

## Center hires Cole Webb to be new Town Manager



*New City Manager talks about his vision for Center and what he hopes to accomplish as the new City Manager*

By **MARIE MCCOLM**

**CENTER** — Cole Webb sat in his office on Friday morning, June 28, with a huge welcoming smile. Webb is rightfully

**The Town of Center recently hired Cole Webb to be its next Town Manager.**

Photo by Marie Mccolm

smiling, as he has plenty to be excited about. Webb was hired as the new City Manager of Center.

Originally from Ohio, Webb moved to Center with aspirations of helping Center keep its steady focus, and helping the town with growth, and with their economy.

Webb is no stranger to what he calls “public service,” stating that the first time he ran for a position in “public service,” was when he was a teenager.

“When I was 17 years old, I ran for a local public office in my area, as a trustee,” Webb said. “I was elected when I was 18, because legally you have to be 18 to be elected for a public office position in the

state of Ohio. I was also fortunate enough to be elected as the youngest state official in the state of Ohio, too.”

Webb was trustee for eight years. Webb didn’t stop there.

“I went on to run for the State Township Association, which is a state organization that is basically over all townships in the state of Ohio. The county had a vote, and I was lucky enough to be elected to that, and I held that position until I came here,” he said.

Webb’s inspiration for wanting to be involved in public service came from someone very special in his life.

*Please see WEBB on Page 2A*

### Shorts

#### Monday Night Jam Band performing in Creede

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

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

This is part of the Creede Arts Council’s Music in the Park series of free public concerts. For more information, contact the Creede Arts Council at [creedearts@outlook.com](mailto:creedearts@outlook.com) or check out the entire summer Music in the Park lineup at [www.creedeartscouncil.com](http://www.creedeartscouncil.com).

#### Del Norte Rotary Golf Tournament

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

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

For more information or to register, email [mike@truelocalbank.com](mailto:mike@truelocalbank.com)

#### DN Public Library Summer Reading

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

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

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

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

## Town honors retiring Center Postmaster Arellano

By **MARIE MCCOLM**

**CENTER** — In a ceremony that was held on June 25, at a Center Board of Trustee meeting, beloved recently retired United States Postmaster Paul Arellano received a plaque and was thanked by the town for his years of dedicated service.

Town Trustee Bill McClure handed the plaque to Arellano and read the plaque as he handed it to him.

“In appreciation of your years of service at the United States Post Office in Center, Colorado. We would like to thank you for the dedication and commitment you have shown to the citizens of our community. We hope you enjoy the retirement that you so richly deserve,” McClure said.

The bottom of the plaque read, “Postmaster for Center Colorado. Service from 1995-2024. The Mail Goes On.” With emotion filled eyes, Arellano shook McClure’s hand and thanked him, while posing for a picture with his plaque.

Arellano began his career in the Postal Service after being a real estate agent, and a carpenter for 10 years. Arellano was looking for something that would provide more for his family, and something that he might do until



Photo by Marie Mccolm

**Retiring Center Postmaster Paul Arrellano received a plaque from the Town of Center for his many years of service to the community. He was honored at a trustee meeting on June 25.**

he was ready to retire.

“I was looking to try to get into the Post Office. I got hired in 1990 and began working at the Post Office in Alamosa. I worked all shifts because they ran 24 hours. I worked there for 5

years before I decided to apply for a job in Center at that Post Office,” he said.

Arellano’s daughter, Analisa, said that she recalled when her dad was working night shifts, because she was little, and

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## More grant funding for Range View in Saguache

*SCHA hires Maestas as new Housing Director*

By **SAGUACHE COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**SAGUACHE** — The Saguache County Housing Authority (SCHA) recently hired Cathy Maestas as the new Housing Director, who will replace Evan Samora, who has transitioned to a position with the State of Colorado.

Maestas brings 15 years of extensive experience in property management from her work throughout Colorado. Her appointment as the new Housing Director aligns with the SCHA goals and strategies for future growth and development toward building Range View continues.

Leveraging partnerships and innovative financing has been

*Please see GRANT on Page 6A*

## Ski-Hi Stampede is back, earlier than ever before

**STAFF REPORT**

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

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

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

*Please see STAMPEDE on Page 2A*

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

File photo



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Chad Spearman



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# ARELLANO Continued from Page 1A

she remembered her mom watching her brother and some other kids in the day and always telling them to be quiet because their dad was sleeping.

"Looking back on that, I know that we were noisy little kids. We always enjoyed having dinner with our dad though, that was about the time he would get up, was around dinnertime. We had a few hours with dad and then he would go to work. I look back now, and I am so proud of my father for being such a hard worker, even though I was such a noisy little kid," she said with a smile.

Arellano said that although he enjoyed his job at the Alamosa Post Office, his reason for applying to the Center Post Office was to see if there was a way to advance in his position, as the Center office was smaller.

