



# THE CONEJOS COUNTY CITIZEN

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Joint service at Little Shepherd in the Hills

The congregants of St. Stephen the Martyr Episcopal Church, the Monte Vista Episcopal Church, and Little Shepherd in the Hills, Crestone, for an outdoor service of Holy Eucharist at 11 a.m. on Sunday, July 28. A potluck lunch will follow the service.

All are welcome to enjoy the fellowship of community and the sacredness of the Holy Eucharist in a beautiful outdoor setting. Note that there will be no service at St. Stephen's on that day. Services resume the following Sunday at 10 a.m. at 3rd and Washington streets in Monte Vista.

### MV celebrates its newest Little Free Library

MONTE VISTA — Monte Vista will be installing a new Little Free Library (LFL) at 10 a.m. on Aug. 5 in the Terra Del Sol Subdivision. Come celebrate with books and ice cream. Sponsored by LOR Foundation and local citizens.

## Annual La Jara Glory Days set for Saturday

CONTRIBUTED

LAJARA — 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
3. Clubs, organizations, saddle clubs, 4-H, Scout troops

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

The annual Art Lopez Memorial Car show (Cars for a Cause) will also take place during the Glory Days event, and the town would encourage all entries in the car show to also participate in the parade and be eligible

to win some of the prize money.

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

"We hope to increase participation in the parade this year and in the future, however, there is no guarantee that our benefactor will be available in future years to offer the same financial support; therefore, we encourage everyone to take advantage of what we can offer in 2024," town officials stated.

## Crowds enjoy colorful floats

*Martin Cattle Co.  
is Sweepstakes  
winner at Pioneer  
Days Parade*

STAFF REPORT

MANASSA — Manassa's Main Street was lined three to five people deep on both sides for the annual Pioneer Days Parade on Friday, July 19.

The Friday morning parade boasted the essentials that have marked Pioneer Days for more than a century  
*Please see PARADE on Page 5A*

**Martin Cattle Company's  
Goin' Fishin' float captured the  
Sweepstakes award during the  
Manassa Pioneer Day Parade on  
Friday.**

Photo by Brian Williams



## Stunner Bridge replacement to begin



*Minimal traffic  
delays expected*

CONTRIBUTED

LAJARA — The Conejos Peak Ranger District announced Wednesday, July 17, that construction on the Stunner Bridge Replacement Project on Forest Service Road No. 250 will begin soon. The project is located approximately 5 miles northwest of Platoro. Equipment was scheduled to begin moving into the Alamosa Canyon as early as this week.

The plan is to use the existing bridge as a bypass just adjacent to it, while the new bridge is constructed. Upon completion of the new bridge, the old bridge will be removed. The work will begin as soon as

**The Stunner Bridge in the  
Alamosa Canyon.**

Courtesy photo

all the equipment is in place and conditions remain favorable.

"We are pleased to be working with Robins Construction from Antonito, CO on this project," said Judi Perez, acting Conejos Peak district ranger. "Having a local contractor implement this fourth and final planned Alamosa Canyon bridge construction project benefits our communities by creating jobs and providing a safe and sustainable transportation route. We thank the public, in advance, for their patience with slight travel delays that may be caused by heavy equipment activity in the area."

This project is funded through the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), which aims to benefit the American public through significant investments in recreation infrastructure, public lands access and land and water conservation.

The construction of the new bridge may take until fall of 2025 to be completed.

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# Council votes to put marijuana on ballot

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

**ALAMOSA** — With a larger than usual sized audience in attendance, the Alamosa City Council voted during Wednesday night's meeting to place a measure on the November ballot asking residents of the City of Alamosa if they want to allow medical and or retail marijuana shops to operate within the city limits.

Councilor Jan Vigil made the mo-

tion to put the measure on the ballot, leading to the vote of four to three, in favor of the ballot. At the request of some who were in the audience, the names of councilors and their vote were made visible to the public.

Those voting in favor included Councilor Jamie Dominguez, Ward 4; Liz Hensley, Councilor Ward 1; Councilor Jackie Vigil, Ward 3; and Councilor Jan Vigil, Councilor-at-large. Those who voted against included Michael Carson, Councilor-at-Large,

Mayor Ty Coleman and Councilor Dawn Krebs, Ward 2.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Vigil began the conversation by saying there were four members of council who had been requested by citizens to bring the measure before the council. He then provided some history, stating that, in 2017, citizens had circulated a petition with enough signatures to bring the issue to a vote by the public. At that time, it failed. He acknowledged that he would

have preferred that same process be followed now. "But," he said, "that's not the issue before us tonight and the city has the authority to do this."

Vigil then talked about the outcome of that vote in 2017, noting that the vote was taken in an "off year," — meaning a vote in a year when there is no general election. "Turnout in an off-year election is always low. Always," he said. Turnout in 2017 was 41%. Vigil felt that was partly responsible for the measure failing 63% to 37%. "In 2017, I don't think we got a full reflection of what the community wants. We need to let the voters decide."

The entirety of the conversation by the council on Wednesday night was focused on the issue at hand: not whether or not medical and/or recreational marijuana should be sold but how that decision should be brought before the voters, by city referendum or by citizen petition.

That statement, "let the voters decide," largely summarized the stance of those in favor of putting a measure on the ballot.

Councilor Dominguez, who was the first to speak following Vigil, noted that he had gotten more feedback on this question than almost any other since taking office. He also cited his experience sitting on a state board for the last three years that addressed the use of cannabis, and his stand was to support the city putting the measure on the ballot. "There are great benefits that people experience from using medical marijuana." Against that backdrop, Dominguez brought up the issue of accessibility and the numbers of people who are forced to drive outside of the city to access medical marijuana. "With the way opioids have been passed out in this city over the past ten to fifteen years, the people should have the freedom to handle their medication and see for themselves if they get any benefit from medical marijuana. Whether people vote for that or not is up to them."

Councilor Krebs stated that, at first, she was in favor of putting the measure on the ballot. "I thought, why not?" But after doing her own research, she also cited she heard more from the people in her ward than "the entire time I've been sitting up here."

While she is entitled to her own opinion, "the people in my ward have told me they are not in favor of this and it's my responsibility to represent the people in my ward." Krebs also had concerns about the fiscal impact to the city. "If it is as important to these people as they say it is, they should circulate another petition."

Councilor Hensley asked APD



File photo

**The Alamosa City Council voted 4-3 to put a measure on the November ballot that would allow medical and or retail marijuana shops to operate within the city limits.**

Chief Dingfelder what his thoughts were about how, if passed, access to medical and/or recreation marijuana might impact the community.

Chief Dingfelder stated, when marijuana was first legalized," it was a mess." But now the state has a Marijuana Enforcement Division that assures business owners are following the rules, and he has no concern about how diligent they will be.

Councilor Jackie Vigil said she, also, had received a lot of responses from her constituents and, those who contacted her, were in favor of the motion. Consequently, she would be voting to support the motion.

Councilor Carson said, a number of times, that he was "very torn," about how to vote. In the past, he had voted against allowing medical and/or recreational marijuana outlets in the city but he has since had a lot of "meaty" conversations. "I have nothing against pot," he said. "If you want it, you can drive fifteen minutes in any direction, and I don't think this stands a snowball's chance. My advice to those who are against it, campaign against it and get it voted down." At that point, he said he thought he would vote for it.

Mayor Coleman said, "We have a process in place. When citizens want something to be put on the ballot, they circulate a petition to show the needs and desires of the community." He also said that passing the measure "undermines the process and those who voted against it in 2017."

Councilor Hensley brought up that citizen petitioning is not the only process. Council has put measures on the ballot before. "There are just times that things have to be put on the ballot," she said.

Before taking the vote, City attorney Eric Schwiesow emphasized that the issue was not instigated by staff in any way but was the result of councilors being approached by constituents.

## OBITUARIES

### Shirley Ricketts

April 12, 1932–June 7, 2024

Shirley Ann Shuler was born to Mabel Clare McKinley Shuler and Covert Preston Shuler in Springfield Colo., baby sister to Betty Jayne and Patricia Louise. In 1935, the family settled in Del Norte, Colo., where Covert co-owned and operated Underwood Chevrolet and later Shuler John Deere Implement Company east of Del Norte.

Shirley graduated from Del Norte High School in 1950 and married her high school sweetheart Richard Christian Paulson. Shirley and Richard made their home on the Meadow View Ranch 2 miles west of Del Norte. Their love affair would include the birth of four children, Richard (Rick), Audrey, Laurie and Mark.

In 1963, the family struck out for California where Shirley and Richard established a family business, Yucaipa Screen and Awning, in Yucaipa, Calif. They led a busy, active life involved in the United Methodist Church, community organizations, Saturday night Square Dancing, and flying trips with Richard as pilot. Tragically Richard died in a boating accident in 1974.

