

Center Viking Youth Club seeks donations, sponsorships

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — The Center Viking Youth Club is again seeking donations and sponsorships from people and businesses.

The Center Viking Youth Club is appreciative of donations and sponsorships from people and businesses in the community. As a nonprofit organization, the club values the generous donations that allow the establishment to stay in business and keep going.

The Center Viking Club was originally established in 2014. The Masonic Lodge donated the building for the club to the Center

Consolidated School District. The Center Viking Club became a nonprofit organization and has been open ever since.



The club provides after-school programs serving up to 62 children per day. According to Katrina Ruggles, Grant Manager for the Center Consolidated School District and the Center Viking Club, the club serves over 300 children throughout the school year. The club is open to K-12 students who attend school at the Center Consolidated School District.

According to Carmen Pavlovsky, the club is committed to aiding in the growth and wellbeing

of Center's youth. The club offers supervision with an educational atmosphere, and a warm environment.

The club offers many programs and provides events and many learning experiences. Some things the club offers are out of the Valley trips, swimming lessons, and art and cultural events. The club is open five days a week and 11 months out of the year.

Project-based learning takes place at the club daily, through what are known as STEM Activities. These activities may include gardening, cooking, field trips, and coding robots. The programs also help develop life skills in youth. There is an opportunity for youth to obtain extra educational

help by way of tutors, who work with students on homework, and furthering their skills in different school subjects including language, math, literacy, science, social studies, art, and music.

Throughout the year, the Center Viking Youth Club provides events that parents can also take part in with their children.

Donations to the club can be made by cash, check, or credit card. Checks can be made directly to the Center Viking Youth Club, and either taken to the club personally or mailed to PO Box 883, Center, CO 81125. Credit card payments can be made by visiting the club.

For more information, contact the Center Viking Youth Club at 719-937-5093.

Shorts

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.



Photo by Marie Mccolm

People getting dinner from Center Consolidated School District staff during the community open house on Aug. 15.

Center Consolidated School District hosts community open house

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — More than 200 people attended the community open house on Thursday, Aug. 15, at the Center Consolidated School District.

The school district hosted the open house with the hope that students would encourage their parents to attend and meet their teachers, and the staff at the school.

The open house had teachers and staff spread out all along the outside of the main buildings, sitting in chairs, with long tables. Dinner was provided for anyone that attended

at no charge, featuring hamburgers, chips, water, and cookies.

Students walked all over, socializing with their friends and teachers. There were kids playing football out on the football field. There were kids chasing each other, talking and laughing.

Many parents attended and spoke with teachers and different staff members.

School board president Kimberley Duran said, "This is wonderful, I mean this is just great. I like seeing the football players out there, seeing the parents come in. I know tonight

they are giving some prizes; they are giving away T-shirts. Everyone has gotten together tonight to meet the faculty and mingle with parents and students, too. I can't remember having anything like this when I was younger. I have been here my whole life, and we have never had anything like this. This is really something great for the kids and the faculty and parents. There's great food here, you can come sit down, talk to everybody at the school, about school. It's just a really great event that we put on here. The cooks have done a great job with

Please see OPEN HOUSE on Page 2A

Creating new affordable housing can stabilize county workforce needs

By SAGUACHE COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

SAGUACHE COUNTY — In the current housing crisis, developing more rental units that are priced to meet the wages of employees working throughout Saguache County has been an ongoing desire. The typical standard of affordability defined by HUD is only 30% of a household's gross income should be spent on housing. The development of Range View in the Town of Saguache will directly benefit households by

meeting this standard of housing affordability.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines "low income" as a household earning equal or less than 80% of the Area Median Income. The most recent HUD 2024 Income Limits for Saguache County indicate that a household is considered to be "low income" with incomes noted below:

- a single-person household may earn equal to or less than \$52,750 annually;
- a two-person household may earn equal to or less than \$60,300 annually;
- a three-person household may earn equal or less than \$67,850 annually;
- a four-person household may earn equal or less than \$75,350 annually or less, etc.

