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News in Brief

Monte Vista Clean Up Days are Sept. 27 and 28

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — The City of Monte Vista is holding its annual City Clean Up Days on Sept. 27 and 28.

The city invites all residents to bring their trash and debris to the Public Works Yard at 384 Ski Hi Trail for free dump services.

Dumpsters will be set up to collect the waste. The hours for this event are Friday, Sept. 27, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 28, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"We will take all trash and debris to include household trash, wood, construction products, limbs, metal, non-refrigerant appliances (stoves, washers, dryers). We, however, cannot receive any electronics, paint, refrigerators, fuel, tires, or other items prohibited at the Landfill. This year we will take automotive batteries," city officials stated.

City employees will not help unload debris not in a container or bagged. Employees will not climb onto any trailers or trucks.

This opportunity is only available at the Public Works Yard at 384 Ski Hi Trail in Monte Vista. This opportunity is for Monte Vista residents only.

The SLV Regional Landfill is not sponsoring this, and it is not a free dump day at the landfill. If you go to the landfill, you will be expected to pay the current rates for the debris you bring.

Prohibited wastes are:

- Hazardous waste—includes any item that would be classified as hazardous including fuel.
- Radioactive waste
- Toxic, corrosive, reactive and ignitable waste — includes batteries and all electronics. Automobile batteries will be accepted.

Please see CLEAN UP on Page 2A

Ribbon cutting held for new O'Reilly Auto Parts

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — The manager of the new O'Reilly Auto Parts store, Austyn James used a big pair of scissors to cut the red ribbon strung in front of the business at 60 North Broadway St., Monte Vista, on Saturday, Sept. 21.

Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce Manager Heather Hillin hosted the official ribbon cutting to celebrate the store's opening.

"It's a pleasure to be here today to welcome
Please see O'REILLY on Page 2A

O'Reilly Auto Parts Manager Austyn James holds the plaque the store received from the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce during its ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 21. The new store is at 60 North Broadway in Monte Vista.



Photo by Marie Mccolm

City of Monte Vista donates to 4-H endowment fund

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — The City of Monte Vista, with approval from the city council, donated \$1,500 to the SLV 4-H endowment fund during a council meeting on Sept. 19.

Accepting the donation, via a large ceremonial check, were Colorado State University San Luis Valley Area Extension Office 4-H Development Coordinator Mollie Wells and Administrative Assistant Jennifer Norris. The goal of the endowment is to permanently fund a second 4-H agent for the San Luis Valley. The Valley has one 4-H agent who covers all six counties.

Wells said the Outcalt Foundation had provided the extension office with a grant that would help fund a second area agent, but they need to match the grant and need to do so within the next 3 years.

"We are trying to raise 3 million dollars all together," Wells said.

Norris said that right now they have about \$75,000, mentioning that they did have 3 years to match the grant to fund the second agent indefinitely.

Wells and Norris both thanked the



Courtesy photo

The Commissioner Award projects are displayed at the San Luis Valley Fair. This was the first year for the distinction.

council. Wells gave an update on San Luis Valley Fair that took place and spoke about a new award that had also been given out this year at the fair.

"Some of our numbers were a little bit down as far as members, but overall, the fair went really well. We actually kind of revised the indoor portion of it," Wells said. "We also

developed and gave a new award this year for our indoor members, called the Commissioners Award. What we did was we asked the commissioners from all six counties to come in and look at all the grand champions and they got to pick their favorite. So, we had one in the senior division, one in
Please see DONATES on Page 2A

Community rosary is being held on Oct. 12

Non-denominational event at Fullenwider Park

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Rachel Velasquez, a member and coordinator for the local Legion of Mary group will be holding a community rosary at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12, at Fullenwider Park.

The event coincides with the worldwide celebration of Our Lady of Fatima. Though this is often a day when only Catholics celebrate, everyone is invited to attend this. Event coordinator Rachel Velasquez is excited about the event and stressed that it is non-denominational, and everyone is invited to pray the rosary together as a community, for a day of prayer, and to celebrate Our Lady of Fatima.

Water will be provided, and Velasquez
Please see ROSARY on Page 6A

ASU recognizes Ortega's commitment to service

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — "I live with the philosophy of gratitude. I learned that from my mom and dad. This amazing award is really an honor for them," said Sandy Ortega '74, the 2024 recipient of the Billy Adams Award.

Since 1972, the award has been presented to those in the community who carry on the commitment to Adams State epitomized by the university's founder, Billy Adams.

She will receive the Adams State 2024 Billy Adams Award at the Homecoming Banquet on Sept. 27. For tickets or more information, contact the Alumni Relations Office at 719-587-8110 or visit

adams.edu/alumni and click on the Homecoming 2024 link.

"We need more Sandys," said President David Tandberg, Ph.D. "She has impressed me as someone who always shows up willing to roll up her sleeves and help out. Her passionate commitment to Adams State is seen in efforts she puts forth to move the institution forward, such as serving on our Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Advisory Committee, and as president of our alumni board."
Please see ORTEGA on Page 6A

Pictured, Sandra Ortega and the Stations of the Cross shrine; Ortega is the 2024 Adams State University Billy Adams Award recipient.

Photo by Todd Pierson Photography



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OBITUARIES

Doris Lucile Hathaway

Doris Lucile Hathaway has left her earthly journey to celebrate her eternal destination. Doris was born on June 30, 1938, in Monte Vista, Colo., and entered into her eternal rest on Sept. 8, 2024, at Pikes Peak Hospice Care in Colorado Springs. Doris lived at the Tri County Senior Center in Monte Vista, for the past 5 years.

Doris is survived by her husband Orville which was a joyful 66 years. The greatest blessings were their five children, Preston (Sue) Hathaway, Chula Vista, Calif., Jonathan (Lyla) Hathaway, Monte Vista, Colo., Penny (Ron Nelson) Hathaway, Fond du Lac, Wisc., Rod (Carla Jo) Hathaway, Sweet Home, Ore., and Will (Lori) Hathaway, Monte Vista, Colo. Her legacy continued with 6 grandchildren, Daniel Hathaway, Michelle Hathaway, Jessica (Jacob) Rowberry, Rebekah (CJ) Dana, Stephen Hathaway and Samantha (Kenny) Porter. A blessing of 5 great-grandchildren with Elliott Dana, Brecken Dana, Tate Porter, Austyn Porter and soon to join us Baby Dana. Mom had the blessed opportunity for some bonus grandchildren and great-grandchildren; Kristen Guterrez and her two girls Hailey and Jillian Andersen, along with Kyla and Lyza Davis. Her heart embraced each of them sharing wisdom and love.

Doris was preceded in death by her parents Fred and Almina Anderson, stepmother Mary Anderson, sister Althea Pratt, her Aunt Elsie Keck, and many other aunts and uncles.

Doris became a fighter at a very young age, as she lost her mother to sickness when she was only 5 months old, while fighting through her own illness at the time. Her first five years were spent with her Aunt Elsie and Uncle Henry on a ranch near La Garita. When her dad



remarried, Doris was moved to Pueblo, where she joined her sister Althea and stepsisters Dolores, Claralyn and brother David.

Doris graduated from Centennial High School in 1956 and attended the Baptist Church becoming involved with the youth and making a commitment to accept Jesus Christ, which she carried all through her life.

Doris worked at an office supply store located in the business district. While attending church she met and made friends with Cora Belle Hathaway, who at some point thought it would be a great idea to introduce her brother Orville to Doris. They didn't waste time getting to know each other, and knew they had something special. Orville proposed to Doris in the winter of 1957 to which Doris excitedly said yes. Planning a June wedding, her mother said they might want to move that date up, as Orville would be very busy with the first cutting of hay. They were married March 1, 1958.

Doris moved back to Monte Vista, starting a family and helping with the many farm chores. They farmed just east of Monte Vista, then moved to the 3 North and County Line, where they



raised their family, overcame challenges and enjoyed picnics, fishing, camping and vacations along the way.

Once all the kids were in school, Doris became a school bus driver for 16 years, befriending many young children and earning their respect. They didn't get by with too many shenanigans. Doris expanded her friends through these 16 years and made many long-lasting friendships.

Doris was well respected, loved by many and created many memories to cherish. We are saddened by her passing, but she would not want us to take too long to get up and continue enjoying life. Cherish the time you knew Doris and share a laugh and hug with her family. As God loved her, so she loved us.

Cremation was chosen and at a future date, a celebration of life will be announced.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes, and words of comfort for Doris' family please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

Kenneth Lee Kane

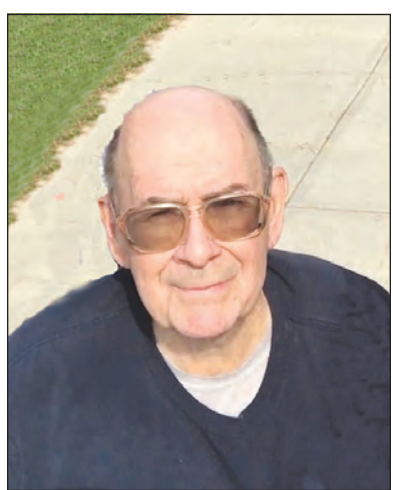
Kenneth Lee Kane, 84, departed this life on Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024. He was born Oct. 31, 1939, in Doniphan, Mo., to the late Earl and Lora (Hayes) Kane.

Ken, a Certified Public Accountant, served in the Air Force, as an Administrative Officer in the United States Forest Service, and in several civic-minded leadership roles. Enjoying a career of ever-advancing responsibilities, he and his family lived in ten different cities across four different states until spending his final 28 years in his beloved Missouri.

Ken's career in the US Forest Service included leadership on the Superior, Mark Twain, Chippewa, Tongass, and Rio Grande National Forests, as well as the Fort Collins Forest Service Computer Center, starting as an accountant in Duluth and working his way up to Administrative Officer of the Colorado Rio Grande Forest.

