

THE SOUTH FORK TIMES

Gateway to the Silver Thread

Volume 96, Number 39 Thursday, September 26, 2024 South Fork, Colorado 81154 75¢

MORSELS

DNFPD to discuss public safety sales tax

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Fire Protection District will be holding an informational meeting at 7 p.m. on Oct. 8, in the old Tiger Field House, 955 French St., Del Norte, to discuss the possibility of a public safety sales tax. Every resident in the fire protection district is invited to attend and share their comments. For more information, contact Ryan Haynie with the Del Norte Fire Protection District at 719-850-0656.

City of Alamosa fall large item pickup

ALAMOSA — To help facilitate fall cleanup efforts, the City of Alamosa will be offering a large item trash pickup from Oct. 14 through Oct. 17 for City trash customers.

Call the Public Works office before Thursday, Oct. 10, at 719-589-6631 to schedule a pickup time. Pickup of no more than three large items will be offered during this time.

Tires, hazardous material or electronic devices cannot be accepted. Refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners must have the Freon removed and the red tag placed on them prior to the time of pickup. Lawn debris must be bagged separately for composting.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department.

Faculty Lecture focuses on film music, wormholes

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Faculty Lecture “Film Music and Wormholes,” by Chelsea Oden, D.M.A., adjunct professor of music, begins at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 26, in McDaniel Hall 101. The lecture is free and open to the public.

The lecture delves into music that underscores sci-fi media. Exploring harmony, melody, timbre and even silence, the lecture will take a close look at scenes from the “Star Trek” franchise, “Farscape,” and “Futurama,” among others. Through analysis, Oden will demonstrate how music of wormholes is multi-dimensional, linear, immersive, and eerily physical. “If you love music, film, and science fiction, add this event to your horizon.”

For more information on the Faculty Lecture Series, contact Jess Gagliardi at 719-587-8921 or jgagliardi@adams.edu.

ASU recognizes Ortega’s commitment to service



By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — “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

Please see ORTEGA on Page 2A

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

Tunnel drainage improvements to US 160 on Wolf Creek Pass began

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), *Please see WOLF CREEK on Page 2A*

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.

CDOT photo



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The 16th annual Cruisin’ the Canyon Car Show was this past weekend in Creede and brought vintage cars of all makes and models to the small mountain town.

Cruisin’ the Canyon draws classics and crowds

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

CREEDE — Saturday morning, Sept. 21, kicked off with low hanging clouds, the threat of rain, and Main Street in Creede lined with classic vehicles of all shapes and sizes.

Chrome glistened in the soft light and people viewed over 75 cars to the beat of golden oldies from the speakers placed downtown.

Most of the day remained dry as the Creede Cruisin’ the Canyon Car

Show took center stage. People came from all over the US to visit this small mountain town, enjoy the changing fall colors and get a glimpse of the classic cars and trucks.

Please see CRUISIN’ on Page 4A

RG Hospital conducting health assessment beginning in October

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

RIO GRANDE COUNTY — Rio Grande Hospital will be conducting its health assessment in October. This gives health officials in Rio Grande County the opportunity to gauge how to best serve the community and the best way to offer health and wellness to all in need.

The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is an ongoing process in which Rio Grande Hospital (RGH) evaluates the health needs of the community and develops strategies to address them. RGH must complete this every three years (along with other non-profit hospital organizations) to help identify community health needs. CHNA is an Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

Please see HEALTH on Page 2A

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WOLF CREEK

Continued from Page 1A

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

HEALTH

Continued from Page 1A

requirement.

The first meeting will review previous CHNA and review how the community has benefited from it. The survey will also be released to help RGH determine its challenges and opportunities. The survey (available on October 10) will help RGH analyze and develop the focus of the following community health improvement plan. A QR code will be released at the beginning of October bringing participants to the CHNA.

