

SCSO Donuts with Dan will be at Baca Grande POA

By MARIE MCCOLM

CRESTONE — The Saguache County Sheriff's Office will be holding an event called Donuts with Dan on Sept. 18 at the Crestone. This is your opportunity to voice your concerns, share your opinions, and get to know your Sherriff Dan Warwick, and other law enforcement in your community.

Donuts with Dan will be held on September 18 at 10 a.m., at the Baca Grande POA (Property Owners Association) Office at 68575 County Road T.

Sherriff Dan Warwick spoke about the

upcoming event and what it entails.

"Well, we have Donuts with Dan. Everyone is invited from the Crestone community to attend. The way that it all started was, some of the staff in my office brought up 'Coffee with the Chief' they have that out there. We really don't have anything like that. So, some of my staff members thought it would be a good idea and something fun. I am not sure which one of them thought of the name, but they came up with Donuts with Dan. It was catchy, so we decided to do it," Sherriff Warwick said with a chuckle.

Warwick said the meeting's idea is to give Saguache communities the chance to speak with law enforcement officers and their local sheriff in a casual atmosphere.

"Anybody that wants to come, is welcome to come and ask questions. We will answer these questions the best way that we can. Sometimes questions are asked about ongoing investigations, where we can't disclose that information, but people are welcome to come and let us know about problems that they are having in their community. We want them to come out so we can address those problems.

We want to get community involvement and help people engage with these meetings in what we do," he said.

Sherriff Warwick explained that the plan is to visit the different communities in Saguache County each month. The sheriff's office will have donuts and coffee for attendees.

Last month, Sherriff Warwick held a meeting in Saguache, and this month it will be in Crestone.

"For the meeting it's myself who attends, my undersheriff, and I try to get my lieutenant to

Please see DONUTS on Page 2A

Shorts

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 Marie Mccolm

Hundreds of people attended the tailgate party for the Center High School football game on Sept. 6. The event was a collaboration between the Center Consolidated School District (CCSD), the Town of Center, and Warm Cookies of the Revolution Civic Health Club.

Center School District celebrates new football field

Hundreds of people attend kickoff ceremony

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — The town of Center was rocked with music, a tailgate party, and a ribbon cutting ceremony

for their new football field. The excitement all took place on Friday, Sept. 6, beginning at Center Town Park.

The event was a collaboration between the Center Consolidated School District (CCSD), the Town of Center, and the Civic Health Club called "Warm Cookies of the Revolution." The theme for the

tailgate party was Viking Vision/ Game Time.

Approximately 300 people attended the event. The event kicked off with a live band that brought everyone together under the Center Park Pavilion. There were people dancing and smiling, along with delicious food that was served to everyone. The

Please see SCHOOL on Page 8A

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

Please see FESTIVAL on Page 5A



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



Photos by Marie Mccolm

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



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Outdoor Fitness Court Studio coming to DN's Centennial Park

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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 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.”

HOMECOMING

Continued from Page 1A

school football team this year, we will be continuing with our homecoming traditions. Our middle school football team and middle school volleyball teams will be playing the Aguilar Wildcats. Our JV and varsity high school teams will be playing the Antonito Trojans.”

Price-Johnson said that usually the school crowns their homecoming royalty at their homecoming football game, but this go around it would be a little different, as they would be crowning their royalty at the bonfire on Friday.

“We will have a bonfire on Friday night where we will announce our royalty. Typically, we crown our royalty at the halftime of our high school football game but this year we will be doing that at our bonfire,” she said.

Price-Johnson stated that the kids have really been enjoying spirit week and are excited about homecoming.

“The kids at every grade level are excited to participate in our homecoming activities. It brings the kids together and really boosts

school pride too. On Friday, our high school students will prepare for the bonfire and parade. In addition, we will also have a pep assembly to recognize welcoming our freshmen to high school and to acknowledge our student athletes,” she said.

