R Block, Mackey Construction, The Roberts Team, Proud Military Parents and Supporters, O&V Printing Inc, Troy Plane Insurance Agency, David Hinkley, Rocky Mountain Memorabilia, and Brown's Septic.

Food truck vendor registration is closed, but there is still time to donate to the cause for the completion of the park and register to be a vendor. For more information about registering, contact City Clerk Unita Vance at City Hall at 719-852-6171.

Vance is proud to be a part of the team that helped put this all together, as according to her and City Manager Gigi Dennis, the city has never hosted

an event like this.

"Without everyone working on this together, it would not have been possible. We want to thank all our sponsors, and everyone at the city for pulling together to make this possible," Vance said.

Garner said, "This is a one-time event, to help finish the Faith Hinkley Memorial Park. I would really like to encourage people to come to this particular event, because it is so important."

City Manager Dennis said she appreciates all the hard work that all the city members have put in and all the sponsors and donations.

"Everyone has really pulled together to help with this event," she said.

Dennis also thanked Colette Skeff and her family for their generous donation of \$30,000 to help finish the park.

Skeff had this to say of the donation that she made, "These funds are in memory of Ray Skeff, Colette Skeff, and Margaret Skeff Family Funds. We are proud and honored to make this \$30,000 donation to the Faith Hinkley Memorial Park. The park provides a beautiful memorial to honor the veterans who have passed as well as celebrate those with us today who have served our country. The fundraiser by the City of Monte Vista inspired the Skeff families to make the donation to help the city with the funds to complete the park."

Round 2 of the summer is here

By HIGH VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

DEL NORTE — High Valley Community Center is so glad to have everyone back after our break! July has already been a whirlwind of fun, and we cannot wait to see what other excitement is in store.

There are some super exciting field trips coming up! We are going to Pagosa Springs for a movie and park day on July 17, the Rio Grande Farm Park on July 24, and Lathrop State Park on Aug. 1 to end the summer on a high note. Please keep an eye out for our field trip cards with all the details online and on the front desk each week.

This past week, we learned the sport of fishing with Colorado Parks and Wildlife! We all ventured out to Beaver Creek Reservoir with fishing poles in hand to catch as many fish as possible. The kids had so much fun learning about how to hook their bait on and techniques to give them the best chance at reeling in a big one. They even got to take a fishing pole home!

We are so excited for another week of fun. Find updates online at the HVCC.org.



HVCC would not be possible without the support of our community! Please consider donating to help us continue to build and implement excellent programming to teach our youth how to have a positive impact on the world around them.

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Courtesy photo

Alamosa firefighter Johnny Quintana is shown applying water to the trailer of hay on fire Sunday night southwest of town.

Local fire departments respond to hay trailer ablaze

STAFF REPORT

VALLEY — Alamosa and Monte Vista firefighters both responded to a goose-neck trailer of alfalfa hay on fire about 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the intersection of the 10 South (Waverly Road) and Alamosa-Rio Grande County line.

Alamosa Fire Department Capt. Zach Cerny said the trailer and load of hay were a total loss. The truck towing the trailer was unhitched and

unharmed. Firefighters were on scene for about three hours, but the cause of the fire is unknown.

Cerny said both departments responded with seven personnel each, Alamosa with four fire trucks and Monte Vista three.

Alamosa also responded to two fireworks-caused fires on Independence Day, Cerny said, one at the public display at the fairgrounds and another at a personal residence.

DAYS

Continued from Page 1A

and places like the Homelake Veteran's center in Monte Vista. Tickets for the dinner can be purchased at the door.

Saturday will be a day packed full of fun beginning early in the morning with the Val Alto Pancake breakfast and followed by the Bees Knees 5K walk and run that takes participants along trails in some of Del Norte's beautiful back country. Whether looking to fill up on pancakes or participate in the 5K, both are at the High Valley Community Center.

By 7:30 a.m., people can also wander to the Del Norte Public Library's annual Booksale. This event is a great place to come and stock up on books for the coming winter or even as a gift for the bookworms out there! All proceeds from this event go towards the library.

The annual Covered Wagon Days parade kicks off at 10 a.m. along Grande Avenue which will be closed this year from 10 a.m. until noon. This year's theme is "The good, the bad and the ugly" which should bring out the true old west side of Del Norte.

Following the parade is the annual Ice Cream Social at the Rio Grande County Museum and the barbecue lunch fundraiser at the Del Norte Fire Department.

