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News in Brief

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.

SLV 4-H Judging Teams shine in Texas

By MARIE MCCOLM
MONTE VISTA — On Friday, Sept. 20, the SLV 4-H Livestock Senior and Junior Judging Teams competed in the Tri State Fair Livestock Judging Contest in Amarillo, Texas. The Senior Team placed eighth out of 54 teams and the Junior team placed 16th out of 42 teams, according to a press release from the Colorado State University San Luis Valley Area Extension Office. The teams were coached by Eric Hinton and Janae Naranjo. There were 121 total participants in the competition.

The SLV 4-H Junior Team (ages 8-13) was comprised of Tynnley Burh, Macklie Sims, and Ashley Entz. Burh placed second highest in the individual "Sheep and Goats Category," and Entz placed 10th in "Oral Reasons." The SLV 4-H Senior Team (ages 14-18) was comprised of Durae Naranjo. *Please see TEAMS on Page 8A*

SLV 4-H Senior Livestock Judging Team from left to right: Coach Eric Hinton, Durae Naranjo, Emily Seger, Darian Vance, Tiffany LePlatt and Coach Janae Naranjo.



Courtesy photo



Monte Vista City Manager Gigi Dennis cuts the ribbon at Thursday's ceremony celebrating the fast-charging EV stations in downtown Monte Vista. The city worked with Xcel Energy on the project.

Ribbon cutting held for EV charging stations

City of MV worked with Xcel Energy on the project

By MARIE MCCOLM
MONTE VISTA — The City of Monte Vista, Xcel Energy and the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for the city's first public electric vehicle charging stations on Thursday, Sept. 26, in the parking lot at the corner of First Avenue and Jefferson Street. MV City Manager Gigi Dennis said, "I want to thank all of you for being here today, for the celebration of

our electronic charging stations. This is a project that Xcel brought to the city, as a means to have more charging stations on highways. Monte Vista previously did not have any charging stations. So, this investment in four fast-charging stations means a lot. We would have sought out grant funds, and we probably couldn't have done it, so we appreciate the partnership with Xcel and what you are doing for the community." Dennis said she was appreciative of how the charging stations created additional economic opportunities for the city. "People will stop, they will charge, they will make *Please see CHARGING on Page 2A*

Photo by Marie Mccolm

Fall in Love with Jesus Nazarene Block Party Oct. 6

By MARIE MCCOLM
MONTE VISTA — The first annual, Fall in Love with Jesus Nazarene Block Party. The event will take place on Oct. 6, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 228 Madison St. There will be carnival style games for kids, card making, and sumo suit wrestling. There will be a mechanical bull, inflatable axe throwing, a picture booth, fun with cotton candy, and much more. There will be Chili Cook Off at the Valley Church of the Naz from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a competition for Best Red Chili, Best Green Chili, and Best Chili with Beans. The competition is free to enter and free to taste. Member of the Nazarene Church and a big part of the Block Party, Roy Aiken, spoke about the party and the excitement of it all. "The Fall in Love with Jesus Block Party is the first of its kind 'outreach' of the Valley Church of the Nazarene. The church will be hosting the block party on its lawn, and it's open to all. It is our hope that the party will inspire an interest in the gospel of *Please see PARTY on Page 2A*

Wreaths Across America to remember Veterans



CONTRIBUTED
SAN LUIS VALLEY — Wreaths Across America, a non-profit organization, was formed as an extension of the Arlington Wreath Project. The Arlington Wreath program was started by Morrill Worcester in 1992 with the donation and laying of 5,000 Christmas wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery. This became an annual journey for Worcester. It was relatively obscure until 2005 when a photo of the stones adorned with wreaths and covered in snow circulated around the internet. The project received National attention. Thousands of requests poured in from all over the country from people wanting to emulate the Arlington project at their National and State cemeteries, spurring the creation of "Wreaths Across America." Unable to donate thousands of wreaths to each state, Mr. Worcester conceived the idea of sending seven wreaths (one for each branch of the military as well as POW/MIA). In 2007 the Worcester family established the non-profit group Wreaths

Across America to further promote Veterans remembrance. The mission Remember, Honor and Teach characterized the projects goals perfectly. The wreath-laying will be held on December 14th, which Congress unanimously voted as "Wreaths Across America Day." Wreaths Across America would not be successful without the help of volunteers, many active organizations, and the generosity of the trucking industry. The goal is to have enough wreaths *Please see WREATHS on Page 2A*

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CHARGING

Continued from Page 1A

their way downtown and support our businesses and restaurants, too. "We want to say thank you," Dennis said.

MV Mayor Dale Becker was excited about the charging stations and said, "Thank you. This is a great thing. This is awesome right where it's at. I drive by here every day, and see vehicles plugged in. It's going to serve a great purpose, as people continue to get more of these EV cars. I think we will see more people stopping in our area. Thank you."

Xcel Energy Area Manager Ashley Valdez spoke about the collaboration and the opening of the charging stations in the centralized location.

"We just want to thank the City of Monte Vista for partnering with us," Valdez said. "You guys have been an absolute dream to work with. We looked at some other areas to do a charging station, but this made the most sense because people are able to get out, they are able to walk around and visit businesses, that is so important. We want that for our communities."

Valdez spoke about what Xcel Energy hopes to accomplish with the stations.

"Xcel Energy's goal is to have one of five vehicles on the road to be an electronic vehicle by 2030, and that also goes along with the state goal to have 940,000 electric vehicles on the road by 2030 as well."

Valdez said that there is some degree of difficulty in putting up these types of stations in different places due to permitting and other legalities. Valdez said that she really wanted to thank City of MV Public Works Director Robert Vance for helping Xcel throughout the process.

"We are happy to be here, and happy to continue to connect the community in a vital way. Not only Monte Vista, but the Valley as a whole too. I think as we can connect the Valley and bring more people in and through, this is just a great thing. So, thank you for letting us be a part of it. Congratulations to the Xcel team, and Monte Vista on this project," Valdez said.

Xcel Energy Clean Transport Infrastructure and Bus Operations Manager Mike Theis added, "The partnership has been mentioned a couple of times, and certainly we couldn't have done this project without the partnership. The city, Gigi and Robert have been fantastic to work with. Sometimes these projects can get caught up in red tape, that was not at all the case here. The city helped us through the construction and permitting process. It's been a fantastic project, and we are happy to have it opened now. We have gone through some testing processes here. It's been fantastic to work with the city and finally get this opened to the public."

According to Xcel Energy, the site offers four EV fast chargers, owned and operated by the energy company. The parking area is well lit, and accessible for public use 24/7. The area that the stations are in helps provide access to local businesses and restaurants while people are using the stations.

The chargers are equipped to serve a variety of EVs. The brand and model of the station chargers are ChargePoint Express Plus. The chargers include power blocks, the blocks allow the chargers to delegate a nameplate charging speed of 160KW.

EV owner Jenny Nehring and fellow EV owner Laura Conchelos were at the ceremony. Conchelos is also a Monte Vista Urban Renewal Authority member.

"Well Laura got this kicked off, as far a nudge to the city and inquiring on the status of this. Laura and I are neighbors and EV owners. We love seeing this in our city. As someone who knows what it's like to pass through a city, find a charging station, and then you have to wait 30 or 40 minutes, it's awesome to walk down the street to stop in somewhere for coffee, this location is perfect for that. Another thing about EV owners is when they stop and have a good charging experience they will return again and again to that spot. It's great for our city, our community, and our Valley," Nehring said.