Price-Johnson stated that the parade on Saturday “is a local parade with local businesses, our

royalty, classes, and sometimes local candidates.”

When asked what her favorite part of homecoming is, Price-Johnson said, “I love the tradition and camaraderie within our community that comes with homecoming. Alumni and community members come out to support our student athletes and it really brings everyone together.”

DONUTS

Continued from Page 1A — come to these,” Warwick said. “We have had a couple of the deputies who have been on shift that have been at the meetings also.”

Although Sheriff Warwick said that he would like to keep it centered to the Saguache County community where he holds the meeting, he also stated that anybody that is interested is invited to attend.

“We prefer that it stays within the community that we are in, at the time, so that the community can be brought forward, and be heard, but anyone is welcome to attend though. For instance, if someone from Alamosa would like to attend because they wanted to see what law enforcement is like in our community, they are certainly welcome to attend also,” he said.

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.

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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

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.



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

Missing wildland fire

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



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

Courtesy photo

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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New art gallery graces Grande Avenue in Del Norte

By LYNDISIE 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 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 Kim Anna 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 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 Hoefer.

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.



Photos 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.



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



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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DF-CD-NP-G421

Mari Felix enters not guilty plea to accessory charge

Charge connected to husband's case alleging sexual abuse of child

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Alamosa County Clerk and Recorder Mari Felix appeared in court on Wednesday where she entered a plea of not guilty to the charge of accessory to a crime. The charge against Felix is related to her alleged connection to a case involving her husband, Martin Felix-Lopez, who stands accused of sexual abuse of a child by a person in a position of trust.

Felix's plea was entered after a series of delays following her first appearance in court in February. At that time, the hearing was continued to March with Michael Martin, Felix's attorney, stating he "was hoping for a dispositional conference with the district attorney."

According to Megan Martinez, director of administration with the District Attorney's Office, a dispositional conference takes place

when the prosecution and defense see if a disposition in the case can be reached instead of going to trial.

No disposition was reached.

Subsequent delays were the result of, first, Martin telling the court that "he could not open" a file from the prosecution containing evidence in the case. Then, the DA's office newly hired Assistant District Attorney, Wesley Stafford, took over prosecution, delaying proceedings further as he became familiar with his case load.

It should be noted that Stafford came to the DA's office with extensive experience in prosecuting child abuse cases – including child sexual abuse – in Miami and Houston.

Each time a hearing was delayed, Martin agreed to the continuance, telling District Judge Crista Newmyer-Olsen, presiding, that he felt there was the probability of reaching a resolution with the prosecution prior to going to trial.

Felix entering the not guilty plea on Wednesday indicates that, at least at this point, there is no resolution as the trial is slated to begin on March 21, 2025, and to last four days. Felix waived her "right to a speedy trial", allowing

the trial to begin more than six months after she entered her plea.

If convicted of the crime, Colorado Revised Statute §§ 18-8-105(1)(5), states Felix could face from one to three years in the Department of Corrections and or a fine of \$1,000 to \$100,000 plus two years of mandatory parole.

In mid-December of 2023, Mari Felix was taken into custody after a child reported to her school counselor a history of sexual abuse by Felix-Lopez.

At that time, Felix was charged with four felonies for alleged complicity in sexual assault on a child and child abuse. However, in early January of 2024, District Attorney Anne Kelly reduced those charges to a single count of accessory to a crime, a class five felony.

When asked to comment on the reduction of charges, DA Kelly declined, stating it was a case currently in litigation, which prohibits her from discussing any details. Felix is next scheduled to appear in court on Nov. 18, for a status hearing.

Felix has been Alamosa County Clerk and Recorder since July of 2022 when she was appointed to the position following



Mari Felix

the resignation of her predecessor, Nicole Jaramillo. Just a few months later, Felix, who ran unopposed, was elected to office.

FESTIVAL Continued from Page 1A

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 bouncy 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 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.



Photo by Marie Mccolm

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.

