



“Gateway to the San Juans”

Volume 150, Number 37

Del Norte, Colo. 81132

Thursday, September 12, 2024 75¢

Tidbits

Suspect in custody after stabbing

RIO GRANDE COUNTY — A woman was arrested and charged for reportedly stabbing a man on Sunday, Sept. 8, the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office reported.

At approximately 1:49 p.m. on Sept. 8, RGSO was called to an address in the 300 block of Creekside Trail, where they found a man who had been stabbed.

A woman who was on scene was later arrested and charged for the stabbing, according to RGCSO. This case is still under investigation. The male party is in stable condition.

Trouble Bound performing Sept. 15

CREEDE — A free public concert hosted by the Creede Arts Council featuring an eclectic blues/roots group, Trouble Bound Band. This will be the last Music in the Park concert of the CAC's summer concert series.

Nestled in the Rocky Mountains, the Trouble Bound band draws its sound from the crisscrossing roads of Alt-Country, Roots Rock, Country Blues, and a light dusting of bluegrass sensibility.

Tinged with reverence to the forefathers of outlaw country and romanticized in stories of the Wild West, their music is a slice of the Colorado perspective that adopts a “live and let live” or rugged individualism life philosophy.

Music in the Park will be held at Basham Park in Creede from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 15. In the event of rain, the concert will be held across the street at Sunnyside Bar.

Michelle Crowther graduates from Washburn

TOPEKA, KAN. — Washburn University recently announced the students in its summer 2024 graduating class. These students completed their courses for certificates, associate, bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees — more than 300 from Washburn University, Washburn University School of Law and Washburn Institute of Technology.

Michelle Crowther from Sanford graduated with a degree in Certificate with an emphasis in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

A new art gallery has opened in Del Norte and showcases a life of passion by artist Joan 'Blake' Higgins-Cellura. The gallery is a snapshot of a lifetime dedicated to art.

New art gallery graces Grande Avenue in Del Norte

By LYNDSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — Hidden among the many businesses lining Grande Avenue, a new gallery

of fine art has opened its doors and is welcoming people to experience the colorful, excentric life

Please see GALLERY on Page 4A

Outdoor Fitness Court Studio coming to DN's Centennial Park

CONTRIBUTED

DEL NORTE — Rio Grande County Public Health in partnership with UHealth, and National Fitness Campaign (NFC) recently announced the grand opening of a new outdoor Fitness Court Studio in Del Norte.

The Fitness Court will be at Centennial Park, 140 Spruce St., Del Norte, and will open on Sept. 18, from noon to 2 p.m. with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

This Fitness Court Studio is the result of a partnership between Rio Grande County Public Health with the Town of Del Norte and Rio Grande Hospital as partners, UHealth and NFC to expand free access to high-quality workouts, creating equitable access to exercise for communities around the state.

The Fitness Court Studio delivers the powerful seven minutes full body workout on one side and a versatile outdoor class

Please see FITNESS on Page 2A

Dive into autumn with several fall drives through the San Juans



By LYNDSIE FERRELL

SANLUISVALLEY — With temperatures cooling and the feel of autumn in the air, now is the time to plan for outings in the beautiful San Juan Mountains to capture the amazing fall colors that are set to peak by the end of September, beginning of October.

The San Luis Valley is the perfect place to be when Colorado changes into its fall attire in the next several weeks. Whether out hiking, fishing, or taking a leisurely drive, these are some of the best places to see the Aspen trees change from brilliant

Please see AUTUMN on Page 8A

Colorado is getting ready to change seasons and will be a canvass of sharp golds, orange, and reds as aspen trees show their colors this fall.

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

Hunting seasons start in Colorado

How hunters and outdoor recreationists can prepare

is multi-use and intended to be shared. Hunters and nonhunters should show respect and courtesy to all users engaged in outdoor recreation.

- Plan your hunt

Read the “What's New” page in the Big Game Hunting Brochure or watch the ‘What's New’ 2024 Colorado Big Game video to get a complete list of game management unit-specific changes for 2024.

Find locations to hunt using the Please see HUNTING on Page 2A

CONTRIBUTED

COLORADO — The 2024 hunting seasons have begun, and hunters are gearing up for exciting adventures. However, hunters aren't the only ones rushing to the outdoors this fall to enjoy everything Colorado has to offer.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) wants to remind hunters, hikers, bikers, leafpeepers, wildlife viewers, and OHV users that most of Colorado's outdoors

The 2024 hunting seasons have started in Colorado.

Courtesy photo from CPW



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HUNTING

Continued from Page 1A

Colorado Hunting Atlas. This resource allows you to find public land, save topographic maps, view big game migration corridors and concentration areas, and view OHV trails.

Additional licenses are still available. Licenses Leftover from the draw are available for deer, elk, pronghorn, and bear, and you can purchase over-the-counter licenses for bear, elk, pronghorn, and whitetail deer. Licenses returned by other hunters (reissue licenses) are available every Wednesday morning. Check the CPW website every Tuesday for a preview list of reissue licenses before they go on sale at cpwshop.com.

If you have questions about setting up your accounts, planning your hunts, or purchasing licenses, customer service representatives and hunt planners are available Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. MT at 303-297-1192. Hunting resources are available at cpw.state.co.us/hunting.

CPW also encourages hunters and outdoor recreationists to download the free Colorado Trail Explorer (COTREX) mobile app to check active fire alerts before heading out on trails.

Hunters' role in wildlife conservation Colorado manages its wildlife using the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, the cornerstone of modern wildlife conservation across the United States. This revolutionary model uses hunting and fishing fees to fund conservation efforts and protects wildlife from exploitation, habitat

destruction, or extinction.

For almost two centuries, this model has been a large part of the reason why Colorado's wildlife is so healthy and abundant. This model is still the most successful wildlife management model in the world.

Hunters also play an essential role in CPW's chronic wasting disease (CWD) management. Their participation in mandatory CWD testing initiatives is vital to wildlife managers' ability to assess the disease's prevalence and make data-driven management decisions.

"One of the only CWD management tools we currently have at our disposal is the hunting community itself," said CPW Big Game Manager Andy Holland. "Hunters play a vital role in controlling CWD by harvesting select deer and other cervids more likely to carry the disease and submitting samples for analysis. This helps CPW understand the disease's prevalence and distribution in the state and evaluate if management strategies are working."

• Gray wolves and coyotes: how to spot the differences

Coyotes and gray wolves can look similar from a distance. CPW created a Coyote or Gray Wolf - How to Spot the Differences Handout to help you spot the differences.

The federal Endangered Species Act and state law protect gray wolves in Colorado. Penalties for illegally killing a gray wolf can vary and can include fines up to \$100,000, jail time, and loss of hunting privileges. Find more wolf

educational resources at cpw.state.co.us/living-wolves.

How can nonhunters prepare for hunting season?

The majority of public lands in Colorado are open to multiple types of recreational use. There is no need to limit your outdoor activities in the fall; however, nonhunters should recognize that hunters are on the landscape and take additional precautions.

A general knowledge of hunting season dates and safety tips can help keep you safe.

Big game season dates

- Rifle bear season - Sept. 2-30
- Archery season - Sept. 2-30
- Muzzleloader season - Sept. 14-22
- Rifle seasons
 - 1st season - Oct. 12-16
 - 2nd season - Oct. 26 to Nov. 3
 - 3rd season - Nov. 9-15
 - 4th season - Nov. 20-24

For safety reasons, big game hunters using a firearm must wear fluorescent orange or pink when in the field (camouflage orange or pink is not allowed). While not required, it is recommended that other recreation users wear bright colors as well, especially during the muzzleloader and rifle seasons.

It is illegal to intentionally interfere with hunters, including causing animals to flee, denying access to public areas, or injecting yourself into the line of fire.

Learn more about outdoor recreation opportunities in Colorado at cpw.state.co.us.

FITNESS

Continued from Page 1A

area for enjoying yoga, Zumba, pilates and other popular group wellness activities on the opposite side.

"Investing in an outdoor Fitness Court Studio is more than just adding new equipment to our community; it's about creating accessible opportunities for everyone in Rio Grande County to prioritize their health and well-being. By encouraging physical activity in a natural setting, we are fostering a healthier, more connected community that can thrive together.

We are incredibly proud and excited to bring this outdoor fitness center to the Rio Grande County community. This initiative represents our commitment to enhancing the health and well-being of our residents. We highly appreciate the great partnership of the Town of Del Norte and Rio Grande Hospital, and other agencies that provided enormous support and collaboration to make this dream a reality for our community," said Dr. Kolawole Bankole, Director, Rio Grande County Public Health Agency.

Created with people aged 14 years and older and with all abilities in mind, the workouts are adaptable for all fitness levels, allowing participants to move at their own pace. Users also may download the free Fitness Court app which acts as a coach-in-your-pocket and enhances the outdoor gym into a digitally supported wellness experience.

"Everyone can benefit from living an active lifestyle, both physically and mentally," said Manny Rodriguez, UHealth's chief marketing, experience and innovation officer. "It is well documented that regular exercise can prevent illness, improve our mental health and help manage chronic health conditions. We are excited to partner with the National Fitness Campaign as part of UHealth's 'Ready. Set. CO' challenge to improve the health of all Coloradans and restore our place as one of the healthiest states in the nation." The public is invited to attend the launch event on Wednesday, Sept. 18,

from noon to 2 p.m. to try the Fitness Court Studio. For more information, contact the Rio Grande County Public Health Agency at 719-657-3352 or email kbankole@riograndecounty.org. For more information on UHealth's support of NFC, please visit nationalfitnesscampaign.com/colorado.

"National Fitness Campaign is proud to welcome the Rio Grande

County Public Health Agency to the campaign as a leader in Colorado, championing health and wellness for their residents," said Mitch Menaged, founder of National Fitness Campaign. "The addition of the Fitness Court Studio, along with digital wellness programming, demonstrates a tremendous commitment to the health and wellbeing within the community."

OBITUARY

William Ernest Percy

William Ernest Percy left this earth peacefully on Aug. 27, 2024, surrounded by his daughters, in Loganville, Ga., after suffering from Alzheimer's disease for the past 10 years. William ("Bill") was born April 27, 1940, in Pueblo, Colo., to Earl and Florence Percy.