In 1977, Shirley married Robert Ricketts. They moved to Washington, Calif., to become proprietors of the River Rest RV Park on the Yuba River. In 1989, they retired and built their dream home in Graeagle, Calif., which became the hub of family holidays and events. They enjoyed



RV traveling and toured the US from coast to coast.

At home in Graeagle, Shirley was seldom idle as an active member of the Graeagle Community Church, Plumas County Republican Women's Association, Graeagle Art Guild, and president of the Cal Pine Lady Elks in 1992 and again in 1997. Bob passed in 2000 and Shirley returned to work to become Coordinator of Mohawk Community Resource Center until her retirement in 2013.

Shirley was matriarch to a loving and active family. She was a devout Christian, an enthusiastic party giver, golfer, hiker and traveler.

She is survived by her children Rick Paulson (Sherry), Audrey Paulson



(Marty), Laurie Humphries (Travis), and Mark Paulson (Jill); grandchildren Alicia Kimsey, Fairrah Flood, Shoanna Humphries, Aristia Domaille, Richard (Rich) Paulson, Jaime Casey, Lindsey Paulson, Anthony Paulson, Julianne McDaniel, and Jennifer Mackey; 19 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father, Covert, mother, Mabel, husbands Richard and Robert, and her sisters, BJ and Pat.

Our world is a better place for those who knew her, and her legacy lives on in the lives of her family and friends. A celebration of Shirley's life is planned for a future date. Details will be provided to friends and family.

### Lonnie Torrez



The effervescent spirit of Lonnie Torrez, a man whose laughter echoed louder than any karaoke track, has taken his final bow on the stage of life, leaving behind a legacy of joy and selflessness. Lonnie, born under the Colorado skies of Monte Vista on Dec. 29, 1963, closed his eyes in the comforting embrace of his hometown, Center, Colo., on his 60th birthday, Dec. 29, 2023.

Lonnie's life was a vibrant mosaic of cherished moments, woven together with the threads of love, laughter, and the occasional off-key note that only made his performances more endearing. His journey began at Fruita High School, where he graduated with a flair that foreshadowed his future as the life of every party and the heart of every gathering.

He sashayed through life with a serving tray in one hand and a microphone in the other, turning the hospitality world into his personal stage. Lonnie wasn't just a waiter; he was a maestro of mirth, a purveyor of happiness, whose service came with a side of stand-up comedy and a generous helping of heart.

As an avid Denver Broncos fan, Lonnie's cheers could be heard from miles away, his loyalty as steadfast as his ability to remember your favorite dish. His love for travel was only

harmonized with his chosen family and spread a message of love and acceptance.

Lonnie's heart was as open as his songbook, with a capacity for love that extended to his cherished family.

He is survived by Merlee Montoya, Ronnie Torrez, Mary Ann Martinez, Larry Torrez, and Debbie Torrez, along with a chorus of nephews, nieces, uncles, and aunts who sang along with him in the symphony of life.

Preceding him in death was his father, Joe Torrez, who undoubtedly greeted him with a standing ovation as he took his place among the stars.

A memorial mass of Christian burial will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 27, 2024, at Saint Agnes Catholic Church Mission, 505 Gunnison St., Saguache, Colo. Father Eric Haarer will be conducting the mass. Per the families wishes, all are invited to attend a meal and fellowship following the memorial mass at the Saguache Community Building located at 525 7th St. in Saguache, Colo.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in the care of the arrangements. To leave online words of comfort, remembrances, and condolences for Lonnie's family, please visit [www.RogersFunerals.com](http://www.RogersFunerals.com).

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL



Photo courtesy of Wilderness Watch

## Aged manure for sale

All during the time I was growing up and continuing into adulthood, I've enjoyed reading a newspaper. Even in High School I would spend my lunch hour reading two of the larger papers in the state instead of eating lunch.

One reason was that I truly enjoyed reading the news and especially the classified ads. The other reason was the school cafeteria food was akin to Gainsburger dog food at best and avoidance of that ptomaine poisoning lunch line was paramount to survival.

Regardless of my reasons for skipping lunch, I really loved getting the papers every day and reading about happenings both near and far. Of course, this was before Al Gore invented the Internet – Miss Trixie just rolled her eyes – and so any news we got was in print or on television or radio. And as much as I loved all the news that was news, I really loved the classified ads section of the papers. I could peruse those fine printed sections and dream of purchasing all the things I saw listed on there daily.

Fast forward to today and Ol' Dutch is inundated with a new-fangled type of advertising that is seemingly endless in supply. Not only do we have Craigslist where you can literally find anything from soup to nuts, but Facebook also has a Marketplace where items can be listed from local to afar.

Ol' Dutch spends a lot of time looking and scheming about buying things cheap and, actually, I have been pretty successful in finding some great deals. Why, just this last winter I found some water pipe and electrical wire for the new house for one tenth of the cost at the local gyp joint. And there is nothing like a good deal to get this old Scotchman fired up let me tell you what.

Like anything left to the untrained and somewhat illiterate Americans, there are mistakes on the listings that border on hilarity if nothing else.

Just yesterday I was browsing our local market online and I saw an advertisement for an "Aged Man." Now immediately I began to suspect Miss Trixie of finally getting tired of my nonsense and putting me on the market. So curious as a cat looking in a mouse hole, I opened up the ad expecting to catch her at some game of good riddance of Ol' Dutch.



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

The screen populated and suddenly I saw that in their hurry to post the ad, the author had forgotten a few letters. Those few forgotten letters made all the difference in the world. For instead of advertising an "aged man" they really were trying to get rid of "aged manure."

Well let me tell you Ol' Dutch breathed a sigh of relief that Miss Trixie was not going to farm him out for sure. But now I am beginning to wonder if in reality the "aged man" and "aged manure" are not too far apart in reality. I mean they both begin to carry around a certain aroma as they age, and their usefulness does become more and more limited as time goes by. So maybe, just maybe the ad was more correct than I wanted to believe.

I did go one step further and called the number listed just to make sure Miss Trixie was not slipping Ol' Dutch a Mickie and putting him out to pasture. Finally satisfied, at least for now that I am safe in my own paddock, I settled into my chair and let go an odoriferous emanation of my own.

Which resulted in a frown and gasp of disgust from Miss Trixie. That will teach her to select the local Mexican Eatery for our next date night. Here's to "aged manure."

*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.*

Bob Marshall Wilderness in Montana.

## Mountain bikers push to ride through wilderness

"Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed..." said Wallace Stegner.

The goal of the Wilderness Act, now celebrating its 60th birthday, was to set aside a small proportion of public land in America from human intrusion. Some places, the founders said, deserved to be free from motorized, mechanized and other intrusions to protect wildlife and wild lands.

But now, a handful of mountain bikers have partnered with a senator from Utah to gut the Wilderness Act.

This June, the Sustainable Trails Coalition, a mountain biking organization, cheered as Utah Republican Senator Mike Lee introduced a bill (S. 4561) to amend the Wilderness Act and allow mountain bikes, strollers, and game carts on every piece of land protected by the National Wilderness Preservation System. Stopping these intrusions would take each local wilderness manager undertaking a cumbersome process to say "no."

The U.S. Congress passed the Wilderness Act, and President Lyndon B. Johnson signed it into law on September 3, 1964, to "preserve the wilderness character" of 54 wilderness areas totaling 9.1 million acres. Today, this effort has become a true conservation success story.

The National Wilderness Preservation System now protects over 800 wilderness areas totaling over 111 million acres in 44 states and Puerto Rico, making it America's most critical law for preserving wild places and the genetic diversity of thousands of plant and animal species. Yet designated wilderness is only 2.7% of the Lower 48, and still just about 5% if Alaska is included.

The protections of the Wilderness Act include a ban on logging, mining, roads, buildings, structures and installations, mechanized and motorized equipment and more. Its authors sought to secure

for the American people "an enduring resource of wilderness" to protect places not manipulated by modern society, where the ecological and evolutionary forces of nature could continue to play out mostly unimpeded.

Grandfathered in, however, were some grazing allotments, while mining claims were also allowed to be patented until 1983. Many private mining claims still exist inside designated wildernesses.

Senator Lee's bill is premised on the false claim that the Wilderness Act never banned bikes, and that supposedly, the U.S. Forest Service changed its regulations in 1984 to ban bikes. But bicycles, an obvious kind of mechanized equipment, have always been prohibited in wilderness by the plain language of the law. ("There shall be...no other form of mechanical transport...") The Forest Service merely clarified its regulations on this point in 1984 as mountain bikes gained popularity.

Unfortunately, bikers in the Sustainable Trails Coalition are not the only recreational interest group that wants to weaken the Wilderness Act to. Some rock climbers, for example, are pushing Congress to allow climbers to damage wilderness rock faces by pounding in permanent bolts and pitons rather than using only removable climbing aids. In addition, trail runners want exemptions from the ban in wilderness on commercial trail racing. Drone pilots and paragliders want their aircraft exempted from Wilderness Act protections, and recreational pilots want to "bag" challenging landing sites in wilderness.