"I felt like I might have a better chance of moving up in a smaller office. Being in Center, I also had the opportunity to be able to work in different offices. I worked in Saguache, Moffat, Crestone, Manassa, and Hooper," Arellano said, adding that the offices had that interconnection, and he was able to go where he was needed.

For a time, Arellano was also the Postmaster in Hooper.

"While I was in Hooper, I was still in and out of Center though. I was also hired to be the interim Postmaster in Crestone for a while. I thought I might just stay in Crestone when the position for Postmaster came up in Center. Since I already knew the office because I had been in and out of there I went to Center.

James Sanchez was the Postmaster at the time, and he was retiring. He encouraged me a lot through the process. I applied for the job, and I was able to take over the office, when he retired."

Arellano said he can recall when he first got started that they didn't have computers and that everything was done with paper.

"There were reports due, and they were all through the mail. We didn't have computers. Then computers came in and point of service systems came in. I moved up from paper to technology," he said.

Arellano said that after taking over the office he worked hard.

"I wanted to maintain the service that we had provided to that point. I wanted to make sure that we were providing excellent service, and that's what we did. My responsibility was to make sure that the office was running according to postal standards, and that everything that was required of that office was done daily. My job was to make sure that all the packages, the flats, the letters, arrived where they were supposed to," he said.

Arellano said that there were times he would get calls from other Post Offices, and calls from people about their packages and he always did his best to find out where the packages had gone and to get them where they needed to be.

"Sometimes a package would go to Texas or somewhere else, things like that just happen, but I was always helpful. I had my phone on me for work, day, and night, even when I wasn't at work, I was

willing to help everyone. My employees knew they could depend on me and knew I could depend on them," he said.

Arellano said that throughout his years as a Postmaster he enjoyed the support that was given to him, and he enjoyed giving support to everyone. He said the people he worked with were more like family members than coworkers.

"We all worked hard together. They were dedicated and worked so hard. We always got the job done together," he said.

Arellano's wife, Peggy, said that when she thinks of how hard her husband has worked the thing, she is most proud of in his work was his commitment to his job and to people.

"He was always working even here at home, if anyone needed him, he was available for anything that they needed. He's a hard worker. He made his family proud," Peggy said.

Arellano is excited about his retirement and looking forward to traveling with his wife. Arellano said that he will miss his job but what he will miss most is the people.

"I will miss the people that I worked with. I will miss the people that I helped," Arellano said with tear-filled eyes. "You know every morning that I drove to work I prayed for that office. I prayed for the town. I think that what happens when you do that is you become a part of that community and you take ownership for that office, and you always want to do the best that you can do for everyone. It wasn't an easy job, but I loved it. Although

I live in Alamosa, the community of Center will always be a part of me."

Center Post Office employee Martha Medina said that Arellano was really going to be missed.

"He made so many contributions to

# STAMPEDE Continued from Page 1A

fun-filled games, and much more.

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

This year Country Music Hall of Fame member Wynonna Judd is headlining the concert on July 11 at 7:30 p.m. Wynonna is world renowned and known both as a solo artist and duet artist with her beautiful late mother, Naomi Judd. They were known on stage as The Judds.

According to the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame, Naomi and Wynonna formed one of the most successful duos in country music history, recording 14 number one singles between 1984 to 1989. The Judds recorded many memorable songs such as, "Momma He's Crazy," "Rockin' with the Rhythm of the Rain," "Give a Little Love," and "Grandpa," along with one of their most notable songs, "Love Can Build a Bridge." Due to unexpected illness, Naomi retired in 1991, and in 1992, Wynonna made her debut as a

Center, not just as the Postmaster, but also being who he was. He was always smiling, always helpful, he put his whole heart into his job and everything he did. We are happy for him, but he will be dearly missed," Medina said.

solo artist and released many more successful albums.

Max McNow, a singer and songwriter from Bend, Ore., is the opener for Wynonna.

Stick around for the after-concert dance featuring the Justin Kemp Band, who will also perform nightly following the rodeo action on July 12 and 13 beginning at 9 p.m.

Friday night Colorado's oldest PRC A rodeo returns to town, and brings all the thunder with it, including broncos, roping riders, the ever-popular barrel racers, kids' mutton busting, and bull riding. There will be rodeo action on July 12 and 13 evenings and July 14 in the afternoon.

Downtown parades will take place July 12 and 13, beginning at 10 a.m. The parades are always filled with colorful floats from local businesses, and plenty of candy and treats are always thrown for all the kiddos and crowds to enjoy.

For more information on specific times and where to get tickets, visit [skihistampe.com](http://skihistampe.com).

# WEBB Continued from Page 1A

"I credit my want to be involved in public service, to my grandpa. He was a justice of the peace and county sheriff, in a neighboring state in West Virginia. I very much looked up to him, and what he did for his town," Webb said.