The second meeting will review the survey. RGH will have focus group sessions with facilitators, community members, and partners; key information based on our

survey findings will help assess community needs. At the third and final meeting, the hospital will share the implementation strategy.

The dates are Oct. 10, Nov. 14, and Dec. 12. Every meeting is on a Thursday at the Rio Grande Wellness Center, 310D County Road 14, Del Norte. There is a complimentary meal at 5:30 p.m., and the session begins at 6 p.m.

"Feedback from our community members received through the survey is vital in helping us improve. We ask that you please commit to attending all three meetings," said RGH Development and Communications Officer Eva Timberlake.

ORTEGA

Continued from Page 1A

institution forward, such as serving on our Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Advisory Committee, and as president of our alumni board."

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.

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 Guitierrez 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

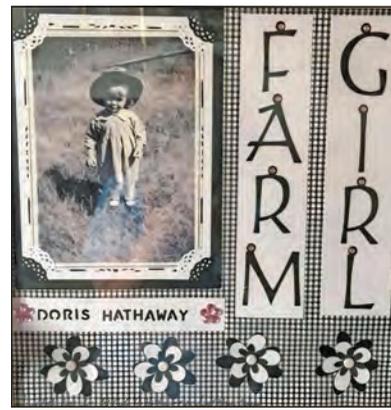
Kenneth Lee Kane, 84, departed this life on Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024. He was born Oct. 31, 1939, in Doniphan, Mo., to the late Earl and Lora (Hayes) Kane.

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



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



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.

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OCT 9th**

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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.

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.

The look of complete and total disdain on their part toward me was funny to behold and "Alvin," the chipmunk with the short tail, stood up on the wood wall of the blind and scolded me for a good while. Needless to say, I made sure to have a package of almonds each day since and they



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

have 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.



Photo by Matt Smith

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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-

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.

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.

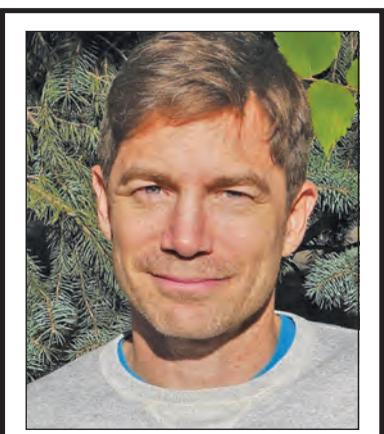
Trail work has changed a lot in 39 years. Back then we built water bars to stop erosion from runoff. Logs anchored into slopes sluiced water off trails but required annual maintenance. Now, water moves off trail through "grade reversals." The trail swoops below grade, efficiently shunting water off the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

My fellow volunteers were largely thru-hikers, skilled backcountry voyageurs 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.

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

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



Writers on the Range
by Dave Marston

became free-store proprietors. But there 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.



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NWTF, Forest Service expand Wildfire Crisis Strategy in Colorado

Impact will be seen in Rio Grande National Forest

CONTRIBUTED

EDGEFIELD, S.C. — The National Wild Turkey Federation and the USDA Forest Service Region 2, encompassing national forests across Colorado and Wyoming, recently signed an agreement to build upon ongoing work in the region under the National Master Stewardship Agreement.

Accelerating the pace and scale of forest stewardship across the West, this additional agreement, part of the broader Wildfire Crisis Strategy, will remove timber, providing business to local mills for the retention of current forest business infrastructure necessary to carry out forest restoration work.

As an integral part of the broader landscape-scale Lagarita Hills

Restoration Project in Colorado, the Saguache Spruce Stewardship Project will play a pivotal role in tackling the long-lasting effects of the spruce beetle epidemic that has devastated the region for more than a decade.

The Saguache Spruce Stewardship Project will enhance forest health and reduce fuel loading across approximately 3,411 acres on the Rio Grande National Forest, the majority of which have been severely impacted by the spruce beetle outbreak. The project will involve the harvesting of dead Engelmann spruce within the designated project area, promoting forest stand resiliency and age-class diversity.