Saturday afternoon brings people to the Del Norte Town Park where there will be vendors, a car show and something for everyone to enjoy. Sunday morning is the

The following units will be liquidated to service the debt: Units 2024, 60 and 9. Elk Country Storage, South Fork.
No. 4729 published in the South Fork Times, Thursday, July 11 and 18, 2024.

SESSION

Continued from Page 1A

The county already has a policy in place prohibiting the carrying of firearms, concealed or openly in most government facilities which include the 12th Judicial Court, the Rio Grande County Administration building, where both the court and administration resides and the Rio Grande County Annex building and county clerk's office.

The purpose of the discussion was to limit the prohibition of firearms to these areas and to reject the portion of the bill that includes the campus and adjacent parking areas as well as other county properties including the Kent Rominger Airport, the Rio Grande County Weed District offices and the Rio Grande County Museum.

Rio Grande County Attorney Nancy Lake was the first to speak on the topic, stating that it was in the best interest of the county to consider creating a resolution that says the county would allow firearms in the adjacent parking areas to encourage people carrying firearms to leave them safely locked in their vehicles when coming to the county to conduct business or attend court.

The 12th Judicial District also sent a letter stating the same, and pointing out that firearms were already strictly banned from the court rooms located on the third floor of the county building. Rio Grande County Sherrif Ann Robinson and her team of law enforcement voiced the same sentiment, stating that they would prefer to allow the public to have a place to store the vehicles away from county facilities while still respecting the right to carry.

As far as the other facilities up for

discussion that are located away from the main county campus, commissioners opened the floor to hear from both department heads and elected officials. Rio Grande County Clerk Cindy Hill voiced that firearms would remain prohibited in her offices and the county annex building.

Rio Grande County Emergency Manager and Airport Manager Brian Burrell said he had pilots that came to the airport who carried and those who

fly in for hunting seasons.

"It just wouldn't make sense to prohibit firearms at the airport for these reasons," he said.

It was also discussed that the Rio Grande County Museum was a public place where the open or concealed carry of a firearm should be allowed.

Commissioners will consider all the discussion before making a final decision during an upcoming regularly scheduled public meeting.

RHYTHMS

Continued from Page 1A

music lovers from across Colorado, the region, and national visitors for the family-friendly atmosphere, affordable prices and idyllic mountain setting.

Organization president Scott Stecken said they are capping 3-day passes, which include camping, at 500 fewer than last year, to reduce overcrowding in the campground. He said these passes will likely sell out.

"The lineup is good. It has something for everybody. If you like rhythm and blues done the right way, you can't miss (Friday headliner) The California Honeydrops, with some funk mixed in there," he said.

"We've got some of the best up-and-coming acts in the jamgrass scene on Saturday, culminating with Daniel Donato's Cosmic Country, who is creating his own genre of music."

"And you can't go wrong with (Sunday headliner) Keller Williams. So, this is going to be a nationally recognized lineup that has something for everybody to enjoy."

Three-day passes are \$190, with a \$25 option for early entry Thursday. Campers and trailers require an RV pass. All can be purchased at RhythmsOnTheRio.com.

Single-day tickets (which don't

include camping) are \$60 Friday, \$70 Saturday and \$50 Sunday. Youth tickets (ages 13-15) are \$25. Children 12 and under are free. They can be purchased online or at the festival gate. Camping passes are \$30 more each night.

On Aug. 1, the Thursday before the festival, the festival is co-sponsoring, along with the Town of Del Norte, free live music in the town park, featuring Grateful Dead cover band Easy Jim.

The festival is held the same weekend as Del Norte's Covered Wagon Days, and Stecken said there have been noticeably more festival-goers at the parade and other events. With hot weather, last year also saw hundreds of people swimming in the Rio Grande.

The lineup is as follows:

- Friday: Alysha Brilla, Clay Street Unit, Alo and The California Honeydrops.

- Saturday: Armchair Boogie, The Fretliners, Shadowgrass, The Lil Smokies and Daniel Donato's Cosmic Country, which will do two sets, including a full cover of the Bob Dylan album "Nashville Skyline."

- Sunday: Cousin Curtiss, The Runaway Grooms, Magic Beans, Digging Dirt and Keller Williams' Grateful Grass featuring the Hillbenders

annual fly-in breakfast at the Kent Rominger Airport and church in the Town Park followed by a barbecue lunch.

For a full schedule of events, visit www.coveredwagondays.com.

