



Gateway to the Silver Thread

Volume 94, Number 49 Thursday, December 8, 2022 South Fork, Colorado 81154 75¢

MORSELS

Community Christmas Celebration Dec. 14

CREEDE — The Creede Community Christmas Celebration will be held at 6 p.m. on Dec. 14 at the Creede Community Church on Main Street in Creede.

The Creede Community Choir will be featured along with the Creede Early Learning Center Kids and Elementary School Youth Choir. Popular and sacred Christmas and holiday songs will be featured.

Local musicians will also perform. A snack and cookie potluck will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

For more information, contact Debbie Whitmore at 719-658-0888.

San Luis Valley Area Extension Office Recruiting Master Food Safety Advisor Volunteers

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The San Luis Valley Area Extension Office is recruiting volunteers who will attend in-depth training sessions to be held in Jan. 17-20 on food preservation and safety, and afterward will share their knowledge by volunteering in the community.

The intensive training will cover food safety and prevention of foodborne illness, methods of canning, pickling, freezing and dehydrating. Master Food Safety Advisors must apply for selection to be in the program, must attend all training, work cooperatively with other volunteers and give a minimum of 30 hours of service each year to the community by sharing their knowledge and teaching others. Application due by January 6th.

For more information, contact Janae Naranjo at 719-852-7381 or janae.naranjo@colostate.edu.

SLV Local Foods Coalition session is Dec. 10

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition is conducting a valley-wide Community Food and Agricultural Assessment from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10 at the Ski-Hi Complex I Monte Vista.

Organizers want to hear “your ideas” about improving healthy food access to families and children, as well as ideas for keeping agriculture economically viable in the face of water and labor shortages.

Breakfast, coffee and beverages will be provided. They are offering \$50 stipends to people who want it.

Creede Hotel secures spot on National Historic Registry



BY LYNDIE FERRELL

CREEDE — After several months of waiting, the Creede Hotel was happy to announce that its bid for National Historic Designation was approved and certified through the United States Department of the Interior. The hotel has played an integral role in the history of Creede for the past 130 years and will have a chance to continue its legacy with the preservation of the building.

The hotel has been part of Creede’s history from the beginning in 1892 when it was known as the Zang Hotel and Annex. According to the history provided by current owner Shelly Dee

and local historians, the hotel was built in Jimtown, one of the many small communities that sprang up during those first days of the silver boom. In June of that same year, most of Jimtown was lost to a fire, including the hotel, but the original proprietor had it rebuilt within two days.

It was during this time that Creede was not only the center of attention due to the massive amounts of silver deposits that were being found but it was also the center of controversy as the surrounding counties, Rio Grande and Hinsdale fought for ownership of the townsite. According

Please see HOTEL on Page 6A

Change urgently needed to ensure people and wildlife have access to water in the Upper Rio Grande Basin, scientists say

BY OLIVIA PRENTZE

Colorado Sun

The health of the Upper Rio Grande Basin is at risk and change is urgently needed to ensure people and wildlife continue to have access to water, a group of scientists and advocates said Thursday.

The warning was delivered in a report card for the river, designed by Audubon Southwest, University of Massachusetts Amherst, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and World Wildlife Fund to help residents and policymakers better understand its health.

From its headwaters high in the San Juan

Mountains west of Creede, across New Mexico and into Texas, the river serves as a critical resource for many farmers and communities across the Southwest. But there isn’t enough water to meet their needs while maintaining a healthy river ecosystem, according to the assessment.

The scientists gave the Upper Rio Grande *Please see BASIN on Page 6A*

Rio Grande flows through an area known as the Pinnacles, near Wagon Wheel Gap, photographed after a summer rainstorm on July 18, 2022

Colorado Sun photo by Dean Krakel



Del Norte prepares to light up for the holidays

BY LYNDIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Chamber of Commerce is preparing to light up the town for the holiday season and has a night planned that can be enjoyed by family and friends.

On Dec. 16, beginning at 6 p.m.,

Grand Avenue will be transformed into a winter wonderland for the annual Parade of Lights. This year’s theme is 150 years of Christmas!

There will be warm beverages offered by open businesses, fireworks on top of D Mountain after the parade

and a chance to visit with the big man himself — Santa Claus — at the High Valley Community Center, also after the parade and fireworks.

Along with the parade on Dec. 16, residents and businesses of the small town can participate in both the

Lighting Contest with participants needing to register by Dec. 9 and the Business Passport Program. Anyone interested in participating can register by contacting the chamber at www.DelNorteChamber.org and will

Please see LIGHT on Page 5A

Rio Grande County Museum hosts Holiday Art and Craft Fair

BY LYNDIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — The Rio Grande County Museum’s annual Holiday Art and Craft Fair is open. There are several different art and craft vendors from all over the San Luis Valley set up at the museum for holiday shoppers. The fair is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturdays except for Dec. 10 when the museum will host an open house reception from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Vendors and artists at Holiday Art and Craft Fair include:

- Ruthanne Johnson’s creations harken back to the golden oldie, do-it-yourself days. She’ll have homemade air freshener spritz, bird suet, soap & essential-oil-infused body scrubbies and more.
- Artwork of Evelyn Sprouserowe will be available.

“My name is Evelyn Sprouse Rowe,” she said. “Energized by internal as well as external energies

and influences gives rise to my art. For the abstract qualities of my art come from intuition and a personal interpretation of beauty.

“In my most recent acrylic paintings, I continue to exploit color, shape, form, and the subject matter in order to make a statement about expression and freedom in art making as well as statements about concrete realities of design and structural elements,” she said.

- Faemoon Wolf Designs, owners Douglas *Please see FAIR on Page 4A*

The Rio Grande County Museum’s annual Holiday Art and Craft Fair is open. The fair is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturdays except for Dec. 10 when the museum will host an open house reception from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Photo by Lyndie Ferrell



OBITUARIES

Wayne Lee Wedel Feb. 18, 1951—Nov. 22, 2022

Wayne Lee Wedel, 71, passed away at his home in Scottsdale, Ariz., on Nov. 22, 2022. He was born in Dodge City, Kan., on Feb. 18, 1951, to Lacy and Viola Wedel. He grew up in Kansas where he learned to be a farmer, just like his father. He found that farming was where his heart was.

Wayne and Judi Simenson met in Denver, Colo., and were married in Garden City, Kan., in 1973. They lived in Montezuma and Lakin, Kan., for three years where Wayne raised wheat and corn.

Their daughter, Erica, was born in Dodge City, Kan., in 1976. They moved to Brooksville and Macon, Mississippi in 1977, where Wayne farmed wheat and soybeans. Their son, Ryan, was born in Columbus, Miss., in 1978.

While continuing to farm in Mississippi, Wayne decided to take his combines on the road to do some custom harvesting in Byers and Monte Vista, Colo. Nine years after moving to Mississippi, the family relocated to Monte Vista in the San Luis Valley, where Wayne started out raising wheat and barley under his company name of Golden Valley.

After a couple of years, Wayne

began raising potatoes and that was the crop he loved to grow the most. He developed several strong business relationships and close friendships over the years in the San Luis Valley.

Wayne retired from farming in 2014 when he moved to the Denver area to be closer to family, but his heart was always back at the farm. He moved full time to Scottsdale, Ariz., in 2019 where he enjoyed beautiful desert views from his back patio and many adventures with new-found friends.

Wayne made friends everywhere he went. He loved telling stories of his farming days and showing pictures of his potato crops, cars, grandkids and whatever else had captured his attention. He had a great sense of humor and was most always either laughing or giving someone else a laugh. He always seemed to be doing or saying something funny to get others laughing every time the story was retold.

He was preceded in death by his parents, parents-in-law, brother-in-law Greg Bach and many aunts and uncles.

He is survived by his daughter Erica Kelley (Jeff), son Ryan Wedel (Cassi), grandchildren Caitlyn



Pedron, Tripp Kelley, Cole Wedel, Hollis Wedel, his former wife and mother of his children, Judi Simenson, brother Gerald (Letha) Wedel, sisters Donna Bird and Elva Bach and several nieces and nephews.

Wayne loved to drive, and he had one speed — fast! He lived his life to the fullest, on his terms and used the whole runway. We miss you and until we see you again up in heaven, we know you love us, and we love you too — right back at ya', double time.

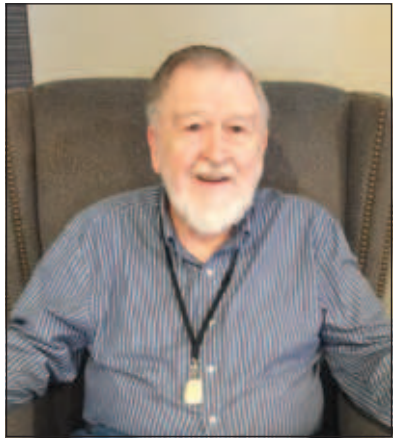
A memorial service will be held at Valley Country Club in Aurora, Colorado on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 11 a.m.