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 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



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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Hunting seasons start in Colorado

How hunters and outdoor recreationists can prepare

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, leaf peepers, wildlife viewers, and OHV users that most of Colorado's outdoors 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 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.



Courtesy photo from CPW

The 2024 hunting seasons have started in Colorado.

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.

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

The Saguache County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at the Saguache County Road and Bridge meeting Room located at 305 - 3rd Street, Saguache, Colorado, on the following date:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024, at 6 PM

to consider proposed changes to the Saguache County Land Development Code.

To view the proposed changes, you may contact the Saguache County Land Use Department - PO Box 326, Saguache, CO 81149 or atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov or by calling 719-655-2321 or you may also view the changes on our website at www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov.

Written comments will be accepted until Friday, September 27, 2024, at 3pm, and may be sent to atorrez@saguachecounty-co.gov.

No. 1705 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, September 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024.

**Request for Proposals:
Civil Engineering Design and Construction Administrative
Services for On-Site and Off-Site Improvements
Range View, Saguache, Colorado**

Northwest Real Estate Capital Corp. is soliciting civil engineering firms to provide a civil engineering design and construction administration services for Range View, a 32-unit multifamily development in Saguache, Colorado. RFP Responses are due by October 4th at 5:00 PM (Mountain Time). The proposal will include both on-site and off-site civil engineering requirements for the project, including plans for erosion control, grading and drainage, site improvements, public rights-of-way, and site utilities. Please direct your questions to John Vance, Senior Property Developer at jvance@nwrecc.org or (208) 387.7977. Certified WBE/MBE and Section 3 Businesses are encouraged to respond.

No. 1706 published in the Center Post Dispatch, Thursday, September 12 and 19, 2024.

ADVERTISEMENT

Why you need dental insurance in retirement.

Many Americans are fortunate to have dental coverage for their entire working life, through employer-provided benefits. When those benefits end with retirement, paying dental bills out-of-pocket can come as a shock, leading people to put off or even go without care.

Simply put – without dental insurance, there may be an **important gap** in your healthcare coverage.

When you're comparing plans ...

- ▶ Look for coverage that helps pay for major services. Some plans may limit the number of procedures – or pay for preventive care only.
- ▶ Look for coverage with no deductibles. Some plans may require you to pay hundreds out of pocket before benefits are paid.
- ▶ Shop for coverage with no annual maximum on cash benefits. Some plans have annual maximums of \$1,000.

Medicare doesn't pay for dental care.¹

That's right. As good as Medicare is, it was never meant to cover everything. That means if you want protection, you need to purchase individual insurance.

Early detection can prevent small problems from becoming expensive ones.

The best way to prevent large dental bills is preventive care. The American Dental Association recommends checkups twice a year.

Previous dental work can wear out.

Even if you've had quality dental work in the past, you shouldn't take your dental health for granted. In fact, your odds of having a dental problem only go up as you age.²

Treatment is expensive — especially the services people over 50 often need.

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

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

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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.

SCHOOL Continued from Page 1A

food was free to the public and included tasty hot wings, with sides of pasta salad, and corn on the cob, with many different toppings to choose from for the corn. Drinks were punch and water.

There were games, such as cornhole being played by kids and adults, and in the middle of it all there were a few circus performers, including two women swinging from high tight ropes, on a silver bar set, along with a juggler and other entertainment. There were also free Viking T-shirts given out to everyone until they were gone.

Around 5:30 p.m. everyone who attended the event headed from the pavilion to the entrance area to the new football field. The Town of Center board members, Mayor Archie Gallegos, CCSD Superintendent Carrie Zimmerman, and CCSD's Katrina Caldon-Ruggles, all came together to take a picture in front of the new field.

The football team then marched in, and held the line in front of the field, while the ribbon was cut. Everyone cheered excitedly as the players walked onto their new field for their homecoming game.

Superintendent Zimmerman spoke about the ribbon cutting and the new field.