The list of those seeking to water down

the Wilderness Act is growing.

Most of these recreational groups say they support wilderness, understanding how important it is when most landscapes and wildlife habitats have been radically altered by people. At the same time, they want to slice out their own piece of the wilderness pie.

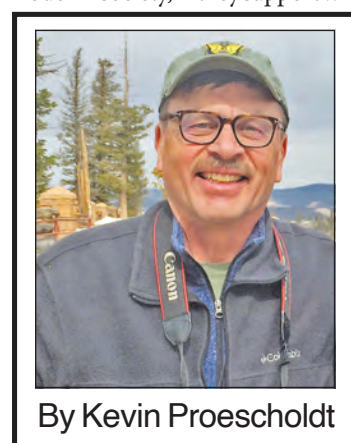
Must we get everything we want in the outdoors? Rather than weakening the protections that the Wilderness Act provides, we could try to reinvigorate a spirit of humility toward wilderness. We could practice restraint, understanding that designated wildernesses have deep values beyond our human uses of them.

Meanwhile, in response to growing demand for mountain biking trails, the Bureau of Land Management invites over a million mountain bikers each year to ride its thousands of miles of trails. And the U.S. Forest Service already has a staggering 130,000 miles of motorized and nonmotorized trails available to mountain bikers.

Do mountain bikers and others pushing for access really need to domesticate wilderness, too?

Let's cherish our wilderness heritage, whole and intact. We owe it to the farseeing founders of the Wilderness Act, and we owe it to future generations.

*Kevin Proescholdt is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He is conservation director for Wilderness Watch, a national wilderness conservation organization headquartered in Missoula, Montana.*



By Kevin Proescholdt



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# Merna Lewis returning to the SLV with Nashville's Gone With the West at Society Hall

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — Society Hall is excited to welcome back to the Valley Merna Lewis with her new Nashville-based all-star western band Gone With the West, in concert at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, July 26.

Lewis is the niece of San Luis Valley fiddling legend Bettie Freel and grew up playing with her Aunt Bettie and her mom, Bobbie Heersink, in the Bowen String Band and many other ensembles.

She has spent years now in the thick of things in Nashville, Tenn., playing her fiddle with many different bands and performers, often working eight shows a week. Now, she has joined forces with three other Nashville star performers in a new western group and is bringing it the Valley.

What do you get when you combine award-winning singer/

songwriters, four-part harmony, a fiddle, keys, two guitars and lyrical imagery drawn from the West? You get taken on a musical journey out West...cowboy and cowgirl life (and love), campfires, horses, music and the beauty of the landscape.

This is Gone With the West — Mary Kay Holt, Micki Fuhrman, Tecia McKenna and Lewis have fused their talents into an exciting new sound.

And here's a quote from a fellow that knows a bit about western music.

"Looks like a new supergroup has saddled up and is riding in over the horizon. With exquisite harmony, superb original songs and very fresh takes on western classics, you are not going to want to miss Gone With the West," said Ranger Doug, of Riders in the Sky.

Doors at 400 Ross Ave., Alamosa, will open at 6:30. Tickets are \$20 in



Courtesy photo

Nashville's Gone With the West, including Merna Lewis, will be performing on July 26 at Society Hall in Alamosa. Mary Kay Holt, Micki Fuhrman, Tecia McKenna and Lewis formed the new 'supergroup.'

advance, or \$25 at the door, and are available online at www.societyhall.org, or in Alamosa at the Green Spot, 711 State Ave. The concert will also stream live on the Society Hall Facebook page and You-Tube channel.

## Colorado awards \$17.4M to combat youth vaping crisis

Three SLV entities receiving funding

CONTRIBUTED

DENVER — Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser announced Tuesday the distribution of \$17.4 million to 42 schools, governmental entities, and non-profit organizations to combat the youth vaping crisis, including three in the San Luis Valley.

These funds come from the attorney general's multimillion-dollar settlement with e-cigarette manufacturer Juul Labs, Inc., and will support programs focused on education, prevention, and treatment of youth vaping, which may include mental and behavioral health services.

"By investing in these organizations, we are taking a critical step toward protecting our youth from the dangers of vaping. This funding will empower communities to educate our young people about the risks, implement preventive measures, and provide essential treatment for those affected," explained Weiser. "Together, we can create a healthier future for our children and help them not turn to vaping in the first place."

The grants were awarded through two programs: one for non-profits and government entities, and another for local education providers in partnership with the Colorado Department of Education (CDE).

Six million dollars was made available to non-profits and government entities through the Colorado Department of Law's Combating Youth Vaping in Colorado Grant. The department received 31 grant applications requesting more than \$18 million, with awards going to the following programs in the San Luis Valley.

- Alamosa RE 11J, \$244,968
  - Center, \$198,098
  - San Luis Valley BOCES, \$273,870
- "We are pleased to award this grant funding to fight the youth vaping crisis by providing resources

for education, prevention and treatment in our Colorado schools," said Colorado Education Commissioner Susana Córdova. "Our goal is to give local educators the tools they need to address the health impacts of vaping on our youth."

The Juul Labs, Inc. settlement was reached in 2023, resolving a lawsuit against the company for targeting young people in its marketing and misrepresenting the health risks of its products. Colorado received \$31.7 million from the nationwide settlement.

Both grants are part of the attorney general's comprehensive, multifaceted approach to address the immediate and long-lasting health implications of youth vaping. Last month, Weiser also announced a \$20 million initiative to boost school-community partnerships and promote youth mental health and wellness statewide. Applications for this granting opportunity will open in fall 2024 and close in early 2025.

## Colorado elk, mule deer migration corridor habitat conserved

CONTRIBUTED

MISSOULA, Mont. — A vital migration corridor for both elk and mule deer in west-central Colorado remains intact and is now protected thanks to a collaborative effort by a conservation-minded landowner and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

A voluntary conservation agreement between the two sides conserves 1,049 acres northeast of Montrose near Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park (BCGNP) and Curecanti National Recreation Area (CNRA).

"We're grateful for a landowner who not only recognizes and understands the wildlife values of the property but translated that knowledge into action by

conserving it," said Kyle Weaver, RMEF president and CEO.

The acreage supplies transition and critical winter range for approximately 7,700 elk as well as mule deer. Combined with adjacent public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and BCGNP, the immediate area serves as a migratory corridor for both species, as noted by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. It also offers habitat for black bears, wild turkey, raptors and other wildlife.

In addition to woodlands, meadows, grasslands and sagebrush steppe habitat, it also features important riparian habitat since more than two and a half miles of the Pinon Springs Draw

flows through the property.

Protection of the migration corridor is in line with RMEF's migration initiative work, Secretarial Order 3362 and important Colorado priorities.

When combined with other projects in the BCGNP and CNRA vicinity, RMEF collaborated with landowners to conserve more than 13,000 acres of habitat for elk and other wildlife.

Founded in 1984 and fueled by hunters, RMEF has conserved more than 8.9 million acres for elk and other wildlife. RMEF also works to open and improve public access, fund and advocate for science-based resource management, and ensure the future of America's hunting heritage.

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**VIAERO WIRELESS**

# PARADE Continued from Page 1A

now, including horses, cowgirls, and floats galore. As is tradition, a second parade was on Saturday.

A giant American flag was draped above Main Street by two local fire department ladder trucks near Manassa Town Hall. It was doubled over on itself due to a burst of wind for the first half of the parade but was unfurled and waving majestically as the parade made its way back for the second go-around.

Smiling and waving to the crowd from the Pioneer Princess float wearing a white dress was 2024 Miss Pioneer Princess Deja Valdez.

The Pioneer Days grand marshals Jerry and Sheryl Anderson and royalty were honored during a kickoff at Manassa Elementary on Thursday, July 18.

There were several intricate and colorful floats that made it difficult for the judges when it came to handing out awards. But in the end, the Martin Cattle Company's Goin' Fishin' was the Sweepstakes winner.

After the parade, people made their way to the always-popular Hamburger Stand for a bite to eat and sat on the grass in the shade of the trees on the sizable lawn of the

Right: Miss Pioneer Deja Valdez waves to the crowd during the Manassa Pioneer Days Parade on Friday.



Below: Rock Ridge's Let Your Dreams Take Flight float was first at the Manassa Pioneer Day Parade on Friday.



Standard Service's Bee Kind or Buzz Off float took second at the Manassa Pioneer Day Parade on Friday.

Larry's Garage's Once Upon A Time float placed third in the Pioneer Days Parade on Friday.



Two horseback riders present the American Flag and the Colorado State Flag during the Manassa Pioneer Days Parade on Friday.

Photos by Brian Williams

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Nearby, live music was performed on the stage throughout the day and into the evening. The carnival area near the LDS Church was busy through the afternoon and night. The day also featured a rodeo at the

fairgrounds at 6 p.m.

