

Shorts

Man found deceased on Saturday

DEL NORTE – A 74-year-old Westminster man was found deceased on Aug. 3 at Rhythms on the Rio. Law enforcement does not suspect foul play.

At 8:57 a.m. on Aug. 3, the Colorado State Patrol Regional Communications Center received a call concerning a male who was unconscious and not breathing at the music event.

The Del Norte Police Department and the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office responded with the Del Norte Ambulance and found the man was deceased.

Body of man recovered from Shaw Lake

MINERAL COUNTY – According to the Mineral County Sheriff's Office, the body of a 53-year-old man was recovered on July 30 after an apparent drowning incident on July 29 at Shaw Lake near Creede.

The identity of the man is still being determined. He was fishing-paddle boarding when the incident occurred, according to the sheriff's office. Mineral County Sheriff Terry Wetherill stated that details pertaining to the incident are limited.

"We do know that he didn't have a life preserver and that his paddle board recover leash was not connected to his body," Wetherill stated.

The body was recovered at 5 p.m. on July 30. The recovery effort was conducted by Mineral County Search and Rescue, South Fork Fire Rescue, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, who provided a Water Evidence Recovery Craft, and the Rio Grande National Forest.

Law enforcement and first responders urge the public to wear water safety devices no matter the experience level of the individual.

"We don't know for certain, but a lifesaving device may have saved this person's life, and we encourage everyone who recreates on our waters to use life preservers and water safety devices," Wetherill stated.

Student orientation for Mechanical Engineers

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY — From Aug. 12-15 an orientation to introduce Mechanical Engineering students to the Adams State campus, participate in hands-on activities with a little friendly competition, get to know the engineering/STEM faculty and students, familiarize students with college expectations is scheduled. Contact Sarah Noller at ASU for more information, 719-587-7076.

Ag worker appreciation barbecue connects people to resources

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — On Aug. 4, the San Luis Valley Agricultural Coalition hosted its eighth annual appreciation barbecue and resource fair for anyone in the agriculture industry – ag workers, farmers and ranchers – at Casa Blanca Park in Center.

The event was child friendly, and featured the parks' splash pads for kids to cool off in. There was a myriad of booths at the park with information to help people

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A group of people pose for a photo with tote bags they received from Rio Grande County Public Health on Aug. 4 at the San Luis Valley Agriculture Coalition's ag appreciation barbecue and resource fair.

Photo by Marie Mccolm



Photo by Marie Mccolm

People help bring the paint by numbers community mural project to life in downtown Center on Aug. 4.

Center hosts community mural project

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — On Aug. 4, the Town of Center and artist Bianca Maestas hosted a community mural paint by numbers event at the 300 block of Worth Street.

People of all ages were invited to

participate in this beautiful mural project. The Town of Center hosted it as a way to help beautify the downtown area.

The San Luis Valley Agriculture Coalition was having an agriculture appreciation barbecue an

encouraged people at their event to also participate in the mural project.

According to Lisa Lucero, a member of the San Luis Valley Agriculture Coalition, and the director of Community Engagement

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The look of grand champions



Makenzie Consaul's medium weight dark cross was the Reserve Grand Champion Market Swine of the San Luis Valley Fair on Monday night.



earned Grand Champion Market Swine at the SLV Fair; she did it as a fair rookie and last year she showed the Reserve Grand Champion Market Swine.

Sargent Junior High Schooler Aubrey Naranjo, 13, has the winning touch for Blue Spruce 4-H. She showed the Grand Champion Market Swine – a 271-pound heavyweight dark cross – at the San Luis Valley Fair on Monday night, Aug. 5, at the Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista. It was the second time in her four years of showing that she

Photos by Brian Williams

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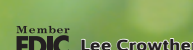
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Lee Crowther

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

Lower court ruling voiding trustee Anzalone censure stands

STAFF REPORT

DEL NORTE — The Colorado Supreme Court in July 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 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 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.

Newmeyer-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 Newmeyer-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.

ENTRIES

Continued from Page 1A

said she put the first competition together in less than 10 days.

“I put it together so fast. I didn’t have that many categories, so it started out small. The following year, the Methodist Church invited me to come to their Fellowship Hall and wanted me to host it there. I have been there ever since. It has been 10 years now and every year it continues to grow, with more and more pictures coming in,” she said.

The rules for the competition are simple. The main rule is all pictures submitted need to be taken in the San Luis Valley. Fernandez allows people to submit up to two pictures per category, and all pictures must be framed or matted. No repeat entries from previous years are accepted.

There are various categories available for picture submission including: Historic Buildings, Local (people or activities), Best Buddies (two or more animals, children, adults, or mix of each), Landscapes, Skyscapes (sunrise-sunsets, rainbows, storm clouds, lightning), Wildlife, Miscellaneous (still life, or any topic not fitting

into the other categories), Miscellaneous-Organics (floral, trees, vegetables, plant life), Action (working cowboys, rodeo, rafting, sporting events, etc.), Pets (domestic animals such as dogs, cats, horses, chickens, cows, etc.), Series (2 to 4 related photos), Black and White (any subject), and Professional Category (any subject).

Some categories may be grouped together if the total number of entries are low.

There will be a ribbon given for places 1-6 in each category, an Overall Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion, and Teacher’s Choice award. All awards are by popular vote.

Entries can be submitted between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 13, and or between 9:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14, at the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church at 6th and Christy streets in Saguache. Entry forms can be filled out the day photos are submitted. There is no entry fee to submit your photos.

If you cannot submit during these

times, call Fernandez at 719-239-0366 to make other arrangements.

Public voting will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 19, and Friday, Sept. 20, at the church.

The photos will be on display with their awards between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Fellowship Hall. Entries must be picked up between 3 and 4 p.m. Fernandez says she is not responsible for unclaimed photos.

Fernandez said that each year she has received between 40 and 50 pictures.

“A lot of people enter. The public vote is a popular vote. The photo with the most votes receives overall Grand Champion. What is so rewarding about this contest is I have people that enter every year, and every year their pictures just get better and better. It is so amazing to see the people grow. I have also seen people walk out with a fourth or fifth place ribbon and they are just smiling and happy. This makes me feel like I am doing something wonderful,” she said.

For more information, contact Fernandez at 719-239-0366.

MURAL

Continued from Page 1A

for the San Luis Valley Area Health Education Center, the origins of the paint by numbers mural was from a community survey. A mural was decided for Center. Part of the survey also asked community members what they thought of when they thought of Center. The community stated that they thought of family and community. The paint by numbers mural represents a community quilt.

Maestas was chosen by a committee to create and design the community quilt mural. Committee member Lares Feliciano talked about the selection process.

“It was an awesome opportunity,” Feliciano said. “We had a handful of submissions from all over the state, not just from the Valley. Bianca presented this beautiful proposal that was bright and joyful but also rooted in the earth and agriculture, and the joy and experience of production. We enjoyed her presentation and chose her. It’s been really cool to watch this all unfold.”

Maestas talked about the creation of the mural.

“If you look at the community quilt pattern there are a lot of different things here,” she said. “There is a community weaving through time, there are different flowers featured in the area. We have potato flowers, canola flowers, and alfalfa flowers. There’s a view of the fields representing agriculture.”

Maestas said the paint by numbers

was put in the mural, on all the pictures, with the idea that people of any age could help paint the mural. Maestas said that many people had been by to help paint, “mostly children.”

