

SFFF hosts successful Arts and Crafts Fair

By LYNSIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — The parking lot and lawn outside of the South Fork Visitor Center was lined with vendor booths throughout the day on July 17 for the third annual South Fork Friends Foundation's Arts and Craft Fair.

This wonderful event began as a way to bring more local and visiting artists to the area to display their talents and to have the opportunity to bring their wares to the small mountain town during the busy summer.

About 40 vendors attracted a huge crowd of shoppers, all coming to find a unique and special gift either for themselves or for family and friends. There was everything from intricate wooden sculptures to fine jewelry.

Music combined with the delectable smell from Gosar Sausage and the Kettle Corn truck made for the perfect summer atmosphere and served as a precursor to the coming Logger Days Festival.

The South Fork Friends Foundation has been an integral part of the community for many years.

Please see FAIR on Page 4A



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The parking lot and area outside of the South Fork Visitor Center was hopping with shoppers on July 17 for the South Fork Friends Foundation's third annual Arts and Crafts Fair.

MORSELS

Joint service at Little Shepherd in the Hills

The congregants of St. Stephen the Martyr Episcopal Church, Monte Vista, will join those of 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.

Adams State hosts free movie night

ALAMOSA — Bring your blankets and camping chairs and join the Adams State University community for a free movie night. The fun begins at 7:30 p.m. and the show, "Encanto," will start at dusk, about 8 p.m., Friday, July 26, on the front lawn of Richardson Hall.



The 30th Annual Logger Days Festival in South Fork hit the mark this past weekend with a huge crowd of spectators and competitors from across the county.

Logger Days in South Fork hits the mark

By LYNSIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — Cheers from spectators mingled with the rip-roaring sound of chainsaws on Saturday, July 20, as the 30th Annual Logger Days Festival kicked off in

South Fork.

The scent of sawdust mixed with the aroma from several food trucks filled the air as people made their way either to the grandstands to watch the show or to the lot full of

vendors.

Saturday morning started with the ax throwing event where competitors heaved long-handled axes toward their targets, competing like playing

Please see LOGGER on Page 4A



Colorado Division of Water Resources State Engineer Jason Ullmann will answer questions and provide information on current Colorado water issues July 29, on the Adams State University campus.

ASU Salazar Center to host Ullmann

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Salazar Rio Grande Center will host Colorado Division of Water Resources State Engineer Jason Ullmann on July 29. *Please see ULLMANN on Page 2A*

Creede Rock and Mineral Show first weekend in August

By LYNSIE FERRELL

CREEDE — Rockhounds from around the globe will be venturing to Creede next weekend for the annual Creede Rock and Mineral Show on Aug. 2-4.

The Creede and Mineral County Underground Community Center will host the show. *Please see ROCK on Page 4A*

The annual Creede Rock and Mineral Show is ready to rock Creede the first week in August.

This show is expected to have more than 40 vendors.

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell



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Motorcycle crash fatalities on the rise

CONTRIBUTED

STATEWIDE—The 100 deadliest days of summer is the well-known time between Memorial Day and Labor Day that law enforcement sees an increase in traffic crashes and fatalities. July frequently ends up being the peak month for various crash types investigated by Colorado State Troopers, including those involving motorcycles.

This year is no exception. So far,

in 2024, troopers have investigated 135 fatal crashes from Jan. 1 through July 16, and 15.5% (21) of those involved a motorcycle. But when the Patrol isolated just the first two weeks of July, the percentages more than doubled, with 16 fatal crashes and 37.5% (6) of those involving a motorcycle.

“Riding a motorcycle comes with greater risk than driving a car or truck due to the lack of safety

features, including airbags and seatbelts. Riders are simply more vulnerable,” stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “This underscores the responsibility that every rider must assume for their own safety. Receiving ongoing training, wearing protective gear and adhering to the rules of the road – these are the necessary steps for every rider.”

Colorado offers some of America

West’s most scenic and popular motorcycle rides, including routes like the San Juan Skyway National Scenic Byway and Santa Fe Trail. Due to the increase in riders during the warmer weather months, the Southwest District of the Colorado State Patrol began to track serious injuries and fatal motorcycle crashes at the beginning of the riding season (April/May) this year.

From Jan. 1 to July 17, troopers in District 5 responded to and investigated 18 serious injury or fatal crashes involving a motorcycle, including two in the San Luis Valley – Del Norte and La Jara. Most riders were from Colorado but not always from the region. Sixty-one percent of the riders had an endorsement and wore a helmet.

“It’s not the number of years you’ve owned a motorcycle that builds mastery; it’s the actual time spent learning how to control, corner, emergency brake and practice evasive maneuvers,” stated Col. Packard. “Advanced motorcycle courses are a fantastic way to learn the best techniques without building bad habits while increasing skills to

help you enjoy the ride.”

