



“Gateway to the San Juans”

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Thursday, July 25, 2024

75¢

## Tidbits

### 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.

### 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.

## Guillon named new president of CCALT

CONTRIBUTED

LAKEWOOD — The Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust, a statewide nonprofit, conservation service organization, has elected Stacy Kourlis Guillon to become its seventh president. Guillon started her term on July 1.

Her rural roots and lifelong love for production agriculture have shaped her personally and professionally. Guillon will help CCALT navigate a new chapter in working lands conservation as CCALT continues to expand its staff, services, and

programs. CCALT opened a new regional office in Del Norte in November of 2023.

“We are thrilled to welcome Stacy Guillon as the new President of the CCALT Board of Directors. Her extensive experience and deep commitment to agricultural land conservation will be invaluable as we continue our mission to work with Colorado’s farm and ranch families to conserve productive agricultural land,” CCALT Executive Director Erik Glenn said. “Stacy’s background, *Please see CCALT on Page 2A*



Stacy Kourlis Guillon

## Explorer Program opens a new world

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — There have always been kids who wanted to be a “fireman,” at some point in their lives, and Aiden Clark was no different. Clark, who just graduated from the eighth grade at Ortega Middle School, has always wanted to be a firefighter. But, for a lot of students at Ortega Middle School and other schools where students *Please see EXPLORER on Page 7A*

Students in the Explorer Program are learning how to use the tools necessary to cut the roof from a car, all part of their extrication training they received in the program started by the Alamosa Fire Department this year. Eight students were selected, and all completed the program.

Photo courtesy of Adam Lopez, engineer AFD and coordinator of Explorer Program



## Creede Rock and Mineral Show first weekend in August

By LYNDIE 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 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 Lyndie Ferrell

The Creede and Mineral County Underground Community Center 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.

*Please see ROCK on Page 4A*



## Adams State Salazar Center to host Jason Ullmann

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Salazar Rio Grande 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.

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.



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# 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.

## OBITUARIES

### Shirley Ricketts April 12, 1932–June 7, 2024

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

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

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

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



family holidays and events. They enjoyed RV traveling and toured the US from coast to coast.

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

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

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



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

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

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

### Lonnie Torrez

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

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

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

As an avid Denver Broncos fan, Lonnie's cheers could be heard from miles away, his loyalty as steadfast as his ability to remember your favorite



dish. His love for travel was only 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](http://www.RogersFunerals.com).

## CCALT Continued from Page 1A

experience, and leadership will allow CCALT to further build upon the incredible foundation and accelerate our ability to serve the membership of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and other agricultural families across Colorado."

Guillon becomes the first female president of CCALT since its founding in 1995. She replaces Koger Propst who helped guide CCALT through a period of unprecedented growth and success. Guillon joined CCALT's Board of Directors in 2017 and has served as a corporate officer since 2019. She has co-chaired the board's Relevance and Strategic Partnerships Committee and Governance Committee for the last two years. She said she is excited to help CCALT advance to its next step as a conservation organization that not only serves agricultural producers, but also finds ways to include all Coloradans in its mission.

"I am honored and humbled to lead this innovative, influential organization. As Colorado grows and evolves, CCALT's mission to support Colorado's farm and ranch families in their stewardship of productive lands becomes even more urgent and important," Guillon said. "I look forward to building additional partnerships with agricultural families to conserve even more working lands for the benefit of all Coloradans."

Guillon is a well-known and respected arbitrator and mediator in the Denver area. Before co-founding Decisioncraft, an alternative dispute resolution firm, she was an attorney at Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP, litigating complex cases of all varieties, with a focus on agricultural disputes. Before entering private practice, Guillon clerked for Judge Timothy Tymkovich of the United

States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. She was named one of Denver's Top Lawyers, agriculture section, by 5280 Magazine from 2020-2022, and included in the 2019 Who's Who in Agriculture from the Denver Business Journal.

Guillon grew up on a sheep and cattle ranch in Northwest Colorado. She has worked and lived on both coasts but returned to her home state and has resided on the Front Range for the past decade. Guillon sees how Colorado has changed in the last few decades but believes the state and its people are still closely connected to its agricultural roots and western history, and that CCALT will play an integral role in connecting the agriculture and conservation industries.

"While there are many organizations out there working to help consumers make the connection between food and ranching, CCALT is uniquely positioned to connect ranching to classic Colorado vistas and to environmental conservation and stewardship," Guillon said. "Making that connection between agriculture and conservation is an important part of this organization's mission to benefit future generations."

CCALT's Board of Directors is made up of 20 dedicated individuals who share a deep commitment to agriculture and conservation. Notably, 60% of board members are agricultural producers, a unique aspect facilitated by appointments from the Colorado Cattlemen's Association. Directors with varied professional and personal backgrounds ensure CCALT prioritizes landowners in conservation strategies and that its efforts are tailored to the needs and values of Colorado's farm and ranch families.