On Dec. 17, 1960, Ken married Carole Ann Wiley at the First Church of God in Doniphan. She preceded him in death on Dec. 29, 2009. Following Carole's passing, Ken wrote a book titled "The Love of My Life" chronicling her (and his) life journey - which included an incredible array of church and community-oriented volunteer and fundraising projects in every city they called home.

In 2006, the Doniphan Chamber of Commerce honored Ken and Carole Kane as the "Partner Citizens of the Year" for their community efforts including leading Timberfest, American Cancer Society, Church Kids programs and several other events. Ken tirelessly wrote and fulfilled grant proposals including a handicapped accessible



riverfront park, Food Pantry funding and a litany of housing projects for those in need.

His passion for the outdoors was evident through his love for hunting, fishing and ranching, and he faithfully supported young people's sports and

music endeavors, often traveling for hours to enjoy basketball and band or music events. He had also been an active member of the First Church of God in Doniphan, with over 25 years of perfect Church attendance. Ken was a cherished member of the Doniphan community.

He was also preceded by brothers, Robert, Willard, Willis, Warren, Lawrence, Paul, and Linden Kane, and sisters, Verna Holland, Irene Davis, Sylvia Albanesi, and Bashie Williams.

Surviving are his children, Kevin (Judy) Kane of Theodosia, Mo., and Kerry Kane of Phoenix, Ariz.; second wife, Jayne Kane of West Plains; grandchildren, Christopher Kane, Kyle Kane, Riley Kane, and Trevor Kane; and one great-granddaughter, Marceline Kane.

A graveside service was held on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024, at the Doniphan City Cemetery.

DONATES

Continued from Page 1A
the immediate division, and one in the junior division, and that was all based on what the commissioner's thought was the best, so it went really well."

The kids who were chosen for the Commissioner Awards were as follows, for Senior Division Emily Seger was chosen for a vet science board, Intermediate Division was Parker Mitchell for a sports fishing board, and for Junior Division Corbin McBarlett, was chosen for an entomology project. MV

Wells said scholarships were given to Anicia Valdez and Antonio Valdez-Reyes to help them with college.

Wells also spoke about the Fair Roy-

alty for the 4-H Fair. The royalty group has a lot of responsibility to maintain throughout the year.

"They basically represent not just 4-H, but they also represent the fair throughout the year, helping with community service, and assisting during 4-H achievement night. This year our queen is Tirzah Chacon, Queen Attendant is Ayanah Valdez, Princess is Toni Wells, Princess Attendant is Peyton Harmon, Junior Princess is Khalessi Reynolds, and Junior Princess Attendant is Syrie Tillman.

For more information on the local CSU Extension office or 4-H, call 719-852-7381.

O'REILLY

Continued from Page 1A
O'Reilly Auto Parts into our community," Hillin said. "This new store is not only a great resource for vehicle owners, but also a sign of growth and opportunity for our local economy.

We appreciate O'Reilly's investment in Monte Vista, and the new jobs they have created here. We are excited to see how they will support our community with their expertise and service. Thank you, O'Reilly Auto Parts, for choosing Monte Vista, and we wish you great success."

There were approximately 50 people at the ribbon cutting ceremony, including MV Mayor Dale Becker, and MV City Manager GiGi Dennis. O'Reilly's provided donuts and light drinks and gave out some O'Reilly Auto Parts caps.

Store Manager James said, "This is super surreal. I am excited that the community has another option to go to for parts. I look forward to serving the community and helping everybody out. We are all super excited to be here, and we hope that everyone is also excited to have us here."

James said that the store in Monte Vista had been planned through O'Reilly for about a year. He worked in the auto parts business for about 5 years before being named manager of the MV store.

"I started with AutoZone, and I heard that this store was opening and wanted to see if I could make the

transition, to be the store manager here. They gave me the opportunity and I am so excited," he said.

When asked if there is anything that sets Monte Vista O'Reilly's Auto Parts store apart from others, James said, "This is a little bit bigger store than the one in Alamosa. We carry more of a variety of products here. I am excited about that, and hopefully we will have some agricultural parts here, on the shelf soon too; that way if the farmers need any bearings or off the wall parts, that typically Napa or the O'Reilly's in Alamosa, or AutoZone, don't typically stock, well we hope to take care of the farmers in that aspect, here in our store too."

Store employee Tony Ortega said that he thinks that people in the community will appreciate that they have another auto parts store locally.

"We want people to know we are here with the parts they need. We have been working hard to stock the store for the past couple of weeks. We are excited about serving the local community," Ortega said.

Resident Mary Gonzales attended the ribbon cutting and said that it would be easier to get parts with O'Reilly's in town.

"Hands down they are the best place to get parts, and now we don't have to travel to Alamosa for them, they are right here. What a great thing to add to our town," Gonzales said.

CLEAN UP

Continued from Page 1A
cell phones.
Effective July 1, no electronic item of any kind will be accepted at the landfill as determined by Senate bill 12-133 and defined by Regulation pursuant to Sections 1.2 and 16.5 of 6 CCR 1007-2, Part 1.

- Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) waste - Polychlorinated biphenyls were widely used as dielectric and coolant fluids in electrical apparatus, cutting fluids for machining operations, carbonless copy paper and in heat transfer fluids.
- Cathode ray tubes (CRTs), central processing units, computer keyboards, VCRs from non-residential sources cannot be accepted at the land fill. Includes TVs, computers,

- Waste containing free liquids - includes paint, oil, or other liquids
- Appliances that contain refrigerant - includes Refrigerators
- Tires

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OPINION & EDITORIAL



Alvin and The Chipmunks

Ol' Dutch has spent a lot of time lately up in the forests in pursuit of the elusive elk. In doing so, I have been able to see a lot of animals in their everyday activities. I love watching them as they go about their daily lives not knowing that I am hiding a few feet away from them. For about eight years, I've been hunting in the same makeshift blind. Early on, I would have certain chipmunks come into the fallen timber blind with me. Being an old softy, I would share my meager lunch with them. They would take a small portion and run off to store it for winter in their dens then quickly return begging for more.



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

This has gone on for some years now and while I know it cannot be the same chipmunks due to their short lifespan, they have evidently taught their children to come stand in line and beg as I have regular customers now. There's probably a social lesson there but that's for another day. They remind me of Alvin and the Chipmunks. That singing trio was dreamed up way back in 1958 and had a huge run of success with Grammy awards plus a best-selling album with over 5 million copies sold of one song alone. Who can dispute that we as Americans will fall for anything that comes down the pike? They are cute little rascals and this year I started out with some granola bars which they really seemed to like. Of course, they are sweet with honey on them, and I got concerned I was leading them to an early grave with diabetes. Therefore, I switched to almonds. And boy oh boy, do they ever like those. Fat little cheeks soon swell with sweet nuts, and they scamper to and fro taking them back for a winter larder. One morning Ol' Dutch forgot the nuts, but I had three pieces of bread in my pocket and put that out for their arrival. And to my surprise, they turned up their noses at the brown "healthy" wheat slices. They just refused to eat them.

They resumed their many trips with cheeks stuffed full of nutty goodness. Having spent a lot of time sitting up there, I began to contemplate just how picky they have become in what they eat. It mirrors what we as humans consume, too. They far prefer sugary treats to the healthy nuts as evidenced when I put them both out at the same time. And I think this further proves that the snack companies know that sugary treats are the key to getting our dollars. Our growing waistlines and horrific amount of snacks now stocked in every store is evidence that the snack companies are winning. It's actually quite frightening when you really look at how prevalent sugar and snacks are. Watching Alvin and his friends scamper about the forest floor, I am reminded just how close winter is as of late. The little rascals get lost in the fallen golden aspen leaves that now cover the forest floor. Soon the snow of winter will descend with a vengeance. Unlike bears, chipmunks don't store fat to get them through the winter. Instead, they periodically wake up to eat their stored food. These three little chipmunks will be safe and sound in their dens through the cold months, snacking on almonds and granola bars to their hearts' content when they wake up. I hope that I have not led them astray to needing Ozempic by spring.

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.



Collegiate Peaks Wilderness, Gunnison County, Jeff Miller and Dave Marston.

Photo by Matt Smith

Volunteers power the Colorado Trail

The Colorado Trail, an iconic 567-mile high-elevation trail that crosses the Rockies, owes its existence largely to Gudy Gaskill, a charismatic, six-foot-tall woman who could make tough things seem easy.

long, 70-mile sections, neither losing nor gaining elevation rapidly, though often charting a route above tree line. I joined a trail crew to revisit my childhood adventure this summer, and from Aug. 7 to 11, Denver friend Jeff Miller and I worked to repair trail in Chaffee County's Collegiate Peaks Wilderness.

Gaskill not only carried out the vision of a state trail, beginning slowly in the late 1970s, but also gave birth to it. In 1972, she lobbied Congress, along with forester Bill Lucas, credited with the Colorado Trail idea, to change federal law so that volunteers could be allowed to build trails on public land.

In wilderness, if there's a tree to fell, you use a handsaw. We needed to move big rocks, so two of us yoked ourselves together in nylon harnesses to do that. We divided labor this way: Men hauled big rocks, and women wielding rock hammers smashed the rocks into gravel.

Volunteerism was so potent an idea, that when, in 1984, writer Ed Quillen broke the story about Gaskill's efforts to revive trail building that had foundered under the Colorado Mountain Trails Foundation, people were energized to join her. Soon, thanks to fundraising, she had 350 volunteers coming each summer to join trail crews she often led herself. She made creating the Colorado Trail seem like a privilege: You camped out in beautiful backcountry, ate great food, and found stamina you never knew you possessed.

Trail work has changed a lot in 39 years. Back then we built water bars to stop erosion from runoff. Logs anchored into slopes sluiced water off trails but required annual maintenance. Now, water moves off trail through "grade reversals." The trail swoops below grade, efficiently shunting water off the path, then swoops back up to level grade. Drains are large versions of grade reversals.

In 1985, caught up in the story, my father, Ed Marston, then publisher of High Country News, volunteered my sister, Wendy, 15, and me, 13, for a week of trail building. That's how we learned how to swing those axe-like tools called Pulaskis on the Molas Pass to Durango section.