Mountain riding also comes with some common hazards. Here are what riders riding on our Western Slope should watch for during their ride:

- Blind corners with sheer rock faces next to the road
- Narrow shoulders or no shoulder at all with sharp drop-offs
- Rocks, gravel and other debris from snow melt
- Switchbacks and tight corners with little preparation time
- Congestion from RVs and vehicles towing boats and ATVs
- Potholes, bumps and weather-damaged surfaces
- Wildlife

With practice and following the posted traffic rules, you will be ready to tackle the western slope and enjoy the scenic views.

District 5 of the CSP encompasses the following counties: Alamosa, Archuleta, Conejos, Costilla, Delta, Dolores, Gunnison, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mineral, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, Rio Grande, Saguache, San Juan and San Miguel.

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, Monte Vista, 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 matched by his passion for singing, a combination that often led to impromptu karaoke sessions in far-flung locales, with Lonnie invariably stealing the show.

Not one to shy away from the spotlight, Lonnie was a proud member of The Gay Cycle Sluts, leaving a trail of glitter and giggles as he paraded through the streets on rollerblades or a motorcycle, his infectious energy drawing smiles from even the most stoic onlookers. His voice, a blend of gusto and gaiety,

was a staple in the GBTL Gay Chorus, where he 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.

ULLMANN

Continued from Page 1A
del Norte Center will host “A Conversation with Jason Ullmann” at 6 p.m. on Monday, July 29, in McDaniel Hall 101.

The event is free and open to the public and will include 30 minutes of moderated conversations and 30 minutes of questions and answers.

The Colorado Division of Water Resources State Engineer Jason Ullmann will discuss recent developments in the Division of Water Resources and the significance of Texas vs New Mexico and Colorado.

As State Engineer, Ullmann directs the Division of Water Resources in the performance of its responsibilities, which include administration of water rights in Colorado, issuing well permits, performing administrative

approvals for water use, administering programs that ensure the safety of dams and the safe construction of water wells, and providing information and education resources to the public. He has worked for the Division of Water Resources since 2010, first as the assistant division engineer in Division 4 (Gunnison and San Miguel Basins) for 11 years followed by three years as a deputy state engineer.

Before coming to the Division of Water Resources, Ullmann served as city engineer for the City of Montrose, and before that, worked for consulting firms designing raw water infrastructure. He is a native of Colorado and a graduate of Colorado State University.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

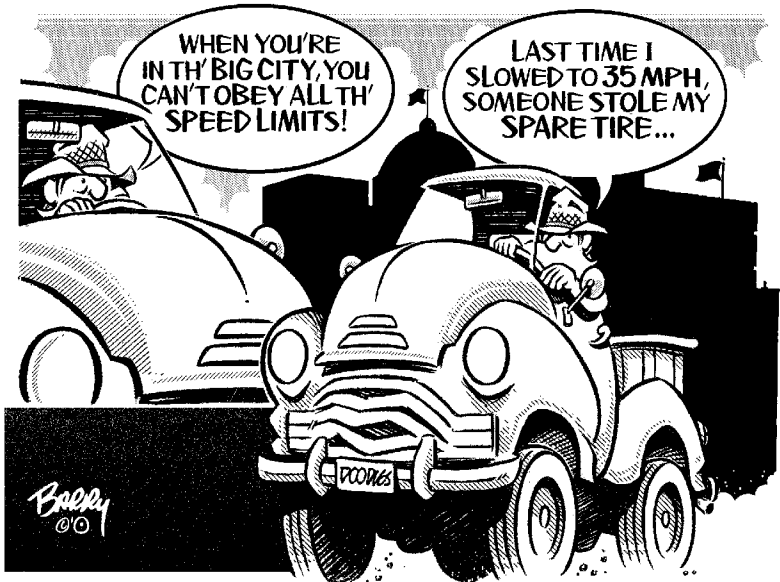


Photo courtesy of Wilderness Watch

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 farsseeing 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



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.

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.



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LOGGER

Continued from Page 1A

starts. From that point on, the day progressed with several logging-based events such as the two-man crosscut, choker races and much more.

South Fork Logger Days is one of many competitions held across the country, though numbers are dwindling every year, South Fork holds its place among the best logging competitions in the country and is well attended every year.

The community center was also packed with vendors from all over Southwestern Colorado. Logger Days marks mid-summer and is extremely popular among vendors in the area. This year also marked the 30th anniversary of the event and with that came even more enthusiasm from attendees, competitors, and vendors.

South Fork began as a stage stop for weary travelers in the mid-1870s for the Barlow and Sanderson Stagecoach. The stage came to the area from Missouri and opened a stage route in 1874 in Del Norte. At that time, only a toll road ran from Del Norte up the Rio Grande to where South Fork is now, and the town was known to travelers as Baxterville.