"We are super excited. Everything has really gone very smoothly. We started working on this a year ago. We got a GOCO (Great Outdoors Colorado) Grant. That's how this all started. We asked the town commissioner if we could just get going on this football field and track, and they gave us permission. We just rocked and rolled with it. So, the fact that it's already come this far is really exciting. We have a scoreboard coming

in the next couple of weeks. The school board has been super supportive, too," she said.

Zimmerman explained that all thought the field is almost complete, the track around the field still needs to be finished, but she stated that the company working on everything has been to work with and she sees everything running smoothly for the track, too.

"The company has really followed through, and we are super excited about it," she said.

Zimmerman stated that when the track is done and officially ready, they will do a ribbon cutting for that too.

Zimmerman also explained that she felt everyone seemed to be having a good time, and she was glad that the school could partner with Future Town to make it all possible.

"Katrina Ruggles did a lot of the leg work with them; she has worked with them in the past too. We partnered with them on our tailgate party, and they brought in all the food and everything. It's just been great," she said.

Caldon-Ruggles of Center Consolidated School District talked about the success of the event.

"The Future Town tailgate party was a huge success. We are so thankful to all the community and students for showing up to celebrate. We had so much fun! What a great way to celebrate the inauguration of the new football field and to come together to support our youth. A special thanks to our PICS (Parents Involved for Center Students) program for putting together all the food. They worked so hard! They fed all the football, volleyball, and cross-country



Photo by Marie Mccolm

Center board members and Center Consolidated School District Superintendent Carrie Zimmerman pose for the picture in front of the new field during the ribbon cutting ceremony on Sept. 6.

teams and a bunch of the cheerleaders at the school before the game and fed our pregame party. Also, thanks to Adrian Molina and Warm Cookies of the Revolution, a Denver-based civic organization, for their support in making this happen. We had a live band, the Salida circus, and a DJ. The Center Viking Youth Club provided games and helped set up tables and chairs. As always, our community came together to make this happen! Several hundred people came to enjoy the festivities and the game. We are super proud of the effort our young men gave. Viking Pride is always strong, and the community support is a big part of this! Finally, thanks so much to Carrie

Zimmerman for all her work to make the new field come to fruition," she said.

Warm Cookies of the Revolution are a Civic Health Club that hosts Future Town Tours. According to their website, the group is trying to center rural Colorado into smaller towns in the future rather than the past. In the past, rural areas were not really thought of. The group is currently working with local organizations in different towns and visiting different towns with this tour. The group wants to focus on increasing social cohesion, across race, language, culture, and geography. One of the biggest focuses of the group is to bring positive change to rural areas and small towns.

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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.saguachechamber.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.



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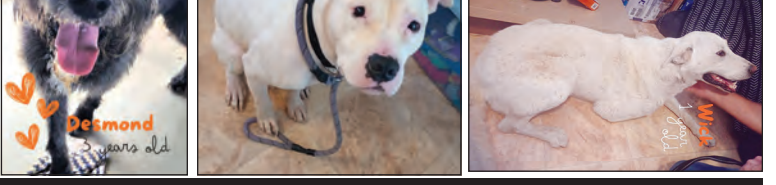
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COLOR

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.



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.

- Vehicles & Trailers**
- 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"

- Equipment**
- 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

- Tack**
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 - New Barrel Saddle
 - New Breast Collars
 - New Bridles & Tie Downs
 - New Saddle Pads
 - Saddle Stands
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 - Lots of Western Boots size 6 & 7
 - Leather Hand Bags

- Lawn & Garden**
- Chain Link Gates
 - 2-Push Mowers
 - 1-Snow Blower
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 - Antique 2 Bottom Plow
 - Massey-Harris side del. Rake
 - Lg lot of T-Posts



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 - Lamps
 - Desk
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 - Jocelyn Lollipop Prints
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 - Throw Pillows
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 - Glass Display Case
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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-

callers 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/>.