Saturday's festivities include a 5K run in the morning, followed by the parade at 10 a.m., car show at 10 a.m. at Aspen Park. The carnival went from 10 a.m. to midnight. There was a rodeo in the afternoon, the fan-favorite demolition derby at 6 p.m., followed at

9 p.m. by the lighting of M Mountain and fireworks.

Pioneer Days Parade Winners Sweepstakes — Martin Cattle Company  
 1 — Rock Ridge  
 2 — Standard Service  
 3 — Larry's Garage

## FAITH HINKLEY VETERAN MEMORIAL PARK FUNDRAISER

July 27, 2024  
 Chapman Park  
 10 a.m. To 6 p.m.

Come join us for a fun filled day at Chapman Park on July 27, 2024 in order to raise money to complete the Faith Hinkley Veterans Memorial Park.



A Poker Run will kick off the event starting at 9am from Chapman Park and then returning for a Car & Bike Show from 2pm to 6pm

We will have lots of food, live music, a corn hole tournament sponsored by Hez & Korrin Salisbury, and vendors so you can shop till you drop. Special appearance by the Youth Cheerleaders and Ms. Kais Academy of Performing Arts. But wait there is more! Horse rides and pictures with Lucky Shoe Riding Club. Then head to the end of the park where the Monte Vista Fire Department will be there ready to COOL you off with fun and water games.

### EVENTS SCHEDULE

Time	Activity	11:30AM-12PM	Youth Cheerleaders Performance
7:30-10AM	Vendor Set Up	12-1:30PM	Live Music – Marc Albion
8-9AM	Poke Run Registration	1:30-2:00PM	Ms. Kais Academy of Performing Arts
9AM-2PM	Poker Run	2:00PM-TBD	Poker Run Returns/Car Show Begins
10AM-6PM	Park Activities Open	2-3:30PM	Live Music – OL Scratch
10-11AM	Cornhole Tournament Registration	4-5PM	Live Music –SLV Big Band
11AM-TBD	Cornhole Tournament Starts	5PM-TBD	Car Show Awards
11-11:30AM	Rooster/Mikey Dynamic Drum Duo	6PM	Event Ends

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Photo by John Waters

If a supermarket merger deal between Kroger Inc., and Albertsons Stores is approved, this Safeway store in Alamosa and 578 other supermarkets nationwide may be bought by C&S Wholesale Foods.

# Safeway stores may have new owners

*'No stores will close as a result of the merger,' says the company*

By JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA — In October 2022, the Kroger Company, owner of a stable of supermarket chains including City Market announced plans to merge with rival Albertsons Companies Inc., owner of Safeway Stores for \$24.6 billion. The proposed merger would create a conglomerate with 5,000 stores, over 4,000 pharmacies, and 700,000 employees.

To satisfy antitrust issues by fostering competition, Kroger has proposed divesting 579 of its supermarkets nationwide, including the Safeway store in Alamosa. Kroger owns the nearby City Market supermarket.

Under that proposal, Kroger has agreed to sell stores to C & S Wholesale Foods based in Keene, New Hampshire.

Rodney McMullen, Kroger's Chairman and CEO stated in a press release, "Importantly, the updated divestiture plan continues to ensure no stores will close as a result of the merger and that all frontline associates will remain employed, all existing collective bargaining agreements will continue, and associates will continue to receive industry-leading health care and pension benefits alongside bargained-for wages. Our proposed merger with Albertsons will bring lower prices and more choices to more customers and secure the long-term future of unionized grocery jobs."

In 2023, the Federal Trade Commission sued to block the merger stating it would result in higher food prices and hurt employee bargaining power.

The attorney generals in Washington and Colorado also filed suit to halt the merger.

In the lawsuit filed by Colorado Attorney Phil Weiser in February 2024, "Few issues impact Colorado citizens, especially families, more than food. What to eat, where to buy, and the cost of groceries are constant sources of anxiety for Colorado families.

"Rising grocery prices lead to food insecurity and hunger, strain the resources of local governments

and non-profits, and harm every Coloradan. Now, in an already concentrated Supermarket industry, two of the largest supermarket companies in Colorado—and in the U.S.—seek to merge. Kroger, which operates King Soopers and City Market, intends to buy its chief competitor, ACI, which operates Safeway and Albertsons."

C&S was founded in 1918, by two Worcester, Massachusetts entrepreneurs, and owns the Grand Union and Piggly Wiggly brands of supermarkets. There are 11 Grand Union stores and more than 500 Piggly Wiggly stores in 18 states according to the websites of the companies.

Most of the Piggly Wiggly stores are independently owned. If the merger is approved, C&S will dramatically increase the number of stores it operates. C&S owns a vast network of food distribution companies.

The company website includes community involvement including \$4.3 million donations in 2022-2023. Of that, \$1.3 million went to charities including the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, and the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Other recipients include the Congressional Hunger Center, Keene Pride, and Latino Outdoors. The company received a rating of 100 from the Human Rights Campaign as a Leader in LGBTQ+ Workplace Inclusion.

Rick Cohen, a descendant of C&S founders, owns the company individually and through a family trust. According to Forbes, the privately held company had revenue of \$34.7 billion in 2023 and has about 15,000 employees.

Cohen is also the CEO of Symbolic Inc., an artificial intelligence (AI) enabled robotic technology platform that according to the company, "Is changing the way consumer goods move through the supply chain. Intelligent software orchestrates advanced robots in a high-density, end-to-end system — reinventing warehouse automation for increased efficiency, speed, and flexibility."

Requests for comment for C&S to elaborate on the stated commitment to keeping the acquired stores open if the divestiture and merger are approved were not returned by press time.

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- ▶ Shop for coverage with no annual maximum on cash benefits. Some plans have annual maximums of \$1,000.

### Medicare doesn't pay for dental care.<sup>1</sup>

That's right. As good as Medicare is, it was never meant to cover everything. That means if you want protection, you need to purchase individual insurance.

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The best way to prevent large dental bills is preventive care. The American Dental Association recommends checkups twice a year.

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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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# What's the buzz?

## Honeybee swarm collected for new hive

By KEITH R. CERNY

ALAMOSA — An estimated swarm of 20,000-25,000 honeybees were collected near the corner of Main and San Juan here around noon Wednesday.

Beekeeper Devin Haynie said the bees likely came from a natural hive in the downtown area and were first seen on a chimney at The Hub operated by the Boys and Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley at Sixth and San Juan. He would not disclose the location of the natural hive.

Fittingly, a sign posted in front of The Hub states "Save the Bees" by spreading wildflowers in a "Generation Wild" promotion. Generation Wild is a movement by Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) to encourage kids to plant wildflowers to help save bees with over 100,000 packets of seeds distributed statewide.

Haynie explained that it's normal for a hive to divide and move to a new location as part of their natural reproduction cycle and can do so up to three times per year. He has been a registered beekeeper for about eight years.

Before forming a swarm, bees

"gorge themselves on resources to produce honey," he explained, thereby limiting the distance they and the queen bee can fly. Honey-engorged bees weigh in at about 10,000 bees per pound, Haynie said, and he estimates he collected about two and one-half pounds of bees, therefore netting around 25,000 bees.

The swarm is carefully collected into a transfer box and doesn't typically have as much protective instinct while forming a new colony, he said. He recalls collecting bee swarms in that general vicinity at least three times in recent years. Bees are then transferred to a new hive.

Haynie said this swarm was adopted by fellow Alamosa beekeeper Aaron Miltenberger, executive director of the Boys and Girls Clubs, who lost his hive over this past winter. Both Haynie and Miltenberger are contacts for the bee swarm hotline operated by the Colorado State Beekeepers Association (CSBA), primarily taking calls in Alamosa, Conejos and Costilla counties.

Haynie had a similar call earlier this week for a bee swarm at the Rio Grande Farm Park in East Alamosa. He encouraged residents who encounter a bee swarm to call the hotline rather than attempt to kill the bees, noting their importance in the pollination of plants, including food production.

The hotline number is 1-844-SPY-



Photo by Keith R. Cerny

As bees buzz around his head, Alamosa beekeeper Devin Haynie gathers up a swarm of honeybees near the corner of Main and San Juan downtown around noon Wednesday. The estimated 20,000-25,000 bees were transferred to a hive overseen by fellow Alamosa beekeeper Aaron Miltenberger.

BEES (844-779-2337) or visit the CSBA website at <https://colorado-beekeepers.org/>.

CSBA encourages people to support local beekeepers by purchasing locally crafted bee products including honey, propolis, pollen and wax. Local farmer's markets are a great location to find honey and other bee products.

# SAGUACHE

## Arts Walk & Hollyhock Festival

Join us July 27th, 2024

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Featuring local & regional artists and crafters, live music, fairy houses, children's activities, and Hollyhock Garden viewings.

Come enjoy galleries, restaurants, shops and booths.