Don Collins 1937-2022

Donald Eugene Collins died on Nov. 30, 2022, at age 85, after a gradual decline following challenges with chronic kidney disease. Don was born in Del Norte, Colo., on April 11, 1937, and was the son of Thomas (T.A.) Collins and Loretta (Mabry) Collins, and grew up in Monte Vista, Colo. Don was class president at Monte Vista High School, where he met his future wife, Edith McFadden.

Don joined Edith at the University of Denver, and the two were married in December of 1958. After graduation, Don obtained his M.Div. degree from Iliff School of Theology in Denver and accepted his first position as a campus minister at Bemidji State College in Bemidji, Minn. Following that job, he moved to the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, working in campus ministry there from 1966-1987. Don then served as pastor of Church of the Good Hope United Methodist Church in Milwaukee, Wis., until his retirement in 1994.

Throughout his life, Don was an activist for social justice. In 1963, he went with a group of colleagues to the March on Washington, where he heard Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Don's



calming nature helped defuse tensions between students and police at UW-Oshkosh during protests against the U.S. war in Vietnam. In 1968, Don was an alternate delegate for presidential candidate Eugene McCarthy at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. While in Oshkosh, Don was also very engaged in local community politics, serving on the Winnebago County Board.

Don's passion for spirituality evolved over time and led him to write two books: "Like Trees That Grow Beside a Stream: Praying through the Psalms" (1991) and "The Reign of God Is In Your Midst: Praying the Gospel of Luke" (1993). Don also had a life-long passion for history

that manifested in genealogical research, with a primary focus on the Mabry family. This research resulted in three highly detailed books on the Mabrys: "The Mabry Family" (1987), "American Journeys: Stories of Our Ancestors" (2001), and "The Mayburs" (2011). He also maintained a regular newsletter, website, and extensive correspondence with other researchers.

Following Don's retirement, he and Edith moved back to Colorado, building a home that Don designed in the mountains near Bailey. After 10 years there, they moved to the Wind Crest Senior Living Community in Highlands Ranch, Colo., where Don taught classes on genealogy and progressive Christian theology. Don's family is especially grateful for the compassion and dedication of the continuing care staff at Wind Crest during the last months of his life.

Don is survived by his wife of 63 years, Edith (McFadden) Collins, son Dave (Woodbury, Minn.), daughter Sara (Woodbury, Minn.), son John (Canton, N.Y.), and five grandchildren.

A celebration of Don's life is pending. Memorial gifts are welcome in Don's name to The Nature Conservancy in Colorado.

Robert H. Parker

Robert H. Parker was born June 7, 1954, in Taos, N.M. His parents were Richard H. Parker and Betty B. Parker. He graduated from Center High School in 1972.

He spent his life in Colorado working in building maintenance and as a handyman. He was divorced and had one child, a daughter named Laura.

Robert was funny, kind, generous and loved nature.

He is survived by his brother Allen and his sisters Carol, Ella and Lisa.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother James Parker.



Phyllis Rea

Georgia Phyllis Rea, age 94, of Colorado Springs, Colo., passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on Nov. 26, 2022, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

There will be no visitation as cremation has taken place.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022, at Feuerborn Family Funeral Service, 1883 US Highway 54, Iola, Kan., with Chaplain Lloyd Houk officiating. Inurnment will follow in the Colony Cemetery, Colony, Kan. Arrangements are by Feuerborn Family Funeral Service, Iola, Kan.

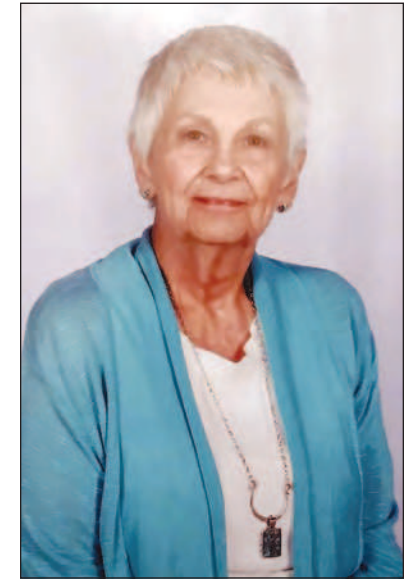
"Phyllis" was born in Colony, Kan., to William Allison Brooks and Alice Geneva (Denton) Brooks on March 12, 1928. She graduated from Ottawa High School in Ottawa, Kan. She married Robert Dale Rea on March 28, 1947, in Lyndon, Kan.

During her early adult life, she was a homemaker and mother, raising five children. In 1970, Phyllis achieved a certificate in Medical Records Administration and worked as an Accredited Medical Records Administrator for hospitals in Kansas and Colorado for the next 30 years. She was involved in Sweet Adelines, PEO, and the First Presbyterian Church in Monte Vista, Colo., where she and Bob resided for nearly 40 years.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her husband, "Bob"; her parents; her brother, Billy Jack Brooks; grandson, Seann Michael Rea; and grandson, Robert James Rea.

Phyllis is survived by Jon Michael Rea (Jane), Steven Dale Rea (Trudy), William Mark Rea (Diane), Barbara Ewing, Kelly Johnston (Ron), 12 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren on the way.

She lived her life by the mantra: "Faith, Love, Purity, Justice, and



Truth," and she tried to instill those values within her children, who she saw as her greatest accomplishment in life.

Memorials in the name of Phyllis Rea are suggested to the First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 527, Monte Vista, CO, 81144.

The family of Phyllis wishes to extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Reinhardt and the staff at Penrose Hospital for their loving care, her many friends who remained in contact and brightened her days over the years, and all those who have supported her children in myriad ways.

Condolences for the family may be left at www.feuerbornfuneral.com.

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

Battle of the sexes

This so-called battle has been a topic of discussion ever since Eve gave Adam the apple but — even at Ol’ Dutch’s advanced age — it seems I learn more about it each day.

If you have ever watched “The Andy Griffith Show” you may recall that once Barney said Andy was losing that battle to one of his flames. To which Andy replied, “that’s one battle I don’t think I would mind losing.”

And I guess that’s how it is with most of us men. We know up front we cannot win yet we always go back for more of the same if we find ourselves divorced or widowed. Which kind of fits the definition of “crazy” of doing the same thing over and over expecting different results. You would think us men would get smarter with age but we are more likely to just adapt to the situation in order to have a companion around so we know what we should be doing every day. Or something like that.

I remember two preachers telling me about dating and marriage once. Their conclusion was that men marry for sex and women for a house. That means one party of that marital agreement will most certainly be disappointed at some point. You do the math.

I think the biggest battle that Miss Trixie and I face has finally been overcome as Ol’ Dutch has come up with a solution to our most pressing problem. That of leaving for a function on time. I am not sure if all women are the same but at least at our house, Miss Trixie has a malady whereby she goes blind when she looks in the closet. This causes a delay in departure and drives Ol’ Dutch to distraction.

Having already been told of a time I needed to be ready I used to get my clothes on and go get in the truck. Where Cooper and I would sit fuming at the running clock waiting for Miss Trixie to appear. I began to get so agitated that I knew something had to be done so I came up with a great solution, as always. Now instead of getting my clothes on and going outside I just remain in my recliner perusing the ads on Craigslist in my gym shorts.

Then as soon as Miss Trixie emerges and asks me if I like her outfit, I then know we are within 30 minutes of leaving the house. I can then get ready



Trout Republic
by Kevin Kirkpatrick

myself which involves finding a clean shirt and putting on the pants that have my wallet in them.

Because that’s about the extent of the thought process I go through for the selection of my clothes. I think that is something that happens to men as they age as we begin to care less and less about what people think and more about being comfortable ourselves. Ol’ Dutch has found out that people are so glad just to have him show up that they don’t care what I wear or how I look. Or something like that.

Not long ago I had written about how I probably only need about five pairs of undies as I seem to only get to wear the top items out of the drawer each week between washes. And thinking back, I am getting more and more like the old men I used to make fun of for wearing the same clothes all the time.

But now I know why. They are comfortable, they are semi clean, the belt is already in them, and they have their wallet already in the back pocket. And if they pass the sniff test then we are good to go. Having finally come to a cease fire in that battle at least Ol’ Dutch is ready to take on the next one which is somehow giving the right answer when asked any question.

Any help from you really old codgers on how to do that would be appreciated.

Kevin Kirkpatrick and his Yorkie, Cooper, fish, hunt, ATV or hike daily. His email is Kevin@TroutRepublic.com. Additional news can be found at www.troutrepublic.com.



YOUR NIGHT SKY

BY DARLENE DANKO

Pleiades

There are several interesting objects to view in the winter sky. One that I’ve talked about before is the Pleiades star cluster. It’s one of the few star clusters that’s visible with the naked eye, although binoculars will always provide more exciting visibility.

One reason it’s easy to see is because it’s relatively close at only 400 light years away. Plus, the stars are young at 70-120 million years old, which makes them a bright blue & white. Because it’s currently drifting through a cloud of dust, binoculars will show you a hazy glow around the stars.

