

**2024 SLV FAIR AND SUMMER AGRICULTURE**

See What's Happening at the Fair, and Get Updates on Agriculture

**JULY 31, 2024**

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# The Del Norte



# Prospector

"Gateway to the San Juans"

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**2024 SLV FAIR AND SUMMER AGRICULTURE**

— Inside this week's Del Norte Prospector

## Colorado Supreme Court denies Town of Del Norte's appeal attempt

*Lower court ruling voiding trustee Anzalone's censure stands*

by former trustee Laura Anzalone that claimed the town violated Colorado's open meetings law when it censured her in 2021.

Certiorari is a court process to seek judicial review of a decision of a lower court or government agency. The denial of a petition for a writ of certiorari signifies only that the court has chosen not to accept the case for review and does not express the court's view of the merits of the case. The odds were not in the Town of Del

Norte's favor as a petition for a writ of certiorari is rarely granted.

Anzalone, who was a trustee from 2018-2022, was censured by the town board in a special meeting in October of 2021. Four trustees and the mayor went into closed-door, executive session for the stated purposes of receiving legal advice "concerning Trustee removal" and "Action by Town Board ... relating to Trustee removal," according to town records.

After the board exited executive

session, Mayor Chris Trujillo announced there would be a "motion for censure" rather than a removal of Anzalone from office.

Trustee Shelly Burnett then read from a document censuring Anzalone for allegedly "encouraging citizens to file complaints" about an ordinance, being "deceptive" when requesting a special meeting, and "creating unnecessary tension in the work environment" for town staff. The

*Please see APPEAL on Page 2A*

### Tidbits

#### Silver Thread Studio Tour set for Aug. 17

The 2024 Silver Thread Studio Tour will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 17. The tour is a one-day event where 19 local artists will be opening their home galleries and studios to the public to answer questions about their work, perform demonstrations, and offer work for sale.

Studios and galleries are located on or near the Silver Thread Scenic Byway. Stop No. 1 is in the Indian Trails subdivision off Highway 160 in South Fork. The final stop, which includes 10 of the artists, is at the Studios at Bristol on Highway 149 southwest of Creede. The artists work in a wide variety of media including fiber arts-weaving, metal, quilting, clay, water media and oil painting, photography, jewelry making and woodworking.

The Creede Musical Arts Collective will bring pop-up concerts featuring Midnight Cricket Club to studios and scenic locations along the tour.

Brochures with addresses and maps will be available at the Creede and South Fork visitor centers or can be downloaded from the Creede Arts Council website [creedeartscouncil.com](http://creedeartscouncil.com).

For more information, contact Creede Arts Council by email at [creedearts@outlook.com](mailto:creedearts@outlook.com) or by phone at 719-658-0312.

#### Town of South Fork introduces TextMyGov

**SOUTH FORK** — The Town of South Fork now offers a new way for the public to stay in touch with what is happening in the town. The Town of South Fork has implemented a new program called TextMyGov. It is a text-based program that allows the community to sign up to receive texts from the town for alerts regarding water outages, road work, events and more.

The public can text the town with concerns regarding the roads, weeds, prairie dogs, water or other nuisances and items they have questions about. To opt-in just text "Hi" to 719-974-4441. To find out more, go to the Town of South Fork website at [townofsouthfork.colorado.gov](http://townofsouthfork.colorado.gov).

#### STAFF REPORT

**DEL NORTE** — The Colorado Supreme Court earlier this month denied the "petition for writ of certiorari" by the Town of Del Norte, which was attempting to have a lower court's ruling overturned in the lawsuit

## Summer in the San Juans



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell  
The San Juan Mountains are alive with late summer wildflowers and a surprise around every corner. From bighorn sheep to treasures like an albino chipmunk, there is always a site to be seen around the San Luis Valley.

## Colorado Master Gardener program accepting applications

#### CONTRIBUTED

Do you love gardening? Whether you are a person doing your own backyard gardening or someone who does it for a living, the Colorado Master Gardener program may be for you. The Colorado Master Gardener program is where you learn in-depth about gardening in Colorado. The 12 gardening classes include vegetable gardening, tree care, diagnosing problems, weed control, plant pathology, soils and some time spent on mountain gardening. The program will be taught totally on-line, starting November 2024 and going through March 2025.

Getting signed up is a two-step process, first applying, and then after being accepted, registering.

*Please see PROGRAM on Page 7A*

## Despite good natural conditions, human-bear conflict spiking across southwest Colorado

#### CONTRIBUTED

**DURANGO** — Wildlife officers across southwest Colorado have seen a considerable increase in human-bear conflict in July, a worrisome trend well ahead of hyperphagia.

"We are having to handle a lot of bears right now," said CPW Area Wildlife Manager Adrian Archuleta of Durango. "It's been hot and heavy here for the last two or three weeks, and it's not showing signs of slowing down."

"We know people hear this from us all

the time, but we really need the public to do their part right now. Properly securing your trash and removing attractants is the first thing people can do to help."

*Please see CONFLICT on Page 7A*

**An adult male (boar) black bear is released from a Colorado Parks and Wildlife trap after being relocated from underneath a porch in Pagosa Springs.**

Courtesy photo



### Looking for a new AG lender? Look no further!

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# OBITUARIES

## Karla Elizabeth Heckaman

Karla Elizabeth Heckaman, a dedicated and respected longtime Deputy with the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, passed away on July 25, 2024, in Del Norte, Colo. She was born on May 27, 1955, in Del Norte, Colo. Karla led a fulfilling life that touched the hearts of many.

Throughout her professional career as a Deputy, Karla exemplified integrity and commitment, leaving a lasting impact on her colleagues and the community she served. Her dedication to public service was truly commendable and she will be remembered for her unwavering dedication to upholding the law and ensuring the safety of others.

Karla's educational journey was marked by academic achievements, having earned a bachelor's degree from Adams State University in 1977. Not stopping there, she pursued further studies and obtained a master's degree in counseling and furthermore took some Ph.D. classes. This pursuit of knowledge and growth reflected her intellectual curiosity and passion for learning.

Outside of her professional endeavors, Karla found joy in various hobbies and interests. She had a deep love for sports, found solace in the company of her beloved cats, and cherished moments spent with her great-nieces and nephews. Her kind and nurturing spirit extended not only to her work but also to her personal life.

Karla's memory will forever be treasured by her surviving family members: sister, Carol (Paul) Voris, niece, Gail McDowell, nephew, Michael (Rachel) Voris, great-nieces and nephews, Giada, Brock, Josiah, Beau, and Zakiah.



She was preceded by her father, Norman Heckaman, mother, Helen Paulson Heckaman, and twin sister, Kathy Heckaman.

A Celebration of Life service in honor of Karla is scheduled to take place at Mountain Valley Mortuary in Monte Vista, Colo., on Aug. 3, 2024. The event will begin at 2 p.m. as friends, family, and colleagues come together to commemorate the life of a remarkable individual whose legacy will continue to inspire all those who had the privilege of knowing her.

In remembrance of Karla Elizabeth Heckaman's indelible contributions to both her profession and personal relationships, may she rest in peace knowing that she has left an enduring mark on all who were fortunate enough to have crossed paths with this exceptional soul.

In honor of her love for animals, contributions may be made to the Conour SLV Animal Shelter in care of the funeral home. To express condolences, view a tribute slideshow or to stream the service, please visit [www.mvmortuary.com](http://www.mvmortuary.com).

## APPEAL

Continued from Page 1A

board members present approved the censure.

Anzalone then filed suit in 2022 against the board. Attorney Katayoun Donnelly argued it had violated Colorado's open meetings law by going behind closed doors to discuss whether to censure her, only coming back out to "rubberstamp" the decision.

Trial judge Crista Newmeyer-Olsen initially ruled in favor of the town in October of 2022.

Newmyer-Olsen dismissed Anzalone's open-meetings lawsuit, concluding that the board's opinion of her "performance as a trustee, which took the form of a censure," was not subject to the law because a censure does not concern the "formation of public policy."

Anzalone appealed to the Colorado Court of Appeals. A three-judge panel for the Court of Appeals in February ruled in her favor and voided the censure.

The panel of the state's second-highest court wrote that Newmyer-

Olsen "failed to recognize that the censure was a formal action and therefore ... involved the Town's policy-making powers."

Shortly after the Court of Appeals ruled, Del Norte trustees voted 4-3 to send the decision to the Colorado Supreme Court. The public was divided on the issue.

Some said pursuing the case was not in the best interest of the community and that the money going toward the supreme court appeal would be better used elsewhere in the town. Other community members spoke for the decision, stating that the case needed to be resolved one way or the other because the money used to fight the case had already been spent.

In the months since the decision, the town has undergone several changes including voting in a new mayor, Burnett, in the spring and electing new trustees. Mayor Burnett and Anzalone were advised by their legal counsel to not comment on the verdict from the state supreme court at this time.

## Michal Jean Thompson

Oct. 24, 1945 – July 9, 2024

Michal Jean Thompson, 78, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on the morning of July 9, 2024, at her home in Highland Village, Texas. Born to Gladys and Alton Berry on Oct. 24, 1945, Michal's life was a tapestry of loyalty, kindness, and dedication to her family and friends.

Michal was born in Gladewater, Texas, and later moved to Carrollton in 1950 where she grew up with her siblings, Pat Kozak and Jo Wysong. Her childhood was filled with simple joys such as neighborhood baseball games with the Fultons and Shaws on Rosemon Avenue, cheerleading, and vacationing with her family in Colorado, which laid the foundation for her love of nature and the outdoors.

After being a member of the first graduating class from RL Turner High School in 1964, she pursued her passion for the entertainment industry by becoming a Casting Director. She had the opportunity to meet several actors along the way including her heartthrob, Kevin Costner.

In 1995, Michal rekindled a



relationship with her high school friend, Kirk Thompson and a budding romance ensued. They made it official, marrying in 2005 and then began their journey by relocating to South Fork, Colo., where they resided in their dream home, they named Riversong.

Michal's greatest joy in life was her family. Her children, Sean Stone and Shelley Neustupa were her pride and joy, and they blessed her with five amazing grandchildren who

became the center of her universe. Her children and grandchildren will forever cherish their summers with Sita at Riversong, where her famous monkey bread for breakfast became a staple of every trip!

Michal was preceded in death by her parents, Gladys and Alton Berry and survived by her devoted husband Kirk; her children, Sean Stone and wife Kathleen, Shelley Neustupa and husband Brad; her five grandchildren, Cameron Neustupa, Cameron Stone, Colby Stone, Caden Stone, and Cody Neustupa; and her beloved sisters Pat Kozak and Jo Wysong, as well as her lifelong friends, who together were known as the Steel Magnolias.

Michal's smile could light up a room and her laughter could fill the largest of spaces. She was a force of nature and an endless river of love and positivity that swept those around her into her current. She will be greatly missed.

We will carry our memories of you in our hearts forever. Until we see you again.

## Leonard Martinez

of patriotism and camaraderie.

Leonard's passions were as diverse as they were heartfelt. He found joy in the simple pleasure of playing the lottery, hoping for that lucky scratch-off ticket. Bingo nights were a source of excitement and community for him. His love for music was not just a hobby but a creative outlet, as he poured his soul into writing songs. Leonard's hands were skilled and caring, whether he was under the hood of a car or meticulously tending to his lawn, his pride in his work was evident to all who knew him.

Spirituality was the compass by which Leonard navigated life. His faith was unwavering, and it guided him through life's challenges and triumphs. His family was his sanctuary, the place where he found the most joy and fulfillment. Leonard's love for his wife, Louella, was unparalleled. He often proclaimed that she was "the best cook in the world," and their inseparable bond was a testament to their enduring love.

A recitation of the rosary will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 18,

Leonard Martinez, a man of spirited intelligence and profound faith, passed away peacefully on July 14, 2024, in Pueblo, Colo. Born on Aug. 5, 1950, in Center, Colo., Leonard's life was a testament to the love and dedication he had for his family, his country, and the simple joys that life had to offer.