“I also wanted to make the mural easy and not too complicated, so that small children and anyone else that wanted to, could enjoy painting the mural,” she said.

Lucero said she enjoyed being a voice regarding the mural painting in Center.

“I had been wanting to do something like this forever. I cannot take any credit for this, except to be one of the biggest voices in the room. I maybe helped the process along by helping with the marketing and making sure it happened on the same day as the barbecue. I did enjoy being a part of the process,” Lucero said.

Lucero said she enjoyed seeing a little girl painting at the site.

“She is a little artist, and her mom is too,” Lucero said. “It was so cute she texted all her little friends, to help her paint that night, and they all came down too. Another aspect of the mural that I really liked was that agricultural workers were involved in the painting. I have a picture that I took, where there were a lot of H2H workers painting the mural. If you think about it, they may not come back next year, but their spirit, a piece of them, will always be in Center, because they painted there.”

BBQ

Continued from Page 1A

working in the ag industry.

Tu Casa, Los Promotores del Valle de San Luis, the Migrant Education Program of Colorado Department of Education, the Migrant Farm Worker Division of Colorado Legal Services, the Colorado Department of Public Health, the Center for Health Work and Environment, and Rio Grande County Public Health were all represented at the event.

Roberta Marquez, who is a Health Equity Specialist with Rio Grande Public Health, talked about what the county can offer.

“We have a lot of assistance to offer agricultural workers,” she said. “We can offer immunizations. We offer medical insurance coverage. We even help families with infant car seats if they need them. We are all about uniting families and helping them. We like to help our agricultural workers. There is a variety of services and resources that we can offer. We can help people get connected to behavioral health and counseling.”

Marquez said they also have educational programs and community health assessments.

Many of the organizations gave out trail mix bags, tote bags, water bottles, free COVID test kits, clothing, hygiene items, and much more.

Approximately, 200 people attended the event. Gus Martinez, of the San Luis Valley Agriculture Coalition, was cooking hamburgers and said he was happy with the turn out.

“It’s been a good day. A lot of our agricultural workers turned out for this barbecue, and we are happy to serve them and thank them for all the hard work that they do,” he said.

Consignment Auction - Small Animals

4:30 p.m. • Aug. 30

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Let the eating begin

Today Miss Trixie left for Texas to attend the funeral of a dear friend to us both. I would have gone along but Cooper the dog is very sick and so I am holding him 24-7 and praying. That's all I can do at this point.

But anyway, Miss Trixie actually caught a ride down to Texas with some friends who were going to the same funeral and so she had good company on the way and will return the same way.

Ol' Dutch sure hated to miss the funeral as there is nothing quite like a Texas send off. I have been to several and it's more of a gathering of 300 to 600 closest friends who all sit around and tell stories about the dearly departed and smile and laugh. And that's not all that occurs there. I am not talking about the reading of the will, but I am talking about the after-funeral brunch that is served Texas style.

I have read about the ancient Egyptians and other societies enclosing food in the sarcophagus for the departed to take on their otherworldly trip. But the first time I attended a funeral in the South, I soon found out that all the women bring food for those of us who were left behind and quantities enough to last several lifetimes as leftovers in the fridge.

They laid out a spread that would make any cruise ship buffet pale in embarrassment for their lack. You have the obligatory fried chicken, BBQ beef, meatloaf, roasts, ham and of course, who can forget the always present Little Smokies weenies in a rich red sauce. There are salads of every kind and quantity including Jello salads, pea salads, lettuce salads, tomato salads, cucumber salads and more spread out like King Solomon's table.

With a plate quickly filling I have to decide if I have room for potatoes-sweet, mashed, fried, scalloped or baked. And then just when Ol' Dutch thinks his plate cannot hold another item I spot the pastas including cold pasta salad, spaghetti, shells, and the southern staple, mac and cheese.

Now some of you might say that a person does not have to sample each item but let me tell you, if you do not, be prepared to answer as to why you didn't try Aunt Mable's taters or Grandma Jeans pea salad. It's just easier to make room in your stomach than to have to have that conversation.

Finally finding a place to sit I try to eat the food I got but it's difficult to do as there are people all around you asking questions



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

about you kids, parents, aunts, uncles, preacher, wife, husband all in an attempt to see how you are somehow related to every single person in the hall.

But finally, you get the food down and push back from the table a bit to give yourself room to breathe when low and behold Sister Sally from the First Baptist arrives with pie and insists that you try her special recipe. So of course, not wanting to offend anyone, especially at a funeral, I accept the tall, sweet treat and make a go at consuming it.

At this point Ol' Dutch begins to notice that the food seems to be going down a lot faster and easier as I am caught up in a conversation about Aunt Flo or Uncle Jerry and soon you find yourself standing in the dessert line looking at brownies, cakes, pies, ice cream, frozen concoctions and the ever present southern banana cream pudding with those cheap vanilla wafers inserted into the bowl.

Somehow the eating finally comes to an end and if you are from the North country like Ol' Dutch, you assume this shindig is going to wind down. How mistaken can one be?

For now, what follows is hours of reminiscing about the Wilsons and all the other names of the area all of which make not one bit of sense to Ol' Dutch. But finally, once again having settled all the old business of who belongs to who, the people begin to filter off towards home in the afternoon heat to resume waiting for the next kin or friend to pass to the great beyond.

So here is to Uncle Si, our friend who has passed over to the great beyond. May he find yard sales at every turn and deals of a miraculous nature.

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

Coal continues its precipitous decline

The coal mining industry reacted with outrage when the Bureau of Land Management recently announced plans to stop issuing new coal leases on the eastern plains of Wyoming and Montana.

From its headquarters in Washington, D.C., the National Mining Association predicted "a severe economic blow to mining states and communities," while the industry's political allies likened the move to declaring "war" on coal communities.

The truth is that coal has been steadily falling from its past dominance as energy king for nearly two decades. Domestic coal consumption dropped to 512 million tons in 2022, down 55 percent since its 2007 peak.

With the downward trajectory expected to continue, the Biden administration's decision to end coal leasing in the Powder River Basin — the nation's largest coal-producing region — reflects clear market trends. And far from killing coal, the administration's plan allows mining to continue as the market transitions.

Billions of tons of previously leased federal coal remain available for mining from 270 tracts across the nation, which combined cover an area larger than Rocky Mountain National Park. One Montana mine has enough



Photo courtesy of Powder River Basin Resource Council

Coal mining in Wyoming's Powder River Basin.

coal to keep operating until 2060. Taken together, economic effects related to ending new coal leasing in the Powder River Basin may not be felt until the 2040s and beyond.

Coal companies are well aware that U.S. energy markets have rapidly changed, a fact they soberly tell investors: "Over the last few years, customers have shifted to long-term supply agreements with shorter durations, driven by the reduced utilization of (coal) plants and plant retirements,

fluidity of natural gas pricing and the increased use of renewable energy sources," Wyoming's largest coal producer, Peabody Energy, disclosed in its 2023 financial filing.

Even with declining markets, the Biden administration did not come to the decision on its own. Arguing that BLM's past reviews of coal's contributions to climate change were inadequate, a coalition of environmental groups sued the government and won. That forced the agency to revisit whether more coal leasing was warranted.

"For decades, mining has affected public health, our local land, air, and water, and the global climate," said Lynne Huskinson, a retired coal miner. She's a member of the Powder River Basin Resource Council, a

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Writers on the Range
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

LETTERS

Vote no and let CPW manage mountain lion, bobcat and lynx

Editor,
Voters in November will again be asked to become biologists and decide if all hunting of mountain lion, bobcat, and lynx should be forever prohibited.