OBITUARIES

Wilma Grace Lewis

Wilma Grace Lewis, 77 passed peacefully on the evening of Sept. 16, 2024, in Salida, Colo.

She was born Aug. 26, 1947, in Beaver County, Okla.

She was preceded in death by her brothers Roy G, Jackie (Jack Jr.) and David Benn, and her sister Dorothy May Benn.

Her parents were Jack E. Benn and Dorothy Ione Tunnell.

Soon after completing high school in Fairplay, Colo., Wilma married Wilbur G. Lewis in 1965 in Hartsel, Colo. They had two children, Stephanie S. Lewis in 1969 and Jack H. Lewis (Jenny J. Sherburne) in 1972. The family moved to Saguache, Colo., in 1972.

Wilma stayed home with the kids until they were in their teens. Wilma was going to take a "few classes" and ended up with a degree in English Education from Adams State College, and a Graduate Degree from University of Northern Colorado. In 1985, Wilma began teaching English, Science and History at Monte Vista Middle School. Wilma loved her students, and over the span of 25 years brought learning to life by hosting the History Fair and dressing up as literary characters.

Wilma was always active in the community, a strong member of the Saguache Library Board and a member of the Saguache Museum Board. She also supported Wilbur with many Masonic community activities and was a member of the Eastern Star. She will be missed by her exercise class crew.

Wilma loved to travel and had a special affection for the coasts of Maine and Newfoundland, enjoying puffins, whales, lighthouses and moose. She loved to travel internationally as well and went to New Zealand multiple times and all across Europe.

One of Wilma's biggest joys was spoiling her grandchildren, Amy Grace Lewis and David Ray Lewis. Wilma was the 'rock' of the family, carrying the conversations, providing the stories, keeping in contact with family across the nation, and she truly loved being around her family and friends.

Online condolences can be offered through lewisandglenn.com.



PARTY

Continued from Page 1A

Jesus Christ and inspire people to attend Church."

Aiken said that if the event is successful, it could be something they do annually. Local businesses, such as Polished Bean and Drift Away Coffee will be participating.

Aiken said that he feels that one

of the best things about the block party is that many members of the community have gotten involved to support the event.

"I am especially encouraged at how these community businesses jumped right in, to help out and help put this together on such short notice," he said.

Resident Esther Molina is excited about the block party and will be making some green chili for the

event.

"I entered the Chili Cook Off, and I am excited about being a part of it. I make a mean dish of green chili. I was part of another cook off awhile back, and one man told me that he liked my green chili more than one he had eaten at a local restaurant," Molina said.

For more information or to register to be a part of the Chili Cook Off, visit online.valleynaz.com/block-party.

WREATHS

Continued from Page 1A

sponsored so that every veteran's grave at the Homelake Veterans Cemetery will be honored.

If you want to sponsor a wreath, contact Pam Self at 719-825-8216 or 719-849-3154. The cost is \$17 per wreath with all orders and money needed by Dec. 1. Please send your request and money to Pam Self, P.O. Box 97, Homelake, CO 81135. Wreath sponsorship for the Homelake Veterans Cemetery can also be completed online at www.wreathscrossamerica.com/CO0031. The wreaths will be delivered to the Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake.

This year's ceremony will take place on Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Homelake Veterans Cemetery at 3749 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista, at 10 a.m. The placement of wreaths will occur after the ceremony so volunteers who would like to help place the wreaths will gather after the ceremony.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By TU CASA

October was first proclaimed as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 1989. Since then, October has been a time to acknowledge domestic violence survivors and those who have passed, and to be a voice for those who may be experiencing it. Domestic violence is prevalent in every community, and affects all people regardless of age, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality.

Every October, Tu Casa, Inc. joins with its partners, supporters, and allies across the country to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). During 2023, Tu Casa served 294 individuals and answered 578 crisis calls.

Tu Casa, Inc. encourages everyone to get involved and help raise awareness about domestic violence. We have seen the power each and every one of us have in making a difference by bringing awareness to domestic violence.

The color purple has been nationally recognized as the symbolic color to show support for those who have experienced domestic violence and let them know that help is available for themselves and their families. Tu Casa, Inc. hopes to spread awareness this October by asking staff and the community to wear purple every Thursday in the month. We also encourage you to ask co-workers, friends, and family members to join Tu Casa, Inc. in this month's activities in order to start conversations about domestic violence.

Tu Casa, Inc. invites everyone to join us at the following events:

- **The Purple Light Campaign:** The Purple Light Campaign was created to promote domestic violence awareness and remind survivors there are supports all around them. Tu Casa will be handing out purple lightbulbs to community members to light their porches for the month of October and help ensure survivors in our valley know they are not alone. Call the office to figure out where/when to pick up a lightbulb!

- **Lunch and Learn:** On Oct. 17, from 12-1 p.m., in the San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group large conference room, Tu Casa will be presenting on the history of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and request attendees help us let survivors in our valley know that Tu Casa is here to help, by painting rocks with supportive phrases/words for survivors, designs, and Tu Casa's hotline number. These rocks will be placed throughout the valley for survivors to find and utilize if they need. We'll also be decorating luminarias for our "Light Up the Night Event" at this Lunch & Learn as well!

- **"Light up the Night":** Our 4th Annual "Light up the Night" event will be held on Oct. 24, at 6:30 p.m. under the West pavilion in Cole Park, Alamosa. This event is free to attendees and works to honor victims, survivors, those who have passed, and anyone who has been affected by domestic violence. Refreshments will be served while you are provided with an opportunity to mingle and learn about resources within our community and at Tu Casa, Inc. We will start the ceremony at 6:30 p.m. with a warm welcoming introduction and guest speakers from our community and partners. We will take time to drop flowers in the river with a moment of silence and a performance by the ASU Samba Group in honor of the survivors in the San Luis Valley. The night's event will culminate with a candlelight vigil to light up the night and an opportunity for anyone who wants to share their stories or experience. Attendees are encouraged to take photos and participate in the activities.

Proclamations: Join Tu Casa, Inc. staff at the following meetings for the formal recognition of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM)!

- Mineral County Commissioner's Meeting on Oct. 2 at 10 a.m.
- Alamosa City Council Meeting on Oct. 2 at 7 p.m.
- Alamosa County Commissioner's Meeting on Oct. 9 at 8:30 a.m.

Throughout October you can stay updated on events and activities by following our Facebook: www.facebook.com/TuCasaInc and Instagram: www.instagram.com/slvluca/ pages. We also request that you share photos of how you are raising awareness about this topic and tag us!

Domestic Violence can no longer be ignored; we must work together to raise awareness and to end violence. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, call the Tu Casa, Inc. 24-hour hotline at 719-589-2465. If you would like to make a donation in honor of those who have been impacted by abuse, visit our website at www.slvluca.net, and click on the link to donate. If you are interested in volunteering with our agency or would like more information about events, contact us at 719-589-2465.

Tu Casa, Inc., which houses the Tu Casa Program, The Tu Casa, Inc. SANE Program, and the Children's Advocacy Center of the San Luis Valley Program (SLV CAC), is a 501(c)3 non-profit agency that works to empower children and adults to live healthy, violence-free lives throughout the San Luis Valley. All services are free, confidential, and available in English and Spanish.



Photo courtesy of Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

Glyphosate treatment for Utah Lake phragmites infestation.

