

The Mineral County Miner



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'...there is no night in Creede.'

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Labor Day celebration set to spice up Creede



By LYNDISIE FERRELL

CREEDE — Creede has been a busy place this summer and the mountain town has the best way to spice up the summer goodbye with a Labor Day weekend sure to entertain families of all ages.

Friday, Aug. 30, begins the weekend with the Creede Farmer's Market that offers a wide variety of goods, fresh veggies and homemade crafts.

Saturday kicks off with the annual Creede Mountain Run in the morning. This annual tradition is a great way to enjoy the last warm days of summer by running on some of Creede's beautiful trails.

Please see SPICE on Page 2A

Labor Day weekend in Creede is expected to be a spicy affair. Everyone is invited to enjoy the festivities and participate in the annual Salsa Fiesta while taking in all Creede has to offer.

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

NUGGETS Community Notes for Mineral County

Items sought for Antonito Library Yard Sale

ANTONITO — Items are being sought for the annual Antonito Library Yard Sale on Labor Day weekend. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Aug. 31, at 112 Main St. in Antonito.

All proceeds from the yard sale will go to support the Conejos County Library District's annual Summer Reading Program.

Drop off items between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Thursdays or Fridays at the Antonito Library or between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the La Jara Library.

For more information, call the library district at 719-274-5858.

Creede office closes for winter

DEL NORTE — The Divide Ranger District of the Rio Grande National Forest announced Aug. 20 the immediate closing of its Creede office. The early closure is needed to prepare for renovations that will begin in the coming weeks.

"We had a fantastic year at the Creede office, highlighted by valuable engagements with both visitors and locals alike," said Divide District Ranger Patrick Moran. "Our planned renovations will begin soon, and it would not be prudent to keep our doors open to the public while the work is being implemented. We look forward to next spring when we can resume our information services and education programs."

Improvements to the office will include window replacements, electrical upgrades, exterior painting and repairs, and other improvements.

To obtain firewood permits, woodcutters will now need to visit the Divide Ranger Station in Del Norte during regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Headwaters Music Festival brings a tune to Creede

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

CREEDE — Creede's annual Headwaters Music Festival is set for this weekend, so it is time to pull out the dancing shoes and catch a tune at Hargraves Park. This music festival features both visiting and local musical talent.

Festival coordinator Bob Holt always has one thing to say when asked about the Headwaters Music Festival and that is that Creede is the music capital of Colorado.

This year's lineup includes Rally Round, Lesli Wood and The Spiceboys, Anthony Garcia and Los Diablos Tejanos, Dan West Band, Beat Root

Please see HEADWATERS on Page 4A

The annual Headwaters Music Festival will kick off this Saturday in Creede, bringing musical talents to the stage for another year.

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell



RGC Museum Board donates to Faith Hinkley Memorial



STAFF REPORT

RIOGRANDECOUNTY — The Rio Grande County Museum Board recently voted to purchase 14 bricks for the Faith Hinkley Veterans Memorial Project in Monte Vista. The museum worked closely with project coordinator Larry Garner to select two groups within the San Luis Valley who would make sure the bricks would be dedicated to Veterans.

According to sources, the Faith Hinkley Park project was started in 2011

Please see DONATE on Page 7A

The Rio Grande County Museum Board donates 14 bricks to the Faith Hinkley Memorial Park in Monte Vista. Pictured left to right are Larry Garner, Ernie Martinez, DJ Salazar and Craig Rauwolf.

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

CRT brings play home to Alamosa

'Prima's Guide to Funerals' at Adams State University

CONTRIBUTED

CREEDE — Creede Repertory Theatre (CRT) will take its world premiere dramedy set in Alamosa, "Prima's Guide to Funerals" by Leonard Madrid, to the SLV Federal Bank Main Stage Theatre at Adams State University for three performances, Sept. 10, 11, and 12. All shows begin at 7 p.m.

Three cousins (primas), an urn, and one really long day. It's the day of her mother's funeral and Arcie is losing her grip, but her cousins Nando and Clara

are here to save the day. This fast-paced, hilarious, and heart-warming world premiere set along the waters of the Rio Grande in the San Luis Valley of Colorado, "Prima's Guide to Funerals" tells the story of family, laughter, grief, love, and finding yourself alongside

Please see CRT on Page 2A

'Primas Guide to Funerals' by the Creede Repertory Theatre brings three performances to Adams State University Sept. 10-12. The play is based in the San Luis Valley and stars Katie Rodriguez, Julian Ibarra, and Savanna Padilla.

Courtesy photo by Brooke Ashlee Photography



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San Luis Valley's Got Talent seeking talented community members

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Adams State University's Equity Board and El Llamado Hispano, a committee of the Alamosa Chamber of Commerce, are seeking talented community members for their San Luis Valley's Got Talent contest, scheduled for Oct. 12.

San Luis Valley's Got Talent is inspired by the traditions of the mythical fandango of the greater Mexico, including the American Southwest. Previous generations of the San Luis Valley and the larger Hispano worlds, created fandangos to gather, celebrate, and perform. The identity of the valley community was created through performance and play. Just like generations before us, we aim to bring the diverse peoples of the valley together for a joyful celebration of life and community, through performance.

For the San Luis Valley's Got Talent contest, original pieces should be presented in Spanish or showcase a theme from Hispano/Latinx cultures. Potential performance categories are: singing, music (band performance or playing an instrument), dance, poetry, theater sketch, monologue, stand-up comedy, acrobatics, circus skills, clown, magic, mime, puppetry, and ventriloquism.

Anyone interested must register by Aug. 29. The minimum age required to enter this competition is 14 years old. Judges will review registrations and notify the selected candidates about auditioning on September 6, where they will receive support through constructive feedback. Participants will have a month to refine their performance. There will be a dress rehearsal on Oct. 11, where participants will receive guidance. The San Luis Valley's Got Talent final performance begins at 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, in the Adams State Richardson Hall Auditorium. Entrance to the show is free to the public and tickets will be available for pick up at designated places throughout the San Luis Valley, which will be announced soon.

Everyone is welcome to participate in The San Luis

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month 2024

SAN LUIS VALLEY'S GOT TALENT

Saturday, October 12
Richardson Hall Auditorium • 6p.m.

We are seeking community members of the San Luis Valley who are interested in showcasing their talent.

CONTEST CATEGORIES*:

- Singing
- Music (band performance or playing an instrument)
- Dance
- Poetry
- Theater sketch
- Monologue
- Stand-up comedy
- Magic
- Acrobatics
- Clown/Mime
- Puppetry
- Ventriloquism

* Performances must be either in Spanish or showcase a theme from the Hispano/Latinx cultures.

Got a talent? We want to see it!

Register at: 

Deadline: August 29
(Minimum age required: 14 years old)

Our judges will review the registrations and notify the participants who will audition on September 6.

The San Luis Valley's Got Talent's terms and conditions can be found in the online registration form.



Valley's Got Talent contest.

The San Luis Valley's Got Talent Terms and Conditions can be found in the online registration form. To register or for more information, send an email to: slvgottalent@gmail.com or visit SLV's Got Talent's facebook page: SanLuisvalleyGottalent.

Jones celebrate 60 years



The family of Chester and Kay Jones will be hosting a cake reception on Saturday, Aug. 31, at 2 p.m. to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. Location will be Calvary Bible Chapel, 7160 Brush Lane, Alamosa. Chester and Kay met at Adams State College and were married on Sept. 11, 1964.

OBITUARY

Charlotte Marie Valdez York

Charlotte Marie Valdez York was called home by her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024, surrounded by her family. She was born on May 17, 1946, in Del Norte, Colo., the daughter of Anna Marie Valdez Gallegos.



Charlotte was raised by her loving grandparents Pete Valdez and Cecilia Marie Lucero. She attended grade school in Del Norte and graduated from Del Norte High School in 1965. She married William "Bill" York on July 23, 1979, in Denver, Colo. She had quite a diverse work history, retired from Costco, and was a longtime resident of Westminster, Colo.

quite a life and had quite the stories, she loved to travel and enjoyed trips to Estes Park, as well as skiing, attending car shows, car races, horse races, and outings with her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her mother Anna Marie, her stepfather Cosme Sabel, her grandparents Pete and Cecilia Marie and her friend and companion George.

Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts!

She is survived by her siblings Suzan (Craig), Regina, Barbara (Ramon), Pete (Theresa), Cecilia (Chris), Clorinda, and several nieces, nephews, cousins, and godchildren.

Services will be held on Friday, Sept. 20, at Spirit of Christ Catholic Community in the chapel at 11 a.m., followed by a luncheon at the church at 7400 W 80th, Ave., Arvada, CO 80003.