To find the Pleiades, look high overhead in the southern sky above and to the right of the Orion constellation. The stars form a shape

that looks like a mini-Big Dipper. You might recognize it as the Subaru automobile logo. Another name for it is the 7 sisters because there are 7 visible stars. There aren’t any bright objects nearby, so the Pleiades should be easy to find.

While you’re looking at the sky, see if you can find the Andromeda galaxy. It’s in the west about ¾ of the way up in the sky above the great Square of Pegasus asterism, which is a giant diamond square. Andromeda will be a fuzzy oval. With a little searching it should be visible unaided on a clear night.

The full moon is on the 7th, and after that it will appear an hour later each night giving you plenty of dark skies for viewing. Plus, the Milky Way is fainter in the winter making stars and other objects appear



brighter. Remember, in the winter we’re looking away from the bright center of the Milky Way, and instead viewing the outer arms. So, bundle up and enjoy the beautiful winter sky!

The Geminids meteor shower peaks on the 14th and the moon will be down to quarter. The Geminids meteor shower can do 150 meteors in its peak, so even though the moon is now a quarter, we won’t be able to see them all, but we should be able to see some. Remember the Ursids peak with the new moon. So, I’ll write about them next week.

LETTER

MV Chamber thanks sponsors, community for Holiday Bazaar support

Editor,

The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce would like to publicly thank all sponsors for the 2022 Holiday Bazaar. Your contributions brought a smile to the faces of many children and families who attended the event to visit Santa and shop the booths at the Holiday Bazaar.

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The sponsors of the Holiday Bazaar generously made contributions, like so many in our small community, who don’t always get the recognition. Your generosity means the world to us, and we appreciate your willingness to help Santa visit our kids!

The Monte Vista Chamber of

Commerce is looking forward to supporting our community and helping further the interests of small businesses in our local area. Our goal is to host events, charitable works, and cultivate civic ties for the betterment of our community. For questions about the Monte Vista Chamber events, new business ribbon cutting ceremonies, or to become a member, please visit our website montevistachamber.org or call 719-852-2731.

Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce

LETTERS POLICY

Letters are welcome and encouraged. They should be fewer than 300 words, unless arranged beforehand with the editor, and they are subject to editing for length and clarity.

All letters must be signed by the author and include a phone number and address where the author can be reached (these are not for publication). Letters forwarded from other organizations or sent to staff and not for print must be designated as such. Letters over 300 words and without contact

information will be returned to the sender or discarded.

We will accept one letter per person, per subject, per four issues. We reserve the right to reject letters for reasons we believe are appropriate. Please send letters to Letter to the Editor c/o Valley Publishing, P.O. Box 607, Monte Vista, CO 81144 or e-mail to bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com (Attention: Letter to the Editor). Deadline for letters is 5 p.m. Friday.

Political letters may be limited due to space constraints.



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FAIR

Continued from Page 1A

Crowwolf and wife Katy, create Native American leather craft, jewelry and more. Crowwolf learned the traditional way of leather crafting and jewelry making as passed down from Elders. He keeps these traditions alive through his wonderful creations.

• Another artist is Martha Ann Kennedy, a versatile artist living in Monte Vista, where in 2014, she retired from a long career teaching writing. She works mostly in oil paint, with a special love for pigments made from “dirt.” Most of her work are scenes from her wanderings in the San Luis Valley which she calls “Heaven.”

Kennedy began her artist’s life as an art major at Colorado Women’s College (RIP) as a figurative artist, drawing the human body. Over time that evolved into two basic directions:

realistic landscapes and metaphorical figurative paintings. Since 2020, she has been combining the two, depicting the solitary individual in the immensity of nature.

• Other artists include Laura Lunsford who creates whimsical creatures and dolls out of cloth, John Betz who specializes in digital watercolor paintings, Deanne Connelly who paints unique and colorful works of art, Douglas Elliot who works with wood to create beautiful cheeseboards, holiday decorations and more and Kaitlyn Martinez who is a featured pottery artist in the winter edition of the Del Norte Magazine!

• The SLV Quilt Guild is also participating, and have packed the gift shop to the brim with homemade, colorful works of art made by the guild.



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell



Concert of the Carols returning on Dec. 14 and 15

CONTRIBUTED
DEL NORTE —

The 10th production of Concert of Carols returns this year after a two-year COVID hiatus. Faculty and former students of the Mt. Blanca Summer Music Conservatory will be joined by guest artists for two concerts: Wednesday, Dec. 14, at Del Norte High School and Thursday, Dec. 15, at Richardson Hall on the Adams State University campus in Alamosa. Both concerts will be at 7 p.m. and are open to the public.

In addition to faculty and guest artists, the concert will feature the talents of several young Valley musicians who are currently attending college.

These young artists are: Kyla Davis, Voice, Monte Vista, attending Adams State University; Morgan Hollingsworth, voice, Alamosa, attending Adams State University; Laruen Manzanares, voice and piano, Alamosa, attending Regis University; Derek Rodriguez, voice and piano, Alamosa, attending Denver University; Seth Sandburg, Violin, Bayfield, attending University of Northern Colorado; and Java Williams, voice, Fort Garland, attending Adams State University.

Musical selections for the concerts will range from the traditional Christmas music of Adam and Bach to contemporary music of Piazzolla and Jose Feliciano. Also included will be the traditional audience sing-a-long of popular Christmas songs.

Due to the generosity of sponsors these concerts will be offered to the public free of charge.



Courtesy photo

Lauren Manzanares performs during the 2017 Concert of Carols.

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Be cautious around deer during peak of mating season

CONTRIBUTED
DURANGO — Throughout Colorado, deer are in the peak of mating season. Colorado Parks and Wildlife wants to remind the public to take extra precautions to avoid conflicts.

“Bucks are more aggressive this time of year and will stand their ground in the presence of people,” said CPW Area Wildlife Manager Adrian Archuleta. “It is especially important for people and their pets to give deer extra space this time of year.”

Mating season for deer is known as the “rut.” During this time, bucks are territorial and loaded with testosterone. They may attack people that appear to be competitive rivals.

Deer may also see dogs as threats. In past years, bucks have gored people and dogs. If you see deer in your neighborhood, keep your distance. Never attempt to get close to deer, never feed them and never try to pet them.

CPW recommends:
• Keep dogs on a leash.

- On walks, with or without your dog, stay as far away from deer as possible.
- Don’t allow dogs to roam free.
- Check your yard before letting your dog outside.
- Never let your dog chase deer or other wildlife.
- Never leave food outside that could attract wildlife.
- Tell children not to approach deer or any other wildlife

Bucks in the rut may also spar with and become tangled in swing sets, volleyball nets, bicycles, vegetable-wire cages, hoses and more.

Along with tangle hazards in yards, holiday lights become a constant hazard to bucks this time of year. Make sure holiday decorations and lights are attached firmly to structures and strung at least eight feet off the ground. Do not drape lights loose on top of shrubbery or wrap lights around the trunks of trees, which bucks rub their antlers on to sharpen them during the mating season.

“Our wildlife officers respond

to calls every year of deer stuck in various netting and holiday decorations,” Archuleta said. “In some cases, these hazards prevent the deer from being able to eat and breathe. Additionally, this causes high levels of stress on the animal and can lead to fatality.

“When deer do become entangled, it is important for the public to call their closest CPW office quickly with location information. People should never try to free deer of these hazards themselves because of the serious risk of injury that can be caused by antlers and hooves.”

Drivers are also reminded to slow down and be on the lookout for deer on highways. Not only are bucks in pursuit of a mate, but animals are also migrating to winter range and will be more present crossing roadways both on highways and arterial roadways.

The rut for deer usually continues until late December. For more information on living with wildlife, go to: <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/pages/livingwithwildlife.aspx>.



Courtesy photo

Colorado Parks and Wildlife cautions residents in areas of deer populations to be aware of temperamental animals during the rut. There are several things people can do to minimize impact on animals during this time of year and to ensure the safety of these animals around homes and businesses.

RG County Museum to blow out Del Norte’s birthday candles with special guest

BY LYNDIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — The Rio Grande County Museum will be celebrating Del Norte’s 150th anniversary with a special guest from noon to 2 p.m. on Dec. 12. Several weeks ago, one of the descendants from Jacob Gredig visited the museum and shared her lifelong journey that eventually landed her back in Del Norte where she was born.

Margaret Annine Gredig Untiedt was born and raised in Del Norte. She has vivid memories of her grandfather, Jacob Gredig and his wife, Annine for whom she was named after.

Annine graduated from Del Norte Schools in 1941, just before the start of World War II and traveled to California where she lived for most of her life. Through the years, her

and her family donated items from the Gredig family to the museum, including a collection of clothing that belonged to her grandmother.

Annine was born on the same day Del Norte was incorporated 50 years before her birth and she had one request after visiting the museum this summer — she wanted to have her 99th birthday surrounded by her family’s history and the museum was more than happy to oblige.