Soon after the stage came to Del

Norte, it was not long before the route stretched further west turning the toll road into a stage road and bringing travelers to areas located both west and north from the junction in South Fork. As mining encampments began to spring up in the Summitville area, South Fork turned into a lumber community and sawmills started up to process timber for the mines.

In 1882, the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad made its way from Alamosa, through what would become Monte Vista into Del Norte and pushed further west marking the end of the Barlow and Sanderson Stagecoach. Though stagecoaches lasted another several years, the rail became the main source of travel in the area and began what would become the area's Boom days.

The town survived the lumber industry for most of its history until the late 1980s when laws changed, making it harder to cut timber throughout the US. After the lumber industry basically shut down, the town, as many others in Colorado did at the time, turned to tourism for economic growth which is what the town relies on today.



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

South Fork Logger Days events like the adult ax throwing competition to the two-man crosscut brought people to the area for a weekend full of fun.

ROCK

Continued from Page 1A

will be transformed into a geologists' dream for three full days beginning Friday, Aug. 2.

Well over 40 vendors will line the rock hewn halls of the community center offering tales of discovery, snippets of geological lore and of course, rock and mineral of all shapes and sizes.

Mineral County's geology has fueled a long legacy of interest and fascination from early day prospectors and surveyors to modern mining engineers and mineralogists and mining investors. One of the world's largest volcanic calderas created unusually rich ore deposits that eventually gave birth to the Creede mining district.

Millions of dollars' worth of silver, gold, lead, and zinc were extracted before the last mine closed in 1985.

Creede, which survived fires, floods, and mining depressions, became known as the "little town that would not die."

The spectacular Pillars of Hercules, remnants of an ancient rhyolite wall, frame Creede's bustling Main Street district. Victorian-era buildings today serve as gift shops, restaurants, galleries, and bed-and-breakfasts.

Proceeds from exhibitors' fees benefit the Creede Underground Community Center and the Creede-

Mineral County Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center.

The tunnels and caverns of the Underground Mining Museum, Community Center, and Fire Station were blasted into the solid rock walls of Willow Creek Canyon by three miners and volunteer helpers. The community project was completed in 1992.

Creede is a geologic haven for amateurs and professionals. The 17-mile Bachelor Loop passes old town sites, mine buildings, and other relics of Mineral County's silver boom. The Last Chance Mine offers on-site tours and on-site rockhounding opportunities.

This event features many opportunities to learn about rocks and minerals, even beginner rockhounds will enjoy this show. Vendors bring specimens from all over the world to showcase during the event and are on hand to answer questions and tell tales of how the specimens were collected.

The event begins on Friday, Aug. 2, and goes from 10 a.m. to 5 each day through Sunday. For a full schedule of events and more information, visit www.creede.com.



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

Forty vendors of fine arts from all over the U.S. took part in the South Fork Friends Foundation's third annual Arts and Crafts Fair.

FAIR

Continued from Page 1A

part of the South Fork Community for several years, beginning as a community fund organization that helped with community-based project like providing for the South Fork Fire Rescue, building and maintaining the community baseball fields, supplying and working to improve Rickel Park, and the ice-skating rink which now doubles as a basketball court.

Through the years the organization

has raised funding to participate and plan events like the arts and craft festival to offer support to the visitors of the area during the summer and winter months and support the growing economy and surrounding community.

Now, with the arts and craft festival in the books, the organization will be setting their sights on the end of summer and their largest event to date, the Alder Ass race. This

event is in its third year and brings hundreds of burro racers to the South Fork area.

This year, the event is set for Aug. 31 at Brown's Park north of South Fork along Highway 149. The event has grown over the last three years and typically sees 50 to 60 racers each year.

For more information or to see a full schedule of events, visit www.southforkfriendsfoundation.org.



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The annual Creede Rock and Mineral Show will be on Aug. 2-4 at the Creede and Mineral County Underground Community Center.

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Ladies Aid thanks community for continued support

By LYNDISIE FERRELL
CREEDE — The Virginia Christensen Multi Use Facility was packed to the brim on July 17 with well over 200 people mulling around looking for treasures provided by generous donations and the efforts of Creede Ladies Aid Society. The annual Ladies Aid Rummage sale was off to a great start and there was no slowing it down.

Eager shoppers were greeted at the entrance by volunteers and members of the organization who were happy to offer a friendly smile and give personalized suggestions of where to start. From books of every genre to trinkets perfect for a country home, there was something for everyone.

Ladies Aid member Lori Dooley was one of the many organizers for the event and said, "We were so blessed this year. We have never had this amount of donations to deal with and luckily, we have some great businesses down Valley who are willing to help us with what is left over. We were taking donations weeks before the actual event and our storage facilities were plum full. It is just so heart filling to have this much support for what we do and the community we serve."

Creede Ladies Aid is the oldest organization in Creede and is celebrating their quasiquintennial year. For 125 years, this wonderful organization has served the community through their several charitable efforts.

The final numbers for the event have yet to be tallied.