Charlotte was outgoing, adventurous, and had a contagious smile and sense of humor. She lived

Burial services will be held at the Del Norte Cemetery, in Del Norte, Colo., on Saturday, Sept. 21, at 12 p.m. in section G.

CRT

Continued from Page 1A

the ones who know you the best: your primas.

The show is directed by Yesenia García Herrington and stars Julian Ibarra, Savanna Padilla, and Katie Rodriguez.

"For many years, we have wanted to help cultivate a show that speaks to the community of the San Luis Valley," says Interim Artistic Director Kate Berry, "and what better way to do this than through our Headwaters New Play Program. We're

also excited to continue a partnership with the Adams State Theatre Department."

Playwright Leonard Madrid, a native of northern New Mexico, has been interested in telling stories featuring the communities and family dynamics of northern New Mexico and southwestern Colorado for some time.

"[I was] struck by how we never see cousins portrayed in mainstream movies and television. Cousins are often used as a foil for the main characters.

Cousins are so much more than that. In huge families, cousins are as important a relationship as siblings. To see cousins in theatre is so rare. I wanted to explore that relationship," Madrid says.

Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$25 for ASU Faculty and Staff, and \$10 for ASU students. The San Luis Valley Federal Bank Main Stage Theatre is located on campus at 208 Edgemont Blvd., Alamosa. Tickets are available through the Adams State University website.

SPICE

Continued from Page 1A

According to the Creede and Mineral County Chamber of Commerce, the Creede Mountain Run, established in 1987, celebrates the end of summer and the beginning of fall in the historic mountain town.

This event offers participants the opportunity to enjoy the breathtaking San Juan Mountains on a 2, 12, 22 mile, or 50K course.

The race begins in the town of Creede, leading racers along Main Street early in the morning, as sleepy stores open and coffee shop patrons step onto the street to cheer racers on. The course follows Willow Creek out of town and up toward the Black Pitch, testing their endurance for a quick altitude gain while piquing their interest with old mines hanging precariously from vertical cliffs. The

12-milers round out the Bachelor Loop, while the 22-milers climb up to the top of the Continental Divide, before making their return into Creede and the start-finish line.

Registration for the 22 Mile and 50K closes at 7 a.m. with a prompt 7:30 start time.

Registration for the 12 Mile and 2 Mile Run/Walk closes at 8:30 a.m. with a prompt 9 start time.

The fun doesn't end there. Several shops will be open and welcoming people. Local restaurants will be serving delicious food and there will be musical entertainment throughout the town.

The annual Salsa Fiesta begins at 11 a.m. and features local recipes that are sure to keep things spicy throughout the day.

Salsa Fiesta tickets are on sale now through Labor Day weekend and can be purchased at the chamber. This is an excellent opportunity for local restaurants and business owners to show off their culinary talents by offering salsa in four distinct categories – red, green, fruit and freestyle.

In years past, the winners have only received bragging rights but now, thanks to the Chamber of Commerce, each winner receives a trophy to showcase their culinary skills.

Be sure to come to the Creede Repertory Theatre to see some of the last productions of the season, including "Prima's Guide to Funerals," Boomtown, "Baskerville," and "Young Frankenstein." For tickets or a full schedule of shows, visit www.creederep.org.

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Bear-ly made it

OPINION & EDITORIAL

This past weekend Ol' Dutch got a coveted invitation for a bear hunting trip down into the storied State of New Mexico around Cimarron, which in name alone has always been connected to stories about the Old West.

This was not the normal type of hunt for Ol' Dutch because these young hunters use dogs to chase the bears.

Before you get your panties in a bunch and say "poor old bears" let me tell you something. These bears are street smart and as hard to find as a wife in a department store with a new credit card.

Let me start at the beginning. Somewhere up on a mesa south of Cimarron, we set up camp after I, with my ATV on the truck, made the drive up an impassable road. All I can say is if the road to Hell was that bad, very few would ever enter into that dreaded place.

I finally arrived and joined in the camaraderie of a typical hunting camp. This was my first time being around bear hounds and so I was looking forward to hearing them bay and maybe even tree a poor old bear. Little did I know that I would become the "designated driver" of the two young girls that came with their daddies to hunting camp. One, my 12-year-old granddaughter and the second, the daughter of the lead "bear man."

When Ol' Dutch decided to get an ATV years ago, I was single at the time so getting a two-seater seemed like the best way to get a woman to ride along on trips in the mountains - and maybe, even the trip through life. And that's how I found myself hauling around two giggle boxes all over hell's half acre being their babysitter while their dads hunted.

Typically, the day started at first light when we all loaded up and drove the roads looking for bear tracks. The idea is that the dogs would bark and bay should we find a fresh track deposited during the night. Then, they would be turned loose, and the chase would begin.

I have alluded to the horrible road to get to camp but let me tell you something, the roads we took every day looking for tracks would make the camp road embarrassed in comparison. I am used to rocky roads here in Colorado, but these were a jumbled-up mess of lava-created-disaster. We did find some bears eventually after miles of butt-jarring and back-wrenching riding around, but those bears must have taken lessons from Harry Houdini himself as they slipped by those hounds as easily as he did from handcuffs.

While the bear hunt disappointed, one thing that didn't was sleeping under



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

the stars without a tent for the first time in memory. Son #1, Bub's, brought along an inflatable bed and put that in the back of his truck. And we climbed up there and took out our sleeping bags and suddenly were rewarded with the most wondrous view of the heavens I have ever seen.

Being far from any outside light sources, the view was amazing, and the clear nights gave us an unparalleled view of God's handwork. I can honestly say I have never slept that good in probably all my life and Miss Trixie may start having to sleep alone as I am a new fan of outdoor living.

All that fun time at my age comes at a price and I am as sore as a bull that has been bit by a herd of bumble bees and about as grouchy, too. I have places hurting on my body I didn't know existed, but it is a good sign that I am still alive and kicking, I suppose. The fun times came to an end soon enough and we all returned to our abodes safe and sound but with tags unfilled.

Ol' Dutch felt thankful to have been able to keep up with the youngsters for two days and was really feeling pretty good about myself. That is until they all said they would be back next weekend for more of the same and wanted me to be sure and come along.

So at least I fooled all of them and will have to beg off on the next bear chase. Maybe. Because by next weekend my weak memory will have forgotten the pains and the roads will have gotten less bad, and it will be off to the races again. Maybe.

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.

Grumpy talk on the trail

I suppose it's the human thing on a hiking trail to acknowledge one another when passing. But on a well-used trail, the same comments come up time and time again.

"Good Morning." As an introvert I don't understand why I have to say Good Morning to every member of a 30-person group. Nor does Good Afternoon roll off the tongue as nicely. Too many plosives and fricatives. Yesterday I got yelled at for not saying a cheery enough "Good Morning" to a passing hiker. I did not realize I was at a Downton Abbey garden party.

Then there's the consoling "You're Almost There" hello. For one thing, I am almost never almost there when assured that I am. Volunteers at 10-Ks or marathons are warned to never, ever, tell someone they are almost there. Almost there is when you can see the parking lot.

An annoying question is "Everything OK"? Why are they asking this? Admittedly I have more gray hair than brown, but do I look so decrepit that they are concerned about my well being? What would they do if I said, "It would really be OK if you took my pack!"

"How you doing?" Do they really want to know that my trick hip is acting up, and my pack irritates that weird spot on my scapula? Probably not.

"Good Luck." Again, why? Is the only thing that will assure my success a whim of fate? I used to answer, "In the words of the immortal solo climber of Mount Everest, Reinhold Messner, 'I do not believe in luck.'" That usually gets me a blank look.

"Where did you start and how long did it take you?" People usually ask me this while hiking in Grand Canyon. But why ask a random stranger how they did? I'm not racing. One woman asked me this at Bryce Canyon National Park because she and her



Photo by Ricky Stephenson

Hikers on the Colorado Trail.

boyfriend were attempting a loop. She thought they were on the wrong trail, but her boyfriend thought she was wrong. Turned out he was the one who was wrong, and he wasn't happy about finding that out.

"Is it really harder hiking uphill?" Is this a trick question?

"Where are you going?" That seems a deep philosophical question to pose to a complete stranger.

"How was it?" I guess I could answer on a scale of one to ten...

"Was it worth it?" I'm always tempted to reply, "No, turn around now."

"Does this trail go anywhere?" "No," I want to say, "it just kind of sits there."

"If I hike down this trail, is there another way out?" Not really: Walk in, walk out, is usually the case.

