



“Gateway to the San Juans”

Volume 150, Number 38

Del Norte, Colo. 81132

Thursday, September 19, 2024 75¢

Tidbits

SLV Veterans plan annual parade

ALAMOSA — American Legion, Post 113, and Veterans’ organizations of the San Luis Valley are planning the annual Veteran’s Day Parade to be held on Monday, Nov. 11, beginning at 10:45 a.m.

The parade will stop in front of the reviewing stand at State and Main streets, at 11 a.m. to hold a solemn tribute to “our fallen comrades.”

Everyone is welcome to participate—groups, schools and organizations. Parade lineup will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Main and La Due Avenue and the vacant lot on 6th and La Due. Those wanting to participate in the patriotic parade or for more information, should contact the parade chairman, Charlie Griego at 719-588-0324, Karilyn Espinosa, Adjutant of the American Legion at 719-379-3540 or Jack Rudder at 719-588-9838.

Retirement party for Lynette Cotton

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Senior Citizens Center Board of Directors cordially invites the public to a retirement party for Lynette Cotton on Friday, Sept. 20, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Alamosa Senior Citizens Center, 92 Colorado Ave. Cake, cupcakes, and punch will be served.

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 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>.

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

Retirement salute planned for Cerny

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — Longtime San Luis Valley newspaper publisher Keith Cerny will be honored with a retirement party Friday, Sept. 20 from 4-6 p.m. on the patio of Knee Knockers restaurant at Cattails Golf Course.

Cerny had been publisher of eight publications in the Valley since 1992, retiring in August 2024. He cut his journalistic teeth as a sophomore in high school in 1972, writing sports for his hometown newspaper, the Schuyler (Neb) Sun.

He later served as a writer,

photographer and newspaper manager in Ogallala, Neb., Wisner, Neb., Lusk, Wyo., and Evanston, Wyo., winning dozens of awards for his writing and photography in Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado, including a first-place national award for coverage of agriculture while in Wisner.

Cerny was also a division manager for News Media Corporation for 30 years, overseeing newspapers in Colorado, Wyoming, Arizona, and Oregon.

Over the years, he also served as a volunteer firefighter in Wisner and

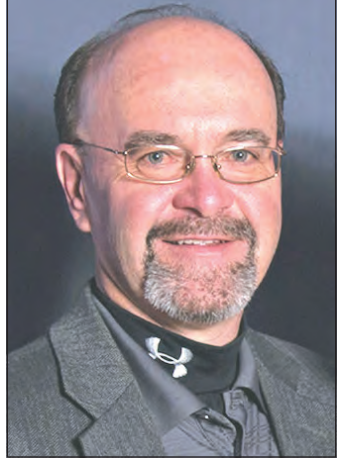
Lusk, for a combined 10 years.

After coming to Alamosa in 1992, Keith was named Alamosa Citizen of the Year by the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce in 1996, a board he served as chairman of for 1 ½ years and served on for 13 years. The Alamosa Masonic Lodge also named him “outstanding citizen” in 1993.

He was awarded the prestigious Adams State Billy Adams Award in 2000. A 20-plus-year member of the

Please see CERNY on Page 2A

Keith R. Cerny



Sen. Bennet meets with SLV leaders on transmission lines

By JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA — U.S. Senator Michael Bennet met with over 25 San Luis Valley leaders on Sept. 3 to discuss electric transmission lines in and out of the Valley.

Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske has spearheaded the transmission line issue for several years. Bennet thanked her for her “extraordinary leadership” on the issue. In a comment to Laske, Bennet said, “Whatever support you need from us in terms of help, badgering the agencies, and helping your efforts, we will provide it.”

State Senator Cleave Simpson told the Valley Courier, “I’ve been extremely interested in the potential for further commercial solar development in the Valley, but it is bottlenecked with transmission capacity. I’m glad to see Senator Bennet is actively involved in the

Please see LINES on Page 2A



Photo by John Waters

US Senator Michael Bennet (center) met with Valley civic and community leaders to discuss electric transmission lines.

Cruisin’ the Canyon Car Show rolls into fall this weekend



By LYNDSIE FERRELL

CREEDE — As the trees within the San Juan and La Garita Mountains change into their fall attire, the 16th Annual Cruisin’ the Canyon Car Show will be hitting Main Street in Creede on Saturday. For the past 16 years, this popular event has brought car enthusiasts from all over the U.S. to add a spark of the past to the brilliance of fall in this small mountain town.

Sun glinting off of chrome combined with tunes from the 40’s, 50’s, 60’s makes for the perfect scene as people wander among ever year, make and model of vehicles throughout downtown Creede. The event began when the owners of the Holy Moses Gift Shop, Vicki and Nick Kulyk, decided it was time to host a car show in Creede to boost the economy during a slow season in the small town.

The show is scheduled every year to correspond with the changing fall colors and to bring guests to the sleepy town right before the onset of hunting seasons in the area. People enjoy a day full of antique and beautifully

Please see CRUISIN’ on Page 2A

The 16th Annual Cruisin’ the Canyon Car Show will be hitting Main Street in Creede on Saturday.

File photo

El Pomar awards \$114,000 to 15 organizations in the SLV

STAFF REPORT

COLORADO SPRINGS — Fifteen non-profits and government agencies in the San Luis Valley have been awarded grants from the El Pomar Foundation, totaling \$114,000.

Thirteen of the grants were awarded based on recommendations from El Pomar’s San Luis Valley Regional Council, which recommends grants in Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties. Council members are regional leaders in the business, nonprofit, and public sectors and provide first-hand information about current needs in their own communities.

The remaining two grants were awarded due to a competitive process.

The 13 grant recipients recommended by the SLV Regional Council include Alpine Achievers Initiative in Alamosa, which received \$10,000 for Supporting Health Initiatives for Next-Generation Educators program and \$1,000 for general operating support.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley in Alamosa was awarded \$1,000 for

Please see EL POMAR on Page 6A

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Colorado Snowmobile Grant Program to provide over \$1M for winter trail grooming, equipment and maintenance

CONTRIBUTED

COLORADO — The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Snowmobile Grant Program will provide over \$1 million dollars to support winter trails in Colorado this year. Over \$350,000 was approved by the Parks and Wildlife Commission for Snowmobile Grant Program projects and an additional \$735,000 was provided for the Trail Grooming program to maintain winter trail opportunities.

Despite its name, the Snowmobile Grant Program supports trail grooming for winter trails that are open to both motorized and non-motorized uses such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and fat biking.

CPW offers two types of winter trail grants each year.

Snowmobile Program grants are distributed through a competitive application process for large projects to maintain and purchase new equipment and maintain and build

new winter trails and trail facilities. This year, snowmobile grants will fund five volunteer snowmobile clubs to purchase grooming equipment and repair existing groomers.

Trail Grooming grant funds are primarily directed toward winter trail grooming, maintenance and signage. The Trail Grooming program currently supports 27 volunteer snowmobile clubs that maintain and provide signage on over 2700 miles of winter trails.

The majority of funding for the Snowmobile Program comes from snowmobile registration and permitting fees with close to 25% of funding coming from the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). The RTP is a federally funded grant program that receives money from a portion of the federal gas taxes paid on non-highway recreational fuel.

“When you register your snowmobile or buy a permit, you are helping to fund the winter trails that you enjoy,” said CPW Assistant Director for Outdoor

Recreation and Lands Fletcher Jacobs. “While it does support other winter trail activities, the Snowmobile Program’s primary goal is to improve and enhance snowmobile recreation opportunities across the state while promoting the safe and responsible use of snowmobiles.”

In addition to trail grooming and signage for the snowmobiling public,

registration/permit funding also supports registration operations, snowmobile law enforcement, the snowmobile safety certification program and Colorado’s Avalanche Warning Program.