- a two-person household may earn equal to or less than \$60,300 annually;
 - a three-person household may earn equal or less than \$67,850 annually;
 - a four-person household may earn equal or less than \$75,350 annually or less, etc.
- Saguache County as a geographical region has generally depressed wages when compared to other regions

in the state. The income levels noted above represent wages significantly higher than the average wage in Saguache County and in many cases would be considered a good salary for many jobs throughout the County.

The issue of depressed wages in Saguache County is so impactful that the San Luis

Please see HOUSING on Page 2A



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Photo by Marie Mccolm

Jazmine Pena sitting at a table enjoying Center Consolidated School District's community open house with her kids on Aug. 15.

OPEN HOUSE

Continued from Page 1A

the food for everyone tonight, too." Jazmine Pena, a mother with children enrolled in the Center schools, also said the event was great. "My kids are having a lot of fun. As a mother, it's nice to see parents coming out, and wanting to meet their kids' teachers and to talk about the upcoming school year. Education is so important to me. I want to make sure that my children get a good education when they go to school. I think

this is an important night for first impressions, for parents to really see where the child is going to go to school and get a feel for their teachers. We are having fun and eating dinner and just enjoying the atmosphere tonight. As a parent, it's nice to see us all here, you can tell so many other parents really care about their children too. This is just wonderful," she said. Christine Mikeljack, a teacher in the district, said, "We do this every year,

and every year it seems to just grow. There are a lot of parents who come out and meet us all, and I think it just gives them an overall calm outlook for the year ahead for their children. We really enjoy meeting the parents as well. I think this is an important night, and we are very happy with the turnout this evening. We want to thank everyone for coming. We are all happy to participate. Here's to another great school year."

HOUSING

Continued from Page 1A

Valley Housing Needs Assessment — facilitated by SLV Housing Coalition under the leadership of Dawn Melgares, the Executive Director (see assessment for Town of Saguache) — identified the need for additional affordable housing opportunities at rates far below the asking price for most rentals in the area. This substantial need for additional affordable housing units was more precisely defined in a site-specific "market demand study" commissioned by Northwest Real Estate Capital Corp (NWRECC) which indicated that Range View could consistently serve households with incomes at or below 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI). The most recent Census noted the

median income in Saguache County was \$51,946 compared to the State of Colorado's median income of \$89,309 (HUD's figures are more recent than the last census). The average person's income for Saguache County is \$34,311 and when comparing these numbers to the allowable HUD income levels — it is possible to see how building the 32-unit Range View and expanding the Saguache County Housing Authority will impact employee retention. When considering the above noted income levels — for context it is important to consider for example the pay rate of teachers at Mountain Valley School. The first-year base pay salary for a teacher is \$37,000. Attracting more teachers

who would like to live in this rural community and who could also apply for SCHA affordable housing program now and into the future with the completion of Range View — one can see how folks who are attracted to the region could put down roots, and possibly grow a family with both a steady job and affordable housing. "The beauty of Range View is that in partnership with Northwest Real Estate Capital Corp and all the contributing partners — the project directly impacts the process of building up our community and can help change old poverty narratives into that of a thriving Saguache County," stated the Saguache County Board of Commissioners.

COOKOUT

Continued from Page 1A

having fun. A couple of the officers are out playing with the kids. I told the other officers, I am hoping to do this a couple of times in the summer, once at the beginning and once at the end. It was fun. I am glad everyone was able to come out." City Manager Webb was also happy with the turnout. "It has gone really good. We have had a bunch of community support. We've had kids from our school, we

have also had our seniors. There's been quite a bit of hamburgers given out tonight. All our officers are here, even our K-9 unit is here. It's a great event," Webb said. Resident Araceli Mendoza said the cookout was "a nicely put together event. I think it's cool that the chief of police is cooking hamburgers and talking to everyone, he's very nice. This is a very nice turnout for the community, you can tell the

kids are really enjoying it. The kids are munching on hamburgers and running around and having fun. I want to thank the Police Department for doing this for all of us. I hope they do more stuff like this in the future." Mayor Gallegos said everything went well, too. "There's a lot of people here, a lot of family members, too. Everybody is happy. This is a real nice event for the community," Gallegos said.