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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)

Lead Teacher for Infant Care Center needed at the Upper Rio Grande School District. 150 days per year which includes all days that teachers are at school. Please

INVENTORY REDUCTION AUCTION SATURDAY, SEPT. 14 • 10 AM

**NEW SHEDS,
LOG CABIN,
TOOLS, BUILDING
MATERIALS
AND MORE**

**FRONTIER
AUCTIONS**



SALE LOCATION: 497 US-160 • Alamosa

Directions From Alamosa, Go West on HWY 160 or 285, continue 10 miles to auction on right. Watch For Signs.

NEW SHEDS LOG CABIN USED SHEDS EQUIPMENT TOOLS BUILDING MATERIALS OFFICE FURNITURE AND MISC.

**NEW SHEDS
LOG CABIN
USED SHEDS
EQUIPMENT
TOOLS
BUILDING MATERIALS
OFFICE FURNITURE
AND MISC.**



**Shed delivery available by PRO SHED FOR A FEE.
ONLINE BIDDING AVAILABLE ON HIBID.COM FOR LARGE ITEMS**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cash, Credit Card or CO. State Check. All Out of State Buyers Need Certified or Approved Funds. All Items Sold As Is Were Is. Buyer Responsible To Do Due Diligence. Auctioneer Not Responsible For Accidents. Announcements Made Day Of Sale Take Precedence Over Printed Material. Lunch Stand Available. Sales tax charged on all non titled item Go to auctionzip.com ID# 44158 For Updates, & Pics. SALE FOR EDWIN HOSTETLER & OTHERS

AUCTIONEERS

Nathaniel Longenecker
719-792-2817
email ngl@privategarden.org

Philip Wolf
719-628-9324

WINTER WORK!

Wolf Creek Ski Area is Hiring

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

- Lift Department
- Base Operations/Parking
- Ski School Instructors
- Ski School Reservationist
- Food & Beverage
- Baker
- Retail
- Ticket Office
- Ski & Snowboard Rental
- Snow Removal
- Grooming
- Custodial Bldg Maintenance
- Ski Patrol
- Guest Services/Snow Reporter
- Freelance Photographer

Applications at WolfCreekSki.com/employment

ALL POSITIONS OFFER SKIING PRIVILEGES AND A STARTING WAGE OF \$18/HOUR

Merit increases based on performance & experience



WOLF CREEK
THE MOST SNOW IN COLORADO

Send applications and resumes to:
WolfCreekSki@WolfCreekSki.com
P.O. Box 2800
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Business Showcase

Pleasing shoppers since 1977

THE HOLY MOSES

An enchanting collection of cabin decor, Colorado pottery, quilts, linens, specialty foods & candles.

Open daily 10 - 5, and on theatre nights

121 N. Main, Creede

719-658-2848

Nick & Vicki Kulyk, owners

This Week's Feature



THE HOLY MOSES

An enchanting Collection of Cabin Decor, Colorado Pottery, Quilts, Linens & Specialty Foods!

It's Worth The Drive

Open Daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. & on Theatre Nights

Nick & Vicki Kulyk

121 N. Main • 658-2848 • Creede

Join Our Team!
Hiring for management positions and other positions - full-time and part-time. Weekly pay, uniforms, and shift meal. Send resume to Angela@mountainpizzataproom.com



Valley Wide Classifieds

submit your application and resume to: Aaron Horrocks, Superintendent, at 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO, 81132, or call at 719-657-4040, x4000. Applications may be retrieved on-line at urtigers.co or at the District Office. (9-18)

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)

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

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

STEEL STORAGE CONTAINERS - Sales, Rentals & Modifications! Containers are water & rodent proof. 8' wide, 8'-53' in length. Call for more information and pricing. Healdworks, Inc. - Your Total Storage Solution! 719-657-2712 (TFN)