The Gredig family came from Switzerland in 1856, sailing across the Atlantic Ocean on a Tincondra Sailboat. John Gredig eventually journeyed to Denver, looking for his chance at fortune in the Pikes Peak Gold Rush sometime around 1859.

After striking out, he ventured west and began building toll roads in San Juan Country before leaving for the Civil War.

Once the war was over, John Gredig and his family came back to the San Luis Valley and purchased the land where Del Norte now sits. It was during this time that a group of prospectors approached Gredig and requested permission to build a town after finding gold in the Summitville area. Gredig agreed and gifted the land needed to build the town minus four blocks which is known as the Gredig addition. John Gredig became the first postmaster for the town of Loma which was located on the north side of the Rio Grande before the town of

Del Norte was finished.

John Gredig’s son, and Annine’s grandfather Jacob grew up during the early days of Del Norte alongside his father and told tales of those days to his granddaughter Annine.

“I remember sitting on his lap and he would tell me stories of when he was a boy. He would teach me words in Swedish. He was such a kind man,” said Annine.

The Rio Grande County Museum invites the public to help celebrate 150 years of history and to celebrate the birthday of this special family and Annine from noon until 2 p.m. on Dec. 12. There will be light refreshments and people sharing stories of Del Norte.

Adams State seeks nominations for Educator Hall of Fame

ALAMOSA — Nominations for the Adams State University 2023 Educator Hall of Fame Class is Dec. 16.

Nominations can be submitted online at adams.edu and search “Educators Hall of Fame.”

Nominations can be hand-delivered to the School of Education located in Adams State McDaniel Hall Suite 241. Direct inquiries to the Adams State School of Education at 719-587-7776 or email at teachered@adams.edu.

LIGHT

Continued from Page 1A

have a chance to win prizes for both best business and best residential.

The Business Passport Program is an opportunity and initiative to shop local. Local businesses offer passport cards that can be picked up in several locations throughout

town. Shoppers collect stamps at each of the participating businesses and have a chance to win a prize at the end of the contest on Dec. 25. Cards will need to be turned in at the High Valley Center before the end date.

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The Chapel at Pioneer Presbyterian, 630 Spruce Street, Del Norte—4:00 pm

Please join us for pie and coffee after the service.

Restoration Anglican Church

RestorationAnglicanMission.org
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Wind-driven fire causes \$400K in damage in Conejos County

Agencies from across southern San Luis Valley contain blaze

Staff Report

CONEJOS COUNTY — A wind-driven fire caused an estimated \$400,000 in damage to furniture-grade logs Friday morning, Dec. 2 at Colorado Aspen in Conejos County, according to the Monte Vista Fire Department.

The fire was initially reported by a caller at 4:18 a.m. as a grass fire behind a residence on the southern edge of Rio Grande County on East County Road 11 South.

MVFD Lt. Cody Sullivan said they arrived and found the fire was farther south in the 6900 block of County Road FF in Conejos County at Colorado Aspen, located directly behind Greenie Mountain Lumber.

Colorado Aspen makes wood furniture. Several stacks of their wood were engulfed in flames when MVFD arrived.

“When we got out there it was multiple logging decks burning,” Sullivan said. “The log decks stretched for about an eighth of a mile. There was six of them.”

Sullivan said there were at least 50 mph sustained winds at the time, “so that was a big issue. The heat and fire load that was there was an issue. We went immediately to structure protection. We were very successful in saving all the structures there. The only loss was the logs.”

Sullivan said several structures were threatened, including the buildings at Colorado Aspen and Greenie Mountain Lumber and neighboring residences.

Sullivan said they successfully contained the fire to the wood stacks and did not allow it to spread to nearby “stubble fields.”

In addition to MVFD, resources from Alamosa, Antonito, Romeo, Carmel, Capulin, and La Jara were instrumental in attacking the fire, Sullivan said. Conejos County Sheriff’s Office also assisted. More than 40 firefighters from the multiple departments were at the fire.

“The big threat, too, with the wind was the ember shower pushing the fire into stubble fields of straw and into the grass out there,” Sullivan said. “We had six brush trucks,



Courtesy photo

Multiple fire agencies responded to a fire Friday morning at Colorado Aspen in Conejos County.

creating a buffer out there so it wouldn’t spread to the nearby fields and make a bigger mess. We were very successful with that.”

The glow of the fire was visible for miles and reports were coming in from 35 miles away, Sullivan said he later learned.

Southway Construction, another business in the area, pitched in as well, Sullivan said.

“We were able to utilize a 980 loader from their pit. Rocky Southway is a lifesaver with that,” Sullivan said. “Southway Construction helped us big time with that.”

The loader was able to consolidate the burning logs into two separate piles.

At about 11 a.m. the fire was considered contained and mop-up consumed the next couple of hours. Sullivan said the departments dumped nearly 220,000 gallons of water on the piles. No injuries were reported.

“It will continue to smoke for days but it’s contained,” Sullivan said.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation, Sullivan said.

BASIN

Continued from Page 1A

Basin — spanning the Rocky Mountains to near Los Alamos in New Mexico — a “C” for its overall condition and scored the basin’s health at 54%. They used several indicators, including water quality, the river’s management and ecology, to determine its score, according to the World Wildlife Fund. The part of the river that runs through Colorado earned a C+ and grades deteriorated as the river flowed south.

The Colorado section had low rankings for its annual low flow,

determined by the mean flow of the driest seven-day period in any given year (score of 24) and received an F (score of 18) for its vulnerability to hazardous events. It received a zero for groundwater, or the change in water level in aquifers in the basin.

It received a perfect score for the number of state and national park visitors from the most recent year compared with visitation from previous years, and a 91 for bird diversity in the region.

Climate change and land use are

driving stressors to the Upper Rio Grande and severe droughts and wildfires are expected to put further pressure on the river, according to the report card.

“In New Mexico, we know that water is life, water is sacred, and water is essential to everything that we do and that the life-giving waters of the Rio Grande have nurtured our communities for countless generations,” Democratic U.S. Rep. Melanie Stansbury of New Mexico said Thursday during a presentation of the report card in Santa Fe.

“But right now our river is facing the biggest challenges it has probably ever faced with catastrophic changes

coming from climate impacts to snowpack, river flows and impacts to all of the millions of people and communities that depend on this river for life,” she said.

Researchers also analyzed different management options to mitigate the impacts of climate change on the river and to improve its condition. Several options, like fallowing agricultural land, reducing water conveyance losses, reoperating reservoirs and reducing municipal water demand, showed promise for maintaining flows in the Rio Grande, the report card said.

The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science has developed report cards analyzing the

conditions for rivers around the world.

The river has been the center of a decade-long, multimillion-dollar case as New Mexico, Texas and Colorado fight over the management of the river. Last month, state officials negotiated a proposed settlement that officials said will end the years-long battle, but the federal government and two irrigation districts that depend on the Rio Grande are objecting.

Some of the river’s stretches in New Mexico reached record low flows earlier this year, causing some farmers to voluntarily fallow their fields to help the state meet downstream water-sharing obligations, the Associated Press reported.

HOTEL

Continued from Page 1A

to 1892 newspapers, the town was in a tug of war for rights to the mining community ultimately resulting in the State of Colorado stepping in to settle the disagreements.

The silver boom was in full swing, and people were flocking to the small mining town while the debate on which county the town resided in took place at the state level. The infamous tug of war for Creede exploded and it was eventually decided to create a county for Creede which was called Mineral County by the end of summer in 1892.

During this time, the Creede Hotel, then called the Zanga Hotel stood tall among the many buildings and tents that created Jimtown and Creede proper. The hotel has a rich history that will now be shared with the world, thanks to the historical designation.

Owner Dee stated that though she is the first in Creede to have a building on the National Historic Registry, she hopes that others will follow and that Creede will be designated a historical location before long.

In September, when Dee first heard she was approved for the State Register of Historic places and would be reviewed for the National Register, she said, “That was my goal when I set out to run this place. It has always been the heart of Creede, right from the very start and I wanted it to continue to be the heart. Bringing it back to life and now having it on the historic registry is really a dream come true.”

How Real Hope Can Change Your Life

For many years, I was an extremely negative person. I could walk into a room and pick out the one small detail that was wrong, like the wallpaper in the corner that was slightly peeling. I saw what was wrong with everything!

The reason for this attitude was that I had been abused for many years throughout my childhood, and I’d experienced a lot of disappointment. When Dave and I got married, I was 23 years old and couldn’t remember a time I had ever been really happy.

People who have had a tough time in life are often afraid to expect anything good because they don’t want to be disappointed and have to deal with the pain it brings. But I know from personal experience that if you’ve lived with this mind-set, you can make a change—with God’s help—and live with hope!

I know this is true because in John 10:10 (AMP), Jesus says, “The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].” If we will trust and believe in Him, we can have abundant life in Christ!

Believe It Before You See It

I sometimes say that we are the “show me” generation—we want to see it before we believe it. In fact, most of us have a hard time believing that God is working on our behalf until we *see* something happening with our natural eyes.