How a controversial poison saved Utah Lake

Ninety-five-thousand-acre Utah Lake is a major water source for the Great Salt Lake. If it dries up or sickens, so does the Great Salt Lake. Fifteen years ago, it was dying. But the controversial herbicide glyphosate saved it.

Virtually everything most Americans think they know about glyphosate—the active ingredient in products like Roundup—is wrong. That's because social media and ads by lawyers offering to sue Bayer (owner of Monsanto, glyphosate's original manufacturer) are rife with misinformation.

What most Americans don't know about glyphosate is that it's often the only option for saving native fish and wildlife from alien plants. When non-native infestations replace habitat, the animals don't go somewhere else. They die. That's why boots-on-the-ground environmental groups like The Nature Conservancy depend on glyphosate.

But fear of glyphosate has created big business for lawyers and a fundraising bonanza for some environmental outfits.

In 2015, with no original research, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) — an appendage of the World Health Organization (WHO) — placed glyphosate on its speculative list of "probable carcinogens" along with "red meat" and "very hot beverages." It did so even though all scientific authorities that have done original research, including its parent WHO and the United States EPA, report no link to cancer.

Some studies that review existing research do report possible links to cancer. But the study subjects are farm workers who used large quantities of Roundup for years, frequently without protective gear. Roundup is applied by wildlife managers in relatively tiny amounts.

Still, based on IARC's speculation, there have been glyphosate bans or restrictions in 28 nations as well as

municipalities and counties in 15 U.S. states. And Bayer has paid \$11 billion to settle lawsuits brought by cancer victims blaming their illnesses on Roundup.

California responded to the IARC review by requiring that glyphosate products carry cancer warnings. But a federal judge struck it down, ruling it "inherently misleading ... when apparently all other regulatory and governmental bodies have found the opposite."

According to the international news agency Reuters, IARC "edited findings from a draft of its review of the weedkiller glyphosate that were at odds with its final conclusion."

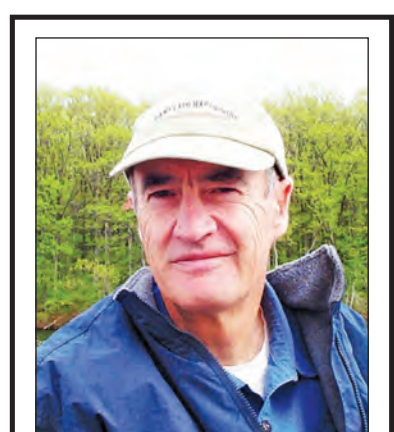
And this from Dr. Lee Van Wychen, science director for the National and Regional Weed Science Societies: "IARC's review was such a crooked scam. I've never seen anything like it. IARC cherry-picked a couple studies and on top of that fudged the results... Now there are people on the conservation side who are afraid to use glyphosate."

Utah Lake's brackish water and extensive wetlands make it one of North America's most important staging areas for migratory water birds. The watershed also provides vital habitat for other birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish, including the federally threatened June sucker.

Fifteen years ago, this biodiversity appeared doomed by an explosion of phragmites, a non-native, deep-rooted reed that spreads through wind-blown seeds and rhizomes. It grows out to four feet in water and all the way to the transitional zone of dry land.

So thick was Utah Lake's infestation that wildlife couldn't move through it, and people couldn't access the lake. Phragmites created fire hazards, sucked vast amounts of water from the already diminished lake, and generated swarms of mosquitoes by blocking water flow.

Large infestations of phragmites



Writers on the Range
by Ted Williams

can't be cut or bulldozed, leaving herbicide as the only option. Dead stalks are then crushed or burned to make new growth visible for retreatment.

Spraying with glyphosate formulations began in 2009. "Each year, managers would focus on a different area," reported the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food. Every area of the lake got three consecutive years of the spray and trample treatment.

Today, fish, wildlife, and human access have been largely restored. Glyphosate has eradicated 70 percent of the phragmites and future applications will kill most of what's left.

Revegetation started this spring. With help from local organizations, the Utah Lake Authority has planted 7,500 native seedlings. "Planting parties" of 400 volunteers will plant 10,000 more native plants by year's end.

"For the lake," said Luke Peterson, director of the Utah Lake Authority, "this is a turning point."

Ted Williams is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He writes exclusively about fish and wildlife.

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RGH issues new health assessment beginning in October

By LYNDIE FERRELL
RIO GRANDE COUNTY — Rio Grande Hospital will be issuing its annual 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) 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.



Courtesy photo

The Adams State uSafeUS app is available for both iPhone and Android phones and already available for download.

ASU encourages uSafeUS app to keep students safe

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — Adams State University is dedicated to the safety and well-being of all students, faculty, and staff. The campus community now has an award-winning uSafeUS app, to improve safety and reinforce consent and how to report sexual assault, relationship violence or stalking.

According to Heidi Schneider, Ph.D., inclusive excellence liaison, encourages students to download the app as the fall semester gets underway.

“uSafeUS helps us meet students where they are-on their phones- to communicate vital information about prevention and response. It supports our students throughout their time on campus in a safe, anonymous way, helping to ensure they have the resources they need, when they need them,” she said.

The uSafeUS app is designed for colleges and universities as a platform for preventing and responding to sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. uSafeUs provides interactive prevention features to help students leave risky or uncomfortable situations and to protect themselves or others when traveling alone. The research-informed, campus-customizable app provides help and guidance for victims or their supporters, with specially designed features.

uSafeUS was developed and enhanced using extensive input from more than 100 college administrators and 400 students. The uSafeUS prevention features include: Time to Leave lets students send themselves fake texts or calls, providing a reason to leave an uncomfortable social situation before it becomes dangerous; Expect Me lets students alert friends

to follow them via GPS and to follow-up if they don't arrive when expected; Sound the Alarm triggers a loud alarm and flashing lights from a cell phone if a student feels threatened; Angel Drink provides a way for students to discreetly alert a bartender or server that help is needed.

The uSafeUS response features are based on more than 16 years of research into helping and supporting victims. Response features include Find Help provides fast access to medical help, public safety, counseling service, and more; Helpful Answers provides educational information in a question-and-answer format from the perspectives of victims, and their friends or supporters, including faculty and staff. What Next? Walks victims through options for care and reporting.

For more information, visit usafeus.org.

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free to walk in a normal fashion. Its easy-adjust height system allows it to be the perfect fit/height for anyone from 4'10" to 6'1" and supports up to 300 pounds. The new stand-assist handles enable you to distribute your weight across your arms and shoulders, not your hands and wrists to help reduce back, neck, wrist pain and discomfort. It features comfortable arm pads, hand brakes, a fold-down seat, a backrest and two storage bags. It's built

with aircraft-grade aluminum to be sturdy yet lightweight, and its sleek design and oversized wheels make it perfect for tight spots in the house or walking in the yard.

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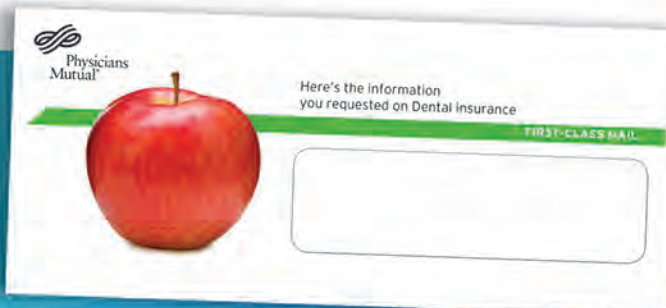
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Product/features not available in all states. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. To find a network provider, go to physiciansmutual.com/find-dentist. This specific offer not available in CO, NV, NY, VA - call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for a similar offer in your state. Certificate C254/B465, C250A/B438 (ID: C254ID; PA: C254PA); Insurance Policy P154/B469, P150/B439 (GA: P154GA; OK: P154OK; TN: P154TN).