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. 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. She is survived by her siblings Suzan (Craig), Regina, Barbara (Ramon), Pete (Theresa), Cecilia (Chris), Clorinda, and several nieces, nephews, cousins, and godchildren. Charlotte was outgoing, adventurous, and had a contagious smile and sense of humor. She lived

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. Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts! 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. 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.

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Bear-ly made it

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.

OPINION & EDITORIAL

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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SLV Rural Philanthropy Days registration is open

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

CONTRIBUTED

SANLUISVALLEY — Community Resource Center (CRC) has opened registration for the San Luis Valley Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) conference set for Sept. 11-13 in Monte Vista and Alamosa.

This event is being organized by CRC and a steering committee of more than 20 local leaders. For over 30 years, RPD conferences have convened with the goal of strengthening regional Colorado nonprofits and the communities they serve. Registration will remain open while tickets last or through August. Tickets are expected to sell out quickly.

The San Luis Valley Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) conference is an opportunity for nonprofit professionals, grant makers, community leaders, distinguished speakers, and elected officials to exchange knowledge and establish meaningful relationships across their professional networks in the region. This rotating opportunity occurs every four years in the San Luis Valley region, composed of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties. RPD is a part of the Rural Action Network (RAN), a statewide program of Community Resource Center that builds nonprofit capacity, fosters relationships, and fuels regional collaboration leading to increased grant dollars awarded to rural communities.

"Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) conferences stand as flagship events in rural Colorado," says CRC Co-Board Chair, Leslie Baldwin. "These conferences are born out of collaboration with community leaders, fostering dialogue and tackling key topics shaped by their firsthand experiences. This platform allows nonprofit professionals to engage directly with statewide funders, partake in professional development opportunities, and connect with fellow community leaders from across the region. Whether aiming to lay the groundwork for new initiatives or amplify existing efforts, RPD offers a vital space for networking and growth."

Rural Philanthropy Days brings together community organizations and foundations to amplify their missions, sustain meaningful collaborations, and surpass fundraising goals. Community Resource Center anticipates over 75 funders and grant makers to attend the September conference. In addition

to connecting rural nonprofits to these resources, the conference offers professional development, educational opportunities, and relevant panel discussions pertaining to the promises and obstacles of operating a nonprofit in the San Luis Valley region.

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

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

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

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

For additional information and questions, visit crcamerica.org or contact Katy Sawyer at katy.sawyer@crcamerica.org.

The Range in Saguache celebrates 10 years



Courtesy of The Range

The Range in Saguache is celebrating 10 years. There will be an opening reception for Home on The Range, with refreshments served from 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 9. There will be poetry and music performances starting at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 10. The Saguache art space first opened to the public in 2015 with a show called The Ramble. Home on the Range is the 35th exhibition, including artworks by numerous artists. The Range is at 307 4th St., Saguache. Home on the Range will be on view until Sept. 15. During the exhibition, The Range will have regular open hours on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ring the bell or call 646-734-1373 to visit the exhibition outside these hours. Pictured is Adrienne Garbini image, Home on the Range, 2024. Memoryware framed inkjet print.

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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

with
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Meyer



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

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

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Courtesy photo

A traffic stop by the Monte Vista Police Department on Aug. 12 led to the arrest of two men on drug charges. After obtaining a search warrant, MVPD officers found drugs – methamphetamine, fentanyl and marijuana – and a gun with ammo and clips in the vehicle.