His survival was miraculous, since he was born prematurely, weighing only 3 pounds and a mere 13 inches long. Growing up, Bill lived in various places throughout his childhood, as his loving parents tried to find a sustainable climate for his acute sinus condition.

He and his parents eventually became longtime residents of Monte Vista. Bill attended Monte Vista High School, where he played baseball, and graduated in 1958. He later graduated from Adams State College with a degree in Finance.

He began his career at Rio Grande Savings & Loan in Monte Vista, where he worked for many years and was eventually promoted to president of the organization, before leaving in 1984. He retired several years later after working as an auditor for the State of Texas.

Bill is survived by his daughters Judith Kane (spouse Kevin Kane) of Theodosia, Mo., Susie Smith (spouse Raymond Smith) of Newport Beach, Calif., grandsons Christopher Kane (spouse Deborah Kane) of Chandler, Ariz., Kyle Kane of Phoenix, Ariz., Ryan Smith of Tucson, Ariz., and great-granddaughter Marceline Kane of Chandler, Ariz. He is also survived by his first wife, Janet Percy of Columbus, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by his much-beloved parents, Earl and Florence Percy, an infant brother, his much-beloved son Clifford Percy, and second and third wives, Penny and Jane, respectively.

Bill's ashes will be scattered in summer 2025, along with Clifford's in the Santa Maria Reservoir and Clear Creek areas in Colorado.

San Luis Valley Scoreboard 2022 -2023

Football

Centauri 21	Pagosa Springs 20
Hayden 58	Sargent 22
Monte Vista 43	Rye 7
Alamosa 41	Banning Lewis 0
Olathe 41	Center 16
Bethune 55	Antonito 7
Sierra Grande 59	Deer Trail 7
Sangre de Cristo 50	Soroco 14

COLLEGE

Western New Mexico 39	Adams State 30
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Volleyball

- Sargent def Creede 3-0**
- Sargent def Antonito 3-0**
- Deer Trail def Sierra Grande 3-2**
- Sanford def South Park 3-0**
- Alamosa def Delta 3-0**
- Bayfield def Centauri 2-1**
- Durango def Centauri 2-0**
- Del Norte def Custer County 3-2**
- Questa NM def Centennial 3-0**
- Alamosa def Pagosa Springs 3-0**
- Alamosa def Pueblo County 3-0**
- Buena Vista def Monte Vista 3-0**

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Fast Freddy's last ride



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

It seems of late that I have not had the best of news to write what with losing my faithful companion Cooper The Dog.

And this week is no exception to that kind of news. With your permission, though, I will take this time to write something about my Dad who is soon going onto his heavenly reward.

He led quite a storied life beginning with fairly humble beginnings in Dodge City, Kan., where as a young boy he felt called of God to the ministry. Even then he would go to the famous bars along Front Street and witness to the destitute and drunken men there hoping to lead them to a loving redeemer in Jesus.

At a young 17 years old he went off to Bible school in Indiana and after graduation began his ministry spanning 70 years. He preached his last sermon behind a pulpit at 93 years old. He had a fire inside him that could not be extinguished. His life was not always easy as he worked full-time during the day and then also pastored a growing church, so he was called upon to carry a lot of burdens.

Every night of the week found him in a different town holding home meetings and we traveled all the time during my childhood that I can recall to meetings across Kansas and beyond. He was a good father and my two sisters and I both learned to love people first and it has carried through to now.

Fast Freddy inherited the love of the mountains from his parents, and we spent a lot of time there on vacations fly-fishing and seeing the beautiful sights. After he retired, he was able to have a summer home in South Fork, Colorado and so enjoyed that time especially.

Retirement to him was not like it is for most people as he continued to preach at every given opportunity and wrote some great papers on Christian subjects. Of course, having a church for so many decades, there were funny things happening all the time and we still get to laugh about those events every time we get together.

There were scary times as well and I recall one night during a driving rain the front door of the church swung open. This was in a little church and had no foyer so the rain and lightning were crashing inside, too. A man walked in, somewhat

unsteadily, and went to the front facing my Dad and said, "I am going to kill you." All of us kids who were sitting on the back row ran out into the rain.

Needless to say, the man didn't succeed and in fact gave his life to Christ and became a Christian. I was impressed at how cool my Dad was in the face of harm, but he told me he had given up his life long ago to Jesus and so no one could really harm him. What a life lesson for us all.

I have been going through the things he wants me to have like his bamboo flyrods, the pistol I bought him when I tagged him Fast Freddy, and other things and of course the memories flood back to me like a slow-motion picture. We fished and hunted and shared the best of times and I owe him so much for all he taught me.

As most of you know, I am building a house in Texas on the ranch and all the things I am doing from wiring to plumbing to HVAC etc., I owe to him teaching me down through the years. We never relied on anyone to do these jobs, so we became quite a team working on the church and other projects. I didn't like it at the time as a young boy, but it sure has come in handy all of my life.

So, join me as I pause today with the regular drivel that I write and honor a great man who gave all he had to God first, then to others and finally himself always last. He may not be the greatest man that ever lived, but he gave unselfishly more than anyone else I ever knew.

Kevin Kirkpatrick spends his days fishing, hunting, ATVing or hiking. His email is Kevin@TroutRepublic.com. Additional news can be found at www.troutrepublic.com or on Twitter at TroutRepublic.

Missing wildland fire



Courtesy photo

The attached photo depicts a low-intensity fire in a Ponderosa pine forest.

It's been a wonderfully wet and green summer here in the San Luis Valley. I'm hearing regularly these days that, even in the north end of the valley, "it's as green as I can remember." Thanks to a robust North American Monsoon, we've had abundant rainfall that has kept our wild vegetation green and at very low risk of wildfire.

I can't speak for our incredibly important farmers, but I suspect that this much rain has been problematic for them. However, from strictly the wildfire risk standpoint though, it has been great to not have unwanted wildfires filling the skies with smoke and, frankly, scaring residents with the uncertainty of where the fire will move to next. For now.

I've written occasionally about the role that fire plays in our environment, especially the wildlands around the San Luis Valley. We need fire, plain and simple, to provide ecosystem benefits that we cannot otherwise simulate as humans. Fire reduces vegetation build up, provides natural nutrients to the soils and creates/maintains habitat for many wildlife species. But the balance of where and when wildland fires are welcomed by humans is a delicate one.

As I write this, I was informed that the National Wildfire Preparedness Level was just raised to 5, the highest there is. An increase in wildfire activity both east and west of us has prompted the change which is driven in part by the reduced availability of firefighting resources. With that reduction comes the prudent action of holding off on conducting prescribed fires locally.

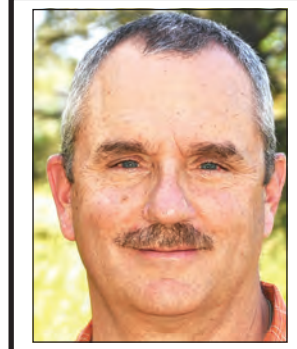
There are many considerations when deciding to ignite a prescribed fire, or controlled burn, as they are often referred to. The fuels conditions, or dryness of the vegetation and woody debris, must be in an optimal state so that it can burn effectively, but not too aggressively. Right now, it would be difficult to get the green vegetation to burn, but that could change soon with the onset of

normal fall drying.

Land management agencies across the west typically embark on their well-planned and meaningful prescribed fire campaigns in both the spring and fall. The timing is designed around the shorter, cooler days when fire behavior will likely be only moderate, at best. And for shorter time periods. They conduct these burns in strategically pre-identified areas and systematically ignite the vegetation to achieve pre-determined objectives.

I think of how I mentioned not having unwanted wildfires earlier and qualified it by saying "for now." The amazing grass and shrub growth will soon cure for the winter and will stand dry and ripe for fire. It will burn well with greater potential for faster spread, posing an increased resistance to control efforts.

Please see LAND on Page 5A



Land Water and People
By Gregg Goodland

LETTER

Local Make A Difference Day project ends after 24 years

Editor,
In 1999 a group of concerned citizens became aware of this national day for helping others. We took this opportunity to volunteer our time and services to benefit our community. The Baer family continued to organize and carry out the project for the next 23 years.

Our goal was to have people clean up their yards and community and to provide a meal for those in need. We worked with the SLV Regional Solid Waste Authority to open the Regional Landfill for the public, for one day for a non-perishable food donation to the Monte Vista Food Bank. The Food Bank then distributed the food to needy families at a later date.

Over the 24 years, we have seen a significant decrease in dumping on

roadsides. We know people's acreage has been cleaned as well.

We are very grateful to the SLV Landfill employees and Board for their support of our project; you provided a great community service. It has been our pleasure to work with each person in the office and the pit. We always enjoyed sharing with you the meal we prepared for you all at day's end.

The Monte Vista Food Bank, over the years, has distributed \$53,508 in donated food we collected. Thank you. We worked with different Directors and Board members over 24 years. We thank each of you for your service to the Community.

Over the 24 years, we have had many volunteers help us on the fourth Saturday of October. Thank you all. Our Family

has always been there as support. Wesley began helping at age 6, Cassandra at age 13. They brought friends and spouses to help also. Carol's sister came several years, from Denver to help us collect food.

This event benefited all who participated. Lessons were learned, goals accomplished, and appreciation was received.

The community supported our efforts. At KSLV radio, Bob Richards did remote shows at the landfill several years as well as reading PSA's each year on the radio and doing interviews. KGIW's radio host, Mark Beatty did wonderful interviews with Carol and Steve each year before and after the event. Mark read our PSA to his listeners daily to help spread the word. A few years KRZA radio had Carol on their program. The

REC did articles in their newsletter and featured us on their monthly program a few years in a row. The Courier newspaper and Monte Vista Journal newspaper gave us space each year to announce Make A Difference Day and then posted the results after with photos. The grocery stores even pitched in with donations of food which the Baer Family used to prepare a meal to share with the volunteers at the end of the workday. Thank you all, you are appreciated! As you can see a lot of preparation, organization and support was needed each year to get this project accomplished.