Courtesy photo
SLV Health honors employees at its annual Years of Service banquet. Featured left to right: Board President Karla Hardesty, Administrative Assistant Jeanette Martinez and CEO Konnie Martin.

SLV Health employees honored

Recognition for 10 to 35 years of service

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The SLV Health annual Years of Service banquet took place at Adams State University in August. Honorees who marked their 10- through 35-year anniversaries were invited to dinner with a guest. Senior team members, board members, directors, and supervisors were also present to honor the dedication and loyalty of these employees. Celebrating at their staff meetings were 36 employees who marked their 5-year anniversary as employed by SLV Health.

The employees who marked ten years of service were Anthony Cannello, Becky Daniels, Bethany Stroh, Bryan Garcia, Cherise Minnick, Courtney Dye, Donna Wehe, Dr. Carmelo Hernandez, Dwane Candy, Jamie King, Mark Gallegos, Michaela Martinez-Pace, Monica Hinds, Nina Crawford, and Stephanie Posorske,

CNM.

Celebrating their fifteenth anniversary were: Barbara Samora, Celia Ramirez-Reyes, Kathy Romero, Kimberly Pooler, Kristy Dunn, Kyle Crawford, Lennie Martinez, Mark Anaya, Michele Mascarenas, Roberta Gilleland, Robyn Williams, Terese Sowards, and Tony Chamberlain.

Marking their 20 years at SLV Health were AnnaRae Martinez, Autumn Moore, Brandon Cantu, Elizabeth Ingal, Elizabeth Lucero, Gloria Medina, Jim Frye, Lorena Peterson, and Michael Espinosa.

Clista Brown (Ortho), Geraldine Trujillo (Patient Accounting), Loretta DeHerrera (Pharmacy), and Melanie Archuleta (CCH Acute) marked 25 years of service.

There were many highlights including celebrating Jeanette Martinez (Administration) with 30 years and Brenda Marchildon (Emergency) with 35 years of service as a registered nurse!

CEO Konnie Martin welcomed the guests, honorees, board members,

and the recipients' supervisors. Karla Hardesty, SLVH Board Chair, started the night with a prayer and a greeting, "I am honored to celebrate every single one of you who have stayed loyal to make SLV Health all that it is."

Keynote speaker Dr. Carla Christ shared her story of when she started her career at SLV Health, mentioning how welcoming the people were and how special they still are. "These years of experience are evident in the way you go above and beyond to ensure that our patients receive the best possible care. Your compassion and tireless effort do not go unnoticed, and I want you to know how profoundly grateful we are for your hard work."

Master of Ceremonies Tom Masterson announced the recipients while Konnie Masterson, CEO, and Karla Hardesty, SLVH Board Chair, presented everyone with their awards.

SLV Health is honored to have such devoted employees who reflect a caring culture and a dedicated workforce to patient care.

Secretary of State Jena Griswold Announces Winner of 'I Voted' Digital Sticker Design Contest

CONTRIBUTED

DENVER — Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold announced Monday, Sept. 23, that Cosmo Bell, a ninth-grader at Fort Collins' Compass Community Collaborative School, is the winner of Colorado's 2024 "I Voted" Digital Sticker Design Contest.

"Congratulations to Cosmo for his amazing design," said Secretary Griswold. "I'm so glad that Coloradans enrolled in BallotTrax can see and celebrate Cosmo's wonderful artwork when they receive their digital 'I Voted' Sticker. My thanks to every Colorado high schooler who submitted a design for consideration."

"I'm so excited to have my artwork chosen," said Cosmo. "A family friend let me know about the competition and encouraged me to participate. I thought it would be fun, so I entered!"

Cosmo's design features rocks inspired by the Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs and native plants from the arid regions of Colorado. In the right of the image, you can see Cosmo's artist signature: Harold.

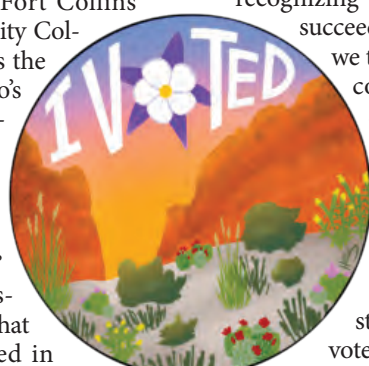
"These are symbols that I thought someone could recognize as 'Colorado,'" said Cosmo. When asked what

he thinks of when he hears the word "Democracy," Cosmo replied, "In essence: Collaboration. It means a bunch of people coming together and recognizing that we need this to succeed as a country, or that we think this is the right course of action. It's a collaboration between so many different people who all have an effect on how America will function."

The new digital sticker will be sent to voters enrolled in BallotTrax once their General Election mail ballot has been returned and counted. It will also be featured on the Secretary of State's website, social media channels, press releases, and as part of a digital effort to encourage people to vote across the state.

BallotTrax enables voters to receive notifications by phone, email, or text about the status of their mail ballot, from the time it is mailed to the voter, to when it is received, and to when it is counted. Colorado voters can enroll themselves in BallotTrax by visiting www.GoVoteColorado.gov and clicking on "Sign up for BallotTrax."

As of September, nearly 2 million Colorado voters were enrolled in BallotTrax — over 50% of the active electorate.



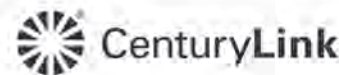
Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$34.00 per month and business services are \$53.50 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in the Lifeline program, which makes residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers may qualify for Lifeline discounts of \$5.25/month for voice or bundled voice service or \$9.25/month for qualifying broadband or broadband bundles. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to qualify.

A household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Services are not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in these programs. Consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain these discounts can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from these programs.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, visit <https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html> for additional information about applying for these programs or call 1-800-201-4099 with questions.



Trust God and Do Good

One of the most life-changing things I've learned since I've been teaching the Word of God is that God is always right! No matter what I think, how I feel, or what my circumstances look like, His wisdom and His way of doing things are always the answers to my problems.

Psalm 37:3 contains some of the greatest instruction there is for having a great life. It says, "Trust (lean on, rely on, and be confident) in the Lord and do good; so shall you dwell in the land and feed surely on His faithfulness, and truly you shall be fed" (AMPC).

All of us go through difficult times and experience pain and disappointment. In John 16:33, the Lord even tells us that "in this world you will have trouble" (John 16:33 NIV). However, I believe Psalm 37:3 provides us with God's prescription for every problem we face: **Trust God and do good.**

God's Word is medicine that brings healing and restoration to our souls. Our doctor is Jesus, we are His patients, and we can take His medicine—"Trust God" and "Do good"—as much as we need to. And refills are endless!

But there are side effects. When you trust God, you will experience peace, joy, stability, confidence, and overall better health. When you do good, you'll have extreme happiness and rewards in heaven!

Trusting God also brings freedom. Many times, things happen that we simply don't understand. But that's okay—we don't have to figure everything out. We can trust God that He knows and will take care of everything.