Webb said that he has a cousin who was a county commissioner, and he has a cousin who is currently the Speaker of the House in Ohio. Webb feels like he comes from a long line of family members who strongly believe in civil service.

"My family really believes in this and trying to help different communities," he said.

Webb said that his reason for moving from Ohio was for the job in Center, but he also moved because he loves Colorado.

"Growing up we did vacation at the beach, but we also went to the mountains in Colorado. I always knew that this was the place that I wanted to end up. When the Town Manager job came up, I took the chance and applied for it. I was selected, and now I am just so happy to be here," he said.

Webb said while it is a big change to move from Ohio to Colorado, he does love Colorado.

"I had the Appalachian Mountains where I was from, but here, I have rolling hills," he said with a chuckle. "It is very different, this is honestly a very beautiful place though, and I am really excited to live and start my life here."

Now that he is here, one of Webb's

central focus items for the Town of Center is to work on keeping people in the town.

"I come from a big economic development background. A really big project that is being worked on currently, here in Center, is the North 90 Project. A big focus of mine is really trying to establish this thing."

Webb said that the project is an important part of keeping people in Center.

"We want to be able to keep our youth here. We don't want our youth to move to Denver, or anywhere else. A lot of that depends on this project. I want to make it a big focus of what I am doing here," Webb said.

The North 90 Project began a few years ago, as a patch of raw land, about 90 acres worth, just north of the Town of Center. There is a plan to expand Center's infrastructure with this project, creating more affordable housing, and helping with the rehabilitation and reconstruction of current unoccupied homes.

Webb said that the ground has been laid to start on the project, by the current economic development coordinator.

"Today is unfortunately his last day here, but he has done a great job on starting the development process on this, so very soon we will see where it goes," Webb said.

Another thing Webb is looking at for the town, is a senior center. Webb said that the previous Town Manager did a

study and found that a lot of people in Center were interested in a senior center.

Webb said that his overall vision for the Town of Center is to help everyone stay rich in their culture and stay strong in their sense of community and beliefs.

"Center is unique. It a very close-knit community. I think that it's important that we keep that feeling in the town. I work for everybody; I work for the whole community. My overall vision for the community is to keep that hometown feel. We have people in the community who have small local businesses, we have artists. I want people who are coming in to Center to see how great the community is, and what they can offer the Valley. We have some of the friendliest people in the Valley here. I want to keep the culture alive in the Town of Center and help people to embrace their agricultural and cultural beliefs. We need to keep that hometown feel here, that is my vision for Center."

Webb is excited about his new position and extended his thanks to the community for being so accepting and welcoming to him. He said he would like everyone to know that his door is always open, and he is happy to extend a helping hand to anyone who would like to speak to him about anything.

"I am excited to be here, and help the community grow. I am all about inclusiveness too. Let's embrace our differences and enjoy our beautiful community together," Webb said.

# SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

## John Gimlin

The inurnment for John David Gimlin, July 11, 1972-May 25, 2024, will take place at Monte Vista Cemetery at 11 a.m. on July 13, 2024, with John Nossker presiding. A Celebration of Life will follow at 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. at Mellow Moon Lodge and Lounge, 1160 Grand Ave., Del Norte, Colo., with food and drink for any who would like to pay their respects.

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Let the celebrations begin

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

on the premise that natural selection took out the weak and stupid, so we didn't think much about it.

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Ditch 'inefficiencies' give us wetlands

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

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

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

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

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

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

May I add a third? We don't know



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

much about the water we depend on.

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

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

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

Clearly, there are too many demands for the West's diminishing water supply. Drinking water, ag water, river health. Where do wetlands fit in?

Wetlands cover 1% of the West's land surface, yet half of our threatened and endangered species rely on them. Wetlands serve a similar function to

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

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

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

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

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

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



**By Richard Knight**

# CENTER POST - DISPATCH

THE CENTER POST-DISPATCH (USPS 775-900) Published weekly (every Thursday) by Valley Publishing. (719) 852-3531 at 835 First Ave., Monte Vista, Colorado 81144-1423. Official newspaper of the Town of Center, and a legal newspaper in Saguache County.  
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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# El Pomar approves \$44K to SLV groups

By JOHN WATERS

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

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

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

Adams State University honored the El Pomar Foundation with the 2015 Willis Fassett Jr. Award.

President David Tandberg, Ph.D., appreciates their belief in the nursing program.

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

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

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

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



Photo by Adams State University

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

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

San Luis.

Founded by Spencer and Julie Penrose in 1937, El Pomar Foundation has an established legacy of general-purpose grant making. The competitive process remains the Foundation's primary vehicle for organizations to receive funding. Also, over the past 87 years, El Pomar has either developed or been entrusted with the stewardship of other funds and presenting merit grants in each region recommended by Trustees and regional council

members. Competitive applications are accepted on a rolling basis. In an effort to increase impact and establish connections across the entire state, the Regional Partnerships program was established in 2003. Each of the Foundation's 11 regional councils advises El Pomar Trustees and recommends grants to help support its communities. The San Luis Valley Regional Council recommends grants in Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties.