MVPD arrests two men on drug charges

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — At approximately 12:17 p.m. on Aug. 12, Monte Vista Police Department officers performed a traffic stop on a vehicle. During the stop, blue pills were observed next to the 53-year-old male passenger, in plain view, and not in an original dispensary container.

The passenger threw the packaging containing the pills, after being identified by police, to prevent detection of the drugs. After resisting arrest, he was transported to the Monte Vista Police Department and processed without further incident.

The 29-year-old male driver was also arrested and in possession of a controlled substance. He was also transported to the Monte Vista Police Department.

The 53-year-old male passenger is being charged with suspicion of felony possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute, resisting arrest and obstructing a peace officer.

The 29-year-old passenger is being charged with suspicion of misdemeanor possession of a controlled substance.

The Monte Vista Police Department applied for a search warrant to thoroughly search the impounded vehicle and its contents.

This warrant was issued by the 12th Judicial District Judge and a gun, and drugs were seized during the search of that vehicle.

The weight of the suspected drugs found in the vehicle was over 5 ounces of methamphetamine, over 2 ounces of fentanyl and over 280 grams of marijuana, and the suspect has now been charged with additional criminal charges, to include:

- “Special Offender,” which, by the enormity of the drugs seized, projects the possession into a drug felony 1.
- Possession of weapon by previous offender, which is a class 5 felony.

This was the second vehicle stopped by MVPD on Aug. 12 with controlled substances located.

AVSAR rescue on Ellingwood on Aug. 4

STAFF REPORTS

ALAMOSA COUNTY — On August 4, Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue (AVSAR) assisted an injured hiker on Ellingwood Peak in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

AVSAR was alerted via a Garmin SOS activation from a hiker that had fallen on the southwest approach to Ellingwood Point. The individual fell with his leg pinned by a large boulder. He also suffered a severely broken arm.

Canon Helitack transported AVSAR members to the injured who rendered medical attention. The hiker was then extracted from the scene via a hoist by a Colorado National Guard helicopter. He was later transferred to a Reach Air Medical 71 helicopter and taken to a Front Range hospital.

On July 27, AVSAR rescued a hiker from Ellingwood who was also transported by a Colorado National Guard helicopter and a Reach 29

aircraft.

AVSAR thanked the Alamosa County Sheriff’s Office, Eagle Air Med, the Colorado National Guard, Colorado Search and Rescue Association and the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control-Canon Helitack.

Rescue units such as the one used by the injured hiker during this event are small and lightweight. The Garmin inReach Mini 2 Satellite Communicator retails for \$349.



Photo courtesy of AVSAR

Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue during an emergency situation on Ellingwood Peak.

Stampede says thanks!

To the Monte Vista Community, and the entire San Luis Valley:

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.

We could not pull this off without the scores of sponsors!

The committee puts in countless hours during the year to bring this to the valley, but also knows that this event does not happen without the help of the many people who volunteer their time. Too many to mention by name, but please know your hard work did not go unnoticed.

The new building and facilities are amazing and help make the experience even that much better.

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

You Are Appreciated.

As the Ski-Hi Stampede Committee we have made the decision to continue our event on the second weekend in July in 2025. Our goal is to continue to improve the entertainment we bring to the community.

Sincerely, 2024 Ski Hi Stampede Committee

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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.

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



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

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

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.

Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship program seeks participants

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — The Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship program offers cancer survivors in the San Luis Valley the opportunity to participate in an individualized exercise program conducted in a group setting which meets three times per week for 10 weeks.

Starting its sixth year, this program offers a place where participants can work toward their personal fitness goals in a non-judgmental setting while enjoying a support network of fellow cancer survivors. The program also gives Adams State undergraduate and graduate kinesiology students experience in fitness testing and guiding and supporting program participants throughout the exercise program.