If you want the pros at Colorado Parks and Wildlife, many of whom hold advanced degrees in wildlife biology, to manage these cat species, then you should vote no! If you want credible science to guide wildlife management decisions, then you should vote no! If you want wildlife management policies and regulation to be overseen by the Wildlife Commission, a citizen board appointed by the governor and designed to be apolitical and responsive to broad community interests, then you should vote no!

The proponents of this issue (Prop 91) tell you it is about protecting these cats. It is not! They will tell you it will

stop hunting them just as trophies. It does not! It will ban all hunting. They will tell you it will stop the inhumane ways of hunting them. It will ban all hunting.

Some facts: Lynx are already protected by the very agency that brought them back. Lynx occupy much higher elevations than where bobcat are hunted and there are regulations to exclude hunting bobcat above certain elevations.

Hunters who kill lions must take care of the meat just like hunters must do with other big game like deer or elk. It is illegal to kill a lion just for a trophy. That word is included in the ballot issue to deceive you or to tug on you for an emotional response. There are many times more lions in Colorado now than before 1965 when they

were declared big game animals and regulated hunting was begun. There is no credible science that can show regulated hunting is a threat to lion or bobcat populations.

There are scientifically developed management guidelines that are evaluated every year in order to determine if harvest objectives for lions and bobcats are being achieved. Analysis is conducted by professional wildlife scientists and managers with decades of experience.

I know these things because I was Colorado's carnivore biologist for the last 17 years of my career and I helped frame the management guidelines that CPW pros have improved greatly upon since I retired. Please vote no on this November ballot issue.

*Jerry Apker
Monte Vista*

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Masters, Swing Riders bring southwestern swing to Society Hall

By SOCIETY HALL

ALAMOSA — Society Hall is excited to welcome award-winning western artist Syd Masters and his band the Swing Riders for a performance at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 9.

His superb accompanists in the Swing Riders are multi-instrumentalist Bob Goldstein and bassist Gary Roller.

Tickets are \$20 and are available at the Green Spot at 711 State Ave. in Alamosa, or online at www.societyhall.org. The concert will also stream live on the Society Hall Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Masters is an American singer and songwriter of traditional western music. Born and raised in the woods and water country of rural Wisconsin he now makes his home of many years in the Rocky Mountains of Northern New Mexico. He is the author and recording artist of the Official State Cowboy Song of New Mexico and was recognized by The Academy of Western Artists as Male Vocalist of the Year — twice.

His recent CD “Sunset on the Rio Grande Revisited” won the Wrangler Award from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum for “Outstanding Traditional Western

Music CD”. Later in the same year, Masters was the recipient of the prestigious Presidents Award from The International Western Music Association for his contribution to Western music, and he also took home his 10th New Mexico Music Industry Award.

Says Society Hall board member and Alamosa musician and record producer Don Richmond, “Syd’s won just about every award there is out there, but you need to see him live to really appreciate what he does — this guy is an entertainer! He’s a hoot and puts on a great show, and his Swing Rider pals Bob Goldstein and Gary Roller are as good as it gets. Don’t miss them.”

Syd’s newest CD, “Cabin Songs” hit No. 8 on the Western Music Charts its first week out, while the first single, “High Country Trail” entered at No. 5 on the singles chart. This tune also won “Best Original Western Song” from both The Western Writers of America and The New Mexico Music Awards in 2024.

The Western Music Association, Academy of Western Artists and The New Mexico Music Industry have combined to nominate him for more than 40 awards over the past 20 years. “Vocalist of the Year,” “Country Song of the Year,” “Best Album,” Best Band,” Most Humorous Song,” “Best Remake,” and “Best Song” are some of the categories in which he was awarded.

Earlier this century the US Department of State named him Cultural Ambassador for his work entertaining the secret service departments of 26 foreign countries in the Diplomatic Security Antiterrorism Assistance Program. In 2020, Masters was named official ambassador to Guitars for Vets, an organization that provides therapy by giving acoustic guitars



Courtesy photo

Syd Masters, center, and his bandmates from the Swing Riders — Bob Goldstein, left, and Gary Roller, right, — will be performing on Aug. 9 at Society Hall in Alamosa.

and lessons to returning veterans suffering from PTSD. Syd has been seen on television commercials and billboards throughout the west as spokesman for the Powerball Lottery Campaign.

His original compositions have been used in numerous film productions ranging from documentaries and television broadcasts to the Universal Studios

motion picture “Paul” where he can also be seen as an actor in the film. Whether solo or with his Swing Rider trio Masters provides a highly talented, thoroughly entertaining, good time cowboy show!

Tickets are available at the Green Spot or online at www.societyhall.org, and the concert will also stream live on the Society Hall Facebook page and YouTube channel.



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Paul Formisano, Nathan Coombs, and Jason Ullmann in McDaniel Hall on ASU campus discussing water issues in the SLV and elsewhere.

A conversation with State Engineer Ullmann

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — In the San Luis Valley, where the economy is largely driven by agriculture and the region only receives a limited amount of moisture each year, the phrase “agua es vida” (water is life) is more than just something to put on a bumper sticker. It’s a fact of life.

So, when Jason Ullmann, the state’s top water guy, comes to the Adams State University (ASU) campus for a conversation with the public, it’s a big deal.

Thanks to sponsorship from the Salazar Rio Grande Del Norte Center at ASU, Ullmann spent about two hours answering questions first posed by moderator Paul Formisano, recently named as the new director of the Salazar Rio Grande Del Norte Center, and then, later, the audience.

Ullmann was also joined by Nathan Coombs, multi-generational farmer and rancher in the San Luis Valley and newly elected Chairperson of the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

Monday night’s conversation with the public was of special interest to many people as Ullman is relatively new as Colorado State Engineer and Director of the Division of Water Resources (DWR). He was appointed to the position in March and brings with him 14 years of experience at DWR, the last half of which were as the Deputy State Engineer.

When asked to describe the role of state engineer, Ullmann says, “My job is to steward a system of appropriations (of water rights) to make sure people are complying. The job isn’t prescribed but we have laws that the legislature passes that our office enforces.”

The job is enormous with responsibility in a number of areas, including administering the state’s water rights, representing Colorado in interstate compacts — like the Rio Grande Compact, monitoring stream flow and water use plus a myriad of other responsibilities.

The office of state engineer also carries significant

The Dangers of Doubt

God loves boldness and He wants us to be confident of His love for us. He wants us to know without a doubt that we are made right with Him through the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross—especially on those days when we feel unworthy of His love.

To live boldly means that we’re willing to step out in faith to try new things and pursue our God-given dreams and passions without letting the fear of doubt overshadow our faith.

Doubt is a fear that can bring a lot of confusion: Did I make the right decision? I don’t know. Maybe I did. Well, maybe I didn’t. We can go back and forth like that in our heads forever. But I’ve found that when I’m confused, it’s better to stop, turn off my brain, and just look at what’s in my heart—not for what I think I should do, but what I believe I should do.

Sometimes it becomes very clear what God wants us to do; other times it’s less obvious. But before you jump ahead, give God a chance to speak to your heart.

James 1:5-6 (AMP) says, “If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he is to ask of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke or blame, and it will be given to him. But he must ask [for wisdom] in faith, without doubting [God’s willingness to help], for the one who doubts is like a billowing surge of the sea that is blown about and tossed by the wind.”