“By removing standing and downed dead trees, we’re not only reducing the risk of devastating wildfires but also improving wildlife habitat and protecting downstream watersheds,” said Brian Russell, NWTF wildfire crisis coordinator for Region 2.

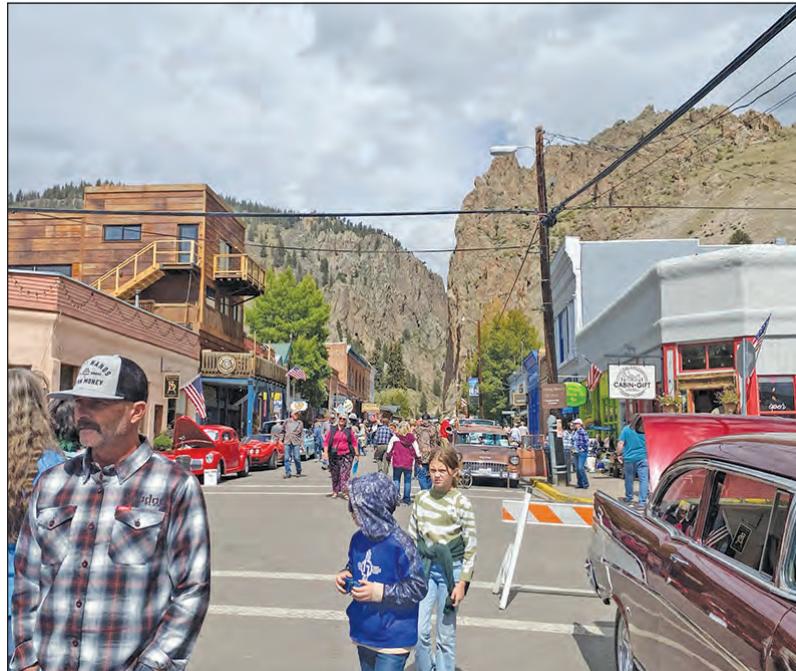
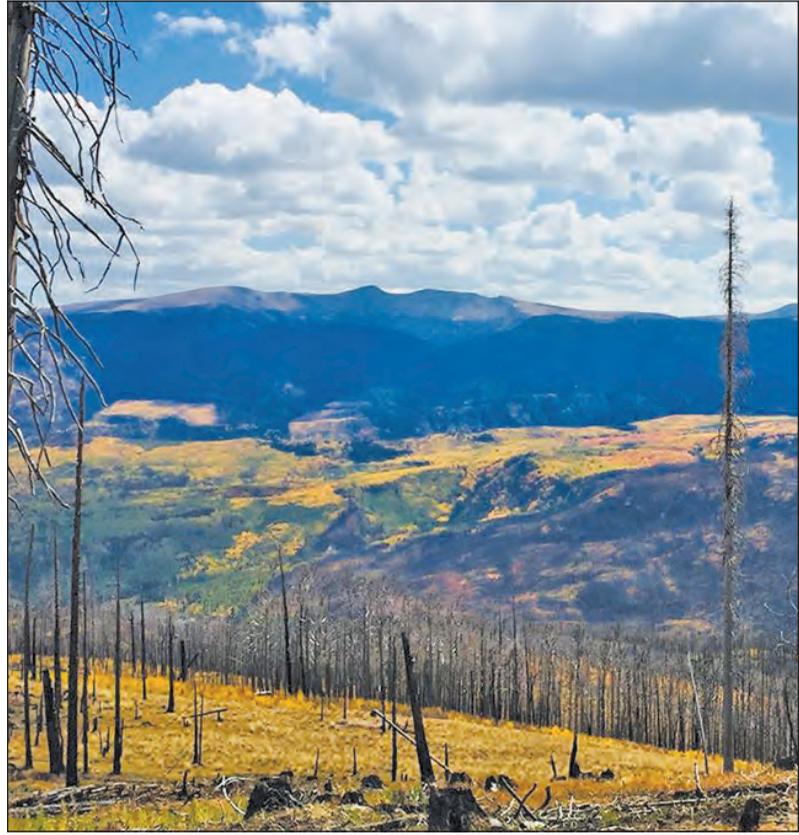
The forest products generated

from this project will be directed to local sawmills and wood processing facilities, ensuring that the critical infrastructure for forest product utilization remains intact. This is essential for the long-term success of future forest restoration efforts in the region.