Sometimes a joker will ask, "Are we there yet?" "I sometimes answer, 'Buddha would say, 'We are always there.' That gets me a laugh now and then."

Several times I have been asked

where the next shuttle bus stop is. If this is asked while on a trail in the Grand Canyon, the answer is "A mile back and a thousand feet up the way you came." Poleaxed stare. "The bus doesn't come down here?" "No," I want to say, "they tend to stick to the paved road."

One young man told me, "I hope I can do this." I said, "It looks as though you are." "No, I mean when I am as old as you." I guess I can take that as a compliment. Then there is the compliment: "I hope I'm as fit as you when I'm your age." I want to reply: "I might be as fit as your age!"

A friend who let her hair go grey during COVID told me that she gets a lot more positive comments than she used to: "Young hikers used to mutter under their breath when I passed them. Now they tend to do a thumbs up and say, 'Good for you.'"

I was hiking one day with a group of women who have hiked the West on trails for years, when a man stepped to the side to let us pass. He beamed at us as he said, "You ladies look radiant." Now that is the kind of trail talk I like.

Marjorie 'Slim' Woodruff is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. She is an educator at the bottom of Grand Canyon.



Writers on the Range
by Marjorie 'Slim' Woodruff

LETTER

Would you like to help the SLV 4-H?

Editor,
A couple of months ago, Larry Garner introduced me to the family of Eddie VanDamme of Monte Vista. Eddie had recently been moved to Denver by his son, Damian, for health reasons. After visiting with Damian, he and his dad made the decision to donate all the remaining household items to me - with the understanding

all proceeds would benefit the SLV 4-H Foundation.

This is a win-win for me, as my husband, Larry, is the SLV Extension Director, and the Foundation is raising money to permanently fund a local full-time agent.

At first, I was going to put everything in my big truck and haul it to the Green Spot and just have a yard sale.

However, when I took a second look at all the items, and realized how eclectic and unusual some of the items were, I decided to have the sale at 227 Bronk in MV.

Plus, I did not want to move the roll-top desk, or the China cabinets, or the pump organ, or the glass display cabinet, etc.

The sale will have something

for everyone: binoculars, jewelry, Colorado Avalanche pictures, collectible books, spittoons, silver, chess sets, prints, collector toy cars, grandfather clock, Victorian settee and two side chairs, and so much more.

In the spirit of raising money for the Foundation, if you would like the early bird special to check out the sale on

Saturday evening, Aug. 24, a donation of \$10 will get you in the door, at 6 p.m. Items may be purchased. Larger items may be bid by silent auction.

The actual sale will be on Sunday, starting at 11 a.m. and ending at 3 p.m. If you have any questions, call me at 719-580-7838. Thank you!

*Ruthie Brown
Alamosa*



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HEADWATERS

Continued from Page 1A

Revival, 2nd Chance, Caldera, Bo Depena Band, Rivertown Folk and The Rifters. This family friendly event is a great way to get out and enjoy some of Creede's epic views, delicious food, and music.

• Rally Round

Hailing from many different places and musical stylings, Rally Round comes together to produce a fun, danceable mix of reggae covers. They infuse their own style to classic roots reggae like Toots and the Maytals to more modern offerings like Sublime and Slightly Stoopid. Rally Round hopes their cool island rhythms will bring warm vibes to this high mountain town. Featuring the musical stylings of Joe Baker, Malcolm Snead, John Goss, Steve Baxter, and Steve Reynolds.

• Lesli Wood and the Spiceboys

Leslie Wood and the Spiceboys have been playing around the Austin area and other parts of the country for years. Wood also spends a considerable part of her time studying geology. "When Wood isn't researching shale tectonics and mud volcanoes, she is practicing with her band, The Spice Boys, or creating her own music. Her move to Golden coincided with the band's fourth appearance at the American Association of Petroleum Geologists Annual Convention and Exhibition meeting last summer. It was during those acoustic folk performances that she began to make connections with other Mines professors. When she saw the job posting for the Robert Weimer Distinguished Professor of Sedimentology and Petroleum Geology at Mines, applying for it was a no-brainer."

• Anthony Garcia and Los Diablos Tejanos

Located in the Austin and greater Austin area, the group first performed together in April 2021. Since then, the band has performed in various venues and festivals in and around the Austin and Hill Country area and Europe. The group just completed a tour through Germany and Switzerland in August. Past festivals and shows have included Old Settlers Music Festival, and the Luckenbach Main Stage.

• Dan West

Music at its best is an outpouring of emotion. Dan West is exceptional at capturing the emotion of a song and sharing it with the audience. Dan West is a singer that has been performing for over 30 years. Focusing on older classic country and his own original songs. Often compared to Don Williams, Dan West presents a variety of original and cover tunes. His soothing voice



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The Headwaters Music Festival is a great way to enjoy a family-friendly atmosphere while taking in the sites Creede is known for.

is easy to listen to and brings joy to your soul. Come out to Dan and his band and you will leave with a smile on your face.

• Beat Root Revival

It is a multi-instrumentalist roots duo, combining elements of Folk, Blues, Country, and Rock n Roll to create a melodic sound, made up of powerhouse harmonic vocalists Andrea Magee and Ben Jones. Originally from England and Ireland, Ben Jones and Andrea Magee came to the USA 4 years ago like their ancestors before them, looking for a new life and to share their music far and wide. With just a guitar, a Bodhran and a hunger in their harmonies and songs, Austin, Texas became their adopted home, and they have developed an ever-growing fan base gigging regularly while writing prolifically. The band's CD sales are higher than any other support act we've had at our label in years, and they just recorded three brand new songs with legendary producer Paul Leary (Sublime, Slightly Stoopid, Ballyhoo!, Meat Puppets, Butthole Surfers), which includes a great rendition of Thunderclap Neman's, "Something In The Air."

• Bo DePeña Band

Somewhere between the concrete jungle of New York City and the dirt road expanse of the West, resides the "American Roots" music of Bo DePeña. With a blended sound of blues, country, folk, and hints of rock 'n roll, the singer, songwriter, and performer is a troubadour, telling the tales of America's backbone.

2nd Chance, Caldera, Rivertown folk and The Rifters are all sure to keep the rhythm moving throughout the entire weekend.

For more information or a full line-up and schedule of events, visit www.headwatersmusicfestival.com.



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

The annual Alder Ass Sace is set to hit the starting line at Browns Park in South Fork next weekend.

Alder Ass Race trots into South Fork on Aug. 31

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — For the past three years, the South Fork Friends Foundation has worked to strengthen a new event in South Fork and their efforts have paid off. The annual Alder Ass Race is next weekend and is expected to bring the largest crowd of burro racers to the area since the event's start in 2022.

Burro racing has been a staple in small mountain towns throughout the US and Colorado. Burros played a significant role in South Fork's timber history, which makes it an excellent location to have this historic and fun event.

The South Fork Friends Foundation is planning to host more than 60 pack burro race teams at Browns Park located north of South Fork along Highway 149 on Saturday, Aug. 31.

Burro racing began as a way to honor the hard work and dedication of those from the past who relied on the animals to travel, work in yards, mines, and agriculture, and participate in some greatest historical events such as the Fremont Expedition that took place in 1848 here in the San Luis Valley.

Each of these historical tales

showcases these amazing animals and their ability to survive in the toughest conditions. Though many of the tales end in tragedy, it is another reason the animals are so cherished today.

Several area sanctuaries participate in the annual Alder Ass Race including Burro Buddies that is located in South Fork. This burro rescue is home to several burros that came from the BLM Wild Burro Project and have found not only a new home but a new mission in life serving as some of the pack burros that participate in the race.

South Fork is also home to Tiny as Donkey Experience, another burro sanctuary that focuses on sharing education and the joy of owning a burro with the public.

The Alder Ass Race will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Browns Park. There will be food, fun and entertainment for everyone throughout the day. Race registration is open until just before the race so be sure to sign up at www.adventuresignup.com/Race/CO/SouthFork/SouthForkAlderAssRace.

The intro course is three miles. Pack saddles, gold pan, pick, and shovel are optional for this distance. The majority of this course is on pavement for an



Organizers are expecting more than 60 pack burro race teams for the annual Alder Ass Race in South Fork on Aug. 31.

out and back route.

The short course is eight miles. Boots or alternative hoof protection is recommended, but not mandatory. The course may include water crossings. Max elevation can be up to 8,703 feet.

The long course is 19.25 miles. This course is challenging, rocky, and may include water crossings. Boots or alternative hoof protection is highly recommended, but not mandatory. South Fork's elevation gain is 2,862 feet with a max elevation of 10,913 feet.