County Courthouse lawn and Saguache Hotel courtyard-Downton Saguache/4th Street

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

Email Sarah Krantz for more information about the Arts Walk @ [saguacheartswalk@gmail.com](mailto:saguacheartswalk@gmail.com)

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





# Lifestyles

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## Faith Hinkley Veterans Memorial Park Fundraiser July 27

By MARIE MCCOLM

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

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

heroes and all the brave women and men who have served.

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

The Faith Hinkley Memorial Park Project began March 10, 2011. The City of Monte Vista, partnered with the Monte Vista School District to create the beloved park to celebrate and remember the lives of fallen U.S. Army Sgt. Faith Hinkley, and U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Glen E. Martinez. There have been many donations over the years from local businesses, and residents to help finish the park. This year, a stone will also be added by local

businessman Bob Richards, and James Pacheco of the Polished Bean, for World War II Veteran George Blake, a Homelake Veterans community resident who passed away recently.

The fundraiser will help complete the Memorial Park project. Everything kicks off at 9 a.m. at Chapman Park with a poker run hosted by Larry Garner. Registration for this event opens at 8 a.m.

*Please see PARK on Page 3*



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

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

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

STAFF REPORT

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

While planning for the new sidewalk installation, engineers noted that both the Fremont and Del Norte Flouring Mill wheels in front of the library would need to be moved. Both monuments have been in front of the library for well over 70 years and

were placed in front of the library by the local Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) sometime in the 1950s.

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

*Please see MUSEUM on Page 3*

## Rhythms on Rio lineup has 'something for everyone'

*Long running music festival set for Aug. 2-4*

By R. SCOTT RAPPOLD

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

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

This will be the third year it has been held in Del Norte, after the festival grounds in South Fork were sold for an RV park. It attracts music lovers from across Colorado, the region, and national visitors for the family-friendly atmosphere, affordable prices and idyllic mountain setting.

Organization president Scott Stecken said they are capping 3-day passes, which include camping, at 500 fewer than last year. *Please see RGYTHMS on Page 3*

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

Courtesy photo



## Covered Wagon Days just weeks away

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

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

Beginning on Thursday, Aug. 1, the town will be a great place to come for an afternoon of fun, farmers markets and music in the park. Kathy's Fabric Trunk will be hosting the annual quilt show and the Rio Grande County Museum has opened an antique quilt and clothing show for all to enjoy. The San Luis Valley quilt Guild will be selling their \$10 items to raise money for several charity projects for the coming year.

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

Friday will feature the annual Veteran's

Dinner at the High Valley Community Center with proceeds going toward Veteran services and places like the Homelake Veteran's center in Monte Vista. Tickets for the dinner can be purchased at the door.

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

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

The annual Covered Wagon Days parade kicks

*Please see DAYS on Page 3*



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

File photo

# Saguache County celebrates school trail

By JOHN WATERS

**BACA GRANDE** — Saguache County officials including Commissioner Lynn Thompson, Commissioner Tom McCracken and County Administrator Wendi Maez were joined by other local officials including Crestone Mayor Benjamin Byer and former Mayor Kairina Danforth on July 1 for a new trail ribbon cutting.

Formally known as the Saguache County-Crestone Safe Routes to School Trail (SRTS) it will link the Baca Grande area to the Crestone Charter School.

The trail is part of a Trails Master Plan developed by the Eastern San Luis Trails Coalition with the Support of San Luis Valley Great Outdoors.

Commissioner McCracken said, "This was conceived seven years ago and is a collaboration between the Town of Crestone, Saguache County, the Crestone Charter School, the Baca Grande Property Owners Association, and SLV GO."

Funding comes from the Gates Family

Foundation, Colorado Safe Routes to School, Saguache County, Colorado Health Foundation, U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration and the Colorado Department of Transportation.

Phase 1 funding is \$1,434,084, and phase 2 is \$508,000.

The project manager is Maez, and the trails coalition project coordinator is Burt Wadman.

When completed, the paved trail will extend over a mile and connect Palomino Way and the Crestone Charter School.

**Local officials and community leaders gathered on Camino Baca Grande in the Baca Grande area of Saguache County to celebrate progress on a Safe Routes to School Trail that will soon have a groundbreaking. The trail will allow school students a safe path to walk to the Crestone Charter School.**

Photo by John Waters



## Round 2 of the summer is here

By HIGH VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

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

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

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

We are so excited for another week of fun. Find updates online at the HVCC.org. HVCC would not be possible without the support of our community! Please consider donating to help us continue to build and implement excellent programming to teach our youth how to have a positive impact on the world around them.

# San Luis Valley Area

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# MUSEUM

Continued from Page 1



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

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

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

according to sources.

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

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

# RHYTHMS

Continued from Page 1

year, to reduce overcrowding in the campground. He said these passes will likely sell out.

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

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

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

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

Single-day tickets (which don't

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

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

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

The lineup is as follows:

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

- Saturday: Armchair Boogie, The Fretliners, Shadowgrass, The Lil Smokies and Daniel Donato's Cosmic

Country, which will do two sets, including a full cover of the Bob Dylan album "Nashville Skyline."

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

# DAYS

Continued from Page 1

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

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

Saturday afternoon brings people to the Del Norte Town Park where there will be vendors, a car show and something for everyone to enjoy. Sunday morning is the annual fly-in breakfast at the Kent Rominger Airport and church in the Town Park followed by a barbecue lunch.

For a full schedule of events, visit [www.coveredwagondays.com](http://www.coveredwagondays.com).



Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyPublishing>

**BUFFET IS BACK! ~ Sundays Open to Close**



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Full or Part Time starting \$15 hr. plus tips!



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"I think this was really good and fun to watch the tv. the wing we're awesome and good pizza."  
— Amy B.

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Open DAILY — 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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# Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL • TRASH REMOVAL  
RECYCLING • DUMPSTERS • ROLL-OFFS  
CREEDE • SOUTH FORK • DEL NORTE • MONTE VISTA  
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# SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

## Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

## Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

## Solution to last week's puzzle

A	B	E	D		A	D	H		D	A	P			
D	A	Z	E	D		P	E	A		B	A	L	I	
P	U	R	E	E		I	C	Y		O	C	A	S	
	D	A	R	E	D		C	O	W		M	E	S	A
					E	M	E	R	I	T	U	S		
F	O	R	E	C	L	O	S	U	R	E				
S	A	M	B	A	E	D		M	E	N				
B	R	A	S	S						A	N	I	M	E
			A	H	A		T	A	N	T	R	U	M	
			B	I	L	L	W	I	T	H	E	R	S	
			D	E	A	D	B	E	A	T				
A	R	A	D		A	I	N		S	A	B	E	R	
P	A	C	A		L	N	G			A	I	L	E	D
E	C	C	M		G	O	T			R	A	B	B	I
S	E	A			O	S	H			S	A	S	S	

Be prepared before the next power outage.



It's not just a generator.  
It's a power move.™

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase\* - valued at \$535.

Call 719-900-0326 to schedule your free quote!

\*Terms and Conditions apply.



# 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.



## CLASSIFIED INDEX

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 01 TICKETS
- 02 CARD OF THANKS
- 03 MEMORIALS
- 04 LOST & FOUND
- 05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
- 06 PERSONALS
- EMPLOYMENT**
- 07 HELP WANTED
- 08 WORK WANTED
- 09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

### FOR RENT

- 10 APARTMENTS
- 11 ROOMS
- 12 HOUSES
- 13 MOBILE HOMES
- 14 BUSINESS PROPERTY
- 15 WANTED TO RENT
- 16 VACATION
- REAL ESTATE**
- 17 REAL ESTATE
- 18 LOTS & ACREAGE
- 19 FARM & FARMLAND
- 20 BUSINESS PROPERTY
- 21 MOBILE HOMES
- 22 PROPERTY WANTED

### MERCHANDISE

- 23 LAWN & GARDEN
- 24 GARAGE SALES
- 25 AUCTIONS
- 26 ANTIQUES
- 27 APPLIANCES
- 28 HOUSEHOLD GOODS
- 29 MUSICAL ITEMS
- 30 ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS
- 31 HEALTH
- 32 FUEL & HEATING
- 33 BUILDING MATERIALS
- 34 OFFICE EQUIPMENT
- 35 HEAVY EQUIPMENT
- 36 MISCELLANEOUS
- 37 WANTED
- 38 MACHINERY, TOOLS & EQUIPMENT
- 39 SPORTING GOODS
- 40 AUTO PARTS
- FARMER MARKET**
- 41 FARM EQUIPMENT
- 42 FEED & SEED
- 43 FARM PRODUCTS
- 44 FARM SERVICES

### ANIMALS

- 45 ANIMAL BREEDING
- 46 PASTURE FOR RENT
- 47 HORSES & CATTLE
- 48 PETS & SUPPLIES
- 49 ANIMAL CARE
- 50 LIVESTOCK
- RECREATIONAL**
- 51 BOATS & EQUIPMENT
- 52 CAMPING EQUIPMENT
- 53 TRAILERS
- 54 SNOWMOBILES/ATV'S
- 55 R.V.'S/CAMPERS
- FINANCIAL**
- 56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
- 57 INVESTMENTS
- TRANSPORTATION**
- 58 MOTORCYCLES
- 59 VEHICLES WANTED
- 60 CLASSIC CARS
- 61 4X4'S
- 62 VANS
- 63 TRUCKS
- 64 AUTOS FOR SALE
- SERVICES**
- 65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
- 66 CHILD CARE

## RATES

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

**Garage Sale Ads: 15 Words or less for 1 week**  
**\$12 + 35¢ each additional word.**

**Free ads:** Lost & Found • Non Commercial items Sold for \$50 or less • Any Item or Animal being given away. (Limited to private party only, 2 ads per person, 4 weeks.)