Leonard's journey began as the cherished son of Josie and Celedon Martinez, whose memory he now joins in eternal rest, along with his beloved daughters Leeann, Louann, Gwen, and Jessica.

His life was a tapestry woven with the love of his surviving family members, who were the cornerstone of his existence. His devoted wife, Louella, was his lifelong companion and best friend. Leonard's legacy continues through his brother Elmer, sister Gloria, daughter Anneli (Mike) Savala, and son Leonard William Jr. His grandchildren, Alexis (Jerry) Huff, Austin Echeverria, Genesis Savala (Diego Villegas), Devon Martinez (Kriselle Dupont), Michael (Ceri) Savala, and Jeremiah Silva, along with great-grandchildren Tanzen Garcia, Wynona Huff, and Shia Savala, will carry forward the light of his spirit.

A proud Veteran, Leonard served his country with honor and valor in the United States Navy. His service aboard the U.S.S. Blue Ridge took him across the globe to places such as Vietnam, Okinawa, Hong Kong, and Rio de Janeiro. His experiences during his service not only shaped his character but also instilled in him a deep sense



2024, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Monte Vista, Colo. A Memorial Mass will be held on Friday, July 19, 2024, at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Monte Vista, Colo. Burial with Military Honors will be held at Homelake Veterans Cemetery following the Mass.

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

## Consignment Auction -

### Small Animals

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# OPINION & EDITORIAL

## Rocks on the brain One person who cares can change a student's life

Ol' Dutch comes from a long line of rock collectors so it only stands to reason that he would also find pleasure in studying and finding rocks of different kinds. Rockhounding started way back in my roots – and on both sides of the family tree – so the old blood shines through, I guess.

I am not sure how that all works as it can skip a generation or two but then suddenly show back up down the proverbial blood line for no apparent reason. Grand #2 somehow caught that gene and since her toddler days has loved to look for and collect rocks.

Just yesterday Ol' Dutch's nephew came to visit for a vacation, and it appears that he is now going to be hauling rocks home by the truckload, too. His 9-year-old son has also inherited that rock-loving mania and is on his way to collecting pounds and pounds of rocks.

What is amazing is this "disease" can also appear suddenly in a person whose family never really had much interest in collecting pretty rocks. And that is what happened with Miss Trixie. She is also enamored not only with the rock collecting but with identifying just how they were formed.

She has really studied this area and the La Garita Supervolcano that occurred here from which many of the collectable rocks and gemstones originated. We spend time every summer looking for new places to find them. It was a huge volcano and, by some measurements, the largest explosion originating on planet Earth, so we are lucky to have such a place literally in our backyard.

Now Ol' Dutch has been accused more than once of having "rocks for brains" or some such thing but now I tend to have rocks in the truck for our return to our winter abode as Miss Trixie picks them up with raw abandon.

This week we will show my nephew's family some of our favorite spots – and collect more specimens, I'm sure.

And fun it will be as we have some great sites to revisit with Colorado Opal, geodes, amethyst, silver, quartz, thunder eggs, jasper, petrified wood, and innumerable other kinds of rocks.

As you all know, Miss Trixie is generous to a fault and will give away about anything she can lay her hands on. This became apparent to Ol' Dutch when I found a nice piece of amber some 55 million years old.

Miss Trixie asked to see it and Ol' Dutch expected to get it back, but she passed it on to Grand #2 who was with us that day. And poor Ol' Dutch, who



**Trout Republic**  
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

had never found a piece of that in his long lifetime, still doesn't have one in my collection as that kid won't give it back. And not to be outdone, Grand #1 found some real gold standing right next to me on the same day so I guess maybe it was just not my day. This week marks the start of the Gem and Mineral show in Creede, Colorado and vendors and collectors come in from all over the country to hawk their wares to people of like mind. They not only have raw minerals and stones but lots of finished products that they have produced such as jewelry and decorative display pieces.

It is open this week Friday-Sunday, August 2-4, 10 am-5pm and I encourage you to pay them a visit at the Creede Community Center if you want to see some great finds from local to around the world collections. Entrance is free, and the inside temps are cool.

We will have to go as I have created a rock collecting monster by exposing Miss Trixie to the hobby of rock hoarding and I am sure she will come away with some new finds there, too. That is if I can get her away from the show as she finds new "best friends" at every booth there and long conversations ensue with Ol' Dutch standing around on one foot and the other while she finds out that she and her new friends are related, something like ninth cousins, removed.

If you are interested in knowing more about the area and where to look, she is willing to share that with you and will give away my prime area locations to all that ask. Thanks again, Miss Trixie.

*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.*

By the time she took the dais at the Arapaho Charter High School graduation this spring, Principal Katie Law was beyond tired. She'd spent the last two days coaching students at the state track meet, and they made the drive back to Wyoming's Wind River Indian Reservation just in time for the ceremony.

Maybe it was the fatigue of the trip. Maybe it was the years she spent herding this class to the finish line. The hours answering their phone calls, figuring out plan Bs, worrying about them at every setback.

As she addressed the crowd, Law was nearly overcome with emotion. She paused before regaining control. There was so much to celebrate.

On this day, 14 students donned caps and gowns, the largest graduating class in the school's history. Among them were a record four students who graduated at least a semester early and three who were dual enrolled in a community

college. Eight were headed to college or Job Corps.

For a tiny school that lags far behind conventional performance measures, these were significant wins.

The school, which serves majority Native American students, reports higher-than-average rates of foster care, homelessness and involvement in the criminal justice system. Some 70% of students live in single-parent households or have a deceased parent. In 2018, the on-time graduation rate was 0%.

I spent four months visiting the school during the semester before graduation this year. Data points can't capture the hurdles they faced — lost loved ones and an education system that's historically failed Indigenous students.

But what the seniors had to their advantage was an advocate and a reliable source of support: Principal Katie Law. An athletic white woman, Law often engaged in tasks that went beyond traditional principal duties. She made sure to learn the personal lives, history and family dynamics of all her students.

Well before Law was recently awarded Principal of the Year by the



Photo by Katie Klingsporn

**Arapaho Charter High School Principal Katie Law hands out a diploma. This year, writer Katie Klingsporn spent four months regularly visiting Arapaho Charter High School on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. She wanted to know how Law had turned the school around, from zero graduates in 2018, to 14 graduates this spring, with eight going on to college or Job Corps.**

Wyoming Association of Secondary Schools in a surprise ceremony, it was clear she had a rare level of commitment.

"I get a lot of, 'That's not your job,'" she says. "I'm like, 'I know, but whose job is it?'"

"You're not going to find another principal or educator that puts as much time in as she does in the evenings, on the weekends," District Superintendent Curt Mayer said.

Law helps students get their driver's licenses, chaperones college visits and makes calls when kids get arrested. Students have gone to Law with news that they are pregnant, and

she has later cared for their infants in her office while they attend class.

The motivation is simple. "I want to see these students succeed, and I'm going to do what it takes," she said.

Law grew up in Colstrip, Mont., — 30 miles from the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. She was the daughter of educators, and never thought she would enter that world.

But she wanted to help people, and education ultimately became the vehicle for that. During her first year of teaching in Nebraska, she found a distraught student crying in the bathroom one day and sat comforting her for an hour. When Law saw her years later, the student told her she was a pivotal teacher. It dawned on Law then that she's different.

She was hired to teach in the Arapaho school's district 18 years ago, at age 23. The school was rough. Drug use and gang violence were common. She kept her head down, helped where she could. Slowly, she started building relationships.

The work can be devastating, and many fixes don't last. Law is stubborn. "I think my biggest asset is, I won't give up."

Law doesn't pretend to share a background with her reservation students, but she uses her own experiences to build empathy. School didn't come easily to her. Her brother died young from diabetes. And she witnessed a murder at age 14. These are experiences her students can relate to.

It seems to work. At graduation, the seniors handed out roses to people who were meaningful. Law received six roses, and six heartfelt hugs.


It's not realistic to expect all struggling schools to find administrators like Law, who live and breathe their jobs and don't burn out. Still, parents and educators can take this to heart: One caring adult can make an enormous difference in a student's life.

*Katie Klingsporn is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring conversation about Western issues. She lives in central Wyoming, where she reports on education and outdoor recreation for WyoFile.com.*



By Katie Klingsporn

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# Hearing delayed – again – in Mari Felix case

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

**ALAMOSA** — Mari Felix, Alamosa resident and County Clerk and Recorder, appeared in the court of District Judge Crista Newmyer-Olsen on Tuesday for, what appeared on the docket as, her first appearance. Felix is facing a charge of accessory to a crime, a class 5 felony, related to the alleged sexual abuse of a child by her husband, Martin Felix-Lopez.

Michael Martin, acting as defense counsel, addressed the court, stating there could be another delay. "It appears the DA's office has brought in an attorney to handle

specifically these kinds of cases. I believe that this will facilitate a probable resolution," he said.

Martin was referring to the recent hiring of Assistant District Attorney Wesley Stafford.

Martin told the court he recognized that this was yet another delay in proceedings, which had included, at one time, Martin saying he was unable to open a file containing information from the district attorney's office.

Judge Newmyer-Olsen said she was willing to set one more first appearance since the attorney involved in further proceedings was not in the courtroom.

She also made it clear it was time for Felix to either enter a not guilty plea or for defense and the prosecution to reach a resolution so the case could proceed.

Felix's next hearing is set for Aug. 21.

In mid-December of 2022, Mari Felix was taken into custody after one of her children reported a history of sexual abuse by Martin Felix-Lopez, Felix's husband, to a school counselor.

At that time, Felix was charged with four felonies for alleged complicity in sexual assault on a child and child abuse. However,

in early January of 2023, District Attorney Anne Kelly reduced Felix's charges to a single count of accessory to a crime, a class five felony.

When asked to comment, DA Kelly declined, stating it was a case currently in litigation which prohibits her from discussing any details in the case.

Mari Felix has been Alamosa County Clerk and Recorder since July of 2022 when she was appointed to the position following the resignation of her predecessor, Nicole Jaramillo. Just a few months later, Felix, who ran unopposed, was elected to office.



Mari Felix

# Motorcycle crash fatalities on the rise

CONTRIBUTED

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

This year is no exception. So far, in 2024, troopers have investigated 135 fatal crashes from Jan. 1 through July 16, and 15.5% (21) of those involved a motorcycle. But when the Patrol isolated just the first two weeks of July, the percentages more than doubled, with 16 fatal crashes and 37.5% (6) of those involving a motorcycle.

"Riding a motorcycle comes with greater risk than driving a car or truck due to the lack of safety features, including airbags and seatbelts. Riders are simply more vulnerable," stated

Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "This underscores the responsibility that every rider must assume for their own safety. Receiving ongoing training, wearing protective gear and adhering to the rules of the road – these are the necessary steps for every rider."

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

From Jan. 1 to July 17, troopers in District 5 responded to and investigated 18 serious injury or fatal crashes involving a motorcycle, including two in the San Luis Valley – Del Norte

and La Jara. Most riders were from Colorado but not always from the region. Sixty-one percent of the riders had an endorsement and wore a helmet.

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

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

- Blind corners with sheer rock faces next to the road
- Narrow shoulders or no shoulder at all with sharp drop-offs
- Rocks, gravel and other debris from snow melt

• Switchbacks and tight corners with little preparation time

• Congestion from RVs and vehicles towing boats and ATVs

• Potholes, bumps and weather-damaged surfaces

• Wildlife

With practice and following the posted traffic rules, you will be ready

to tackle the western slope and enjoy the scenic views.

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

## Open house to tour Horizon Heights Aug. 2

CONTRIBUTED

**ALAMOSA** — The City of Alamosa, San Luis Valley Housing Coalition, and San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group are holding an open house from 1 to 2 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 2, to tour the new Horizon Heights housing development located at the intersection of Old Airport Road and Twenty-Fifth Street.

The partners invite anyone interested in learning more about this new and innovative housing development to attend. Agency staff and representatives will be there to answer questions.

Horizon Heights consists of 18 1- and 2-bedroom homes designed to help residents who have faced barriers to entering the traditional rental market.