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Local monuments from Del Norte Public Library find new home at museum

STAFF REPORT

DEL NORTE — With the Downtown Revitalization Project getting underway in Del Norte, the Rio Grande County Museum and Del Norte Public Library partnered on another project and saved two cherished monuments that would have been without a home.

While planning for the new sidewalk installation, engineers noted that both the Fremont and Del Norte Flouring Mill wheels in front of the library would need to be moved. Both monuments have been in front of the library for well over 70 years and were placed in front of the library by the local Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) sometime in the 1950s.

The wheels were made with local quarry stone sourced from the original stone quarry outside of Del Norte. The grist wheels were used to make the first white flour in Del Norte in 1876. The land which the flouring mill was on was owned by J. Cary French but after an extended visit to Kansas for the birth of his daughter, Salome French, his claim on the land was jumped by Paul Steele.

Over the years, the land exchanged hands and in October of 1876 the mill was erected after \$16,000 was raised by the Town of Del Norte. The Oct. 6, 1876, Del Norte Prospector reads, "Del Norte is going to get its flouring mill. Outside the town a \$16,000 fund was raised to build the mill and Sam Kaucher, from Denver, was here to find a site and build the mill. Farmers are being urged to plant more wheat."

The Del Norte Flouring Mill was born but it didn't last long. Over the next 10 years, the mill fell into disrepair and was forgotten in the boom days of Summitville and the following silver boom in Creede. The wheels were moved at one point and were later found behind the library when the DAR organization came to install the Fremont Monument, according to sources.

The Fremont Monument is a Colorado Historic marker, marking the area in which Fremont and his doomed men camped as they wandered into the La Garita Mountains in search of the fastest and easiest route to reach California in 1848. The monument is on the state's historic register as monument No. 152 and represents a significant part of the Valley's unique history.

Both monuments have found a

new home at the museum and are on display for people to see thanks to the many efforts of the Town of Del Norte Public Works Director Kevin Larimore, Del Norte Public Library Board President Glynnis Williams and the Rio Grande County Museum.

Two pieces of Del Norte's history were brought to the Rio Grande County Museum from the Del Norte Public Library for preservation. The Fremont Monument and the 150-year-old Del Norte Flouring Company original grist wheels are now on display.

Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell



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LAWN & GARDEN: Gas jugs, Aluminum scoop shovel, 100 lb. & 20 lb. propane cylinders, 500 gallon & 1000 gallon propane tanks (new), step ladders, extension ladders, 150 gallon poly tank, 250 gallon poly totes, MS180 Stihl chain saw, several sizes pet taxis, plus much more.



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TOOLS & MISC. Ridgid pipe wrenches, Channellock pliers, Milwaukee, DeWalt, and Ridgid power tools, 3/4" drive socket set, T-post driver, barb wire, solar water heating panels, 40 gallon propane water heater, rough cut lumber, metal roofing, skid steer attachments include: 4200 lb. & 5500 lb. pallet forks, 3 prong & 4 prong custom hay spears, dirt bucket, snow plow, trailer mover, JCT rock picker, quick attach plate, tractor bucket, 8', 10', 12', 14', & 16' pipe gates, continuous fence panels, transmission jack, 10' x 12' t1-11 storage barn, 300 gallon fuel tank on stand, "Lifetime" tables, chairs, benches, etc., 16' flatbed trailer with new paint, new floor, and lights, 16' Aluminum boat and trailer with 15 hp outboard & more.



ANTIQUES: Whiskey barrel, metal fruit press, butcher kettle, copper kettle, sad iron heater, snow shoes, egg crate, copper boiler, camel saddles, seed planters, TEXACO fuel jug and sign, CONOCO fuel jug, galvanized cowboy bathtub, Davis swing churn, ox yokes, metal signage, water pump, wash machine with hand crank wringer, hand agitators, wooden butter churn, coal shovel, sifter shovels, wooden forks, wagon jack, 50lb-150lb anvils, blacksmith forge, #2 dinner bell, COKE cooler, "Maytag" gyrotator washer, sack carts, rope maker, cheese cutter, brass bell, smaller swing churn, wooden chicken coop, coin banks, kettle ladles, fence stretchers, old "savage" washer/dryer, Coleman lanterns, steel wheels, old wooden wagon wheels, wooden buggy wheels, flare side "Economy" covered wagon, wooden wheeled wagon, doctor's buggy, claw foot bath tub, load of antiques from Kansas & Missouri, and much more. (Over 800 lots sold at last years' auction)



QUILTS: lots of the good woven rugs and runners, green "Irish Chain" queen size quilt, purple, gray & black, "Trip Around the Wolves" 59 1/2" x 59 1/2" wall hanger, green purple & blue "Trip Around the Wolves" 110" x 100" quilt, "Old Fashioned Double Wedding Ring 102" x 116" quilt, green, yellow & brown Old Fashioned Double Wedding Ring twin size quilt, 94" x 114" red & white pieced top, Black, gray & red "Star Medallion" queen size top, 100" x 110" green white and brown log cabin at attic windows with deer .