But that’s not how God operates—He works behind the scenes. You may not *see* anything happening, but do you believe God is working on things in your life *right now*? Do you believe that He’s got a plan to help your children, your marriage, or those things you’ve been praying about for years?

Jeremiah 29:11 says that God has a good plan for your life “to give you a future and a hope.” In other words, God is looking for an opportunity to be good to you!

Maybe it’s hard to imagine yourself as a positive, faith-filled person, *full of hope*. If so, I know exactly how you feel. Some people are simply afraid to hope because they have experienced so much disappointment and don’t think they can face any more pain.

But that’s okay, because God is “the God of hope,” and He wants to “fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will abound in hope and overflow with confidence in His promises” Romans 15:13). With Him, it’s never too late to start believing, anticipating, hoping and *expecting*.

The Truth About What Hope Really Is

One definition of *hope* is “a favorable and confident expectation.” I believe many times we take a passive attitude, deciding we’ll just “wait and see” if something will change or “happen” to go well for us. But God wants us to expect *on purpose*. He desires for us to actively *anticipate* something good.

So...*what are you expecting?*

How do you talk about your future? What kind of attitude do you have about your everyday life? When you get up in the morning, do you think, *Well, I guess I’ll try to make it through another day*. Or do you wake up with anticipation that *today* might be the day you receive your breakthrough?

It’s interesting that when a woman is pregnant, we say that she’s “expecting.” And the further along she is, the more she anticipates what’s coming.

My pregnancies were especially unique because I carried all four of my children approximately a month past their due date. My doctor told me I was the only woman he knew who stayed pregnant as long as an elephant!

Toward the end of each pregnancy, I woke up every day and said, “Today is going to be the day—it *has* to be the day!” I had my suitcase packed and

Moving Up Higher
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Joyce Meyer



ready. I was constantly double-checking everything and making sure things were in order, *confident* that my baby would come at any moment. Anytime I felt a twinge, I would think, *There it is! It’s coming!*

This is exactly how God wants you to be with Him! He has an incredible plan for your life, and He wants you to anticipate that good things are right around the corner.

Hope says: “Things may have been this way for a long time, but God is the God of the impossible, and things *can* change.”

Maybe you’ve endured a lot of pain and disappointment and can’t imagine anything getting better. The enemy wants to convince you that things will *never* change. But God is a God of hope, new beginnings and second chances!

He wants you to know that He loves you...and *knowing that will fill you with overflowing hope!*

*For more on this topic, order Joyce’s three-teaching resource **Filled with Hope**. 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 **LOVING PEOPLE WHO ARE HARD TO LOVE** (FaithWords). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

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APD officer faces long recovery ahead after being shot

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — A month after being shot while responding to a call, Alamosa Police Officer Mollee Heeney is “doing good” according to her father, Steve Heeney.

On the afternoon of Oct. 27, Mollee Heeney, a 25-year-old officer and two-year veteran with the APD was shot twice while responding to a call of “a fight or disturbance in progress” in the 1200 block of Denver Street. According to a press conference held the day after, upon arriving on the scene, a juvenile suspect produced a handgun and shot Mollee Heeney twice, once in the leg and once in the shoulder.

According to Steve Heeney, the shot to the leg shattered her femur, resulting in surgeons placing a steel rod in her leg. The femur is the longest, strongest bone in the human body that connects the hip to the lower leg. The second bullet struck her in her shoulder but “didn’t cause as much damage,” he said.

“That (shattered femur) is where the major recovery is going to take place,” Steve Heeney said.

During surgery, the surgeons made the decision to not remove either bullet.

“The doctors didn’t want to cause any more tissue or nerve damage, so they left the bullets in her. She’ll carry those with her for the rest of her life.”

Otherwise, he said Mollee is mostly “bored” and wishes to return to work.

However, that may be a while.

Mollee Heeney is not yet cleared to put weight on her leg. That will be reassessed in the next few weeks. Once the bone can hold more weight, physical therapy will likely begin.

“She’s a real trooper and, knowing her, she’ll probably break records once she gets started,” Steve Heeney said.

She currently is recuperating at her parents’ house in Colorado Springs with her two “farm”

dogs Lola (a blue healer mix) and Koda (a black lab mix). Mollee Heeney rescued both dogs from the shelter in Alamosa.

“We’ve got five dogs in the house now,” Steve Heeney said, “So, that’s a bit of a challenge. But (those dogs) are what get her through a lot of things.

“They’re kind of support dogs.”

Steve Heeney describes his daughter as a “hometown” girl. She attended Adams State University where she played soccer.

“She loves it there,” he said. “That’s why she stayed around. She’s actually been with the police force for about three-and-a-half or four years. She started on an internship and then got the only full-paid scholarship to the police academy that year. She worked for the police department while she was going to school.”

Steve Heeney said he and his wife are “good” and understand that their daughter’s recovery will take time.

“It’s going to be a long recovery but it’s so much better than it could have been,” he said. “We’re glad she’s alive. And I can’t say enough about the whole police force there. We couldn’t be happier with the friends she’s made. And Mollee is definitely anxious to get back to work.”

APD also is supporting her through recovery.

“Mollee is part of our law enforcement family,” said Alamosa Police Chief Ken Anderson. “We’re supporting her through her recovery and hope she’s back on her feet soon.”

Anyone wishing to donate to support Mollee Henney’s Recovery Support Fund may do so by going to gofundme.com/f/officer-mollee-heeney-recovery-fund.

APD officer Mollee Henney, pictured here with her dogs Lola and Koda, recuperates after being shot in October.

Courtesy photo.







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HVCC is in the holiday spirit

CONTRIBUTED
DELNORTE — Hi,everyone! For people who celebrated Thanksgiving, High Valley Community Center hopes you had a great holiday. This December we're not only welcoming snowy weather, but all the fun holiday activities as well!

We have plans to make DIY ugly Christmas shirts, homemade wrapping paper, glitter snow paint, corn mosaics, and more. The final Friday is going to be filled with excitement — Christmas shopping, lunch at Calvillos, and present wrapping.

At 6:30 p.m., Del Norte is having its annual Parade of Lights followed

by fireworks and a visit from Santa at High Valley. We hope to see you there!

HVCC provides tutoring services for students in need of some extra support. HVCC staff members are available Tuesdays through Thursdays in the Del Norte High School lounge from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Stop by and see us, we are happy to help. Also, there will be snacks.

Our Encore program is growing, and we have enjoyed building relationships with our wonderful community. If are a member of the over-50 club or know someone who would like to participate in Encore, it's free of charge and there are many

perks to enjoy. We offer weekly art activities at HVCC on Wednesdays, Zumba classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and monthly outings to name a few. If you are interested, please give us a call at 719-657-2172.

We are happy to announce we will be partnering with Kristi Aughe to provide community fitness classes at the HVCC Gym beginning in January 2023. Kristi has a ton of experience in the fitness industry, and we are so happy to be working with her. Classes will begin on Jan. 9 so keep an eye out on our website for updated information.

We are looking forward to kicking

off the Boys Basketball and K-2 Co-ed Basketball season! We are working on finalizing a schedule, so please keep an eye out on our website, www.TheHVCC.org for updates. Basketball players must also be registered with HVCC to be eligible to participate in HVCC sports. HVCC registrations are available on our website under the "Registration" tab. Call us with any questions!

A friendly reminder, HVCC will be closed for the holiday break from Tuesday, Dec. 20 until Monday, Jan. 9. We will re-open for regular programming on Tuesday, Jan. 10.

Enjoy your week everyone!



Courtesy photos
High Valley Community Center students enjoy the holiday season with arts and crafts, homework help and outdoor activities. The center is in full swing for their after-school program and has tons in store for participating students throughout December.