Horizon Heights provides leases in 6-month increments up to 2 years to help those residents move past those

barriers and transition into market-rate housing.

Horizon Heights offers access to wraparound services to help residents navigate behavioral health resources and find other stable housing.

This development is owned by the City of Alamosa but will be managed by the San Luis Valley Housing Coalition, and wraparound services will be provided by San Luis Valley Behavioral Group.

If you have any questions about the open house, contact the City of Alamosa at 719-589-6631. If you have questions about Horizon Heights and rental opportunities, contact the San Luis Valley Housing Coalition at 719-587-9807. If you have questions about wraparound services and other behavioral health needs, contact the San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group at 719-589-3671.

# Suspect in fatal Saguache County OIS identified

CONTRIBUTED

**CRESTONE** — The suspect killed in a fatal shooting by a Saguache County Sheriff Deputy last week has been identified as 40-year-old Jonathan Aaron Wood, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation reported on Monday.

On Thursday, July 25, at approximately 12 p.m., a Saguache County Sheriff's Office deputy was driving near the town of Crestone to serve papers when he observed Wood walking about a mile from the entrance of the Baca Grande Subdivision, CBI reported. The deputy recognized Wood as having active warrants.

The deputy attempted to talk with Wood when he began attacking the deputy with a 4-foot metal pipe, CBI reported. The deputy pulled out his service weapon and fired twice, hitting the suspect. The deputy immediately began performing life-saving measures, but Wood was pronounced deceased at the scene. The deputy was transported to a local hospital, where he was treated and released for minor injuries.

At the time of the shooting, Wood was wanted for a felony warrant in Saguache County for assault on a peace officer and a misdemeanor warrant in Mineral County for damaged property-criminal mischief, CBI reported.

The felony warrant was related to a series of events on Aug. 11, 2023. Neighbors had called 911 because they said Wood was acting erratically and in a threatening manner with a 4-foot wooden stick. Neighbors

reported Wood was insisting he could hear voices screaming for help from his neighbor's shed and then from inside the neighbor's home after neighbors opened the shed to show Wood no one was inside.

When deputies later attempted to speak to Wood, he threatened deputies with the wooden stick and allegedly punched a deputy in the head, CBI reported. Wood's failure to later appear in court on that assault

charge is what led to the outstanding warrant and his fatal confrontation with a deputy on July 25.

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation is assisting the Saguache County Sheriff's Office into the investigation of the fatal shooting. The deputy involved activated his bodycam and the footage is being reviewed by investigators. The deputy has been placed on administrative leave while the investigation continues.

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# Bolos and Boots raises over \$94K

CONTRIBUTED

**ALAMOSA** — San Luis Valley Health Foundation hosted a successful Bolos and Boots fundraiser, thanks to the generous people and businesses in the community who continually support SLVH's important work in providing excellent healthcare services and state-of-the-art equipment in the SLV. On Friday, July 19, more than 200 people came together at the Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista to raise over \$94,000 for a significant upgrade to SLV Health's MRI machine in the Regional Medical Center in Alamosa.

Each year, an individual is recognized with an appreciation award. This year, the recipient was Geraldine Trujillo, who currently works in the SLVH Business department and has been a dedicated employee since 1998. She was acknowledged for her initiative, enthusiasm, and support of the SLVH Foundation. In 2004, she answered the call for employees to volunteer as Foundation Ambassadors. The Foundation Director at that time, along with Marv Motz, PhD, Foundation Board member, reached out to Trujillo and asked her to help start this group of volunteers.

Over the past 20 years, she has helped with multiple events including the Sporting Clay Shoot, Bolos and Boots, and the SLM walk and run. She not only volunteers her time, but she has also supported the employee campaign with generous donations since 2005. She has done everything from serving food, folding t-shirts, creating balloon arches, and much more. Per her speech, she has also shared her foundation passion with her family.

SLVH Foundation board member, Amy McKinley, introduced Alamosa State Bank as the winner of the

prestigious Adamson Award. For over 20 years, Alamosa State Bank has been an unwavering pillar of support for the San Luis Valley Health Foundation. Their commitment and generosity have played a pivotal role in advancing SLVH's mission to provide outstanding healthcare to the residents of the San Luis Valley.

"It is with great honor that we present Alamosa State Bank with the



Courtesy photos Alamosa State Bank president Chas Moeller, right, accepts the Adamson Award from San Luis Valley Health Foundation Director Kelly Gurule during the foundation's Bolos and Boots event on July 19 in Monte Vista.



San Luis Valley Health Foundation Director Kelly Gurule, left, gives the appreciation award to Geraldine Trujillo, who currently works in the SLVH Business department and has been a dedicated employee since 1998.

prestigious Adamson Award. This award recognizes individuals who exemplify unparalleled dedication and compassion towards their community. Through their steadfast sponsorship and active participation in numerous endeavors, Alamosa State Bank has demonstrated an enduring commitment to improving the lives of others. Their contributions have been instrumental in the success of critical projects such as the Stephanie L. Miner Women's Imaging Center and the Cancer Center at San Luis Valley Health,

among many others. Their philanthropy extends far beyond financial support; it embodies the essence of community stewardship," said McKinley.

With ASB's recent donation, they became a "Pillar of the Community," donating over \$110,000 to ensure that the Valley's patients' healthcare needs are met and exceeded.

Chas Moeller, ASB President, accepted the award on behalf of the members of the bank.

"Alamosa State Bank has always felt

it is an easy decision to support SLV Health. The hospital is such a vital piece of our community, and we commend all who offer support to SLV Health and the Foundation. Alamosa State Bank is humbled and honored to receive the Adamson Award this year," Moeller said.

A "whiskey draw" brought a lot of laughs and bidding. Several winners donated their bottles back to start the auction all over again. Many thanks to RG Bank for sponsoring this fun event, along with the many other auction item donors.

## Dark Sky program at Great Sand Dunes

CONTRIBUTED

**GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE** — Join the park service on Aug. 3 at Great Sand Dunes in celebrating the dark sky. This year the special presenter is Kozmic Kyle. The presentation will start at 8:45 p.m.

Until modern times, every culture has looked to the skies to find their direction, set their calendar, record their stories, and contemplate their place in this amazing cosmos. Rather than retelling the stories from the ancient Greek perspective, we will create new connections with the stars based on your experiences. You will learn to use a monthly star map to find your new stories in the real night sky. This program is interactive and best for ages 7-adult (but all are welcome). If you can, bring a red light and a pencil or pen for drawing on your sky map.

Kozmic Kyle has been a planetarium educator for 25 years and helped set up planetarium education programs in the UK, Poland, Ghana, Kenya, and many places in the US. He is especially interested in helping empower Indigenous cultures around the world to use modern planetarium tools to record, preserve and teach their own cultural knowledge in a good way. He looks forward to moving from cloudy, light polluted Seattle into the San Luis Valley's dark skies.

Call the park at 719-378-6395, for exact location and other details.



Courtesy photo A Dark Sky program is set for Aug. 3 at Great Sand Dunes.

## Alamosa County will receive \$1.7M from the U.S. Department of Energy

*Funding to study three potential electric transmission lines*

STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has granted Alamosa County \$1,699,965 to study transmission lines in the Valley, according to Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske.

Alamosa County will conduct an analysis and extensive community engagement around three potential transmission corridors to identify the optimal route to increase electric transmission capacity to the Upper Rio Grande Valley in Southern Colorado and northern New Mexico.

According to the DOE, "In a continued effort to expedite the build out of a resilient and reliable electric grid, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced 20 projects across 16 states selected to receive up to \$371 million to accelerate the permitting of high-voltage, interstate transmission projects.

"These projects will also support community infrastructure projects along major new and upgraded transmissions lines, including upgrading public school buildings and emergency response facilities. Administered by DOE's Grid Deployment Office, today's Transmission Siting and Economic Development (TSED) grants will help advance at least 16 high-impact transmission lines across the country supporting the deployment of reliable and affordable energy for consumers and creating good-paying jobs."

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# Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado in archeological survey

By JOHN WATERS

**RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST** — According to Katie Goodleaf, volunteer coordinator with the U.S. Forest Service, a group with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC), which usually works on trail-related projects, assisted forest archeologist Price Heiner last month in conducting an archeological search.

After the fieldwork was complete, Heiner spoke with the Valley Courier and offered his assessment of the findings.

“The group conducted preliminary reconnaissance in areas that never had any archeological surveys. This gave us a sense of what was out there.

We did pedestrian transect surveys. This was a formal gridding of the landscape in a systematic way. This included marking and recording any archeological material and then recording it formally on state site forms. The idea was to get an idea of what was in that particular area.

We picked a 200-acre area that had never been surveyed before and surveyed it. We actually surveyed 125 of the 200 acres.

“We found two archeological sites. One contained culturally scattered material that included ancestral Pueblo and late Archaic. We also found some ancestral black pottery, which is classic Ancestral Pueblo. This pottery dates from 1,200 BP. We also found a projectile point from the Late Archaic that dates from about 2,000 to 3,000 years ago.

“The other site was a late 1800s refuse dump with a small prehistoric



Photoc by John Waters

**Rio Grande National Forest Archeologist Price Heiner welcomes volunteers to the national forest. The group spent four days in June conducting archeological surveys through Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado. Heiner gave the group a brief history of the Duncan Cabin built by gold miner John Duncan in the 1880s.**

component. It was probably a small prehistoric campsite that later became a dump for bottles and cans. The point we found is called a San Pedro. That is the style that dates from about 2,000 to 3,000 years ago. We also found a gray-on-black piece of pottery on the same site from about 800 years ago. This was a site where people came back and visited again,” he said.

Heiner spoke of the archeological richness of the Valley, “On the Rio Grande National Forest, we have over 10,000 documented archeological sites and they span from 14,000 years old to historic period sites about 50 years ago. We do have a relatively high percentage of early Paleo-Indian sites. That is one of the reasons that brought me here, I’m very interested in those



**Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado group stayed at the historic Duncan Cabin on the Rio Grande National Forest in Saguache County. The cabin dates to about 1880 and was built by gold miner John Duncan. The cabin underwent a significant restoration in 2011 and is now available to the public for overnight stays. The cabin is a four-mile hike, mountain bike, or horseback ride. For more information regarding renting the cabin, visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).**

first cultures that came to these landscapes and how they settled. We have a high density of these sites that date to 14,000 years ago.”

The group was comprised of about a dozen VOC volunteers. Heiner said this about these and other volunteers value to the national forest, “They are great programs; we usually have partnership coordinators. I enjoy working with the groups because I

like to expose different interested publics, people who are interested in archeology. I like people who are interested in archeology and have never experienced doing it or don’t have any formal training or education. I like to expose those people to it. People get hooked and run with it. Sometimes, I correspond with them for years. I do a lot of volunteer projects on the forest.”

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

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

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# SLV Rural Philanthropy Days registration opens

*Conference is Sept. 11-13 in Monte Vista and Alamosa*

strengthening regional Colorado nonprofits and the communities they serve. Registration will remain open while tickets last or through August. Tickets are expected to sell out quickly.

The San Luis Valley Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) conference is an opportunity for nonprofit professionals, grant makers, community leaders, distinguished speakers, and elected officials to exchange knowledge and establish meaningful relationships across their professional networks in the region. This rotating opportunity occurs every four years in the San Luis Valley region, composed of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties. RPD is a part of the Rural Action Network

(RAN), a statewide program of Community Resource Center that builds nonprofit capacity, fosters relationships, and fuels regional collaboration leading to increased grant dollars awarded to rural communities.

“Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) conferences stand as flagship events in rural Colorado,” says CRC Co-Board Chair, Leslie Baldwin. “These conferences are born out of collaboration with community leaders, fostering dialogue and tackling key topics shaped by their firsthand experiences. This platform allows nonprofit professionals to engage directly with statewide funders, partake in professional development opportunities, and connect with fellow community leaders from

across the region. Whether aiming to lay the groundwork for new initiatives or amplify existing efforts, RPD offers a vital space for networking and growth.”