SOLAR PANELS! Large and small. Inverters, charge controllers, lead acid and lithium batteries. Brand names include Outback, Magnum, AIMS, EG4, Sol-Ark, and Rolls. Custom cables and PV wire. Bontrager's Variety Store. 9726 S. CR 3E Monte Vista. 719-852-0500. (TFN)

37 Wanted

In search of stackable-washer/dryer, refrigerator/freezer, electric-stove, must be

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)

47 Horses & Cattle

For sale 2 Gelding horses, experienced trail-pleasure riding bomb proof. Just in time for hunting season, call for details 719-580-8291 (9-25)

48 Pets and Supplies

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

55 RVs & Campers

For sale 2012 Airstream Classic Coach F 30 foot. All set for off grid living. \$75,000, OBO. 719-404-4633. (10-2)

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)

DISCLAIMER

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



WOLF CREEK
THE MOST SNOW IN COLORADO

PRE-SEASON PRICES END OCTOBER 6, 2024

2024-2025 Pre-Season Pass Sale

SAT, SEPT. 28 - SUN, OCT. 6, 2024

SHOP.WOLFCREEKSKI.COM

PEAK ADVANTAGE PASSES -NO Blackout Dates-		SUPERSAVER PASSES -43 Blackout Dates-	
	Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate		Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate
Adult (19-64)	\$1062 / \$1326	Adult (19-64)	\$797 / \$996
Senior (65 & older)	\$466 / \$582	Senior (65 & older)	\$350 / \$437
Student (13-18 in school)	\$819 / \$1023	Student (13-18 in school)	\$615 / \$768
Child (6-12)	\$418 / \$521	Child (6-12)	\$314 / \$392
Tot (5 & under)	\$58 / \$72	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		SUPERSAVER FAMILY PASSES	
	Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate		Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate
1st in Family	\$1062 / \$1326	1st in Family	\$797 / \$996
2nd in Family	\$819 / \$1023	2nd in Family	\$615 / \$768
3rd in Family	\$466 / \$582	3rd in Family	\$350 / \$437
4th in Family	\$383 / \$478	4th in Family	\$288 / \$359
5th in Family	\$383 / \$478	5th in Family	\$288 / \$359

WolfCreekSki.com - 970-264-5639

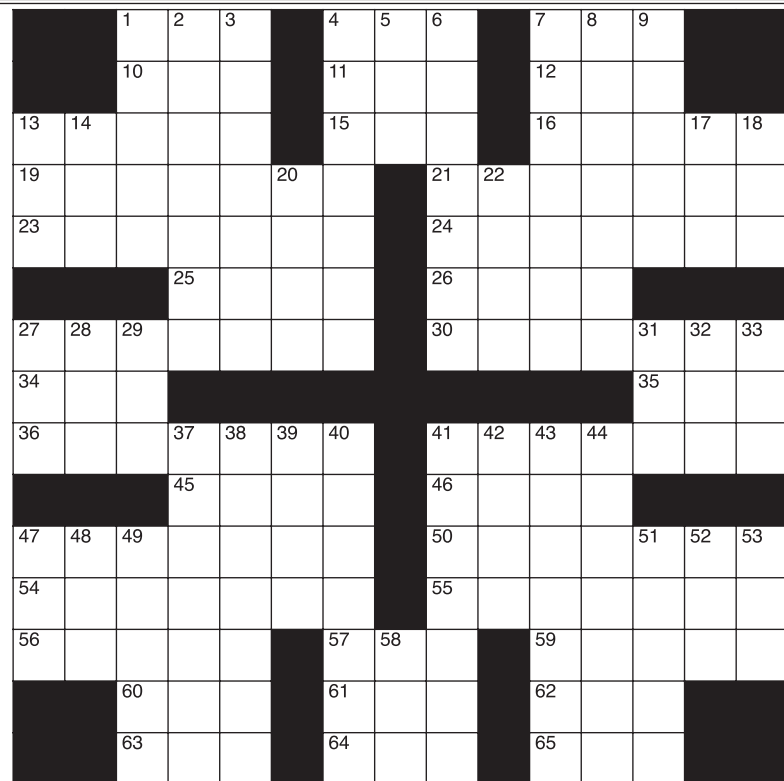
Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL • TRASH REMOVAL
RECYCLING • DUMPSTERS • ROLL-OFFS**
CREEDE • SOUTH FORK • DEL NORTE • MONTE VISTA
(719)658-3060 • www.MDSWasteAndRecycle.com