City, county, local and federal government entities and grooming clubs registered under the Colorado

Snowmobile Associate (CSA) are eligible to apply for either a program grant or grooming services grant. The 2025-2026 snowmobile grant cycle will begin in March 2025.

Learn more about the Snowmobile Grant Program, 2024-2025 grant recipients and eligibility requirements on CPW’s website.

LINES

Continued from Page 1A

issue and thank Commissioner Laske for her work.” Simpson added the transmission lines have been discussed for many years and said, “Either come to a conclusion on the viability, or find a path forward, and I continue to be hopeful there is a path forward.”

Central to the issue is studying the possibilities of where proposed transmission lines traverse. As the Valley Courier reported in July, the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) has granted Alamosa County \$1,699,965 to study transmission lines in the Valley.

With the funding, Alamosa County will conduct an analysis and extensive community engagement around three potential transmission corridors to identify the optimal route to increase electric transmission capacity to the Upper Rio Grande Valley in Southern Colorado and northern New Mexico.

According to the DOE, “In a continued effort to expedite the build-out of a resilient and reliable electric grid, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced 20 projects across 16 states selected to receive up to \$371 million to accelerate the permitting of high-voltage, interstate

transmission projects.

“These projects will also support community infrastructure projects along major new and upgraded transmission lines, including upgrading public school buildings and emergency response facilities. Administered by DOE’s Grid Deployment Office, today’s Transmission Siting and Economic Development (TSED) grants will help advance at least 16 high-impact transmission lines across the country, supporting the deployment of reliable and affordable energy for consumers and creating good-paying jobs.”

“Every pocket of the country is experiencing the grueling impact of extreme weather, and there’s no doubt that we must expand our transmission grid to get more clean, resilient power to more people, in more places,” said U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm.

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OBITUARIES

Richard Earl Baker

Richard Earl Baker, a cherished husband, brother, and friend, passed away on September 6, 2024, at the age of 80, at the Rio Grande Hospital, in the peaceful town of Del Norte, Colo. Born on May 4, 1944, in Muscatine, Iowa, Richard grew up with a spirit of adventure and a heart full of kindness that would define his entire life.

Richard, known affectionately as Rich by his loved ones, shared a beautiful life with his devoted wife, Alice Baker, of South Fork, Colo. Their partnership was a testament to love and mutual respect, and together they built a life filled with joy and laughter.

He was a beloved brother to Pamela (David) Gornanson of Lyons, Colo., half-sister Nelore (Randy) Collins of Athol, Idaho, and held a special bond with his brother-in-law, Aaron R. (Caleen) Hall, Jr., of Palisade, Colo., whom he considered a brother. His nieces, nephews, extended family, and a host of friends will fondly remember Richard’s selfless nature and his ability to fix anything that came his way.

Richard’s career with the Colorado State Patrol as a Patrolman spanned over a decade, where his dedication to service and community protection was evident to all who worked alongside him. Following his tenure with the State Patrol, he channeled his passion for craftsmanship into his own business, Rich’s Building and Repair

in South Fork, CO. His work not only showcased his handiness but also his desire to improve the lives of those around him.

An avid outdoorsman, Richard found solace and excitement in the beauty of nature. He spent countless hours hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and backpacking through the Colorado wilderness. His love for the outdoors extended to his involvement with the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the National Rifle Association, he served two tours as a Naval Seabee in Vietnam, where he advocated for the preservation of the natural world he so deeply cherished. Trap shooting and sporting clays were more than hobbies for Richard; they were activities that brought him closer to his community and friends.

Those who knew Richard would describe him as the epitome of kindness and selflessness. His hands were rarely still, always working on a project or lending aid to a neighbor in need. His legacy is one of unwavering generosity and the countless lives he touched with his warm spirit and willingness to help others.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, stepmother, and his sister Norma.

Cremation was chosen there will not be a service. Contributions in his memory are suggested to the Rio Grande Hospital, 310 County Road 14, Del Norte, CO 81132.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, remembrances, and words of comfort for Richard’s family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.



CRUISIN’

Continued from Page 1A

restored vintage cars and trucks of all makes and models.

The event starts Friday night, Sept. 20, with a pre-registration party at the Creede Baptist Church and then join the fun for a barbecue down the road at Cottonwood Cove. Participating vehicle owners can come out to mingle and enjoy some delicious food as they prepare for the show on Saturday.

Saturday morning will start off with more registration at 8 a.m. at

the Mineral County Courthouse. The show starts off at 10 a.m. and will last until the awards ceremony that afternoon. Gabe Duran will be spinning classic rock tunes with Stephanie Hester singing the National Anthem at 11:30 near the flagpole at the Post Office.

The local 4-H club will be serving breakfast burritos, and lunches with beverages throughout the day on Main Street.

The awards will start promptly at 3 p.m. and the Rod Run to North Clear Creek Falls will leave the Visitors Center at 4:45. Freemon’s General Store will be staying open late serving their great food and ice cream.

Sunday morning the SLV Pilots Association will be serving breakfast while pilots from across the state fly into the Mineral County Airport.

For more information, please visit www.creede.com

CERNY

Continued from Page 1A

Adams State Grizzly Club board, he and his wife Debbie were named Grizzly Club Members of the Year in 2011. He was also a member of the Adams State Foundation Board for 20 years.

Cerny has served on the ASU Athletics Hall of Fame board for several years and was master of ceremonies for their annual awards ceremony numerous times.

Cerny was a six-year member of the Colorado Press Association Board of Directors and served as president of that board in 2015-16.

He also received the Honorary Chapter of Farmer Award by the Alamosa High School FFA chapter twice and was awarded the Sportsman of the Year by the San Luis Valley Chapter of Ducks Unlimited in 2005. In addition, he was awarded the Earl Steers Outstanding Service Award by the Alamosa High School Maroon Pride booster club in 2013.

A longtime supporter of economic development in the SLV, Cerny served as president of the local Alamosa economic board three

times. He also served on several other local committees and boards, including as a longtime member of the Rotary Club. He also served as a 17-year member of the SLV counsel representing the El Pomar Foundation and was a member of the Creede Repertory Theatre board for a total of 12 years.

Cerny is the father of six and has 11 grandchildren. He said he doesn’t have any future plans other than staying involved in the SLV community and spending more time in Creede.

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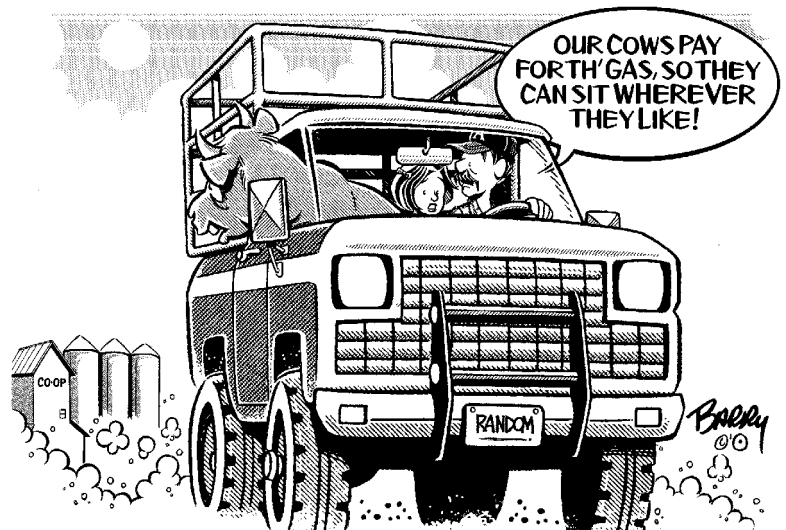
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OPINION & EDITORIAL



I love a good story

Because I spent a week in Kansas helping to take care of my Dad, I missed out on the first week of archery elk season. Before he passed away, one of the last things he said was, "Go home so you can hunt."

Hunting runs deep in this Kirkpatrick clan.

Now back in Colorado, my alarm goes off at 4 a.m., I have a quick coffee to go, followed by a nice uphill hike to my elk blind.