The time and effort that goes into the preparation of this event is one that takes a village to create and each of the members along with a

large sprinkling of volunteers is the sole reason the rummage sale brings so much joy to the community in Creede.

The following is a list of services Ladies Aid offers the Creede community and where the money goes from the sale:

- assist with rent
 - assist with medical bills
 - assist with heating bills and firewood
 - contribute to the Creede Early Learning Center
 - contribute to the Mineral County Antibiotic Program
 - arranging bereavement dinners for local families, when asked
 - contribute to the Senior Lunch Program
 - contribute to the Virginia Christensen Multi Use Facility
 - contribute to the Creede Community Church
 - contribute to the Creede Repertory Theatre's Friday Youth Camp
 - assist with veterinary bills
 - provide sewn fabric bags (made by the Sewing Sisters) full of toiletries to migrant workers in the Valley
 - provide fabric bags (sewn by the Sewing Sisters) and age-appropriate toiletries to kids placed in emergency foster care
 - donate quilts, neck pillows, walker bags, blankets, dining "coveralls" and more items sewn by the Sewing Sisters to Veterans at Homelake
 - Sewing Sisters gift each new Creede baby with a handmade quilt.
 - provide a cash gift, card and cookies at Christmas to Veterans at Homelake
- Also, Ladies Aid:

- distributes homemade cookies at Christmas to local businesses as a token of thanks
- prepares food for Creede's Community Thanksgiving Dinner
- sells cookbooks available in local shops as a fundraiser
- makes a chocolate treat entry for

- the town's Chocolate Festival contest during Thanksgiving weekend
- sells homemade crafts during the Chocolate Festival and through December at the "Christmas Corner" set up in the Creede Community Church
- makes the "World Famous" chili

rellenos casseroles to sell at the annual rummage sale
 The organization is always seeking new members. Anyone who would like to be a part of this group, can reach out to President Janet Harrison at janetbalthesharrison@gmail.com.

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



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The Creede Ladies Aid Rummage Sale was considered a success by the group that is celebrating 125 years as an organization.



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The Creede Ladies Aid Society and their volunteers were all smiles for the annual Rummage Sale on July 17. Donations to the organization for the event were more than ever before.

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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 Kaye 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 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.



Courtesy photo

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

Chapel of SF hosting Valley duo



Courtesy photo

The Chapel of the South Fork, 116 Landon Dr., will be hosting Valley duo Lorraine and Amy at 6 p.m. on Friday, July 26, for a live worship concert. Lorraine and Amy have been writing and sharing their original music with churches and public venues since 2017. They are looking forward to sharing songs from their first, second and third CDs, as well as a few new ones. Lorraine and Amy will be joined by musicians Kathy Herrera on bass guitar and flutist Heather Hefner. The concert is free to all.

CAC's Music in the Park to feature classical musicians

CONTRIBUTED

CREEDE — Creede Arts Council's Music in the Park to feature classical musicians from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 28 in Creede's Basham Park.

"Prepare to be enchanted by the soul-stirring melodies of Santa Fe's acclaimed Mariachi *Diferencia*, an eight-piece traditional ensemble that will transport you to the heart of Latin America with their vibrant rhythms and rich harmonies," organizers stated.

Back by popular demand, the CMAC all-stars Duo Zuber, featuring the dynamic duo of Pat on flute and Greg on marimba, will take you on a musical journey spanning classical to new age compositions and arrangements, showcasing their

unparalleled virtuosity and artistry. Experience the captivating vocal prowess of tenor Dane Suarez, who is known for his captivating performances. He was also featured early in the week in "On the Stage of Sondheim," CAC's co-production with Creede Repertory Theatre. From soaring Spanish art songs to powerful classic operatic arias and many styles in between, Suarez's voice will resonate with emotion and grace, leaving you spellbound.

Music in the Park is sponsored by the Creede Arts Council. CAC is offering this concert in conjunction with the Creede Musical Arts Collective. This concert is free and open to the public. No ticket needed.



Laughter Is the Best Medicine

As a young woman, I was extremely serious. Because of the years of sexual abuse I endured growing up, I really never knew what it was like to have a childhood—to live care-free and just laugh and play.

I'll never forget the time I went to see a doctor several years back. As he examined me, he remarked, "You're an intense person, aren't you?" He was right. My personality is by nature a little more serious, but I had to learn how to enjoy my life.

Joy is a major part of God's plan for us. Romans 14:17 tells us that the kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. It's part of His will for our everyday lives!

What is joy? It's not just about entertaining ourselves all of the time or doing something fun. As I mentioned, joy has been defined as everything from "extreme hilarity" to "a calm delight." Since I'm a more serious person by nature, the "calm delight" definition is usually my state of joy. But a good belly laugh is sometimes just what we need!