CLUES ACROSS

1. Indicates tire pressure
4. Request
7. Clairvoyance
10. 007's creator
11. Adult male
12. Scandinavian god of battle
13. Cloths spread on a coffin
15. Breeze through
16. Ladyfish genus
19. It's good to take them
21. Noble-governed territory
23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. Card game resembling rummy
25. Affected by injury
26. Member of a Semitic people
27. Left
30. Woman's cloak
34. S. American plant
35. Prohibit
36. Offense
41. Dish soap brand
45. Ottoman military commanders
46. Ancient Greek City
47. Makes unhappy
50. Discuss again
54. Medical instrument
55. Promote
56. A beloved carb
57. Tag the base runner to get him out
59. Prehistoric people
60. Large African antelope
61. Vehicle
62. Georgia rockers



63. Scientific instrument (abbr.)
64. A major division of geological time
65. Attempt
27. Former French coin
28. Electronic countermeasures
29. Taxi
31. Helps little firms
32. Woeful
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Glowing
38. Tasks which should be done
39. An informal body of friends
40. Intrinsic nature
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. Where ships unload cargo
44. Singer
47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
48. Southwest Scotland town
49. Most worthless parts
51. Viscous
52. Put to work
53. Old world, new
58. Swiss river

CLUES DOWN

1. Plant of the nettle family
2. Fit to be sold
3. Rather
4. Collected
5. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
6. Patella
7. Ageless
8. Lists of course requirements
9. Pokes at
13. TV network
14. They ___
17. Cooking hardware
18. U.S. Army title
20. Iron-containing compound
22. 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

Lucky Shoe Ranch



Individual lessons available Mon - Fri
We supply the horses & tack.

Gymkhana Fall Series:
Sept 12th, 19th & 26th.

Mark your calendars for a day of family fun!
Join us, Oct 26th, for our Fall show; there will be excitement, horses and fun.

Tickets available on our website or through a riding club member.

Scholarships available - **Signup via our website!**

Available Programs:

- Individual & Group Lessons (English & Western)
- 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)

Need a helping hand? SLV Concierge LLC - Errands, shopping, household management, wellbeing checks, supervision for construction, maintenance and repairs, setting up appointments, ect. Call Angel 719-480-1903 slvtaskmanager@gmail.com (11-27)

Fencing - Insured quality fencing installation, offering quotes for wire and post-and-rail. 719-371-7932 (9-18)

Rio Grande Rentals. Everything for Event/Party/Weddings including unique Mobile Bars and Bartending Services www.rio-grande-rentals.com. 303-946-

7253 (9-25)

Fire Mitigation: Weed And brush mowing to reduce fire danger. Call Darrell 715-699-3703 (9-11)

RELIABLE CARPENTRY 40-plus years experience in carpentry, painting, stucco, tile, drywall, roofing, etc. Drug/Alcohol free. Free Estimates 719-496-7630. (TFN)

LICENSED PLUMBER does all types of plumbing repairs and plumbing remodels at reasonable rates. Quick service. Call anytime, available weekends and evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (TFN)

Need beautiful window blinds at the best prices? Call THE BLIND GUY at 970-799-0388 for a free estimate. (TFN)

Sprinkler repair and winterizations. Done at reasonable rates. Quick Service. Call anytime, weekdays, weekends, evenings. 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (TFN)

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

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



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

SOLD



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



Perfect Live/Work Property
APPROX. 3.47 ACRES
\$799,000/MLS#813618
4 El Dorado Lane South Fork, CO
BRUCE STEFFENS (OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®) M: 719-580-07709
AUNDREA LILLARD (ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®) M: 706-622-0799