My fellow volunteers were largely thru-hikers, skilled backcountry voyagers who spend their holidays hiking the trail from Denver to Durango in one go. Mark Stephenson, 26, from Pittsburgh, Pa., was one of the trail's most ardent fans.

Gaskill herself led our crew, setting out early with orange ribbon to mark the trail. She was efficient and tireless, and in just a few hours, older, urban and young volunteers became trail builders with blisters to prove it.

He arrived on the trail via Greyhound bus with \$40 in his pocket, saying, "This is a place where money doesn't matter."

It was exciting to work on a trail that unfurled along the rooftop of Colorado. Typical trails in those days led up mountains or over steep passes. The Colorado trail rejected peak-bagging and offered a moderate route of week-

Thinking a reported two-and-a-half-mile hike to camp would be easy, my friend and I arrived at the trailhead loaded up with both front and back packs. I confess to having done the shopping. My friend was optimistic: "I can carry anything two and a half miles."

But our camp had moved six miles away and 2,700 feet uphill. We made it, slowly, and once at camp, we quickly became free-store proprietors. But there



Writers on the Range
by Dave Marston

was another problem: I'd left my tent poles at home. Crew leader Matt Smith, an engineer from Golden, easily came up with a fix: He used parachute cord to rig up the tent fly, then added a tarp to ward off the rain that soaked us every afternoon and night.

I don't recall meeting thru-hikers in the mid-1980s, but today they seem to dominate hiking culture. I could only listen as the rest of the group talked about trails known by acronyms, including the famous AT—Appalachian Trail.

"You're doing great work!" hikers told us as they passed by. Crew leader Smith offers this perspective today: "19,000 volunteer person-hours go into trail improvement every year."

We owe thanks to those original trail stalwarts — forester Bill Lucas, journalist Merrill Hastings and of course, Gudy Gaskill. Their vision created one of the state's wonders.

Dave Marston is the publisher of Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He lives in Durango.

THE Monte Vista JOURNAL

THE MONTE VISTA JOURNAL (USPS 360-660) Published weekly (every Wednesday) by Valley Publishing. (719) 852-3531 at 835 First Ave., Monte Vista, Colorado 81144-1423. Established in 1888 and consolidated with the Monte Vista Tribune and San Luis Valley Graphic. Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144
Main office, Want ads and Subscriptions: (719) 852-3531
Periodical postage paid at Monte Vista, Colo., 81144
POSTMASTER: Send change of address to P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144
Subscriptions: \$45 one year in the San Luis Valley; \$40 one year seniors (65 and older) in the San Luis Valley; and \$55 one year out of the San Luis Valley. (719) 852-3531
San Luis Valley Publishing, LLC

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- Morgan McMaster NeelyAdvertising Sales
- Marie Mccolm
- Monte Vista Journal/Center Post Dispatch Reporter
- Lyndsie Ferrell South Fork/Creede Reporter
- Shasta Quintana Circulation
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Tunnel drainage improvements to US 160 on Wolf Creek Pass began Sept. 23

CONTRIBUTED

WOLF CREEK PASS — The Colorado Department of Transportation and contract partner Williams Construction began drainage improvements to the US Highway 160 Wolf Creek Pass tunnel on Monday, Sept. 23.

The tunnel, between South Fork and the pass summit (Mile Point 174), will be closed throughout the project. Motorists can anticipate minimal travel impacts as they will be guided by signage onto the nearby tunnel bypass lanes. Work is expected to be completed in November.

The tunnel work zone is on the east side of Wolf Creek Pass, about 10 miles west of South Fork and seven miles east of the Wolf Creek ski area. This safety project improves drainage near the tunnel's east entrance, reducing the potential for icy and hazardous conditions during the winter season.

"Over the past few winters, maintenance crews have noticed an increase in the amount of moisture on the road surface at this tunnel entrance. The new drainage system will divert water off of the travel lanes and reduce the frequency of icy or slick

conditions," said Julie Constan, Regional Transportation Director.

The project will update the existing underdrain system that runs in the center of the eastbound travel lane with a larger, improved drainage system. Crews will install manholes at both ends of the tunnel to improve maintenance access. Additional work includes the replacement of several concrete panels and the installation of delineators near the drainage structures.

Traffic Impacts

• Beginning Sept. 23, work hours will range from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Traffic impacts will include:

- Through November, signage will guide traffic onto the tunnel bypass lanes 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Motorists can expect brief intermittent delays
- Speeds will be reduced to 25 mph through the work zone
- Traffic fines will be doubled in the work zone
- Motorists should slow down as they approach the work zone, drive with caution, allow extra space between vehicles and give themselves extra travel time



CDOT photo

During the drainage improvement project, motorists will be guided on the US 160 Wolf Creek tunnel bypass lane located between South Fork and the pass summit beginning Sept. 23 and continuing through November.

Preliminary hearing is scheduled in Larry Chavez case

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — Alamosa resident Larry Chavez, 33, was in court on Tuesday morning, where a preliminary hearing was set for Oct. 30. In the preliminary, the presiding judge will determine if there is enough evidence to order Chavez to stand trial for allegedly killing Enrique Parra.

According to documents obtained from the Alamosa County Combined Court, Chavez has been charged with eighteen different counts in the case, including one count of murder in the second degree (F2), second degree

assault with a deadly weapon (F4), kidnapping (F2), two counts of motor vehicle theft (F4), four counts of felony menacing (F5), theft \$5,000 to \$10,000 (F6), third degree assault (M1), criminal mischief (misdemeanor) plus six counts of habitual criminal.

Due to his previous criminal history, if the court judges Chavez to be a habitual criminal in connection with any of the felonies he's been charged with committing, sentencing will be four times the maximum range of sentencing for each felony.

Even if Chavez is convicted of only

some of the felonies and is deemed to be a habitual criminal, it's possible he could be sentenced to life in prison.

As was reported in the Valley Courier, shortly after 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 1, the Alamosa Police Department (APD) was dispatched to the 1700 block of State Avenue on the report of a shoot-

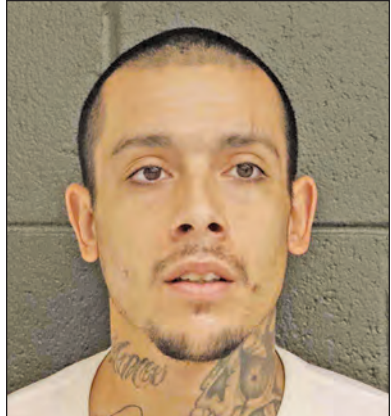
ing. Upon arriving at the scene, officers found a male victim, later identified as Enrique Parra, who had been shot. Life saving measures were immediately instigated and Parra was transferred to San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased.

Chavez, identified as a suspect in the shooting, fled the scene, initiating a manhunt with numerous law enforcement agencies in the San Luis Valley

assisting along with a drone from Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

On the morning of Aug. 2, APD requested assistance from the US Marshals in locating Chavez. Within hours, the US Marshals, with assistance from local law enforcement, took Chavez into custody in Santa Fe, N.M.

Since his arrest, Chavez has been held in the Alamosa County Detention Center on a \$10 million bond.



Larry Chavez

Conejos County deputy injured in accident

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

CONEJOS COUNTY — A collision between two cars on Wednesday afternoon led to a Conejos County deputy sustaining serious injuries and being transported to a local hospital. In the other vehicle, two young women from Alabama were injured, less seriously, and transported, as well.

According to Capt. Nathan Lyons with the Colorado State Patrol, Wednesday afternoon, a Conejos County deputy was headed northbound on Highway 285 when a vehicle heading east on 142 turned southbound onto Highway 285, directly in front of the deputy.

The deputy sustained serious but not life-threatening injuries. The women in the eastbound vehicle sustained less serious injuries.

"The driver was a little banged up and the passenger was a little banged up more than the driver but nothing of a serious nature," Lyons said.

All three individuals were transported to a local hospital.

"The damage to the two vehicles was very extensive. But because all three individuals were wearing seatbelts, it wasn't nearly as serious for the occupants as it would have been otherwise," Lyons said.

Lyons added that traffic was diverted for roughly an hour before

resuming. No further information is expected at this time.



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Sargent 64	Custer County 6
Ellicott 49.....	Center 0
Delta 41	Alamosa 12
Pagosa Springs 28.....	Monte Vista 6
Sierra Grande 58	Antonito 0
Western State 38.....	Adams State 0

Volleyball

Crested Butte def Mountain Valley 3-0
Sargent def Antonito 3-0
Centauri def Pagosa Springs 3-0
Sargent def Primero 3-0
Center def Monte Vista 3-2
Sanford def Trinidad 3-0
Primero def Centennial 3-0
Pueblo East def Centauri 3-1
Center def Sangre de Cristo 2-0
Evangel Christian def Center 2-0
La Veta def Sangre de Cristo 2-0
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Residents surmount a 14,000-foot challenge

By JOHN WATERS

Courier News Editor

SAGUACHE COUNTY — Colorado is blessed with some of the most spectacular mountain scenery in the world. The local Sangre de Cristo Mountains constantly remind us of this gift that we experience and share with visitors from around the globe.

The mountains near Crestone have several 14,000-foot peaks that are challenging to climb and are considered world-class hikes and climbs.

Crestone resident Adam Kinney, a long-time admirer of the Sangre Range, embarked on an adventure on the weekend of September 7-8. Alongside Pete Van Horn, he conquered Challenger Point, a 14er that had long been on his bucket list.

Kinney is a business owner, member of the Crestone Board of Trustees, and Mayor Pro Tem. He said he and Van Horn are “lovers and appreciators of our natural surroundings here in Crestone.”

For over 20 years, Kinney has gazed at the peaks yet has never summited one. Finally, on Sept. 8, he summited his first 14,000-foot mountain, Challenger Point with Van Horn.

The ascent of Challenger starts at the Willow Lake Trail No. 865 trailhead at the end of Forest Road 949, about two miles from downtown Crestone.