I hope that you noticed it says, “If any of you” need wisdom. God isn’t looking for perfect people; they don’t exist. So, no matter where you are, God wants to help you! Isn’t that good news?

God will never leave you or forsake you, and He will always remain faithful to His Word. All you have to do is ask and receive, dismissing the doubts that set themselves up against His Word. If you can do that, there’s

no telling what God will make happen in your life!

Romans 4 gives a wonderful account of the story of Abraham, one of the great heroes of faith. Verses 18-19 say, “In hope against hope Abraham believed that he would become a father of many nations, as he had been promised [by God]: ‘So [numberless] shall your descendants be.’ Without becoming weak in faith he considered his own body, now as good as dead [for producing children] since he was about a hundred years old, and [he considered] the deadness of Sarah’s womb” (AMP).

Abraham considered the facts. But he still believed God was greater. Verse 20 says, “But he did not doubt or waver in unbelief concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong and empowered by faith, giving glory to God” (AMP).

Instead of relying only on what we see around us, you and I can choose to believe God’s Word. And we can open our mouths to speak words of thanks, like this:

“God, I remember the good things You’ve done for me and how You’ve been faithful to those who’ve trusted in You through the ages. I’m giving You praise today because I know You’ll always be faithful.”

Like Abraham, we all have times of waiting that God uses to test and stretch our faith. But He promises to work all things out for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

Honestly, if we can keep a good attitude throughout the process, our wait time might be shorter than it would be if we decided we’d rather murmur and complain. God wants to use the challenges we experience to draw us closer to Him so that when our prayer is finally answered, and our day of breakthrough comes, we’ll be stronger in our faith and able to withstand any opposition that comes against us.

Hebrews 10:36 (AMP) says, “For



you have need of patient endurance [to bear up under difficult circumstances without compromising], so that when you have carried out the will of God, you may receive and enjoy to the full what is promised.”

It takes boldness to believe God’s promises are for you and not just for everyone else. It takes boldness to cling to His promises when the world around you says, “It will never happen!” And it takes boldness to step out in faith and try something new. But be encouraged. God isn’t concerned about you making mistakes. He knows you’re not perfect and He wants to give you His wisdom and strength to do everything He’s put in your heart.

So, stop doubting and step out in faith...and believe God can do something amazing in you and through you. He wants to see boldness in you!

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.

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.

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Unions are opposed to possible supermarket merger

By JOHN WATERS

VALLEY — In 2022, the Kroger Company proposed merging with Albertsons Stores, owner of Safeway supermarkets. As part of the proposed merger, 579 Safeway stores and distribution hubs will be sold to C&S Wholesale Grocers to satisfy antitrust regulations and not concentrate supermarket ownership.

Kroger owns the CityMarket brand, and Albertsons owns Safeway; both have stores in Alamosa. The Alamosa Safeway store is included in the plan to sell stores to C&S.

The attorney generals of Colorado and Washington, the Federal Trade Commission, and unions have opposed the merger.

Many workers at the stores are members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 7 (UFCW), representing 23,000 members in the grocery, meat packing, food processing, healthcare, manufacturing, and cannabis industries across Colorado. The union is part of the Stop the Merger Coalition, including over 100 national, state, and local organizations that oppose the merger.

Manuel Medina is a union steward with the UFCW and has worked as a manager at the Monte Vista Safeway store for 15 years. In an interview with the Valley Courier, he said this regarding the proposed merger, "It is scary. We don't know if they are going to close the store or keep it open. There are no guarantees on what they are planning."

Medina added, "They just announced they are going to sell us [Monte Vista] to King Soopers and Alamosa [Safeway] to C&S. There is no guarantee. In the past, when Albertsons bought Safeway, they told the workers the same thing, 'We're not going to close any stores. Everything is going to be fine.' And then all the sudden, they started closing stores... there is no guarantee."

In a statement issued by the Stop the Merger Coalition, Bill Valdez, a UFCW member from Colorado Springs said, "As a member of our last collective bargaining team, I'm worried about how the merger would

impact our ability to advocate for better wages, good health benefits and a strong pension."

Elizabeth Battiste, public information officer with UFCW told the Valley Courier, "There is no guarantee these stores will remain open, this creates a lot of uncertainty across Colorado and the country. We've seen in previous mergers that stores have closed. There was a disastrous merger between Albertsons and Haggen. This was considered to be an absolute disaster. We are very concerned about this merger and the impact on rural communities like Alamosa. These stores are a community hub where people go to get food and prescriptions filled and also the center of our communities."

Albertsons purchased Safeway in 2015 and divested 146 stores to a supermarket chain called Haggen to secure regulatory antitrust approval.

Haggen, which was majority-owned by a private equity firm, was unprepared to manage the expansion. Seven months after acquiring the stores, Haggen filed for bankruptcy and closed 127 of them.

In 1998, Albertsons bought a Montana grocer, Buttery Food and Drug, and agreed with the Federal Trade Commission to divest 15 stores. An analysis by the news site Boise Dev concluded 13 of the 15 locations divested had closed.

According to a statement from Kroger, "The proposed merger will create meaningful and measurable benefits for America's consumers, Kroger and Albertsons Cos. associates, and communities that both Kroger and Albertsons Cos. serve by expanding access to fresh, affordable food and establishing a more compelling alternative to large, non-union retailers."

Rodney McMullen, Kroger's Chairman and CEO said in a statement, "We have reached an agreement with C&S for an updated divestiture package that maintains Kroger's commitments to customers, associates and communities, addresses concerns raised by regulators, and will further ensure that C&S can successfully operate the divested



Photo by John Waters

The Safeway store in Alamosa may be sold to C&S Wholesale Grocers as part of a plan to divest stores to facilitate a merger between Kroger and Albertsons Stores.

stores as they are operated today."

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

The Kroger Company's annual report boasts this regarding its employees, "We prioritized investment in our people. We strive to create a culture of opportunity for more than 414,000 associates and take seriously our role as a leading employer in the United States. In 2023, we invested

more than ever in our associates by continuing to raise our average hourly wage to nearly \$19, or nearly \$25, including industry-leading benefits."

In 2023, Mc Mullen received \$18.1 million in total compensation, and several executives were paid between \$4.3 million to \$5.9 million.

Breaking up is hard to do. If either Kroger or Albertsons pulls out of the merger, Kroger is liable for a \$600 million breakup fee.

According to filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, "Parent will be obligated to pay a termination fee of \$600 million if the Merger Agreement is terminated by either party in connection with the occurrence of the Outside Date..." If the deal fails, Albertsons walks away with \$600 million.

What might happen to Safeway employees if C&S buys the stores where they work? Rick Cohen is

the executive chairman of C&S and the CEO of warehouse robotic firm Symbotic.

According to the company, "It is an automation technology leader reimagining the supply chain with its end-to-end, A.I.-powered [artificial intelligence] robotic and software platform. Symbotic reinvents the warehouse as a strategic asset for the world's largest retail, wholesale, and food & beverage companies... Symbotic enables companies to move goods with unmatched speed, agility, accuracy and efficiency."

In May, Symbotic posted quarterly revenue of \$424 million, which translates to almost \$1.7 billion worth of warehouse robots sold annually.

The Kroger Albertsons deal is mired in litigation. Earlier this week, a Denver District Judge granted a preliminary injunction and canceled the Aug. 12 hearing on the matter.

COAL Continued from Page 3A

Wyoming landowners' group that was among the plaintiffs.