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
TATE HUFFAKER
ASSOC. BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-298-6560



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



Steffens & Co. Realty, Inc.
O-719-873-1700
SteffensRealty@GoJade.org
30636 W. US HWY 160
South Fork, Colorado



Incredible Multi-Use Property in South Fork - A Unique Investment Opportunity and PRICED TO SELL!
\$522,000/MLS# 816693
278 Shirley Drive, South Fork, CO
YVONNE HOFFMAN
BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-580-1901

SOLD



Remarkable Estate Nestled in Monte Vista
Approx. 198.07 Acres
\$2,777,700 | MLS #812760
5295 County Road 28, Monte Vista, CO
BRUCE STEFFENS
OWNER | BROKER | REALTOR®
M: 719-580-0770

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**



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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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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

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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**



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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

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1408 Bear Creek Circle • South Fork

Exceptional Mountain Retreat nestled within the prestigious gated community of Bear Creek, this Exquisite home at 1408 Bear Creek Circle offers an unparalleled blend of Elegance, Tranquility, and Natural beauty. With 3,882 square feet of meticulously designed living space, this property is a sanctuary for those seeking rest from the everyday hustle. Interior Features: Entryway with Stained Glass Doors: The grand entrance sets the tone, welcoming you into a large, elegant living room complete with a corner fireplace and an adjacent wet bar—perfect for entertaining guests. Large Custom Kitchen: The heart of this home boasts custom alder wood cabinets, beautiful quartz countertops, and a butler pantry with built-in custom shelving and storage cabinets. The kitchen seamlessly leads to a spacious laundry area flooded with natural light, making laundry a pleasant task. Beautiful Dining Room: Accessible from the kitchen, the dining room opens to a spacious awe-inspiring back deck. Perfect place to enjoy that first cup of morning coffee. Stairway to Loft: Ascend the large staircase to the open loft—an ideal space for a game area and home office. 3 Bedrooms: Master Bedroom (Main Floor): Flooded with ample natural light, the master bedroom provides a cozy ambiance. It features a spacious retreat with a jumbo-sized walk-in closet complete with custom shelving and cabinets. The master bath includes a walk-in shower and spa tub for your in-home spa experience. Additional 1 and 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**



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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 comfort. With 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, this home provides ample room for relaxation and rejuvenation. The open living area boasts a large Sunny Bay window, allowing natural light to flood the space and framing panoramic Mountain Views. The heart of this home is the well-appointed kitchen, abundance of cabinets, including convenient lazy Susan storage. You'll find all the essentials: a refrigerator, cookstove, dishwasher. Perfect kitchen for entertaining your friends and family. Gather around the wood-burning stove in the living room, where warmth and comfort await. The home's insulation ensures a snug retreat during chilly mountain evenings. Step onto the inviting front sitting porch, sip your morning coffee, and observe the local wildlife. Mule deer and wild turkeys frequently visit the serene Ponderosa Valley Estates. A large laundry room with abundant storage, a wash sink, and a washer and dryer adds convenience to daily living. Park your vehicles in the 2-car garage and utilize the detached cement floor garage/workshop with water supply and 110/220 power for all your mountain toys or hobbies. This home is ready for you to make it your own—whether it's your dream residence, a home away from home, or a vacation rental. Explore nearby activities such as skiing, four-wheeling, hiking, and gold medal fly fishing. The Rio Grande River is just moments away. Enjoy the convenience of paved roads, city water sewer system, and your very own well and large .83-acre lot. Priced at \$479,500 this property offers an exceptional opportunity to embrace mountain living. Schedule your private showing today and embark on Your Mountain Adventure in this beautiful, tranquil Ponderosa Valley Estates neighborhood! Don't wait, call and schedule today! **MLS#810774 - \$479,500**



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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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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**



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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 atmosphere. 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**



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