Many people who climb Challenger and nearby Kit Carson hike the 4.5 miles up to a popular backpacking area near Willow Lake, which is at an elevation of 11,580. Most climbers spend a night at this base camp and make their final ascent early the following day. The hike to the lake is spectacular and affords people a riot of wildflower colors in summer and aspen in the fall. As of last weekend, the aspen are beginning to turn, and hikers will be treated to this in the next several weeks. The three-hour-plus hike to the lake is strenuous, with a gain in elevation of about 2,000 feet.

Above an elevation of about 11,500, the trees start to disappear, and the minute mountain plants of the Alpine tundra dot the landscape.

The gear required to make the ascent is minimal; Kinney said his pack weighed a light 28 pounds. “I was looking for the mix of having a lightweight pack and being comfortable sleeping.”

After spending a night under the stars at base camp, the following morning at first light, the duo began their ascent of Challenger, a climb of about an additional 3,000 vertical feet. The steep and arduous climb lasted about three hours.

Kinney shared his experience of summiting Challenger with the Valley Courier, and here are some of the highlights of that conversation.

Regarding being at the summit, Kinney said, “I couldn’t believe

how calm and quiet it was. I was expecting extreme winds. We were drenched in sweat; I expected to be cold and wind-chilled. It was so calm and so quiet, serene.

“I couldn’t comprehend how high up we would be; looking down on the [San Luis] Valley, we could see the Wet Mountain Valley to the east. It felt like being in an airplane, but we were perfectly still, calm, and on top of the world.

“One of the most enjoyable aspects were the people on the summit. I was the least fit person on the mountain that day. There were a few people who had started at the trailhead and summited. They passed me on the way up; they had hiked an additional 4.7 miles or so and were going that much faster. We met many amazing people who were all equally encouraging; they saw me practically crawling up the mountain and would say, “Hey, you are crushing this, keep going, you are almost there.”

“On the summit, I could look over and see Kit Carson Mountain, see it in detail, and see how people get to it from Challenger. It was great to see them climbing from Challenger over to Kit Carson. [Many people summit both peaks on the same day.]

“Pete was fit and competent to do the hike, and his patience and graciousness were comforting and calming. He didn’t rush me at all. He told me this was a beautiful day; we had plenty of time, no rush. His being gracious was meaningful and helped me get up there. For me, it wasn’t easy to get oxygen and my out-of-shape 47-year-old body didn’t help. It has been twenty years since I got up to even 13,000 feet.

“I was surprised at how beautiful and wonderful it was to be up there.”

Kinney said he saw pikas, big-horn sheep, and deer on the expedition.

Kinney said that he experienced nausea and vertigo while making the last third of a mile, and that dissipated on the summit. “I would say the degree of awe of seeing the Valley from that perspective and feeling accomplished reinvigorated me. It even grounded me.

“The whole time I have lived here and looking up at these mountains, I’ve never been able to know the names of all the peaks that are so much a representation of Crestone. Once I’ve been to a place, I feel differently about it. Now I know which peak is which.



Courtesy photo

Saguache County residents Adam Kinney (left) and Pete Van Horn spent the weekend of September 7-8 hiking and climbing 14,087-foot Challenger Point in the Sangre de Cristo Range. The mountain was named Challenger by the USGS Board of Geographic Names in 1987 in memory of the crew of the Space Shuttle Challenger who perished in 1986.

This was really meaningful to me to be up there and know this is Challenger, Kit Carson, and those are the Crestone Needle. I have not been down on the T Road driving into Crestone, but I’m excited to look up and know I’ve been there.

“At different times in my life, I’ve been connected to prayer, and over the last ten years, I’ve been so invested in making a place for my family that I’ve drifted away from my connection to prayer. On the final 1,500 feet of elevation gain, it was so steep and so hard I started praying again. This was a different version of prayer than I’ve ever had access to, and it was a sweet opportunity to connect with the mountain, the Earth, and my mother, my birth mother. I really needed that. The level of the authenticity of my prayer was so different because of the physical challenge. I was the physical exertion was also a detox.

“When I came down, I was so exhausted, I could barely walk, and my wife of sixteen years said there was something different in my eyes — a light in my eyes.”

Regarding time in the mountains, Kinney said, “For so many of us, this is a way to treat the potential for depression or anxiety that many of us experience in our daily grind. I can’t believe how lucky we are to live here.”

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ROSARY

Continued from Page 1A

quez said that handouts will be provided to help everyone understand the event and pray the rosary together. Rosaries will also be available at the event, if you do not have one, until they are all given out.

According to fatimachurchabq.org the story behind the day of Our

Lady of Fatima began May 13, 2017, and culminated on Oct. 13, 1917. During this time, many religious believers claim that the Virgin Mary, the blessed Mother of God, appeared to three young peasant children named Francisco, Jacinta, and Lucia. Coordinator Velasquez spoke

about the planning of the event and why this day is so important.

“During this celebration, we try to honor the name of the Lady of Fatima. This event we are holding is not anything directly to do with the Catholic Church, the reason we are praying the rosary, is because

the world needs prayer. We want to pray for the world, and for peace in the world, that is why we organized this event,” she said.

Velasquez explained that Father Albert of Saint Joseph’s Catholic Church in Monte Vista will be leading the rosary.

“He will be there to lead us. We did invite Del Norte. We did invite Center. Every church and anybody in the public that would just like to pray for world peace is welcome to attend. We will be praying the rosary and be doing a little bit of singing. There is also a rally document that you can sign if you would like to, this is to show how many people we

have that attend the prayer,” she said.

Velasquez said that they have banners from the worldwide organization of Fatima that they intend to post at Fullenwider Park for the ceremony.

“We also have someone that normally carries one, while we pray,” she said.

Velasquez said that prayer is important and is much needed in the world. She said that people are encouraged to bring their own chairs and to dress for the weather.

For more information about the event, contact Velasquez at 720-226-1357 or at rachal.velasquez@gmail.com.

ORTEGA

Continued from Page 1A

Ortega has served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors since 1990. “I’m still emotional. This is the first time in my 72 years that I was speechless,” she added. “When Dr. Tandberg told me he selected me for the Billy Adams Award, I lost it. Holy guacamole, my tears. It’s an overwhelming, exciting feeling.”

A 10th-generation native of San Luis, Ortega was recently honored with inclusion in History Colorado’s 2022 Return of the Corn Mothers. The award-winning traveling photographic exhibition and accompanying coffee-table book is based on the Pueblo myth of the Corn Mothers, said to have sung in the essence of creation. This collection of portraits and stories is about today’s Corn Mothers, women who live, study, and work in the Southwest – Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and northern Texas.

Ortega noted she donated a copy of the book to La Capilla de Todos los Santos (All Saints’ Chapel) at San Luis’ Stations of the Cross shrine. She and her husband, Antonio Garcia, consider the chapel to be the “crown jewel” of projects completed by their company, Passive Adobe Solar Construction, from which they retired in 2010.

Prior to working with her husband, Ortega spent 20 years in social work in the San Luis Valley, Trinidad, and Colorado Springs. She also taught remedial reading at Centennial High School in San

Luis. A first-generation college student, Ortega recognizes the importance of Adams State serving the region. She appreciates the academic scholarship that allowed her to graduate debt-free with a double major in sociology/social work and Mexican/American studies with a minor in special education. Three of her seven siblings are also Adams State alumni: Daisy Ortega ’75, John W. Ortega ’78, and Anthony C. Ortega ’77.

Her fondest college memory is the time she and three other students drove to Puebla, Mexico, to study Mexican history for a semester through an exchange program with Universidad de las Americas.

These experiences, among others, influenced her commitment to higher education and her work with Adams State’s HSI Advisory Committee. “The Hispanic Serving Institution committee works to improve the educational experience for all Adams State students. I advocate for anybody who wants

to earn a degree in higher education,” she said.

Ortega explained the Alumni Association is now working with the Adams State Foundation to align alumni fundraising and friend raising activities with the university’s strategic plan. The group is exploring the possibility of creating a mentoring program matching students with alumni.

“We need to start having conversations with students and new alumni to cultivate a philosophy of giving, not necessarily financial giving, but also through giving their time and talent,” she said.

Ortega has volunteered for many local organizations including the Alamosa Republican Party, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, the Colorado Commission on Aging, the San Luis Valley Development Resources Group, SLV Health, and the Alamosa City Planning Committee. She also serves as an Alamosa County Sheriff’s Office Victim Advocate.

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a hearing before the Rio Grande County Planning Commission will be held on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 1:30pm and a Public Hearing before the Board of County Commissioners for Rio Grande County is scheduled for Wednesday October 23, 2024 beginning at the hour of 1:30 PM. Public Hearings before both Boards run consecutively per each board’s agenda schedule.

The purpose of these hearings is to review a re-subdivision application, submitted by Stephen & Janet Meyer to reconfigure the boundary line between two lots owned by them in the Mountain View Development. The proposed location of this re-subdivision is 1871 E County Road 1 S, Monte Vista, CO. Legal address; Lots 11 & 12 Mountain View Development Subdivision #1. The full details of this application are available for review at: www.riograndecounty.org under the “Public Notice” tab, or in the Land Use Office at 925 6th St Rm 208, Del Norte, during normal office hours.

Any interested person may appear to be heard at the public hearings. These public hearings will be held in the commissioner’s meeting room located at 925 6th St., Del Norte, CO 81132.

Written comments may be emailed to rgclanduse@riograndecounty.org or mailed or dropped off at the Land Use office at 925 6th St, Rm 208, Del Norte, CO 81132.

No. 4867 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, September 25, 2024.