The Adams State University Department of Kinesiology continues important research on the benefits of several types of exercise on the physical, mental, and social health of cancer survivors. According to the American Society of Clinical Oncology, regular exercise has been shown to be beneficial for individuals across all stages of cancer and cancer types. In addition, regular exercise has been shown to reduce the risk of cancer recurrence.

All cancer survivors ages 18 years or older are welcome regardless of gender, type, or stage of cancer. This fall's research study begins the week of Sept. 2 with appointments for individual fitness testing. There is no cost to the participant, but completing the entire twelve weeks of the study

is crucial to ensure accurate results are obtained. The study consists of one week of pre-testing followed by 10 weeks of exercise programming, with post-testing to identify changes in fitness and overall health starting the week of Nov. 18. The program is funded through local support from the SLV Health Foundation, including the Larry Holder Golf Tournament, after completing a two-year grant

from the Colorado Cancer Coalition. Interested participants are encouraged to attend one of the following pre-registration meetings: 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 21, or 12 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22. All meetings will be held in the Adams State East Campus Building, room 109. The East Campus Building is on the corner of First Street and La Veta Avenue in Alamosa.

For more information, or for those who cannot attend one of the scheduled pre-registration meetings, contact the Adams State Kinesiology Department program coordinator, Ally Miles at 303-519-9932, milesaj@adams.edu; or Abby Adiong, adiongar@adams.edu; or Peggy Johnson at pvjohnson@adams.edu.

Visit larryholdersurvivorship.com for more information.

Request For Proposal (RFP) Hangar Renovation Project

Saguache County is looking for a person or contractor for demolition and removal of hangars and rubbish on Leach Airport property.

There are several hangar structures at Leach Airport that need to be demolished. Saguache County seeks to have all non-viable hangars demolished and all associated rubbish on the property removed.

See attached map – T Hangar C to be torn down, T Hangar E to be torn down, T Hangar F to be torn down, Hangar F3 torn down. Total of Hangars to be torn down – 4.

A map will be available at www.saguachecounty.co11olorado.gov to identify targeted structures for this demolition proposal. Saguache County reserves the right to start accepting proposals on Monday, August 12, 2024, with the understanding RFP process will remain open until September 6, 2024, at 3pm.

If you are interested in the removal of the items at Leach Airport please send a letter of interest to Wendi Maez, PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149 or you may email your letter of interest to wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov.

For additional information please contact either Wendi Maez at 719-655-2231 or Jed Elithorpe at 719-850-1928.

No. 1703 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, August 15, 22 and 29, 2024.

District Court Denver Probate Court

Saguache County, Colorado
Court Address: 501 4th Street
Saguache, CO 81149

In the Matter of the Estate of Albert A. Buytendorp

Deceased

Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address):
C. Christopher Muth
8727 La Palma Lane, Naples, FL 34108

Phone Number: (513) 518-3704 E-mail: chris@cornuth.com
FAX Number: Atty. Reg. #:

Case Number: Division Courtroom

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-12-801, C.R.S.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Albert A. Buytendorp, Deceased Case Number 2024 PRB

All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to

District Court of Saguache County, Colorado or
 Denver Probate Court of the City and County of Denver, Colorado

on or before 12/31, 2024 (date), or the claims may be forever barred.

C. Christopher Muth
Type or Print name of Person Giving Notice

8727 La Palma Lane
Address

Naples, FL 34108
City, State, Zip Code

No. 1704 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, August 15, 22 and 29, 2024.

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DF-CD-NP-G421

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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Alder Ass Race trots into South Fork 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



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

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

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 Tinyas 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 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.

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



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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 Freely, 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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Your Future Begins Today!



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) (inches)				
		8/15	8/14	8/13	8/12	2day	3day	4day	5day	7day
		Moravian 69	04/05	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.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

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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BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-580-1901

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

AUNDREA LILLARD
ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®
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NEW!