The first morning back I could really tell I had spent nine days at flatlanders' altitude with little sleep, as I had lost some of my lung capacity. But with practice and repetition, it is better now. This morning, I actually made it all the way with just a few breathers. I probably resemble an old horse wheezing and blowing at the stops. May smell like a horse, too. You'll have to ask Miss Trixie.

While I'm on the mountain slaving away chasing elusive elk and bear for our freezer fodder, this is Miss Trixie's time to do whatever she wants – like she doesn't do that anyway. Just yesterday she felt compelled to send me her schedule which looks like it's been shot with a shotgun. Every day and evening seems to have something planned. I had to remind her that all of those social butterfly events were way down on the totem pole for Ol' Dutch. Somehow being up in the aspens hunting beats out a pig roast any day for me.

There are quite a few hunters up where I go and yesterday I was fortunate enough to meet a couple on the road. Now when I saw "couple" I mean as in a young man and his main squeeze. I got a good giggle at her stretchy legging and crop top for hunting apparel. They were from far away and asked if I knew where there were any deer.

Of course, I showed them a picture of a big one hanging out in the front yard, in town. He is no dummy.

After giving them some pointers on where to find the dumb deer, I suggested that they find a gun to carry as there are a lot of mountain lions in that area. And then I had to tell them about my Disney moment with a cougar.

This happened a few seasons ago. It was a moonlit night after a week of rain. I had been up on the mountain hunting elk when darkness overtook



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

me. It took a while for me to find the road where the truck was parked but because the moon was so bright, I didn't even have my flashlight out. I was just a-singing as I trod down the road nary a care in the world. Well, except keeping an eye out for Bigfoot.

I finally found the truck where I left it of course, and took my own sweet time getting in. As soon as I turned on the lights of the truck, though, there was the biggest mountain lion I have ever seen. Not ten feet in front of my headlights. Tongue hanging out, drool dripping, certain that his next meal or ten was close at hand. Judging by his paw prints on the wet road, Unbeknownst to me, that lion had followed me the whole mile down the road.

Now I know they say music calms the savage beast and I don't know if that helped my cause due to the sweet melodious tunes I was singing or if my caterwauling made him think I would be one sour chunk of meat. But most likely the good Lord spared me an attack that night and I now carry a gun in case the Lord is busy if there is a next time.

This story had the desired effect on the hunters and the girl's eyes got as big as saucers and I could tell the poor man was in for it now. He will have to hold her hand every step or maybe even take her home.

Man, I love a good story.

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



Abandoned Ranch buildings above a meadow of Deer Creek south of Anaconda, Mont. Picture taken in late July.

Hikers in a wilderness turn into firefighters

More frequent wildfires in the West can turn hiking through beautiful, high-elevation country into a dangerous game for hikers. In July, seven friends from Idaho, Colorado, Washington and Montana took off for a week of backpacking in southwestern Montana. Everything went off without a hitch their first night. A rainstorm passed through but it wasn't a big deal.

But when they woke up, they saw a plume of smoke rising into the sky. Darren Wilson had anticipated something like this, even before their trip began.

"It was in the back of my mind — I hope we don't hike into somewhere and get trapped by a fire," recalled Wilson, a Hamilton, Montana, resident.

They were hiking through the Anaconda Pintler Wilderness and knew it was under strict restrictions: No building campfires, no fire allowed anywhere, no exceptions. The summer had been dry and hot, and wildfires had been erupting throughout Montana.

But as the group continued hiking toward Hidden Lake, they realized the trail of smoke ahead might be the early stage of a wildfire.

The hikers weren't trapped, but 200 yards from Hidden Lake they came upon scorched earth surrounding a tree split down the middle, most likely from a lightning strike. Its bark was blackened and glowing, and beneath the tree the charred ground smoldered. The smoke they'd seen was seeping from beneath hot charcoal and dry wood.

"You could tell the tree torched and burned while it was standing and then cracked and fell on the ground," said Darren's wife, Chelsie, an x-ray technologist with previous experience in wildland firefighting.

"I think everyone had different feelings," she said. "Those who had never seen forest fires before were panicking."

The group put Chelsie Wilson in charge, and she laid out a two-step process: Some people would run to Hidden Lake to fill every water bottle and hydration pack. Everyone else would use the water to turn the smoldering dirt into mud.

Chelsie Wilson and Brittney Erickson, one of her fellow hikers, poured water on dirt, using the wet earth to put out the fire bit by bit. Chelsie kicked a burning stump into the ground. The team smothered it. She instructed and delegated jobs, describing the team as willing, communicative and diligent.

"It was really scary at first," Chelsie said, "and then it became fun." After two hours, she gave her team the all-clear. They had transformed the patch of smoldering char into a wet pile of dirt and debris.

On a hike later the same day, the group climbed West Pintler Peak only to spot another fire, this one on the horizon some 10 miles away. They called in the sighting from a ridge with cell service and heard a plane fly low overhead the next day. Weeks later, they said they think that was the first alert to the Johnson Fire, a 270-acre blaze southwest of West Pintler Peak.

If there was a theme to the hikers' trip it was definitely fire, because while camping near the bank of Oreamnos Lake, they spotted wispy smoke billowing from the opposite shoreline.

"We start yelling across the lake, top of our lungs," Darren Wilson said. "Is there anybody there? Do you have a fire?" Hearing no response, they initiated a then-familiar course of



Writers on the Range
by Zeke Lloyd

action. Gathering every container of water they possessed, the group rushed toward the smoke's source.

"Like children of the corn, we come out of the trees," Wilson said, only to find three men huddled around a prohibited campfire. The hikers explained that they'd put out a smoldering wildfire, spotted another and were worried about a third—the campfire they were now looking at.

"The guys were not very impressed with us, though," Chelsie Wilson said, as the men reluctantly extinguished their fire. "They didn't like our story at all." Still, they'd agreed to douse the fire and the hikers withdrew, hoping this was the end of fires popping up on their trek.

"It's a real possibility," Darren Wilson said. "You could be caught behind the wrong side of a fire."

Zeke Lloyd is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He lives in Helena, Montana and writes for the Montana Free Press.

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Creede Dental Works to participate in Veterans Smile Day in November

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

CREEDE — For the past two years, Creede Dental Works has been serving the Creede community, offering top of the line dental care in a rural setting after the clinic was sold by Mineral County in 2022.

The clinic is a wonderful addition to the Creede community, who until recently, have had to travel for dental care to places as far as 20 to 60 miles away. The clinic was purchased by local resident Leslie Leggett and Dr. Eric Smith of Pagosa Spring, Colo. In spring of 2024, the clinic welcomed Dr. John Quigley who also serves the Lake City area just on the other side of Slumgullion Pass.

Dr. Quigley, who is an avid outdoor enthusiast grew up in the Colorado Springs area has practiced dentistry for the past 34 years was very excited to come to Creede. "I have enjoyed my time in Creede and getting to know my new patients. This is an extraordinary place."

The clinic was approached by a local veteran about participating in the Veterans Smile Day and all the staff were eager to participate. "A local veteran suggested we participate in the Veterans Smile Day, and we thought it was a great idea," said Hygienist Leggett. "We recognize the obstacles to quality dental care that can exist for our Veterans, especially in rural, isolated communities. We are proud to honor them however we can, and I hope we will be able to make this an annual tradition."

Leggett was born and raised in Wichita Falls, Texas, and has resided in Creede for the past five years. She came to the clinic with 20 years' experience as a hygienist and has enjoyed her time in Creede as part owner of the clinic.

The Veterans Smile Day will take place on Nov. 12 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Creede Dental Works will be honoring Veterans by participating in this wonderful opportunity,



Photos courtesy of Creede Dental Works

Creede Dental Works will be offering free dental services to local Veterans on Nov. 12 in Creede. Dr. John Quigley recently joined the team at the clinic.

offering dental screenings, cleanings, and x-rays for absolutely no cost to those who have served.