Don't Settle for Less Than God's Best

I think it's healthy to stop periodically and take inventory of our lives. It's important to ask, "Am I really living the life Christ died for me to have? Or am I settling for something less?"

Regardless of what's happened in the past or what obstacles seem to be in our way, God has a big, full life in store for each one of us. However, it's up to us if we're going to get the best out of life and make the most of our time, talents, relationships, and opportunities.

The book of Genesis contains a great lesson in this area. It shares the story of Abraham's father, Terah, who gathered his family, packed up everything, and set out for his ultimate destination—Canaan.

However, Genesis 11:31 tells us, "...they went forth together to go from Ur of the Chaldees into the land of Canaan; but when they came to Haran, they settled there" (AMPC).

I wonder how many people start out to do one thing in life but settle somewhere along the way because they get tired or because it's convenient. It's not really what they want, but it's something they think they can "put up with."

Are there areas in your life where you have "settled" or maybe just haven't made as much progress as you have hoped? The Lord has called us to excellence; however, so many times we settle for being mediocre. The word mediocre literally means "to live halfway between success and failure."

And that's where so many people live; they haven't completely failed, but they're also not where they really want to be!

This applies to every area of our lives. Maybe you have begun studying the Word of God, and you've set a goal to really know your Bible and develop a vibrant relationship with the Lord. If that's the case, don't settle for just reading a chapter a day to "put your time in"—stay determined to make it a priority and reap the benefits of truly knowing God.

Or maybe you have a goal to lose 20 pounds. If so, make a decision that you're not going to give up when it gets difficult. Even if you have a bad day and actually gain weight, be determined to bounce back the next day!

Sometimes we get used to the place where we are and almost forget there's something better. Life gets busy, complicated, or even comfortable, and we lose sight of the dreams and goals we used to have. That's when we need to stir ourselves up and become determined to attain every single part of God's plan for our lives.

Let's take a few moments to play what I call the "What If?" game. This game isn't meant to make you feel guilty about what you haven't done—it's designed to help you picture what you can do. Use your imagination and really think through the answers to these questions:

What if you decided to give God your all and seek Him with your whole heart?

What if you demanded the best from yourself instead of settling for "just average?"

What if you stopped making excuses why you can't accomplish your dreams and goals?

What if you changed the way you speak and refused to say anything negative?

What if you started confronting problems instead of running away from them?

What if you decided to stop procrastinating?

Can you imagine where you would be this time next year if you followed through on even just one or two of these things?

The Bible is full of scriptures that encourage us to do our best. For instance, 2 Timothy 2:15 says, "Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed..." (AMPC).

I love that phrase, "do your utmost." Sure, it's always easier to go halfway, but just imagine for a second what could happen in your life if you decided to give your "utmost" in your marriage, at your job, or in other areas of your life.

Some of the greatest blessings in my life now are the things that required the most effort. Today, my husband Dave and I have the awesome privilege of sharing God's Word with millions of people through Joyce Meyer Ministries. However, it required tremendous sacrifice and the



Moving Up Higher
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decision to keep moving forward when so many times we felt like giving up. Yes, it required time and effort to do everything God placed in our hearts to do—but it was worth it in the end!

Today, I am so glad that I didn't stop halfway when things got tough. I thank God that I didn't get discouraged and quit during the days when only 50 people were attending my conferences.

I've learned this powerful lesson: If you will give your best and do what you can do, God will do His part and do what you can't do! A great life isn't just for someone else—it's for you, too.

Yes, it's going to require effort and determination, and in many cases, it may require you to push past fear so you can enjoy greater freedom and success. But I promise you this: It is always worth it.

So, don't settle for average, mediocre, or halfway. God has an incredible, fulfilling, and exciting life just waiting for you...and you can take it as far as you're willing to go. The next move is yours.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-part teaching resource *Don't Settle for Less Than the Best*. 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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‘A really big deal’: CPW discovers wild boreal toad tadpoles at reintroduction site near Pitkin

CONTRIBUTED

GUNNISON — Daniel Cammack made the familiar trek up to a wetland at 11,500 feet of elevation for the seventh consecutive year to boost Colorado’s population of state endangered boreal toads.

When he arrived at his destination high above the town of Pitkin, Cammack and his team of Colorado Parks and Wildlife native aquatic species biologists made a potentially game-changing discovery for the future of boreal toad conservation in the state: wild tadpoles at a translocation site.

“This is a really special day. We have been reintroducing toads at this site since 2018, and this is the first time that we have observed wild reproduction occurring,” Cammack said while standing in front of a pool of a few dozen wild tadpoles. “It’s a really big deal.”

The site near Pitkin was previously devoid of the toads. But in 2013, CPW identified it as a good potential habitat for translocation for the species. In 2017, CPW stocked the first 600 boreal toads at the site to be used as sentinels for chytrid fungus, a widespread pathogen implicated in the decline of this species.

Since then, CPW has stocked an estimated 20,000 tadpoles at the site. The vast majority originated as eggs collected from wild populations in remote backcountry areas and were transported to be raised at CPW’s Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility in Alamosa. An additional 570 tadpoles raised at the Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance were stocked at the site in 2022.

Female boreal toads are not reproductively mature until about age 6, and the discovery of wild tadpoles gives Cammack confidence the site will continue to produce into the future.

“For years, we have been watching multiple age classes thrive at this site, so we had high hopes this was going to become a self-sustaining breeding population and a successful translocation,” he said. “This is the first year we’ve seen breeding occurring in this wetland, and it is evidence of that success.”

“This day is a culmination of a

lot of dedicated people’s efforts, including multiple biologists, technicians and hatchery personnel. Everyone who has been involved in this project has poured their heart and soul into it. That’s what it takes to get here.”

If the tadpoles morph into toadlets later this summer and recruit into adult boreal toads, the translocation site will become only the second in Colorado where natural breeding has occurred. The first is near Cameron Pass in northern Colorado.

Boreal toads are listed as a state endangered species in Colorado. Once common in montane habitats between 7,000-12,000 feet in the Southern Rocky Mountains, the boreal toad has experienced dramatic population declines over the past two decades. The decline appears to be related to habitat loss and primarily infection by the chytrid fungus, which can infect most of the world’s 7,000 amphibian species, and is linked to major population declines and extinctions globally.

CPW and partners from the Boreal Toad Recovery Team have devoted significant resources in the past 20 years toward researching the cause of boreal toad declines in the state and exploring ways to recover the species. Partners have included the states of New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, federal agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and National Parks Service, the Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance and universities that have conducted critical research.

Specifically, CPW researchers focus on developing methodologies for reintroducing toads in historically occupied habitats, detecting chytrid fungus in the wild, marking and identifying individual toads and improving breeding success at the Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility, which plays a critical role in the state’s efforts to restore populations of boreal toads.

“The boreal toad is a truly unique and resilient amphibian,” said Cammack, a Native Aquatic Species



Photo Courtesy of CPW

CPW Southwest Region Native Aquatic Species Biologist Dan Cammack observes a pool with wild boreal toad tadpoles.

biologist for CPW in the Southwest Region. “We are up at 11,500 feet, at timberline practically. They gut out big winters covered by multiple feet of snow and experience only three to four months of warm growing season.”

“They are an integral part of the landscape, as far as I’m concerned. They were ubiquitous once in Colorado in this habitat. With chytrid fungus now being the primary cause of decline, we don’t have that many populations of boreal toad remaining. For us to get

something else going here is really important.”

Cammack has scouted much of southwest Colorado in search of wild boreal toad populations or suitable translocation sites. He called the discovery of the new tadpoles a monumental day in his career.

“These are the native species that were historically abundant and so common that it would have been hard to imagine this major decline,” he said. “As someone who grew up in Colorado and loves wildlife, I wish I could jump in a time machine and

experience these ecosystems before they faced these major threats. No doubt, critters like boreal toads were here in force.

“Unfortunately, they have since declined so far that they represent only a shadow of the past. It’s a mandatory crusade, in my opinion, to conserve the fragments that remain and keep these creatures represented on the landscape. Like all native creatures, they have an inherent right to exist. Our story and identity as Coloradans are more intact when these populations thrive.”

Stampede says thanks!

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With the 102nd Ski Hi Stampede celebration in the books, the Ski Hi Stampede Committee would like to extend a huge “THANK YOU” to all the people who attended and made it such a special event. The Concert was a tremendous success, the Parade was awesome, the Rodeos were packed with excitement and the Carnival never disappoints.