Joy is also a spiritual weapon. For instance, Nehemiah 8:10 (AMPC) says, "...the joy of the Lord is your strength..." And Psalm 16:11 (AMPC) tells us where to find joy. It says, "...in Your presence is fullness of joy, at Your right hand there are pleasures forevermore."

Like peace, God is our Source of joy, but we also have a choice. Life will never be perfect—we will always have circumstances to deal with. But it's how we respond to those circumstances that makes all of the difference.

Proverbs 17:22 (AMPC) contains some great advice if we will heed it. I know it's simple, but it's more powerful than we think. It says, "A happy heart is good medicine and a cheerful mind works healing..."

Take a moment and think about how you've been approaching life. Do you find yourself just trying to make it through the day? If you're honest with yourself, can you even remember the last time you had a good laugh? Well, I want you to know that the joy of the Lord can ease anxiety, depression, and emotional and physical pain...it can bring you a new level of satisfaction in life.

Laughter is the outward evidence of inward joy, and it is proven to make you feel better. I once heard someone say that laughter is like

internal jogging, and I think that is so true. Laughter improves emotional and mental health, it lifts our spirits, and it dispels worry.

It's almost impossible to laugh and be sad at the same time. This is why we would be wise to express our joy and take time to laugh every chance we get. God has given us the ability to laugh for a reason. It may seem like a little thing, but laughter is vitally important in the battle against discouragement, stress, anxiety, fear, and worry. It's a tool from God that benefits us in so many ways.

Interestingly, there have been studies done that show laughter has some exciting benefits: Laughter causes the release of endorphins, a chemical in the body that relieves pain and creates a sense of well-being.

It can raise your energy level, relieve tension and change your attitude.

It increases antibodies and strengthens your immune system.

A good belly laugh causes you to inhale more oxygen and stimulates your heart and blood circulation. It's like internal aerobic exercise!

Laughter lifts our spirit, improves our mental, emotional, and physical health, and de-stresses our mind. And (here is the best part)...it costs nothing.

We have a proven, God-given weapon against stress that is free of charge and that we can use at any time, day or night.

Maybe you haven't laughed—I mean really laughed—in a very long time. If that's the case, it's probably adding to the discouragement or depression you may be experiencing today. You'll find that you will feel better after a hearty laugh.

Sometimes I feel clean and refreshed after a good laugh. If I am tired and weary from dealing with life's issues, I often feel like my soul is a dusty closet—stale and in need of fresh air. But when I take the opportunity to have a really good laugh, it seems to "air my soul out," refreshing me and lifting the load off my tired mind.

You may be thinking, "Well, Joyce, I don't have anything to laugh about!" Many times, I don't either, but when you do make the time, you'll be amazed at how different you will begin to view your job, your family, your relationships, yourself, and even your walk with God. You'll become a person whose first response to stressful situations is faith instead



of fear—joy instead of sorrow.

Philippians 4:4 (AMPC) says, "Rejoice in the Lord always [delight, gladden yourselves in Him]; again I say, Rejoice!"

As you go about your day, **make this your goal: Rejoice in the Lord!** As the joy of the Lord gives you strength, you'll be able to face any problems you have to deal with, and you'll enjoy your life while you're doing it.

If you're like I was—if you're too serious about life—it's time to lighten up! Learn to laugh at yourself and the things that normally frustrate you. You don't have to laugh about your problems, but thankfully, you can laugh as you trust God to take care of them.

No matter what you're going through today—no matter how intimidating your situation feels, no matter how stressful things are, and regardless of how discouraging life may seem—always remember that God loves you.

You are special to Him, and He sees what you're going through. He cares about every detail of your life, and He is already working on a solution for the things that threaten to overwhelm you.

So, when things get tough and you feel like giving up, make a decision to run to God and place your trust in Him—decide to rejoice right in the middle of what you're going through. Because He's the One Who can take away all of your worries, cares and anxieties... and fill you with joy.

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

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

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Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser listens to Alamosa resident, Darrell Cooper, about the Kroger-Albertson merger.

AG Weiser talks youth mental health, mergers and fences

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — While he was in the San Luis Valley this week, Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser told the Valley Courier, “I have an obligation as the people’s lawyer to really listen hard and find solutions [to problems]. That’s what I’ve done in a range of other areas and that’s what I’m going to do here.”

FENCES

Weiser was repeating what he had told a large group of residents from San Luis who had gathered to discuss egregious damages and hardship caused by a 20-mile 8-foot wire grid fence around an area known as La Sierra, an area of deep, historic importance. The fence was erected by William Harrison, the billionaire ranch owner from Texas.

The fence, people told Weiser, is restricting the ability of wildlife to reach sources of water and interfering with typical patterns of migration. Its construction also involved the bulldozing of a 20-yard-wide path through forests and habitats, causing further harm to wildlife and creating significant erosion that has resulted in large deposits of sediment on property outside of the ranch.