Rural Philanthropy Days brings together community organizations and foundations to amplify their missions, sustain meaningful

collaborations, and surpass fundraising goals. Community Resource Center anticipates over 75 funders and grant makers to attend the September conference.

In addition to connecting rural nonprofits to these resources, the conference offers professional

*Please see DAYS on Page 8A*

**CONTRIBUTED**

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — Community Resource Center (CRC) has opened registration on July 23 for the San Luis Valley Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) conference set for Sept. 11-13 in Monte Vista and Alamosa.

This event is being organized by CRC and a steering committee of more than 20 local leaders. For over 30 years, RPD conferences have convened with the goal of

## PROGRAM

Continued from Page 1A

The first step is to apply now, between Aug. 1 and Aug. 30, at ColoradoMasterGardener.org or go to <https://cmg.extension.colostate.edu/about/become-a-colorado-master-gardener-2/>. The second step, once your application has been accepted, is you will be sent a link to register and pay.

You have the option of two different program tracks. The first is the volunteer track. If a person has time and interest to volunteer to teach horticulture and gardening to others in our community, and to develop an ongoing relationship with other Master Gardeners, they can take the class for a much-reduced fee of \$200. With the reduced fee, the volunteer agrees to provide 50 hours of volunteer time back to Colorado State University, in the San Luis Valley community, through the local Extension office after they have completed the classes. As is required of all Colorado State University volunteers, a background check and reference checks are required. After the background check is completed, you can register and pay for the course.

Not interested in volunteering? The

second track is the non-volunteer track, called the Colorado Gardener Certificate. This is more for the person who just wants to increase their knowledge for themselves. Those who

choose this program are not required to volunteer and will not join in with the ongoing Master Gardener group. This track is simpler to get

signed up. There is no application or background check required, only registration. Registration for this track opens Aug. 19, and the fee is \$545. There is a savings for early bird registration completed by Sept. 30.

For the volunteer track, the application period opens Aug. 1 and closes Aug. 30, and the first step is to apply right now. There are a limited number of scholarships available which cover part of the fee. You can learn more and apply online at ColoradoMasterGardener.org. You can also learn more from the SLV Area Extension Office by calling, emailing, or stopping in at 1899 East Hwy. 160, Monte Vista; phone 719-852-7381; email Larry Brown at [L.Brown@colostate.edu](mailto:L.Brown@colostate.edu) or Jennifer Vandiver at [Jennifer.Norris@colostate.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Norris@colostate.edu).



## CONFLICT

Continued from Page 1A

Conflicts have risen to the point where officers from the Durango area office have had to set significantly more traps compared to the same date a year ago. CPW will not trap bears in every conflict situation but will instead aim to start with an assessment of potential attractants, education and discussions of ways to prevent conflict longer term.

“We always want to intervene before it’s necessary to set a trap, but too often we are getting reports weeks after the initial conflict and once problems escalate to the point where human health and safety is at risk,” Archuleta said. “If we can get reports the first time there is an incident, we can proactively work to educate, remove attractants and give advice on securing attractants so that a trap may not need to be set.”

During most years, bear activity ramps up in late summer and fall as bears enter hyperphagia, so the early conflicts already reported have wildlife managers concerned about the forecast for upcoming months.

“It’s weird because things are green, we’ve had decent moisture and natural food is available, so it’s hard to explain why we are having so many issues,” Archuleta said. “But what we know is that it’s critical for people to call our office when they first start having conflicts with bears so we can try to solve issues before they become conflicts.”

Conflict in La Plata and Montezuma counties has primarily been centered around juvenile bears that likely have not carved out their territory in the high country or in drainages. Conflicts in the high country have been relatively few, as there is a good supply of natural forage this year and conditions suggest a strong acorn crop in the fall.

But bears living in marginal habitats

can lead to increased human-bear conflict, making it even more important for humans to remove attractants from their homes or keep a clean camp.

“Incidents start with a bear getting into one cooler at a campground, and then a few weeks later, we have a bear getting into a tent or leaning on hard-sided campers,” Archuleta said. “Or you have a bear that gets into trash, pet food left outside or a bird feeder, and then a week later, bears are getting through screen doors and windows or walking into a house through an opened sliding door. The incidents people think are small – like that cooler or pet food – lead to behavior that presents a danger to human health and safety.”

Issues elsewhere in the Southwest Region of CPW are primarily related to hobby livestock.

“We’ve had a lot of food-source issues so far,” said CPW Area Wildlife Manager Rachel Sralla out of Montrose. “We are really encouraging people to protect hobby livestock, even when it’s close to a home, with electric fencing. Electricity is an excellent bear deterrent. Electric mats or ‘unwelcome mats’ can help keep bears out of unattended cabins and homes.”

Kevin Bryan, District Wildlife Manager in Cedaredge, said it is up to all of us to do our part to keep bears wild and away from human development. He recommends always cleaning a BBQ grill after use, safely securing trash and taking down bird feeders.

“When you live in bear habitat, there should be an obligation to mitigate conflict. It’s not asking too much to get rid of or bring in bird feeders at night, including hummingbird feeders,” Bryan said. “Multiple people I have spoken with this year appear to not realize that bears

are attracted to hummingbird feeders. Of course, trash remains our state’s No. 1 cause of human-bear conflict. Making sure you are securing your trash and not putting it out on the curb until the morning of pickup is always the most important thing you can do.

“As this year is proving, just because you haven’t seen a bear in several years, doesn’t mean that one won’t show up this week and take advantage of a human food source. Make those food sources unavailable and a bear will move on.”

One concern CPW is aware of from the public is a reluctance to report bear activity over a belief it will lead to the bear being put down. Data shows that of the 3,526 reports wildlife managers received on bears in 2023, only 1.8% led to euthanization. The vast majority of conflict reports led to wildlife officers getting involved early enough to intervene, reduce conflict and prevent the need to euthanize a bear.

To report bear activity, call the local CPW office directly.

## Living by Faith in the Face of Fear

Do you ever wonder what your life would look like if fear didn't exist? For example, what if you had the confidence to pursue every passion God gave you? Just imagine for a moment what that would look like. Well, God gives us a special gift called faith so we can do amazing things for Him. And I want to encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and exercise that gift full time.

Faith gives us so much potential because it motivates us to move forward in the plans God has for us. But fear is a feeling Satan uses to keep our focus inward. It makes us feel anxious, causes us to dread the future, and it can keep us from saying and doing things that would reveal more of God's love to the world.

We need to learn to interrupt fear at its onset—before it begins to settle in our spirit. The choice is to either let Satan stop us in our tracks or to go forward in faith, believing God is in control.

The good news is, when we're struggling with fear, we can turn to God's Word for an inspiring, encouraging reality check. Romans 8:31 (AMPC) says, "...If God is for us, who [can be] against us? [Who can be our foe, if God is on our side?]" And Psalm 27:1 (AMPC) says, "The Lord is my Light and my Salvation—whom shall I fear or dread? The Lord is the Refuge and Stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?"

These scriptures are basically saying that if we believe God's Word, then we have already won the battle we're facing.

Jesus tells us in Mark 11:22 that we are to have faith in God constantly. God doesn't want you to be fearful at any time. He wants you to be bold, confident, courageous, and full of faith every day of your life—not just until you have a problem or until someone mistreats you. There's no until. And no one can stop God from answering a prayer that lines

up with His Word and His will for our life.

Throughout the course of a lifetime, we spend a lot of time waiting. And that is often the case with prayer. We can spend years praying for something to happen. And during that time, Satan will do everything he can to discourage us. He will try to convince us that God doesn't love us, that God's promises are for more worthy people, or that we didn't really hear from God in the first place. But if we will choose to trust God continually, we can keep moving forward in His plans for us.

The truth is, even if you don't see the fulfillment of every dream or desire of your heart here on earth, God will be pleased as you continue to believe in His perfect plan. And in the meantime, your faith will fill you with hope, joy, and peace.

Romans 15:13 (AMPC) says, "May the God of your hope so fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound and be overflowing (bubbling over) with hope."

Now if you knew me years ago, you would know that I wasn't always bubbling up with hope. In fact, I was in agony whenever God made me wait for anything, so I would always try to make things happen on my own. And it eventually wore me out! I remember lying on the floor, sobbing, saying, "God, I've tried everything and nothing's working. I just give up!" At that moment, the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart and said: Really, Joyce? You mean, you're going to let Me take it from here?

You see, when we're ready to let go, God is right there to fight our battles. We just need to learn to trust Him... and that comes through experience, as we take each new step of faith.

Today, instead of trying to pray my problems away, I've learned to pray for things like strength and courage,



and for the power to endure whatever comes with a good temper. With God's help, I can choose faith every time I'm confronted with feelings of fear or intimidation.

Philippians 1:2 (AMPC) says, "And do not [for a moment] be frightened or intimidated in anything by your opponents and adversaries, for such [constancy and fearlessness] will be a clear sign (proof and seal) to them of [their impending] destruction, but [a sure token and evidence] of your deliverance and salvation, and that from God."

With God's help, we can remain stable in the face of fear, putting one foot in front of the other... walking by faith full time.

Imagine again what it would be like to pursue your God-given passions in life. Don't let fear stop you! Keep seeking God. Stir yourself up with scriptures on faith. And boldly say, "God is bigger. He's working on my behalf, and I trust Him constantly."

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-part teaching resource *Overcoming Fear with Faith*. 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 (FaithWords)*. 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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# Sawmill Meadows offers unique homeowner opportunity in South Fork

By LYNDIE FERRELL

**SOUTH FORK** — When it comes to workforce housing throughout Colorado, there are only a handful of communities like the one in South Fork that offer genuine workforce housing and according to co-developer Tammy Dorsett, this is a chance for people to own a home and be successful at it.

For the past year, South Fork has watched as the new Sawmill Meadows affordable

housing project began to rise from the ground and now, thanks to a mild winter, a beautiful spring, the first phase of homes are looking for owners.

“When potential buyers go through this process, the first thing we like for them to understand is that the process is designed to make you a successful homeowner. We always try to tell people that want to apply that these homes were made so that someone who never thought homeownership was a possibility could find that they are the perfect match,” said Dorsett.

The process for buying one of the homes in Sawmill Meadows is through the San Luis Valley Housing Authority which offers programs to employed residents of the Valley that fall within certain income guidelines. San Luis Valley Housing Authority Executive Director Dawn Melgares oversees the process and helps each applicant through it while ensuring that the home loan is within their income.

“The process takes work, but it is

worth it in the end. Homeowners get the chance to lay down roots in the community and are able to afford something that can be passed on from generation to generation. It is a daunting process when you don't know, but at the end of the day, there is nothing like being a homeowner,” said Dorsett.

Sawmill Meadows Workforce Housing is now available for purchase in the San Luis Valley through a coordinated effort between Sawmill Meadow Development, the Town of South Fork, and the State of Colorado Dept. of Local Affairs. Each have partnered to construct Phase 1 of a two-phase workforce housing development.

According to developer Matt Dorsett, Tammy's husband, the project is nearing the completion of Phase 1 and will be moving into Phase 2 by the end of the summer. Dorsett also plans to develop rental workforce housing in the future.

Through the many efforts of Dorsett in partnership with the South Fork Housing Task Force and the

South Fork Town Board of Trustees, the project got off the ground in the fall of 2023 and will provide 20 low-income workforce housing for the area which follows the housing study done a year prior by the San Luis valley Housing Coalition.

Dorsett has been working diligently to bring workforce housing to the area since he and his family

relocated to the area three years ago and after learning of the housing crisis, decided to use his

experience to see that a project moved forward.

To make this opportunity a reality, Sawmill Meadow Development forged a business

relationship with Fading West in Buena Vista which has been a pioneer of workforce housing in Colorado with their innovative approach to modular home construction, utilizing high-quality materials with an efficient and standardized approach to construction.

**Sawmill Meadows in South Fork offers a unique opportunity for San Luis Valley residents who want to become homeowners. These dedicated workforce housing units are available for people who meet income guidelines and want to be homeowners in South Fork.**

Photo courtesy of Tammy Dorsett



## DAYS

Continued from Page 7A

development, educational opportunities, and relevant panel discussions pertaining to the promises and obstacles of operating a nonprofit in the San Luis Valley region.