Over the 24 years we did make an impact. We collected \$53,508 in food donations which fed 2942 people for three days. Cash donations to the Food

Bank totaled \$7402.62 for special food for the Holidays. We greeted 3,823 vehicles, trucks, trailers, and dump trucks going into the landfill, each with a donation. Deposited was 12,331 cubic yards of trash and 15,795 tires. How we saw this was... those items will not end up on the roadside or in our lakes or rivers. They were handled properly.

Thank you to all who cleaned up your yard, acreage and community then donated to help others. Please keep up with cleaning! It is important to dispose of trash responsibly and recycle.

With appreciation and gratitude to all we end our Make A Difference Day event.

The Baer family, Carol, Steve, Wesley and Ashley Baer, Cassandra, Jeremy McBride and Sharon Cancino



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GALLERY

Continued from Page 1A

of Joan “Blake” Higgins-Cellura captured in mixed media with a talented hand.

The gallery, 728 Grande Ave., is a sight to behold with the front room lined with memories and cherished treasures collected throughout Higgins-Cellura’s life. Everything she held dear lines the shelves from Shirley Temple porcelain dolls to a wide collection of Robert Raikes Bears, the shop is a welcoming array into the life of a prolific artist.

“My mom was a presence. She turned heads when she walked into a room and loved every minute of it. It was who she was that drew people to her,” said daughter KimAnna Cellura-Shields. “She has been an artist her entire life. Everything here was a part of her life.”

With the help of several family members and friends, Higgins-Cellura’s life was packed up from her home in Tucson, Ariz., and brought to its new home in Del Norte.

“We couldn’t have gotten this done without all of our family and friends. My mom was so worried about what was going to happen with her belongings, so we were able to surprise her by opening this gallery. It has been cathartic for all of us to go through this process,” said Cellura-Shields.

At the beautiful age of 85, Higgins-Cellura was diagnosed with the early stages of dementia and though she is dealing with some memory loss, she was beyond elated and excited to find a home away from home once she knew the gallery housed her most precious possessions.

According to Higgins-Cellura’s bio, she was born in Long Island, N.Y., and has been painting since she



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

Daughter KimAnna Cellura-Shields has opened an art gallery on Grande Avenue in Del Norte dedicated to her mother’s life works.

was able to hold a brush in her hand. Higgins-Cellura began showing her artwork at an early age and over the years her pieces won several prestigious awards.

In 1955, Higgins-Cellura married and moved to Rochester, N.Y., where she pursued a career in graphic art and worked for many years as a designer, illustrator, art director and ads manager, for companies like the infamous Lisa Frank.

Walking through the gallery is like stepping through time as patrons wander through the different phases of Higgins-Cellura’s life. From becoming a doting parent, to her love of fashion, Higgins-Cellura dabbled

in every form of media art has to offer. Some of her most intricate work was done with marker, watercolor, paint, and pencil.

One thing that is most notable in her artwork is how Higgins-Cellura captures portraits, specifically the eyes. Human emotion is one of the hardest things to recreate, but Higgins-Cellura could create an emotion just by painting a person’s eyes.

“My mother said she always started with the eyes when she would do portraits. They were the windows to the soul,” Cellura-Shields said.

“Her imagination never stopped. She had a wealth of ideas, and

she loved the bazaar, strange and beautiful. She was a fan of horror movies and everything that caught someone’s attention,” said her daughter Donna Hoefler.

The gallery will be open by appointment for the time being until a regular artist’s schedule can be set. Appointments can be made by calling 719-588-1892.

Left: A new art gallery, 728 Grande Ave., is a sight to behold with the front room lined with memories and cherished treasures collected throughout Higgins-Cellura’s life.



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Area celebrates harvest at SLV Potato Festival

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — On Saturday morning, Chapman Park was already filling up with people, for the annual San Luis Valley Potato Festival, that marks the harvest of the Valley's signature crop – potatoes.

By 7:30 a.m., just before the Tater Trot 5K was about to start on Sept. 7, hundreds of people, including farmers, vendors, and businesses with booths were gearing up for the celebration.

The event was as exciting as it has been in past years with the fun-filled Tater Trot race and the first of two of the ever-popular agricultural tours bound for the CSU Research Center, and then on to two Valley farms. The ag tours allow people to gain insight and receive information about what goes into the planting, growing, and harvesting of the Valley's potato crop.

Many festivities were held at the Potato Festival this year, including corn hole, and many vendors were set up selling their wares – paintings, jewelry, tumblers and T-shirts, baked goods and more. There were also multiple food and drink trucks at the park and many businesses had booths and were giving out information.

Larry Brown of the CSU Extension Office in Monte Vista handed out information about the office.

The San Luis Valley Antique Car Club brought their colorful kids train ride to the festival. The children were laughing and smiling on the popular train ride. There were large bouncy houses at the park for kids, including a giant green bounce house. There was a giant monster truck bounce house, and children could be seen going up and down the truck, bouncing and laughing as they slid down the main part of the truck. There was a zipline at the



Chapman Park in Monte Vista was filled with people for the annual San Luis Valley Potato Festival on Saturday, Sept. 7. The festival is organized by the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee.

Photos by Marie Mccolm



Bouncy houses are lined up for the San Luis Valley Potato Festival on Saturday, Sept. 7, at Chapman Park in Monte Vista.

festival this year that both children and adults slid down.

The Colorado Potato Administrative Committee (CPAC) organizes the event. There was a free baked potato lunch with the Monte Vista High School boys varsity basketball team collecting donations for the lunch. The team members served the loaded potatoes.

The San Luis Valley Community Band played many lively tunes for the crowd. The Professional Chef Cooking Competition was held. The Swoop of the Cranes live auction also took place.

The Potato Festival brought hundreds of people to Chapman Park this year, and was a huge success, according to Jessica Bradshaw of the Colorado Potato Administrative



There were plenty of kids rides at the San Luis Valley Potato Festival on Saturday, Sept. 7, at Chapman Park in Monte Vista.

Committee.

"It was great. We had a lot of people here. We had a great turn out. It was a great festival. We want to thank our sponsors; without them we couldn't do this, and we want to thank the community for coming out," she said.

Creede resident Katey Kuhnel said that her family came for the day and

enjoyed the Potato Festival.

"This is our first year living here. It's so cool that all the things are free for the kids. We are really enjoying this, and we will definitely come next year," Kuhnel said.

For more information on CPAC, visit their website at coloradopotato.org.

LAND

Continued from Page 3A

This is where a well-placed and appropriately conducted prescribed burn can make a big difference on how a wildfire might affect the places that we do not want to burn so intensely, and of course, our homes, outbuildings, and other infrastructure. The careful application of fire in strategic locations will burn these tall and dry fuels under more manageable circumstances and reduce dangerous fuel loading to a less risky condition.

The wild lands around us contain a vegetation scheme that was developed over thousands of years with wildfires being a primary change component. We should use wildland fire to the most

natural extent possible, including a healthy prescribed fire strategy. I'd rather see us conduct many more low-intensity, prescribed fires than witness the extreme burning of millions of acres each summer. I can tolerate the smoke because I know what the alternative is. But make no mistake; I only support the responsible application of fire in the right place, at the right time and for the right reason.

Gregg Goodland is the Public Affairs Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest. As an avid outdoor enthusiast, he encourages individual stewardship and responsible use of four public lands.

It's Time to Shine

Have you ever heard someone say, "There's just something about them"? This usually means they see something they admire in a person; they stand out from the crowd, but they can't quite put their finger on what it is.

I like when I hear it said about someone who's a Christian. Because when we are good to people and God's love flows through us, there is something that just draws people's attention.

The Bible says that Christians are the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16). On the job, in the grocery store, and even among friends and family members who don't have a relationship with Christ, God's people are there to bring seasoning to an unsavory situation.

There is so much turmoil in people's lives today—so much darkness—and they're looking for hope. As Christians, we are the ones who can help them find what they need through a relationship with God.

In Matthew 5:13, Jesus says, "But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything..." (NIV). It seems that somewhere along the way, the lines between godliness and ungodliness have gotten blurred. Things that would have been considered wrong 20 or 30 years ago seem to be "not so bad" today. I wonder what the next 20 years will bring if this continues.

We may need to ask ourselves: What are we showing the world? What is it that keeps us "salty"? How do we, as Christians, keep our lights shining in the darkness around us? What sets us apart?

I believe the answer is holiness. And when I say holiness, I don't mean religion. I'm not talking about a list of dos and don'ts...or going to church on Sunday mornings just to do your Christian duty one day a week. Yes, going to church is a great thing! But living a holy life is about so much

more than attending a service once a week.

When I say holiness, I'm talking about behavior that is borne out of a personal, intimate relationship with God. I'm referring to something that helps us love other people and be good to them.

Holiness is the "something" the world needs to see in us. There are so many people who may never attend a church service or read a Bible, but they are reading us! They are watching our behavior and looking to us to find out what God is like. We are God's ambassadors, and we are meant to be light in the darkness so they can find their way to Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Hebrews 12:14 tells us to pursue holiness. Different Bible versions use words like "work at," "make every effort," "strive," and "be." Holiness is the outcome of a work that God does in each of us through our personal relationship with Him. It begins the moment we accept Jesus as our Savior. When He comes to live in our hearts, we are made holy at that moment. And then little by little, He changes us from the inside out so we become more and more like Him (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Throughout this process, God slowly strips away our pride and selfishness. We become less focused on how we can please ourselves and become more concerned with blessing other people. We go from, "What about me?" to "How can I help you?"

Now, it's important to remember that we can't change ourselves—only God can change us and help us to become more like Him. In John 15:5 (NIV), Jesus says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

So, what is our part? Our part is to regularly take some time to develop our relationship with God. We do this



Moving Up Higher with Joyce Meyer

by reading His Word and talking to Him in prayer. Just like a best friend, the Lord desires for us to talk to Him throughout the day about anything and everything.

I like to say that holiness is an "inside job." As we spend time with God and ask Him to change us, He slowly but surely transforms us from the inside out. Don't worry if you feel like you haven't "arrived." The fact that you desire to be a better person means you are making progress. God doesn't promise us that the process will be fast or easy, but He does assure us that He will make us more like Him as we continue to seek Him.