### 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 montevisitaclass@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

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

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

plications can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.urtigers.co.

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

## 12 Houses for Rent

**House for rent Center.** Remodeled 3-bedroom 1-bath 1-car garage. \$1,200. Text Cooke at 719-207-6890. Available Sept. 1. (8-7)

## 16 Vacation

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

## 24 Garage/Yard Sales

**Estate Sale:** 25 Papoose St. Every Sat & Sun in July. Beauty shop equipment. At 8:00-Noon (7-24)

**Moving Sale!** 7/28 11a-3p No early birds! Furniture, household goods, decor, clothing. 16179 Hwy 160 Del Norte

## 36 Miscellaneous

**Trailer for hauling \$3000,** old metal bed, old wooden bed, free old mattress and springs, set of Heartland dishes \$150, Also an ATV. Call 661 487-4312 (8-7)

Cash for quality non-fiction books

and LP records. Jeff 720-315-9145.

**Propane Refrigerators and Freezers.** We also stock "Sunstar" refrigerators and freezers in DC/AC power. 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

# 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**



If you are interested in adopting, call 852-3366  
Open Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Sat. & Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m.  
Monday & non-business hours by appointment only  
2825 Sherman Ave. • Monte Vista

We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society by contributions, donations, volunteering and general support at Conour Animal Shelter.



# RESCUE PETS HAVE BIG PERSONALITY

Hundreds of loving pets lose their homes every day through no fault of their own. Stop in & visit us today to meet the incredible dogs and cats looking for immediate adoption, and forever change the life of a pet in need.



## Cremation Service: Cats, Dogs, Ferrets, Birds...

Animal Weight	Semi-Private/Group Fee	Private Fee	Vessel Size needed
Small/ Pocket Pet	\$40.00		Mini - Small vessel needed
Cats	\$80.00		Petite - Small vessel needed
0 - 25 lbs.	\$80.00		Petite - Small vessel needed
26 - 50 lbs	\$140.00		Small-Medium Vessel needed
51 - 75 lbs.	\$175.00	\$200.00	Medium-Large Vessel needed
76 - 100 lbs.	\$200.00	\$275.00	Large Vessel needed
101 lbs. & up	Animals over 101 lbs. are ineligible for Group fee	\$300.00	Extra Large Vessel Needed

Payment is required at time the animal is dropped off.

Animal may be dropped off during business hours only.

Please allow 7 working days from drop off date for animal's return.

Ashes not picked up after 60 days will respectfully be spread over our Conour Garden.



**Vaccinate! Your Pets**

It is important that all pet owners have their dogs & cats spayed or neutered to control the pet overpopulation and vaccinate to prevent the spread of disease.



# VALLEY PUBLISHING SEEKS REPORTER IMMEDIATELY

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

All breeds & ages of animals are a "best guess" and are not guaranteed to be accurate. Adoption fee includes: neuter/spay, vaccinations, de-worming and micro-chipping.

*This ad space donated by Valley Publishing Inc.*

# Valley Wide Classifieds

**SOLAR PANELS!** Large and small. Inverters, charge controllers, lead acid and lithium batteries. Brand names include Outback, Magnum, AIMS, EG4, Sol-Ark, and Rolls. Custom cables and PV wire. Bon-trager's Variety Store. 9726 S. CR 3E Monte Vista. 719-852-0500. (TFN)

ing, etc. Drug/Alcohol free. Free Estimates 719-496-7630. (TFN)  
**LICENSED PLUMBER** does all types of plumbing repairs and plumbing remodels at reasonable rates. Quick service. Call anytime, available weekends and evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593.

the best prices? Call THE BLIND GUY at 970-799-0388 for a free estimate. (TFN)  
**Sprinkler repair and winterizations.** Done at reasonable rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (TFN)

**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.

**42 Feed & Seed**  
**For Sale:** Small Alfalfa bales \$10. Covered, No rain, and local. Call: 719-480-2089 (8-28)

**64 Autos for Sale**  
**For sale -** 1990 Toyota 2-wheel drive super clean pickup; 2005 Toyota Tacoma long-bed camper shell; Chevy car 4-speed transmission. 719-850-2027

**65 Professional Services**  
**Need Storage,** We Build New Storage Sheds, HY Country Sheds Call 719-849-8106 (9-4)

**Let Me Haul Off Your, Old Appliances** and Recyclable Metals for You. Call Chris for Prices and To Set Up A Removal 719-395-2071 (8-7)

**Fire Mitigation:** Weed And brush mowing to reduce fire danger. Call Darrell 715-699-3703 (9-11)

**WE BUY ANTLER:** \$16/lb for Elk Grade A and \$11/lb for Deer Grade A. 5 miles west of Del Norte on Hwy 160. 719-657-0942 (TFN)

**RELIABLE CARPENTRY** 40-plus years-experience in carpentry, painting, stucco, tile, drywall, roof-

Need beautiful window blinds at

**Christmas In July Sale!**

**Get the Latest Smartphones On Us!**

**Includes A Free Charging Block!**

New and renewing customers get up to \$770 off the purchase of a new Galaxy S24 series or iPhone 15 series phone when they trade in a qualifying phone and activate it on a Viaero Better, Best, Ultra, First Responder, or Single Unlimited plan. Requires phone trade-in and ASP. Sales tax on the full price of the device is due at purchase. Requires approved credit. Taxes and fees not included. Certain restrictions and exclusions may apply.

**VIAERO WIRELESS**

# SAGUACHE

*Join us July 27th, 2024  
 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

Arts Walk & Hollyhock Festival

Featuring local & regional artists and crafters, live music, fairy houses, children's activities, and Hollyhock Garden viewings.

Come enjoy galleries, restaurants, shops and booths.

County Courthouse lawn and Saguache Hotel courtyard-Downton Saguache/4th Street

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

Email Sarah Krantz for more information about the Arts Walk @ [saguacheartswalk@gmail.com](mailto:saguacheartswalk@gmail.com)

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



# Open Quilt Show returning to SLV Fair

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

People can also submit the quilt's story, if there is one.

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

# PARK

Continued from Page 1

The \$20 fee for the run also gets you into the car show; any licensed vehicle, cars, trucks, and motorcycles are welcome to attend the run. At 9 a.m., everyone will follow Garner from Chapman Park, and the poker run will visit five historic sites. According to Garner, everyone from the run should be back by around 12:30 p.m. At 10 a.m., the park activities will open for everyone to enjoy. Registration for a cornhole tournament will take place at 10 a.m., with the tournament starting at 11.

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

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

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

The City of Monte Vista would like to thank all of the amazing sponsors that have donated to the event including, Valley Tractor Repair LLC, the Nazarene Thrift Store, RG Bank, The LOR Foundation Inc, Poole Agribusiness, H&R Block, Mackey Construction, The Roberts Team, Proud Military Parents and Supporters, O&V Printing Inc, Troy Plane Insurance Agency, David Hinkley, Rocky Mountain Memorabilia, and Brown's Septic.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Skeff had this to say of the donation that she made, "These funds are in memory of Ray Skeff, Colette Skeff, and Margaret Skeff Family Funds. We

are proud and honored to make this \$30,000 donation to the Faith Hinkley Memorial Park. The park provides a beautiful memorial to honor the veterans who have passed as well as celebrate those with us today who have served our country. The fundraiser by the City of Monte Vista inspired the Skeff families to make the donation to help the city with the funds to complete the park."