To participate, Veterans can call the clinic to make an appointment at 719-658-0322 and accommodations will be made to those who cannot make it that day or are not able to make an appointment through the end of the year. Patients who have existing appointments on that day will be seen as scheduled.

This event was made possible through a partnership with the Creede Community Church.

"We think of our patients as family, and that is how we treat them," said Practice Manager Bethanny Andre. "My father, grandfather and grandmother were all Veterans. I wish they were here,

so we could make them smile."

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Creede Dental Works at the number listed above or stop by the clinic during business hours at 802 Rio Grande Ave., Creede.



Hygienist Leslie Leggett will be helping Veterans during the Veterans Smile event in November.

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Don't Miss



Cruisin' the Canyon Car Show


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Creede Salsa Fest winners announced



Courtesy photos

Best RED - Wander Off Broadway



Best GREEN, Best FREESTYLE, and Best OVERALL- The Blue Yak Salon & Boutique



Best FRUIT- Rincon Real Estate

Senator Bennet Visits SLV Health, tours facilities

By DONNA WEHE
Director of Communication SLV Health

ALAMOSA — SLVH hosted Senator Michael Bennet on a tour of the workforce housing project along with a brief tour of the Regional Medical Center in Alamosa on Sept. 3. SLVH received funding to remodel the “Pike Apartments” on the RMC campus from Congressional Directed Spending appropriation.

“Workforce housing has become part of delivering quality healthcare in our region,” commented CEO Konnie Martin. “With this generous funding, we can create safe, comfortable, affordable housing for our workforce who need to travel here.”

When SLVH leadership decided to purchase the 11 apartments on Pike Avenue, they also knew they would be freeing up access to other rental properties in the area. “We know there is a housing shortage in the region, and we wanted to be part of the solution,” added COO Christine Hettinger-Hunt.

Traveling providers and nurses have used this space along with new hires who are still looking for a property to rent or purchase. “The units are in high demand. This funding will help us with needed infrastructure needs. We plan to modernize the space and update the HVAC systems along with upgrading the furnishings.”

During his visit, Senator Bennet listened to Monica Hinds, SLVH Director of Emergency Department and OB/Labor and Delivery. They discussed the challenges facing rural emergency departments, the safety of staff, challenges with drugs



Photo courtesy of SLVH

Sen. Bennet with CEO Konnie Martin on a recent tour of SLVH’s workforce housing project and the Regional Medical Center.

and treating victims involved in violent events. “We see about 50 patients in our ED every day. We are never closed and do not refuse treatment to anyone. Patients with Behavioral Health issues, whether from addiction, dementia, or other

psychological diagnoses, continue to challenge our resources. Our staff is resilient, and we have awesome community partners.”

The team at SLV Health appreciated his visit and his interest in the team and in the community.

How to Be the Bigger Person

God puts us in relationships with all kinds of people. We think differently, and we have different personalities, interests, and ideas. God made us that way on purpose. And although everyone is not like us, He still wants us all to get along.

I love what the apostle Paul says in Philippians 2:2 (AMPC): “Fill up and complete my joy by living in harmony and being of the same mind and one in purpose, having the same love, being in full accord and of one harmonious mind and intention.”

To put this verse in perspective, Paul was dealing with people who seemed to be in continual disagreement. If you’ve raised two or more children, I’m sure you know exactly what he’s talking about. Sometimes you’d give anything for a little peace and quiet!

Oddly, the people we usually disagree with the most are the ones we care the most about our spouses, family members, close friends, and coworkers. And if we’re asking God to bring healing into any of those relationships or make them better, we need to partner with Him to make it happen.

We need to learn how to control our emotions and stay out of strife. Strife is an old-fashioned word for bickering, arguing, or a heated disagreement, and it carries an angry undercurrent.

Have you ever been around someone who’s pretending everything’s okay, but you can tell that on the inside they’re seething with anger? Have you ever been that person?

Think about it. How long do you stay mad when someone mistreats you? How easy is it for you to get frustrated with someone? When you have a disagreement, do you have the

need to always be right?

Strife is extremely dangerous. It can destroy marriages, families, relationships, and even churches. If it isn’t stopped, it will continue to go from person to person, causing all kinds of problems and unnecessary pain.

It’s not easy to hear, but the Bible says we are still under the control of the flesh as long as we are envious and jealous of others and there is arguing among us (1 Corinthians 3:3).

When the Bible talks about “the flesh,” it is referring to the parts of our souls and bodies that we have not yet surrendered to God...things like bad attitudes, selfishness, strife, anger, fear, unforgiveness, lust, addictions, and anything else that leads to sin.

The minute we begin to sense envy or jealousy within us or an urge to be offended, we need to make a decision to put our feelings aside and say, “I am not offended.”

If we don’t do this—and instead just stuff it down inside of us—little things become giants in our lives. Then before we know it, we’re angry, bitter, resentful people...going to church every week but not acting any different than the rest of the world.

God wants us to care more about maintaining peace in our relationships than we care about being right. And He wants us to have a good attitude even when we don’t get our way.

Acts 13:22 says God is looking for those who will “carry out My program fully” (AMPC), and part of that is learning to forgive quickly, frequently, and thoroughly.

When you have a conflict, you need to do your part to resolve it no matter what the other person chooses to do. Someone has to choose to be

Moving Up Higher
with
Joyce Meyer



humble and apologize first—and as a Christian, that very often means you.

If you’ve been through some tough times in your relationships, you probably know that being right is highly overrated. We’re not likely to agree with each other by accident because we’re all different, so we need to put a real effort into creating an atmosphere of unity.

And where there’s unity, there is blessing (Psalm 133). When people are unified and agree, it brings peace and power.

I can promise you there will be opportunities to be offended. You may even be tempted to have an all-out fit. But before that even happens, I encourage you to set your mind to be the “bigger” person. Why? Because when we do, we can have the healthy relationships God wants us to have.

We’re not ever going to be perfect like Jesus, but we can get better at loving imperfect people.

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



Mari Felix

EL POMAR

Continued from Page 1A

general operating support.

The Center for Restorative Programs in Alamosa was awarded \$3,000 for mental health resilience initiatives in the Alamosa School District and the Boys and Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley plus \$1,000 for general operating support.

The Colorado Nonprofit Development Center in Denver was awarded \$10,000 for Antonito Together youth mental health programs and \$1,000 for Antonito Together general operating support.

The Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley in Alamosa was awarded \$5,000 for the Cozy Corners Program and \$1,000 for general operating support.

HadaNou Collective in Denver was awarded \$10,000 for Shooting Stars Cultural and Leadership Center, Five Star Riders Car Club and \$1,000 for Shooting Stars Cultural and Leadership Center operating support.

High Valley Community Center, Inc in Del Norte was awarded \$2,000 for pilot walking club for youth in afterschool programs and \$1,000 for operating support.

La Puente Home, Inc. in Alamosa was awarded \$10,000 for PALS Children's program and \$1,000 for operating support.

Monte Vista Community Fund, Inc. was awarded \$7,500 for Monte Vista Kids Connection afterschool programs and \$1,000 for Monte Vista Kids Connection general operating support.

Northerners Senior Citizens Association, Inc. in La Jara was awarded \$4,000 for furniture and equipment.

San Luis Valley Area Health Education Center, Inc. in Alamosa was awarded \$10,000 for Home Instruction for Parents with Preschool Youngsters program supplies and \$1,000 for general operating support.

San Luis Valley Board of Cooperative Educational Services in Alamosa was awarded \$2,500 for San Luis Valley Foundations Academy play equipment plus \$1,000 for San Luis Valley Foundations Academy general operating support.

Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. in Alamosa was awarded \$3,000

for expansion of behavioral health services for youth and families and \$1,000 for general operating support.