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# San Luis Valley Amateur Radio Association hosts annual Field Day

By MARIE MCCOLM

**MONTE VISTA** — The San Luis Valley Amateur Radio Association (SARA) hosted a Field Day demonstration on Saturday, June 22, at Chapman Park. It was part of a nationwide event, and everyone was welcome to attend.

The event was a test day for ham radio broadcasters to send signals and messages to each other all over the United States.

Safety Officer Skip Randall said that it was a great day for various signals to go back and forth, and they had some great responses from all over. He also spoke about how he got started in amateur radio.

"I have been doing this for about 25 years. Years ago, I took off on my sailboat to go cruising. I got licensed at a station, so that I could get networks and weather reports while out on the water. You could also talk to other boaters, that also had amateur radio as well. I sold my boat, I am no longer sailing here in Colorado, but I had many years of good experiences with sailing and amateur radio," Randall said.

Amateur radio is also known as ham radio and is taken from a nickname for an amateur radio operator. This type of radio entails employing different kinds of radio communicative equipment, as a way of connecting with people. Amateur radio licensing began in 1912. The first licensing was dependent upon the operator being able to appear in the field office and having the ability to operate the radio station.

Ham radio and licensing have since grown in popularity so much so that it has become a worldwide network that can reach all over the United States and even as far out as the International Space Station.

Ham radio is used for many types of communication, but one of the radio's largest areas of importance is the capability to use this type of radio in case other existing forms of communication

fail, in the instance of a major emergency or worldwide catastrophe.

Local amateur radio association member, Matt Nolting spoke about the event and how he and his 5-year-old son use the radio to keep in touch.

"We use GMRS, which is an amateur band of radio, it's like the walkie talkies that you buy at Walmart, just a little more detailed, so you can only talk to each other. We live in between here and Alamosa, we use the radio all the time when he goes out to play. He could be walking a little way, and me and my wife can just call him, and we know where he is."

Nolting said that another fun aspect is that Santa Claus also comes over on the radio and speaks to the kids.

Vice president of the local group, Rick Syring said, "My wife and I are both out here today. She doesn't like talking back and forth as much as she likes working with the digital side. She is here working on the digital side, with a computer. We have fun doing this together."

Syring said that his favorite part of being involved in ham radio is talking to different people.

"We were camping last week. We were at 2,800 feet; we were really high. I talked to a person in Indonesia, born in Serbia and one in Slovenia. When we were talking it sounded like they were right here. This really reaches all around the world."

Syring said that being able to talk to everyone all around the world and send emergency signals and messages is one of the main purposes of ham radio. He explained that Field Day was also to show everyone how to set up in the instance of an emergency.

"We have a couple of solar panels set up to charge our batteries here. It's always a learning experience, to set everything up somewhere else and it's a lot of fun," Syring said.

For more information on the San Luis Valley Amateur Radio Association, visit the website at <https://k0slv.com>.

# Prescribed burns planned for national wildlife refuges

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

"For your safety, please avoid these areas. Areas will re-open as soon as possible based on fire activity and safety," officials stated.

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

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

can be found on the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SanLuisValleyRefugeComplex](http://www.facebook.com/SanLuisValleyRefugeComplex).

# Injured hiker found by SAR teams



Photos courtesy of South Fork Fire Rescue

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

# Results of county commissioner races

STAFF REPORT

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

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

Other SLV County Commissioner races:

In the Conejos County District 1 Democratic primary, Erwin Romero received 673 votes to the 220 votes received by Guillermo De Herrera. Republican candidate Delfino Garcia will be on the general election ballot.

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

In the Costilla County Democratic District 1 primary,

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

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# Independence Day celebrations in the Valley

By JOHN WATERS

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

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

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

The Young Professionals of Alamosa will kick off the July 4th celebrations hosting the annual Independence Day Parade. The fun will begin at 10 a.m. and run from east to west on Main Street.

The theme for this year's parade is SUPERHEROES!

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

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

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



File photo

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

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

Crestone and Baca Grande will celebrate Independence Day on



Photo by John Waters

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

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

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

Saguache-Moffat-Villa Grove-Crestone fire departments will have a Four Station Fourth of July celebration on 4th Street in Saguache beginning at 4 p.m. This down-home party will have food, dancing, kids activities, and fireworks.