# 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) (inches)				
		7/18	7/17	7/16	7/15	2day	3day	4day	5day	7day
		<b>Moravian 69</b>	<b>04/05</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>0.51</b>
Moravian 69	05/05	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.18	0.40	0.58	0.76	0.98	1.45
<b>Early Wheat</b>	<b>04/05</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>0.31</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>1.22</b>
Early Wheat	05/05	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.18	0.40	0.58	0.76	0.98	1.45
<b>White Wheat</b>	<b>04/05</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>0.37</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.72</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>1.41</b>
White Wheat	05/05	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.18	0.40	0.58	0.76	0.98	1.45
<b>WinterWheat</b>	<b>10/01</b>	<b>0.09</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>0.53</b>	<b>0.81</b>
<b>Potatoes</b>										
Norkotah	05/05	0.20	0.22	0.19	0.19	0.42	0.61	0.80	1.03	1.52
<b>Centennial</b>	<b>05/05</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>0.76</b>	<b>0.98</b>	<b>1.43</b>
Nugget	05/05	0.18	0.20	0.17	0.17	0.38	0.55	0.72	0.93	1.36
<b>Alfalfa</b>	<b>Est.</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.66</b>	<b>0.87</b>	<b>1.12</b>	<b>1.66</b>
<b>Lawnglass</b>	<b>Est.</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.72</b>	<b>0.93</b>	<b>1.38</b>

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.c.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)

# 4U CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Friday Tack 3:00 PM  
Horses 4:00 PM

## Friday & Saturday, July 26-27, 2024

Saturday - 9 AM  
Tack, Machinery  
Antiques, etc

**Directions: From Monte Vista, CO take Hwy 15 (Gun Barrel) South 13 1/2 miles to 26503 County Road 6, LaJara, CO 81140**



**HORSES:** \*FLASH - 3 year old black Stndbrd/Morgan gelding, quiet, well mannered, is driving good and will meet you at the gate. \*SPECKLES - 4 year old red & white paint pony/quarter horse mare, TSS, broke to ride & drive single or double and for anyone. \*SONNY - 2yr old 33" red roan mini horse gelding, broke to drive. \*MIDNIGHT - yearling black Friesian/stnbrd mare. \*BUBBA - 2 yr. old dark bay 37" mini pony gelding, broke to drive. \*ROCKEY - 3 yr. old registered buckskin quarter horse gelding, 14.3 hh, quiet, gentle, well started, will finish out big & blocky. \*TWILA - 3 yr old brown & white paint 34" mini pony mare, broke to drive and bred to mini pony for '25. \*PEARL - 8 yr old registered bay standardbred mare, deluxe surrey horse, women can drive, watches bigger trucks some. \*BENTLY - 2 yr. old brown and white 28" mini pony gelding, broke to drive. \*SHADY D - 4 yr. old registered 15 hh chestnut quarter horse gelding, gentle, easy to please, finish him the way you like. \*NO NAME - 7 yr. old buckskin quarter horse, broke to ride. \*BUD - 3 yr. old 59" black Friesian/Quarter horse gelding, rides good, drives single or double, been worked in the field, will make a companion. \*SPEEDY - 12 yr. old grulla mini mule gelding, broke to ride and drive, tough enough for a day's work yet quiet enough for the children, super cute. 52 horses, ponies, & mules were consigned to last years' auction.



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



**TACK & SADDLES:** English & western style horse and pony size saddles, cross bucks, canvas pack panniers, load of new tack including: Lead ropes, halters, feed buckets, breast collars, headstalls, mounting blocks, whips, lariats, girths, reins, apple pickers, horse blankets, curbs, harness hooks, tack racks, hay nets, bits, bio pony harnesses, air tired low rider youth top buggy, single Delaware style top buggy, pony carts, 10' x 18' steel Run-in style horse shelter, and much much more.



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



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



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



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



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# Rainbow trout added to Blanca Vista Pond

## CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — Rainbow trout were added to Blanca Vista Pond. The City of Alamosa sent out a press release thanking the multiple sponsors of the project.

“The City of Alamosa would like to thank Donnie Bautista and Sand Dunes Recreation Inc. for spearheading a fish stocking effort at Blanca Vista Pond in Alamosa,” city officials stated.

Every day, people can drive by and see many kids outside enjoying the local fishery. Other financial contributors included Jared Myers and Allied Potato Co., Dylan Brown and the Dylan Brown Farmers Insurance Agency, and Richard Esquibel and the High Peak Event Company, the city stated.

The City of Alamosa contributed \$4,000 toward 620 pounds of rainbow trout. A special thank you to Crowther’s Fish

Farm for providing the fish and throwing in a few extra “big ones” for the kids.

Blanca Vista Pond is a family fishery designed for kids to learn to fish. Adults 18 and over must have a child accompanying them to fish the pond. CPW stocked over 7,000 fish this spring in the pond and this week’s supplement will further enhance the fishing experience.

“The city expressly thanks Mr. Bautista and all the contributors for supporting children’s activities in the city and their support of Alamosa Parks and Recreation,” city officials stated.

**Rainbow trout were added to Blanca Vista Pond. The City of Alamosa sent out a press release thanking the multiple sponsors of the project.**

Courtesy photo



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**Custom mtn cabin + adjacent full apartment**  
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**Luxury Mountain home on 15 acres in Bear Creek**  
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# Adams State hires VP of Advancement

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — Jacob Rissler accepted the position as Adams State University Vice President of Advancement. He will begin his duties on Aug. 1.

Rissler most recently served as the Director of Institutional Advancement at Mid-Plains Community College in North Platte, Neb. In his role at Adams State, Rissler will oversee Public Relations and Marketing, Alumni Relations, Development, and the Adams State Foundation.

“Mr. Rissler has contagious enthusiasm and I believe he will make a positive impact at Adams

State,” noted President David Tandberg, Ph.D. “He will make a great addition to our executive team. Mr. Rissler has the skills and vision to move Adams State forward. Through his guidance the University will strengthen marketing efforts, maintain key relationships, bring in new resources, and build new partnerships.”

In his role at Mid-Plains Community College, Rissler served as the executive director for the North Platte Community College Foundation, acted as college liaison for the McCook College Foundation, built and maintained strong relationships with individuals and industries with

vested interests in the institution, developed alumni relations, and engaged in community activities/service throughout the college’s 18 county service area. He served as director of development for the Chadron State Foundation prior to the community college position.

“As a premiere Hispanic Serving Institution, Adams State does incredible work supporting all students,” Rissler said. “I look forward to working closely with President Tandberg, and the entire Adams State community, as we raise awareness of the University and strengthen our connections across the beautiful San Luis Valley and beyond.”

Rissler received his bachelor’s

and master’s from Chadron State College, in Chadron, Neb. He is active in Rotary International and looks forward to continuing his membership in the Alamosa club. He is a firm believer in community involvement and was a member of the North Platte Community Playhouse Board of Directors; co-chair of the McCook Communities of Excellence, and a member of the North Platte Area Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals.

“I have already started exploring the San Luis Valley and am eager to engage with Adams State alumni and friends and learn more about the rich culture and history of the area,” Rissler added.



Courtesy photo

Adams State VP of Advancement Jacob Rissler arrives on campus August 1, 2024.

## San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

**Amazing Ranch Style House with Barn and 50 Acres!**  
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# Fire departments respond to hay trailer ablaze

## STAFF REPORT

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

Alamosa Fire Department Capt. Zach Cerny said the trailer and load of hay were a total loss. The truck towing the trailer was unhitched and unharmed. Firefighters were on scene for about three hours, but the cause of the fire is unknown.

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

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



Courtesy photo

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

# SLV 911 Emergency Telephone Authority offers reverse 911

## By JOHN WATERS

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Residents throughout the Valley can receive emergency reverse 911 messages through the San Luis Valley Emergency Telephone Authority by visiting the website [www.slve911.org](http://www.slve911.org).

In 2009, Connecticut became the first state in the nation to utilize a reverse 911 system and they are deployed across the U.S. and Canada. In 2004, reverse 911 was used in Granby, Colorado to notify residents of a bulldozer rampage. Reverse 911 was used during the 2012 Sandy Hook — Newtown Connecticut school shooting.

To receive the emergency messages, visit the website, [www.slve911.org](http://www.slve911.org) and next to the text, “If we can’t REACH you, we can’t ALERT you. Register for FREE emergency alerts,” and click on “sign up here.”

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

“For many years, the emergency planners and SLV 911 Board have been using Everbridge [[slve911.org](http://slve911.org)] to alert citizens to emergencies that may affect them,” said Donna Wehe, Director of Communications and Public Information Officer, San Luis Valley Health. “At SLV Health, we promote the [slve911.org](http://slve911.org) website in our newsletter to encourage all staff, their families, and neighbors to sign up. Once per year, all users should login and update their account information.”

“On a personal note, there was a fire in my former neighborhood that could have escalated, and many of us

were put on ‘pre-evacuation’ notice. I was not registered at the time and would have been unaware of the dangerous situation had it not been for a concerned neighbor who was going door to door alerting us. Ever since then, I have been promoting the use of this tool.”

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

The [slve911.org](http://slve911.org) system can send messages to cell phones, land lines, text, email and work phones.

Visit [www.slve911.org](http://www.slve911.org) and the Alamosa County website at [www.alamosacounty.colorado.gov](http://www.alamosacounty.colorado.gov), to receive notices.