In addition to the Saguache Spruce Stewardship Project, NWTF Wildfire Crisis Strategy staff will collaborate with Forest Service Region 2 staff this fall to develop a regional strategy. This strategy will focus on addressing wildfire risks, retaining wood products processing infrastructure and expanding workforce capacity to carry out forest restoration work.

A portion of the Wildfire Crisis Strategy involves removing fuel loads in parts of national forests across Colorado and Wyoming.

Photo courtesy of USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountains



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

The Creede Art Council hosted its 5th annual Steamroller Printmaking event on Saturday, Sept. 21, in Creede.

CRUISIN'

Continued from Page 1A

For the past 16 years, this car show has been the highlight of the start of the fall season in Creede and thanks to the efforts of Vicki Kulyk and her husband Nick, it serves to fill the gap between summer and the hunting seasons, bringing much-needed revenue and fun to Creede.

The Creede 4-H group was also out and about on Saturday filling the bellies of the wandering crowd, beginning with breakfast in the morning and then switching to lunch in the afternoon. The organization is a huge part of community service in Creede and offers unique opportunities to youth throughout the area.

In addition to 4-H and the main car show, the Creede Art Council hosted its 5th annual Steamroller Printmaking event. This is a wonderful opportunity to highlight local artists in a unique and entertaining way, and as the event unfolded over the years, it has grown in popularity, bringing a crowd to Creede every year.

As the afternoon wore on, car show participants gathered near Basham Park for the award announcements before heading off into the coming rain for a drive along the Silver Thread Scenic Byway and a late lunch at Freeman's General Store.

The car show winners are as follows, Best of Show was sponsored and made by Clark Auto and went to a 1969 Chevy Camaro, owned by Jeff Lawyer, of Littleton; the Don Pacheco Award went to the 1968 Plymouth Satellite Sport, owned by Ben Martinez, of Capulin; and the People's Choice award, sponsored by The Holy Moses

went to the 1955 Chevy Belair, owned by Sid and Charlene Shepard, of Sanford.

Next up for Creede will be the

annual Chocolate Festival at the end of November. For more information or a full schedule of events, visit www.creede.com.

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San Luis Valley Scoreboard 2023 -2024

Football

Sanford 42	Fowler 28
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
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New exercise pad open in Del Norte

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — Through the combined effort of the Rio Grande County Public Health Department, the Town of Del Norte, and Rio Grande Hospital, a new Fitness Court Studio has opened in the Del Norte Centennial Park.

A small crowd comprised of staff members, local leaders, law enforcement, first responders, local students, members of the public and state representatives gathered on Sept. 18 to celebrate the grand opening of the Fitness Court Studio. It was an afternoon marked with sentiments of providing healthy opportunities to the community and highlighting how important wellness is to Del Norte.

The ceremony featured keynote speakers from several organizations, including SLV Early Childhood Council member Kathryn Trujillo and Kristin Love, who started the afternoon off with a welcome speech.

“First we would like to thank Rio Grande County Public Health, UHealth, National Fitness Campaign, the Town of Del Norte, and Rio Grande Hospital for their support in bringing this important program to our community and for recognizing the need to support healthy lifestyles for all Coloradans.”

Next to speak was Rio Grande County Administrator Skip Schoen.