Creede will host three days of events beginning on July 4th at 9 a.m., with the Colorado State Mining Championships behind Basham Park downtown. The giant, annual parade will begin downtown at 10 a.m. Historically, about 10,000 people attend this event. Fireworks start at dusk at Mountain Views RV Park south of town. On Friday, events begin at 9 a.m. and continue through the day and end at the Creede Rep with a 7:30 p.m. performance of "Importance of Being Earnest," and a 9:30 show of "Boomtown." Saturday events include street vendors, a beer garden, and a Farmers' Market. There will be a 7 p.m. performance of "Young Frankenstein," at the Creede Rep., and an 8 p.m. dance at the Elks Lodge. For more information, visit [www.creederep.org](http://www.creederep.org) and [creede.com/4th-of-July](http://creede.com/4th-of-July).

## GRANT

Continued from Page 1A

an essential strategy for realizing affordable housing goals in Saguache County. Just before Samora's last day he received word that Saguache County's Range View project, a proposed 32-unit affordable housing complex in the Town of Saguache, was allocated Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, known as LIHTC. The significant award provides \$12,323,768 in tax credits for the Range View project. This is in addition to the \$640,000 received from the State of Colorado (DOLA) for off-site needs.

Additionally, the project was awarded \$500,000 from the Colorado Health Foundation, plus \$200,000 in grant matching from Saguache County beyond the initial \$63,000 Saguache County used to purchase the parcel where Range View will be built. Other funding also includes \$10,000 committed from SCHA, and \$20,000 committed from the Town of Saguache.

As of this writing, the \$16,100,000 Range View 32-unit affordable housing complex is fully funded. The community support received for this project is one of the most important pieces for bringing Range View to fruition in Saguache. And it must also be emphasized that major funders have chosen Saguache County to invest \$16.1mil. This funding phenomenon is a once-in-a-generation event for Saguache.

All this has been made possible by

strategic collaborations in securing resources for successful project implementation, which was focused on the partnership between Saguache County Housing Authority under Samora's leadership and Northwest Real Estate Capital Corp (NWRECC).

NWRECC developed the affordable housing community in Alamosa, called The Iron Horse. Through this long-standing collaboration between SCHA and NWRECC many hours and late evenings were devoted to compiling the information required to submit a competitive funding application to the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) for a LIHTC award.

LIHTC is a complex funding source and highly competitive; a typical funding round receives \$3 in requests for each \$1 available for funding. To apply, a project must be "shovel ready" and the funding application must be submitted by a housing developer who has experience with working with LIHTC. SCHA did not have this experience, but NWRECC does.

The LIHTC program serves as a crucial financing tool for affordable housing initiatives for communities in regions like the San Luis Valley.

Following the collaborative leadership of Samora, who worked for the SCHA for 16 years, Maestas plans to continue that collective approach toward ensuring housing stability for all residents of Saguache

County. As the process for building Range View continues to unfold, Maestas will support the expansion of the SCHA in the management of 32 more units. Her extensive property management experience will ensure a smooth transition as these units open.

"One of the stark realities in Saguache County is that our housing availability is stunting our workforce. Range View is a strong solution for our workforce needs, for housing security and for economic development in Saguache. We are so thankful to CHFA for investing in our rural community; and to Evan Samora for being such a great advocate for local housing solutions," said Liza Marron, Saguache County Commissioner.

## What Real Love Really Looks Like

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource *What Is Love?* You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

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

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# Woodcarver's Rendezvous to mark 33 years in Creede

**By LYNDIE FERRELL**  
**CREEDE** — The annual Woodcarver's Rendezvous in Creede is celebrating 33 years of artistic talent in the small mountain town and though the event has been dwindling in numbers over

the past several years, it plans to mark the occasion and have a fun and interactive time as always. The event began 33 years ago when founders Fran and Ivan Vanaken, who after years of teaching the art of woodcarving in schools to students,

thought Creede would be the perfect place to start a woodcarving club. According to the history, Fran invited members of another club based out of the Front Range to the area to see if they were interested in hosting an event in Creede. It didn't take long

for word to spread about the unique venue and beautiful location before the Woodcarver's Rendezvous took hold. This year's event will feature over 15 instructors that come from all walks of life to teach the art of woodcarving to participants. The event takes place in the underground community center located north of town where instructors and vendors will pack the long corridors with a wide variety of wooden homemade gifts and classes for participants.

There are even classes that teach the art of stone carving, making jewelry, watercolor painting, and bead crocheting. Though the event has slowed over the last few years, with fewer and fewer participants, event coordinators are preparing for a much more successful year this year and ask that anyone wishing to participate in any of the classes, can preregister online or do walk-in registration during the week. Registration for any left-over openings in the many classes being offered will be available on the first day of the event.

The event begins on Saturday, July 13, and continues all week long with live and silent auctions, classes, lectures from several instructors, daily drawings and ends with a banquet to close out the week. The event is made possible through the auction items that are donated by participating artists that come to not only share their expertise in the art of woodcarving but to share their personal works of art as well. Students that register for the event can learn everything from carving walking sticks to mastering the art of creating wood figures with a chisel. Participants learn how to make Christmas ornaments, wooden drums, wood burning techniques and so much more.