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The committee looks forward to continue the next 100 years and planning for next year begins today. See you next year for the 103rd Ski Hi Stampede, July 10-13, 2025

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15 wolves promised to Colorado by a Washington tribe aren't coming

By TRACY ROSS

Colorado Sun

A Native American tribe in Washington that promised 15 wolves to Colorado has rescinded its offer saying the state has not honored concerns of the Southern Ute Tribe involving wolf reintroduction.

Since soon after Colorado voters approved reintroducing wolves west of the Continental Divide, the Southern Ute Tribe has been trying to get Colorado Parks and Wildlife to acknowledge the tribe's sovereignty in managing wolves on its land under an agreement covering hunting and fishing in the southwestern corner of the state.

But the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Nation says a lack of agreement between the Southern Utes and the state is a deal-breaker. On June 6, Jarred-Michael Erickson, chairman of the Colville Business Council, wrote a letter to Colorado Parks and Wildlife Director Jeff Davis saying the Colville Tribes were withdrawing their resolution because "necessary and meaningful consultation was not completed with the potentially impacted tribes" when the state created and implemented its wolf reintroduction plan.

The Southern Ute Tribe's concerns date back to at least 2020, when the tribal council approved a resolution drafted by its wildlife advisory board to oppose reintroduction.

The resolution cited potential impacts on both the Southern Ute Reservation and in the Brunot Agreement Area, approximately 3.7 million acres of the San Juan Mountain region the confederated bands of Utes were forced to cede to the federal government in 1873.

Included in the 1873 Agreement was a provision reserving the right of Utes to "hunt upon said land so long as the game lasts and the Indians are at peace with the white people." In 2008, the Southern

Ute Tribe entered a historic agreement with CPW that expressed the intent of both governments to work cooperatively toward long-term conservation of wildlife within the Brunot Area. The Brunot Area Hunting Proclamation, which includes bag limits and permit numbers, is updated yearly.

The 2020 resolution to oppose reintroduction cited the impact of wolves on tribe member livelihoods, livestock on the reservation and wildlife including elk, deer and Shiras moose. Steve Whiteman, a fish and wildlife biologist who was wildlife division head for the Southern Ute Tribe from 2002 to 2022, represented the tribe on the stakeholder advisory group that presented recommendations concerning reintroduction to CPW.

Among key recommendations were recognizing "the Brunot Agreement lands (i.e., consideration of management and Tribal consultation needs)" and developing "new intergovernmental agreements or memoranda of understanding with Tribes."

But the Colville Tribe's letter indicates CPW hasn't done enough.

Early communications with CPW

As reintroduction efforts continued to move forward, the tribe in 2021 sent a letter to CPW communicating its concern that wolf restoration would "present an unacceptable risk to our hunting resources." The letter highlighted the problem of declining elk calf numbers in the San Juan Basin, attributed to drought, habitat loss and degradation, disease, recreation impacts and other predators.

"Additional pressure from an apex predator like the wolf would likely drive down the elk population further and reduce hunting opportunities," the letter said. "Any effort at wolf population management will only be possible many years into the future."

Tribal officials also were concerned big-game populations could be severely impacted by then, reducing hunting opportunities in the Brunot Area. They were critical of CPW's "arbitrary compensation cap" on livestock lost to depredation. They wanted assurance of critical funding for a restoration program, research and monitoring, education and outreach as well as a conflict mitigation and compensation program.

And they said that while the wolf management plan signaled "support of tribal self-determination and self-governance," they wanted CPW to recognize a "broader recognition of tribal sovereignty" through the adoption of a tribal management plan or memorandum of understanding that would govern the management of gray wolves on the reservation and Brunot Area.

The tribe sent another letter on Feb. 22, 2023, the last day for the public to submit comments on the proposed wolf management plan. By then the agency had held five public meetings about the proposal to hear community feedback, with a meeting Gunnison being the closest to the Southern Ute Reservation. That letter mentioned the June 4 letter as well as a request by Melvin J. Baker, chairman of the Southern Ute Tribe, asking CPW to limit releasing wolves to the Interstate 70 corridor north of the Brunot Area.

In fact, the first five wolves were released Dec. 18 north of I-70 on state land in Grand County. Another five were released Dec. 23 in Grand and Summit counties, also north of I-70.

As of July 23, some of the wolves had ranged north to the Colorado-Wyoming border, east into Larimer and Clear Creek counties, west into western Routt and Rio Blanco counties, but only as far south as the border of Eagle County and Lake

County, according to on CPW's Collared Gray Wolf Activity Map.

However, CPW's planned release area includes Montrose and Gunnison counties south of I-70 to the northern border of the Brunot Area. That may be one reason the Colville Tribe decided to rescind its offer of Washington wolves to the agency. Representatives did not respond to requests for an interview.

In early May, Southern Ute Tribe council member Andrew Gallegos gave the CPW commission a presentation on the history and establishment of the Ute reservations, the Brunot Area, wildlife management and the Brunot hunting program. Some key takeaways were the need for a strong government to government relationship and that the tribes know how to best manage their resources.

But the Colville Tribe in its June 6 letter wrote: "It is further recommended that all directives regarding the request from the State of Colorado that the Tribes provide wolves, that were passed up to the date of this recommendation be rescinded, including, but not limited to those passed on Sept. 19, 2023, and Oct. 3, 2023."

The Colville Tribe's natural resources and wildlife division indicated a letter would be coming June 11 and it was sent on June 18, Gonzales said in an email.

"Because the original agreement has only been rescinded at this time and does not close the door to future conversations or opportunities to work with the Tribe, CPW chose not to release this information," she added.

State statute doesn't require the agency to share communications with the public, but some ranchers are unhappy about CPW withholding this one.

"I guess it isn't part of their building back trust program," Grand County Commissioner Meritt Linke said, referring to promises Davis made during

a commissioner's meeting Jan. 25. "Once again, I would question what would be the benefit of keeping this secret. It's really not about wolves anymore. It's about politics."

Davis said in a statement last week that while the Colville Business Council, tribal government and natural resources committee's decision is "disappointing," we have a "strong relationship" with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and "hope to continue these conversations in the future."

CPW will continue working with other potential sources for wolves and isn't "contemplating halting our implementation of the plan," he added.

Southern Ute Tribe's statement

On Friday, the Southern Ute Tribe released a statement on Colville's decision, saying that since the passage of gray wolf reintroduction, the tribe has been "actively engaged in collaborative efforts" with CPW and the attorney general's office to address its concerns "including potential impacts of wolves on livestock, deer and elk herds, and the exercise of Brunot Area hunting rights reserved for Tribal Members."

"The Southern Ute Indian Tribe deeply values its progressive and strong relationship with Colorado Parks and Wildlife," it continued, "and will continue to collaborate with them to establish a framework for working together that enables the state to implement its reintroduction program while simultaneously recognizing the sovereign authority of the Tribe on tribal lands and the interest shared by the Tribe and the state in the Brunot Area."

In an email Friday, CPW said, "the nature of tribal governance and state/federal governance can present valuable learning opportunities. CPW is committed to working with our tribal partners to find solutions and move forward."

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CD 3 candidate Frisch stops in Creede



Courtesy photo

Adam Frisch, right, the Democratic candidate in the CD 3 race, speaks with Creede residents at a campaign stop at the Creede Hotel on Monday, Aug 12. 'I enjoyed meeting with voters in Creede today and discussing my campaign to unite folks from all backgrounds and bring common-sense back to politics. Both parties have failed to solve the serious challenges facing rural communities, like the high cost of living in our state and the difficulties in accessing quality, affordable health care close to home. That's why I am running for Congress: to defend our rural way of life and address the real issues families care about like creating good-paying local jobs, protecting Colorado farmers and ranchers, and securing the Southern border.' Frisch will face Republican Jeff Hurd from Grand Junction in November.

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The Creede Candle August 30, 1924

Local Siftings

Roy, the young son of Don LaFont met with an accident Tuesday by being thrown from a horse. An arm was broken and he was otherwise slightly damaged. Dr. McKibbin made the repairs.; Mrs. Emma W. White of Alamosa returned to her home Thursday after a week's visit at the Wasson home. While in Creede Mrs. White bought a cottage on LaGarita avenue which she will maintain for a summer home.; The town was in darkness Thursday night owing to the fact that the electric light plant had no smoke-stack. A new smokestack has been erected at the plant.; Ralph Peacock and family were in town from Detroit, Mich., Mr. Peacock is

looking over the find recently made in the MidWest mine company.; The Neff and McDerMott have their ventilating plant to furnish air for their tunnel complete and are again driving on the ore vein which is improving with development.