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

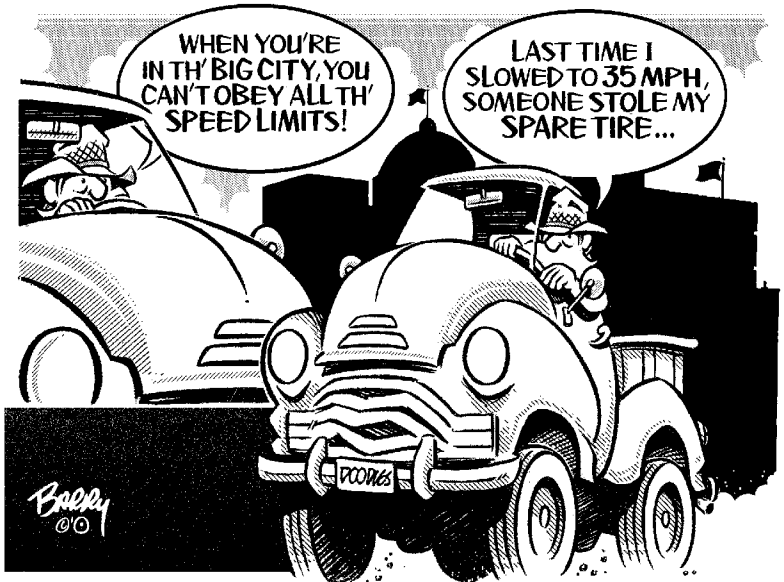


Photo courtesy of Wilderness Watch  
Bob Marshall Wilderness in Montana.

## Aged manure for sale

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

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

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

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

Ol' Dutch spends a lot of time looking and scheming about buying things cheap and, actually, I have been pretty successful in finding some great deals.

Why, just this last winter I found some water pipe and electrical wire for the new house for one tenth of the cost at the local gyp joint. And there is nothing like a good deal to get this old Scotchman fired up let me tell you what.

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

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



Trout Republic  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

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

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

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

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

Kevin Kirkpatrick and his Yorkie, Cooper, fish, hunt, ATV or hike daily. His email is Kevin@TroutRepublic.com. Additional news can be found at [www.troutrepublic.com](http://www.troutrepublic.com) or on Twitter at TroutRepublic.

## 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

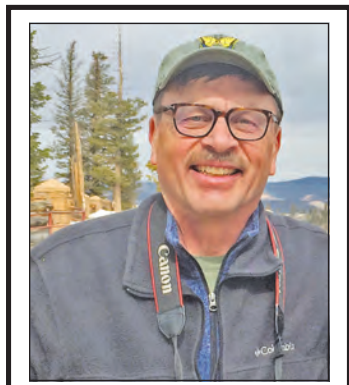
Wilderness Act provides, we could try to reinvigorate a spirit of humility toward wilderness. We could practice restraint, understanding that designated wildernesses have deep values beyond our human uses of them.

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](http://writersontherange.org), an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He is conservation director for Wilderness Watch, a national wilderness conservation organization headquartered in Missoula, Montana.



By Kevin Proescholdt

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# 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.



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

# SFFF hosts successful Arts and Crafts Fair



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. 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.

By LYNDISIE 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 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](http://www.southforkfriendsfoundation.org).

# ROCK

Continued from Page 1A

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](http://www.creede.com).



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.

## Christmas In July Sale!



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# Logger Days in South Fork hits the mark

By LYNDISIE 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 darts. 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.



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.

## ASU President presents Stampede scholarships



Photo by Adams State University  
Pictured, left to right, Ski-Hi Stampede Committee Director Karla Willschau, scholarship recipient Cade Temple, Adams State President David Tandberg, Ph.D., Darin Tandberg, and scholarship recipients Jessie Barraclough and Olivia Miller. The recipients received a \$3,500 scholarship to attend Adams State at the 102nd Ski-Hi Stampede on Sunday, July 14.

# FAITH HINKLEY VETERAN MEMORIAL PARK FUNDRAISER

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

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



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

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

### EVENTS SCHEDULE

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

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# 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 Freeland 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 to 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](http://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](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

Joyce Meyer is a *New York Times* bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *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](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

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# EXPLORER

Continued from Page 1A

may come from homes with economic challenges, learning what's involved in being a firefighter while still at a young age is pretty much out of reach.

That's where the Explorer Program comes in, a 75-hour training program that exposes kids ages 14 to 18 to what it's like to be a firefighter. This week, Alamosa Fire Chief Bill Stone gave the Rotary Club an overview of the program as it concludes its first year. He opened by introducing Aiden, a recent graduate from the group of eight who participated.