GUNS: Winchester model 1906 22 cal. Pump, Winchester Model 1890 octagon barrel 22 cal. Pump, Winchester mod. 94 lever action 30-30, Winchester mod. 67 single shot 22 cal., Winchester mod 1200 12ga Pump, Marlin mod. 39A 22 cal. Lever action, Stevens mod. 325 30-30 bolt action, Stevens 22 cal. Crack-shot, Savage mod. 24 over/under 22/410, Flobert 22 cal Octagon barrel, Iver Johnson single shot .410, Old double barrel Damascus steel side hammer shotgun, R26 Ravin Crossbow.



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Monte Vista Coop celebrates 75 years

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — In 1949, a group of forward-thinking farmers formed the Monte Vista Coop to pool resources to buy in bulk. Today, 75 years later, the Monte Vista Coop has more than 8,000 members and offers farming and ranch necessities.

At the annual membership meeting, MV Coop General Manager Eric Hinton thanked the employees and members for their contributions.

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

Please see MV COOP on Page 11

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

Courtesy photo



Saguache Arts Walk and Hollyhock Festival July 27

CONTRIBUTED

SAGUACHE — The Town of Saguache is busy preparing for its signature annual event, the Saguache Arts Walk, Hollyhock Festival and Fairy House Tour to take place on July 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Each summer Downtown Saguache comes alive with this vibrant celebration of creativity and community spirit, showcasing the diverse talents of local artists, artisans, and performers while opening local gardens that showcase the town’s flower, the Hollyhock.

The heart of the Arts Walk is on the picturesque Saguache County Courthouse lawn. The lawn will

Please see FESTIVAL on Page 12

This image will be on the 2024 Hollyhock Seed Card, which will be available for purchase. This image is from the 2023 Hollyhock Arts Contest winner, Lupe Hernandez. This was her rendition of the hollyhock. Commemorative T-shirts with a creation from a previous art contest winner will also be for sale on that date along with Hollyhock plants.

Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

Rio Grande sucker

CPW applauds USFWS decision on Rio Grande chub and sucker

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — Generations of Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff were rewarded for their work this month as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced its decision to not list the Rio Grande chub and Rio Grande sucker under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Colorado Parks and Wildlife com-

mended the USFWS for its June 17 decision that acknowledged critical partnerships that have ensured neither species is in danger of extinction or likely to become in danger of extinction.

“CPW staff have worked tirelessly for decades to ensure Rio Grande chub and sucker continue to persist,” said Matt Nicholl, CPW’s Assistant Director of

Please see SUCKER on Page 9

Valley projects net \$394K in GOCO grants for staffing and farm and ranchland conservation

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 providing staff training in the San Luis Valley; a \$75,000 grant through Keep It Colorado to RiGHT for a conservation easement that protects JRA Farm on the Rio San Antonio; and a \$25,000 grant through Keep It Colorado to Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) for a conservation easement that protects Rockin’ S Ranch in the southern part of the Valley.

The first 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

Please see GRANTS on Page 10

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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328 Fir Drive • South Fork

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



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0254 Timberline Trail • South Fork

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



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193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

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

SOLD



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REALTOR **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

222 La Snowita Circle • South Fork

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

JUST LISTED



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REALTOR **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

1408 Bear Creek Circle • South Fork

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

NEW LISTING!



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REALTOR **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

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



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259 Orville Way • South Fork

Idyllic Mountain 4-Bedroom Retreat" Nestled within 1,956 square feet of meticulously maintained living space, this tranquil home offers room for everyone. With 4 bedrooms and 3 baths, it's a haven of comfort. The attached 2-car garage ensures convenience, while the back deck, adorned with a charming gazebo, invites relaxation and al fresco dining. As you soak in the mountain vistas, enjoy the comforting shade of the ponderosa pines, listen to the babbling stream, and watch for glimpses of elk, deer, and other wildlife. The culinary kitchen is a chef's delight, ready for gourmet creations. Whether you seek a permanent residence or a vacation rental, create lasting memories in this idyllic setting. Start living your mountain dream—call and schedule your showing today! MLS#815727 - \$669,500