The conference will be held at the Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista with evening receptions in downtown Alamosa. The third day will be an optional half-day of self-care and wellness with a keynote speaker followed by breakout session activities including experiential and interactive programming to put core themes of wellness into practice. There is also an optional Fort Garland and San Luis Valley Tour for grant makers.

Jason Medina, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of the San Luis Valley notes that “Rural Philanthropy Days are the perfect opportunity for urban nonprofit funders to gain a deeper understanding of rural challenges and opportunities, build relationships with local leaders and communities, and address the unique needs of rural nonprofits. This allows funders to build more inclusive and effective funding strategies, to make more sustainable and meaningful impact, and to promote greater equity in their investments in rural work.”

Featured events include facilitated tours in the San Luis Valley, a San

Luis Valley regional town hall, a panel discussion highlighting actionable change told through lived experiences, networking receptions, and capacity building sessions on the economic impact of nonprofits, building effective coalitions, and intersectionality in the nonprofit sector. During the San Luis Valley Nonprofit Community Fair on Sept. 11, regional nonprofits and local governments will have the opportunity to host a table where their peers, statewide leaders, and funders can approach them to connect and learn more about their work. Through this session, funders and nonprofit organizations can develop a mutual understanding of one another in a relaxed environment.

“This conference is so important because of its lasting impact,” said event Co-Chair, Karla Shriver. “Participants learn new skills, network with other non-profit leaders, governmental staff, business leaders and potential funders from all over the state. You can draw a direct line from the impact of this conference to increased support for non-profits and individuals living in the San Luis Valley.”

For additional information and questions, visit [crcamerica.org](http://crcamerica.org) or contact Katy Sawyer at [katy.sawyer@crcamerica.org](mailto:katy.sawyer@crcamerica.org).



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Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

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.

## Creede Rock and Mineral Show first weekend in August

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

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

The Creede and Mineral County Underground Community Center will be transformed into a geologists' dream for three full days beginning

Friday, Aug. 2.

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

Mineral County's geology has fueled a long legacy of interest and fascination from early day prospectors and surveyors to modern mining engineers

and mineralogists and mining investors.

One of the world's largest volcanic calderas created unusually rich ore deposits that eventually gave birth to the Creede mining district.

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

Creede, which survived fires, floods, **Please see ROCK on Page 8**

## What's the buzz?

*Honeybee swarm collected for new hive*

By KEITH R. CERNY

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

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

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

Haynie explained that it's normal for a hive to divide and move to a new **Please see BUZZ on Page 3**



Photo by Keith R. Cerny

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

## 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 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 **Please see EXPLORER on Page 2**

## Stunner Bridge replacement to begin



*Minimal traffic delays expected*

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

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

Courtesy photo

begin as soon as all the equipment is in place and conditions remain favorable.

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

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

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





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

# EXPLORERS

Continued from Page 1

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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**Real Estate**



# BUZZ Continued from Page 1

location as part of their natural reproduction cycle and can do so up to three times per year. He has been a registered beekeeper for about eight years.

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

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

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

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

the pollination of plants, including food production.

The hotline number is 1-844-SPY-

or visit the CSBA website at <https://coloradobeekeepers.org/>.

CSBA encourages people to support local beekeepers by purchasing locally crafted bee products including honey,

propolis, pollen and wax. Local farmer's markets are a great location to find honey and other bee products.

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Saturday 9:00 am

Location: 8037 South County Rd 2E, Monte Vista CO. Watch for signs.

**Auctioneer's Note:** Tools & Toys Auction! This is a collection of tools and toys that Mr. Ed Wiescamp put together over many years. The quality is extraordinary! Most of the items are like new, nearly all the toys are in their original boxes. This auction is a collector's dream! Preview sale items from noon to 7 pm Friday.

# Collectable Toys

These items will sell at 11 am

### Pick-ups & Cars

- 1957 Bel Air 1/18 scale
- Big A 1952 Chevy 3100 Pickup
- Big A 1963 Corvette Roadster
- Big A GMC Stake Truck Bank
- Big A Garton 1941 Pedal Car Bank
- Big A Pedal Car Bank
- Car Quest GMC 1960 Pickup
- 1955 Thunderbird
- Ford 1953 Pickup
- 1967 Beetle
- Willy's Jeep
- Willy's 1953 Jeep Truck Bank
- 1958 NAPA GMC Straight Truck FG1958
- 1925 NAPA AC Stake Truck FG 1925
- 1937 NAPA Chevy Tow Truck FG-1937
- 1960 GMC 1/2 Ton 1001 Pickup
- 1957 Chevy Convertible Bank
- 1928 Chevy Bank
- 1957 Chevy Convertible Bank
- 1946 Powerwagon
- 1931 Hawkeye Flat Bed
- 1947 Canopy Delivery Truck Bank
- 1918 Ford Tractor Trailer Bank
- 1935 Ford Pickup (2)
- 1955 Super 88
- 1957 Corvette
- 1955 Diamond T Wrecker
- 1925 KW Delivery Truck and barrels
- 1951 Ford Fire Truck
- 1947 JD Studebaker Pickup
- 1932 JD Ford Roadster
- 1923 JD Ford Model T Sedan
- 1932 JD Ford Panel Truck
- 1939 Dodge Airflow Truck
- 1918 Ford Runabout Truck

### IHC & Other Tractors

- IHC Cub Tractor
- IHC 600 Diesel
- Farmall Famous Engine
- Farmall F20 and Wagon
- Farmall Super AV Tractor
- Farmall H Tractor
- Farmall Super MTA
- Farmall C
- Ford Tractor 8N
- IHC Titan Engine
- Case Tractor
- Fordson Model F
- Case Farmall Tractor
- Allis Chalmers A Tractor
- Caterpillar 2T Track Tractor
- Minneapolis Moline G750 Tractor
- Froelich Farm Classic Gas Tractor

### John Deere

- BW Tractor
- Model R Tractor
- 1931 GP Wide Tread Tractor 1/16 scale
- 1937 Model G Tractor
- Model D
- 1/16 scale Unstyled L Tractor
- 28x46 Threshing Machine
- Model H Tractor
- Lindeman Crawler
- Model A Tractor
- Precision Scale A with Cultivator
- Precision Scale B Tractor
- Horse Drawn Wagon
- Model B Tractor Classic Tin Collectible
- Model G Tractor
- 1940 12A Combine
- Waterloo Boy 2HP engine
- 1937 Model B Tractor
- 1931 GP Tractor with Flare Box Wagon
- Model 50 with Flare Box Wagon
- Model 20 Pedal Tractor
- Model 60 Tractor
- 530 Waterloo Tractor
- 1930 GP Wide Tread
- 4010 Tractor
- Widefront G
- 1956 720
- Model 80
- Model R Precision Key
- 1937 Model BR with Flare Box Wagon
- Several Model A Tractors
- Overtime Tractor
- Model 520 Tractor
- 1920's Wayne Gas Pumps Limited Edition



### Motorcycles

- 1948 Indian Chief
- 1930 Indian Chief
- 1948 Military Indian Chief
- 1920 Scout Indian Chief
- Water Cycle 1903 H. Davidson
- 1917 V3 Speed Twin Model I H.D.



### Airplanes

- 1931 Biplane 3rd in a series
- Corgi Airplane Limited Edition
- Consolidated B24H Liberator
- 1940 Grumman Goose 4th in a series
- 1930 Travel Air Model R Mystery Ship
- 1929 Curtiss Robin 6th of series
- 1936 "The Duck" Keystone-Loening
- 1929 Burl CA-6 Sesquiplane



- ### Shop
- Napa 80 gal Air Compressor
  - Cummins Drill Press
  - 2-Pressure Washers
  - Sev. Shop Vacs
  - 3-Airless Sprayers
  - Sev. Bench Grinders
  - Metal Lathe Enco Model #110-1340
  - Shop Task Mill, Lathe & Drill
  - Grizzly Bench Top Milling Machine
  - 2-Wood Machinists Chests
  - 2-Bottom Tool Boxes on Casters
  - New Lisle Cylinder Hone
  - Battery Chargers
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- ### Model Kits & Toys
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  - Bear Wagon Kit
  - Covered Wagon Kits
  - Holiday Model Train Sets
  - Toy Train Set
  - Tyco Train Set
  - Stream Line Electric Train
  - Sharper Image Drone
  - 2-Race Car Sets
  - .027 gauge Train Track

- ### Pocket Watches
- John Deere B
  - John Deere A
  - John Deere R
  - John Deere D
  - John Deere 830 Diesel
  - John Deere Waterloo Boy
  - Revolutionary Boston Watch

- ### Vintage & Antique
- Pedal Grinder
  - Sev. 5-gal Metal Oil Cans
  - Radio Flyer Wagon



Many, many items too  
Numerous to mention

- ### Wood Shop
- Table Saw
  - Knee Mill Milling Machine #1005200
  - Craftsman Band Saw
  - Delta Jig Saw
  - Several Mitre Saws
  - Delta Planer
  - Sev. Belt Sanders
  - Porter Cable Profile Sander
  - Ingersoll Straightline Air Sander
  - Dremel 4" Table Saw
  - Sev. New Dremmels w/attachments
  - Sev. Skill Saws
  - Sev. Levels
  - Sheet Rock T Square
  - Lots of Hand Power Tools

- ### Pocket Knives
- John Deere AO
  - John Deere R
  - John Deere A
  - John Deere 420 High Crop
  - John Deere 1923 Model D Spokes
  - John Deere 830 Diesel
  - John Deere 1928 Model GP
  - John Deere B
  - John Deere 1933 Model L
  - John Deere 5010
  - John Deere Waterloo Boy
  - John Deere BO Lindeman Crawler

- ### Lawn & Garden
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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Understand intuitively
  - Two of something
  - Not involving computer tech
  - Acclaimed
  - Undermine
  - The condition of being concealed or hidden
  - Irritate
  - The process of developing a theory
  - Ceramic jar
  - Not fresh
  - Dad's fashion accessory
  - Popular review site
  - New Mexico county
  - '\_\_ death do us part
  - Fees
  - Takes with force
  - One-time Yankees rookie sensation
  - Gordon and Snider are two
  - Body parts
  - Arranges
  - Fiddler crabs
  - Mimics
  - Witnesses
  - They \_\_
  - Lasso
  - Runs down
  - In response to
  - Bird-like dinosaur
  - Metamorphic stages
  - Conditions of incapacity

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
9				10		11				12
13				14		15				
16			17			18				
19		20		21					22	
	23		24		25			26		
		27		28		29		30		
			31		32		33			
		34				35		36		37
	38			39		40		41		42
43				44		45		46		47
48			49	50				51		52
53						54			55	
56								57		
	58								59	

- Sodas are sold in these units
- Break away from
- Ethereal
- Boggy
- Animal noises
- Woman who graduated from a specific school
- The very top
- Organs in males
- Earnings
- Z Z Z
- Reddish browns
- A salt or ester of acetic acid
- A place to get off your feet
- More disreputable
- Kidney condition
- Cease moving
- Quick
- Extra seed covering
- "Survivor: Panama" winner
- Six
- One who inspects lamps
- Small parrot
- Primordial matter of the universe
- \_\_ fi (slang)

## CLUES DOWN

- Mangled
- Ruffled some feathers
- Not young
- Lakers legend
- Nocturnal S. American rodent
- Direction (Scottish)
- Intestinal inflammation
- Spring back in fear
- Owl genus
- Girls
- Unbeliefs
- Force unit
- Expired trade agreement
- Went alone

## Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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# Valley Wide Classifieds

Master's Degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain an appropriate Colorado school counselor license. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, Del Norte Jr./Sr. High Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Mrs. Hardy at 719-657-4020. Applications for certified staff positions can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.urtigers.co. (8-21)

**Wolf Creek Ski Area is hiring a Full Time Staff Accountant.** Those with Bookkeeping, Payroll, Accounts Payable or public accounting experience are encouraged to apply. Familiarity with Microsoft Excel is preferred. Attention to detail, and organizational skills are required. The office is located at the Ski Area located on top of Wolf Creek Pass and requires commuting throughout the year. This is a year-round position, with longer hours during the winter operating months, and a shorter work week in the summer months. This position offers skiing privileges, and the compensation starts at \$34 per hour depending on experience. Full slate of insurance benefits and PTO available after a probationary period. Please email resume to: Payroll@WolfCreekSki.com. (8-28)

**Wolf Creek Ski Area is hiring an Accounting Assistant.** Those with Bookkeeping, Accounting, Clerical or Human Resources experience are encouraged to apply. The office is located at the Ski Area located on top of Wolf Creek Pass and requires commuting throughout the winter months. This position offers skiing privileges, and the compensation starts at \$24 per hour depending on experience. Please email resume to: Payroll@WolfCreekSki.com

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

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

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

**MDS Waste & Recycle has an immediate opening for a Route Driver.** As a Route Driver, you are responsible to follow a route and use the supplied Android tablet to correspond pick-ups with the route. Professional and respectful communication is required between the office, other drivers, and supervisors to keep a clear picture of field activities. Your route is established and once learned should be completed in a reasonable time frame barring any mechanical or other work-related

setbacks. MDS Waste & Recycle offers competitive pay and benefits including paid vacation, paid holidays, insurance, annual reimbursement for work clothes/boots, and reimbursement for personal cell phone. Qualified candidates must have at the minimum a Class B CDL with an airbrake endorsement, excellent communication skills, general knowledge of Android tablets, and work well independently. Let's Talk Trash! Contact our office via email at mdssolidwaste@gmail.com today!