"I love the program," Aiden said. "I love everything you learn. I've always wanted to do it. I grew up watching my uncle do it every year in Pueblo. He's an engineer [with a fire department], and I saw how it works. And when Adam (Lopez) went to my dad and said they were going to do the program, I was excited. I've been waiting for a long time to be in the program and I finally got to do it."

Stone then provided a little background.

"My wife teaches at Ortega Middle School, and she said that she sees so many kids who have no hope. Economically, a lot of the kids are at a major disadvantage, have no support at home and they just need... something. A lot of people were trying to think of what could be done to support our youth, so, the wheels were already turning."

Stone saw the Explorer Program as an immediate fit for those teenagers – boys and girls – who need something to look forward to in life that would also hold such interest that the experience could possibly prevent them from getting into bad habits.

"I've been a part of fire departments where they had Explorer Programs, but those were affluent areas. It seemed like it could make an even greater impact

to initiate something like that here."

So, I spoke with some of our fire guys. I spoke with (Alamosa City Manager) Heather Sanchez and a lot of different people."

Stone admits that "there was pushback, as always happens with new programs." But he kept at it. "I saw the bigger picture as being more important than the pushback. I told them this is bigger than you or me or all of us, and, eventually, this is going to come back around and affect us all in a positive way."

As is also true with any new program, funding was needed to get it off the ground. Stone singles out two people who were invaluable.

Adam Lopez, an engineer with the Alamosa Fire Department, works with the Boys and Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley and was able to obtain grant funding to make the program a reality. Reyna Martinez, who works with RETAC [Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council], garnered even more support for the effort. And Stone "rearranged some things" in his budget to make it work.

"We just wanted to get the program rolling and expose [the students] to what it could be like. We invited them to weekend duties and various trainings. They went through CPR, and we got many of them red cards, a qualification needed to fight wildland fires."

To be successful, the program also had to be led by the right person. Chief Stone does not hold back in praising AFD Engineer Adam Lopez for organizing the program and heading up much of the training.

"Adam Lopez did an incredible job in training this first class of explorers," Stone said.

At the end of the program, some of the 18-year-old students wanted to pursue a career in firefighting or volunteer at a fire department. One student is going to Leadville Junior College to pursue an Associates in Fire Science. Others just wanted to test it out and see if it was right for them.

But even those students gained from the experience. "Those students said, 'I may not want to do this, but I learned a lot about teamwork and physical fitness. I got a lot of positive out of this and I spent my time in a positive way.' That's what we wanted to accomplish."

Aiden is the youngest in the group at 14 years old. Stone said they weren't certain about reaching out to students still in middle school. But he's such a "stand-out kid", they now know that they can reach out to students who are that young and still have it be a successful experience.

Some of the other training they were exposed to was automobile extrication. "They went through the same training all of basic firefighters go through, so they got to learn how to utilize the jaws of life and all the cutting tools."

Stone also brought in firefighters from Milwaukee, Wis., and South Carolina that he had known for years who provided training on ladder work, hose, forceful entry. "That was a very taxing weekend. They worked their butts off, but they got a lot out of it."

When asked about his favorite part, Aiden said "the rescue part." He's also more interested in structure fires than wildland fires.

"It's been a lot of fun. They learned a lot from us, but we learned a lot from them, too," Stone said. He also added that the students put in 75 hours of training and, in exchange, received a \$700 stipend.

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# Cody Webb performing in Creede for Up and Over Celebration

## CONTRIBUTED

**CREEDE**—San Juan Sports, Kip's Grill, Broken Arrow Ranch and Land, Vacation Rental Collective, and Creede Repertory Theatre are proud to continue the Creede Sunday Creek Series this summer with Cody Webb performing on July 28.

"We have already had great turnouts for our races at Deep Creek Trail, Middle Rat Creek Trail, and Miner's Creek Trail. On July 28, we invite everyone to come to Creede and participate in the Up and Over Celebration," organizers stated. "We will meet in front of San Juan Sports before 9 a.m., when the race starts. This race is free and only as competitive as you want to make it; walk, run, jog, skip, bring your dog, or just cheer everyone on."

The course will go from San Juan Sports to the Up and Over trailhead, through the Up and Over, then up East Willow Road till the turn around point, and finally back to San Juan Sports - 6 miles total. There will be a shorter course for children under 12.

"After the race, we are having a full day of fun," organizers stated.

First there will be yoga in the park at 11:30 a.m. to help stretch those sore muscles. Bring your own mat. At 12 p.m., prizes will be awarded and a raffle. Prizes are for the top three finishers for men, women, and children under 12. All

participants get a raffle ticket and can win an assortment of prizes from our various sponsors.