Now, she said, "we look forward to BLM working with state and local partners to ensure a just economic transition for the Powder River Basin as we move toward a clean energy future."

Huskinson lives in Gillette, Wyo., where a dozen highly mechanized strip mines sprawl across the grasslands of the Powder River Basin. The Wyoming mines alone produce 40 percent of U.S. coal while employing less than 10 percent of the nation's 44,000 coal workers.

The Basin's mines have leased 8 billion tons of federal coal since the 1990s, a cheap and plentiful supply for the industry. The leasing process allows companies to nominate desired tracts, and then bid with little or no competition. Winning bidders often pay less than \$1 a ton for coal, plus a nominal annual rent and a royalty after final sale.

There is little question that leasing helped launch and sustain the region's energy boom. But in his 2022 decision, Judge Brian Morris of the Federal District Court of Montana cast his eye toward the future. Morris wrote that federal law required BLM to consider "long-term needs of future generations" that included "recreation,

range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific, and historical values." The judge also gave the federal agency an out: "Coal mining represents a potentially allowable use of public lands, but BLM is not required to lease public lands."

Morris' words cleared the way for BLM to stop leasing, a decision that dovetails with a Colorado College poll that found most residents in eight Rocky Mountain states — including Wyoming and Montana — want Congress to prioritize conservation over energy development on public lands.

The legal wrangling will likely continue, with the BLM reviewing protests from the coal industry and its political allies that lay the groundwork for more lawsuits. For now, though, it seems the Biden administration's decision to keep coal in the ground not only follows the market and the law, but public opinion, too.

Peter Gartrell is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He is a consultant in Washington, D.C., and covered coal leasing issues as a journalist and congressional staffer.



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Statewide COVID cases shot up in July

Similar trend in Alamosa County

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Just when the topic of COVID seemed like a thing of the past, recent numbers reported by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) show that it is still with us.

The year 2024 began with a sobering 3,306 cases reported statewide. But then numbers started decreasing and kept on a downward trend through the first half of the year, reaching a low of less than 500 cases by the end of April.

That trend has now reversed, starting slowly at first and then picking up steam with cases increasingly on the rise. July showed the sharpest increase all year as numbers soared from 1,407 statewide in the last week of June to 2,319 in the last week of July.

Beverly Strnad, R.N. and interim director of Alamosa County Public Health, confirmed with the Valley Courier that the same trend has been happening in Alamosa but was quick to add that the first week of August showed numbers dropping again.

When asked if she could provide a specific number about how many positive cases have been confirmed in Alamosa County, Strnad was reluctant, and her reasoning made sense.

“We have seen the numbers of COVID-19 cases in Alamosa County increase since July 1, which is quite similar to state data but any specific number I could give you has no context,” she said. “The only numbers we can track are those where someone has been hospitalized or has been to a doctor and their tests have been sent off to a lab.

“Now that home tests are so readily available, people are testing at home.

Sometimes they can get false negatives. Sometimes, they’ll test positive, but they don’t feel sick enough to go to the doctor. Or sometimes, people feel sick but assume it’s a cold or allergies and don’t test, at all. So, quoting any number would just be the cases we know about, not how many cases there actually are.”

At the moment, there is no indication that any efforts to address increasing numbers of COVID cases will be made on a Valley-wide basis, although it appears that other counties are seeing an increase, as well.

During an All Hazards meeting on Monday, Paul Wertz, R.N., M.S.N. and director of Costilla County Public Health echoed what Strnad told the Courier.

“There has been a small uptick in the number of cases in Costilla County,” he told the Courier, “but not much serious illness.”

Strnad also said those familiar with the virus are not surprised by the increase, as the same trend was observed in July of last year. That trend showed significantly fewer numbers than what current graphs show.

With students returning to school, Strnad mentioned safeguards that people should consider taking to minimize their risk of catching the virus and answered a few questions put to her by the Valley Courier.

What are everyday actions to prevent COVID-19?

Stay up to date with vaccines. The next vaccine is scheduled to be released to the public sometime in the fall.

Practice good hygiene such as covering your coughs and sneezes, washing or sanitizing hands often and cleaning frequently touched surfaces. Take steps for cleaner air, such as bringing in fresh outside air, purifying indoor air, or gathering outdoors. When you may have a respiratory virus use precautions to prevent spread and seek health care evaluation and treatment as appropriate

She also added that, since March 2024, COVID-19 guidance aligns with guidance for other respiratory viruses, such as flu and RSV.

When asked what should a person do if they test positive for COVID-19, Strnad said steps to prevent spreading the virus include staying at home and away from others, covering coughs and sneezes and washing hands frequently.

People are advised to ask their health care provider about medicine as soon as possible.

“Medicine for COVID-19 works best if it’s taken within a few days of when you first felt symptoms or tested positive. It’s important to get medicine fast to lower your risk of serious illness,” she says.

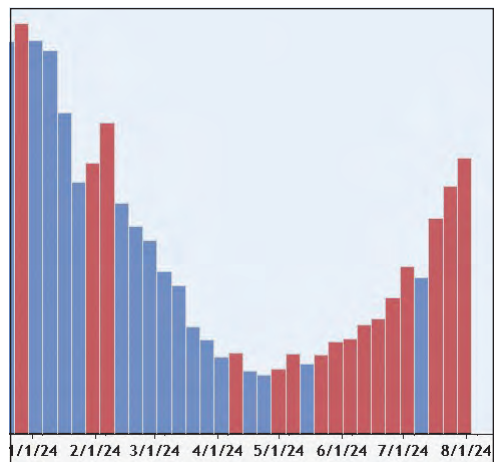
She also advised people with risk factors to seek health care for treatment. Generally, people at higher risk of severe illness from respiratory viruses are older adults, young children, people with compromised immune systems, people with disabilities, and pregnant people.

Finally, if someone has the virus, it is imperative that they tell those they live with or have spent time with in the past five days. This is especially important if they are at high risk of severe illness.

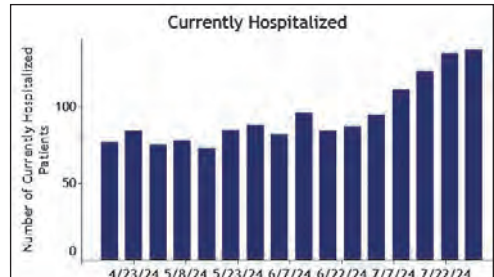
“You can go back to your normal activities when your symptoms have gotten better overall and you have not had a fever without taking fever-reducing medication for at least 24 hours,” she says. “Take precautions over the following five days, such as limiting contact with others and wearing a mask over your nose and mouth when around others and when in public. If you develop a fever or start to feel worse, again stay home and away from others and follow the above guidelines.”

Finally, what should a person do if they test negative for COVID-19?

“The rapid at-home tests you can buy at a pharmacy or grocery store are usually accurate, but it’s possible for an antigen test to



Graph from CDPHE showing trends in the numbers of cases since the first week of 2024.



Graph from CDPHE showing more recent data on hospitalizations in Colorado.

give you a negative result when you actually do have COVID-19.

A negative COVID-19 test means the test did not detect the virus, but this doesn’t rule out that you could have an infection. You may want to repeat the test in 48 hours. If you have symptoms, you may want to see a provider for testing. You should also take action to help protect others from health risks caused by respiratory viruses.”

Strnad wrapped up the conversation by repeating what many have said, as well. COVID likely isn’t going anywhere and will eventually be viewed as a sickness to guard against, much like the flu.