**FULL-TIME SALES**  
Valley Publishing has an immediate need in advertising sales (full-time). Any sales experience is appreciated but will train. Email resume to General Manager Brian Williams at [bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com](mailto:bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com)

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# Valley Wide Classifieds

**12 Houses for Rent**  
 For rent, 4-bed, 2-bath home with 2-car garage for \$1,400 a month just outside of La Jara. Call 719-852-0450 for more details. (8-21)

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

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

**24 Garage/Yard Sales**  
 Moving sale Del Norte Airport, 1

3/4ths miles north of Del Norte on Aug. 9 and 10 at 9 a.m. (8-7)

**36 Miscellaneous**  
**Trailer for hauling** \$3000, old metal bed, old wooden bed, free old mattress and springs, set of Heartland dishes \$150, Also an ATV. Call 661 487-4312 (  
**Cash for quality non-fiction books** and LP records. Jeff 720-315-9145 (TFN)

**Propane Refrigerators and Freezers.** We also stock "Sunstar" refrigerators and freezers in DC/AC power. Bontrager's Variety Store, 9726 S. County Road 3E, Monte Vista. (719) 852-0500 (TFN)

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

**64 Autos for Sale**  
**For sale -** 1990 Toyota 2-wheel drive super clean pickup; 2005 Toyota Ta-

coma long-bed camper shell; Chevy car 4-speed transmission. 719-850-2027

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# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



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

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

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

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**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

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 I know mountain land  
**719-873-5605**  
 Dee@SLVluxuryproperties.com

**UNDER CONTRACT**



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

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**UNDER CONTRACT**



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

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All of my properties are detailed in my BLOG

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

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**NEW PRICE!**



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

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**UNDER CONTRACT**



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

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

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

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

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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**



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bmgingrass@gmail.com  
License #100072622

## 328 Fir Drive • South Fork

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



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## 222 La Lomita Circle • South Fork

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



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License #100072622

## 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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719-850-1993  
bmgingrass@gmail.com  
License #100072622

## 1408 Bear Creek Circle • South Fork

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



**exp REALTY** **Bernadette Gingrass**  
719-850-1993  
bmgingrass@gmail.com  
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## 120 Fairway Ridge Lane • South Fork

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



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# ROCK Continued from Page 1

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).

# 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)				
						From				
		7/25	7/24	7/23	7/22	7/25	2day	3day	4day	5day
<b>Moravian 69</b>	<b>04/05</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.57</b>	<b>0.80</b>
Moravian 69	05/05	0.25	0.21	0.24	0.23	0.46	0.70	0.93	1.13	1.52
<b>Early Wheat</b>	<b>04/05</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>0.70</b>	<b>0.98</b>
Early Wheat	05/05	0.25	0.21	0.24	0.23	0.46	0.70	0.93	1.13	1.52
<b>White Wheat</b>	<b>04/05</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.92</b>	<b>1.27</b>
White Wheat	05/05	0.25	0.21	0.24	0.23	0.46	0.70	0.93	1.13	1.52
<b>Winter Wheat</b>	<b>10/01</b>	<b>0.09</b>	<b>0.08</b>	<b>0.09</b>	<b>0.09</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.62</b>
<b>Potatoes</b>										
Norkotah	05/05	0.26	0.22	0.25	0.24	0.48	0.73	0.97	1.18	1.59
<b>Centennial</b>	<b>05/05</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.70</b>	<b>0.93</b>	<b>1.13</b>	<b>1.52</b>
Nugget	05/05	0.24	0.20	0.23	0.22	0.44	0.67	0.88	1.07	1.44
<b>Alfalfa</b>	<b>Est.</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>0.53</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>1.29</b>	<b>1.73</b>
<b>Lawnglass</b>	<b>Est.</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>0.88</b>	<b>1.07</b>	<b>1.44</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 update 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)

# San Luis Valley Area Real Estate




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**UNDER CONTRACT**



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

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**Amazing View and Year-Round Creek Front!**  
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**UNDER CONTRACT**

**2 Bedroom, 1 Bath 1,440 Sq. Ft. on 198.07 Acres**  
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 5295 County Road 28 Monte Vista, CO

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**CHARMING HOME**  
 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath, Approx. 1,364 Sq. Ft.  
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**The Stunning Grande Ponderosa!**  
 Approx. 2.54 Acres  
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 APPROX. 3.47 ACRES  
 \$799,000 / MLS #813618  
 4 El Dorado Lane South Fork, CO

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# San Luis Valley Fair Schedule August 1-10, 2024

## Thursday August 1

8:00-8:30 a.m. Horse Check-in  
 9:00 a.m. Horse Showmanship and Equitation  
 (Following Show Will Be Awards)  
 10:00 a.m. Horse Test

## Friday August 2

8:00-8:30 a.m. Horse Check-in  
 9:00 a.m. 4-H Working Ranch Horse  
 1:00 p.m. 4-H Gymkhana  
 4:00 p.m. Fair Set-up (Clubs Split)

## Saturday August 3

9:00 a.m. Mandatory Livestock Exhibitors' Meeting  
**Breeding Animals Must Come Show Ready**  
 8:00-9:00 a.m. Breeding Sheep/Goat/swine check  
 11:00 a.m. Free BBQ from Rio Grande County Farm Bureau  
 10:30 a.m. Breeding Sheep Show  
 12:00 p.m. Production Meat Goat Show  
 2:30-4:30 p.m. Market Swine Check in/ Weigh-in  
 6:00 p.m. Market Swine Showmanship

## Sunday August 4

8:00-9:00 a.m. 4-H Dog Check-in  
 9:00 a.m. 4-H Dog Show  
 9:00 a.m. Mike Kelley Memorial Barrow Show  
 10:30 a.m. Breeding swine Show  
 1:00-2:00 p.m. Dairy Goat Check-in  
 2:00 p.m. Dairy Goat Judging Followed By Milking Competition/ Fiber Goat Exhibition to follow  
 4:00-6:00 p.m. Poultry Check In  
 6:00-8:00 p.m. Open Class Check in Breeding Stock  
 Check out by 9:00 p.m.

## Monday August 5

8:00-9:30 a.m. Market Goat Check-in  
 9:30-11:00 a.m. Market Sheep Check in  
 9:00 a.m. Poultry Show  
 9:00-11:00 a.m. Open Class Check In  
 12:00 p.m. Open Class Judging  
 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. 4-H/FFA Project Check In

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 4-H/FFA Project Judging  
 5:00 p.m. Poultry Showmanship  
 12:30 Goat Showmanship  
 5:30 p.m. Market Swine Show

## Tuesday August 6

8:00-11:00 a.m. Market/Breeding Beef Check-in  
 2:00 p.m. Sheep Showmanship  
 10:00-12:00 p.m. 4-H Fashion Revue & Show  
 5:00 p.m. Rabbit Check-in  
 4:00 p.m. Poultry Check out  
 5:00 p.m. Market Goat Show

## Wednesday August 7

1:00 p.m. Rabbit Show/Rabbit Showmanship to Rabbit Show  
 11:00 a.m. Beef Showmanship  
 5:00 p.m. Market Sheep Show

## Thursday August 8

9:00 a.m. Creative Cooks Contest  
 9:00 a.m. Breeding Beef Show  
 9:00 Dairy Calf Show to Follow Breeding Beef Show  
 12:00 p.m. Cake Decorating Contest  
 5:00 p.m. Market Beef Show

## Friday August 9

8:30 a.m. Round Robin  
 4:00 p.m. Sale birds back in pens  
 6:00 p.m. SLV Fair Junior Livestock Auction-  
 BBQ Presented by Rocky Mountain Farmers Union  
 6:00 p.m. Indoor Projects that did not make State Fair Check-Out  
 6:00 p.m. All State Fair Projects to Extension Office (Extension Staff)

*Dance to immediately follow the Sale*

## Saturday August 10

8:00 a.m. Tear Down/ Clean-up (Clubs Split)

KIDS ENTERTAINMENT MONDAY-THURSDAY  
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# Ag Commissioner Greenberg in Alamosa

By JOHN WATERS

**ALAMOSA** — Colorado Department of Agriculture Commissioner Kate Greenberg held a forum at the Rio Grande Farm Park on July 9 to discuss policy and the department.

About 40 farmers, ranchers, and others interested in agriculture attended the 90-minute event.

Bethany Howell, Director of Strategic Outreach and Engagement with CDA, gave a brief overview to the audience and said the department has partnered with the Colorado Farm Bureau and Colorado State University Extension in producing the feature film, "Legacy: Stories of healing and hope," which features mental health issues in the agricultural community.

After updating the audience on agriculture in Colorado, Greenberg was asked to elaborate on the film and to address mental health in the agricultural community. In this segment of the population, the rate of suicide, according to the National Rural Health Association, is about three 3.5 times the rate in the non-agricultural sector.

Greenberg said, "The film that we put together with the Farm Bureau is part of our continuing efforts to destigmatize asking for help. Ours is twofold, help increase access to [mental health] services. We're not a mental health provider but we want to help people who need services, we want to connect people to providers in their communities. The second strategy is to destigmatize this. We are a tough bunch of folks, so many of you do it alone, you figure stuff out yourself. If people are struggling you don't have to

do it alone, it is OK to struggle, and you really don't have to do it alone.

"The film, 'Legacy,' which was produced by a grant with Farm Bureau, really tells that story about people who have struggled. Our communications team has set up a five-showing tour throughout the state," she said.

The film was shown in Monte Vista on July 18. Colorado filmmaker Steve Vanderheide directed the 45-minute production.

"We have a hotline that we have set up and is heavily promoted," said Greenberg. The hotline can be reached by calling 844-494-8255 or texting, Talk to 38255. According to the CDA Rural Mental Health website, "The agricultural community has always come together to help our neighbors in a time of need and that is what this effort is all about pulling together to help others through this stressful time."

Greenberg also mentioned the partnership with the Colorado Agricultural and Mental Health Program (CAAMHP). The program's goal is to care for farmers and ranchers who have been impacted by severe and persistent drought, price instability, and the resulting impacts on mental health. CAAMHP understands the impacts of depression and anxiety.

Greenberg said the program offers members of the ag community up to six free consultations with mental health professionals.