Wherever we are in our process of growing in holiness, it's important to remember the world is watching. And every day, in every situation, we have the privilege of being salt and light to the people all around us...and showing them what God is really like.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource *Do Unto Others*. 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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500 organizations call on Congress to pass 2024 Farm Bill

CCALT throws support behind the call

STAFF REPORT

LAKEWOOD — Along with 500 organizations representing a diverse range of stakeholders in conservation, agriculture, nutrition and other related sectors, the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) is strongly urging Congress to pass the 2024 Farm Bill before the end of the year.

In late July, 500 organizations signed a letter sent to both the Senate and House of Representatives not only calling for action on the Farm Bill but also outlining the risks to farmers and ranchers across America in failing to do so. CCALT, a member of the Partnership of Rangeland Trusts (PORT) was a signatory to the letter.

"Congress must act decisively to pass a new Farm Bill in 2024, ensuring that essential conservation programs continue to be a tool available to farm and ranch families across our nation," said CCALT Executive Director Erik Glenn. "These programs are vital for ensuring we continue to have land available for the production of the food, fiber, and fuel that is needed to support our growing population.

"Farm Bill conservation programs empower landowners to maintain productive use of their land while contributing to the conservation of our natural resources for future generations," added Glenn. "Moreover, these programs provide significant economic benefits to rural communities, generating substantial economic activity and creating jobs in areas where opportunities are often limited. By investing in these programs, we are not only strengthening the backbone of rural America but also ensuring the continued resilience and productivity of our nation's agricultural sector."

According to a recent report by the



Photo courtesy of Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust

Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) is strongly urging Congress to pass the 2024 Farm Bill before the end of the year

Colorado Department of Agriculture, the agriculture industry contributes \$47 billion annually to the state's economy and employs more than 195,000 people across 36,000 farm operations.

The letter was sent to House Speaker Mike Johnson, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, House Agriculture Chair GT Thompson, House Agriculture Ranking

Member David Scott, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Agriculture Chair Debbie Stabenow and Senate Agriculture Ranking Member John Boozman.

CCALT also encourages its landowner-partners to express their support for Farm Bill action by contacting their Colorado federal representatives.

The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) is a nonprofit land conservation organization whose mission is to "...conserve Colorado's western heritage and working landscapes for the benefit of future generations."

CCALT has partnered with more than 400 farm and ranch families in protection of more than 806,000 acres statewide to date.

Registration open for Miner Walk/Run

ALAMOSA — The 2024 Stephanie L Miner 5K Walk/Run will be on Saturday, Sept. 21, at Cole Park in Alamosa. The event begins at 9:45 a.m. with announcements to help fight cancer. All proceeds benefit the local cancer center.

Registration opens on Aug. 28 and closes on Sept. 18. Cost is \$30 per person. Teams of 10 or more are \$25 per person. Registration is \$35 on the day of the event. T-Shirts are included in the price for the first 700

participants.

Run-Walk options are 1-mile healthy walk, 2.5-mile walk, or a 5k walk.

People can register online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/CO/Alamosa/StephanieLMiner5kWalkandRun>. Shirts will be ready on Aug 30.

To register offline see the SLVH Foundation at 1921 Main St. or contact Arieen Khoketkham, Foundation Assistant, at 719-587-6359

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FALL Harvest 2024

Farm-to-table is changing the restaurant business

Farm-to-table is a movement that promotes serving local products, preferably food and beverages acquired directly from a producer.

Farm-to-table eateries source ingredients locally as much as possible, and diners are increasingly expressing a preference for these establishments. According to the National Restaurant Association's "What's Hot in 2015" survey, locally sourced meats and seafood, locally grown produce, environmental sustainability, and natural ingredients/minimally processed foods were among the most popular food trends.

Farm-to-table establishments reduce carbon footprints by cutting back on the amount of resources necessary to get food from the farm to the restaurant. The farm-to-table movement began as a countermeasure to big agriculture and chemically controlled produce. Although there is no hard data on just how many restaurants can be considered farm-to-table, organic farming in general is big business. In its 2014 Organic Survey, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agriculture Statistics Service reported that sales of organic products increased by 72 percent since 2008. California, Washington, Pennsylvania, Oregon, and Wisconsin were the top five states for organic farming, accounting for 78 percent of organic sales in the United States at the time of the survey. Supporting farm-to-table estab-



Courtesy photo

Fresh, local foods are the hallmark of farm-to-table restaurants.

lishments can benefit the planet, but consumers should know that there are additional advantages to patronizing such businesses.

- Support for local businesses: Local restaurateurs who embrace farm-to-table can support and promote other local operations. Restaurants can help farmers by purchasing excess crops or simply providing the demand for farmers' products.

- Greater control over ingredients: In some instances, chefs can travel to nearby farms during harvest to personally select items for their restaurants, ensuring excellent quality.

- Better taste and quality: Fresh food is picked at its peak instead of being

forced to ripen during a long journey. This typically translates to more flavorful foods.

- Evolving and updated menus: Because farm-to-table means sourcing in-season ingredients, restaurants must have fluid menus that change based on the availability of ingredients and fishing and harvesting quotas. This can lead to greater variety and prevent menus from becoming dated or overly familiar.

Hyper-local sourcing that fuels farm-to-table operations continues to be an in-demand restaurant trend. Diners can rest easy knowing that patronizing such establishments benefits both the environment and the local economy.

Maintenance key to functioning farms

The family automobile is not the only piece of equipment that requires routine upkeep to ensure it is operating properly.

Life on a farm can come to a screeching halt if farm equipment is not properly maintained. Farmers invest hundreds of thousands of dollars on agricultural equipment, such as tractors, tillers, hoppers, and dozers. Adhering to maintenance schedules can prevent breakdowns and decrease the need for potentially costly emergency repairs.

- **Keep it clean**
Cleaning the surface of equipment can go a long way toward keeping it operating smoothly. Use a pressure washer to remove caked-on mud and other debris. Titan iron suppliers recommend quickly washing equipment after usage so that substances do not have the chance to harden.

- **Learn the equipment**
Over time, it is possible to employ your senses of sight, sound and even smell to determine if equipment is working properly. Familiarize yourself with the owner's manual so you can troubleshoot minor problems. Any unusual sounds, odors or responses from the gear should be noted.

- **Routine maintenance checks**
Routinely inspect hoses, fittings, and seals to ensure they are in good working condition. Be sure fluids, such as coolant and oil, are at the proper levels. Check and replace filters as needed. Tires need to be properly inflated, and inspect the battery for corrosion or other signs that it may need to be replaced. Check belts for cracks. Tour the exterior of the equipment looking at signals and lights to ensure they are in proper working order. Hardware should be tightened and any missing pieces replaced. Heavy farm equipment needs motor



oil, hydraulic oil and filters changed more frequently than automobiles. Such equipment also may need more frequent lubrication of chains and cables. Always check and inspect equipment prior to jobs requiring heavy and extended usage.

- **Expect some welding**
Have a knowledgeable welder on call to make repairs as needed, or develop your skills to a point where you feel comfortable making your own spot

repairs. The experts at Miller, producers of welding equipment, say cleaning the surface area and removing any paint, oil or corrosion from the metal area that needs repairing can make for smooth, durable welds. Multi-process welding generators and accessories can ensure the right welds for repairs in the field or in the shop.

Maintenance on farm equipment helps keep operations running along and protects expensive investments.

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Homelake Veteran Gottlieb celebrates 99th birthday

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Richard Gottlieb was all smiles, wearing a golden crown, as he posed for a picture on Sept. 7 next to his chocolate dipped birthday cake, adorned with candles that held the numbers 99.

Gottlieb celebrated his birthday amongst family and friends at the Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake, where he lives, under a pavilion behind the center. At least 30 people attended the celebration for Gottlieb, including other residents of the center. Live piano music was part of the celebration. According to the center, he is the oldest living Veteran at Homelake.

Gottlieb was happy at his party and stated, "I have had a good life. This is the best facility I have ever lived at."

When asked how it feels to be 99, Gottlieb stated with a chuckle, "I am 99, and I feel 99. I never thought I would be this old, but I feel 99."

Gottlieb, who is originally from New York, spoke about his life, and how he came to live in Colorado.

"I am originally from New York, and

I went to a very fine school in New York for boys. At that time, it was for boys, but now it's co-ed. It was a six-year school, and when I graduated, I enlisted like I was supposed to. I was in the Air Corps. At the time the Air Force hadn't been established yet, it was the Air Corps. I went through basic training and all that stuff, and I became a Gunnery Instructor. When it was decided that I was ready for active duty well I requested overseas duty, and I was sent over to Italy," he said.

Gottlieb said that he was stationed in Italy and stayed close to the base there.

"I enjoyed my time in Italy. I flew out of Italy, for my missions. When the war ended in 1946, I didn't have enough points to come home, so I stayed for a while until I had all my points and was able to leave," he said.

When asked what his favorite part of being a part of the Air Corps was, Gottlieb said, "I don't know that I had a favorite part, it was more about the service that I could provide for my country. It was something that I wanted to do. We were living more patriotic in those days, not so much today anymore,

a lot of patriotism has gone out the window, but in those days, we did live a lot more patriotic."

Gottlieb served a total of 3 years in the Air Corps, and then returned to New York where he lived with his parents for a year, and then got an apartment, and followed in the footsteps of his father and became an insurance salesman.

"My dad had an insurance business, and I went into his business, and ran it after he passed away, so I was an Insurance Broker," he said.

Gottlieb said that part of his decision to move to Colorado was because he was divorced at the time, and he had visited Colorado once or twice, and he enjoyed it.

"I enjoyed the weather here. I made a great choice in coming down to the Valley. Not too many people knew about the Valley then, but it was a great decision for me. I have met so many nice people down here. I am very happy that I made this choice," he said.

Gottlieb thanked everyone who attended his party, especially Mary Hoffman.



Photo by Marie Mccolm

Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake resident Richard Gottlieb celebrated his 99th birthday on Saturday, Sept. 7, at the center.

"She is the one who has given me this party. She is the one who brought me over here," he said. "She has taken me to New Orleans, to a museum over there. She also took me to New York, and that was the last time I saw my kids, too. She has a sister, who has some apartments down there, and we stayed there. I want to thank her, and everyone here."

Gottlieb smiled and said that when he thinks about his life and his 99 years it has been good.