The recipients of competitive grants include Tomorrow's Bread of Monte Vista, which received \$5,000 for general operating support and Valley Citizens Foundation for Health Care, Inc. in Del Norte, which was awarded \$20,000 for Wellness Center Complex equipment.

Founded by Spencer and Julie Penrose in 1937, the El Pomar Foundation has an established legacy of general-purpose grant making. The competitive process remains the Foundation's primary vehicle for organizations to receive funding.

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Photo by John Waters

Shooting Stars Cultural and Leadership Center in Alamosa is one of fifteen recipients of grant funds in the San Luis Valley from the El Pomar Foundation of Colorado Springs.

the Regional Partnerships program was established in 2003. Each of the Foundation's 11 regional councils

advises El Pomar Trustees and recommends grants to help support its communities.

DISTRICT COURT, RIO GRANDE COUNTY, COLORADO	
Court Address: 925 6 th Street Room 204 Del Norte, CO 81132	
HONEY P. BURKLEY, a person, KAREN A. EARLY as Trustee of the KAREN A. EARLY REVOCABLE TRUST, Plaintiffs, vs. ANDREW LEE MARTINEZ, a person; and LORRIE ANN SCHOFIELD, a person; and ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION as heirs, devisees, creditors or otherwise. Defendants	
Attorney: Karl Kuenhold Reg. No. 40164 LAW OFFICE OF KARL KUENHOLD, LLC 808 Third Street PO Box 30 Alamosa, CO 81101 TELEPHONE: (719) 589-3688 EMAIL: karl@kuenholdlaw.com	▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲ Case Number: 2024CV30019 Division 2
SUMMONS [BY PUBLICATION]	

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT(S):

You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint [petition] in writing within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint [petition] without further notice.

This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiff in and to the real property situated in Rio Grande County, Colorado, more particularly described on Exhibit A, attached hereto and by this reference made a part hereof.

September 10, 2024
Published in the Del Norte Prospector
First Publication: September 19, 2024
Last Publication: October 17, 2024

LAW OFFICE OF KARL KUENHOLD, LLC
Original signature of Karl Kuenhold is on file with the Law Office of Karl Kuenhold, LLC pursuant to C.R.C.P. 121 §1-26(8)
By: /s/ Karl Kuenhold
Karl Kuenhold, Reg. No. 40164

(This summons is issued pursuant to C.R.C.P. 4(g). This form should not be used where personal service is desired.)

No. 4278 published in the Del Norte Prospector, Thursday, September 19 and 26 and October 3, 10 and 17, 2024.

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File photo

The Creede Arts Council is hosting its 5th annual Steamroller Printmaking Event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sept. 21.

CAC's Steamroller Printmaking Event is Sept. 21

CONTRIBUTED

CREEDE — The Creede Arts Council is hosting its 5th annual Steamroller Printmaking Event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sept. 21. This is an outdoor printmaking event held in Creede.

Artists will have created and carved wooden boards with their own original designs. The day of the event, the boards are inked by hand and placed on the street with paper placed over the boards. Then, a Steamroller (roadbed compactor) will roll over them, pressing the paper onto the board. The resulting

outcome is an original fine art print! Each artist's print will be available for purchase during and after the event, with 50% of profits returning to nonprofit missions of the Creede Arts Council. Local artists participating will include Colleen DeSanto, Jody Stroh, and Amanda Charlton Hurley.

For more information, contact Creede Arts Council at creedearts@outlook.com. To learn more about the Steamroller Printmaking Event, follow us on Facebook or visit our website at www.creedeartscouncil.com/steamroller-printmaking.

A celebration of the life of Kathy Park Woolbert

Set for 1 to 3 p.m. on Sept. 21

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — A celebration of life will be held on Sept. 21 for Kathy Park Woolbert, a woman well known and much beloved in the Alamosa community.

Kathy passed away at 5:30 p.m. on April 8, 2024, at home in her own bed with her best friend, partner, collaborator, soulmate and husband, Henry, at her side. It was the day of the solar eclipse, which somehow seems so fitting.

"Kathy Park has gone over to the other side to join the herd," says Henry. "Horses were such a part of her life — this is how Kathy saw her passing."

As he describes the celebration of her life, "We will be gathering to share some of our favorite memories, our stories, to laugh, to cry and remember a wonderful person who will be greatly missed."

To those who knew her, Kathy was truly an extraordinary human being. And "those who knew her," included a far reaching, diverse circle of friends, colleagues and students as Kathy was imbued with an inordinate number of talents, skills, accomplishments and interests.

To those who knew her as an artist, Kathy was gifted with a truly remarkable ability to reveal



the most powerful figures, shapes, animals and people hidden deep within a raw block of stone or wood. Her paintings were so astonishingly original that her work was immediately recognized as hers because of the way the world was portrayed.

As a writer, she could make people think, laugh, feel and ponder the mysteries of life within one piece of work.

As a teacher, she both motivated and guided people incarcerated in prisons around the country to explore their own thoughts and experiences and revelations and discover their own voices in storytelling.

As an Aikido instructor, she taught principles both philosophical and physical, applying what she had

learned to even the most difficult situations once she was discovered to have cancer.

And to those horses who were such a fundamentally important part of her life, she was, as Henry says, truly "one of the herd."

Even with all of this said, there is still so much to remember and to celebrate and to honor about Kathy Park Woolbert, which Henry warmly invites all who knew her to do.

The celebration of life will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Woolbert Home and Dreamworks Studio, 13201 Charisma Trail, Alamosa. Live music and refreshments will be provided.

Henry is requesting people to RSVP by Sept. 15 by calling 719-589-2897.

San Luis Valley Scoreboard 2023 -2024

Football

Pueblo Central 43.....	Alamosa 0
Cedaridge 52.....	Center 12
Monte Vista 43.....	North Fork 20
Hartun 60.....	Sanford 0
Centauri 19.....	Buena Vista 13
Sierra Grande 63.....	Kiowa 18
Hoehne 62.....	Sargent 0
Roaring Fork 1.....	Del Norte 0 (Forfeit)

COLLEGE

Texas Permian Basin 67.....	Adams State 14
-----------------------------	----------------

Volleyball

Gunnison def Centauri 3-1
Del Norte def Sanford 3-2
Doherty def Monte Vista 2-0
Cheraw def Sangre de Cristo 3-1
Centennial def Cripple Creek-Victor 3-0
Center def Rocky Ford 3-0
Antonito def Mountain Valley 3-0
Bethune def Sierra Grande 2-1
Alamosa def Hoehne 3-0
Broomfield def Monte Vista 2-0
Holly def Sierra Grande 2-0
Centauri def Hoehne 3-0
Eaglecrest def Monte Vista 2-0
Eagle Valley def Monte Vista 2-0
Swink def Sanford 3-0
Centennial def Antonito 3-1
Kiowa def Sierra Grande 3-0
North Fork def Monte Vista 3-1
Center def Cotopaxi 3-0
Del Norte def Pagosa Springs 3-2
Alamosa def Bayfield 3-0
Buena Vista def Center 3-1
Sangre de Cristo def Cotopaxi 3-0

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Explore a career in ag

The agricultural industry provides a variety of opportunities to professionals interested in this often misunderstood field.

According to the employment resource AGCareers.com, more than 250 career profiles are available to people interested in a career in agriculture. And while jobs in agriculture may not be as prevalent as they were a few centuries ago, when 72 percent of the workforce was employed in farm occupations in the United States, agriculture remains a booming industry that greatly affects the nation's economy. Today, one in 12 American jobs depends on agriculture, according to the career resource Payscale.

The following are some potential professions for those considering careers in agriculture.

• **Agricultural business manager:** This person oversees the business

operations of a farm by providing organization and leadership during the production process. He or she contacts creditors, selects seeds, buys new equipment, and ensures the distribution of product.

• **Agricultural lawyer:** Attorneys who specialize in agriculture deal with water and environmental issues, represent agricultural labor in disputes, ensure proper marketing techniques are followed, handle real estate and land use issues, and much more.