Up River Notes

The "Harvest Dance" held last week brought a large crowd of dancers to Wright's Ranch. The Waltz contest was won by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Workman.; Gene Mason made a trip to Creede Sunday for a load of lumber and other supplies necessary in the construction of cottages at Hermit Lakes.; Lack of feed and plenty of frost are forcing the sheep men to move their flocks to lower valleys for winter season.

DONATE

Continued from Page 1A
by the City of Monte Vista to not only honor fallen local Veterans U.S. Army Sgt. Faith Hinkley, and U.S. Marine Sgt. Glen E. Martinez, but to honor Veterans from all over. Land for the park was donated by the Monte Vista School District.

In the years since, the project has been left unfinished until Garner and the City of Monte Vista began the Faith Hinkley Memorial Project Fundraiser this past spring. Garner coordinated a Poker Run for local Veterans on July 27 which ended up being a successful event.

The Rio Grande County Museum Board and museum staff selected to donate seven bricks to the Band of Brothers, a tight-knit group of Viet Nam Veterans that lived in the Seven Mile Plaza, which is located just outside of Del Norte, and seven bricks to the Valley Veterans ReCreation group of Monte Vista.

The Seven Mile Band of Brothers consisted of 11 Veterans who served in the Viet Nam War, and all hailed from the Seven Mile Plaza. A memorial was put in place by local resident Ernie Martinez several years ago, marking the group's bravery and sacrifice. The group was called the "Band of Brothers" because of their dedication to each other during

and after the war. Martinez was pleased to receive the donation and will be working with relatives of the families to select a name for each of the seven bricks.

DJ Salazar founded the Valley Veterans ReCreation group and strives to bring local Veterans together. According to their mission statement, "Our mission is to enhance the well-being of our nation's heroes by harnessing the power of outdoor recreation. We are dedicated to providing transformative experiences that promote both mental and physical health. Through a commitment to adventure, camaraderie, and the continuous process of recreating and Re-creating, we strive to empower veterans, first responders, and their families, fostering resilience and a renewed sense of purpose on their journey to an overall well-being."

Salazar and Co-Director Craig Rauwolf are working to expand the group's base in Monte Vista and renovate a local building that would serve as a home base and activity center for local Veterans soon. They will be working with local families to select seven Veterans from the area for their seven bricks.

The Rio Grande County Museum keeps an ever-changing military exhibit on display year-round.

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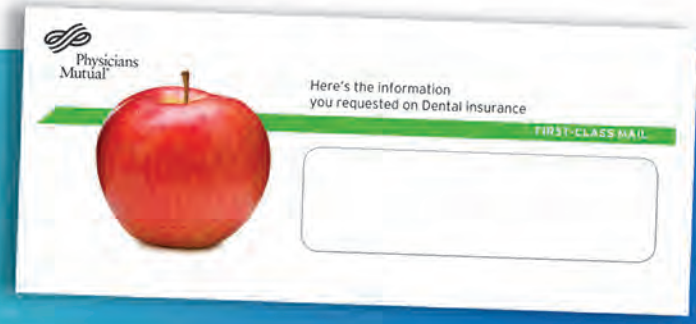
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Discover the essence of the West at Gallerio Grande in South Fork

CONTRIBUTED

SOUTH FORK — South Fork has a new destination for art enthusiasts and lovers of the American West. Gallerio Grande, 30635 Highway 160, is a premier art gallery dedicated to showcasing the fine bronze sculptures of R. Clay Booth that capture the spirit and traditions of the western frontier.

Gallerio Grande is an extension of Booth Sculpture, known for its exceptional bronze sculptures and large monuments. The new gallery is not just a place to view art; it's an immersive experience into the rich history and culture that shaped the American West.

With a focus on western traditions, the new gallery features work that tell stories of rugged landscapes, iconic figures, and the untamed wilderness.

The gallery is complemented by an active online presence through its website, boothsculpture.com, where visitors can explore the collection and learn more about the artists and their creations. Additionally, its social media platforms on Facebook and Instagram are updated daily, providing followers with the latest photos, updates, and information about upcoming exhibits and events.

"We invite the community and visitors alike to explore Gallerio Grande, where art meets history at the headwaters of the Rio Grande. Join us in celebrating the timeless beauty of the West through the eyes of artist R. Clay Booth," organizers stated.

The gallery also houses Steffens and Company Realty, Helmstetter Architecture, and Zorro Construction, making it a one-stop destination for anyone looking to settle in South Fork.

"Whether you're searching for land, planning a dream home, or looking to fill your space with stunning art, Gallerio Grande has it all," organizers stated.

For more information, visit boothsculpture.com and follow them on Facebook and Instagram.



Gallerio Grande, 30635 Highway 160, is a premier art gallery dedicated to showcasing the fine bronze sculptures of R. Clay Booth.



Courtesy photos

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September 7 • Monte Vista

Lifestyles

Serving the entire San Luis Valley

Supplement to The Monte Vista Journal, Center Post-Dispatch, The Conejos County Citizen, The Mineral County Miner, The South Fork Times, and The Del Norte Prospector.

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Conservation districts hosting free events Aug. 23-24

STAFF REPORT

CENTER — San Luis Valley conservation districts will be hosting free events on Aug. 23 and 24.

The events are free and begin on Friday, Aug. 23, at the Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista. There will be a soil and water workshop held on Friday, with guest speaker Annie Overlin from the CSU Extension office.

Overlin will explain the connection between soil and water conservation and ways

to track and test soil health. She will also be explaining different ways to implement water conservation in daily planning. Attendees can also connect with other likeminded individuals, ask questions about water conservation and soil health, and take a deeper look at innovation and practices. The workshop will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Dinner will be provided by Gosar Sausage.

On Aug. 24, the public is invited to the USDA Office in Center for the San Luis

Valley Farmer to Famer Field Day Tours. The tour will make stops in Rio Grande, Saguache, and Alamosa counties. The tours are being provided to help residents of the San Luis Valley understand and see what local farmers and ranchers are doing to help with water conservation and overall soil health. Attendees will have the chance to ask farmers and ranchers questions.

After the tours, there will be a discussion held at the USDA Office. There will be plenty

of time for attendees to ask questions, and gain insight into anything they may have seen on the tours. The tours will run from 8:30 a.m. until about 3:30 p.m. Transportation is provided for people who attend, and lunch from the Ruby Rose Café will also be served.

There is no cost for the workshop or the tour event, to RSVP call or text Mattea Freel, the District Manager at 970-371-0687 or Seth Armentrout at 719-289-7332, or email centercd1@gmail.com.

Dahlias bloom in Del Norte

Bloomstead Farms' first festival is Aug. 23-24

Wes and Cole, and nephew, Henry.

A Legacy of Transformation

The story of Bloomstead Farms is one of transformation. In 1997, Matt and Wendi Seger purchased a piece of the family land that Gary and Jody had initially bought. With their family, they began the arduous task of transforming it. Over the years, they have unearthed an astonishing 39,000 tons of rocks, turning a once barren landscape into fertile ground. Initially, potatoes, barley and canola were their primary crops, but a chance encounter with dahlias sparked a new passion.

The Segers planted their first 400 dahlia tubers, and the results were nothing short of magical. The fields, once rocky and inhospitable, became a kaleidoscope of color and life. The farm is now focusing on cultivating unique and specialty varieties, adding even more charm and allure to their offerings.

Introducing the Dahlia Festival

To celebrate this transformation and share the farm's beauty with the community, Bloomstead Farms is hosting its first-ever Dahlia Festival on Aug. 23 and 24. This enchanting event promises to capture the whimsical, heartwarming essence of a Hallmark movie, offering a perfect setting for fun, friendship, and perhaps even a touch of romance.

- Aug. 23: A Night Under the Stars The festival kicks off with a catered dinner and dance under the stars. Enjoy a catered meal and dance the night away with a DJ, all set against the breathtaking backdrop of our blooming dahlia fields. The cost is \$30 per person.

- Aug. 24: Fields of Fun and Friendship The festivities continue with a day of farm games, designed to delight participants of all ages. Enjoy entertainment from Ms. Kai's Performance Academy, delicious food from onsite vendors, and the chance to win fantastic prizes. The entry fee



Courtesy photo

Members of the Seger family of Del Norte are shown at Bloomstead Farms; front from left, Wendi and Jody; back, Henry, Wes, Matt and Cole.

is \$5 per person, which includes 10 tickets for the games.

For more details about the festival and to purchase tickets, visit bloomsteadfarms.com/pages/dahlia-festival.