"I have had a good life. No complaints," he said, as he took his place by his cake to pose for his picture.

For more information on the Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake, call 719-852-5118.

AUTUMN

Continued from Page 1A

green to glorious shades of gold, orange, and red.

Platoro Lake is a gorgeous high mountain lake nestled in the San Juan Mountains just a short walk from the main trailhead. Take Park Creek Road (Forest Service Road 380) toward Summitville. Take the turn to Ellwood Pass which will take you into Platoro. On the way down the pass, you will drive through canopies of Aspen and have incredible views in all directions. There is a Lodge in Platoro that serves delicious burgers, among other things. The trip is around 40 miles one way and should take around two hours.

Travelers can also head toward the historic town of Lake City to experience the Silver Thread Historic Scenic Byway. Take the Silver Thread Highway (149) from South Fork to Lake City for spectacular views of mountains and a patchwork of color. Be sure to stop at North Clear Creek Falls. Look for bear prints in the mud of North Clear Creek.

Pool Table and Wheeler Geologic Area is a beautiful drive in the La Garita Mountains just before Creede. Take the Silver Thread Highway (149) toward Creede. Just past Cottonwood Cove, there will be a sign that says, "Pool Table". It is Forest Service Road 600

and is 14 miles. Travelers may drive a two-wheel drive vehicle to Hanson's Mill then take the hiking trail up 6.5 miles to the geologic area. After the mill you will need a four-wheel drive vehicle. Drive on top of the mesa to be surrounded by golden Aspen.

Beaver Creek Road is a short distance from South Fork and a great place to view fall colors. Take Highway 160 west 3 miles to Beaver Creek Reservoir Road. This is Forest Service Road 360. The first 5-7 miles are through aspen forest. You will pass through the pines then the spruce and fir for great views of the surrounding mountains.

Willow Creek and Del Norte Peak are 17 miles south of South Fork near the town of Del Norte. Head two miles east of town on Highway 160 to Gerrard Road. This is Forest Service Road 350 also known as Willow Creek Road. You can follow it south up to the junction of road 345 where you will turn back to the northeast then meander back to the northwest around Del Norte Peak for beautiful views of the mountain.

Carnero Creek Road is a great place to see the changing of the seasons while enjoying a slice of history just north of Del Norte and Monte Vista. This area is known for its off-grid



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

fishing along Carnero Creek so grab those fishing poles and head out to enjoy a day of fall fishing and changing colors. From U.S. Highway 285, take the La Garita turnoff (County Road G) and follow the paved road 6.0 miles

west where the road forks. Take the right fork, the gravel surface Carnero Creek Road (Forest Road 690/County Road 41G) 10.0 miles northwest to Forest Road 675.

No matter which way travelers

head, always prepare for adverse weather, plan for a day in the mountains and share travel plans with family and friends. Come on out and enjoy the beautiful backcountry and all it has to offer!

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31st Annual Fall Festival and Quilt Show is Sept. 21

CONTRIBUTED

SAGUACHE — As the leaves begin to change color and the mornings greet us with cooler temperatures, we are reminded of the annual event which occurs on the third Saturday in September. That would be the Fall Festival and Quilt Show held in Saguache on Sept. 21.

Originally entitled Handmade in Saguache Festival, it was meant to celebrate the harvest and the labors of those who had created homemade items during the year. Over the years, instead of visitors traveling to find the treasures, it was brought to the park in Saguache for ease of shopping. Although fresh vegetables and some homemade items have found other locations, you can find vendors with arts and crafts and creations available to enhance your home.

The Saguache Chamber of Commerce will host this event on Saturday, Sept. 21, in Otto Mears Park from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. You will find the Saguache Sagebrush Quilters inside the Community Building. Be

sure to purchase your ticket for the door prize of a handmade quilt which will be presented at the end of the day. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the event. The cost is \$1 for 1 ticket or 6 tickets for \$5.

Inside the Community Building you will also find a couple of other vendors along with the Silent Auction. The Silent Auction is the one fundraiser held by the Chamber annually. Items will be donated by local supporters and vendors at the event. You can “Buy it Now” or place a bid and take your chances at the end of the event. Winners will be announced at 3:30 p.m.

Our Vendor Coordinator, Bonnie Salzman, has been busy sending out invitations to potential vendors. It is not too late to sign up for a 10-by-10 space. The vendor form is available on the Chamber website www.saguache-chamber.org. Select the Fall Festival on the Home Page and you will locate the form, be sure to complete pages 1 and 2. If you need additional assistance, call Salzman at 715-699-3679.



Photo Courtesy of History Colorado

S.P.M.D.T.U. in Antonito is an example of historic resources in the San Luis Valley currently on the State and National Register of Historic Places.

History Colorado to engage communities in preserving Valley’s past

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

DENVER — History Colorado has been awarded a \$300,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation to collaborate with residents of the San Luis Valley to develop sustainable, community-led preservation plans that preserve sites of meaning, provide economic and social benefits and increase representation of the Valley on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The basis of this project is to create

deep, meaningful engagement with local leaders and community organizations in the San Luis Valley to identify 10 sites that are eligible for listing on the State and National Registers.

Sites will be considered for research and nomination based upon the benefit their designation will be to the public, including factors like how accessible the site to the community is, what kind of learning opportunities can the site provide and what are the site’s

relationship and contributions to the local economy and social infrastructure.

“The San Luis Valley was historically both a geo-political and cultural borderlands, in which the combination and collision of Indigenous, Hispano, and Anglo peoples formed a hybrid culture that is like no other in the United States,” said Dawn DiPrince, President/CEO of History Colorado and State Historic Preservation Officer.

Please see HISTORY on Page 7

Rio Grande County Museum welcomes fall with Heritage Fair

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — The Rio Grande County Museum will be hosting a Heritage Fair on Sept. 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition to the fair, the museum will be working with the congregation of the St. Francis of Assisi Church which is in the Seven Mile Plaza south of Del Norte.

For the past several years, parishioners like Ernie Martinez and his wife have worked to raise funding to help save the St. Francis of Assisi Church that is in dire need of repair. The building needs a new roof and patch work done to the outside stucco as well as work to the inside.

According to research provided by History Colorado, the St. Francis of Assisi Mission Church was constructed in 1881. Approximately



30 years had elapsed since Spanish settlers first arrived in the San Luis Valley and established settlements in the area around San Luis, Colorado.

In the 1850’s, settlers from the southern part of the San Luis Valley arid northern New Mexico also moved into the northern and western reaches of the San Luis Valley. Anglo settlers soon started to move into the area to pursue their

interests in the mining, agriculture, transportation, and commerce, but the settlements in the hills south and east of Del Norte were primarily focused on farming and ranching and strongly centered around the practice of the Catholic faith.

In 1881, travel in the immediate area was accomplished primarily by horse. It was not practical to

Please see HERITAGE on Page 7

Suicide Prevention 5K ‘Color Run’ is Sept. 13

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — The Center Viking Youth Club will again be hosting a Suicide Prevention 5K Walk/Run entitled the “Color Run,” on Friday, Sept. 13, beginning at 7 a.m. Registration is \$20 per person.

Center Viking Youth Club Director Carmen Pavlovsky spoke about the race and the STARS Program of Center.

“The race will start at the Viking Club. We are doing the race in collaboration with the STARS Program, which stands for students teaching about relationships and success. The STARS Program puts this annual Suicide Prevention 5K Walk on every year. We do a Color Run; the students get to get all colored up in chalk. The person in charge of STARS is Camille Villa. She is also the cross-country coach, and her cross-country

kids will be doing the 5K, too. We have a suicide coordinator on the campus at the school. Her name is Aspen Paiz. She is available to speak with students about suicide and crisis. We are all working together on 5K run.”

Pavlovsky stated that one of the biggest goals of the suicide prevention coordinator, and the Viking Club, “is to bring suicide awareness and prevention to the kids, to help children feel comfortable when they need to talk about it. We have Aspen, who can speak with the students if they are having bad thoughts and want to talk about it.”

Pavlovsky stated that students do think about suicide, more than anyone realizes.

“Our goal is to help students feel comfortable with the term. We want the word ‘suicide’ to be normal in

Please see COLOR on Page 2

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Little Library filled with children's titles

By JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA — The new Little Free Library in Alamosa at the Colorado Welcome Center, 610 State Street, is jam-packed with books.

This Little Free Library is a partnership between the Friends of the Alamosa Public Library and the GFWC Woman's Citizenship Club. Since it will be located at the Depot, it was beautifully painted to represent our local railroad history.

Currently, this library is filled with children's booklets with titles including "It's Raining, It's Pouring," "Hop, Skip, and Jump," and "Pigs All Around."


Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that supports the worldwide movement to offer free books housed in small containers to members of the local community. Little Free Libraries are also referred to as community book exchanges, neighborhood book exchanges, book trading posts, pop-up libraries, and micro-libraries, and have been likened to human bird feeders.

There is another Little Free Library located at the Food Bank in Alamosa which is also supported by the members of the GFWC Woman's Citizenship Club.



Photo by John Waters


The newest Little Free Library supported by the Friends of the Library and Woman's Citizenship Club.



Managed by
Upper Rio Grande Animal Society

www.urgasconouranimalshelter.org

If you are interested in adopting, call 852-3366
Open Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Sat. & Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m.
Monday & non-business hours by appointment only
2825 Sherman Ave. • Monte Vista

Visit Our Facebook Page 

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

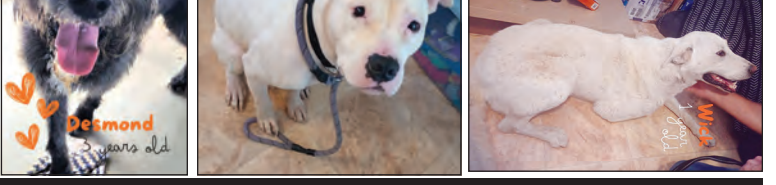
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Found together 8/29 on Jackson St in Monte Vista

It's the last few days of Clear The Shelters Month!

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Thank you all for your generous donations! We truly appreciate all of our community support!

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.
This ad space donated by Valley Publishing Inc.