“As the administrator of Rio Grande County, it is my great pleasure to help celebrate the grand opening of this state-of-the-art outdoor Fitness Court Studio, a remarkable new addition that we are proud to have right here in Rio Grande County,” he said.

Schoen spoke about the importance of making health a wellness a priority in communities big and small and to allow those who are seeking a healthier lifestyle access to healthy living without having to afford expensive equipment or gym memberships.

Rio Grande Hospital CEO Arlene Harms said that the installation of the fitness court studio came just in time to support the vision of wellness throughout the community.

“I was so excited when Rio Grande County Public Health Department Director Dr. Bankole asked if we wanted to offer support for this project. We at the hospital feel like this is an extension of our mission at the hospital as well. We want our community to understand how important it is to move from treating someone who is sick to helping them prevent illness. It’s time to move to wellness,” she said.

Health and Wellness Coordinator Esteban Salazar, with SLVGO added, “This is a milestone moment for your community, and I couldn’t be more excited about the opportunities this fitness court will bring to all of you. At San Luis Valley Great Outdoors, it is our mission to connect people to the great outdoors, promote healthy lifestyles and protect our natural environments. This Fitness Court Studio fits perfectly with our vision. It’s more than just a place for exercise, it’s a place where people can experience the benefits of outdoor recreation.”

The final speaker was Colorado State Representative for District 62, Matthew Martinez.

“As the State Representative for House District 62, I am proud to see projects like this come to life right here in Rio Grande County. This serves as a model of what is possible when communities, local leaders and organizations come together to promote health and wellbeing. This Fitness Court Studio isn’t just a facility. It’s a testament to our shared belief that the power of public health and the importance of providing access to the tools people need can lead to healthier lives,” Martinez said.

The remainder of the afternoon

was dedicated to demonstrations on the fitness court by members of law enforcement, first responders, staff members with Rio Grande Public Health Department, and students from the Upper Rio Grande School District.

A shoutout went to Ryan Scavo, owner of Big River Collective, who provided the photography installed on the west side of the Fitness Court Studio depicting a scene of the Rio Grande at sunset.

The Fitness Court Studio is the result of a partnership between Rio Grande County Public Health (with Town of Del Norte and Rio Grande Hospital as partners), UHealth and NFC to expand free access to high-quality workouts, creating equitable access to exercise for communities around the state. The Fitness Court Studio delivers the powerful seven minutes full body workout on one side and a versatile outdoor class area for enjoying yoga, Zumba, pilates, and other group wellness activities on the opposite side.

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



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

A new Fitness Court Studio has opened in Centennial Park in Del Norte. A ribbon cutting was held on Sept. 18.



Left: Attending the grand opening of the Fitness Court Studio in Centennial Park in Del Norte on Sept. 18 were from left to right, Colorado State Representative for District 62, Matthew Martinez, Rio Grande Hospital CEO Arlene Harms and Rio Grande County Public Health Department Director Dr. Kolawole Bankole.



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

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DA, ADA, top cops in SLV discuss trends in crime

Violent crimes are not increasing; drug felonies are up 20%

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — When Anne Kelly was first appointed and then elected as the district attorney for the 12th Judicial District, she made a promise to the public to be transparent. Kelly made good on that promise Thursday night, Sept. 19, with a forum on violence in Alamosa, organized in response to a spate of violent crimes this summer.

For close to two hours, Kelly, Assistant District Attorney Wes Stafford, Alamosa Police Department Chief George Dingfelder and Alamosa County Sheriff Robert Jackson weighed in on the job of fighting crime and enforcing the law in the San Luis Valley and then took questions from the public.

“Even though cites show an increase in violence in Alamosa,” Kelly said, “I’m going to share with you some trends across the years that come from our office to give you a bigger and better picture of what’s happening.”

Kelly shared data about cases filed by her office since 2020, clarifying the data reflects cases that are filed and are not reflective of cases the sheriff’s office or police department have responded to.