District Rio Grande Combined Court, State of Colorado COURT ADDRESS: 925 6TH STREET, ROOM 204, DEL NORTE, CO 81132 PHONE NUMBER: 719-657-3394	
Plaintiff: JONATHON JAMES TRACY	▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲
v.	Case Number:
Defendants: CHRISTOPHER DANIEL SCOTT, STEWART TITLE GUARANTY COMPANY, and ALLPINE TITLE, INC	Division: Courtroom:
DISTRICT COURT CIVIL SUMMONS	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT: Christopher Daniel Scott, Stewart Title Guaranty, Company, and Allpine Title, Inc. YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to file with the Clerk of this Court an answer or other response to the attached Complaint. If service of the Summons and Complaint was made upon you within the State of Colorado, you are required to file your answer or other response within 21 days after such service upon you. If service of the Summons and Complaint was made upon you outside of the State of Colorado, you are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after such service upon you. Your answer or counterclaim must be accompanied with the applicable filing fee. If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within the applicable time period, the Court may enter judgment by default against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice.

Dated: 5-31-24

Clerk of Court/Clerk
Joy Pickens
Signature of Attorney for Plaintiff
12712 W. Ken Caryl Ave., Littleton, CO 80127
Address of Attorney for Plaintiff
303-989-6655
Plaintiff’s Attorney’s Phone Number

This Summons is issued pursuant to Rule 4, C.R.C.P., as amended. A copy of the Complaint must be served with this Summons. This form should not be used where service by publication is desired.

WARNING: A valid summons may be issued by a lawyer and it need not contain a court case number, the signature of a court officer, or a court seal. The plaintiff has 14 days from the date this summons was served on you to file the case with the court. You are responsible for contacting the court to find out whether the case has been filed and obtain the case number. If the plaintiff files the case within this time, then you must respond as explained in this summons. If the plaintiff files more than 14 days after the date the summons was served on you, the case may be dismissed upon motion and you may be entitled to seek attorney’s fees from the plaintiff.

TO THE CLERK: If the summons is issued by the clerk of the court, the signature block for the clerk or deputy should be provided by stamp, or typewriter, in the space to the left of the attorney’s name.

No. 4856 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, August 21 and 28 and September 4, 11 and 18, 2024.

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a hearing before the Rio Grande County Board of Adjustment will be held on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 3:00pm.

The purpose of this hearing is to review a variance application for relief from rear set back distance. The application has been submitted by JR Pepper Properties LLC and the proposed location of this variance is 121 N Broadway, Monte Vista, CO. Legal address; FR SE4NE4 Section 36, Township 39m, Range 7. The full details of this application are available for review at: www.riograndecounty.org under the “Public Notice” tab, or in the Land Use Office at 925 6th St Rm 208, Del Norte, during normal office hours.

Any interested person may appear to be heard at the public hearing. This public hearing will be held in the commissioner’s meeting room located at 925 6th St., Del Norte, CO 81132.

Written comments may be emailed to rgclanduse@riograndecounty.org or mailed or dropped off at the Land Use office at 925 6th St, Rm 208, Del Norte, CO 81132.

No. 4868 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, September 25, 2024.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District Court	<input type="checkbox"/> Denver Probate Court
Rio Grande County, Colorado Court Address: 925 6 th Street Del Norte, CO 81132 719-657-3394	
In the Matter of the Estate of Nadine Dieckman	
Deceased	▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲
Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address): John M. Montgomery, Attorney 660 Grande Avenue Del Norte, CO 81132 Phone Number: 719-657-3333 E-mail: john@montgomery-law.net FAX Number: 719-657-9999 Atty. Reg. #: 19385	Case Number: 2024PR30015
Division: Courtroom	

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Nadine Dieckman, Deceased Case Number 2024PR30015

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

District Court of Rio Grande, County, Colorado or
 Denver Probate Court of the City and County of Denver, Colorado on or before January 17, 2025, or the claims may be forever barred.

John M. Montgomery
Type or Print name of Person Giving Notice
660 Grande Avenue
Address
Del Norte, CO 81132
City, State, Zip Code

No. 4864 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, September 18 and 25 and October 2, 2024.

DISTRICT COURT, RIO GRANDE COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO
CIVIL ACTION NO. 2024CV3000

COMBINED NOTICE OF SHERIFF’S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY
SOUTH FORK RANCHES MASTER HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., a Colorado nonprofit corporation, and RIO GRANDE WATER COMPANY
Plaintiffs

v.
DOUGLAS WIBBENMEYER, CLYDE H. JONES AND RHONDA RICHARDSON, as Rio Grande County Public Trustee
Defendants

Lot 31, South Fork Ranches, River Greens Filing No. 1, recorded July 9, 2004 as Reception No. 383488, Drawer 11 Map 210-211, in the office of the Clerk and Recorder, Rio Grande County, Colorado,

Also known as: Lot 31, South Fork, CO 81154

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS or JUDGMENT DEBTORS, Please take notice:

You and each of you are hereby notified that a Sheriff’s Sale of the referenced property is to be conducted by the Sheriff’s Department of County of Rio Grande, State of Colorado at 10:00 am, on the 7th day of November, 2024 at the Office of the Rio Grande Sheriff located at 640 Cherry Street, Del Norte, CO 81132, phone number (719) 657-4000, at which sale, the above described real property and improvements thereon will be sold to the highest bidder. Plaintiff makes no warranty relating to title, possession, or quiet enjoyment in and to said real property in connection with this sale.

For the purposes of paying off, curing the default, or redemption as provided by statute, intent must be directed to or conducted at the RIO GRANDE SHERIFF, for the County of Rio Grande, State of Colorado.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY.

Judgment is in the amount of \$25,744.44

This is to advise you that a Sheriff sale proceeding has been commenced through the office of the undersigned Sheriff pursuant to Court Order dated July 11, 2024, and C.R.S. 38-38-101 et seq. by South Forks Ranches Master Homeowners Association, Inc., a Colorado nonprofit corporation, the holder and current owner of a lien recorded on April 18, 2022 at Reception No. 202200446520 in the records of the Clerk and Recorder of the County of Rio Grande, State of Colorado. The foreclosure is based on a default under the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions of South Fork Ranches Master Homeowners, Inc. recorded November 28, 2000, at Reception Number 366491 of the Rio Grande County Clerk and Recorders office, and all supplements thereto (hereinafter referred to as the “Declaration”). The Declaration and notices, as recorded, establish a lien for the benefit of Country Hills Community Association, Inc., **WHICH LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS.**

Bidders are required to have cash or certified funds to cover their highest bid at the time of sale.

First Publication: September 4, 2024
Last Publication: October 2, 2024
Published In: The Monte Vista Journal

All telephone inquiries for information should be directed to the office of the undersigned Sheriff at (719) 657-4000. The name, address and telephone number of the attorney representing the legal owner of the above-described lien is Gabriel Stefu, WesternLaw Group LLC, 9351 Grant Street #120, Thornton, CO 80229, 720-542-8724.
DATED: August 27th, 2024

ANNE ROBINSON, SHERIFF,
COUNTY OF RIO GRANDE,
STATE OF COLORADO

By: Civil Process Specialist Christopher Otwell

No. 4861 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, September 4, 11, 18 and 25 and October 2, 2024.

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Use of 14ers is up locally and down elsewhere

By JOHN WATERS

COLORADO — The Colorado Fourteeners Initiative (CFI) has been monitoring hiking use on Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks (14er) using infrared trail counters since 2014. Hiking some or all of Colorado's 58 14,000+ foot peaks is a passion for residents and visitors alike. The exhilarating pastime benefits hikers and our economy.

According to the initiative, 14er use in 2023 fell to an all-time low of 260,000 hiker use days, equaling the initial estimate from 2015. This represents a 6.8 percent decline from 2022's estimate, reflecting a broader trend of decreased hiking activity since the peak in 2020 during the pandemic summer when use reached 415,000 hiker days.

While the number of people hiking 14ers overall fell in Colorado, the number of people hiking the peaks in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains increased 18 percent or 1,500 to approximately 10,000 annually.

The CFI is a nonprofit that partners with the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to preserve and protect the natural integrity of Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks through stewardship such as the monitoring project and education.

A primary factor contributing to the overall decline was the closure of the popular Decalibron Loop near Alma for much of the season due to private landowner liability concerns. This resulted in a 17,500-day drop (-55%) in the Mosquito Range.

Several 14ers in Colorado are privately owned, or the landowner requires permission to access routes to reach them.

Nearby, 14,047-foot Culebra Peak on the Cielo Vista Ranch is privately owned and requires a fee of \$150. According to the ranch, it is the highest privately owned peak in the world. Access across the Trinchera Blanca Ranch has been closed for several years to hike 14,055-foot Mt. Lindsey.

Hiking use also decreased in three of Colorado's seven ranges containing 14ers, including the popular Front Range closest to the Denver metro area. Meanwhile, peaks such as Mount Bierstadt and Quandary Peak remained the most popular, each with use estimated in the 25,000-30,000 hiker days range.

CFI's estimate of hiking use suggests a statewide economic impact of \$70.5 million directly attributable to hiking 14ers in 2023, based on past economic expenditure studies performed by Colorado State University economists. This significant contribution underscores the importance of 14ers recreational activities to the local economy.

Their study found that climbers of Quandary Peak near Breckenridge spent an average of \$271.17 per day on gasoline, food, lodging, equipment, and other retail purchases.

The CFI estimates that 32,500 people hike the 14ers in the San Juan Mountains and approximately 10,000 hikers in the Sangre de Cristos.

This reporter encounters many hikers in the Sangre de Cristos accessing 14ers and has found the vast majority are from outside the region and are visiting specifically to ascend a 14er. Using the economic estimate of \$271 per day, the recreational users' financial impact on both sides of the range is \$2.16 million daily.

According to CFI, in 2023, an estimated 57 percent of all statewide hiking use (148,000 hiker days) occurred on the 12 peaks closest to the Denver metro area (Front Range, Tenmile Range, Mosquito Range, and Mount Elbert). The remaining 46 peaks accounted for 112,000 hiker days. Compared to the prior year, hiking use fell in the Mosquito Range (-17,500 days, -55%), San Juan Mountains (-5,500 days, -14%), and Front Range (-3,000 days, -3%). However, hiking use increased in the Tenmile Range (+5,000 days, +23%), Sangre de Cristo



Courtesy photo

Lloyd Athearn with the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative installing an infrared trail counter just below the summit of Mount Lindsey.