San Luis Valley Scoreboard Basketball 2021-2022

GIRLS			
Centauri 68	.....	Dove Creek 67	
Creede 26	.....	Antonito 24	
Springfield 43	.....	Sierra Grande 23	
Ellicott 47	.....	Alamosa 41	
Sangre de Cristo 62	.....	Center 51	
Durango 37	.....	Centauri 23	
Sanford 37	.....	Salida 21	
Cotopaxi 44	.....	Moffat 20	
Monte Vista 47	.....	Pueblo Central 46	
Cheraw 44	.....	Sargent 28	
Centennial 50	.....	Creede 9	
Sierra Grande 39	.....	SB(Co-op) 26	
Center 47	.....	Centennial 43	
Monte Vista 50	.....	Rocky Ford 29	
Salida 39	.....	Center 25	
Sangre de Cristo 73	.....	Creede 9	
Centauri 59	.....	Brush 28	
Monte Vista 49	.....	Swink 20	
Alamosa 43	.....	Lamar 35	
Center 46	.....	Sargent 45	
Ellicott 55	.....	Del Norte 29	
Cripple Creek-Victor 37	.....	Moffat 29	
Centennial 45	.....	Dolores 32	
Sangre de Cristo 43	.....	Cheraw 41	
Ellicott 55	.....	Del Norte 29	
BOYS			
Centauri 47	.....	Dove Creek 37	
Antonito 56	.....	Creede 22	
Centennial 60	.....	Sangre de Cristo 39	
Alamosa 63	.....	Ellicott 43	
Centauri 62	.....	Cedaridge 45	
Salida 65	.....	Sanford 33	
Cotopaxi 70	.....	Moffat 36	
Sierra Grande 45	.....	Springfield 38	
Monte Vista 49	.....	Swallows Charter 7	
Cheraw 43	.....	Sargent 31	
Center 64	.....	Creede 23	
Dolores 54	.....	Antonito 52	
Centauri 52	.....	Brush 41	
Sangre de Cristo 57	.....	Creede 14	
Monte Vista 52	.....	Rocky Ford 27	
Centennial 54	.....	Center 45	
Sargent 53	.....	Antonito 38	
Salida 77	.....	Center 24	
Monte Vista 80	.....	St. Mary's 63	
Del Norte 73	.....	Ellicott 36	
Center 59	.....	Dolores 31	
Alamosa 56	.....	Lamar 31	
Cheraw 54	.....	Centennial 19	
Moffat 50	Cripple Creek-Victor 37	
Sangre de Cristo 43	Sargent 28	
Holly 42	Sierra Grande 22	

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Courtesy photo

Bill Metz Elementary School in Monte Vista was one of 21 Colorado schools awarded the Governor’s Bright Spot award and \$50,000 in GEER funding.

Bill Metz Elementary one of 21 schools to receive Governor’s Bright Spot Awards

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — Bill Metz Elementary School in Monte Vista will receive \$50,000 in addition to being named among 21 winners of the Governor’s Bright Spot Awards. Gov. Jared Polis announced the winners Friday, Nov. 18. The funding is emergency relief funding aimed at helping students recover from the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. “The unprecedented challenges schools faced through the pandemic were difficult to navigate but, your schools, teachers and communities showed incredible resilience and I am honored to highlight you all,”

Polis said. To qualify for the grant, schools must have advanced more than two bands on their performance framework since 2019. The schools receive \$50,000 in GEER funds that go towards expanding student resources, faculty development, preparing and preventing public health emergencies and other opportunities that benefit students’ learning experiences. “Congratulations to these schools that have shown strong improvements in results despite the pandemic, and to all those that worked to advance students’ learning over the last three years,” Polis said.

Major stores to start charging 10¢ fee for paper, plastic bags on Jan. 1

BY PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — A bill signed into law by Governor Jared Polis in July of 2021 that ultimately bans the use of plastic bags and polystyrene containers typically used for carry-out orders in restaurants takes effect on Jan. 1, 2023. Starting in January, HB21-1162 Management of Plastic Materials requires retail establishments with more than three locations to assess a 10-cent fee on all paper and plastic bags. The bill impacts major grocery stores and supermarkets, major convenience stores, major liquor stores, major retailers and other major retail outlets that provide plastic shopping

bags. The fee will not be assessed on bags used for frozen foods, meat, seafood, plants and other items that could be otherwise contaminated. Smaller stores with three or fewer locations, farmers and roadside markets, laundry or dry cleaning services and pharmacies will be exempt from charging the fee. Sixty percent of the collected fees will go to local municipalities to pay for costs related to recycling and composting. The remaining forty percent will go to businesses. On Jan. 1, 2024, a ban on all plastic bags and polystyrene containers will go into effect, with major stores and

restaurants only being allowed to use what remaining stock they have in inventory until July 1, 2024. The original intent was for Colorado to join the growing list of states that have banned the use of all plastic bags and polystyrene containers and encourage people to use reusable bags for their purchases. However, major pushback from Republicans in the state legislature, lobbyists for the plastic industry and **Please see BAGS on Page 2** Single-use plastic bags hang in the scrub near Commons Park in Denver on Feb. 11, 2021.

Colorado Newsline photo by Faith Miller



Rio Chama Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program receives funding

CONTRIBUTED

SANTA FE, NM — Throughout the summer and fall, forests and meeting spaces throughout northern New Mexico and southern Colorado have been filled with lively discussion surrounding the ambitious Rio Chama Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP). Announced in April, federal funding for the project, which covers 3.77 million acres across the region, will total \$30 million over a 10-year period. The project aims to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire, restore natural fire patterns, improve watershed resilience and health and enhance the economic sustainability of industries in the region. “I am excited to engage with our partners to brainstorm new possibilities to undertake critical restoration work across all ownerships in this project area,” says Jeremy Marshall,

Rio Chama CFLRP Coordinator for the US Forest Service, “and to formulate new partnerships to achieve this work on the ground.” The Rio Chama CFLRP is actively engaging with a variety of stakeholders and partners across the Rio Chama landscape including Tribes, state agencies, place-based collaboratives, private landowners, and forest products industry representatives, as well as the public. Project partners are currently developing monitoring plans for ecological and socio-economic objectives, defining desirable future conditions, identifying priority landscapes and supporting cross-boundary project development and implementation in the region. The project aims to reduce uncharacteristic wildfire risk by decreasing tree densities and restoring fire regimes to fire adapted landscapes where low-intensity and mixed-

severity fire were prevalent prior fire suppression policy. The suppression and absence of fire in forests of the American Southwest since approximately the 1880’s has allowed our forests to become unnaturally dense which often leads to uncharacteristically intense fire. This wildfire risk has become amplified by climate change. The CFLRP investment is focused on this landscape due to its high priority for water, wildlife, streams, and community values. Long-term landscape scale projects hinge on innovative collaboration. The Rio Chama CFLRP is no exception, bringing together four National Forests (San Juan, Rio Grande, Carson, and Santa Fe), and the Two Watersheds, Three Rivers, Two States Cohesive Strategy Partnership (2-3-2), a diverse group of land managers, landowners, communities and exist- **See PROGRAM on Page 2**

Holiday Craft Fair, Parade of Lights Dec. 10

STAFF REPORT

FORT GARLAND — Mark Dec. 10 on the calendar to celebrate the Christmas season in Fort Garland. The Fort Garland Museum is holding a Holiday Craft Fair and Artisan’s Market from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 10, followed by the Parade of Lights in Fort Garland. The Fort Garland Museum will have vendors selling a variety of items. If interested in being a vendor, contact the Fort Garland Museum at 719-379-3512. It costs \$10 and the museum will provide a table. The

booths will be in the Infantry barracks. Santa is also coming to visit the museum from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be music and food available. The Fort Garland Museum is organizing its first-ever Biscochitos Bake-Off. It is free to enter. Bring a dozen (12) cookies on a disposable plate to the Mess Hall between 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. Judges will award a prize to the winner. The Parade of Lights in Fort Garland on Dec. 10 is hosted by the Sangre de Christo Ranch Owner’s Group. People can decorate their cars,

trucks, horses, ATVs, like the poster says, “Whatever your imagination can create!” The parade begins at 6:30 p.m. Participants will travel down the frontage road to the Fort Garland Veteran’s Park. At the park, they’ll be greeted by Santa, who will have presents and pose for pictures. There will be coffee, hot chocolate, and snacks available until 7:30 p.m. Anyone interested in being in the parade is asked to contact Wade Eppler at wadeeppler@yahoo.com, who is the commander of the American Legion Post No. 142 in San Luis.

PROGRAM

Continued from Page 1

ing place-based collaborative groups. Founded in 2016, the 2-3-2 approaches land management planning by bringing together stakeholders, including representatives of the US Forest Service, to prioritize, implement and monitor cross-boundary landscape-scale forest restoration projects.

“The 2-3-2 Partnership is looking forward to strengthening and growing regional and local relationships that foster collaborative work on the ground and in the office,” says Dana Guinn, Director of Forest Programs at Mountain Studies Institute (MSI), one of the organizations coordinating the 2-3-2 along with the Forest Stewards Guild. “We believe that working together is the way forward when it comes to identifying and addressing landscape values, management opportunities, and ways to monitor progress towards local and regional goals.”

This program will support the collaboration and coordination of stakeholders, application of cross-jurisdictional forest restoration treatments, development and implementation of an effective and transparent monitoring program, and direction of socioeconomic monitoring efforts to understand the beneficial impacts of the project on communities.

“We are working at a landscape-scale by bringing together land managers, landowners, and stakeholders in multiple jurisdictions to implement cross-boundary restoration in a vast landscape with a lot of interests,” says Esmé Cadiente, the Southwest Regional Director for the Forest Stewards Guild. “We know this will be challenging, but we are all committed to the shared stewardship of this landscape to support the ecological and community needs of the region.”

Along with the development of monitoring plans and desired conditions for the landscape, the 2-3-2 will coordinate and conduct projects and monitoring on non-Forest Service lands to increase the overall efficacy of the landscape approach through continuous rather than fragmented treatments. This “all-lands” approach is important because the health of private lands is critical to the overall health of the landscape.