In what may have come as a surprise to those who attended, Kelly painted a picture of crime rates that, with some exceptions, are not increasing.

She started off discussing homicides and murders, which includes first- and second-degree murder, first- and second-degree attempted murder, vehicular homicide, criminal negligence, and manslaughter.

Within that category, there were 14 homicides and murders in 2020, seven in 2021, 19 in 2022, 10 in 2023, and 15 in 2024.

“In 2024, five people were charged in the murder of one victim, so there have actually been 10 cases filed,” she said. She then added that, in 2024, they are projecting a total of 18 homicide and murder cases to be filed.

The question was asked about the numbers being presented in a “per 100,000” figure, and Kelly had the data to answer.

In Denver, the rate was 1: 5,200; in Arapahoe County, which includes Aurora, the rate was 1:7,200. In Alamosa, that ratio was 1:3,700, which Kelly described as high. But she also added that comparing those numbers was like apples to oranges as a ratio of 1:3,700 is felt much more deeply than in Denver or Arapahoe County because the community is smaller.

Steady crime rates cannot be said for felony drug cases, which are up by about 20% since last year, a fact

she attributes to the prevalence of fentanyl.

“It’s very cheap to make. It’s highly addictive and very easy to traffic and more fentanyl is being trafficked in the Valley. It just is,” she said.

In response, the DA’s office has spent “many more resources” to better investigate, build stronger cases and to get more cases filed against major traffickers. She also discussed the Drug Task Force, which includes seven agents from multiple law enforcement agencies who work collaboratively in identifying the major drug traffickers and devote more resources in going after them.

“Unlike my predecessor,” Kelly says, she prioritizes her cases with consideration toward prosecuting major drug traffickers.

In what may feel counter to public perception, property crimes have decreased by 13% in comparison to 2020. She attributes that to more proactive policing.

Kelly also discussed a change she has made in policy. After two years in the Valley, she is more familiar with those individuals who are “the most dangerous offenders.” With that in mind, the DA’s office is going to start charging more of those defendants with habitual criminal counts, which increases the maximum sentence by three or four times for each count a defendant is convicted of committing.



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner
APD Chief George Dingfelder, ACSO Sheriff Robert Jackson and Assistant District Attorney Wes Stafford listen as DA Anne Kelly addresses the audience.

She emphasizes that the office is still committed to diversion and not prosecuting crimes that are committed because of addiction, with an emphasis on getting the person help.

In contrast, she cites an example of someone who is charged with assault with a deadly weapon and, in looking through his criminal history, sees numerous previous convictions for similar crimes.

“This guy is not getting the message. We have this tool to go after this guy and make sure he’s not a danger to the community anymore. Each case will be handled with discretion and all attorneys in the DA’s office will be involved,” she said.

When she asked for feedback from the audience, the response was largely positive. People looked at the approach as “pro-active,” “necessary,” and it sends a good message of what the community will tolerate.

ADA Wes Stafford gave a broad overview of how the bond system

works, as the DA’s office is taking different action in that area, as well. One of the goals is to stop the revolving door that often happens when, while on bond, a person commits more crimes. Example, if a person commits a felony and, while out on bond, commits another felony, they’re asking the judge to take that into consideration in revoking bond or adding another condition to bond.

Chief Dingfelder and Sheriff Jackson addressed questions about morale among officers – both said the job is tough, but morale is pretty good. There were additional questions about what the community can do to help, and the response was unanimous.

“If you see something, say something.” They also spoke about the enormous value of having responders and victim advocates.

By the end of the evening, it was agreed that forums like what happened Thursday night hold value for keeping the public informed and will be held again in the future.

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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RMS, Town of Del Norte give update on downtown project

By LYNSIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — Now that summer is ending, Del Norte has stepped back from the busy season to see what has been accomplished since the downtown project began at the beginning of August. Over the past several weeks, the town has navigated construction during the busiest time of year and the hope that when the dust settles, downtown Del Norte will be a showstopper for visitors.