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05 Notices

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

07 Help Wanted

Del Norte Jr/Sr High School is looking for an energetic and experienced candidate to serve as the district's Strength and Conditioning Coach. This position will assume the responsibility and obligation of establishing and maintaining a strength and conditioning program for all sports. Additional responsibilities include teaching junior high school physical education and high school physical education/weight training courses. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree and either possess or be able to obtain the appropriate Colorado teaching license. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, DNHS Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Mrs. Hardy at 719-657-4020. Applications can be found online at www.urtigers.co. (7-31)

Jr/Sr High Language Arts Teacher needed at Del Norte Jr/Sr High School. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and pos-

sess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License with a secondary Language Arts endorsement. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, DNHS Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Mrs. Hardy at 719-657-4020. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.urtigers.co. (7-31)

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

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				Accumulated Water Use (ET)				
		Shown (in./day)				From 7/11 (inches)				
		7/11	7/10	7/9	7/8	2day	3day	4day	5day	7day
Moravian 69	04/05	0.21	0.18	0.23	0.22	0.38	0.62	0.84	1.08	1.61
Moravian 69	05/05	0.25	0.21	0.27	0.25	0.46	0.73	0.98	1.24	1.79
Early Wheat	04/05	0.24	0.20	0.27	0.25	0.44	0.71	0.96	1.22	1.77
Early Wheat	05/05	0.25	0.21	0.27	0.25	0.46	0.73	0.98	1.24	1.79
White Wheat	04/05	0.25	0.21	0.27	0.25	0.46	0.73	0.98	1.24	1.79
White Wheat	05/05	0.25	0.21	0.27	0.25	0.46	0.73	0.98	1.24	1.79
WinterWheat	10/01	0.16	0.14	0.18	0.17	0.30	0.48	0.65	0.84	1.25
Potatoes										
Norkotah	05/05	0.27	0.22	0.28	0.26	0.49	0.76	1.03	1.30	1.88
Centennial	05/05	0.23	0.18	0.22	0.20	0.41	0.63	0.82	1.02	1.41
Nugget	05/05	0.22	0.18	0.22	0.20	0.40	0.62	0.81	1.01	1.41
Alfalfa	Est.	0.29	0.24	0.30	0.29	0.53	0.83	1.12	1.42	2.05
Lawngrass	Est.	0.24	0.20	0.25	0.24	0.44	0.70	0.93	1.18	1.71

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 8d table each day at this web address: <http://aes-slvrcc.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

Managed by Upper Rio Grande Animal Society

www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org

If you are interested in adopting, call 852-3366
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Found on 7/10 at 604 Batterson St in Monte Vista



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Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



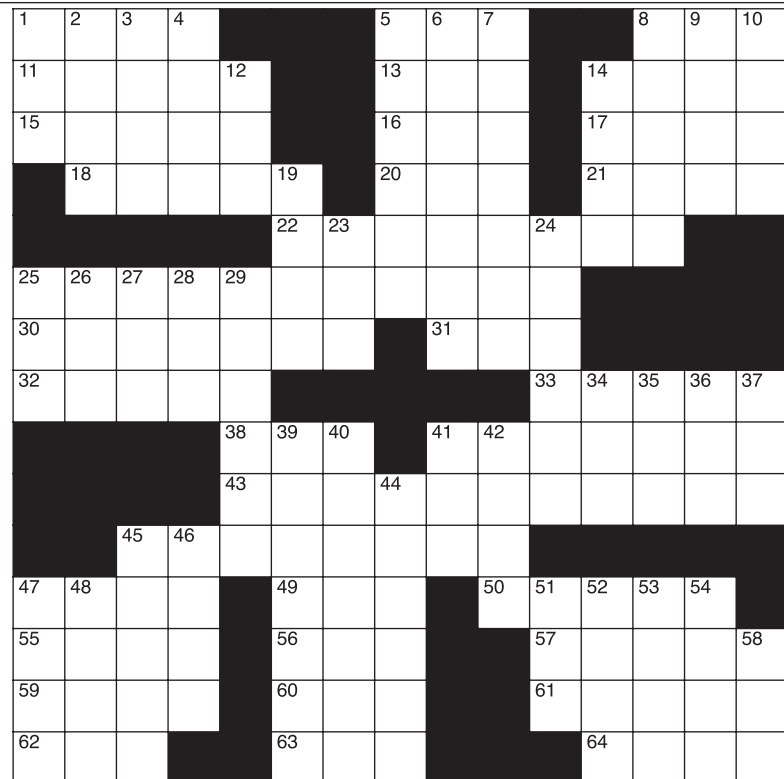
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CLUES ACROSS