• **Animal control officer:** These officers enforce local and regional laws that pertain to the treatment and care of animals. They patrol for distressed animals and ensure cruelty-free practices are adhered to.

• **Grain buyer:** Grain buyers build relationships with producers so they can purchase grain for their particular companies. They negotiate purchase agreements, source grain supplies

and issue purchase orders.

• **Poultry hatchery manager:** Hatchery managers oversee all of the aspects involved in poultry hatching. These can include management of personnel, handling and sorting of eggs, maintenance of equipment, coordination of pick-ups and deliveries, and overseeing quality control.

• **Soil scientist:** Among the many tasks they might perform, scientists in the field of agriculture test soil samples for minerals and contaminants. By studying the soil, scientists can recommend which crops the land can support, how much livestock can feed in an area and the implications of agriculture on the area as it pertains to managing natural resources.

A career in agriculture presents many exciting opportunities in a number of different applications. It's a vast industry that utilizes professionals with an array of skillsets.

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Facts and figures on farm safety

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, agriculture is among the most hazardous industries. Fatal and nonfatal injuries pose a significant threat to farmers, including the many young people who work on farms.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, in an effort to promote productive and safe workplaces, supports programs that conduct research on injuries associated with agriculture as well as pesticide exposure, pulmonary disease, musculoskeletal disorders, hearing loss, and stress. Studying the results of such research, compiled by NIOSH, may compel veteran and novice farmers to further emphasize safety measures and promote practices that can reduce risk for accidents on the farm.

• Estimates indicate that there were roughly 2.1 million full-time workers employed in production agriculture in 2017 and between 1.4 and 2.1 million hired crop workers employed annually on crop farms in the United States.

• An estimated 893,000 young people under 20 years of age resided

on farms in 2014. More than half of those young people performed farm work, and an additional 266,000 youth were hired to work on farms in 2014.

• Each day, roughly 100 agricultural workers suffer injuries that cause them to miss time at work.

• In 2014, 12,000 youth were injured on farms, and 4,000 of those youths could trace their injuries to farm work.

• In 2016, 417 farmers and farm workers died from work-related injuries. Tractor overturns and other transportation incidents were the leading cause of death for these farmers and farm workers.

• A rollover protection system, or ROPS, is a structure, similar to roll-cages and rollbars in cars and trucks, intended to protect farm equipment operators from injuries caused by overturns or rollovers.

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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 **Please see HUNTING on Page 10**

The 2024 hunting seasons have started in Colorado.

Courtesy photo from CPW



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

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

Dive into autumn with several fall drives through the San Juans

By LYNDSIE FERRELL

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

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

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

Platoro Lake is a gorgeous high mountain lake nestled in the San Juan Mountains just a short walk from the main trailhead. Take Park Creek Road (Forest Service Road 380) toward Summitville. Take the turn to Ellwood Pass which will take you into Platoro. On the way down the pass, you will drive through canopies of Aspen and have incredible views in all directions. There is a Lodge in Platoro that serves delicious **Please see SUTUMN on Page 6**

New art gallery graces Grande Avenue in Del Norte

By LYNDSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — Hidden among the many businesses lining Grande Avenue, a new gallery of fine art has opened its doors and is welcoming people to experience the colorful, eccentric 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



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

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.

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

Please see GALLERY on Page 7

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500 organizations call on Congress to pass 2024 Farm Bill

CCALT throws support behind the call

STAFF REPORT

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

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

"Congress must act decisively to pass a new Farm Bill in 2024, ensuring that essential conservation programs continue to be a tool available to farm and ranch families across our nation," said CCALT Executive Director Erik Glenn.

"These programs are vital for ensuring we continue to have land available for the production of the food, fiber, and fuel that is needed to support our growing population.

"Farm Bill conservation programs empower landowners to maintain productive use of their land while contributing to the conservation of our natural resources for future generations," added Glenn.

"Moreover, these programs provide significant economic benefits to rural communities, generating substantial economic activity and creating jobs in areas where opportunities are often limited. By investing in these programs, we are not only strengthening the backbone of rural America but also ensuring the continued resilience and productivity



Photo courtesy of Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust

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

of our nation's agricultural sector." According to a recent report by the Colorado Department of Agriculture, the agriculture industry contributes \$47 billion annually to the state's economy and employs more than 195,000 people across 36,000 farm operations.

The letter was sent to House Speaker Mike Johnson, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, House Agriculture Chair GT Thompson, House Agriculture Ranking Member David Scott, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Agriculture Chair Debbie Stabenow and Senate Agriculture Ranking Member John Boozman.

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

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

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

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.



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**
- New Kid's Saddle
- New Barrel Saddle
- New Breast Collars
- New Bridles & Tie Downs
- New Saddle Pads
- Saddle Stands
- Vintage Exotic Leather Boots
- Lots of Western Boots size 6 & 7
- Leather Hand Bags
- Lawn & Garden**
- Chain Link Gates
- 2-Push Mowers
- 1-Snow Blower
- Rakes & Shovels
- Antique 2 Bottom Plow
- Massey-Harris side del. Rake
- Lg lot of T-Posts



- Household**
- Roasters - 18 quart
- Cream & Sugar Wessex Collect.
- Several Small Appliances
- Lamps
- Desk
- File Cabinet
- Jocelyn Lillpop Prints
- East Lake Table
- Throw Pillows
- Oak Table w/ 4 Chairs
- Coffee Table
- Glass Display Case
- Dresser
- Bed Frames
- Lots of Glassware & Crystalware
- Montana Silversmith Soup Tureen
- Dishes
- Sorelle China
- Lots of Silverplated Silverware
- Lowery Organ
- Couch
- Crafting & Quilting**
- Quilting Books & Patterns
- Lots of Fabric Cottons & Blends
- Zippers, Buttons & Elastic
- Knitting Needles
- Crochet Hooks
- Lots of Craft Items
- Shop**
- 3- Generators
- 3- Elec. Air Compressors
- Tire Cage
- Toys**
- 6- JD Tractors (New in Box)
- Sev. Toy Cars (New in Box)

Check out our face book page for more pictures! **Many Items too Numerous to Mention** **Lunch Available**

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Auctioneers: Dale Adams & David Brown

Registration open for Miner Walk/Run

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

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

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

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

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

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"Gateway to the San Juans"

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05 NOTICES/BAZAARS
06 PERSONALS
EMPLOYMENT
07 HELP WANTED
08 WORK WANTED
09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
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17 REAL ESTATE
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21 MOBILE HOMES
22 PROPERTY WANTED

MERCHANDISE
23 LAWN & GARDEN
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27 APPLIANCES
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30 ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS
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34 OFFICE EQUIPMENT
35 HEAVY EQUIPMENT
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37 WANTED
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56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
57 INVESTMENTS
TRANSPORTATION
58 MOTORCYCLES
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63 TRUCKS
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05 Notices

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

07 Help Wanted

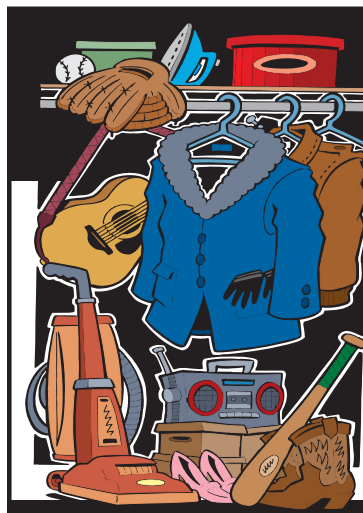
CDL Driver: JT Timber Falling is hiring a full-time log truck driver. Class A CDL. Based out of Blanca, CO. Local destinations and home every night. A Comprehensive benefits package is available. \$23-\$30/hr depending on experience. Call 719-379-4066 or visit jttimber.com for more information. (10-9)