Project Manager Neff Malouff with RMS Utilities Inc. Sat down with the Del Norte Prospector to give an update and to talk about the next phases of the project.

“We actually made a lot of progress and though I know it’s been hard on downtown businesses, they have been wonderful to work with. We are moving right along and should be on to the next phase of the project before the first real freeze,” Malouff said.

Malouff was joined by Town of Del Norte Public Works Director Kevin Larimore, who has been working with RMS Utilities and helping to make sure the project stays on track.

“We are right on schedule and are



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

Work on downtown Del Norte started in August. RMS Utilities says the project is moving along nicely.

looking forward to finishing the first part of this project. Our next step will be to move back to Cherry Street and begin work on the south side of the highway by spring,” Larimore said.

According to Malouff and Larimore, the streetlights should be arriving by late October to the beginning of

November which will be a pivotal time for the project.

“It will give us a chance to really see how this is going to look. We have the benches and trash receptacles ordered and those will be the next things to be installed,” said Larimore.

Malouff said they received questions



Town of Del Norte Public Works Director Kevin Larimore says the next step of the downtown project will be begin work on the south side of the highway by spring of 2025.

about the cutouts lining the sidewalks that contain black rock and was happy to explain, “They are flower beds. We wanted to be sure to include a natural element to the project and will be working with a local gardener to get some vegetation installed.”

RMS Utilities and the Town of Del Norte would also like to remind the public that the businesses along Grande Avenue are open and there is access to all of the businesses through the alleyways.

“There is plenty of parking and side streets that take guests to businesses while construction is underway. We are also here to answer any questions or to help however we can. We have

a small window to complete projects like this and unfortunately it takes a toll on the businesses,” said Malouff.

Malouff also wanted to ask that people crossing the highway cross at 5th Street and use the light.

“That is the safest location for anyone crossing the highway right now. We want everyone to be safe,” Malouff said.

Beyond those few recommendations, the project is right on track and the first phase is expected to be completed before the snow flies. For more information, contact RMS Utilities at www.rmsutilities.com or the Town of Del Norte at 719-657-2708.

Preliminary hearing 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 shooting. 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.

The Secret to Your Best Life

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 13:31, 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

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



been because I don’t spend all my time thinking about what I want, what I think, and how I feel. The truth is, you can’t be happy if the center of your life is you!

Imagine how different the world would be if everyone would just do one nice thing to help someone else every day. It can be so simple to put a smile on someone’s face. Give a compliment, give something away, take the time to listen, open a door for someone, let someone go before you in line at the store...the list could go on and on.

Make it your business to regularly reach out to people around you, encouraging them and meeting their needs as you are able to do it. Be determined each day to do at least one thing for someone else that makes their life better. Trust me: You’ll discover that serving God by loving others is the most wonderful, exciting thing you can do!

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s three-part teaching resource **Do Unto Others**. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including **BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND** and **OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (FaithWords)**. She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide*. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org

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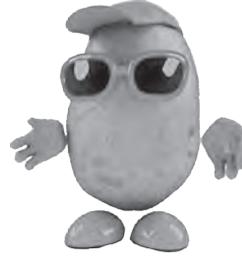
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Farm Fresh Direct makes \$5,000 donation to 4-H Juntos

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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Crestone Artists Open Studio Tour

October 12th and 13th
12 PM - 5 PM

Preview Reception
Shumei International Institute is happy to host this year's **Studio Tour Opening**
3 to 5 pm on Friday, October 11th
3000 East Dreamway Road in Crestone



Lori Nagel (Sunflower) Shirley Motz

Online map to the 15 participating Artists at 10 Studios!