Wendi's Good Things Market Adding to the charm of Bloomstead Farms is Wendi's Good Things Market. **Please see DAHLIAS on Page 7**

CONTRIBUTED

DEL NORTE — In the rugged landscape of Del Norte, where the San Juan Mountain Range casts its majestic shadow, lies a remarkable testament to vision, perseverance, and community spirit — Bloomstead Farms.

What began as rocky pieces of land bought by Gary and Jody Seger and affectionately referred to as "Baltic Avenue" has transformed into a vibrant haven of beauty and joy under the stewardship of their son, Matt, and his wife, Wendi, along with their sons,

San Luis Valley Fair closes another successful run



Photo by Marie Mccolm

Kaysen Johnson's Grand Champion Market Beef was purchased by Monte Vista Coop at the San Luis Valley Fair Junior Livestock Sale on Aug. 9 at the Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista.



Photo by Brian Williams

Jocelyn Malouff, left, and Reese Anderson, right, pose for a photo after their goats were selected Reserve Grand Champion and Grand Champion, respectively, of the San Luis Valley Fair Market Goat Show on Tuesday, Aug. 6, at the Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista.

BY MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — The San Luis Valley Fair kicked off on Aug. 1 and culminated on Aug. 9 with a Junior Livestock Sale and barbecue at the Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista.

This year's fair marked 122 years. Annually, about 350 youth participate in the event.

On Aug. 1 and 2, there was a horse show. On Aug. 3, breeding shows and hog showmanship shows took place. On Aug. 4, the Mike Kelley Memorial Barrow Show took place.

Kids and young adults could be seen all over the fairgrounds, tending to their animals, feeding them, brushing

them, and leading them into the arenas to show their animals during the shows.

Many people also entered other competitions, aside from the animals, throughout the week that were held, including baking, cake making, cake decorating, photography, science experiments, and much more. Each person was also interviewed regarding their project, and they were judged and received ribbons and placement holders in the fair.

In preparation for the fair, many raised their own animals, or purchased animals. They invest a lot of time in

Please see FAIR on Page 8

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SLV Potato Festival set for Sept. 7 in Monte Vista

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — The San Luis Valley Potato Festival is set to return for its 17th edition on Saturday, Sept. 7. There will be plenty of opportunities for a day filled with fun at Chapman Park. The day will begin with the Tater Trot 5K. Proceeds from the race will support pediatric diabetes patients throughout the Valley. The cost to participate is \$25 and early registrants get a free T-shirt. There will also be an opportunity to join CPAC Executive Director Jim Ehrlich on a free Agricultural Tour. Those who would like to attend can sign up to ride a bus from the festival site to visit the SLV-Research Center and see a field being harvested. The tour is free and provides the chance to learn about

the breeding, seeding, growing and harvesting of Colorado's finest potatoes, right here in the San Luis Valley. Festivities will continue throughout the day and will include free kid's games, the famous mashed potato dunk tank, and a professional chef competition between Chef Jason Morse of 5280 Culinary, Chefs RJ Harvey and Aurora Hollenbeck of Potatoes USA and Chef Tim Alfrey of the Windsor Hotel. There will also be bouncy houses, and a trampoline quad jumper along with food and craft vendors, live animals and much more. For more information or to sign up for any of these events, visit coloradopotato.org/potatofestival or call 719-852-3322.

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)					
		8/15	8/14	8/13	8/12	From	8/15	3day	4day	5day	7day
							2day				
Moravian 69	04/05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Moravian 69	05/05	0.14	0.12	0.11	0.12	0.26	0.37	0.49	0.59	0.79	
Early Wheat	04/05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Early Wheat	05/05	0.17	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.32	0.45	0.59	0.71	0.95	
White Wheat	04/05	0.09	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.17	0.24	0.32	0.38	0.51	
White Wheat	05/05	0.21	0.18	0.16	0.17	0.39	0.56	0.73	0.87	1.14	
WinterWheat	10/01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Potatoes											
Norkotah	05/05	0.18	0.16	0.14	0.15	0.34	0.48	0.63	0.76	1.01	
Centennial	05/05	0.25	0.21	0.19	0.19	0.46	0.65	0.83	0.99	1.27	
Nugget	05/05	0.24	0.20	0.18	0.18	0.44	0.62	0.79	0.94	1.21	
Alfalfa	Est.	0.28	0.23	0.21	0.21	0.51	0.72	0.93	1.10	1.42	
Lawnglass	Est.	0.24	0.20	0.18	0.18	0.44	0.62	0.79	0.94	1.21	

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

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

Under Contract



Sun House Farm Approx 1,910 Acres with Home
 \$12,900,000 | MLS #807640
 57075 County Rd C Center, CO
BRUCE STEFFENS
 OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®
 M: 719-580-0770

SOLD



Mountain Outlook /Approx. 69.750 Acres
 \$245,000 | MLS #806781
 000 County Road 13 Del Norte, CO
BRUCE STEFFENS
 OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®
 M: 719-580-0770



The Stunning Grande Ponderosa!
 Approx. 2.54 Acres
 \$2,250,000 | MLS #813982
 695 Escondida South Fork, CO
YVONNE HOFFMAN
 BROKER | REALTOR®
 M: 719-580-1901

COMING SOON



Beautiful Home on the Rio Grande River
 Approx. 3500 sq ft.
 33 Doe Circle South Fork, CO
YVONNE HOFFMAN
 BROKER | REALTOR®
 M: 719-580-1901

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!
 Approx. 7.520 Acres/\$172,500/MLS# 813894
 1416 Bear Creek Circle, South Fork, CO
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UNDER CONTRACT



BEAUTIFUL RIVER LOT FOR SALE!
 APPROX. 0.500 ACRES
 \$174,900/MLS#812252
 63 Doe Circle South Fork, CO
AUNDREA LILLARD
 ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®
 M: 706-622-0799



Perfect Live/Work Property
 APPROX. 3.47 ACRES
 \$799,000/MLS#813618
 4 El Dorado Lane South Fork, CO
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 OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR
 M: 719-580-0770

NEW!



Stunning Home on 137 Acres
 \$1,700,000 MLS #815725
 16996 CR 28, Sanford, CO
TATE HUFFAKER
 ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®
 M: 719-298-6560

SOLD



Charming Lovely Home
 Approx. 1,544 Sq. Ft. /3 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom
 \$380,000/MLS#814904
 175 Orondoa Road South Fork, CO
BRUCE STEFFENS
 OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR
 M: 719-580-07709

Under Contract



Cozy Remodeled Home
 \$275,000 | MLS#815078
 127 Blackhawk Rd, South Fork, CO
AUNDREA LILLARD
 ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®
 M: 706-622-0799



Steffens & Co. Realty, Inc.
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 SteffensRealty@Go.Jade.org
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 South Fork, Colorado

Valley-Wide Classified **FREE!** ON LINE! **MARKETPLACE**

Sell your household items for FREE. Total value of items must be \$50 or less. See details below.



CLASSIFIED INDEX

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ANNOUNCEMENTS
01 TICKETS
02 CARD OF THANKS
03 MEMORIALS
04 LOST & FOUND
05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
06 PERSONALS
EMPLOYMENT
07 HELP WANTED
08 WORK WANTED
09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
FOR RENT
10 APARTMENTS
11 ROOMS
12 HOUSES
13 MOBILE HOMES
14 BUSINESS PROPERTY
15 WANTED TO RENT
16 VACATION
REAL ESTATE
17 REAL ESTATE
18 LOTS & ACREAGE
19 FARM & FARMLAND
20 BUSINESS PROPERTY
21 MOBILE HOMES
22 PROPERTY WANTED | MERCHANDISE
23 LAWN & GARDEN
24 GARAGE SALES
25 AUCTIONS
26 ANTIQUES
27 APPLIANCES
28 HOUSEHOLD GOODS
29 MUSICAL ITEMS
30 ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS
31 HEALTH
32 FUEL & HEATING
33 BUILDING MATERIALS
34 OFFICE EQUIPMENT
35 HEAVY EQUIPMENT
36 MISCELLANEOUS
37 WANTED
38 MACHINERY, TOOLS & EQUIPMENT
39 SPORTING GOODS
40 AUTO PARTS
FARMER MARKET
41 FARM EQUIPMENT
42 FEED & SEED
43 FARM PRODUCTS
44 FARM SERVICES | ANIMALS
45 ANIMAL BREEDING
46 PASTURE FOR RENT
47 HORSES & CATTLE
48 PETS & SUPPLIES
49 ANIMAL CARE
50 LIVESTOCK
RECREATIONAL
51 BOATS & EQUIPMENT
52 CAMPING EQUIPMENT
53 TRAILERS
54 SNOWMOBILES/ATV'S
55 R.V.'S/CAMPERS
FINANCIAL
56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
57 INVESTMENTS
TRANSPORTATION
58 MOTORCYCLES
59 VEHICLES WANTED
60 CLASSIC CARS
61 4X4'S
62 VANS
63 TRUCKS
64 AUTOS FOR SALE
SERVICES
65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
66 CHILD CARE |
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Our ad policy: Valley Publishing accepts all classified advertising except that which it deems objectionable to its readers. Credit or replacement ads will not be given for early ad cancellation.