1. In a place to sleep
5. Chemical compound (abbr.)
8. A way to fish
11. Classic Linklater film "___ and Confused"
13. Legume
14. Indonesian island
15. Smooth, creamy substance
16. Arctic
17. Wood sorrels
18. Defied
20. Cattle
21. Tableland
22. Honorably retired and retaining one's title
25. Repossession
30. Danced
31. Adult males
32. A type of section
33. Type of Japanese animation
38. Satisfaction
41. Fit
43. "Ain't No Sunshine" singer
45. Failure
47. Israeli city
49. French river
50. Cavalry-sword
55. Nocturnal S. American rodent
56. Liquefied natural gas
57. Afflicted
59. Electronic counter-countermeasures
60. Popular HBO fantasy series (abbr.)
61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

Solution to last week's puzzle

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



62. Large body of water
 63. ___kosh, near Lake Winnebago
 64. Impudence
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Payroll firm
 2. Unit of transmission
 3. Rockers Better Than ___
 4. Bambi is one
 5. Highest parts of something
 6. Correct behavior
 7. Batty
 8. Cyprinid fishes
 9. Expression of sorrow or pity
 10. Site of the famous Leaning Tower
 12. American rocker Snider
 14. W. African language
 19. Symbol to mark for removal
 23. ___ Squad
 24. Resident
 25. Federal savings bank
 26. Paddle
 27. Returned material

28. One point south of due east
29. Winter melon
34. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
35. Anger
36. Central European river
37. First responders
39. Spanish noble
40. Persons with absence of skin pigment
41. Defunct airline
42. Small island (British)
44. The extent of something from beginning to end
45. Capital of Bangladesh
46. Dutch cheese
47. Imitates
48. A contest of speed
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Actor Idris
54. UNLV's are Runnin'
58. Criticize

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Creede



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Photo by Donne Wehe, Director of Communications, SLVH

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



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Phone: 719-849-1955
Location: 4195 North County Road 5 West, Monte Vista

SLV Health launches 'milestone' renovation project

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

USDA – a key piece in making this project happen - it would not have been possible for us to have achieved such a significant change.”

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

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

“The total project budget is about \$3.1 million,” SLVH CEO Konnie Martin told the celebratory crowd of supporters who filled the lobby of the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center last Wednesday. “Without this foundational funding from the

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

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

Please see PROJECT on Page 6

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PROJECT

Continued from Page 5

date healing aesthetic and, of course, provide patient privacy.

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

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

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

recovering from COVID.

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

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

When the grant was made public, its goals - supporting immediate health care needs, helping to prepare for a future pandemic, increasing access

to quality health care services and improving community outcomes - seemed tailor-made for SLVH, and an application was submitted.

"It was a perfect fit," Martin said.

"We've been looking for something like this for a long time," Karla Hardesty, chair of the SLV Health Board of Trustees, told the Valley Courier. "We're really excited to offer this to our patients. It will be a lovely asset to our facility."

"We're focused on improving access of care to our community across the Valley and even beyond, especially in the summer when we get people here

from other places. I also think it's very forward-thinking for us to be thinking about upgrades to our facilities. Patient quality is first and foremost but so is a good experience when people are going through hardships. They're not here because they're feeling good. They're here because they need quality medical care.

We're able to do that having top notch facilities."

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

and our communities' access to care."

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

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



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UNDER CONTRACT

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San Juan Sports celebrates 50 years of adventure in Creede

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

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

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

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

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

In 2006, Ameel began considering selling the store and in 2011 Amy and Michael McNeil bought it from him, and his wife Charlene, in February of that year. In April 2011, San Juan Sports went under construction to remodel the look and layout of the store.

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

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

Sunnyside Bar got its name from a dairy topper from the Sunnyside Dairy that was found



Photos courtesy of San Juan Sports

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

under the floor while running plumbing for the bar. Since it opened, Sunnyside has become “Creede’s Living Room” hosting karaoke, game nights, sports events, live music, town events and even birthday parties.

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

When asked what advice he had for the next

50 years, original owner Ameel said, “Go with the flow! And listen to your customers!”

For 50 years, San Juan Sports has been the place to go for all outdoor gear. Now it’s also the place to go to get a drink, meet up with friends, get the latest trail reports, sing your heart out, meet up for a race, gear up before a backpacking trip, and, most of all, gather with friends.