COLOR

Continued from Page 1

conversation for students. We want them to hear it, know what it means, and if they are feeling a certain way they can go to a counselor and tell them I am having these thoughts, and I need to talk to someone. All the counselors at the school are also certified in suicide prevention, too," she said.

Pavlovsky explained that the STARS Program helps students lean on others in times of concern or crisis. "We do have students that are in STARS. STARS pairs middle school and high school students. There are mentors and mentees. The mentors offer advice to the mentees," she said.

Pavlovsky explained that the idea is for the students in the Mentor/Mentee Program to lean on each other.

"We want students to know that they have trusted friends in the STARS Program. We want them to know that there are also adults that they can go to,

if they need to," she said. Pavlovsky said they want students to realize that many people are working together to help prevent and help them with bad thoughts. The run is all part of the encouragement and reminder to the students.

"Our main goal is to get the message out there to our students, help is available, if you are having bad thoughts, help is available, and this walk will help with that, too," she said.

The Center Viking Youth Club offers many programs and provides events and many learning experiences to enrich students' minds. Some of the things that the club offers are out of the valley trips, swimming lessons, and art and cultural events. The club runs 5 days a week and 11 months out of the year. The club is a non-profit organization. For more information on the walk, contact the club at 719-937-5093.



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— Heather P.



PUBLIC AUCTION

Sept. 21, 2024

Saturday 9:30 am

Location: 10738 County Road 4 South, Alamosa, CO. Auction site is east of Highway 17 on the 4S. Watch for signs.

Auctioneer's Note: This is a multi-family dispersal auction with many useful household items, equipment and tack. Check our FB page for more pictures and last minute additions.

<p style="text-align: center;">Vehicles & Trailers</p> <p>Tonneau Cover for Ford Long Bed 2006 WW Enclosed Trailer 1976 Dodge Dump Truck 1995 Chev 3/4 ton w/ Service Bed 2000 GMC 4X4 3/4 ton "bad clutch"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Equipment</p> <p>Seed Auger 2-Kuhn Rakes Small Bale Grapple Fork 3 Bottom JD Plow IHC side delivery Rake Ferguson 3pt side del Rake JD 3pt Flail Mower 5' 8ft 3pt Blade 5500 Hesston Round Baler Crisafulli Water Pump</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tack</p> <p>New Kid's Saddle New Barrel Saddle New Breast Collars New Bridles & Tie Downs New Saddle Pads Saddle Stands Vintage Exotic Leather Boots Lots of Western Boots size 6 & 7 Leather Hand Bags</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lawn & Garden</p> <p>Chain Link Gates 2-Push Mowers 1-Snow Blower Rakes & Shovels Antique 2 Bottom Plow Massey-Harris side del. Rake Lg lot of T-Posts</p>	 	<p style="text-align: center;">Household</p> <p>Roasters - 18 quart Cream & Sugar Wessex Collect. Several Small Appliances Lamps Desk File Cabinet Jocelyn Lollipop Prints East Lake Table Throw Pillows Oak Table w/ 4 Chairs Coffee Table Glass Display Case Dresser Bed Frames Lots of Glassware & Crystalware Montana Silversmith Soup Tureen Dishes Sorelle China Lots of Silverplated Silverware Lowery Organ Couch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Crafting & Quilting</p> <p>Quilting Books & Patterns Lots of Fabric Cottons & Blends Zippers, Buttons & Elastic Knitting Needles Crochet Hooks Lots of Craft Items</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shop</p> <p>3- Generators 3- Elec. Air Compressors Tire Cage</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Toys</p> <p>6- JD Tractors (New in Box) Sev. Toy Cars (New in Box)</p>
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Auctioneers: Dale Adams & David Brown

Rural Philanthropy Days coming to the San Luis Valley

A crucial conference for nonprofits in the san Luis Valley

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — Once every four years, a stunning event takes place where Colorado funders and grantmakers trek to the San Luis Valley for the Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) conference, a three-day event that creates the opportunity for rural nonprofits to connect with foundations and funding sources in order to build nonprofit capacity, foster and grow relationships and fuel regional collaboration that leads to increased grant dollars being awarded to rural communities like those found in the San Luis Valley. This year, the Community Resource Center, who organizes and oversees the

RPD events, anticipates more than 75 funders and grantmakers will come to the Valley. The conference, which runs from Sept. 11 to Sept. 13, will be held at the Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista with evening receptions in downtown Alamosa.

It's difficult to overestimate how valuable this event is for those in the nonprofit sector, not only because of the extraordinary opportunity to connect with new and different funding resources but also for nonprofit professionals, grantmakers, community leaders, distinguished speakers, and elected officials to exchange knowledge and establish meaningful relationships across their professional networks in the region.

The conference also 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.

Featured events include facilitated tours in the San Luis Valley, a regional town hall, a panel discussion highlighting actional 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 September 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 have the opportunity to develop a mutual understanding of one another in a relaxed environment.

"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."

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 lo-

cal 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."

"This conference is so important because of its lasting impact," said event Co-Chair, Karla Shriver. "Participants learn new skills, network with other nonprofit 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."

Registration is currently open and those who are interested should go to <https://crcamerica.org/programs/rural-engagement/regional-websites/san-luis-valley/2024-slv-rpd-workshops-and-speakers/>.

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

UNDER CONTRACT



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

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NEW PRICE!



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95 Hubbard Trail, South Fork, CO

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

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SEPTIC
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Hunting Cabin on 40 Acres - Bordering National Forest
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SOLD!



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532 Lane 8 N. Monte Vista, CO

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Luxury Mountain home on 15 acres in Bear Creek
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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

Del Norte Elementary School Teacher needed at the URGSD. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professionals to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team for the 2024-2025 school year. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Amy Duda, Principal at aduda@urtigers.co or contact Amy at 719-657-4050. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co. (10-2)

The City of Creede is accepting applications for a Public Works Part Time Parks/Building Maintenance position. A self motivated candidate is being sought that possesses a valid driver's license and is able to perform general cleaning maintenance at various city owned buildings, along with performing simple water sampling duties. The position offers flexible working hours on the weekends with competitive pay based on experience and/or background. Candidates are asked to complete an application online at the City's website: <https://cityofcreede.colorado.gov/i-want-to/apply-for>, or stop into town hall for a hard copy submitted to: Scott Johnson, Public Works Director, City of Creede, 2223 N. Main Street, Creede, CO 81130, publicworks@creedetownhall.com, 719-658-2276 x 4 (9-18)

Del Norte Bank is seeking to fill a full-time position for a Teller in the Creede Branch. Duties will be to accept deposits, loan payments and process withdrawals while maintaining a balanced cash drawer. Must be personable and pleasant answering the phone and greeting customers. Many other duties will be assigned as needed. The position is permanent, full-time, M - F, 8am - 4:30pm, an hourly rate range of \$14.42 to \$17.00, with a robust benefits package. Application available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers or inquire at 117 N. Main St, Creede or call 719-657-3376 and ask for Dawn. EOE. (9-11)

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 (9-11)

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

Please email resume to: Payroll@WolfCreekSki.com (9-11)

Human Resources and Equity Coordinator - San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition seeks an Human Resources and Equity Coordinator. Related college degree and/or 4 years experience with HR, preferably in a non-profit. Submit your resume and cover letter to opportunity.slvlocalfoods@gmail.com. Additional requirements can be found at www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/. Applications close August 31, 2024 (9-18)

Outreach Assistant - San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition seeks an LFLP Outreach Coordinator. Strong communication and computer skills are required. Submit your resume and cover letter to opportunity.slvlocalfoods@gmail.com.

Additional requirements can be found at www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/. Applications close September 9, 2024. (9-11)

Valley Roots Food Hub General Manager - San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition seeks a Valley Roots Food Hub General Manager. As the General Manager, you will learn, understand, and oversee the jobs of Driver, Aggregator, Markets Manager, Warehouse Manager, Operations Manager, Bookkeeper, Kitchen Manager, Sales Manager, and Fleet Manager. Minimum of 5 years of relevant experience. Submit your resume and cover letter to opportunity.slvlocalfoods@gmail.com. Additional requirements can be found at www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/. Applications close September 15, 2024. (9-11)

Head Junior High Girls' Volleyball Coach needed at Del Norte Jr. High School. Experience as a coach or assistant coach at the middle school and or high school level is preferred. Must possess: effective coaching techniques and a thorough knowledge of the rules of the sport; and have the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with school administrators, parents, and students. Please contact Gibbs Sanchez, Athletic Director, at: gsanchez@urtigers.co 719-657-4020; or Annie Hardy, Principal, at: ahardy@urtigers.co, 719-657-4020. (9-18)

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in excellent condition. Call KimAnna and Mike 719-588-1892, 719-588-3433 (10-2)

38 Machinery, Tools, Equipment

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

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55 RVs & Campers

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64 Autos for Sale

Rio Grande County is holding a silent auction for the sale of a 2008 Chrysler Town and Country van. Vehicle starts and runs. Check Engine light is on but has not been diagnosed. Vehicle was removed from service as a Law Enforcement vehicle, due to purchase of replacement vehicle. Silent Auction will start September 2, 2024, and will end close of business day (4:00 P M October 2, 2024. Vehicle can be viewed at the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office 640 Cherry St. Del Norte, CO 81132. Bids can be placed by writing your bid, name, and contact information, and enclosing in a sealed envelope. Winning bidder will be contacted by October 7, 2024. Rio Grande County does not provide guarantees and/or warranties relative to the sold item (s). Thus, the items are offered on an "AS IS-WHERE IS" basis and on the timeline assigned thru the auction. The vehicle was removed from service for replacement. This was previously a Police Vehicle. The vehicle is not inspected. Must be picked up. (10-2)

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14 Business Properties For Rent

For rent beautiful 840 square foot storefront center of Del-Norte 730-Grande-Ave. Available now! \$995. per-month-plus-last-and-security. KimAnna and Mike 719-588-1892, 719-588-3433 (10-2)

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

House for sale Antonito - 5-bedroom home sits on four lots. 719-298-6110 (9-18)

Creede Heaven #1 Lot 22 Block "G" Last Chance Drive \$32,500 970-779-8204 (10-9)

36 Miscellaneous

Let me haul off your, old appliances and a recyclable metals for you call Chris for prices and to set up a removal 719-395-2071 (10-30)