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Victim identified in Thursday fatal shooting

Suspect Chavez is in custody

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

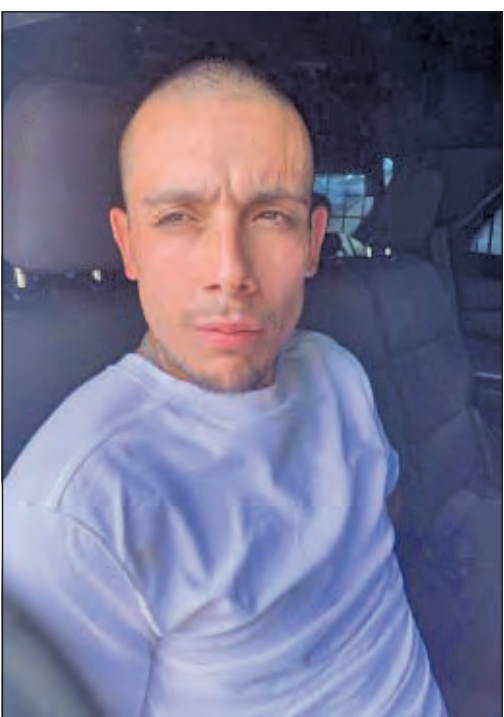
ALAMOSA — The man who died of fatal gunshot wounds sustained on Thursday evening in the area of 17th and State Avenue in Alamosa has been identified as 44-year-old Enrique Parra of Alamosa.

The identification was made and released to the public by Alamosa County Coroner Joe Dzuris. Dzuris further stated the manner in which Parra died was homicide.

As has been reported in the Valley Courier, shortly after 6 p.m. on Thursday, officers with the Alamosa Police Department (APD) were dispatched to a report of shots being fired. Upon arrival at the scene, officers found Parra who had been shot and immediately started life-saving measures. Upon being transported to the San Luis Valley Health Regional Medical Center, Parra was pronounced deceased.

On Friday, the suspect Larry Chavez, 33, of Alamosa, was taken into custody in Santa Fe, N.M., and charged with second-degree murder, theft. APD Chief George Dingfelder credited the U.S. Marshals and the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office with the arrest.

Earlier on Thursday, deputies from the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office responded to a shooting north of Alamosa where a suspect fired a shot, but no one was injured. APD had considered Chavez a person of interest in that shooting, but no further information on that incident is known at this time.



Courtesy photo

Larry Chavez of Alamosa was arrested in Santa Fe, N.M., on suspicion of second-degree murder, robbery and theft.

New law impacts processes for Concealed Weapons Permit

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — The office of Alamosa County Sheriff Robert Jackson (ACSO) released a notice that the Colorado House of Representatives passed new legislation, HB 24-1174, which will impact individuals seeking a new Concealed Weapons Permit (CCW). It will also impact people looking to renew their current CCW permit and certified firearms instructors providing training to CCW applicants.

According to information in the notice from ACSO, this new legislation introduces stricter guidelines for first-time applicants, detailing the required type of training, who can provide it, and where it must be completed. For those renewing their CCW permit, a mandatory refresher course is now part of the application process. Certified instructors must follow new guidelines, including verification of their credentials by the sheriff of the county where they provide instruction.

Additional parts of this bill affect the process, so it is essential for all involved to read HB 24-1174 as

soon as possible.

Due to some confusion regarding the language and initiation timeline of various parts of the bill, the County Sheriffs of Colorado is working on creating specific guidelines for all sheriffs across Colorado to follow. This information will be distributed to residents as soon as it is available. In the meantime, please familiarize yourself with this new legislation.

Additionally, HB 24-1348, which addresses unattended firearms in unoccupied vehicles, has been passed and will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2025.

This legislation requires handguns in unattended vehicles to be stored in hard-sided, locked storage that is permanently mounted in the vehicle. It also mandates locking devices for any other unoccupied weapons, such as rifles, stored in a soft case in the vehicle. There are exceptions to some of these requirements, so it is crucial to familiarize yourself with HB 24-1348.

HB24-1174 can be read in its entirety by going to <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb24-1174>.

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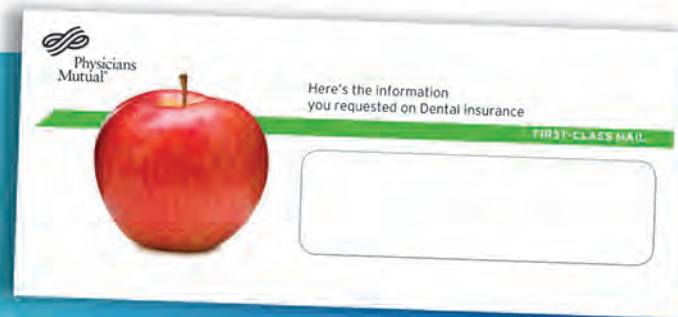
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1 "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2024. 2 "Aging changes in teeth and gums", medlineplus.gov, 4/17/2022. 3 American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2020 Survey of Dental Fees, Copyright 2020, American Dental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

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Brandt sentenced to 40 years in DOC

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
ALAMOSA — Seventeen-year-old Daniel Brandt was sentenced to spend 40 years in prison with five years mandatory parole. Judge Crista Newmyer-Olsen handed down the sentence on Friday, July 26. He was tried as an adult and convicted on charges of attempted murder and assault in May. Following an incident on Oct. 27, 2022, Brandt – who was 15 years old at the time – shot Alamosa Police Department Officer Mollee Heene and resident Ricardo Rangel, causing significant, serious and potentially permanent injury to both.

After the May 15, jury deliberation that lasted three hours, Brandt was found guilty on two counts of criminal attempt to commit murder in the first degree (second degree felony) for the shooting of Rangel and Alamosa Police Officer Mollee Heene plus three counts of first degree assault (third degree felony) – one count for assault on a peace officer, one count for assault of Heene and one count for assault of Rangel.

The sentencing hearing began with statements from the two victims, both of whom attended via Webex and had asked District Attorney Anne Kelly to read them aloud.

Rangel wrote about the losses he experienced from being shot.

“I can’t sit through a movie with loud noises,” he wrote, or “sleep all the way through the night” or tie his shoes. “Every day has been affected and will be affected for the rest of my life.”

Heene wrote about the length of her rehabilitation, the temporary loss of her independence, how hard she had been working to regain the strength and endurance that she had worked to achieve prior to being shot. She also spoke about the PTSD she has from the shooting and the fear her family experiences every day that she might be shot again.

Former APD Chief Ken Anderson addressed the court, saying he was there to “be the voice of the community”, describing it as a “sad, sad day to see a teenager who is capable of committing such a violent act.” After explaining the impact of the shooting on APD officers and the community, Anderson advocated for Brandt to be incarcerated for as long as possible.

“You need God, son,” he said after concluding his statement.

Kelly told the court, “This is a day I’ve been dreading and I’m sure everyone else feels the same. It’s a sad day because

we have to challenge ourselves to abandon the hope we have for teenagers ‘to right the ship.’”

The juvenile justice system is set up because most kids can be rehabilitated, she said, but the evidence shows that this individual will not be rehabilitated.

In repeating points she made during Brandt’s trial, Kelly said she recognized the losses and trauma Brandt suffered as a child, but he also had many people and resources to help him, none of which he took advantage of.