BAGS

Continued from Page 1

some in the business community resulted in a final bill that undermined several aspects of the bill’s original intention by allowing smaller retail establishments and restaurants (those with three or fewer locations) to continue using plastic bags and polystyrene unless prohibited by their local governments.

Even with the exemptions, no Republican legislator voted for the bill.

According to the Colorado Public Interest Research Group, Coloradans use an estimated 4.6 million single-use plastic bags and 1.2 polystyrene cups every single day. That figure is based on national statistics that show that each individual living in the United States uses (and disposes of) 306 single-use plastic bags and 82 foam cups a year.

Single-use plastic bags are typically made from petroleum-based plastic, which are not biodegradable — meaning they do not decompose or dissolve on their own. Research has proven that, when exposed to sunlight, single-use plastic bags may break down over the period of 20 to 50 years, at which point they turn into microplastics which have been found in — literally all parts of the planet, from the top of Mount Everest to samples extracted from some of the deepest parts of the Pacific Ocean.

Leadership tour/camp opportunities for high school junior and senior students

CONTRIBUTED

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Attention high school juniors and seniors whose parents get their electric power from SLV Rural Electric Cooperative it’s time to apply for a once-in-a-lifetime trip.

SLV REC invites high school students to represent the co-op at the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. from June 12-18, 2023.

Spend a week in Washington D.C. with other local student leaders learning the history of cooperatives, meeting with state representatives and developing leadership skills.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington, D.C. every June since the late 1950s. Be part of nearly 1,500 high school students nationwide for a fun-filled, all-expenses-paid week in the nation’s capital!

Colorado Youth Tour participants begin the tour in Denver, where they learn about Colorado’s state government and electric cooperatives. From Denver, students fly to Washington, D.C., to attend educational seminars and visit with Colorado state representatives in the House and the Senate. Students will also visit historical sites, including the Lincoln Memorial,

Mount Vernon, Arlington Cemetery, and the Smithsonian.

The Youth Tour is a great way to learn more about our nation’s history, develop leadership skills, understand electric cooperatives better and make lasting friendships.

Or if Washington, D.C. doesn’t interest you? REC will also send one student to the Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs from July 15-20, 2023.

The camp brings young people from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming together to learn about how electric cooperatives operate and build their leadership skills. The campers can

serve on committees that plan activities throughout the week such as a banquet, dance, games, and the daily operations. They tour a mine and a power plant, see a variety of awesome speakers and presentations, go rafting and make memories of a lifetime.

To be the lucky winner of the Youth Tour or the Youth Leadership Camp, the application process includes submitting a 500-word essay or a three-minute video. The deadline for submitting applications is Jan. 10, 2023. More details can be found online at slvrec.com (Community tab). Call Jennifer Alonzo at 719-852-6660 or email: jalonzo@slvrec.com, with questions.

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Adams State featured in season 6 of ‘The College Tour’ now on Amazon Prime Video

Groundbreaking TV series spotlights Adams State students, faculty and campus, offering viewers an up-close look at college life

CONTRIBUTED
ALAMOSA — Adams State University is featured in season 6 of “The College Tour,” an innovative series from Emmy-nominated producers Alex Boylan, Lisa Hennessy, and Burton Roberts, which is now streaming on Amazon Prime Video. Hosted by “The Amazing Race” winner Alex Boylan, “The College Tour” travels the country telling the story of each college and university through the diverse lens of its students, giving the viewer an intimate portrayal of life on campus. Inspiring and motivating, the show serves as

a vehicle to help students across the world to connect with higher education, enabling them to make informed decisions about their future without having to travel anywhere. “Our students really shine in the show,” added Adams State Director of PR and Marketing Linda Relyea. “They are a good representation of our students and highlight the many amazing opportunities at Adams State.” From academics and sports to club activities and the local community, “The College Tour” highlights each school’s unique culture while showcasing a vast array of students thriving as they work toward success. “Adams State offers students an extraordinary experience, and we’re so excited to share that on ‘The College Tour,’” said Alex Boylan. “For students, choosing which college to attend is a monumental decision, and this episode gives prospective students a first-hand look at what makes this school so special.”



Courtesy photo
‘The College Tour Adams State’ show is now streaming on Amazon Prime Video. Pictured, Christian Santistevan, senior agribusiness major and San Luis native, prepares for his segment of the show.

SOIL Sangre de Cristo opens 0% interest loan application period

CONTRIBUTED
SAN LUIS VALLEY — SOIL Sangre de Cristo is accepting applications for 0% Interest Loans. Loans awards are available for local farmers, ranchers and other food producers in South-Central Colorado. The application, in Spanish and English is available on the SOIL Sangre de Cristo website, soilsangredecris-to.org.



The loan application includes the matrix in which the vetting committee judges the merits of each applicant based on regenerative farming practices and commitment to supporting others in their community. The deadline for submitting the loan applications is Jan. 31, 2023. Awards will be voted on by the Investor Members of SOIL Sangre de Cristo on March 5, 2023. SOIL Sangre de Cristo supports farmers, ranchers and other food producers in our region with 0% Interest Loans. Investing with SOIL Sangre de Cristo gives Investor Members a mindful and positive channel to generate resilience in regional, nourishing food. The board is an “all-volunteer” team.

“This keeps operating expenses very low. The dollars invested stay in our community working over and over again through the revolving loan fund,” organizers stated. Members want to see a diverse and resilient food chain. Thanks to these members SOIL Sangre de Cristo has loaned \$41,000 to seven farms and ranches in the region. Members of the community become investors by building the revolving loan fund to support this effort. Farmers and food producers join SOIL Sangre de Cristo for \$25 annually. Annual memberships start at \$250 per person and up, it includes a vote on loan distributions. Contributions to the loan fund for any amount are welcome. SOIL Sangre de Cristo’s mission is uniting the communities of South-Central Colorado through direct support for local farmers, ranchers and food producers, improving food security, improvement in soil carbon and health for all residents. All contributions are tax deductible and are matched 50% by the Mighty Arrow Family Foundation.

Puzzle Sponsored by MDS Waste & Recycle



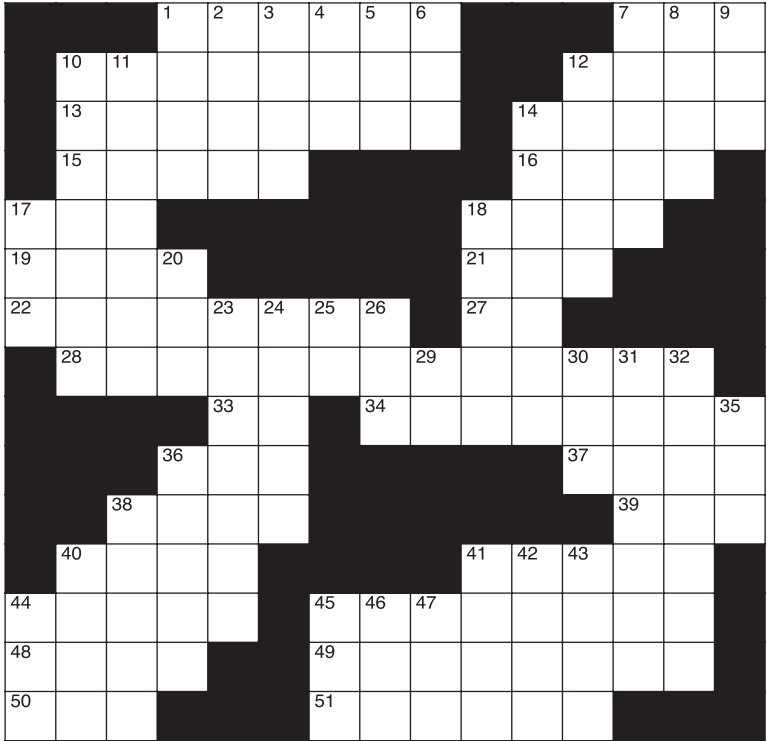
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CLUES ACROSS

1. A woman of refinement
7. Body part
10. One who imitates
12. Tropical Asian starlings
13. A type of delivery
14. W. Australian capital
15. Many wombs
16. Wings
17. Expression of amusement
18. Brews
19. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
21. Mild expression
22. Solitary
27. Distance to top
28. The rebirth of a soul in a new body
33. Police who investigate police (abbr.)
34. Begrudged
36. Popular sports league
37. Autonomous republic of Russia
38. Double-headed drum
39. Type of light bulb
40. Czech River
41. Male servants (Span.)
44. Previously
45. Minor
48. Metrical foot
49. Days that follow Mondays

Solution to last week's puzzle

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



50. Small European viper
51. News shows have one

CLUES DOWN

1. Inspiration
2. Resembling wings
3. Form of Persian
4. Consumed
5. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
6. Sea eagle
7. Jaguarundi
8. Poker stake
9. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
10. South American nation
11. A colorless, odorless gas
12. Disturbance
14. Artist’s tool
17. Polish peninsula
18. Ottoman military leaders
20. Bird-like dinosaur