Range (+1,500 days, +18%), and the Elk Mountains (+500 days, +7%).

The most recent report from CFI culminates nine years of data collection from up to 23 infrared trail counters placed adjacent to summit hiking trails, covering 21 peaks statewide.

The initiative uses "hiker use days" to represent one person hiking one peak on a given day, offering a comprehensive view of hiking activity on Colorado's 14ers. By understanding hiking use levels, seasonal dispersal, and trends over time, CFI can better assess the impact of hiking on the fragile alpine environments of Colorado's 14ers, guiding efforts to preserve these unique landscapes.

Colorado's 14ers are among the most sought-after mountain peaks in the country. They also possess some of the most fragile alpine landscapes. Plants

in the alpine, those above tree line (at about 11,500'), are incredibly delicate. The plants in this wonderland grow in extreme environments of intense solar radiation, high and destructive winds, and low temperatures. Despite these harsh elements, they have adapted to these conditions. Although hearty, they can quickly be damaged by human intrusion.

The Colorado Fourteeners Initiative is at the forefront of educating the enthusiasts who hike/climb in the alpine tundra regarding the fragility of this ecosystem and how they can have less of an impact. Visit www.14ers.org

to learn more about this treasured ecosystem and how to protect it.

The hiking and climbing use is confined to a short four-month climbing season when the mountains are primarily snow-free. Natural resource impacts in the fragile alpine tundra environment, stemming from the lack of adequately designed and constructed summit trails on the 14ers, led to CFI's founding in 1994.

Next week, the Valley Courier will feature the hiking adventure of a longtime Crestone resident detailing a recent experience of summiting his first 14er, 14,087-foot Challenger Point.

The Secret to Your Best Life



John 3:16 (NIV) says, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."

This scripture shows us that Jesus gave everything when He demonstrated His love for us. And we are to follow His example.

The truth is, loving others is not always easy, and it always costs us something: time, money, convenience, etc. But through our relationship with Christ, we can find the strength and ability to love others, even when it seems to cost more than we think we can give.

God is faithful to give us His love, grace, and wisdom to reach out and be a blessing to others. And when we do, we end up receiving more joy and peace than we had before.

It's important to understand that God doesn't expect you to take this to such an extreme that you don't take care of yourself. We need to use wisdom so we can be healthy emotionally, mentally, and physically while we're helping others. In following Jesus' example, remember to make your relationship with God your number one priority and do what He puts in your heart to do.

The world is full of lonely, hurting people who are hungry for the love of God and the hope that is only found in Jesus. I want to encourage you to get rid of a "What about me?" mindset and instead pray, "God, show me someone who needs a blessing. Show me someone I can help."

We all have room to grow in our relationship with God, and learning how to reach out to others is a big part of that process. I used to be self-centered and focused on getting my way all the time. And I was miserable! But now I am happier than I've ever

One of the greatest lessons I've learned is that you can't be both selfish and happy. I know this is true through my own personal experience, but more importantly, the Bible has some things to say about the attitude we should have about "self."

For example, love is not selfish. In the Amplified Bible, 1 Corinthians 13:5 says love "is not self-seeking." In 1 Corinthians 15:31, the apostle Paul said, "...I die daily [I face death and die to self]" (AMP), which basically means he was not self-seeking but instead focused on doing what God called him to do with his life.

There are also scriptures that teach us the importance of having self-control. Galatians 5:23 lists self-control as a fruit of the Spirit, and 2 Timothy 1:7 says that in Christ, we have a spirit "of power and of love and...personal discipline [abilities that result in a calm, well-balanced mind and self-control]."

If you've lived very long, you realize that not being selfish requires self-control, because we're all born with a human nature that is selfish. Think about how babies act: They are only concerned with what they need and usually cry when they don't get their way.

Thankfully, when we experience new life in Christ, we die to sin (Romans 6:11). But even though we die to sin, sin does not die. That's why we have to continually make the decision over and over again to choose to do the right thing on purpose. And we have what it takes, in Christ, to do what's right—whether we feel like it or not.

As Christians, we're destined to be molded into the image of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29). Jesus is the greatest example of what it means to love others and not live a selfish life. First



EPA Region 8 Announces the Sixth Five-Year Review for the Summitville Mine Superfund Site

The EPA, in cooperation with the state of Colorado, is conducting the sixth five-year review of the Summitville Mine Superfund site in Rio Grande County, Colorado. The purpose of the five-year review is to make sure that the selected cleanup actions are effectively protecting human health and the environment.

The 1,400-acre Summitville Mine site is a former gold mine. Mining processes, waste disposal practices, and the discharge of large amounts of copper and other metals to Wightman Fork and the Alamosa River contaminated soil, surface water and groundwater with heavy metals.

Site Work Completed:

- Cyanide formerly contained within the heap leach pad has been treated and detoxified.
- Mine waste piles have been contoured, capped and revegetated.
- Mine adits and entrances to underground have been plugged and sealed.
- Mining impacted water is captured in the Summitville Dam Impoundment and cleaned in the water treatment plant prior to leaving the site.

Construction activities are complete, and the site is now in the operation and maintenance phase.

We want to hear from you! Community members are encouraged to share information that may be helpful in the five-year review process. Community members who have questions or who would like to be interviewed are asked to contact EPA by December 31, 2024.

Kate Tribbett

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
Phone: 303-312-6661 or Email: tribbett.kate@epa.gov

FALL Harvest

Dig into tasty, nutritious potatoes

Potatoes are a staple of many people's diets. Versatile, affordable and tasty, potatoes are, not surprisingly, included in myriad recipes.

Potatoes are underground tubers that grow on the roots of the potato plant. Potatoes are from the nightshade family, which means they're related to tobacco and tomatoes. Potatoes are native to South America, and were likely brought to Europe, and later North America, by immigrants and tradespeople.

In addition to their versatility and flavor, potatoes happen to be nutritional powerhouses. Potatoes are one of the "good" carbohydrates because they are whole and complex. Whole carbs like potatoes are minimally processed and contain fiber found naturally, according to the health and wellness site Healthline. Carbohydrates are important for mental and physical performance because they provide the body with energy.

Here's a deep look at what a serving of one potato provides in terms of nutritional benefits, courtesy of Potatoes USA.

- **Moderate caloric content:** The average potato contains just 110 calories. That makes potatoes part of a healthy, low-calorie eating plan.
- **Vitamin C:** Potatoes are very good sources of vitamin C, although people might not think of potatoes as a major source of this essential nutrient. One potato provides around 30 percent of the recommended daily value of vitamin C.
- **Potassium:** Each potato contains about 620 mg of potassium, which is more of this valuable nutrient than one gets from a banana.
- **No cholesterol:** Potatoes are



cholesterol- and fat-free when boiled or baked. There are many ways to prepare and serve potatoes so they remain low in fat and cholesterol-free.

• **Vitamin B and Iron:** One potato provides 10 percent DV of vitamin B and 6 percent DV of iron.

• **Fiber:** The highest level of fiber in potatoes is found in the skin. Dried skins are about 52 percent fiber. If you don't eat the skin, one potato will offer around 7 percent DV of fiber.

• **Sodium-free:** Potatoes are a smart choice for those watching their sodium intake.

• **Gluten-free:** People with Celiac disease or those who have gluten intolerances can turn to potatoes to include starchy carbohydrates in their diets. They're perfect as side dishes or dressed up with other ingredients to make a main course.

Potatoes come in many different forms and sizes, so they can be integrated into any meal. Because they can be cooked in various ways, potatoes also can be matched to particular diets and eating plans. Potatoes are a delicious, versatile and healthy option any time of the day.

Advancements in livestock technology

Consumer demand drives changes in industry, and the agricultural sector is no exception. Consumer demands for improved animal welfare have led to changes in the livestock sector, and various technologies have been developed and are in development to help this particular segment of the agricultural industry thrive.

According to the Animal AgTech Innovation Summit, various startups have developed technologies that can make the livestock industry more sustainable and efficient.

Treatment
The Israeli firm Armenta has developed a non-antibiotic treatment for bovine mastitis that utilizes acoustic pulse technology. The treatment has a 70 percent cure rate.

Another firm working to treat livestock is the United States-based General Probiotics. Animal AgTech reports that General Probiotics develops cellbots and antimicrobial probiotics that eliminate harmful pathogens in livestock. That can reduce dependency on antibiotics and make food production safer.

Welfare
Faromatics, a firm based in Spain, has combined robotics, artificial intelligence and big data to improve animal welfare and farm productivity. One Faromatics product utilizes a robot suspended from a ceiling to monitor

certain variables, including equipment function and health and welfare, that affect broiler chickens.

The American firm Swinetech utilizes voice recognition and computer vision technology in its SmartGuard product to prevent piglet deaths from crushing and starvation. The product also makes it possible to track and facilitate obstetrical assistance.

Operations
Based in Uganda, Jaguza Tech has developed a livestock management system that utilizes sensors, data science and machine learning to improve the efficiency, productivity and sustainability of modern farm opera-

tions. Farmers can utilize Jaguza to perform a host of functions, including monitoring their animals' health and identifying their livestock.

The Netherlands-based H2Oalert is a water control management system that checks the quality and quantity of cattle drinking water in real time. The management system also checks for pollution and malfunctions in the water supply.

Livestock technology continues to advance, and firms across the globe are developing new products and platforms to help livestock farmers make their operations more efficient, sustainable and productive.

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Farm Fresh Direct makes \$5,000 donation to 4-H Juntos

Group attends two-day trip to Pueblo

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — The Colorado State University San Luis Valley Extension Office's 4-H Juntos group recently made an overnight trip to Pueblo, for an exciting Discovery Day adventure Aug. 23 to 24. It would not have been possible without a generous \$5,000 donation from Farm Fresh Direct.