"We have never been state-funded; we have always gone for grants at CDA to do this work. Now we have the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) that is essentially central-



Photo by John Waters

**Colorado Department of Agriculture Commissioner Kate Greenberg spoke with local ranchers and farmers at a public forum the CDA hosted at the Rio Grande Farm Park in Alamosa on July 9.**

izing mental health resources. In our budget this year, we are now going to have a full-time ag person at BHA, someone who is focused on ag. They will be responsible for setting up an advisory committee at CDA on how

to do this mental health work," said Greenberg.

For more information, visit Colorado Agricultural and Mental Health Program (CAAMHP) online at [www.campforhealth.org](http://www.campforhealth.org).

Rural Minds is a nonprofit dedicated to serving as the informed voice for mental health in Rural America and providing mental health information and resources. See online [www.rural-minds.org](http://www.rural-minds.org).

## 3 challenges facing the agricultural sector

Since the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic in early 2020, businesses big and small have faced significant challenges. Though the pandemic has ended, many sectors, including the agricultural industry, are facing familiar and unfamiliar challenges.



The agricultural sector is crucial to the survival and health of billions of people across the globe. Though it's obvious that modern agriculture is vital to feeding a global population that was greater than eight billion people at the dawn of 2024, the United Nations notes that agriculture also boosts prosperity and economies by providing jobs. That reality only underscores the notion that the challenges facing the agricultural sector are facing everyone, even those whose livelihoods are not directly linked to the industry. According to Earth.org, an organization that offers environmental news, data analysis, research, and policy solutions, the following are three sizable challenges facing modern agriculture.

1. Climate change: Perhaps no challenge is greater for humanity in the twenty-first century than climate change, and the agricultural sector is no exception. Climate change has caused shifting weather patterns marked by unpredictability and potentially disastrous developments like prolonged drought. Estimates from NASA indicate corn yields may decrease by 24 percent by the end of this century, a potentially dangerous development linked to a host of factors, including a shifting climate and elevated surface carbon dioxide concentrations that can be traced to human-caused greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Population growth: The booming global population is attributable to numerous factors, including longer

life expectancies in developed nations due to medical advancements. How to keep the global population fed at a time when the climate is adversely affecting crop yields is a significant challenge facing both humanity and the agricultural sector. As the population grows, so, too, does the demand for water, which also must be used to grow crops. Navigating this challenge will be significant, and how it's managed could affect the economic stability of the agricultural industry in the decades to come.

3. Investment: Perhaps no industry is more vital to human survival than agriculture. Earth.org notes that countries with strong agricultural sectors often boast higher standards of living and health than nations with a less productive agricultural industry. Despite that, Earth.org notes that investment in the agricultural sector is not commensurate with the growing population. Supporting measures to invest more heavily in the agricultural sector could reduce food shortages in the decades to come and ensure the agricultural sector is better positioned to address the many challenges it is already confronting in the twenty-first century.

The challenges facing the agricultural sector affect those who work in the industry but also the global population as a whole. Recognition of that reality may compel more people to support measures designed to ensure the agricultural sector can thrive and help the world to overcome potentially devastating challenges in the decades ahead.



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# Green Acre Hemp Farm harvests health

By LYNDIE FERRELL

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — Despite late spring snowstorms and record high winds, Green Acre Hemp Farm will be harvesting and processing close to 1,500 high quality hemp plants by the end of August. Owner Jim Strang, with the help of his wife Lisa and a longtime friend, the farm is set to have a successful harvest season this year.

“We always start the plants inside the greenhouse. It helps strengthen the plants before we put them out in the field and this year, we had a few setbacks with the high winds and late snow, but we ended up with a really great crop and three strains of high-quality hemp,” said Strang.

Strang has clients that suffer from a wide variety of ailments. From seizures to cancer, his product has been proven time and again as a means of excellent health. One such case happened within the last year, when Strang was contacted by a local resident of the San Luis Valley who had been diagnosed with Squamous cell carcinoma. The client had to have the right lower portion of their jaw removed and was facing a long, drawn-out recovery that included radiation and chemotherapy.

After surgery was completed, the client opted to try the CBD offered through Green Acres Hemp Farm and after only four months of using the treatment, was diagnosed cancer free without the need for radiation or chemo. “Not everyone sees the results that we heard about all the time, but some do, and the fact of the matter is, it works,” said Strang.

Squamous cell carcinoma is a common type of skin cancer. Squamous cell carcinoma of the skin is usually not life-threatening, but if



Photos courtesy of Green Acres Hemp Farm

**Jim and Lisa Strang, owners of Green Acres Hemp Farm here in the San Luis Valley, will be harvesting another successful crop of high-grade hemp by the end of August. The farm has been a staple in the area for more than 10 years.**

it is not treated, squamous cell carcinoma of the skin can grow large or spread to other parts of the body. The growth of cancer can cause serious complications.

In another instance, Strang was able to help one of his clients recover from daily seizures, even allowing the client to stop taking market grade prescriptions. “When the client contacted us, they were on their last leg. They were ready to give up, but when they started taking our high-quality CBD, the seizures just stopped.”

Strang and his wife are staples at local farmer markets across the Valley, and this year they can be found at the South Fork Farmer’s Market on Fridays. “We still have people who are curious and want to learn more so the interest in CBD is still on the rise. We had one gentleman try our products and by the next day felt better than he had in years. When we are first contacted you can hear the struggle in a client’s voice and after they start treatment, you can not only hear but see the difference in them. I know I am doing the right thing in life.”

Now with the growing season over, Strang will begin harvesting after his plants are tested by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Strang has his products tested several times a year to ensure that his clients are getting the best CBD he can offer.

“I wanted to grow a high grade CBGA which we named La Crème and a CBDA that we named Frost. Last year, both strains were tested as part of our annual requirements and came back with excellent results,” said Strang.

In addition to the La Crème and Frost strains, Strang also produced a full spectrum CBD strain that he called Sunshine Sherbert. “These

strains are used to treat all different types of ailments from some as simple as weight loss to others that are as serious as seizures, different types of cancers and even Autism in children. Over the last few years research on the effects of CBD for these ailments has increased and we are so happy to see reputable researchers from places like Harvard and Yale that proves something we as hemp growers have known all along.”

“I say it all the time, but I will never not say it. When it comes to hemp, know your growers. Know what is in your products. Know how they extract the CBDs from the plants, what parts of the plants they use. It matters when dealing with CBD just as much as it does with any other type of medicine. The market is saturated with low quality products that are mass



produced. It’s a sad truth but truth non-the-less.”

Strang also said this year, he and Lisa went down and were fingerprinted, which was part of the process required to have their hemp crop recognized through the Colorado Farm Bureau. “Our hemp is now listed just like any other crop in Colorado. It is right up there with corn or potatoes. We are held to

those standards, and we are finally being recognized.”

Green Acre Hemp Farm still has all their same, trusted products ranging from lotions, MTC, RSO, olive oil-based tinctures, gummies, and more.

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# Tami Valentine talks about being a rancher

By MARIE MCCOLM

ROMEO — Tami Valentine, who has a ranch just outside of Romeo, said that so far, the season has gone good for her and her husband, Aaron.

Valentine, who is a native of the Valley, has a ranch with her husband called “Valentine Ranch,” where they raise beef cattle and quarter horses.

“My favorite part of ranching is the horses, that is where my passion is. My husband’s favorite part is the cows, so it balances out,” she said.

Valentine stated that she also just loves the lifestyle and being out every day.

“Having an excuse to play in the dirt and going out and being on a tractor every day or being on a horse; not every day has those opportunities, and it’s something we enjoy, and don’t take for granted, that’s for sure. I love being a rancher. I love what I do,” she said.

Valentine wears a couple of different hats, she is also a counselor with a private practice, and her husband is a school-teacher in Manassa. Valentine stated that growing up, her dad, Kelvin Huffaker, and her mother, Ann, were both ranchers, but her dad insisted that her and her four brothers all go to school.

“My dad told us all, you can’t make a living just ranching, you have to go get a job and then you can ranch,” she said.

Valentine explained that her and her 4 brothers all grew up on a ranch. Ranching for her family has been a lifelong tradition. She is a third-generation rancher.

“I have been riding horses for as long as I can remember too. My dad once said, you were riding horses even before you could walk,” Valentine stated with a chuckle. “I probably was, but I don’t remember.”

Valentine stated that right out of college her and her four brothers all became ranchers, but at one point they all knew they needed to divide their ranches and go out on their own.

“Once we were out of college, we all ranched in a partnership called Huffaker Ranches. My four brothers all have day jobs too, three of them are in education, one of them is in construction. As our kids got older, we all knew it was time to start dividing the partnership. We divided five years ago. So now my husband, Aaron and I run Valentine Ranches,” she said.

Valentine stated that as ranchers, this time of year they are putting up hay for their cows.

“We run our cows on the forest in New Mexico. In the fall, we will gather all our cows and bring them home. We try to keep them all in pasture until about January, as long as the pasture will hold out. When we bring them home in January, all that hay that we put up in the summer is what we feed them,” she said.

Valentine explained that there have been a couple of times when they don’t have enough hay put up, so their operating expenses can be a little off at that point.

“This year has been a good year though because we have had good rain and everything. Some of our hay got rained on but cows will eat it,” she said.

Valentine went on to talk about her cows and calving.

“Usually in February our cows start calving. We keep them close to home while they have all their babies. About April, the calves are big enough that we can get them all branded,” she said.

Valentine explained that in the middle or toward the end of May they take all their cows back to the mountains.

Valentine said that although they used to flood irrigate on the ranch, about 3 years ago they did put up a pivot.

“We are just now getting used to ranching and farming under a sprinkler. We are not big farmers though. We farm enough to all be cowboys that’s what it



Tami Valentine and her dad Kelvin. Valentine gives much of the credit for her lifestyle to her parents.

boils down to,” she stated with a laugh.

Valentine stated that although her kids are all grown up and in college now, they all loved growing up on a ranch, and they have always had many agricultural aspects in their lives too.

“Our kids grew up in 4-H, they did the horses and the goats, and the pigs, and went to the fair every year. It’s a good way of life and a good way to raise kids. We taught our kids that they don’t eat until after the animals are fed. It’s a good way to teach responsibility to your kids,” she said.

Valentine stated that her boys are now investing in cows too.

“They went and borrowed some money and bought some cows. They got their first calf crop last year. They did really well with that. Our girls are just starting to think about what they want to do, and they are looking for some opportunities to buy cows, so they are into it as well,” she said.

One thing Valentine stated that has really helped their family, as Valentine has a day job as a therapist, and her husband has a day job as a teacher, is a program through Adams State University that has helped her kids work on their ranch and get paid while they are in college.

“Two of my kids are taking agribusiness in college. One is majoring in agribusiness; the other is getting a minor. They have an internship program where they will allow kids to do an internship on their family farm. So, they can stay working on their family farm, and get paid for it while they are going to school. That has been such a huge help to me and my husband, as we both work full-time jobs. Between all of us, we are able to rotate responsibilities like feeding cows, putting up hay and taking care of all the different things we have,” she said.

Valentine stated that she is grateful to the college for making this type of internship available for her family and for others, “It’s a huge, huge help, and we appreciate it so much.”

Valentine stated if she could say anything to anyone about being a farmer or rancher she would say, “Anybody can be involved in agriculture, you don’t have to be a farmer or rancher. You can always advocate for it too. I feel like if you live in rural areas, and you see the rancher and farmer driving home, or on their way to work, this is so much a part of our culture, our heritage, and our lifestyle. If you can’t be involved directly, it’s good to be educated in it. I feel like this helps, so that when you go to the voting booths, you make good decisions that are going to benefit agriculture, and your local communities. People don’t have to be directly involved with agriculture to do the right thing for agriculture. There’s lots of ways that people can get involved and be a positive force for agriculture to keep agriculture alive, in our rural areas.”

Valentine stated that she couldn’t be happier as a rancher, and she thanked her parents for her love of ranching.

“Without my mom and dad, ranching for our whole family would have never been possible. I am thankful that they instilled this in all of us. It’s a wonderful lifestyle. We owe it all to them,” she said.