Despite the court being told that Brandt was “doing well” in the Pueblo Youth Center (PYC) where he has been held since he was arrested, Kelly said, he has continued to engage in illegal and harmful behavior, such as assaulting a deputy – for which he was charged. Kelly said he also participated in a riot, although no charges were filed.

Kelly then reiterated to the court that, despite still being only 17 years old, “he cannot be rehabilitated” and, for that reason, was asking he be sentenced to the maximum sentence allowed of 96 years for the crimes of attempted murder and assault.

After a lengthy and contentious transfer hearing and an equally contentious trial, a tearful Brandt told the court he recognized his actions impacted the community.

“I did some pretty terrible things,” he said. He then apologized for the harm he had done.

In her ruling, Judge Newmyer-Olsen praised law enforcement for the way the case was handled. She also addressed Brandt, saying she did not think he was someone who is simply evil or without value as a human being. Citing her own child who had some difficulties prior to losing her life, she said, “My heart goes out to you, and I think you are valuable.”

In a statement to the Valley Courier, Kelly said, “This was a tragic case for the San Luis Valley community. I appreciate the hard work and thoughtfulness of Judge Newmyer-Olsen in reaching a fair and just sentence. While the victims in this case may never completely heal from their wounds, both physical and mental, my hope is that this sentence gives them a sense of justice. I pray that our community can continue in the process of healing from this defendant’s senseless and violent acts.”

With credit for the time already served, Brandt may be eligible for parole in about 17 years. He will be in his mid-thirties at that time.

SLV Fair opens in Monte Vista



Macklie Sims of Blue Spruce in Rio Grande County rides in the Junior Reining event of the San Luis Valley Fair Horse Show on Thursday at the Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista.



Avery Beckner of Lucky Shoe in Rio Grande County closes the gate after going through it during the Junior Trail event of the San Luis Valley Fair Horse Show on Thursday at the Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista.



A judge walks the Junior Trail event riders through the course on Thursday during the San Luis Valley Fair Horse Show at the Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista.



The San Luis Valley Fair kicked off Thursday morning, Aug. 1, with the two-day Horse Show at the Ski-Hi

Complex in Monte Vista. The first day of the show is Western-English, followed at 9 a.m. on Friday with Ranch Horse and Gymkhana. Tucker Canty of the Blue Crew in Conejos County competes in the Senior Reining event. For a complete fair schedule, visit online slvfair.com.

Photos by Brian Williams

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Courtesy photo

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

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 skymap.

Kozmic Kyle has been a planetary 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.

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.

The first step is to apply now, between Aug. 1 and Aug. 30, at [ColoradoMasterGardener.org](https://cmg.extension.colostate.edu/about/become-a-colorado-master-gardener-2/) 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@colostate.edu or Jennifer.Vandiver@colostate.edu

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 **Please see SURVEY on Page 7**

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.

Photo by John Waters



MC Sheriff and Emergency Manager update community

By LYNDSIE FERRELL

MINERAL COUNTY — It has been a busy summer in Creede and Mineral County Sheriff Terry Wetherill was pleased to state that there have been minimal issues in the area.

"We have some really great people who come here for the summer, and they come to have a good time. We are proud to have well behaved folks from all over some to enjoy the summer with us," Wetherill said.

According to Wetherill, it has been a relatively quiet summer in Mineral County as far as crime **Please see UPDATE on Page 2**

Mineral County Search and Rescue, Mineral County Emergency Manager Clint Leggit, and Mineral County Sheriff Terry Wetherill have spent the summer continuing their training and working through a busy summer season.

Photo courtesy of Mineral County SAR



Silver Thread Studio Tour

Studio & Gallery Tours
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Saturday, August 17, 9am - 5pm

A self-guided scenic driving tour along the Silver Thread Byway: South Fork, Creede, Upper Rio Grande

Get a Map: South Fork Visitor Center • Creede Visitor Center
www.creedeartscouncil.com

UPDATE

Continued from Page 1

goes, though some instances did occur earlier in the season. Wetherill stated that they did have two home break-ins, but the suspects were charged and are undergoing prosecution.

“We had a break-in where the suspects stole some items and a vehicle. Our officers were able to recover the vehicle and we are actively charging two individuals,” he said. Identities of the suspects have not been released as this remains an active investigation.

Wetherill stated that there was a second minor break-in where two BB guns were stolen, but that the investigation showed that the two incidences were not related.

“Considering how busy we have been, these two incidences are not bad in comparison with some other communities. We are so fortunate that 90 percent of our guests are good, law-abiding citizens,” Wetherill said.

Mineral County Emergency Manager Clint Leggitt was also available for an update stating that he and his team have had a few missions including a dehydrated hiker and a broken ankle recovery mission near Creede.

“We always tell people to not wait to report an incident. Call us the minute you feel you are unable to help yourself in these situations, it gives us time to get to you and help,” said Leggitt.

Outside of active incidences,

both offices have been undergoing continued training including rope training, an OSHA 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) Online Training and a Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). MSHA Part 48 Underground: This is 32 hours of classroom and 8-hours of mine-specific training.

The Mineral County Sheriff’s Office also joined about 20 troopers from Colorado State Patrol while conducting Active Shooter Training at Creede School on July 1. On July 18, Sgt. Steven Johnson from the Colorado State Patrol came back to Creede School to conduct more one-on-one Active Shooter Training with sheriff’s office personnel including with Leggitt.

“We plan to continue training as the summer comes to a close and we always want to impress upon people to remember where they are. It takes time to acclimate to the climate, altitude sickness is a real thing so be sure to be prepared you head out to enjoy our backcountry and again, don’t hesitate to call us the minute something goes wrong. It takes our teams time to respond to a call and resources have to be gathered. Always have a communication device on you and call us when you need us,” said Wetherill.

For more information, reach out to Leggitt or Wetherill at 719-657-2600.



Managed by
Upper Rio Grande Animal Society

www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org

If you are interested in adopting, call 852-3366
Open Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Sat. & Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m.
Monday & non-business hours by appointment only
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We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society by contributions, donations, volunteering and general support at Conour Animal Shelter.

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0 - 25 lbs.	\$80.00		Petite - Small vessel needed
26 - 50 lbs	\$140.00		Small-Medium Vessel needed
51 - 75 lbs.	\$175.00	\$200.00	Medium-Large Vessel needed
76 - 100 lbs.	\$200.00	\$275.00	Large Vessel needed
101 lbs. & up	Animals over 101 lbs. are ineligible for Group fee	\$300.00	Extra Large Vessel Needed

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Animal may be dropped off during business hours only.
Please allow 7 working days from drop off date for animal's return.
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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.