For the 50th celebration, attendees will be able to have drinks from Sunnyside Bar outside on the street. There will be burgers and hotdogs served as a fundraiser for the Creede boys

basketball team, a bounce house for the children and music all day.

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



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SLV Regional Airport to receive federal funds

By JOHN WATERS

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

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

"From Yuma to Montrose, Colorado's airports help connect rural communities and power local economies," said Hickenlooper. "Our Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is providing much needed improvements to make air travel safe and accessible for

all Coloradans."

"Colorado's regional and municipal airports are an important part of our state — they connect our communities and boost local economic development," said Bennet. "This funding will support airports across Colorado as they make critical investments to meet our changing needs."

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

infrastructure improvements since being signed into law, which deliver funding for airports nationwide to improve runways, taxiways, and airport signage, lighting, marking, and facilities. The programs receive funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which Hickenlooper helped negotiate. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has provided over \$399 million to Colorado airports across the state for infrastructure improvements since being signed into law.

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



Photo by John Waters

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

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



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SUCKER

Continued from Page 1

Aquatic Wildlife. “The responsibility of successfully managing these two species deeply aligns with our mission, and we are thankful for the continued support and collaboration with all of the partners who have made this announcement possible.”

CPW along with several agencies and species experts consulted with the USFWS during its status review for each of the cool-water fish species that occur within the Rio Grande Basin.

For several decades, CPW and multiple partners including federal agencies, states, tribes, municipalities, non-government organizations and private landowners have worked to conserve the two species and implement long-term management actions to ensure their persistence.

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

Historic accounts suggest that Rio Grande chub and sucker were some of the most common fishes in the Rio Grande and its tributaries, though declines were evident as early as the late 1800s because of dewatering, habitat degradation and invasive species establishment. Recognizing significant declines, CPW initiated conservation efforts of these species in the early 1990s.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Over the past two years, species experts from CPW have served on the Technical Advisory Team to support USFWS in developing a Species Status Assessment (SSA) for each species. This included providing thorough input on early drafts of the SSA and enhancing the scientific accuracy and defensibility of this document to support an informed listing decision.

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

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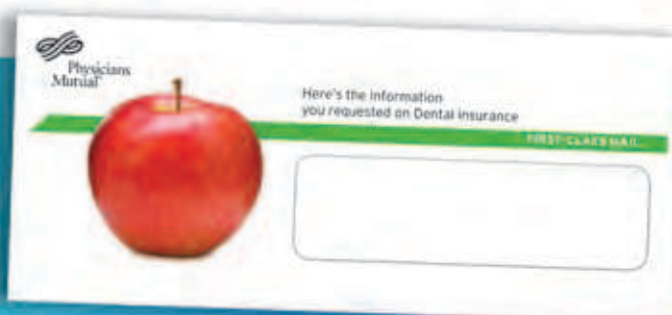
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June weather review

By NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

COLORADO — June of 2024 saw a meandering ridge of high pressure across the Rockies, which brought periods of very warm temperatures, as well as periods of abundant available moisture and heavy rainfall to portions of south central and southeast Colorado. Alamosa recorded 2 inches of precipitation through June. This is 1.57 inches above normal and makes

June of 2024 the second-wettest June on record, just behind the 2.58 inches of precipitation recorded in June of 1969. For the month of June as a whole, above-normal temperatures were experienced across south-central and southeast Colorado, with generally above-normal precipitation across south-central Colorado and pockets of above-normal and well-below-normal precipitation across southeast Colorado. The preliminary average temperature

in Alamosa for June was 64.3 degrees. This is 3.7 degrees above normal and makes June of 2024 the second-warmest June on record in Alamosa, just behind the 64.5-degree average June temperature in 2012. The average June maximum temperature in Alamosa was 82.3 degrees, which is 2.1 degrees above normal. The average June minimum temperature in Alamosa was 46.3 degrees, which is 5.4 degrees above normal.



Photo by John Waters

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

GRANTS

Continued from Page 1

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.

The next two grants are part of Keep It Colorado's Transaction Cost Assistance Program (TCAP), which re-grants GOCO funds to nonprofit land trusts to help cover the costs associated with conservation easement transactions. It enables landowners who have urgent opportunities to conserve their properties, but who face financial barriers to facilitating the transaction, to conserve land more quickly.