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

## Saguache County resident receives Colorado Book Award



Photo by Kevin Simpson, The Colorado Sun

Longtime Baca Grande resident Peter Anderson accepted one of the 33rd annual Colorado Book Awards presented by the Colorado Humanities Center for the Book on June 21. Anderson received the award for his anthology, 'Reading Colorado: A Literary Road Guide.'

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Even if you've had quality dental work in the past, you shouldn't take your dental health for granted. In fact, your odds of having a dental problem only go up as you age.<sup>2</sup>

**Treatment is expensive — especially the services people over 50 often need.**

Consider these national average costs of treatment ... \$222 for a checkup ... \$190 for a filling ... \$1,213 for a crown.<sup>3</sup> Unexpected bills like this can be a real burden, especially if you're on a fixed income.

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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# Lifestyles

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Courtesy photos

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

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

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

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

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

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

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

## Rio Grande Hospital opens doors to wellness

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

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

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

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

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



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

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

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

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

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

## New fitness court project begins in Del Norte Town Park

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

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

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

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

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

“It will be a great addition to our

park,” said Burnett.

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

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

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

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

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



Photo by Owen Woods courtesy of the Church Project

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

## Church Project grand opening celebration is July 5

By MARIE MCCOLM

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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## RATES

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

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### Convenient ad placement:

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

### Check your ad the first day:

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

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

## DEADLINE

**Thursday 5:00 pm**

**Call 719-852-3531**

or email: rbeutler@valleypublishinginc.com

## Easy Payment Options

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



## 05 Notices

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

## 07 Help Wanted

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Equipment

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



### Antique Items

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



### Shop Equipment

Fuel Tank on Stand  
Sev. Extension Cords  
Gun Safe

### Household

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



### Lawn & Garden

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Lawn Chairs  
Lawn Sweeper  
String Trimmer  
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Horseshoe Bench  
Yard Umbrella

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

719-588-3979 or 719-588-3978

Auctioneers: Dale Adams & David Brown



# Valley Wide Classifieds

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

## 24 Garage/Yard Sales

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

## 36 Miscellaneous

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

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

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

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

**SOLAR PANELS! 400 Watt and Smaller, We Stock Inverters, Charge Controllers, and Batteries in Brand Names of Outback, Magnum, Aims, Rolls, and More. Custom Cables and PV Wire.** Bontrager's Variety Store.

## 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**

## 12 Houses for Rent

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

**Newly renovated house in South Fork.** Fenced in yard. Detached garage. No smoking. No indoor pets. \$1750 per month. 719-580-1510 (7-3)

## 16 Vacation

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

## DISCLAIMER

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

# Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



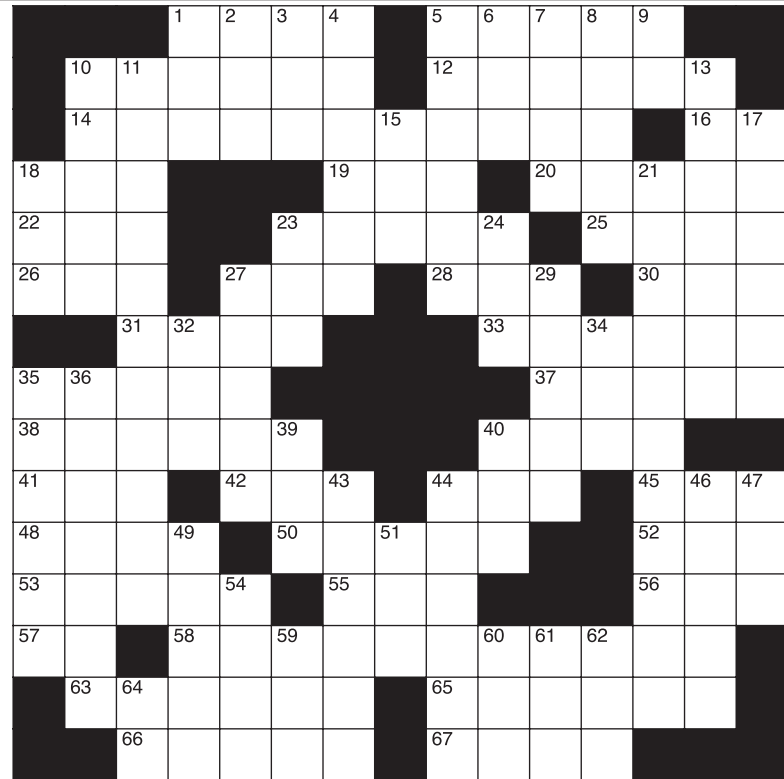
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(719)658-3060 • www.MDSWASTEANDRECYCLE.COM**