Maybe someone has really hurt you, and what's happening doesn't seem fair at all. The Bible says that God will be your Vindicator (Psalm 135:14). As you place your trust in Him, you open the door for Him to work in your situation and deal with the people who have mistreated you.

Your faith and trust also allow God to take the wrong things that have happened and ultimately work out them out for your benefit (Romans 8:28). The Bible teaches us that it's not the

things that happen to us that determine the quality of our lives—it's how we choose to respond to them that really makes all the difference. And trusting God is the key to making right choices that bring us the life He has planned for us.

We can *choose* to trust God. The truth is, God is the only One we can completely trust to take care of us and do what's best for us at all times, in every situation.

Maybe you're thinking, *Well, I trusted God, and He didn't take care of me.* I understand how you feel, because I've gone through hard things and didn't get what I wanted, *when* I thought I should get it, *in the way* I thought it should come.

However, what I failed to understand was that doing what we want and getting our way all the time isn't what will make us happy. Being selfish and self-centered is actually a miserable way to live! God is faithful, and He promises to take care of us as we place our trust in Him. However, an important part of trusting Him is trusting in His will and timing.

It's good for us to tell God what we want, but we also need to realize that He is smarter than we are! I've learned to pray, "God, if what I want is not what You want for me, then please don't give it to me! I want to do Your will in this situation, and I'm trusting You to give me what You want for me."

That's why it's so important to study and meditate on God's Word. As we do, it renews our minds so we think the way He thinks. It also turns our will in God's direction so we want what He wants for us.

Remember, trust requires unanswered questions. It requires us to fully lean on God, believing and trusting that He has our best interest in mind. The Lord has asked me this many times, and I believe He is also asking you: "Do you trust Me?"

The second part of the prescription is just as important—do good. One of the most powerful things you can do when you're hurting is to reach out and help someone else. You not only sow seeds for your own breakthrough, but



helping others releases tremendous joy. Nehemiah 8:10 says, "...the joy of the Lord is your strength" (NIV).

I know it's not always easy to trust God and do good. But it's the best option because it's the only thing that will really work. I know it works because I was a mess, and learning how to trust God and obey His Word has literally changed my life.

Life in God is a journey, and we partner with Him by putting our trust in Him (1 Corinthians 1:9). When we're dealing with a difficult situation, He may also show us something we need to do that will help solve our problem.

I want to encourage you to trust God completely in every area of your life. Remember that He is always on your side and He is fighting for you as you go through the challenges in your life. He loves you and has your best interest at heart at all times.

No matter what you need or what your circumstances are, you can live with peace, joy, stability, confidence, and overall better health if you will trust God and do good.

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

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

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

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 pro-active 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.

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



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.

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 per-

son 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 co-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.

NOTICE OF ELECTION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and particularly to the electors of the San Luis Valley Irrigation District in Alamosa, Rio Grande and Saguache Counties, Colorado.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on Tuesday, the 3rd day of December, 2024, between the hours of 8:00 o’clock a.m. and 6:00 o’clock p.m. At that time, one (1) Director for Division II will be elected to serve one (1) 3-year term and one (1) Director at Large will be elected to serve one (1) 3-year term.

Nomination petitions are available from:

Amy S. Dean, District Secretary
296 Miles Street
Center, Colorado 81125
amy@slvid.org

Nomination petitions must be filed no later than Friday, the 18th day of October, 2024, and no earlier than Friday, October 4th, 2024.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that applications for absent voter’s ballots may be filed with the Secretary of the District at the above address not earlier than forty-five days (Friday, the 18th day of October, 2024) before the election, not later than 4:00 o’clock p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the election (Friday, the 29th of November, 2024).

San Luis Valley Irrigation District
By s/s Amy S. Dean

No. 4870 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, October 2, 2024.

District Rio Grande Combined Court, State of Colorado
COURT ADDRESS: 925 6TH STREET, ROOM 204, DEL NORTE, CO 81132
PHONE NUMBER: 719-657-3394

Plaintiff: JONATHON JAMES TRACY

Defendants: CHRISTOPHER DANIEL SCOTT, STEWART TITLE GUARANTY COMPANY, and ALLPINE TITLE, INC

DISTRICT COURT CIVIL SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT: Christopher Daniel Scott, Stewart Title Guaranty Company and Allpine Title, Inc.

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

Dated: 5-31-24

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

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

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

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

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

District Court Denver Probate Court
Rio Grande County, Colorado
Court Address: 925 6th Street
Del Norte, CO 81132
719-657-3394

In the Matter of the Estate of Nadine Dieckman

Deceased

Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address):
John M. Montgomery, Attorney
660 Grande Avenue
Del Norte, CO 81132
Phone Number: 719-657-3333 E-mail: john@montgomery-law.net
FAX Number: 719-657-9999 Atty. Reg. #: 19385

COURT USE ONLY

Case Number: 2024PR30015
Division: Courtroom

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Nadine Dieckman, Deceased Case Number 2024PR30015

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

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

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

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

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

COMBINED NOTICE OF SHERIFF’S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

SOUTH FORK RANCHES MASTER HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., a Colorado nonprofit corporation, and RIO GRANDE WATER COMPANY
Plaintiffs
v.
DOUGLAS WIBBENMEYER, CLYDE H. JONES AND RHONDA RICHARDSON, as Rio Grande County Public Trustee
Defendants

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

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

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

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

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

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

Judgment is in the amount of \$25,744.44

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

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

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

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

DATED: August 27th, 2024

ANNE ROBINSON, SHERIFF,
COUNTY OF RIO GRANDE,
STATE OF COLORADO
By: Civil Process Specialist Christopher Otwell

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

NOTICE OF BUDGET
Pursuant to CRS 29-1-106

Notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Rio Grande County Commissioners for the ensuing year of 2025. A copy of such proposed budget has been filed in the Office of the County Commissioners where the same is open for public inspection. Such proposed budget will be considered for adoption at a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioner’s held at the Rio Grande County Courthouse, 925 6th Street, Room 207, Del Norte, Colorado, on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Any interested elector of Rio Grande County may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget.

No. 4869 published in the Monte Vista Journal, Wednesday, October 2, 2024.



SLV Appliance celebrates new business

SLV Appliance, 239 Walker Rd., Alamosa, celebrates their new business and membership with the Alamosa Chamber of Commerce on Sept. 19.

Photo by Erin Keck

CDOT, Town of Del Norte give update on downtown project

By LYNDIE 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 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 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.

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Courtesy photos

SLV 4-H Junior Livestock Judging Team: Coach Eric Hinton, Ashley Entz, Tynnley Burh, Macklie Simms, holding team mascot Steno, and Coach Janae Naranjo.



SLV 4-H Senior Livestock Judging Team member Durae Naranjo, center, was the "High Point Individual" in "Swine," second in the category of "Sheep and Goats," and fifth in "Reasons." She was also the High Point Individual "Overall" for the Senior Division. Pictured left is Coach Eric Hinton and right is Coach Janae Naranjo.

TEAMS

Continued from Page 1A

njo, Emily Seger, Tiffany LePlatt, and Darian Vance. The team came in first in the "Swine Category," second in the "Sheep and Goats Category," and fifth in "Reasons." The team also placed 10th in the "Beef Category."

Durae Naranjo was the "High Point Individual" in "Swine," second in the category of "Sheep and Goats," and fifth in "Reasons." She was also the High Point Individual "Overall" for the Senior Division.