Stunning Home on 137 Acres
\$1,700,000 MLS #815725
16996 CR 28, Sanford, CO
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ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®
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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: 719-580-0770

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

Under Contract



Cozy Remodeled Home
\$275,000 | MLS#815078
127 Blackhawk Rd, South Fork, CO
AUNDREA LILLARD
ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®
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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
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02 CARD OF THANKS
03 MEMORIALS
04 LOST & FOUND
05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
06 PERSONALS
EMPLOYMENT
07 HELP WANTED
08 WORK WANTED
09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
FOR RENT
10 APARTMENTS
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REAL ESTATE
17 REAL ESTATE
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38 MACHINERY, TOOLS & EQUIPMENT
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41 FARM EQUIPMENT
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43 FARM PRODUCTS
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47 HORSES & CATTLE
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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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To place your ad in person come to the office at 835 First Ave. in Monte Vista, or call (719) 852-3531. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may also fax your classified to (719) 852-3387 or email at montevisitaclass@gmail.com

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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

8037 S. County Road 2E

Contact Eddie Miller 719-849-8063

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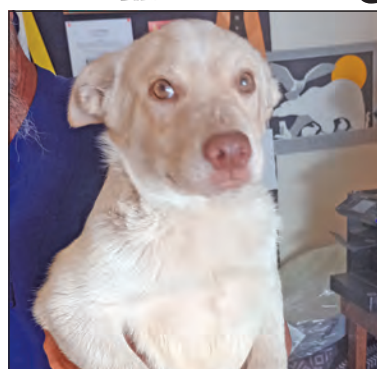
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We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society by contributions, donations, volunteering and general support at Conour Animal Shelter.

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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Wolf Creek Ski Area is Hiring

Full & Part-Time/Holiday Positions:
Winter Seasonal: November - April

- | | |
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| • Base Operations/Parking | • Snow Removal |
| • Ski School Instructors | • Grooming |
| • Ski School Reservationist | • Custodial Bldg Maintenance |
| • Food & Beverage | • Ski Patrol |
| • Baker | • Guest Services/Snow Reporter |
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Applications at WolfCreekSki.com/employment

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Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

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
N	A	I	V	E		S	A	N	A	A				
C	L	A	Y		C	O	O	C	A		A	B	E	D
L	O	S		B	O	R	E		C	A	B	A	N	A
A	D		P	A	L	A	T	A	B	I	L	I	T	Y
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P	R	O	S	E	C	U	T	E			Z	E	R	O
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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)

Cash for quality non-fiction books and LP records. Jeff 720-315-9145 (TFN)

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

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38 Machinery, Tools, Equipment

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

42 Feed & Seed

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

48 Pets and Supplies

Pure bred mini-Aussie female and three puppies. \$50 each or best offer. 719-843-5003 (9-11)

64 Autos for Sale

For sale - 1990 Toyota 2-wheel drive super clean pickup; 2013 Toyota Corolla; Chevy car 4-speed transmission. 719-850-2027 (9-11)

65 Professional Services

Rio Grande Rentals. Everything for Event/Party/Weddings including unique Mobile Bars and Bar-

tending Services www.rio-grande-rentals.com. 303-946-7253 (9-25)

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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

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



UNDER CONTRACT

193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

Charming Mountain Retreat with Breathtaking Views Nestled in the picturesque town of South Fork, CO, this finely finished Ranch Style Mountain home offers 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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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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bmgingrass@gmail.com
License #100072622

222 Bristlecone Drive • South Fork

Nestled among the pines in Dakota Park, South Fork, Colorado. This immaculate home offers mountain views and abundant common areas. The neighborhood is a haven for deer, adding to its charm. Large windows flood the home with natural light, while the landscaped property enhances curb appeal. The expansive decks, including a hot tub on the back deck, is perfect for outdoor entertaining. Inside, you'll find 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, all appliances, including washer and dryer, a new evaporative cooler for extra cooling during the summer, propane stove to keep you cozy in winter. With high-speed fiber optic internet and ample storage in the home and one-car garage, this home is ideal for those who love outdoor activities. Enjoy hiking in the Weminuche Wilderness, fishing in the Rio Grande River, skiing at Wolf Creek Ski Area, and much more. Whether hiking, fishing, skiing, or just enjoying the great outdoors, this home has something for everyone! Call me for more information and to schedule your showing today! MLS# 816979 - \$489,500



NEW LISTING

Bernadette Gingrass
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License #100072622

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!