Saguache County is seeking an On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Inspector - The On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Inspector for Saguache County is responsible for maintaining and enforcing public health regulations relating to the community's environmental health. Through investigation, inspection, education and enforcement, the On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Inspector takes action to mitigate or eliminate public health hazards. Inspections and investigations occur

indoors and outdoors facilities such as residential homes, restaurants, swimming pools, public schools, penal institutions, childcare facilities, nursing homes, body art facilities, cannabis/hemp facilities, campgrounds, mobile home parks, public accommodations, bars/lounges, etc. On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Inspectors are assigned primary responsibilities in specific environmental programs but are required to possess knowledge of all programs in order to respond to public health emergencies. Starting salary of \$25/hour depending on experience and qualifications. Saguache County offers an exceptional benefits package including health, dental, vision insurance with an option for a Health Savings Account. Employees enjoy paid vacation, sick leave, 11 holidays. Saguache County is an equal opportunity employer. Saguache County is an EEO employer. Valid Driver's License, Drug testing which includes marijuana, and a background check will be required also a physical exam may be required for final applicants. To view the job description and an application they are available at Saguache County Administration office 505 3rd Street, Saguache or printable at www.

saguachecounty.colorado.gov. Call 719-655-2231 for more information. Position opened until filled. (10-9)

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)



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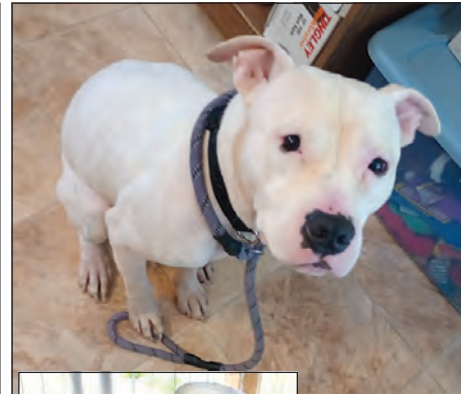


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Human Resources and Equity Coordinator - San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition seeks an Human Resources and Equity Coordinator. Related college degree and/or 4 years experience with HR, preferably in a non-profit. Submit your resume and cover letter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

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 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.

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36 Miscellaneous
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	Pre-Season Rate/Regular Rate
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2nd in Family	\$819 / \$1023
3rd in Family	\$466 / \$582
4th in Family	\$383 / \$478
5th in Family	\$383 / \$478

SUPERSAVER FAMILY PASSES

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



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SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

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



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Valley Wide Classifieds

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

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)

47 Horses & Cattle

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

55 RVs & Campers

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

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)

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

Rio Grande Rentals. Everything for Event/Party/Weddings including unique Mobile Bars and Bartending Services www.rio-grandere rentals.com. 303-946-7253 (9-25)

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.

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)

Business Showcase

Cruisin' the Canyon Car Show
Saturday, Sept. 21.
Be there or be square!

The Holy Moses
Mon.-Sat.
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

658-2848
121 N. Main
Creede

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
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MVC NATIONAL COOP MONTH PHOTO CONTEST

DEADLINE TO ENTER SEPTEMBER 20



EMAIL ENTRIES TO MVCADS@MVCOOP.COM
LIMIT 5 ENTRIES PER PERSON
TOP 5 WINNERS RECEIVE \$50 MVC GIFT CERTIFICATE
GRAND PRIZE WINNER RECEIVES \$100 MVC GIFT CERTIFICATE AND WINNING PHOTO WILL BE FEATURED IN MVC MARKETING MATERIAL, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH POSTER!

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.

AUTUMN Continued from Page 1

burgers, among other things. The trip is around 40 miles one way and should take around two hours.

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

Pool Table and Wheeler Geologic Area is a beautiful drive in the La Garita Mountains just before Creede. Take the Silver Thread Highway (149) toward Creede. Just past Cottonwood Cove, there will be a sign that says, "Pool Table". It is Forest Service Road 600 and is 14 miles. Travelers may drive a two-wheel drive vehicle to Hanson's Mill then take the hiking trail up 6.5 miles to the geologic area. After the mill you will need a four-wheel drive vehicle. Drive on top of the mesa to be surrounded by golden Aspen.

Beaver Creek Road is a short distance from South Fork and a great place to view fall colors.

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

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

Carnero Creek Road is a great place to see the changing of the seasons while enjoying a slice of history just north of Del Norte and Monte Vista. This area is known for its off-grid fishing along Carnero Creek so grab those fishing poles and head out to enjoy a day of fall fishing and changing colors. From U.S. Highway 285, take the La Garita



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

turnoff (County Road G) and follow the paved road 6.0 miles west where the road forks. Take the right fork, the gravel surface Carnero Creek Road (Forest Road 690/County Road 41G) 10.0 miles northwest to Forest Road 675.

No matter which way travelers head, always prepare for adverse weather, plan for a day in the mountains and share travel plans with family and friends. Come on out and enjoy the beautiful backcountry and all it has to offer!

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

UNDER CONTRACT



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

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



SOLD!



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

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




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

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



NEW PRICE!



5 bedroom home - Borders Public Lands - RV STORAGE!!
\$495,000 | MLS #
95 Hubbard Trail, South Fork, CO

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




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

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



DOMESTIC WELL
SEPTIC
SOLAR

SOLD!



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

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



NEW PRICE!



1,270 Sq.Ft. Off-Grid Cabin on 5.24 Acres - Creek!
\$272,500 | MLS #809447
7541 Indian Creek Rd. Fort Garland, CO

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



SOLD!



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

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




Dee Plucinski
Luxury Home Broker
Licensed in 2011
I know mountain land
719-873-5605
Dee@SLVluxuryproperties.com




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

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




NEW PRICE!



Luxury Home on 42 Acres - Borders Natl. Forest
\$850,000 | MLS #815205
4100 Wilderness Canyon Rd. La Garita, CO


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



3D VIRTUAL TOURS
PROMPT, EASY COMMUNICATION
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RESIDENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHER
LICENSED & INSURED **DRONE PILOT**




All of my properties are detailed in my BLOG
Please scan -->

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

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




Rito Hondo Estates- 18 Rural Mtn Lots Avail
17.5 & 35 Acre Lots
Owner Financing Available
West of Antonito in the Conejos Canyon CO

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



NEW LISTING!



3 bed 2 bath home in South Fork - HUGE garage/shop
\$275,000 MLS # TBD Easy Access to Hwy
37 Shoshone Trail South Fork, CO

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



GALLERY

Continued from Page 1

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



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

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.

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

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

222 La Lomita Circle • South Fork

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



JUST LISTED

exp REALTY Bernadette Gingrass
719-850-1993
bmgingrass@gmail.com
License #100072622

Thinking of Selling in 2024 Expect the Best, Call Bernadette

exp REALTY
Bernadette Gingrass
719-850-1993
bmgingrass@gmail.com
License #100072622

0254 Timberline Trail • South Fork

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



NEW PRICE

exp REALTY Bernadette Gingrass
719-850-1993
bmgingrass@gmail.com
License #100072622