After attending the Tristate Fair, the team then toured West Texas A&M University and its Agriculture Department and received information about options and opportunities for their futures.

Jesse Entz, who traveled with the team, spoke about the kids, and what they accomplished on the trip. "The group of kids on the team are so incredible and blew me away with how they performed. These opportunities

are made possible with the generous sponsorships of many businesses and people including, Poole Chemical, the Jean Ann Consaul Foundation, Steve Cordova, MPK Show pigs (Kole and Nikol Kelley, EGE Products (Brady Boyd), Ben and Sara Seger, Bountiful Meats and Processing and all those who have supported this teams' efforts."

Entz added that the team is in the process of offering a fundraising event, called the Leaf and Pine Needle Raking Fundraiser.

For more information on the fundraiser, contact Janae Naranjo at 719-480-4212 or Jesse Entz at 719-588-9526 to schedule a yard cleaning.

Livestock Judging is one of over 200 activities that 4-H members can participate in. To join 4-H or for more information about 4-H, contact the SLV Area Extension Office at 719-852-7381.

Tragedy at Zapata Falls

By JOHN WATERS

ALAMOSA COUNTY — On the morning of Sept. 27, an adult male fell and hit his head on a rock at the end of the trail to Zapata Falls. Alamosa County Sheriff's Office confirmed the hiker died at the scene.

The cause of death is pending an autopsy report. Numerous agencies, including the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office, National Park Service, Alamosa EMS, and Mosca Hooper Volunteer Fire Department, responded.

The half-mile trail begins at about 9,000 feet and gains 200 feet in elevation.



National Park Service Park Rangers responding with a rescue basket to a fatality at Zapata Falls on Sept. 27.

Photo by John Waters

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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

Please see STRATEGY on Page 10

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



CDOT photo

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

Tunnel drainage improvements to US 160 on Wolf Creek Pass began

CONTRIBUTED

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

The tunnel, between South Fork and

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

The tunnel work zone is on the east side

Please see TUNNEL on Page 10

Ribbon cutting held for new O'Reilly Auto Parts in Monte Vista

By MARIE MCCOLM

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

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

"It's a pleasure to be here today to welcome O'Reilly Auto Parts into our community," Hillin said. "This new store is not only a great resource for vehicle owners, but also a sign of growth and opportunity for our local economy. We appreciate O'Reilly's investment in Monte Vista, and the new

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

There were approximately 50 people at the ribbon

Please see O'REILLY on Page 5

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

Photo by Marie Mccolm



Adams State recognizes Ortega's commitment to service



By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

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

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

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

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

"We need more Sandys," said President David Tandberg, Ph.D. "She has impressed me as someone who always

shows up willing to roll up her sleeves and help out. Her passionate commitment to Adams State is seen in efforts she puts forth to move the institution forward, such as serving on our Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Advisory Committee, and as president of our alumni board."

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

Please see ORTEGA on Page 5

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05 Notices

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

07 Help Wanted

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

Elementary Paraprofessional Needed:

We are seeking a dedicated Paraprofessional for the 2024-2025 school year. If you're passionate about working with young learners, we'd love to hear from you! Salary starts at \$21,035.19 on the Paraprofessionals salary schedule.

New employees to the district may be granted up to 8 years of experience at the discretion of the superintendent at the time of hiring. Benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, optional \$1,200 a year toward an HSA, and life insurance coverage. Free admission to all home athletic events, staff wellness room, discount rates to Monte Vista Athletic Club, Sand Dunes Swimming Pool, and Monte Vista Golf Course. Please complete the non-certified application and submit with resume. For more information and to apply, visit www.sargent.k12.co.us or call 719-852-4023. Application Deadline: 10/8/24 or until position is filled. EOE (10/8) (10-9)

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)

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Location: 6955 N Hwy 285, Center, CO. Auction site is just north of Rd G off of Hwy 285. Watch for signs.

Auctioneer's Note: James is consolidating his operation and is offering the following items for auction. Check our FB page for more pictures.

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- JD 400 Industrial w/Ldr
- WD 45 Allis Chalmers
- JD 400 Backhoe
- 12' offset Disc
- Hesston Wheel V-rake
- International 440 Baler
- 907 NH Windrower
- Farmhand Manure Spreader
- International 510 Grain Drill 12'
- Ford side delivery Rake
- JD side delivery Rake
- 3-pt Ditcher
- Eversman Ditcher
- 14' Renovator
- JD Sickle Mower



Vehicles

- 2006 Peterbilt 387 Cummins 13 speed, w/ Wet kit "nice"
- 1997 Trail King Machinery Trlr
- 1974 Ford Dump Truck
- 1986 GMC 3500 w/12'flatbed
- 1993 Ford Ranger 4x4
- 2000 Ford F450 w/service bed
- 1979 Chevy Corsica
- Isuzu Pickup
- Ford Crown Victoria wrecked
- 2002 Chevy Blazer wrecked
- 24' insulated Van Trailer

Misc Equipment

- 20' Van Box for storage
- Generator
- used 30" Culvert approx 16' long
- used 18" Culvert approx 20' long
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- Propane Tank for Pickup
- Reefer Unit
- Several lots of Scrap Iron
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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.

Saguache County is seeking an On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Inspector - The On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Inspector for Saguache County is responsible for maintaining and enforcing public health regulations relating to the community's environmental health. Through investigation, inspection,

education and enforcement, the On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Inspector takes action to mitigate or eliminate public health hazards. Inspections and investigations occur indoors and outdoors facilities such as residential homes, restaurants, swimming pools, public schools, penal institutions, childcare facilities, nursing homes, body art facilities, cannabis/hemp facilities, campgrounds, mobile home parks, public accommodations, bars/lounges, etc. On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Inspectors are assigned primary responsibilities in specific environmental programs but are required to possess knowledge of all programs in order to respond to public health emergencies. Starting salary of \$25/hour depending on experience and qualifications. Saguache County offers an exceptional benefits package including health, dental, vision insurance with an option for a Health Savings Account. Employees enjoy paid vacation, sick leave, 11 holidays. Saguache County is an equal opportunity employer. Saguache County is an EEO employer. Valid Driver's License, Drug testing which includes marijuana, and a background check will be required also a physical exam may be required for final applicants. To view the job description and an application they are available at Saguache County Administration office 505 3rd Street, Saguache or printable at www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov. Call 719-655-2231 for more information. Position opened until filled. (10-9)

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

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

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

Solution to last week's puzzle

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

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ORTEGA

Continued from Page 1

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

O'REILLY

Continued from Page 1

cutting ceremony, including MV Mayor Dale Becker, and MV City Manager GiGi Dennis.

O'Reilly's provided donuts and light drinks and gave out some O'Reilly Auto Parts caps.

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

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

"I started with AutoZone, and I heard that this store was opening and wanted to see if I could make the transition, to be the store manager here. They gave me the opportunity and I am so excited," he said.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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RMMFI celebrates anniversary and graduates

Event held at Ruby Rose Bakery in Hooper

By MARIE MCCOLM

HOOPER — Approximately 40 people attended the Rocky Mountain Micro Finance Institute (RMMFI) ribbon cutting celebrating its anniversary and its area 14 graduates on Saturday, Sept. 21, at Ruby Rose Bakery in Hooper.

A mini-business bazaar was also held as part of the festivities with local vendors and graduated entrepreneurs, selling many different items, that were both homemade and from their local stores.