Bernadette Gingrass
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License #100072622

0254 Timberline Trail • South Fork

Discover The Essence of Excellence Mountain Living in this custom-built Masterpiece! Situated on 1.84 sloping acres within the prestigious Rio Grande Club, this 4,466 sq ft home offers unparalleled vistas and modern elegance. Key Features: Inspiring Views: Unsurpassed panoramas stretch north, east, and south, capturing the rugged beauty of the San Juan Mountains. Architectural Marvel: A two-level design seamlessly blends contemporary finishes with a mountain aesthetic. Grand Entryway: Step into the vaulted ceiling living room adorned with Swedish Cope logs and a striking rock gas fireplace. Expansive Deck: Access the large stone rock deck from the living area, where you'll soak in views of the golf course, mountains, and valley below. Gourmet Kitchen: Culinary enthusiasts will appreciate custom cabinets, granite countertops, and top-of-the-line Wolf appliances. Master Suite: The upper-level primary suite boasts a spa-like bathroom and an adjacent study. Lower-Level Comfort: Three additional bedrooms with 9-foot ceilings offer Alderwood doorways and magnificent vistas. Entertainment Haven: The lower level features a spacious game room with a pool table, TV, and workout equipment. Year-Round Comfort: Radiant floor heat and an extra-large 1000-gallon propane tank ensure warmth during chilly days. Outdoor Delight: Enjoy ever-changing mountain views from the adjacent deck or cozy up by the stone mantel gas fireplace. Gas-Burning Fireplace: The lower level sitting area with a mini bar and stunning views is perfect for relaxation and entertaining family and friends. This home includes an adjacent parcel allowing direct access to the national forest from the front of the property so enjoying your favorite outdoor activities are just steps away. The 2-car garage has workshop hot & cold sink an extra - large 76-gallon water heater, water softener. Programmable hot water throughout the home, hot & cold water outside faucet and plenty of room for storage and a workbench. There is a security system monitored by Valley Lock and Security. Land lines in most every room. Century-Link phone highspeed internet and Direct TV. Managed lighting and surround sound throughout the home and the Smart Home allows you to control from anywhere. This home is a Hole in One! One of a kind, designed and built providing that sense of hospitality, openness, beauty, and tranquility. Location Highlights: Rio Grande Club: Overlooking the 11th hole, this exclusive community offers golf, recreation, and natural beauty. Outdoor Paradise: Explore nearby trails, fishing spots, the Rio Grande River, the South Fork River and Wolf Creek Ski area. Doesn't get any more epitome than this! Check out the Video. Call and schedule your private showing today! MLS#81509 - \$2,350,000



NEW PRICE

Bernadette Gingrass
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bmgingrass@gmail.com
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

Bernadette Gingrass
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License #100072622

259 Orville Way • South Fork

Idyllic Mountain 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 alfresco 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 - \$575,900



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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
 \$975,000 | MLS #803394
 3023 Bear Creek Circle, South Fork, CO

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

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

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

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NEW PRICE!

5 bedroom home - Borders Public Lands - RV STORAGE!!
 \$495,000 | MLS #
 95 Hubbard Trail, South Fork, 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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 M: 719-873-5605

SOLD!

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

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 LUXURY HOME BROKER
 M: 719-873-5605

SOLD!

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

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

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Hunting Cabin on 40 Acres - Bordering National Forest
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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

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

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

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 M: 719-873-5605

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Brian Williams — bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com

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.

Lucky Shoe Ranch



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September 7 • Monte Vista