1408 Bear Creek Circle • South Fork

Exceptional Mountain Retreat nestled within the prestigious gated community of Bear Creek, this Exquisite home at 1408 Bear Creek Circle offers an unparalleled blend of Elegance, Tranquility, and Natural beauty. With 3,882 square feet of meticulously designed living space, this property is a sanctuary for those seeking rest from the everyday hustle. Interior Features: Entryway with Stained Glass Doors: The grand entrance sets the tone, welcoming you into a large, elegant living room complete with a corner fireplace and an adjacent wet bar—perfect for entertaining guests. Large Custom Kitchen: The heart of this home boasts custom alder wood cabinets, beautiful quartz countertops, and a butler pantry with built-in custom shelving and storage cabinets. The kitchen seamlessly leads to a spacious laundry area flooded with natural light, making laundry a pleasant task. Beautiful Dining Room: Accessible from the kitchen, the dining room opens to a spacious awe-inspiring back deck. Perfect place to enjoy that first cup of morning coffee. Stairway to Loft: Ascend the large staircase to the open loft—an ideal space for a game area and home office. 3 Bedrooms: Master Bedroom (Main Floor): Flooded with ample natural light, the master bedroom provides a cozy ambiance. It features a spacious retreat with a jumbo-sized walk-in closet complete with custom shelving and cabinets. The master bath includes a walk-in shower and spa tub for your in-home spa experience. Additional 1 and a 1/2 Bath are Well-appointed and elegantly designed, the bathrooms provide comfort and convenience. Lower-Level Stairwell: Leads to an intimate family room and two spacious downstairs guest bedrooms. Immaculate 3-Car Garage and 1-Car Workshop: With custom cabinets and work benches a dream come true, providing plenty of room for all your tools and outdoor adventure toys. Outdoor Delights: Bear Creek runs through this property, nature's music to your ears. Mountain Views: Wake up to awe-inspiring vistas of the surrounding peaks. The ever-changing canvas of sunrises and sunsets will leave you breathless. Wildlife Haven: Immerse yourself in the enchanting wilderness. Mule deer, elk, and even the elusive black bear occasionally grace the property. Year-Round Adventure: Explore hundreds of miles of ATV trails right outside your door. In winter, hit the slopes at Wolf Creek Ski Area, just 30 minutes away. Tranquil Creekside Strolls: Meander along the community walking trails that follow the gentle curves of Bear Creek. Listen to the soothing sounds of water as you unwind. This is more than a home; it's an invitation to embrace the rugged elegance of Colorado's high country. Escape to 1408 Bear Creek Circle and discover a lifestyle where luxury meets wilderness. **MLS# 813472 - \$1,420,000**



SOLD

exp REALTY Bernadette Gingrass
719-850-1993
bmgingrass@gmail.com
License #100072622

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**



UNDER CONTRACT

exp REALTY Bernadette Gingrass
719-850-1993
bmgingrass@gmail.com
License #100072622

328 Fir Drive • South Fork

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



UNDER CONTRACT

exp REALTY Bernadette Gingrass
719-850-1993
bmgingrass@gmail.com
License #100072622

222 Bristlecone Drive • South Fork

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



NEW LISTING

exp REALTY Bernadette Gingrass
719-850-1993
bmgingrass@gmail.com
License #100072622

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**



SOLD

exp REALTY Bernadette Gingrass
719-850-1993
bmgingrass@gmail.com
License #100072622

461 Vista De Verde Circle • South Fork

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48 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

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Outdoor Fitness Court Studio coming to DN's Centennial Park

CONTRIBUTED

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

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

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

for communities around the state.

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

CourtStudio. 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.”



Photo by John Waters

The new Alamosa Food Bank on State Avenue will open on Sept. 30 and needs volunteers to help move into the new facility. If interested, contact David Schneider at 719-587-3499, ext. 301, or email director.volcoor@lapuente.net.

Alamosa Food Bank needs volunteers

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Food Bank will be opening at a new location on Monday, Sept. 30. Currently, this food bank is at 513 6th St., Alamosa, and will be moving to the old Atencio’s Market, 802 State Ave., Alamosa.

Together the food bank up and running there will be two moving days, Tuesday, Sept. 24, and Wednesday, Sept. 25. Moving times each day will be from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Volunteers will be asked to lift cases of canned, bagged, and boxed products, and will be helping transfer shelving and other food bank items from the old food bank to the new food bank. If volunteers have a

vehicle that can haul stuff, feel free to bring it. As long as there are slots open, 15 per shift, we will be glad to have you come and help us!

The new food bank will provide better storage, better services, and easier access to the individuals who utilize this building. For those who can, the Food Bank Network of the SLV and the Alamosa Food Bank will always accept donations of products and cash. Consider bringing your food gifts after the new food bank opens; they will be a little bit busy from Sept. 23 to 27.

To help with the move and sign up for a shift, contact David Schneider at 719-587-3499, ext. 301, or email director.volcoor@lapuente.net.

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HUNTING

Continued from Page 1 —

website every Tuesday for a preview list of reissue licenses before they go on sale at cpwshop.com.

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

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

- Hunters' role in wildlife conservation

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

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

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

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

- Gray wolves and coyotes: how to spot the differences

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

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

How can nonhunters prepare for hunting season?

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

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

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

For safety reasons, big game hunters using a firearm must wear fluorescent orange or pink when in the field

(camouflage orange or pink is not allowed). While not required, it is recommended that other recreation users wear bright colors as well, especially during the muzzleloader and rifle seasons.

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

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

Conejos County Courthouse remains closed

CONTRIBUTED

CONEJOS —Due to a fire in the Conejos County Courthouse on Aug. 29, the courthouse offices will be closed until further notice. In the meantime, the county is diligently working on getting temporary offices set up.

There may be county services available online. Many questions can be answered at www.conejoscounty.colorado.gov

If your license plates have not expired, you can renew your plates online.

Courthouse offices will still be responding to emails and phone calls. Below is a list of phone numbers for

County Courthouse offices.

- Conejos County Administration - 719-376-5772
 - Conejos County Assessor - 719-376-5585
 - Conejos County Clerk and Recorder - 719-376-5422
 - Conejos County Land Use - 719-376-2014
 - Conejos County Road and Bridge Admin - 719-376-5431
 - Conejos County Treasurer - 719-376-5919
- Conejos Combined Courts proceedings will be held virtually until

temporary offices are established.


The WebEx information for Conejos County Court Proceedings can be accessed at the following link www.coloradojudicial.gov/livestream-and-virtual-courtrooms?topic=19

- Conejos County Courts phone - 719-376-5465

The Department of Social Services, Sheriff's Office, Ambulance Service, Road and Bridge and Public Health will remain open for regular business.

All County Commissioners meetings have been cancelled until further notice and will be posted on our web site.

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Photos 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.

Area celebrates harvest at SLV Potato Festival

By MARIE MCCOLM

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

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

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

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

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

The San Luis Valley Antique Car Club brought their colorful kids train ride to the festival. The children were laughing and smiling on the popular train ride. There were large bouncy houses at the park for kids, including a giant green bounce house. There was a giant monster truck 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.

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.

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Homelake Veteran Gottlieb celebrates 99th birthday

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTEVISTA — 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. "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



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.

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.

"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.

Public forum on violence in Alamosa

ALAMOSA — This community has witnessed an increase in violent criminal episodes over the summer months in the City and County of Alamosa. While these incidents do not signal any discernable trend, the District Attorney's Office, the Alamosa Police Department and the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office are responsible for ensuring that the community is well informed about

how our agencies are responding to community

Concerns. Transparency is a top priority for the District Attorney's Office.

"For that reason, we invite you to meet with us to talk about your concerns and hear directly from us about what we are doing in response," organizers stated.

Sheriff Robert Jackson, APD Chief George Dingfelder, District Attorney

Anne Kelly and Assistant District Attorney Wesley Stafford will be presenting information and responding to community questions at a public forum to be held on Thursday, Sept. 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Society Hall, 400 Ross Ave., Alamosa. Doors will open at 5:15 p.m.

Submit questions and or concerns that you would like addressed to district.attorney@da12.state.co.us.

31ST ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL & QUILT SHOW
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024
OTTO MEARS PARK, SAGUACHE CO
10:00AM - 4:00PM

DESTINATION
2:30-4:00

BIGHORN
12:45-2:00

TOM CATS
11:00-12:15

VENDORS * INSIDE THE COMMUNITY BUILDING * AND OUTSIDE IN OTTO MEARS PARK
QUILT SHOW & SILENT AUCTION INSIDE COMMUNITY BUILDING

SOUTH FORK COMMUNITY BUILDING 5:00-9:00 SATURDAY. SEPTEMBER 21ST



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