### CLUES ACROSS

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

### Solution to last week's puzzle

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



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

### CLUES DOWN

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

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

# Business Showcase

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

**The Holy Moses**  
Open Daily 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**658-2848  
121 N. Main  
Creede**

## This Week's Feature



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# Valley Wide Classifieds

9726 S. CR 3E Monte Vista. 719-852-0500. (TFN)

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# ESTIMATED CROP WATER USE

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

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

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

# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

**DEE PLUCINSKI**  
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M: 719-873-5605



**Dee Plucinski**  
Luxury Home Broker  
Licensed in 2011  
I know mountain land  
**719-873-5605**  
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LUXURY HOME BROKER  
M: 719-873-5605



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

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



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

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



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

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



# WELLNESS

Continued from Page 1

serves the community as a means of preventative health care.

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

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

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

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

addressed the commonalities of Blue Zones.

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

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

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



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

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

Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell



# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



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# La Jara Glory Days offering prize money for parade floats

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

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

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

To that end, the town would

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

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

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

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

## PROJECT

Continued from Page 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

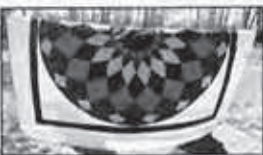

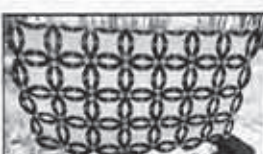


“It’s not going to solve everyone’s problems, but the aspect of creation, and giving people a space where they can come together. I am really trying to encompass a oneness with the world around us, to highlight our similarities versus focusing on our differences, and the only way to do that is to spend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

### 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LA JARA AMISH SCHOOL CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

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From Antonito, CO - Go north on 285 5 miles to sale site on the left. Consignments accepted through Friday, July 12.*

<p><b>QUILTS</b></p> <p>Approximately 20 handmade quilts will be available sale day</p>		<p><b>FARM - RANCH - TOOLS</b></p> <p>12 - 10"x40' PVC 50 psi pipe Pull behind ditcher 10 - 5x10 chain link gates 3 point hay fork Ground driver hay rake Large drill press • 12" wood planer New ox yokes • New rabbit hutch Multiple plastic gas cans Platform floor scales, digital Large drill press/motor Large planer/motor Small bench top drill press Handy man jacks • Electric miter saw</p>	
<p><b>ANTIQUES</b></p> <p>Antique sewing machine</p>		<p><b>HORSES</b></p> <p>5 yr old paint pony mare w/ colt, kid broke 4 yr old Morgan/stb Mare green broke 1 yr old Morgan filly 4 yr old trotting bred 90 days training TSS 9 yr old Standard bred gelding 16 HH kid broke TSS 4 yr old trotting mare JND Dominator/sd get it right w/ free breeding to JP Dewycheatumhowe 4 yr old Friesian/paint gelding broke to ride 4 yr old trotting bred mare broke to drive</p>	
<p><b>BOAT, CAMPER, VEHICLE</b></p> <p>89 Ford F700 cab-n-chassis propane runs excellent Four Winds Camper 14' Lund boat</p>	<p><b>HOUSEHOLD</b></p> <p>1 set poly glider rockers 1 octagon picnic table Sofa NEW in box Multiple chairs - various kinds Miscellaneous furniture • Multiple dressers Dishwasher • Electric stove Potbelly stove • Wood burning stove Glass top coffee table Wooden end table 3 book shelves wooden • 5 lamps Pendleton trade blanket Western art frames Multiple plastic totes</p>	<p><b>MORE CONSIGNMENTS WANTED</b></p> 	
<p><b>FOR MORE SALE INFO:</b></p> <p>Mose 719-982-8900 Edward 719-992-8334 Freeman 719-580-7121</p> <p><i>All items sold as is where is. Not responsible for items not showing up or being in quality as listed. Not responsible for accidents, lost or stolen items. No merchandise removed until settled for. All announcements on day of sale take precedence over printed matter. Selling with 2 &amp; 3 rings throughout the day.</i></p>			
<p><b>THIS IS ONLY A PARTIAL LISTING, MANY MORE ITEMS EXPECTED BY DAY OF SALE.</b></p> <p><i>Lunch will be available by school parents. Also, baked goods, doughnuts, fry pies &amp; other refreshments will be available. All Dollar items considered donations.</i></p>			

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

By KYLER BROWN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rifters. For more information, visit online [www.rightslv.org](http://www.rightslv.org).

## Cash prizes for top floats at Stampede parades

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

that will go to the first-place float; SLV Auto Repair donated \$1,000 that will go to the second-place float; and Pepper Equipment donated \$500 that will go to the third-place float. Registration forms can be picked up at Finer Blessings, 730 1st Ave., Monte Vista. The Ski-Hi Stampede

Committee is organizing the parades. The 102nd annual Ski-Hi Stampede kicks off with a concert on July 11, featuring Wynonna, followed by three days of PRCA action on July 12, 13 and 14. For more information, visit online [www.skihstampede.com](http://www.skihstampede.com).