With its \$75,000 TCAP grant, RiGHT will conserve JRA Farm, a traditional 80-acre property comprising farmland, hay meadows, and riparian acres, including approximately half a mile of river frontage. With two branches of the Rio San Antonio running through it, the property is prime habitat for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. This project builds on previous efforts by Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust to support the area's historically underserved Hispano landowners in reaching their conservation goals.

With its \$25,000 TCAP grant, CCALT will conserve Rockin' S Ranch, a 301-acre working cattle ranch in the southern San Luis Valley near Antonito. The landowner prioritizes rotational grazing and riparian improvement practices. Rich in wildlife and wetland habitat, the property is critical for aquatic species such as the globally threatened Rio Grande chub, and birds such as greater sandhill crane, golden eagle, and bald eagle. The landowner comes from a multi-generational Hispanic ranching family in the Valley.

Ducks Unlimited is contributing \$50,000 to the project.

To date, GOCO has invested more than \$5.3 million in Conejos County and partnered to conserve 6,438 acres of land there. GOCO funding has supported the San Luis Valley Generation Wild community, the Conejos Ranchland Initiative conserving important agricultural lands, and the North Conejos Activity Complex, 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.

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MV COOP

Continued from Page 1

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

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

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

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

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

Now through Sept. 30, the Monte Vista Coop Energy Division August Propane Special is expanding to the

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

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

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

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

Fertilizer is also another necessity for Monte Vista Coop members. MV Coop’s Agronomy Division provides conventional and organic fertilizers, crop protection products, seed, and a variety of other agricultural products. At three locations, the

Monte Vista Coop Agronomy Divisions can mix customized fertilizer blends to meet a grower’s unique needs and field conditions, and with the capability to spread dry or liquid at a variable rate, MV Coop brings even more value to customer’s bottom-line profitability. MV Coop now offers drone applications.

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

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

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

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

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



Courtesy photo

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

Known General Managers of the Monte Vista Coop

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

Timeline of Monte Vista Coop

- 1949 – Opened the Monte Vista Coop in a small building near the railroad tracks, across from what is now Polished Edge in Monte Vista. Building is no longer standing.
- Early 1960s – moved into building across the highway, south of Loves in Monte Vista.

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

1981 – Merger with Alamosa and Monte Vista Cooperatives.

1998 – C-Store was built in Monte Vista.

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

Original 1949 Board Members

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

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1 "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2024. 2 "Aging changes in teeth and gums", medlineplus.gov. 4/17/2022. 3 American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2020 Survey of Dental Fees. Copyright 2020, American Dental Association.

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FESTIVAL Continued from Page 1

be lined with numerous artist booths where visitors can explore a variety of artwork and find the perfect piece to take home.

From local painters and photographers to potters and woodworkers, visitors will find a diverse display of talent highlighting artists from Saguache, the Valley and beyond.

For example, renowned local Saguache artist Gary Wilfong will be participating for the second year in a row, sharing his evocative drawings and paintings that captures the spirit of the West. Wilfong's work is a testament to his deep connection to his heritage, his study of Native histories and traditions and the inspiration of his mother, a natural artist who had always encouraged him to keep drawing. At his booth, visitors can view a collection of his latest pieces, engage in discussions about his artistic journey, and purchase his works.

Beyond visual arts, there will also be live music and interactive activities while a food truck will again, offer loaded fries and local vendors will offer a variety of refreshments.

Another highlight of the day is the opportunity to discover the enchanting display of Saguache Fairy Houses scattered throughout town. Families can pick up a map and take a self-guided tour to find these miniature, intricately crafted dwellings, each one a unique

testament to the creativity and imagination of local artist Sarah Krantz.

The Saguache Arts Walk and Hollyhock Festival is proudly presented by the Saguache Chamber of Commerce, an organization dedicated to promoting local businesses and fostering community engagement.

The festival not only highlights the artistic talents within Saguache but also boosts the local economy as visitors often spend the day exploring local galleries, dining and shopping, thereby supporting small businesses and organizations.

The Chamber is committed to highlighting the town's rich cultural heritage and supporting its arts

scene through this annual event supported generously with funding provided through a Saguache County Sales Tax Grant.

The 2024 Saguache Arts Walk is the perfect combination of artistic expression, community interaction, and family fun and a delightful way to spend a summer day.



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SAGUACHE

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Contact Carla Quintana, Saguache Chamber of Commerce, for Hollyhock Festival inquiries @ 719-530-1707.

Email Sarah Krantz for more information about the Arts Walk @ saguacheartswalk@gmail.com

Special thanks to Saguache County, Town of Saguache and Tourism Council for funding this event.