Free food was also served at the event, including pulled-pork

sandwiches, coleslaw, macaroni and cheese, and a generous piece of peach pie with ice cream for dessert.

Daliah Torrez, who is a graduate and Digital Marketing Manager for the institute, was the hostess of the event. Everyone cheered and clapped for the graduates.

Torrez spoke about the institute and what they do for entrepreneurs.

“We just celebrated 16 years in business. We try to do these community events at least once a year in the Valley. We try to get all the entrepreneurs that have graduated from the program from the area together for this event, that’s why we held this here today. There have been a ton of entrepreneurs that have gone through the program already,” Torrez said.

Torrez explained that the institute gives entrepreneurs education on how to start a business, and all the aspects of running a business. There are also grants and loans available to graduates.

“This is a great program for anyone who is interested in starting a business, because we realize it can be hard,” she said.

Torrez explained that people who enroll and get involved with the program are paired up with mentors, including financial mentors and accountability mentors, to help ensure that everyone that’s going through the program is getting what they need from it.

“There are different phases to the program, there are some eligibility



Photo by Marie Mccolm

A mini-business bazaar was also held during the Rocky Mountain Micro Finance Institute (RMMFI) ribbon cutting in Hooper on Sept. 21. The bazaar featured local vendors and graduates of the institute.

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RMMFI Continued from Page 6

requirements involved in getting started. We do look at income and household size. Once it is deemed that you are eligible, you just move into the program from there," Torrez said.

Rocky Mountain Microfinance Institute or RMMFI according to its website is focused on helping individuals and communities that have been overlooked by traditional businesses and financial services. Torrez stated that the program does try to focus on people in rural areas too.

"The program takes you through many different aspects of business, including core, finance, marketing, business operations, and so much more. We do try to work with rural communities a lot. We want to see people succeed that are interested in creating their own businesses, that's what the institute is focused on and that's what it's all about."

Local RMMFI graduate Jennifer Graves attended the event and said it helped her open an art studio in Monte Vista.

"They have many individualized programs that help you with your specific area of business interest. It's a well-supported program that can take you from point A to point B and really teach you the ins and outs of running a business by yourself. I would recommend this to any entrepreneur looking at opening their own business, but not having all the information that they need to do so. The mentorship programs alone open your mind to so much and really help you in ways that support your individual dreams. I am very proud of the art studio that I have in Monte Vista, and I feel like RMMFI really helped me and opened a clear path to help me get there. I hope other entrepreneurs will consider enrolling. It is a fantastic program," Graves said.

Ruby Rose Bakery is at 11704 N Highway 17 in Hooper.

For more information, visit www.rmmfi.org or call 1-303-522-9266.



Photo by Marie Mccolm

Approximately 40 people attended the Rocky Mountain Micro Finance Institute (RMMFI) ribbon cutting celebrating its anniversary and its area 14 graduates on Saturday, Sept. 21, at Ruby Rose Bakery in Hooper.

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UNDER CONTRACT

3 bed 2 bath home in South Fork - HUGE garage/shop
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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's pantry with built-in custom shelving and storage cabinets. The kitchen seamlessly leads to a spacious laundry area flooded with natural light, making laundry a pleasant task. Beautiful Dining Room: Accessible from the kitchen, the dining room opens to a spacious awe-inspiring back deck. Perfect place to enjoy that first cup of morning coffee. Stairway to Loft: Ascend the large staircase to the open loft—an ideal space for a game area and home office. 3 Bedrooms: Master Bedroom (Main Floor): Flooded with ample natural light, the master bedroom provides a cozy ambiance. It features a spacious retreat with a jumbo-sized walk-in closet complete with custom shelving and cabinets. The master bath includes a walk-in shower and spa tub for your in-home spa experience. Additional 1 and a 1/2 Bath are Well-appointed and elegantly designed, the bathrooms provide comfort and convenience. Lower-Level Stairwell: Leads to an intimate family room and two spacious downstairs guest bedrooms. Immaculate 3-Car Garage and 1-Car Workshop: With custom cabinets and work benches a dream come true, providing plenty of room for all your tools and outdoor adventure toys. Outdoor Delights: Bear Creek runs through this property, nature's music to your ears. Mountain Views: Wake up to awe-inspiring vistas of the surrounding peaks. The ever-changing canvas of sunrises and sunsets will leave you breathless. Wildlife Haven: Immerse yourself in the enchanting wilderness. Mule deer, elk, and even the elusive black bear occasionally grace the property. Year-Round Adventure: Explore hundreds of miles of ATV trails right outside your door. In winter, hit the slopes at Wolf Creek Ski Area, just 30 minutes away. Tranquil Creekside Strolls: Meander along the community walking trails that follow the gentle curves of Bear Creek. Listen to the soothing sounds of water as you unwind. This is more than a home; it's an invitation to embrace the rugged elegance of Colorado's high country. Escape to 1408 Bear Creek Circle and discover a lifestyle where luxury meets wilderness. MLS# 813472 - \$1,420,000



SOLD

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259 Orville Way • South Fork

Idyllic Mountain 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 alfresco 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 heavenly tree lot provides privacy and tranquility, complemented by a large storage shed. There's ample parking for multiple vehicles, ATVs, or snowmobiles. The backyard, enclosed by an 8-foot privacy fence, is wired for a hot tub. High-speed internet is available, and the Town of South Fork maintains and plows the roads. Conveniently located within town limits, Moments from the Rio Grande Club and Wolf Creek Skiing. It's an easy walk to the Rio Grande River and town amenities. Bring your Fishing Pole and Live Your Dream! Don't let this One get away! Call me for more information and schedule your showing today! More pictures coming soon. MLS# 7894641 - \$350,000



UNDER CONTRACT

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222 Bristlecone Drive • South Fork

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



NEW LISTING

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bmgingrass@gmail.com
License #100072622

193 Whispering Pines Drive • South Fork

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



SOLD

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461 Vista De Verde Circle • South Fork

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



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Residents surmount a 14,000-foot challenge

By JOHN WATERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regarding being at the summit, Kinney said, “I couldn’t believe how calm and quiet it was. I was expecting extreme winds. We were drenched in sweat; I expected to be cold and wind-chilled. It was so calm and so quiet, serene.”

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

“One of the most enjoyable aspects were the people on the summit. I was the least fit person on the mountain that day. There were a few people who had started at the trailhead and summited. They passed me on the way up; they had hiked an additional 4.7 miles or so and were going that much faster. We met many amazing people who were all equally encouraging; they



Courtesy photo

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

saw me practically crawling up the mountain and would say, “Hey, you are crushing this, keep going, you are almost there.”

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

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

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

Kinney said he saw pikas, bighorn sheep, and deer on the expedition.

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

“The whole time I have lived here and looking up at these mountains, I’ve never been able to know the names of all the peaks that are so much a representation of Crestone. Once I’ve been to a place, I feel differently about it. Now I know which peak is which. This was really meaningful to me to be up there and know this is Challenger, Kit Carson, and those are the Crestone Needle. I have not been down on the T Road driving into Crestone, but I’m excited to look up and know I’ve been there.