New in Del Norte Peace-of-Art-Gallery-Pop-Up Honoring the-life-and-lore-of Blake Higgins 728-Grande-Ave 85 years of fine art-collectibles-dolls-bears even rubber-stamps Opens September-8th-2024 719-588-1892 (10-2)

Need Storage, We Build New Storage Sheds, HY Country Sheds Call 719-849-8106 (10-30)

1930s Autocrat stove, wood burning and propane, \$100. 114 Fifth St. Creede. 409-370-1815 (9-25)

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37 Wanted

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Student (13-18 in school)	\$819 / \$1023
Child (6-12)	\$418 / \$521
Tot (5 & under)	\$58 / \$72

SUPERSAVER PASSES -43 Blackout Dates-

	Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate
Adult (19-64)	\$797 / \$996
Senior (65 & older)	\$350 / \$437
Student (13-18 in school)	\$615 / \$768
Child (6-12)	\$314 / \$392
Tot (5 & under)	\$44 / \$55

Family Passes - All passes must be same type
** Families consist of father, mother, or partners in civil unions and their single, dependent children, 22 years old or younger, living together supported by the same income



SuperSaver Blackout Dates
Nov. 29-30; Dec. 21-31;
Jan. 1-4, 11, 18-19, 25;
Feb. 1-2, 8-9, 14-16, 22; Mar. 1, 8-20

PEAK ADVANTAGE FAMILY PASSES

	Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate
1st in Family	\$1062 / \$1326
2nd in Family	\$819 / \$1023
3rd in Family	\$466 / \$582
4th in Family	\$383 / \$478
5th in Family	\$383 / \$478

SUPERSAVER FAMILY PASSES

	Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate
1st in Family	\$797 / \$996
2nd in Family	\$615 / \$768
3rd in Family	\$350 / \$437
4th in Family	\$288 / \$359
5th in Family	\$288 / \$359

WolfCreekSki.com - 970-264-5639

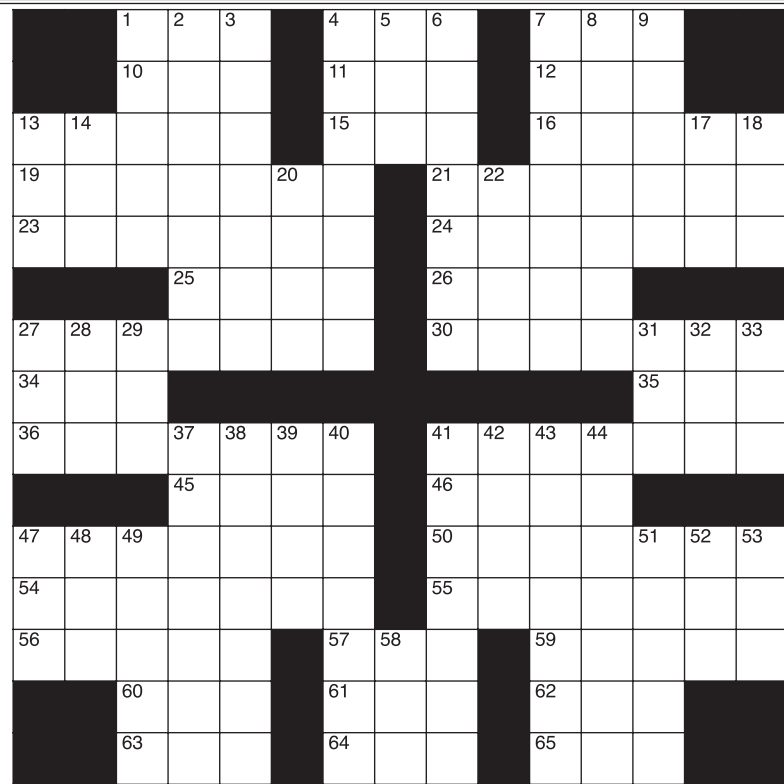
Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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CLUES ACROSS

- Indicates tire pressure
- Request
- Clairvoyance
- 007's creator
- Adult male
- Scandinavian god of battle
- Cloths spread on a coffin
- Breeze through
- Ladyfish genus
- It's good to take them
- Noble-governed territory
- Members of U.S. Navy
- Card game resembling rummy
- Affected by injury
- Member of a Semitic people
- Left
- Woman's cloak
- S. American plant
- Prohibit
- Offense
- Dish soap brand
- Ottoman military commanders
- Ancient Greek City
- Makes unhappy
- Discuss again
- Medical instrument
- Promote
- A beloved carb
- Tag the base runner to get him out
- Prehistoric people
- Large African antelope
- Vehicle
- Georgia rockers



- Scientific instrument (abbr.)
- A major division of geological time
- Attempt
- Former French coin
- Electronic countermeasures
- Taxi
- Helps little firms
- Woeful
- Midway between northeast and east
- Glowing
- Tasks which should be done
- An informal body of friends
- Intrinsic nature
- Neural structures
- Brews
- Where ships unload cargo
- Singer
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Southwest Scotland town
- Most worthless parts
- Viscous
- Put to work
- Old world, new
- Swiss river

CLUES DOWN

- Plant of the nettle family
- Fit to be sold
- Rather
- Collected
- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Patella
- Ageless
- Lists of course requirements
- Pokes at
- TV network
- They ___
- Cooking hardware
- U.S. Army title
- Iron-containing compound
- Swiss river (alt. spelling)

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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- Cowboy ethics
- 4H
- Rodeo team
- Day camps
- Drill teams

Additional information & bookings are available through our website: www.luckyshoeridingclub.com/.

Phone: 719-849-1955

Location: 4195 North County Road 5 West, Monte Vista

Valley Wide Classifieds

For sale - 1990 Toyota 2-wheel drive super clean pickup; 2013 Toyota Corolla. 719-850-2027 (10-2)

65 Professional Services

4-Ever-Cleaning Air B&B, deep cleans, commercial, carpet shampooing call Rene 719-480-4273 for more info. (10-2)

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ESTIMATED CROP WATER USE

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

Crop	Date Planted	Daily Crop Water use for Dates Shown (in./day)				Accumulated Water Use (ET) (inches)				
		9/5	9/4	9/3	9/2	From 2day	9/5 3day	4day	5day	7day
Moravian 69	04/05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Moravian 69	05/05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.09	0.20
White Wheat	04/05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
White Wheat	05/05	0.03	0.07	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.19	0.28	0.37	0.58
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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Centennial	05/05	0.07	0.14	0.17	0.17	0.21	0.38	0.55	0.71	1.06
Nugget	05/05	0.08	0.16	0.18	0.18	0.24	0.42	0.60	0.78	1.16
Alfalfa	Est.	0.10	0.20	0.23	0.23	0.30	0.53	0.76	0.98	1.44
Lawnglass	Est.	0.09	0.18	0.20	0.20	0.27	0.48	0.68	0.88	1.28

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

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

UNDER CONTRACT



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



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



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



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

UNDER CONTRACT



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



The Stunning Grande Ponderosa!
Approx. 2.54 Acres
\$2,250,000 | MLS #813982
695 Escondida South Fork, CO
YVONNE HOFFMAN
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SOLD



Amazing Ranch Style House with Barn and 50 Acres!
\$599,000 MLS #811695
13725 Road 104 South Alamosa, CO
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Perfect Live/Work Property
APPROX. 3.47 ACRES
\$799,000/MLS#813618
4 El Dorado Lane South Fork, CO
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M: 719-580-07709

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



Great home located in Antonito CO!
\$160,000 MLS #812813
112 W. 12th Ave, Antonito, CO 81120
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Opportunity awaits at Highland Meadows
\$857,000/MLS#817468
30 Highland Ct, South Fork, CO. 81154
AUNDREA LILLARD
ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 706-622-0799

SOLD



Cozy Remodeled Home
\$275,000 | MLS#815078
127 Blackhawk Rd, South Fork, CO
AUNDREA LILLARD
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SOLD



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\$2,777,700 | MLS #812760
5295 County Road 28, Monte Vista, CO
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HISTORY

Continued from Page 1 —

“Preserving the sites that tell the authentic stories of the Valley and provide collective meaning to its people is critical to recognizing the full breadth of our state’s history before it is lost to time.

“This effort will also provide us an opportunity to invest in the future prosperity of the Valley as historic designations can provide access to funding avenues that can be used to protect sites which define communities,” DiPrince said.

While the specifics of how this project will be implemented are still being developed, Luke Perkins, History Colorado’s Manager of Communications and Public Relations, told the Valley Courier, “We’re planning to hold three major convening events where we will engage with community leaders to identify the sites. We’ll also be offering an honorarium for those people who attend.”

In addition to providing technical support in researching and nominating sites, this grant funds consultation opportunities with grant-writing and sustainability planning experts who will help locals establish sustainability plans for each of the sites added to the State and National Registers. This consultation will assist locals to develop funding applications that support ongoing maintenance, operation, and/or redevelopment and restoration plans for sites so they both preserve the past and serve the contemporary and future needs of San Luis Valley and its residents.

It’s the hope of History Colorado that the preservation support and projects put in place by this grant will continue to pay dividends for the community long after the grant funded effort is completed by empowering locals to lead preservation efforts across the San Luis Valley and provide a model for how preservation can meet the needs of under-resourced communities.

“We are lucky that San Luis Valley communities have fiercely and lovingly preserved their rich historic resources for generations, and we are eager to support their stewardship with additional resources and tools,” DiPrince said. “This project has the potential to set a standard for how historic preservation can turn the vital markers of the past into economic drivers of the future.”

The work done in the San Luis Valley will also provide History Colorado an extensive opportunity to evaluate the processes and procedures which govern nomination to the State Register. It is the organization’s hope that community input provided through this project will help remove any undue barriers that restrict marginalized communities from accessing historic designation and preservation funding.

“When people think classically about historic properties, they envision stunning Victorian houses, and the creations of renowned architects, but this only represents a portion of our shared history,” DiPrince said. “This work allows us to advance what historic preservation looks like and build an inclusive historic record that represents the experiences of all of Colorado’s people.”

Colorado Heritage for All is an intentional effort by History Colorado to address the lack of representation of all of Colorado’s diverse communities on the State and National Register of Historic Places. Colorado Heritage for All supports nominations and the listing of 150 currently unrecognized historic resources that tell the stories of marginalized communities by the end of 2026.