“I have not seen many public meetings like I just witnessed,” Weiser said. “Over 70 people at that meeting in the middle of a workday in a county that has 1,000 people. People wanted and needed to be heard. I listened and learned a lot about how this fence is affecting the community, the water and wildlife and even mental health.”

“We’re going to work with the county and see what we can do. I have an obligation as the people’s lawyer to really listen hard and find solutions. That’s what I’ve done in a range of other areas and that’s what I’m going to do with this fence, as well. We’ve committed to work with the county and to make sure that no one gets bullied, or their rights get trampled.”

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Weiser, who was in Alamosa for the grand opening of Hope in the Valley, is also focused on youth mental health.

In 2020, Weiser, on behalf of the state of Colorado, filed a lawsuit against Juul Labs after an investigation showed the company was targeting youth in their marketing of e-cigarettes and misrepresenting the health risks.

The lawsuit was successful, and Weiser reached a multi-state settlement of \$462 million, of which \$31.7 million was allocated to Colorado.

“We’ve already given out our first round of grants from suing Juul. We just announced \$817,000 in grants to the valley. That’s round one,” he said.

“Now we’re working on round two. We want to see school-community partnerships addressing youth mental health.”

Weiser recalled a roundtable

discussion in 2023 devoted to the topic of youth mental health.

“Jamie Dominguez talked about his work that he’s doing with young people. Cindy Medina is teaching kids to fish and to read. We know there are a lot of programs and collaborations working with young people. The goal is how do we lift them all up? How do we bring people together for young people who are hurting? I’m really looking forward to what type of grant proposal people can put together here,” he said.

According to information from the Office of the Attorney General, of the \$817,000 awarded to the San Luis Valley, Alamosa School District received \$244,968; San Luis Valley BOCES received \$273,870; and Sierra Grande School District received \$100,985.

KROGER-ALBERTSONS MERGER

During that same visit in 2023, Weiser met with residents, ag producers, union officials and employees of two of the grocery stores in Alamosa – City Market and Safeway – regarding the proposed merger of Kroger (which owns City Market) and Albertsons (which owns Safeway). If the merger happens, there is the likelihood that the future of Safeway is uncertain.

According to a Tuesday announcement from Albertsons Companies and Kroger, 89 of the 103 existing Safeway stores in Colorado would be sold to C&S Wholesalers Grocers, a company based in New Hampshire. Included in the list is Safeway in Alamosa.

“That was a powerful conversation, and I took it with me. People were saying we need to take more control of our local food ecosystem. We have too little competition, too little local food available. This merger is already taking a problematic situation and making it worse,” he said.

In February of 2024, Weiser filed a lawsuit in Denver District Court to block the \$24.6 billion proposed merger.

When asked for an update, he said, “The hearing is in August in Denver. We’re asking for a preliminary injunction to stop this merger from happening. The Federal Commission is bringing its own case in Oregon - some states are part of that. We’re bringing our own case here in state court, and Washington is bringing their case to state court, too.”

One area of expertise in Weiser’s background is antitrust after he served as senior counsel to the Assistant AG for the Justice Department Antitrust Division from 1996 to 1998 followed by his 2009 appointment by President Obama as Deputy Attorney General in the Justice Department’s Antitrust Division.

“I think we’re going to win,” Weiser said. “We’ve got the right arguments on our side. We’ve got the evidence we’ve collected. And this is really important to the people of Colorado.”

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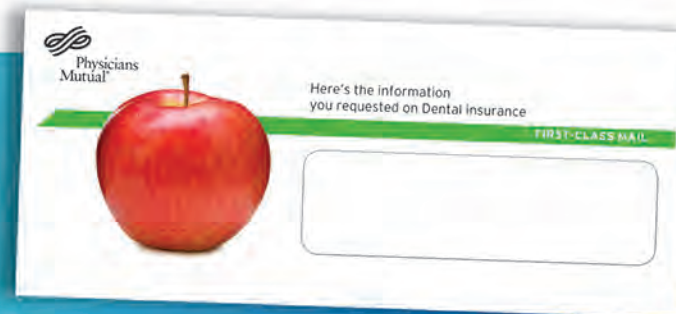
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Bristol Head Bakery presents 39th Annual Snowshoe Shuffle Aug. 3

CONTRIBUTED

CREEDE — Join in the fun and support Mineral County Search and Rescue. The 39th annual Snowshoe Shuffle 5K run and walk will be held at 9 a.m. on Aug. 3.

Registration will start at 8 a.m. The race will begin at Basham Park in downtown Creede. Runners will start at 9 a.m. and walkers will start at 9:02 a.m. Awards are given to both runners and walkers in each age division — and there are a lot of age groups.

“This race is for all abilities, ages, and sizes. Make this race as fun or challenging as you like. Runners, walkers, and baby strollers are welcomed as this is a fun family event,” organizers stated.

All entrants will receive a long-sleeved tech T-shirt celebrating the dark skies of Colorado.