PUBLIC AUCTION

Aug. 10th , 2024

Saturday 9:00 am

Collectable Toys

These items will sell at 11 am

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
- Lots of Hand & Pneumatic Tools

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

- Chain Link Fencing
- 2-Push Lawn Mowers
- Lawn Sweeper
- 2-Craftsman Snow Blowers
- Tru Test Snow Blower

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



Many, many items too numerous to mention



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07 HELP WANTED
08 WORK WANTED
09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
FOR RENT
10 APARTMENTS
11 ROOMS
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14 BUSINESS PROPERTY
15 WANTED TO RENT
16 VACATION
REAL ESTATE
17 REAL ESTATE
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22 PROPERTY WANTED | MERCHANDISE
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05 Notices

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

07 Help Wanted

Cafeteria Staff needed at Upper Rio Grande School District. Must have a high school diploma and some knowledge of working in a kitchen or a willingness to be trained. Pay is dependent on prior experience. Please contact Leslie Martinez at 719-657-4040, x1100 or email her at lmartinez@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co. (8-28)

Del Norte Bank is seeking to fill a full-time position for a Teller in the Creede Branch. Duties will be to accept deposits, loan payments and process withdrawals while maintaining a balanced cash drawer. Must be personable and pleasant answering the phone and greeting customers. Many other duties will be assigned as needed. The position is permanent, full-time, M - F, 8am - 4:30pm, an

hourly rate range of \$14.42 to \$17.00, with a robust benefits package. Application available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers or inquire at 117 N. Main St, Creede or call 719-657-3376 and ask for Dawn. EOE. (8-14)

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

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

Valley Wide Classifieds

Now hiring a full-time bookkeeper/estimator. Must have computer experience, be professional, reliable and organized. Hours M-F from 8:00 to 5:00. Please send resume to marcie@slvproperties.com. (8-14)

Help wanted part-time Deputy Coroner - Experienced individual needed for On Call Part time position assisting the Saguache County Coroner. The position will be an on call/as needed position. Coroner calls are paid at \$150.00 per call and Transports are \$150.00 per call, Weekday on call \$15.00 per day and Weekend on call \$30.00 per day. Please contact April Quintana with the Saguache County Administration office for an application or printable at www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov

Call 719-655-2231 for more information. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Saguache County is an EEO employer. Drug testing and a background check will be required for final applicants. (8-28)

The Upper Rio Grande School District is hiring a full time Jr./Sr. High School Counselor. Applicants must have a 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

Consignment Auction - Small Animals
4:30 p.m. • Aug. 30
8037 S. County Road 2E
Contact Eddie Miller 719-849-8063

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

UNDER CONTRACT



Matthews 240 Acre Farm
 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Approx. 1,197 Sq. Ft.
 \$1,800,000 | MLS #801112
 4953 E. CR 9, Monte Vista, CO
BRUCE STEFFENS
 OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®
 M: 719-580-0770

UNDER CONTRACT



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



Sun House Farm Approx 1,910 Acres with Home
 \$12,900,000 | MLS #807640
 57075 County Rd C Center, CO
BRUCE STEFFENS
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SOLD




Mountain Outlook /Approx. 69.750 Acres
 \$245,000 | MLS #806781
 000 County Road 13 Del Norte, CO
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The Stunning Grande Ponderosa!
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 \$2,250,000 | MLS #813982
 695 Escondida South Fork, CO
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Beautiful Home on the Rio Grande River
 Approx. 3500 sq ft.
 33 Doe Circle South Fork, CO
YVONNE HOFFMAN
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UNDER CONTRACT



Amazing Ranch Style House with Barn and 50 Acres!
 \$599,000 MLS #811695
 13725 Road 104 South Alamosa, CO
TATE HUFFAKER
 ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®
 M: 719-298-6560



Lot 10 and 11 Conejos River Trails Mountain Property
 \$30,000 EACH MLS #814452 & 814450
 Antonito, CO
TATE HUFFAKER
 ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®
 M: 719-298-6560

UNDER CONTRACT



Amazing View and Year-Round Creek Front!
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UNDER CONTRACT



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Stunning Home on 137 Acres
 \$1,700,000 MLS #815725
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SOLD



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Under Contract



Cozy Remodeled Home
 \$275,000 | MLS#815078
 127 Blackhawk Rd, South Fork, CO
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 30636 W. US HWY 160
 South Fork, Colorado

Valley Wide

Classifieds

FULL-TIME SALES

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 (8-28)

10 Apartments

Mountain View Apartments in South Fork has an apartment for rent, no pets 719-580-1510 (8-28)

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

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**

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate



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

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




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

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

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UNDER CONTRACT



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




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

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

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UNDER CONTRACT



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

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DOMESTIC WELL SEPTIC SOLAR

NEW PRICE!



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

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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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53 acres with a home on the Alamosa River
\$1,200,000 | MLS #815993
20970 FDR 250, Jasper, CO - Water Rights

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Luxury Mountain home on 15 acres in Bear Creek
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682 Bear Creek Circle, South Fork, CO

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16 Vacation

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24 Garage/Yard Sales

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Moving sale Del Norte Airport, 1 3/4ths miles north of Del Norte on Aug. 9 and 10 at 9 a.m. (8-7)

28 Household Goods

For sale handyman special, vintage smaller-scale Duncan Phyfe drop leaf table, two chairs. \$50. 719-256-4048 (8-28)

36 Miscellaneous

Wanted small animals and animal-related items for our public auction on Friday evening, Aug. 30, at 8037 South County Road 2 East, Monte Vista. Lunch stand opens at 4:30 p.m. Auction time 6 p.m. To consign contact Eddie Miller 719-849-8063 (8-28)

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

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64 Autos for Sale

For sale - 1990 Toyota 2-wheel drive super clean pickup; 2005 Toyota Tacoma long-bed camper shell; Chevy car 4-speed transmission. 719-850-2027 (8-14)

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ESTIMATED CROP WATER USE

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

Crop	Date Planted	Daily Crop Water use for Dates Shown (in./day)				Accumulated Water Use (ET) From 8/1 (inches)				
		8/1	7/31	7/30	7/29	2day	3day	4day	5day	7day
		Moravian 69	04/05	0.07	0.07	0.09	0.08	0.14	0.22	0.30
Moravian 69	05/05	0.23	0.22	0.26	0.23	0.45	0.71	0.95	1.22	1.55
Early Wheat	04/05	0.09	0.09	0.12	0.11	0.19	0.31	0.41	0.55	0.72
Early Wheat	05/05	0.25	0.23	0.27	0.23	0.48	0.75	0.98	1.26	1.59
White Wheat	04/05	0.16	0.15	0.18	0.16	0.31	0.49	0.66	0.85	1.10
White Wheat	05/05	0.25	0.23	0.27	0.23	0.48	0.75	0.98	1.26	1.59
WinterWheat	10/01	0.05	0.05	0.07	0.06	0.11	0.17	0.24	0.32	0.42
Potatoes										
Norkotah	05/05	0.26	0.24	0.28	0.25	0.50	0.79	1.03	1.32	1.66
Centennial	05/05	0.25	0.23	0.27	0.23	0.48	0.75	0.98	1.26	1.59
Nugget	05/05	0.24	0.22	0.26	0.22	0.46	0.71	0.94	1.20	1.51
Alfalfa	Est.	0.28	0.27	0.31	0.27	0.55	0.86	1.13	1.44	1.82
Lawngrass	Est.	0.24	0.22	0.26	0.22	0.46	0.71	0.94	1.20	1.51

For the latest ET information, call 719-754-3494 extension x40 for Center, x36 for Center #2, and x38 for La Jara. Use the crop maturity and planting data and weather station closest to your own. Find this up June 8d table each day at this web address: <http://aes-slvr.agsci.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

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AUGUST 10

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SURVEY

Continued from Page 1

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 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 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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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

Charming Mountain Retreat with Breathtaking Views Nestled in the picturesque town of South Fork, CO, this finely detailed 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**



SOLD

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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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0254 Timberline Trail • South Fork

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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**



NEW LISTING!

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



UNDER CONTRACT

Bernadette Gingrass
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License #100072622

48 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

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



JUST LISTED

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222 La Lomita Circle • South Fork

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



JUST LISTED

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259 Orville Way • South Fork

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



NEW LISTING

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