Local 4-H Juntos Director Carol

Gurule was excited about the trip and grateful to Farm Fresh Direct and Mayra McKibbon, the Director of Workforce and Community Programs, for the donation.

"With heartfelt gratitude, I want to say thank you and share the success of this trip with everyone. This trip would not have been possible without Farm Fresh Direct led by Mayra McKibbon. This trip was a truly transformative experience for our 25 participants, including both youth and parents. I just want to say thank you for

helping the 4-H Juntos program, take these children, and show them how valuable they are, and how valuable they can be in their future lives, too. Educating children is **Please see DONATION on Page 9**

From left to right, Farm Fresh Direct CEO Mike Hulett and Mayra McKibbon, Director of Workforce and Community Programs, present a check to CSU SLV Area Extension Director Larry Brown, for the SLV Extension Juntos 4-H program.

Courtesy photo



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.

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 general operating

Please see EL POMAR on Page 10

Adelante distributes school supplies to over 1,300 students

Seven different sites were located across the valley

By LA PUENTE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICE

ALAMOSA — In preparation for the school year, Adelante Family Resource Center, a program of La Puente, organized a School Supply Distribution where they distributed over 15,000 school items (not including pens and pencils) to 1,356 preK-12th grade students across seven school districts in the Valley.

To pull off this huge endeavor, Adelante partnered with American Legion 142, Bill Metz Elementary Monte Vista, City of Monte Vista, South Conejos School District, Moffat School District, Blanca Ft. Garland Rec Center, Sangre de Cristo School District, and Crestone Charter School.

"My goal for this event was not only to distribute school supplies but to provide students with the tools they need to succeed," said Tara Bay, Director of Adelante Family Resource Center.

While La Puente has hosted successful backpack



Photo courtesy of La Puente

Caroline Burkhardt, an employee of La Puente, helps a young student select items at Adelante's School Supply Distribution.

drives in previous years, it became apparent that the number of items students truly needed to thrive in the classroom exceeded what was provided. There were also issues with accessibility given the geographic size of the Valley is so large.

In revamping the event, Adelante — with the help of SLV Community Solutions — contacted local schools, identified which districts had families

Please see ADELANTE on Page 10

ASU undergraduate enrollment growth trend continues

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — Adams State University announced the institution continued to see an upward swing in undergraduate enrollment this fall, building on last year's success. The University undergraduate enrollment is up nearly 5 percent from 2023.

"This was, quite frankly, rather remarkable given the challenges we faced this year," President David Tandberg, Ph.D., said. "But we did it and we should all be proud. This is very much a cause for celebration."

Much of the increase came from part-time and non-degree students. The post-graduate enrollment in teacher education, MBA, and music education increased as well. Overall, graduate enrollment was down slightly, however students did enroll in more classes than last year.

Adams State is projecting an increase in both undergraduate and graduate students for the upcoming spring semester as well. Applications are currently being accepted and registration for the spring semester

Please see GROWTH on Page 2



Courtesy photo

Pictured, the Adams State University Class of 2029. Fall enrollment is up for the second year in a row.

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Monte Vista Clean Up Days are Sept. 27 and 28

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — The City of Monte Vista is holding its annual City Clean Up Days on Sept. 27 and 28. The city invites all residents to bring their trash and debris to the Public Works Yard at 384 Ski Hi Trail for free dump services.

Dumpsters will be set up to collect the waste. The hours for this event are Friday, Sept. 27, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, Sept 28, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“We will take all trash and debris to include household trash, wood, construction products, limbs, metal, non-refrigerant appliances (stoves, washers, dryers). We, however, cannot receive any electronics, paint, refrigerators, fuel, tires, or other items prohibited at the Landfill. This year we will take automotive batteries,” city officials stated.

City employees will not help unload debris not in a container or bagged. Employees will not climb onto any trailers or trucks.

This opportunity is only available at the Public Works Yard at 384 Ski Hi Trail in Monte Vista. This opportunity is for Monte Vista residents only.

The SLV Regional Landfill is not sponsoring this, and it is not a free dump day at the landfill. If you go to the landfill, you will be expected to pay the current rates for the debris you bring.

Prohibited wastes are:

- Hazardous waste--includes any item that would be classified as hazardous including fuel.
- Radioactive waste
- Toxic, corrosive, reactive and Ignitable waste — includes batteries and all electronics. Automobile batteries will be accepted.
- Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) waste- Polychlorinated biphenyls were widely used as dielectric and coolant fluids in electrical apparatus, cutting fluids for machining operations, carbonless copy paper and in heat transfer fluids.

- Cathode ray tubes (CRTs), central processing units, computer keyboards, VCRs from non-residential sources cannot be accepted at the land fill. Includes TVs, computers, cell phones. Effective July 1, no electronic item of any kind will be accepted at the landfill as determined by Senate bill 12-133 and defined by Regulation

GROWTH

Continued from Page 1 — begins October 30, 2024. Visit adams.edu for information or to apply.

Adams State is the most affordable residential university in Colorado when factoring in the total cost of attendance, which includes tuition and fees and room and board.

Newly appointed Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management Mark Buck said, “Understanding the entire financial process and how to approach funding one’s education can be confusing for students and parents. Simplifying and assisting students in navigating through the financial aid process will continue to be a priority for us here at Adams State.”

pursuant to Sections 1.2 and 16.5 of 6 CCR 1007-2, Part 1.

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Lori Nagel (Sunflower) Shirley Motz

Online map to the 15 participating Artists at 10 Studios!



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CLASSIFIED INDEX

ANNOUNCEMENTS 01 TICKETS 02 CARD OF THANKS 03 MEMORIALS 04 LOST & FOUND 05 NOTICES/BAZAARS 06 PERSONALS EMPLOYMENT 07 HELP WANTED 08 WORK WANTED 09 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR RENT 10 APARTMENTS 11 ROOMS 12 HOUSES 13 MOBILE HOMES 14 BUSINESS PROPERTY 15 WANTED TO RENT 16 VACATION REAL ESTATE 17 REAL ESTATE 18 LOTS & ACREAGE 19 FARM & FARMLAND 20 BUSINESS PROPERTY 21 MOBILE HOMES 22 PROPERTY WANTED	MERCHANDISE 23 LAWN & GARDEN 24 GARAGE SALES 25 AUCTIONS 26 ANTIQUES 27 APPLIANCES 28 HOUSEHOLD GOODS 29 MUSICAL ITEMS 30 ELECTRONICS/COM-PUTERS 31 HEALTH 32 FUEL & HEATING 33 BUILDING MATERIALS 34 OFFICE EQUIPMENT 35 HEAVY EQUIPMENT 36 MISCELLANEOUS 37 WANTED 38 MACHINERY, TOOLS & EQUIPMENT 39 SPORTING GOODS 40 AUTO PARTS FARMER MARKET 41 FARM EQUIPMENT 42 FEED & SEED 43 FARM PRODUCTS 44 FARM SERVICES ANIMALS	45 ANIMAL BREEDING 46 PASTURE FOR RENT 47 HORSES & CATTLE 48 PETS & SUPPLIES 49 ANIMAL CARE 50 LIVESTOCK RECREATIONAL 51 BOATS & EQUIPMENT 52 CAMPING EQUIPMENT 53 TRAILERS 54 SNOWMOBILES/ATV'S 55 R.V.'S/CAMPERS FINANCIAL 56 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY 57 INVESTMENTS TRANSPORTATION 58 MOTORCYCLES 59 VEHICLES WANTED 60 CLASSIC CARS 61 4X4'S 62 VANS 63 TRUCKS 64 AUTOS FOR SALE SERVICES 65 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES 66 CHILD CARE
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Rio Grande County is seeking a Grant Specialist to join our team. The Grant Specialist will work with federal, state, and private grants to manage programs and secure funding. They often work with a variety of staff, including department heads, financial staff, and others. Grant specialists may also be responsible for special projects. The Grant Specialist will report to the Chief Financial Officer, is an Exempt

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Found together at Rock Creek



Found together at Rock Creek

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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 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.

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

Photo courtesy of SLVH



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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

222 La Lomita Circle • South Fork

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Thinking of Selling in 2024 Expect the Best, Call Bernadette

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0254 Timberline Trail • South Fork

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



NEW PRICE

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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**



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259 Orville Way • South Fork

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

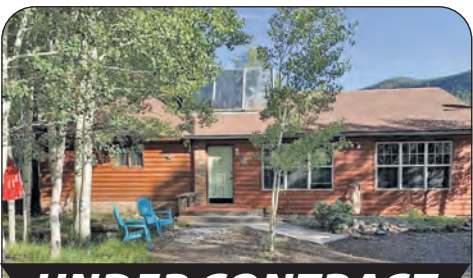


UNDER CONTRACT

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328 Fir Drive • South Fork

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



UNDER CONTRACT

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222 Bristlecone Drive • South Fork

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



NEW LISTING

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



SOLD

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461 Vista De Verde Circle • South Fork

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



NEW LISTING

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48 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

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



UNDER CONTRACT

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120 Fairway Ridge Lane • South Fork

Serenity Await in Fairway Glen, South Fork Ranches! Nestled within the coveted Fairway Glen subdivision, this 0.61-acre gem awaits your vision. Perched near the Rio Grande Club and Resort, it boasts an unrivaled vantage point overlooking Hole #11—a golfer's dream come true. Imagine waking up to sun-kissed mornings, gazing across rolling hills and pristine fairways. Whether you're sipping coffee on your future deck or planning a cozy evening by the firepit, these views will steal your heart. All utilities stand ready at the lot line, eager to serve your dream home. South Fork, a haven for outdoor enthusiasts, beckons with adventure. Within minutes, you'll find: Tee off at the Rio Grande Club & Resort's 18-hole course, where fairways merge seamlessly with mountain vistas. Chase winter thrills at Wolf Creek Ski area—powder days and après-ski stories await. Lace up your hiking boots or hop on an ATV—the nearby trails lead to hidden lakes, wildflower meadows, and secret overlooks. Cast your line into the Rio Grande River, where trout dance and rafting adventures unfold. Don't miss out! Call today to schedule a private showing. Let's turn this canvas of land into your forever retreat. **MLS#816135 - \$64,000**



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Creede Salsa Fest winners announced



Courtesy photos

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DONATION Continued from Page 1

so important to me. Thank you so much. I truly appreciate what you have done.”