Stay after the race for medals for the top three male and female

runners and top three male and female walkers. There will also be ribbons for the top three finishers of each age and gender group for both the run and walk. The age groups are: 6 and under, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-15, 16-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90 plus. While waiting for awards people can enjoy delicious cookies donated by Bristol Head Bakery, fruit, and water.

“We look forward to seeing you at this year’s event as we help support those who help us by volunteering their time to serve the Mineral County Search and Rescue,” organizers stated.

If you want to be involved by don’t want to walk or run, come help support the racers. For more information, contact Deb Haverfield at 719-850-7777.



Snowshoe Shuffle participants ready for the start of the 5K run and walk.

Courtesy photo

Another great week at High Valley Community Center



BY HIGH VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

DEL NORTE — High Valley Community Center (HVCC) is having so much fun this summer! 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 have a split field trip on July 24 – all our green shirts will be

going to the Rio Grande Farm Park and all our orange and blue shirts will be going fly fishing at Beaver Creek.

Our last field trip of the summer will be to Lathrop State Park on Aug. 1. 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 had a relaxing movie day in Pagosa Springs! The kids had so much fun watching “Puss in Boots” at Liberty

Theater and chowing down on popcorn. We picnicked at the park afterward and spent some time playing.

We are so excited for another week of fun! Find updates online at theHVCC.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.

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

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



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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.

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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.

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.



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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					

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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	
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			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	

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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
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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
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44 FARM SERVICES

ANIMALS
45 ANIMAL BREEDING
46 PASTURE FOR RENT
47 HORSES & CATTLE
48 PETS & SUPPLIES
49 ANIMAL CARE
50 LIVESTOCK
RECREATIONAL
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53 TRAILERS
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56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
57 INVESTMENTS
TRANSPORTATION
58 MOTORCYCLES
59 VEHICLES WANTED
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61 4X4'S
62 VANS
63 TRUCKS
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05 Notices

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

07 Help Wanted

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

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!

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

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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

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) From 7/18 (inches)				
		7/18	7/17	7/16	7/15	2day	3day	4day	5day	7day
Moravian 69	04/05	0.12	0.14	0.12	0.13	0.26	0.38	0.51	0.67	1.04
Moravian 69	05/05	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.18	0.40	0.58	0.76	0.98	1.45
Early Wheat	04/05	0.14	0.17	0.14	0.15	0.31	0.46	0.60	0.80	1.22
Early Wheat	05/05	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.18	0.40	0.58	0.76	0.98	1.45
White Wheat	04/05	0.17	0.20	0.17	0.17	0.37	0.55	0.72	0.94	1.41
White Wheat	05/05	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.18	0.40	0.58	0.76	0.98	1.45
WinterWheat	10/01	0.09	0.11	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.30	0.40	0.53	0.81
Potatoes										
Norkotah	05/05	0.20	0.22	0.19	0.19	0.42	0.61	0.80	1.03	1.52
Centennial	05/05	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.18	0.40	0.58	0.76	0.98	1.43
Nugget	05/05	0.18	0.20	0.17	0.17	0.38	0.55	0.72	0.93	1.36
Alfalfa	Est.	0.22	0.24	0.20	0.20	0.46	0.66	0.87	1.12	1.66
Lawnglass	Est.	0.18	0.20	0.17	0.17	0.38	0.55	0.72	0.93	1.38

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

CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Friday & Saturday, July 26-27, 2024

Friday
Tack 3:00 PM
Horses 4:00 PM

Saturday - 9 AM
Tack, Machinery
Antiques, etc

Directions: From Monte Vista, CO take Hwy 15 (Gun Barrel) South 13½ 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" 59½"x59½" wall hanger, green purple & blue "Trip Around the Wolves" 110"x100" quilt, "Old Fashioned Double Wedding Ring 102"x116" quilt, green, yellow & brown Old Fashioned Double Wedding Ring twin size quilt, 94"x114" red & white pieced top, Black, gray & red "Star Medallion" queen size top, 100"x110" 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.



THIS IS ONLY A PARTIAL LISTING. WE WILL BE ACCEPTING YOUR QUALITY CONSIGNMENTS UNTIL FRIDAY NOON, JULY 26. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT ELECTRONICS, GLASSWARE, TIRES, FURNITURE, BOX LOTS, AND JUNK. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANY ITEMS. WE WILL BE SELLING IN MULTIPLE RINGS ALL DAY SO COME OUT AND SPEND THE DAY BIDDING, BUYING, SOCIALIZING, AND EATING GOOD FOOD WITH US.