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October 7-12, 2024



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05 Notices

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

07 Help Wanted

Colorado State University San Luis Valley Research Center in Center, CO, seeks Farm Manager, full-time salaried w/benefits. Min. requirements include experience managing an entity involved in research, agricultural production or related commercial enterprise environment. Read full job description and apply online by 09/30/2024 for full consideration at: <https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/150505>. CSU is an EO/EA/AA employer and conducts background checks on all final candidates. (10-16)

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

Full-Time Position, will receive County benefits of Annual & Sick Leave, Retirement and Health Insurance. Wage/Salary Range is \$59,133.00 - \$65,248.00 per year DOE. Please submit your application to humanresources@riograndecounty.org or drop it off at 925 6th Street, Rm 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Deadline to apply for the Grant Specialist position is 4PM on October 11, 2024 (10-16)

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

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

investigations occur indoors and outdoors facilities such as residential homes, restaurants, swimming pools, public schools, penal institutions, childcare facilities, nursing homes, body art facilities, cannabis/hemp facilities, campgrounds, mobile home parks, public accommodations, bars/lounges, etc. On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Inspectors are assigned primary responsibilities in specific environmental programs but are required to possess knowledge of all programs in order to respond to public health emergencies. Starting salary of \$25/hour depending on experience and qualifications. Saguache County offers an exceptional benefits package including health, dental, vision insurance with

an option for a Health Savings Account. Employees enjoy paid vacation, sick leave, 11 holidays. Saguache County is an equal opportunity employer. Saguache County is an EEO employer. Valid Driver's License, Drug testing which includes marijuana, and a background check will be required also a physical exam may be required for final applicants. To view the job description and an application they are available at Saguache County Administration office 505 3rd Street, Saguache or printable at www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov. Call 719-655-2231 for more information. Position opened until filled. (10-9)

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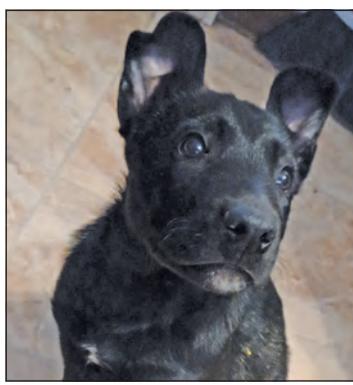
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Found on 9/18 on 5th and Tyndall in Monte Vista



Found on 9/18 on 5th and Tyndall in Monte Vista



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

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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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Stunning Home on 137 Acres
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San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

222 La Lomita Circle • South Fork

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



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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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48 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

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



UNDER CONTRACT

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1408 Bear Creek Circle • South Fork

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



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120 Fairway Ridge Lane • South Fork

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



NEW LISTING!

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259 Orville Way • South Fork

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



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328 Fir Drive • South Fork

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



UNDER CONTRACT

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222 Bristlecone Drive • South Fork

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



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193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

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



SOLD

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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**



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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

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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.

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!"

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

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.

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.

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

EL POMAR Continued from Page 1

support.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. in Alamosa was awarded \$3,000 for expansion of behavioral health services for youth and families and \$1,000 for general operating support.

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

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

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.

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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.

San Luis Valley Area Real Estate

INCREDIBLE VIEWS

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

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

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SOLD!

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

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NEW PRICE!

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

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

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OWNER FINANCE!

Approx. 6 Acres, Beautiful Views in Bear Creek
 \$87,000 | MLS #803984
 61 Red Tail Court South Fork, CO

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Custom mtn cabin + adjacent full apartment
 \$499,000 | MLS # 815469 VRBO ok with permit
 595 Aspen Dr. South Fork, CO

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-VIRAL VIDEO

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

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SOLD!

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

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Affordable home on 1.5 acres in South Fork
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3 bed 2 bath home in South Fork - HUGE garage/shop
 \$275,000 MLS # TBD Easy Access to Hwy
 37 Shoshone Trail South Fork, CO

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NEW LISTING!

6 lots with a WELL, 50 amp RV hookup & gravel pad
 \$92,000 | MLS # 818035 Near Natl Forest
 999 Vail Pass Rd. South Fork, CO

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