The Valentine family – Aaron, Tami, Elizabeth, Josh, Addison, Peyton, and their dog Jill – have a cattle and quarter horse ranch in Romeo.

Courtesy photos

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Stacy Kourlis Guillon

## Stacy Kourlis Guillon named new president of CCALT

### CONTRIBUTED

**LAKESWOOD** — 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, 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.

# Career opportunities in the agricultural sector

Individuals approach their careers in various ways. Some may aspire to climb the corporate ladder, while others may pursue a career that affords them ample personal time to spend how they see fit. Many individuals look for careers that afford them ample opportunities to work in the great outdoors, which could make the agricultural sector an appealing industry.

Talented individuals with an array of diverse skills dot the agricultural sector landscape, and the following are just a few of the many careers to consider within this vital industry.

- **Equipment technician:** Data from the career experts at Indeed indicates agricultural equipment technicians earn an average salary around \$65,000 per year. Agricultural equipment technicians maintain and repair existing machines and install new ones, among their many responsibilities.

- **Purchasing agent:** An agricultural purchasing agent buys products and raw materials at wholesale. Indeed notes that purchasing agents often must meet specific purchasing quotas for processors and work with various clients who supply an array of agricultural products. The national average salary for agricultural purchasing agents is around \$51,000 annually.

- **Warehouse manager:** The receiving, shipping and storage of agricultural materials is overseen by a warehouse manager. Indeed notes that these professionals now routinely



utilize artificial intelligence products to manage inventory. Warehouse managers must know and adhere to safety procedures and guidelines that dictate how materials and products are stored. The average salary of a warehouse manager is around \$52,000 per year.

- **Sales:** Like every industry, the agricultural sector requires talented sales personnel. Agricultural sales reps sell materials and products and identify the needs of potential customers. Agricultural sales reps may spend ample time on the road at trade shows. Doing so allows them to identify customers as well as their needs and wants, and promote their own products and services. An ability to foster strong and trusting interpersonal relationships is invaluable for agricultural sales reps, who Indeed

reports earn an average of about \$60,000 per year.

- **Environmental engineer:** Environmental engineers play pivotal roles within the industry, and could become even more vital in the decades ahead as the effects of climate change become more apparent. Environmental engineers design and implement solutions that occur on agricultural sites, helping to address issues such as unhealthy soil, insufficient drainage and inefficiencies, among other concerns. A career as an environmental engineer within the agricultural industry can be rewarding and lucrative, with Indeed noting that the average annual salary for this position is a little more than \$77,000.

These are just some of the career paths individuals can consider as they explore the agricultural sector.

## SLV Fair Market Sheep



Photo by Brian Williams

Just over 100 animals were shown in the sheep show that included more than 10 classes when including the Bred and Fed and Feeder classes at the 2023 SLV Fair. The Grand Drive included the first and second place winners from each weight class.

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# 'Legacy,' mental health in Colorado ag

By JOHN WATERS

**MONTE VISTA** — About 35 farmers, ranchers, and their friends attended a showing of the mental health documentary film "Legacy," at the Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista on the evening of July 18.

The film, a partnership between the Colorado Farm Bureau and the Colorado Department of Agriculture, depicts the mental health struggles of ranchers and farmers in the state.

Earlier this month CDA Commissioner Kate Greenberg told the Valley Courier, "The film that we put together with the Farm Bureau is part of our continuing efforts to destigmatize asking for help. Ours is twofold, help increase access to [mental health] services.

"We're not a mental health service provider but we want to help people who need services, we want to connect people to providers in their communities. The second strategy is to destigmatize this. We are a tough bunch of folks, so many of you do it alone, you figure stuff out yourself. If people are struggling you don't have to do it alone, it is okay to struggle, and you don't have to do it alone."

Mental health issues in the rural agricultural community, where rugged individualism is a proud tradition, are often more pronounced in the non-agricultural sector. That "cowboy up" ethos results in a suicide rate among farmers and ranchers that is 3.5 times that of the non-ag population according to a study by the National Rural Health Association.

The film is a heart-wrenching journey into the factors contributing to rural mental health, where fear of stigma and discrimination contribute to significant reluctance for people to seek treatment.

From paying bills to feeding their children, caring for the livestock and crops, retirement options, and even what they will be able to leave their heirs, the worry and anxiety can be overwhelming, and "Legacy," does an excellent job of showing these vexing anxieties.

In the film, rancher Tony Hass offered this assessment that may resonate well in the rural San Luis Valley describing why farmers are reluctant to seek counseling: "It's not like you're going to go for mental health to go see a shrink and they see your green Dodge pickup with the caved in front quarter panel that everybody knows, and your dog's sitting in the back."

Jacob Walter with the Walter Fam-



Photo by John Waters

**After the showing of the film, 'Legacy,' which focuses on mental health issues in rural Colorado a roundtable discussion followed that was facilitated by Clinton Wilson with the Rocky Mountain Farm Bureau. From left to right are Tony Hass, farmer, Jacob Walter, farmer, George Whitten, Saguache County rancher, Chad Reznicek, LPC and Kristen Wulfsberg, LPC, and Robert Sakata, Colorado Department of Agriculture.**

ily Ranch said this about the numerous pressures of farming, "One of the things that really sticks in my mind was when I would see my dad sitting at that kitchen table until one or two in the morning crunching numbers and figuring out how you are going to make it work, how are you going to keep the family going, how are you going to keep that family legacy of agriculture going?"

He added, "Before I left, the last things my dad said to me were, 'Always remember, things are never bad enough that you can't get help, you can always get help.' I told him I loved him; he told me he loved me, and I got in my pickup. I started driving for college and that was the last time that I talked to him."

Walter said the following morning his father committed suicide.

After the showing of Legacy, a panel discussion that included farmers, ranchers, and Licensed Professional Councilors Chad Reznicek, MA, PLC, and Kristen Wulfsberg, LPC who were featured in the film ensued.

In "Legacy," Wulfsberg speaks to the agony she has experienced with clients in ag who feel, "I'm a burden, I'm causing more problems, I can't see a future, I can only see pain, I can only see sorrow, I can only see disappointment. I have talked with a couple of people in ag who say when my horse is lame, I take it out to the back forty.

"So why can't I do that same thing to myself? Am I contributing enough, am I doing enough, am I

enough? That is where it ends up going. And when the question is am I enough, that's where we get into concerning thought patterns and behaviors."

After the showing of "Legacy," in Monte Vista, Marlys Hersey, Licensed Professional Counselor said of the film, "It was very illuminating. Even as a therapist who works with many clients with suicidal thoughts and actions, this film brought to light the many aspects of mental health specific to the agricultural community of which I was not aware. I particularly appreciated the emphasis on the need for all of us to cultivate social connections, and the need for all of us to ask for, receive, and give help within our communities."

Help is available.

Larry Brown with CSU Extension and JC Carrica with Valley-Wide Health, were in attendance and briefly discussed a local mental health partnership, the Coffee Break Project. Brown summed up the project with its mission statement, "Do you look after your neighbors as close as your crop or herd?"

The two will make a presentation on Monday to the San Luis Valley Commissioners Association regarding the partnership, and the Valley Courier will have an article about the project next Tuesday.

The film also notes that mental health services and sessions with therapists are increasingly available and includes a clip of a rancher in a pickup truck having a private session

with a therapist, away from the glare of friends who otherwise might.

"Legacy," is available for free on the CDA YouTube page. Search: Legacy mental health in Colorado's modern-day agriculture.

**Resources**

- The Colorado Agricultural and Mental Health Program (CAAMHP) is available to help with anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues and offers up to six free vouchers to visit with therapists. Visit: [www.campforhealth.org](http://www.campforhealth.org) for more information.

- The Colorado AgrAbility Project is an effort to help farmers, ranchers, agricultural workers, and their families affected by injuries, long-term illness, disabilities, and behavioral health concerns. The project is a partnership of CSU Engagement and Extension and Goodwill of



Colorado. Visit [www.argibility.colostate.edu/](http://www.argibility.colostate.edu/)

- The Rocky Mountain Farmers Union AgWell program offers wellness resources for farmers, ranchers, agricultural workers, and their families. In 2021, the farmers union partnered with the Western Regional Stress Assistance Program. Visit [www.agwell.org](http://www.agwell.org).



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## Disaster assistance resources for farmers

Natural disasters are often devastating, resulting in losses of life, livelihood and homes, among other effects. If it seems as though weather-related disasters have risen in frequency in recent decades, that's because they have. In fact, a 2021 report from the World Meteorological Organization indicated that the number of disasters has increased by a factor of five over the last half-century.

Weather-related disasters do not discriminate, and people from all walks of life and corners of the globe can be affected by such catastrophes. The agricultural sector is especially vulnerable to natural disasters, as farmers can lose their homes and their livelihoods in what feels like the blink of an eye. But farmers should know that various support programs are in place to provide assistance should they need it in the

aftermath of a natural disaster.

**Programs in the United States**

- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP): The Farm Service Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture notes that this program provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover. Assistance also is available when land planted specifically for grazing has been affected by drought or fire.
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP): This provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather or by attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government.
- Emergency Loan Program: This

program provides loans to producers as they seek to recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters. Loans also may be available after losses due to quarantine or by animal quarantine laws imposed in accordance with the Plant Protection Act.

- Emergency Conservation Program (ECP): This program helps farmers and ranchers repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters. The program also helps put in place water conservation methods during severe drought.
- Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP): This program pays covered producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters.

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# Cale Bradshaw says it's been a good season, so far

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — Cale Bradshaw, who is a farmer and works for Ponderosa Partnerships in Center, stated, "It's been a good season, so far."

Ponderosa Partnerships is a third-generation farm.

"My grandfather started the farm in the early 80's. We grow grain, alfalfa, and have a cattle program from birth to butcher. We have quite a bit going on at the farm, it's very diverse all times of the year," he said.

Bradshaw stated that a typical day on the farm means you get up early, and you are out on the farm by 7 a.m.

"We are up checking the fields, and the sprinklers. In the summer-time, we check cattle, and calves. We look at our potato crops and barley crops, all the while trying to fight the weather, and figure out the best time to cut our alfalfa," he said.

Bradshaw said there are many distinct aspects and things that need to be looked at while being a farmer, "It's about irrigation management and fertility management, disease control, and pest control, that's why we are checking on everything."

Bradshaw stated that every ranch is different, but they usually start calving around the first of March.

"That usually takes us anywhere from 60 to 90 days to complete. A lot of the calves will go to the sale barn. We keep about 10 to 15 calves, and I feed those out until they hit 1,800-pound weight, and then I take them to a processor, and we sell the beef ourselves. We do Wagyu beef."

Bradshaw stated that his favorite part of the work, is the ranching aspect with the cattle, and the haying.

"I love working with the cattle. Ranching in my perspective really goes into the haying operation and creating feed for our cattle. We feed our cattle our own feed. I love the ranching aspect, and the haying, putting up all the alfalfa and grass hays that we put up, that's probably my favorite part of the whole process," he said.

Bradshaw spoke about harvesting alfalfa and what goes into that process.

"The first cutting starts about June 15. The second cutting is mid-July. The third cutting varies for us because of potato harvest. The third cutting is probably like mid-September. Here in the valley, we do those three cuttings. We get three crops off a field. You start with a swather, and you cut the alfalfa. You cut it for 7 days on average before you rake it together. After you rake it, you put it in a bale, and get it off the field, and hope the rain doesn't get you," he stated with a laugh.

Bradshaw stated that most of the alfalfa they grow, and harvest gets sold at dairies in New Mexico. Bradshaw said the grain they have is mostly "Coors barley," so it goes to Coors.

"The potatoes, well, we have our own potato warehouse. They go through our potato warehouse, and Walmart does the majority of buying out at the warehouse," he said.

Bradshaw stated that it's because of his grandfather that the farm has been around since the 1980's.

"We just keep it in the family and keep it going," he said.

Bradshaw stated he started farm-

ing when he was 12 years old, and he has now been a farmer for 27 years.

"Being part of the family, I was told that I was going to the farm, and that's what I did," he said.

## 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.

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