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# AWARDS

Continued from Page 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

Aviation Hall of Fame.

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

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

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



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# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

## 1408 Bear Creek Circle • South Fork

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



**NEW LISTING!**

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**NEW LISTING**

## 0254 Timberline Trail • South Fork

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



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## 222 La Lomita Circle • South Fork

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



**JUST LISTED**

## 193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

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



**SOLD**

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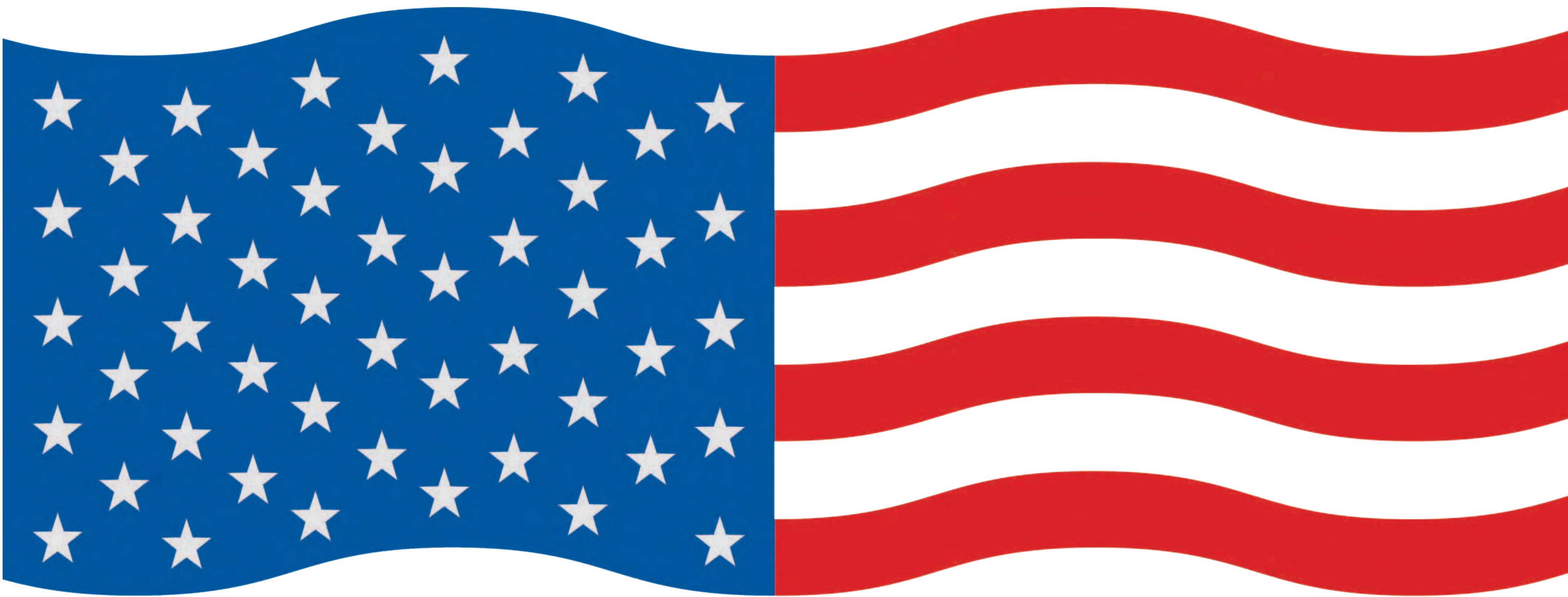
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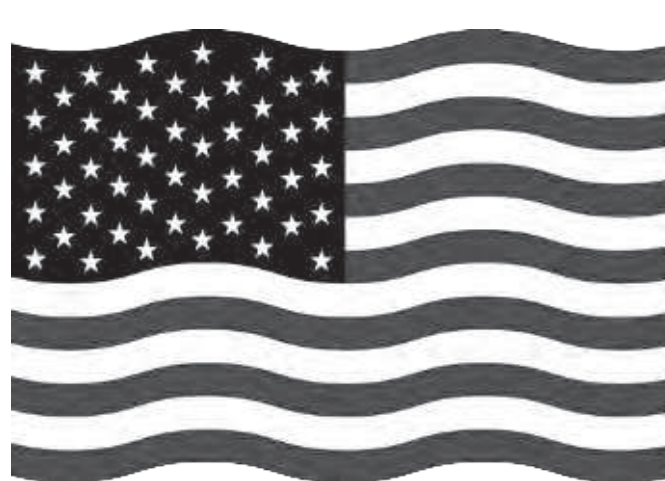
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