Gurule described how the trip was an extraordinary adventure for everyone who attended.

“It all began with a journey to Pueblo. Our group stayed at a Holiday Inn. We took the kids on an inspiring tour of Colorado State University, Pueblo. The tour offered a glimpse into college life for the kids, and really ignited excitement in them about future educational possibilities,” she said.

Gurule said the staff that gave the tour was enthusiastic with the kids, and the tour was memorable from start to finish.

“Following the tour, we enjoyed lunch at Pack Café, located on the university grounds,” she said.

Gurule said lunch was a wonderful way for families and children to get together and reflect on their tour and on the beginning of the day’s events.

Gurule then described a boat tour that was taken of the historic Arkansas River Walk in Pueblo.

“It was a relaxing way to take in all the scenic beauty and rich history of the area,” she said.

Gurule said that dinner was then held for the kids with their choice of either Angelo’s Pizza Pie or Old Chicago Pizza.

“Dinner offered the families a chance to unwind and discuss their experiences for the day, too,” she said.

Gurule said that the next day the kids were all taken to the Colorado State Fair, where they looked at 4-H projects that

were showcased from all around Colorado, including the San Luis Valley counties. Gurule said that the kids had fun exploring all the project areas, including the Creative Cooks Contest, Public Presentations Contests, and several pavilions, including the Agricultural Pavilion, East Horse Area, and Small Animal Pavilion.

“Each exhibit offered a window into the skills and hard work of 4-H members, reinforcing the value of their dedication,” said Gurule.

Gurule said that the trip was a success for the 4-H Juntos group.

“The success of this trip would not have been possible without the astounding support from Farm Fresh Direct and the leadership of Mayra McKibbon. The positive feedback from families underscores the impact of this opportunity, highlighting the invaluable experiences gained by our Juntos 4-H youth. Throughout the trip, we ensured that all logistical needs were meticulously handled, including transportation, meals, and accommodations, allowing our participants to fully engage in these enriching experiences, all due to this wonderful donation,” she said.

Gurule said she was grateful to McKibbon and Farm Fresh Direct for their commitment and support for local initiatives.

“Thank you for making this trip a memorable and educational experience for all involved,” she said.

For more information about Juntos 4-H, contact Gurule at the CSU Extension Office at 719-852-7381.



The Colorado State University San Luis Valley Area Extension Office’s 4-H Juntos group poses for a photo during their trip to Pueblo on Aug. 23 and 24. Courtesy photo

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



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CLUES ACROSS

1. A way to pick up
5. Presents
10. Type of guitar
14. Actor Idris
15. A citizen of Iran
16. Creative
17. Harness
18. Weight unit
19. You better call him
20. Utterly devoted
22. Male cat
23. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
24. Risk-taker
27. A team’s best pitcher
30. Cool!
31. Women’s ___ movement
32. Georgia rockers
35. Step-shaped recess
37. The princess could detect its presence
38. Type of truck
39. Butterhead lettuces
40. Angry people see it
41. Lines where two fabrics are sewn together
42. Soviet city
43. Carpet
44. Traveled all over
45. Thin, straight bar
46. Body art (slang)
47. Congressman (abbr.)
48. No seats available
49. Breaks apart
52. Arabic name
55. Ballplayer’s tool
56. Type of sword
60. Baseball team
61. Upper bract of grass floret

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22				23				
			24		25				26					
27	28	29		30				31				32	33	34
35			36			37				38				
39					40				41					
42					43				44					
45				46				47				48		
			49				50				51			
52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60						61			62		63			
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

63. Italian Seaport
64. Ancient Syrian city
65. Shoelace tube
66. The Miami mascot is one
67. South American nation
68. Popular video game “Max ___”
69. Body part

CLUES DOWN

1. German courtesy title
2. Ancient Greek City
3. Ancient Hebrew calendar month
4. Long-legged frog family
5. Photo
6. Delivered a speech
7. Lute in classical Indian music
8. Decorated
9. Take a seat
10. Belonging to a bottom layer
11. Member of a Semitic people
12. Part of a ticket
13. Defunct Guinean money
21. Challenges
23. Popular BBQ food
25. Subway dweller
26. By way of
27. Shady garden alcove
28. Egyptian city
29. Partner to “flowed”
32. Widens
33. Old Eurasian wheat
34. Act incorrectly
36. European pipeline
37. Al Bundy’s wife
38. Ocean
40. Root eaten as a vegetable
41. Sound units
43. Style of music
44. A way to drench
46. Hot beverage
47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
49. Rumanian city
50. Urge to action
51. Vaccine developer
52. Canadian law enforcers
53. Wings
54. “Perry Mason” actor Raymond
57. Small fry
58. ___ Clapton, musician
59. Take a chance
61. Bland food
62. Consumed

Solution to last week’s puzzle

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

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Photo courtesy of La Puente

Line outside of Bill Metz Elementary School for the local School Supplies Distribution. Monte Vista was one of seven districts served.

ADELNTE

Continued from Page 1

with the most need, consulted schools' supplies lists, and ordered supplies that specifically met grade requirements. Going one step further, providing several distribution sites across the Valley enabled more families to take advantage of this opportunity. People traveled to Antonito, San Luis, Mosca, Fort Garland, Monte Vista, Crestone, and Moffat to participate. Students chose their own grade-specific supplies, resulting in some students who left with a backpack full of everything pink, from pencil sharpeners to scissors to notebooks.

state, with a poverty rate estimated at around 21.4%. Adelante saw the need of the community and felt they had the resources to meet that need. Based on the reviews from attendees, Adelante got an A plus.

Adelante Family Resource Center is a program of La Puente that promotes the empowerment and stabilization of families. Adelante-supported families are offered individualized assistance to navigate resources and reach their goals. Services include assistance with housing, case management, referrals, improved access to counseling, and family advocacy.

A family with 6 school-aged children praised the event saying, "This is a great program that's supporting the community. We really appreciate it!"

Through supporting families as they seek to improve their quality of life and achieve healthy interdependence, Adelante seeks to be a resource center for all families who wish to flourish, especially those who need a bit of extra support to make their dreams a reality.

According to a May CBS poll of 1,200 U.S. based parents of school-aged children, parents planned to spend an average of \$586 per child on school items in 2024. According to data from the University of Colorado-Denver School of Public Affairs, the San Luis Valley is one of the poorest rural areas in the

To learn more about Adelante Family Resource, visit lapuentehome.org/adelante or call 719-587-0538.

EL POMAR

Continued from Page 1

support.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

To increase impact and establish connections across the entire state, 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.

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.

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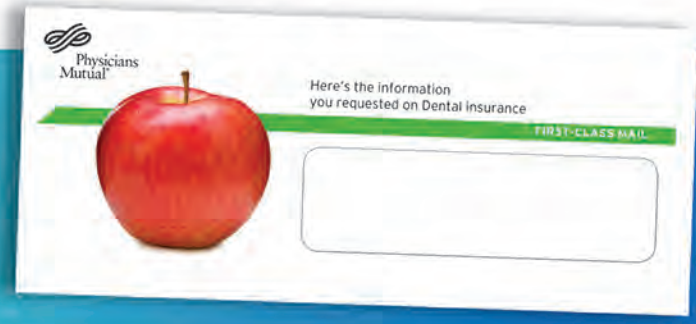
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Colorado Snowmobile Grant Program to provide over \$1M for winter trail grooming, equipment and maintenance

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 use 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.”

SLV Veterans plan annual parade in Alamosa

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 or 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.

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.

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Creede Mountain Run 2024 results posted

50k
 Women
 Molly DeLallo, Eagle, 34, 5:53:00*
 Gina Myers, Truckee, Calif. 29, 6:05:00*
 Andrea Rotz, Nathrop, 39, 6:44:00*
 Men
 Cully Brown, Eagle, 29, 5:01:00*
 Trevor Abeyta, Golden, 33, 5:58:00*
 Matt Smith, Nathrop, 39, 6:06:00
 22 miles
 Women
 Teresa Shiflett, Del Norte, 38, 4:29:00
 Carla Christ, Alamosa, 38, 5:21:00
 Marti Kovener, Salida, 60, 5:51:00
 Men
 Devon Connor, Erie, 30, 4:02:00
 Brian Stevens, Arvada, 49, 4:33:00
 Nathan Johnson, Colorado Springs, 33, 5:12:00
 12 miles

Women
 Kate Michaels, Creede, 40, 2:05:00*
 Katie Roos, Albuquerque, N.M., 31, 2:15:00
 Emily Novotny, Billings, Mont., 20, 2:24:00
 Men
 Ilyas Taraki, Albuquerque, N.M., 28, 1:36:00*
 Max Muller, Alamosa, 25, 1:38:00*
 Rex Schlosser, Golden, 31, 1:43:00
 2 miles
 Women
 Megan Parton, Los Alamos, N.M., 38, 0:18:59
 Devon Durrer, White Rock, N.M., 36, 0:19:49
 Emily Warwick, Stillwater, Okla., 36, 0:23:06
 Men
 Nash Flood, Aurora, 27, 0:21:31
 Liam Johnson, Sanford, 11, 0:22:51
 Brent Ganzer, Georgetown, 49, 0:25:29
 *indicates new course record placement (first, second, or third best time)



Photo courtesy of Creede Chamber of Commerce

The Creede Mountain Run 50k race was all-star this year. The top three women all broke the previous first place record, and the first two men did the same. Records were set for the 12-mile race as well. Pictured left to right are the top two men and top two women for the 12-mile race runners: Max Muller of Alamosa, Ilyas Taraki of Albuquerque, N.M., Katie Roos of Albuquerque, N.M., and Kate Michaels of Creede.

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 \$850,000 | MLS #815205
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-VIRAL VIDEO

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