History Colorado’s mission is to create a better future for Colorado by inspiring wonder in our past.

HERITAGE

Continued from Page 1

We serve as the state’s memory, preserving and sharing the places, stories, and material culture of Colorado through educational programs, historic preservation grants, collecting, outreach to Colorado communities, the History Colorado Center and Stephen H. Hart Research Center in Denver, and 10 other museums and historic attractions statewide. History Colorado is one of only six Smithsonian Affiliates in Colorado. Visit HistoryColorado.org, or call 303-HISTORY, for more information.

travel long distances daily for trade or worship. Thus, there were many small Hispano settlements throughout the area. The people lived in relative isolation in close-knit communities. The St. Francis church and cemetery are located on a 5.49-acre tract of land donated by Juan Pio Valdez in a community known as Plaza de Los Valdezes. Today, it is sometimes called Plaza. In the 1870’s and into the early twentieth century, there was also a schoolhouse, and a railroad stop in addition to the church.

In the early days, a small number of priests served the widely dispersed Catholic population. Priests traveled to the various parishes as they were able. By 1895, the Del Norte parish served twelve missions, including St. Francis of Assisi. After the advent of automobile travel, the priest was able to visit on a weekly basis. The 1920’s through the 1940’s were probably the heyday of the Mission Church of St. Francis of Assisi. The community was closely knit and devout. The large families filled the church to capacity. After the war, people became more

willing and able to travel by auto to Del Norte and Monte Vista to attend mass.

The Heritage Fair will also include demonstrations by local artists and herbalists and reenactments by local historians. The St. Francis of Assisi Parish will be cooking in the old style Spanish Horno oven and supplying food for the occasion. It will be an event the entire family can enjoy so come on out, support a wonderful cause and have some fun to kick off Fall in the San Luis Valley!

SAN LUIS VALLEY SERVICE DIRECTORY



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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

222 La Lomita Circle • South Fork

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



JUST LISTED

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Thinking of Selling in 2024 Expect the Best, Call Bernadette

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0254 Timberline Trail • South Fork

Discover The Essence of Excellence Mountain Living in this custom-built Masterpiece! Situated on 1.84 sloping acres within the prestigious Rio Grande Club, this 4,466 sq ft home offers unparalleled vistas and modern elegance. Key Features: Inspiring Views: Unsurpassed panoramas stretch north, east, and south, capturing the rugged beauty of the San Juan Mountains. Architectural Marvel: A two-level design seamlessly blends contemporary finishes with a mountain aesthetic. Grand Entryway: Step into the vaulted ceiling living room adorned with Swedish Cope logs and a striking rock gas fireplace. Expansive Deck: Access the large stone rock deck from the living area, where you'll soak in views of the golf course, mountains, and valley below. Gourmet Kitchen: Culinary enthusiasts will appreciate custom cabinets, granite countertops, and top-of-the-line Wolf appliances. Master Suite: The upper-level primary suite boasts a spa-like bathroom and an adjacent study. Lower-Level Comfort: Three additional bedrooms with 9-foot ceilings offer Alderwood doorways and magnificent vistas. Entertainment Haven: The lower level features a spacious game room with a pool table, TV, and workout equipment. Year-Round Comfort: Radiant floor heat and an extra-large 1000-gallon propane tank ensure warmth during chilly days. Outdoor Delight: Enjoy ever-changing mountain views from the adjacent deck or cozy up by the stone mantel gas fireplace. Gas-Burning Fireplace: The lower level sitting area with a mini bar and stunning views is perfect for relaxation and entertaining family and friends. This home includes an adjacent parcel allowing direct access to the national forest from the front of the property so enjoying your favorite outdoor activities are just steps away. The 2-car garage has workshop hot & cold sink an extra - large 76-gallon water heater, water softener. Programmable hot water throughout the home, hot & cold water outside faucet and plenty of room for storage and a workbench. There is a security system monitored by Valley Lock and Security. Land lines in most every room. Century-Link phone highspeed internet and Direct TV. Managed lighting and surround sound throughout the home and the Smart Home allows you to control from anywhere. This home is a Hole in One! One of a kind, designed and built providing that sense of hospitality, openness, beauty, and tranquility. Location Highlights: Rio Grande Club: Overlooking the 11th hole, this exclusive community offers golf, recreation, and natural beauty. Outdoor Paradise: Explore nearby trails, fishing spots, the Rio Grande River, the South Fork River and Wolf Creek Ski area. Doesn't get any more epitome than this! Check out the Video. Call and schedule your private showing today! **MLS#811509 - \$2,350,000**



NEW PRICE

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

1408 Bear Creek Circle • South Fork

Exceptional Mountain Retreat nestled within the prestigious gated community of Bear Creek, this Exquisite home at 1408 Bear Creek Circle offers an unparalleled blend of Elegance, Tranquility, and Natural beauty. With 3,882 square feet of meticulously designed living space, this property is a sanctuary for those seeking rest from the everyday hustle. Interior Features: Entryway with Stained Glass Doors: The grand entrance sets the tone, welcoming you into a large, elegant living room complete with a corner fireplace and an adjacent wet bar—perfect for entertaining guests. Large Custom Kitchen: The heart of this home boasts custom alder wood cabinets, beautiful quartz countertops, and a 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 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**



SOLD

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259 Orville Way • South Fork

Idyllic Mountain 4-Bedroom Retreat? Nestled within 1, 956 square feet of meticulously maintained living space, this tranquil home offers room for everyone. With 4 bedrooms and 3 baths, it's a haven of comfort. The attached 2-car garage ensures convenience, while the back deck, adorned with a charming gazebo, invites relaxation and al fresco dining. As you soak in the mountain vistas, enjoy the comforting shade of the ponderosa pines, listen to the babbling stream, and watch for glimpses of elk, deer, and other wildlife. The culinary kitchen is a chef's delight, ready for gourmet creations. Whether you seek a permanent residence or a vacation rental, create lasting memories in this idyllic setting. Start living your mountain dream—call and schedule your showing today! **MLS#815727 - \$575,900**



NEW PRICE

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License #100072622

328 Fir Drive • South Fork

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



UNDER CONTRACT

exp REALTY Bernadette Gingrass
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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

exp REALTY Bernadette Gingrass
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193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

Charming Mountain Retreat with Breathtaking Views Nestled in the picturesque town of South Fork, CO, this finely crafted Ranch Style Mountain home offers a delightful blend of rugged elegance and modern amenities. 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

exp REALTY Bernadette Gingrass
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License #100072622

461 Vista De Verde Circle • South Fork

Deluxe 1, 688 sq ft Mountain Retreat two master bedrooms. Custom Kitchen and Scenic Views! Welcome to 461 Vista De Verde Circle, where luxury living meets the rugged beauty of the Colorado mountains. This custom-built home offers an exceptional blend of comfort, style, and natural splendor. Custom Kitchen Step into culinary bliss—a kitchen designed for both functionality and aesthetics. Imagine sleek custom cabinets, their rich wood grain complemented by the gleam of granite countertops. The heart of this home invites you to create gourmet meals while soaking in the surrounding beauty. And don't miss the porcelain wood-look tile flooring—it's as durable as it is stunning. Grand Entry Your first impression matters, and the custom entry door sets the tone. Crafted with care, it welcomes you and your guests with elegance. Step inside, and you'll feel the warmth and craftsmanship that define this retreat. Light-Filled Living Spaces Vaulted ceilings soar overhead, creating an airy ambiance. Sunlight spills through insulated honeycomb blinds, casting a soft glow on the wood-burning fireplace. Cozy up here during chilly evenings, surrounded by the scent of pine and the crackle of logs. Outdoor Living at Its Finest Step onto the outdoor deck—a true masterpiece that wraps around three sides of the home. Sip your morning coffee while taking in the sunrise or unwind with a glass of wine as the sun sets behind distant peaks. This deck is your private stage for nature's grand performance. Your Canvas Awaits With over two acres of gently sloping land, you have room to dream. Picture terraced gardens, a fire pit with 360 mountain views. The paved road ensures easy access, so arrive in style and let your imagination run wild. Adventure Beckons For outdoor enthusiasts, this locale is paradise. Cast your fishing line into the nearby Rio Grande River, hike through the National Forest, or simply breathe in the crisp mountain air. And when winter arrives, the Wolf Creek Ski Resort awaits—just a short drive away. Create Your Legacy This isn't just a house; it's a legacy waiting to unfold. Generations will gather here, sharing stories under the golden sunsets. "Craft Your Legacy: Gather, Share, and Begin Your Mountain Journey!" Call me for more information and to schedule your showing today! More pictures coming soon! **MLS#817608 - \$875,000**



NEW LISTING

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License #100072622

48 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

Mountain Charm Where Dreams Blossom Nestled in the heart of South Fork, Colorado, this Mountain haven awaits where simplicity meets enchantment. Picture it: a 3-bedroom, 2-bath retreat, bathed in the golden light of the Mountains. With 1,440 square feet and attached large 2 car garage. This home will cradle your memories like a cherished heirloom. This lot steals your breath—a canvas of possibility stretching wide. Here, mule deer and wild turkeys play, visiting often as if drawn by whispers from the pines. No stern HOA rules here; just a neighborhood that nods in camaraderie. Large lot to grow your own garden and enjoy the existing rhubarb patch! Imagine stepping onto your covered front porch, the scent of freshly baked rhubarb pie dancing in the air. Yes, you'll bake your own—pluck ruby-red stalks from the earth, mix them with sugar and secrets, and let the mountains witness your culinary magic. Paved roads with city water and city water & sanitation. Modern comfort wrapped in rustic allure. All this and more, only a short walk takes you to the Rio Grande River, its waters a silver ribbon of promise. Gold medal fishing awaits, and the mountains echo your joy. And when winter blankets the land, Wolf Creek Ski area beckons. Adventure, your faithful companion, stands at your doorstep. Your Dream come true, pick up the phone. Schedule your showing, and step into the pages of Mountain Charm. Your Adventure starts here, give me a call today! **MLS#814960 - \$367,900**



UNDER CONTRACT

exp REALTY 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!

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