San Juan Sports is closing Main Street in front of the store to allow for Sunnyside Bar drinks to be consumed outside for an afternoon of live music.

Starting at 2 p.m. and going to 4 p.m., the Creede Musical Arts Collective will be having music in the park. This week's performers are "Santa Fe's acclaimed Mariachi Diferencia, an eight-piece traditional ensemble; CMAC all-stars Duo Zuber, featuring the dynamic duo of Pat on flute and Greg on marimba; tenor Dan Suarez, known for his captivating performances; and pianist Alaina De Bellvue."

At 5 p.m., San Juan Sports and Sunnyside Bar are presenting country artist Webb. He grew up in the small town of Ridge Spring, S.C., and was a featured artist on the 2019 NFL Draft intro narrated by Dolly Parton. You may know him from his singles "Don't Grow Up Too Fast" and "Crazy On Me". He has opened for Morgan Wallen, Sam Hunt, Riley Green, and Charlie Daniels, has gotten over 19 million streams, and is on over 160,000 playlists.

There is no entry fee for any of the events of the day.

"Just come enjoy a day of racing, friendship, and lots of great music," organizers stated.



Courtesy photo

On July 28, everyone is invited to participate in the free Up and Over Celebration in Creede. Following the race, a 'full day of fun' is planned, including a concert by country music artist Cody Webb.

# SAGUACHE

## Arts Walk & Hollyhock Festival

*Join us July 27th, 2024*

*10 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

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

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

Single-day tickets (which don't

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

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

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

The lineup is as follows:

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

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

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

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

# DAYS

Continued from Page 1

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

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

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

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



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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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Arts Walk & Hollyhock Festival

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

Come enjoy galleries, restaurants, shops and booths.

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

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

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

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



# Open Quilt Show returning to SLV Fair

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

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

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

# PARK

Continued from Page 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# ESTIMATED CROP WATER USE

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

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

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

# 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 "savag" 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.**

**Terms:** Cash, Credit Card or good check. Nothing removed from premises until paid for. Not responsible for accidents or theft. Everything is sold "AS IS, WHERE IS". Announcements day of auction take precedence over printed material.



Vendor Booths are welcome

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

No Buyers Premium

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

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

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

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

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

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

**UNDER CONTRACT**

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

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

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

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

**NEW PRICE**

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

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

**UNDER CONTRACT**

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

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

**DOMESTIC WELL SEPTIC SOLAR**

**NEW PRICE!**

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

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

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

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

**Dee Plucinski**  
 Luxury Home Broker  
 Licensed in 2011  
 I know mountain land  
**719-873-5605**  
 Dee@SLVluxuryproperties.com

**3D VIRTUAL TOURS**  
**PROMPT, EASY COMMUNICATION**  
**VIDEO WALKTHROUGHS**  
**RESIDENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHER**  
**LICENSED & INSURED DRONE PILOT**

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

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

**NEW PRICE!**

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

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

# 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®  
M: 719-298-6560

**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

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

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

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

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

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

**Perfect Live/Work Property**  
APPROX. 3.47 ACRES  
\$799,000/MLS#813618  
4 El Dorado Lane South Fork, CO

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

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

**Charming Lovely Home**  
Approx. 1,544 Sq. Ft. / 3 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom  
\$380,000/MLS#814904  
175 Orondoa Road South Fork, CO

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

**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.



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

# SLV 911 Emergency Telephone Authority offers reverse 911

## By JOHN WATERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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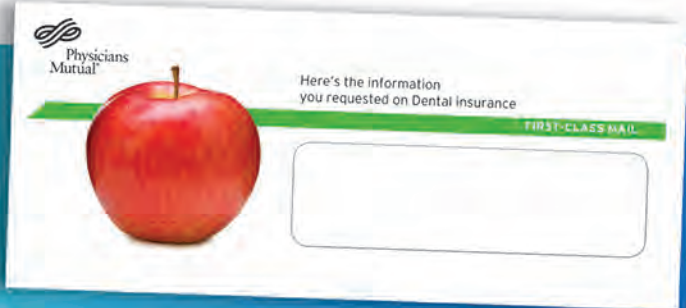
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# 'Breaking the Silence of Slavery'

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

**CONTRIBUTED**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## La Garita Arena Project meeting

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

## Community Open Classes at SLV Fair

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

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# Giving back to those who give so much

ACSO deputies issued life-saving vests

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

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

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

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

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

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

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



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

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

stopping a bullet from a handgun — once.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

might save a life."

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



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# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

## 0254 Timberline Trail • South Fork

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



## 328 Fir Drive • South Fork

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



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## 193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

Charming Mountain Retreat with Breathtaking Views Nestled in the picturesque town of South Fork, CO, this finely finished Ranch Style Mountain home 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**



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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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## 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**



**JUST LISTED**

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