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For More Info Contact
Phil Eicher 719-849-8261
Tim Graber 719-588-5757

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RV's Are Welcome
Auctioneers include
 Mel Yoder-MO, Morris Yoder-KS, Calvin Raber-IN, Jess Raber-IN
 Les Longenecker - PA, Nathaniel Longenecker - CO
Lunch & Bake Sale by Amish School



Bring A Friend

Multiple Rings All Day

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



San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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

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

NEW PRICE

1,270 Sq.Ft. Off-Grid Cabin on 5.24 Acres - Creek!
 \$272,500 | MLS #809447
 7541 Indian Creek Rd. Fort Garland, CO

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

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

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 LUXURY HOME BROKER
 M: 719-873-5605

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

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

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UNDER CONTRACT

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

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

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NEW PRICE

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

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UNDER CONTRACT

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

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DOMESTIC WELL SEPTIC SOLAR

NEW PRICE!

Hunting Cabin on 40 Acres - Bordering National Forest
 \$220,000 | MLS #812863
 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath Del Norte, CO

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

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All of my properties are detailed in my BLOG
 Please scan -->

Rito Hondo Estates- 18 Rural Mtn Lots Avail
 17.5 & 35 Acre Lots
Owner Financing Available
 West of Antonito in the Conejos Canyon CO

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NEW PRICE!

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

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 M: 719-873-5605

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!
\$599,000 | MLS #811695
13725 Road 104 South Alamosa, CO

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

Rio Grande Riverfront Home
4 Bedroom, 4 Bath, Approx. 3,740 Sq. Ft. / and 0.630 Acres
\$1,595,000 | MLS #815364
11 Iron Bridge Place South Fork, CO

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

Mountain Outlook /Approx. 69.750 Acres
\$245,000 | MLS #806781
000 County Road 13 Del Norte, CO

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

Amazing View and Year-Round Creek Front!
Approx. 7.520 Acres/\$172,500/MLS# 813894
1416 Bear Creek Circle, South Fork, CO

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

2 Bedroom, 1 Bath 1,440 Sq. Ft. on 198.07 Acres
\$2,777,700 | MLS #812760
5295 County Road 28 Monte Vista, CO

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

CHARMING HOME
2 Bedroom, 2 Bath, Approx. 1,364 Sq. Ft.
\$250,000 | MLS #814179
334 Broadway Monte Vista, CO

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

The Stunning Grande Ponderosa!
Approx. 2.54 Acres
\$2,250,000 | MLS #813982
695 Escondida South Fork, CO

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

Ready to Move in Home!
\$150,000 | MLS #810416
103 Antonito Street Romeo, CO

TATE HUFFAKER
ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®
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BEAUTIFUL RIVER LOT FOR SALE!
APPROX. 0.520 ACRES
\$174,900/MLS#812252
63 Doe Circle South Fork, CO

AUNDREA LILLARD
ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 706-622-0799

Mountain Paradise! River Island Ranch
Approx. 9.620 Acres
\$125,000 | MLS #815119
423 Frontier Way South Fork, CO

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Exceptional 70 Acre Ranch Property Borders the Rio Grande River!
\$2,500,000 | MLS #812559
12286 HWY 112 Del Norte, CO

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Build Your Private Mountain Retreat!
APPROX. 1.710 ACRES
\$112,100/MLS#814971
545 Church Creek Drive South Fork, CO

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M: 706-622-0799

Perfect Live/Work Property
APPROX. 3.47 ACRES
\$799,000/MLS#813618
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Charming Lovely Home
Approx. 1,544 Sq. Ft. / 3 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom
\$380,000/MLS#814904
175 Orondoa Road South Fork, CO

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AUNDREA LILLARD
ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 706-622-0799

Steffens & Co. Realty, Inc.
719-873-1700
SteffensRealty@GoJade.org
30636 W. US HWY 160
South Fork, Colorado

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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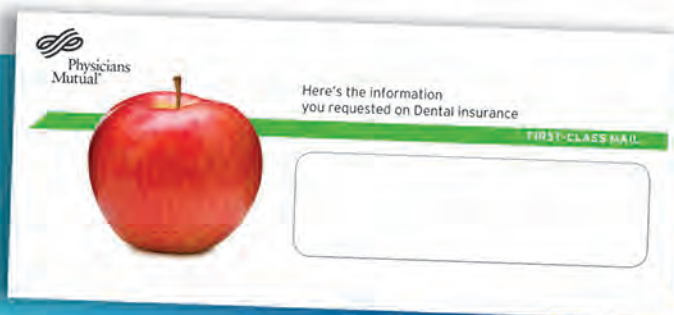
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 or go to Dental50Plus.com/Monvis



'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 crafted Ranch Style Mountain home is 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 al fresco dining. As you soak in the mountain vistas, enjoy the comforting shade of the ponderosa pines, listen to the babbling stream, and watch for glimpses of elk, deer, and other wildlife. The culinary kitchen is a chef's delight, ready for gourmet creations. Whether you seek a permanent residence or a vacation rental, create lasting memories in this idyllic setting. Start living your mountain dream—call and schedule your showing today! **MLS#815727 - \$669,500**



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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