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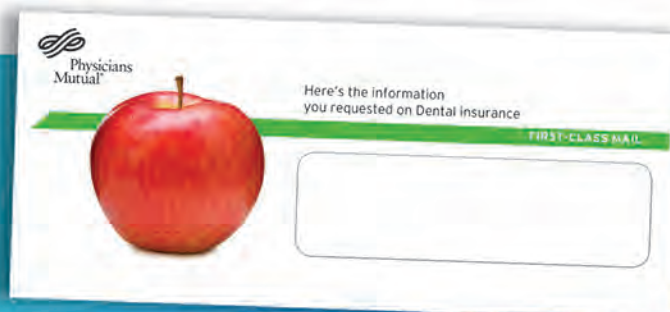
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# 'Breaking the Silence of Slavery'

*A convening of Hispano and Native American heirs of Indigenous enslavement*

**CONTRIBUTED**

**SANTA FE, N.M.** — Do you have stories of Native American captivity and slavery that have been passed down in your family? Have you thought about what this legacy means to your family and community? The team at Native Bound Unbound invites you to participate in a series of conversations and story gathering events titled Breaking the Silence of Slavery.

This initiative is led by former state historian of New Mexico, Dr. Estevan Rael-Gálvez, whose professional efforts to recover the histories of Indigenous slavery as ethnographer and historian began decades ago. According to Dr. Rael-Gálvez, executive director of Native Bound Unbound, "the story of Indigenous slavery has been quieted over the years by whispers as much as by silence, even by those who have inherited it. If there is any hope for transcendence and healing, we must first break this silence. This is the goal of these gatherings."

These landmark gatherings are aimed towards convening Hispano and Native American heirs of Indigenous enslavement. "Recovering these stories is critical for both tribal communities, who were impacted by these tremendous losses, as well as for the descendants of those taken, who became their ancestors — and Breaking the Silence of Slavery begins to bring together both of these communities," said Rael-Gálvez.

"Some people grew up with these histories, holding onto photos, documents, stories, and even traditions. Others have spent years engaged in genealogical and historical research revealing the names of their ancestors. Yet, many are just beginning to explore the records and the meaning in this legacy. We invite members of these communities to join us this summer during one of the three gatherings," said project coordinator, Weston Archuleta.

The gatherings will take place at the following locations on the dates and times listed:

- Los Luceros Historic Site, Alcalde, N.M. — July 20, 2-4 p.m.
- New Mexico History Museum/Palace of the Governors, Santa Fe, N.M., Aug. 4, 2-4 p.m.
- Hacienda de los Martinez, Taos,

N.M., Aug. 17, 2-4 p.m.

These gatherings have been made possible thanks to funding from the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Although "Breaking the Silence" gatherings are local, they are set within a hemispheric project, Native Bound Unbound — Archive of Indigenous Slavery (NBU). NBU was launched in 2022 with the support of the Mellon Foundation. The objective is to create a digital

repository centered on the lives of the enslaved Indigenous people across the Americas, "name by name and story by story."

Individuals interested in participating in any of these gatherings are asked to bring stories, photographs, documents, and artifacts that may have been made or held by an ancestor.

Anyone with questions or interested in attending is asked to RSVP by writing to info@nativeboundunbound.org.

## La Garita Arena Project meeting

**CENTER** — An informational meeting on the Saguache County La Garita Arena Project will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 28, at the Corzine Indoor Arena, 8101 County Road 45, Center. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be available.

## Community Open Classes at SLV Fair

**MONTE VISTA** — Community members can exhibit their items and gardening. There is no fee, no pre-registration. Check-in is available on Sunday, Aug. 4, from 4- 6 p.m. or Monday, Aug. 5, from 9-11 a.m. For more information, contact Brandy Meyers at 719-849-1522 or Janae Naranjo at 719-480-4212.

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# Giving back to those who give so much

ACSO deputies issued life-saving vests

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Deputies at the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) gathered in the board room of the Alamosa County commissioners on Monday afternoon where they were presented with, perhaps, one of the most important pieces of equipment in their profession.

When deputies started filing into the room, their attention was immediately drawn to a long table holding 19 of the best state-of-the-art bulletproof vests, each vest with a deputy's name already on it.

The vests were made possible by the work of Jake Skifstad, founder and president of Shield616, a Colorado Springs based, nationwide non-profit dedicated to providing first responders with top-of-the-line bulletproof vests capable of stopping a bullet fired from a rifle.

Skifstad's organization is invited to law enforcement agencies where he familiarizes them with the kind of protection they will be wearing and then helps them in raising the funds necessary to make the purchase.

In the case of ACSO, the total tab for the vests was \$42,000, a fundraising goal that was met by a large donation from an anonymous donor plus, Skifstad says, "a lot of \$5, \$10 and \$20 donations that really added up."

The vests currently worn by ACSO deputies are constructed of ceramic and, according to ACSO Sheriff Robert Jackson, are only capable of



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Shield616 presents ACSO deputies with 'angel armor' bulletproof vests capable of providing top of the line protection.

stopping a bullet from a handgun — once.

"After one bullet," Jackson told the Valley Courier, "the ceramics shatter."

The Alamosa County commissioners were on hand for the presentation, with Commissioner Arlan Van Ry saying that, after seeing Alamosa Police Department receive the vests, "it was really on [his] heart to get those for the county deputies. They're out in the country where more people have guns. And they may not know what is waiting for them at the end of a hundred-yard driveway."

Van Ry also added that the latest spike in violence had him "scared" the deputies wouldn't get the vests in time.

Before asking the deputies to come stand behind the vest with their name on it, Skifstad told a riveting story of the day he was a responder on-site

of the Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs where a lone gunman carried out a mass shooting over a four-to-five-hour period.

At that time, he did not have a vest like the ones he was presenting to the ACSO deputies, but it was clear that experience motivated him to make it his mission that other officers would not find themselves so vulnerable.

Skifstad, who is a man of faith, also spent some time talking to the deputies about what thoughts and prayers went through his mind during the shooting, further underlining how crucial the right protection is in a job like law enforcement.

The vests the deputies were issued are known as "angel armor" and "provide all-day rifle protection for first responders who sacrificially serve our communities."

When asked to comment, Commissioner Van Ry said, "It was something that was laid on my heart that our deputies to make sure our deputies were protected and God works in mysterious ways with anonymous donors contributing and the community doing their part. It's one more layer of protection that just

might save a life."

When asked what the vests meant to him, Sheriff Jackson got "choked up." "This is amazing that, in a small community like this, people can come together. I'm just so glad that it came together, and we could make it happen for these guys. They'll be a lot safer now."



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# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

## 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**



## 328 Fir Drive • South Fork

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



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## 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**



## 193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

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



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



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## 120 Fairway Ridge Lane • South Fork

Serenity Await in Fairway Glen, South Fork Ranches! Nestled within the coveted Fairway Glen subdivision, this 0.61-acre gem awaits your vision. Perched near the Rio Grande Club and Resort, it boasts an unrivaled vantage point overlooking Hole #11—a golfer's dream come true. Imagine waking up to sun-kissed mornings, gazing across rolling hills and pristine fairways. Whether you're sipping coffee on your future deck or planning a cozy evening by the firepit, these views will steal your heart. All utilities stand ready at the lot line, eager to serve your dream home. South Fork, a haven for outdoor enthusiasts, beckons with adventure. Within minutes, you'll find: Tee off at the Rio Grande Club & Resort's 18-hole course, where fairways merge seamlessly with mountain vistas. Chase winter thrills at Wolf Creek Ski area—powder days and après-ski stories await. Lace up your hiking boots or hop on an ATV—the nearby trails lead to hidden lakes, wildflower meadows, and secret overlooks. Cast your line into the Rio Grande River, where trout dance and rafting adventures unfold. Don't miss out! Call today to schedule a private showing. Let's turn this canvas of land into your forever retreat. **MLS#816135 - \$64,000**



## 259 Orville Way • South Fork

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



## 48 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

Mountain Charm - Where Dreams Blossom Nestled in the heart of South Fork, Colorado, this Mountain haven awaits where simplicity meets enchantment. Picture it: a 3-bedroom, 2-bath retreat, bathed in the golden light of the Mountains. With 1,440 square feet and attached large 2 car garage. This home will cradle your memories like a cherished heirloom. This lot steals your breath—a canvas of possibility stretching wide. Here, mule deer and wild turkeys play, visiting often as if drawn by whispers from the pines. No stern HOA rules here; just a neighborhood that nods in camaraderie. Large lot to grow your own garden and enjoy the existing rhubarb patch! Imagine stepping onto your covered front porch, the scent of freshly baked rhubarb pie dancing in the air. Yes, you'll bake your own—pluck ruby-red stalks from the earth, mix them with sugar and secrets, and let the mountains witness your culinary magic. Paved roads with city water and city water & sanitation. Modern comfort wrapped in rustic allure. All this and more, only a short walk takes you to the Rio Grande River, its waters a silver ribbon of promise. Gold medal fishing awaits, and the mountains echo your joy. And when winter blankets the land, Wolf Creek Ski area beckons. Adventure, your faithful companion, stands at your doorstep. Your Dream come true, pick up the phone. Schedule your showing, and step into the pages of Mountain Charm. Your Adventure starts here, give me a call today! **MLS#815494 - \$367,900**



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