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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

Rio Grande County Clerk and Recorder is seeking a full-time Deputy Clerk. Benefits include **FOUR DAY WORK WEEK**, paid holidays, annual and sick leave, retirement, and insurance. Starting \$17.70 - \$18.40/hour DOE. HS diploma or GED required, three to six months related experience preferred. Must possess computer knowledge, customer service and general office skills. Background check and pre-employment drug testing, including testing for marijuana required. Application available on-line: riograndecounty.org or pick up from Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200 in Del Norte. Return by 3:00pm Friday, August 30 in person or via email to humanresources@riograndecounty.org. (719) 657-2744. (8-28)

Del Norte High School is seeking a qualified Assistant Volleyball Coach for the 2024 volleyball season. The individual would be responsible for developing the junior varsity program and assisting the varsity coach in all aspects of the high school volleyball program. If interested, please email Gilbert (Gibbs) Sanchez, Del Norte Jr/Sr High School Athletic Director at gsanchez@urtigers.co or contact him at 719-657-4020. (9-4)

Full-time Maintenance and Grounds position open at the Upper Rio Grande School District. Applicant must pass a background check and be able to work independently, be a forward-thinking individual with an overall team approach to all tasks at hand. Applicant must also be able to work in all weather conditions (snow removal/general landscaping). If interested, please contact Demo Trujillo, 719-657-4040 x4007, dtrujillo@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co. (9-4)

Jr/Sr High Language Arts Teacher needed at Del Norte Jr/Sr High

School. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License with a secondary Language Arts endorsement. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, DNHS Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Mrs. Hardy at 719-657-4020. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online. (9-4)

Substitutes needed at Upper Rio Grande School District in Del Norte! We need subs for teachers (must have a sub license), classified employees (must have sub license),

cafeteria workers, and bus drivers. Call or email: Sophia Cruz at 719-657-4040 x4000, scruz@urtigers.co. (9-4)

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

Consignment Auction - Small Animals

4:30 p.m. • Aug. 30

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Contact Eddie Miller 719-849-8063

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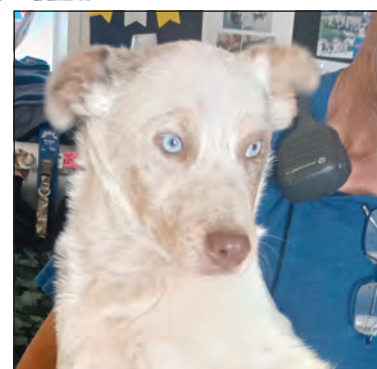
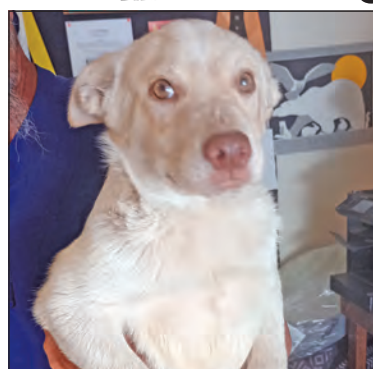
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We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society by contributions, donations, volunteering and general support at Conour Animal Shelter.

LOST & FOUND



Found together on 8/2 on Darwin Ave in Monte Vista

Joker the Pyrenees Akbash mix is still here, and he's the last of his litter. He just turned 5 months old and loves everyone, kiddos included! Joker is very playful, loving, and ready for his forever home! Come meet him today!

It's "Clear the Shelters" Month!

From August 10th to September 10th all adoptions for doggos over 8 months old are half off! We have Staffies, Shepherds and Cattle Dogs all waiting for their forever homes! Stop in and see if our fluffs are the fur family member you're looking for!

Please note adoptions go in order of contact made.

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

or email her at lmartinez@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co. (8-28)

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 top of Wolf Creek Pass and requires commuting throughout the winter months. This position offers skiing

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

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)

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

17 Real Estate For Sale
Large lots over half-of-an-acre. Lots 11, 12, Block 15, Alpine Village No. 8. Great Views. \$18K. 719-250-2675 (9-4)
Creed Heaven #1 Lot 22 Block "G" Last Chance Drive \$32,500 970-779-8204 (10-9)

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Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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SUDOKU

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

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

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

D	B	M	S		E	N	E	M	A	S				
E	R	I	C		B	O	D	Y	G	U	A	R	D	
P	U	S	H		A	T			L	E	V	E	E	
I	N	H	U	M	A	N	I	T	I	E	S		M	R
C	E	A	S	E	S		C	A	N	T		C	A	B
T	I	P	S		P	E	N	N		K	A	K	I	
				A	C	I	D	S		D	O	N	E	E
U	M	P	I	R	E				M	O	R	A	S	S
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Valley Wide Classifieds

24 Garage/Yard Sales

Downtown (MV) Yard sale, 124 Adams, between Nino's and Quincy's office and home stuff. Monday-Saturday, AM all of August. Business hours minus lunches. Sales prices. (8-28)

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)

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38 Machinery, Tools, Equipment

Tool sale. Carpentry tools. Automotive tools. Numerous power tools. 719-588-2503 (9-11)

42 Feed & Seed

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48 Pets and Supplies

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64 Autos for Sale

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DAHLIAS

Continued from Page 1

Market, an elevated farm shoppe with a mission to help women live more joyful and purposeful lives. Wendi Seger, the former owner of the beloved eatery Locavores in Alamosa, started the market in response to the challenges of COVID-19, aiming to keep her employees working.

What began as a small venture has now blossomed into a thriving business, shipping

farm-inspired goods nationwide. The new farm location includes a retail section and expanded shipping and warehouse facilities. Wendi's Good Things Market stands as an inspiring testament to resilience and community spirit.

A Destination in the SLV

Bloomstead Farms and Wendi's Good Things Market are more than just places;

they are experiences. Visitors are welcome to explore the stunning dahlia fields, purchase bouquets, and capture unforgettable moments through photography. The San Luis Valley offers a picturesque destination, perfect for a day trip or a weekend getaway.

For more information on when the farm will be open for photography and bouquet purchases, visit bloomsteadfarms.com.



Courtesy photo

Beautiful Dahlias are shown blooming at Bloomstead Farms north of Del Norte.

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

Secluded cabin on 20 acres - Gated Community
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SOLD!

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FAIR

Continued from Page 1

the animals. The return on time and money invested comes back to when the animal is sold at the livestock sale. This year's fair also featured food trucks. Vendors were set up inside of the Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski-Hi Complex.

There were some amazing cake entries this year, including a cake that was decorated to look like a skunk, a beautiful 3-tiered cake that had climbing vines all over it, a cake that was decorated to look like a happy bunny rabbit, a cake that looked like a beach, and a cake that was decorated to look like a beehive. Grand Champion for the cakes was Liam Griffin with his cut up cake that looked just like a skunk, and the reserve Grand Champion was Joslyn Mix with her cake that was decorated like a bunny rabbit.

Winners of the shows included Grand Champion SLV Fair Market Beef shown by Kaysen Johnson and Reserve Champion SLV Fair Market Beef shown by Trace Johnson; Grand Champion Market Sheep shown by Lane Mattive and Reserve Champion Market Sheep shown by Macklie Sims; Grand Champion Market Goat shown by Reese Anderson and Reserve Champion Market Goat shown by Jocelynn Malouff; and Grand Champion Market Swine shown by Aubrey Naranjo and Reserve Champion Market Swine shown by Makenzie Consaul.

On Friday, Aug. 9, during the livestock sale and barbecue, about 350 people were there. The Grand Champion Market Beef was purchased by Monte Vista Coop for \$28,000.

For more information on the San Luis Valley Fair, visit their website at slvfair.com.



Photos by Brian Williams

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.



Lane Mattive, left, shows the Grand Champion of the San Luis Valley Fair Market Sheep Show on Aug. 7. Mattive, 13, of Sargent Community 4-H Club, won his class with his 156-pound crossbred lamb before being selected Grand Champion. Macklie Sims, right, showed the Reserve Grand Champion of the fair.



Photo by Marie Mccolm

Liam Griffin made and decorated the Grand Champion skunk cake at the San Luis Valley Fair.

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