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

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

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

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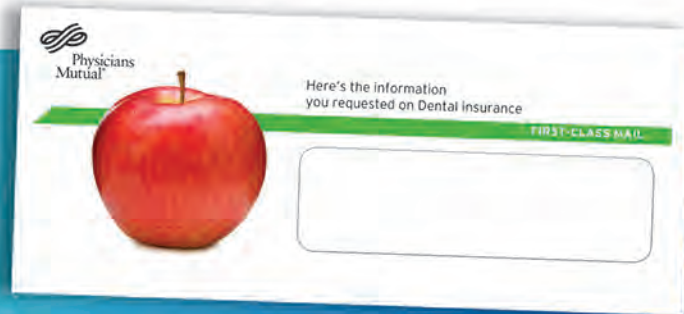
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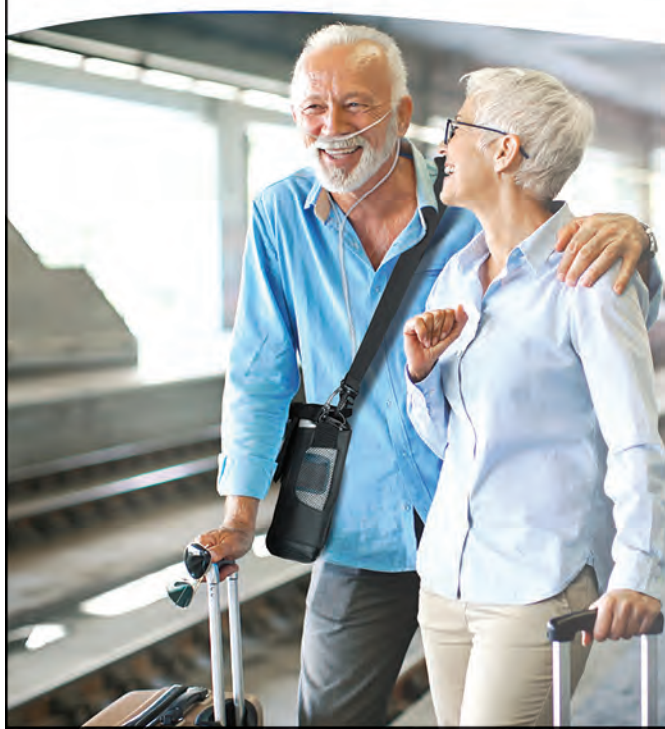
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TUNNEL

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

Continued from Page 1

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

STRATEGY

Continued from Page 1

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.

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DF-CD-NP-G421



Photo by Marie Mccolm

Center Police Department Chief Aaron Fresquez, left, honored two students – Aylya Garcia and Armando Ruybal – who helped save the life of their fellow classmate at Center Consolidated School District.

Two Center students honored for ‘saving a life’

Helped a student that was choking

By MARIE MCCOLM

CENTER — On Tuesday, Sept. 24, at the Town of Center Board of Trustees and Center Police Department Chief Aaron Fresquez honored two students who helped save the life of their fellow classmate at Center Consolidated School District.

Fresquez spoke at the meeting, while holding two plaques that he handed to the two students.

“I wanted to come to this board meeting, to the town, and acknowledge a seventh-grade student and an eighth-grade student. Another kid was choking, now keep in mind, that I found out, that neither one of these kids knew how to perform the Heimlich maneuver or anything like that, but they knew how to react when the situation happened. They ultimately ended up saving a life. I want to present to Armando Ruybal and Aylya Garcia an award for saving someone’s life. They had no idea what to do, they never had any type of thing like this happen, but these young adults here reacted, and ultimately saved a life.”

Fresquez also announced that Saguache County Commissioner Lynne Thompson was present and wanted to present them with an award.

“On behalf of the Saguache County Board of Commissioners, we wanted to present you with a certificate of appreciation. The following awards are giving to Aylya Garcia and Armando Garcia.”

Thompson also relayed that the Colorado State Patrol Dispatch and the 911 Authority also thanked the children for what they did.

According to Superintendent Carrie Zimmerman, two students, Armando Ruybal and Aylya Garcia, noticed their classmate Arian Benitez,

choking in the lunchroom of the school.

Ruybal and Garcia sprang into action and did what they could to help their fellow classmate spit up what he was choking on.

Garcia spoke about what happened and how she felt about helping her classmate.

“Arian was sitting with us, and he was eating his food, and we all got up to move with Armando to another table. Arian started walking and he started choking. He was jumping up and down while he was talking. I didn’t notice he was choking at first, then he went to the water fountain and tried drinking water. When I looked at him, he was turning purple, and I noticed the water kept coming out of his mouth, it wouldn’t go down his throat. One of my other friends told me to do something, and Armando came running from across the cafeteria and started hitting him on his back. I then grabbed him too; I didn’t know what to do but I started pushing on his stomach trying to help him. We just kept doing it until he started breathing and then the nurse came and took him,” Garcia said.

Garcia said that when Benitez returned from seeing the nurse, he thanked her and Armando for helping him.

Ruybal added, “I saw Arian struggling at first, but wasn’t sure he was choking on something, I thought maybe he was just coughing, but that’s when I saw him panicking. I started trying to help him, I tried to do some kind of maneuver to help him. Then it was me and Aylya trying to help him both, she came to try to help, and we just kept trying to help him back and forth and finally Aylya was able to get it out of him. It felt good to help him. He said thank you for everything, too.”

The two children were also thanked for saving the young man’s life by the residents and town trustees.

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.

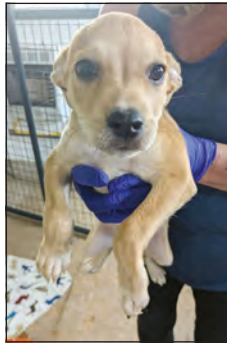
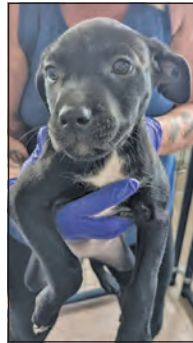
For more information, contact the Public Works Department.

Conour *Managed by Upper Rio Grande Animal Society*
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 Open Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Sat. & Sun. 1:30 - 5 p.m.
 Monday & non-business hours by appointment only
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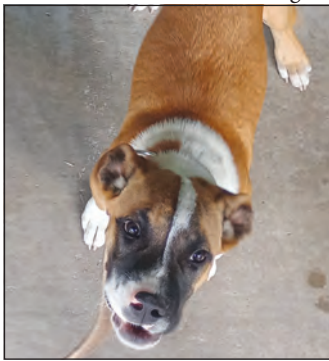
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We would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed to the success of the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society by contributions, donations, volunteering and general support at Conour Animal Shelter.

POST & SOFT



Found together at Rock Creek



Found on 9/18/24 on 5th and Tyndall in Monte Vista



This pup was brought to us on 9/19/24 about 5 weeks after showing up at their property, so we want to make sure nobody is missing this sweet fluff ball

We want to thank everyone for their amazing donations! The pups love having plenty to eat and play with while they’re waiting for their furever homes!

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2024

OCT 11 NATIONAL FARMERS DAY

Donuts and coffee will be served in the farm store beginning at 7 AM to say thank you to our area farmers!

OCT 15 INTERNATIONAL RURAL WOMENS DAY

Thank you to the rural women who dedicate their lives to our communities and families. The Monte Vista Coop employs 28 women!

OCT 16 NATIONAL BOSSES DAY

The Monte Vista Coop would like to thank our managers whose dedication and commitment are truly appreciated!

OCT 7 - 11 CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK

The Monte Vista Coop would like to recognize the members of our community and our employees who strive to give quality customer service. We appreciate your efforts and thank you for making people feel special.



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