23. Drinking glass
24. Central Florida city
25. One’s mother
26. To do it is human
29. Atomic #10
30. Used to write
31. The branch of medicine concerned with the ear
32. Adversaries
35. Have already done
36. One of conspicuous wealth
38. It flies over sporting events
40. Geological times
41. Net
42. Musical phrase
43. Chadic dialect
44. Private Internet Access (abbr.)
45. Lizard genus
46. Woman of the church
47. Having ten

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

Wanted: Someone who knows the value of old woodworking tools. 719-850-1032 (12-28)

07 Help Wanted

Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for Patrol Sergeant. Must be 21 years of age, pass background check and drug test including marijuana screening, have good driving record, P.O.S.T. certification, at least 4 years of basic patrol experience, High School diploma or GED. Pick up/submit applications to Rio Grande

County Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. Applications and job description also available online at www.riograndecounty.org. Pay range is \$21.99-\$22.78 depending on experience and will increase in 2023. Closing date 12/15/2022 (12-14)

Monte Vista Police Officer —

The City of Monte Vista is seeking qualified applicants for position of Police Officer. Applicants must be POST certified as a Colorado Police Officer. Selected applicants must be able to pass a physical, physiological evaluation, pre-employment drug test and extensive background check. Must be able to work shifts. Starting salary \$44,720-47,320 DOE plus excellent benefits and retirement. A \$5,000 hiring bonus is available with a two-year commitment. See hiring agreement for details. Application and complete job description may be found at www.cityofmontevista.colorado.gov If you have questions, please call the HR Office at 719-852-8284 or

email to hrmanager@ci.monte-vista.co.us Open until filled. EEO/ADA (12-14)

Del Norte Police Officer — The Del Norte Police Department is seeking a FT Police Officer to join

the Del Norte Police Department. Some duties include, protecting the lives, health, welfare, and property of individuals within the city limits by enforcing municipal, state, and federal statutes, ordinances, and laws. Other du-

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Del Norte Bank is seeking to fill a full-time position for Receptionist/Loan Assistant. Primary duties will be to welcome customers both on the phone and in the lobby as well as provide support to lenders and other miscellaneous duties. Successful candidate will have a bright personality, be a good problem solver and willing to learn. The position is permanent, full-time, M – F, 8am – 5pm with a robust benefits package. Application available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers or inquire at 719-657-3376 and ask for Mike. EOE. (12-14)

JT Timber Falling is hiring a full-time heavy equipment mechanic in Blanca, Colo. \$25-\$45/hr depending on experience. Benefits are available. Call 719-379-4066 or visit jttimber.com, for more information. (12-21)

Ecodynamics Inc is hiring a shop/steel worker who preferably has computer skills and can run over the counter sales in the office as well. Call Marie for more

info: 719-852-2662 and drop off resumes at 5492 US Hwy 160 E, MV (12-14)

Rio Grande County Department of Social Services is accepting applications for a Child Protection Caseworker. Full-time position with County benefits. Pre-employment drug screening, including testing for marijuana, will be required. \$21.99 -\$22.78 DOE. Full job description and application available at www.riograndecounty.org or at Human Resources, 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132. (12-7)

12 Houses for Rent
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17 Real Estate For Sale
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A retelling of Thanksgiving in Del Norte from 1875

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

DEL NORTE — While wandering through the 1875 San Juan Prospector, it was a pleasure to come across a retelling of the first Thanksgiving held in Del Norte. The small but intricate article detailed the event as one of the best festivities held in Del Norte in the three years since its incorporation in 1872. “This has been the most festive week ever held in Del Norte and we for one, are happy for it.”

According to the article, the Rev. George Darley preached a Thanksgiving morning community service at the Rio Grande County Courthouse, which was brand new at the time and housed not only the courthouse but the church on Sundays and a jail below the courtroom floor. There are several accounts throughout the newspaper that tell tales of pesky criminals having been locked up with their guns, shooting holes in the floor and the need for a new jail away from the busy courtroom.

This sermon was the first Thanksgiving community service held in Del Norte which made it very special for all who attended. Family dinners were held throughout the remainder of the day that featured main courses of wild game, turkey and blue point oysters, which were a special treat to have especially considering how far they had to travel to come all the way to Del Norte. Dinners also included plum puddings, mince pies and fresh trout.

The article also states that earlier in the week, town founder Major J. Cary French went out to Wagon Wheel Gap near what would soon become Creede and caught 103 native trout for the week’s festivities. The Whitsitt House, later known as the Windsor Hotel hosted a Thanksgiving Ball that evening with another meal prepared and served at midnight with dancing that continued until 5 a.m.

It was a holiday that was talked about for weeks after and mentioned in years since!

SLV LWV dinner meeting is Dec. 8

MONTE VISTA — The San Luis Valley League of Women Voters is having a no-host dinner meeting on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m. at Nino’s Restaurant in Monte Vista. Everyone is welcome.

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a nonpartisan, grassroots nonprofit dedicated to empowering everyone to fully participate in the

U.S. democracy. With active Leagues in all 50 states and more than 750 Leagues across the country, they engage in advocacy, education, litigation, and organizing to protect every American’s freedom to vote.

The meeting address is Nino’s Restaurant, 118 Adams St., Monte Vista.

For more information, contact Wanda Hawman at 505-506-6077.

Ski and outdoor gear swap Dec. 10 in Alamosa

MONTE VISTA — The San Juan Nordic Club, with the Alamosa Family Recreation Center, will be holding its annual ski and outdoor gear swap from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Alamosa Family Recreation Center, 2222 Old Sanford Rd., Alamosa.

Drop off items to donate or sell from 1 to 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 9 or from 9 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10.

Pick up unsold items from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10.

If you wish to sell items, a \$1 fee will be charged to non-members of the nordic club. Ten percent of the sales will go to the San Juan Nordic Club to support the grooming of nordic ski trails in the San Luis Valley. Currently, those trails are at Big Meadows, east of Wolf Creek and at Rock Creek, south of Monte Vista.

For more information, or if you wish to volunteer at the swap, contact Adam at 336-607-4465 or erinadamoores@gmail.com.



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SLV Irrigation District’s annual meeting is Dec. 14

MONTE VISTA — The San Luis Valley Irrigation District is having its annual meeting at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at the Ski-Hi Complex, east end of the new building. Lunch will be provided.


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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.

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Here’s Milo (previously Kielow) who’s a 4 month old Bully mix that’s looking for his forever home! Great with other dogs, cats, kids, new people pretty much everything! Milo is crate trained as well as potty trained too! He’s currently in a foster home so contact us today to set up a meeting!



Jerry is a sweet Husky/ Shepherd mix we believe to be about 1 year old. He’s got a lot of personality, and really seems to just want to make friends. Jerry did well meeting a kitten, and with some dogs at the fence, we will require meets first with any other dogs. Stop by and meet him today!



Marvin is our approximate 9 year old Saint Bernard. He loves all the attention, and has done well in his dog to dog meets. Marvin hasn’t met any cats with us yet so we’re unsure there, but he loves every person he has met so far. He’s a little on the vocal side especially when he wants your cuddles! Stop by and meet Marvin, let’s get this Senior out ASAP!



Meet Jake! We believe him to be a Mastiff mix going on almost a year old. Jake is a strong young man who is a little slow to make new friends dog wise due to a couple bad interactions, but if your dog is friendly he should do great! He’s working on his manners while on leash and just needs someone with a little patience that he can trust. Stop in and see Jake today!

Hello everyone! We’re starting to run low on our Adult Dog food for both large and small breeds. We could also use bleach and trashbags for our daily cleanings. We appreciate any and all assistance!

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Custom built, impeccable quality, full log home located just minutes from the heart of South Fork, Colorado. This home and 1015 sq. ft. bunkhouse provides a total sq. ft. of 5458. Features in the home include a massive rock fireplace, 3 bedrooms, 3-1/2 bathrooms, loft that boasts a futon plus two-window beds, office, playroom, and a large living room for you to enjoy with family and friends. The wrap around deck will allow you to experience world-class high mountain views. Above the garage is a custom log guest quarters with a spectacular kitchen, bath, large living room, and bedroom combined into one unit. Bear Creek subdivision offers controlled access through a gated entrance. **MLS #738155**
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2,023 Sq. Ft. Mountain Oasis Home with Charm and Elegance in La Lomita at South Fork Ranches. This 5-bedroom 2 bath home with attached 675 Sq. Ft. 2 car garage is magical! Home is adjacent to BML Land & National Forest with amazing mountain views of Del Norte Peak, Beaver Mountain and Aqua Ramon from the front porch and additional large wrap around rear deck with concrete pad and hook up ready for your own personal hot tub. Open floor plan with kitchen, dining and living area beautifully hand finished with cathedral ceilings, wood floors, wood burning stove, propane rock fireplace, radiant floor heating and propane on demand water system. This home has three heat sources to keep you warm and comfortable all winter long. Master bedroom has large his & her master walk-in closets and patio door leading out to the back deck. Perfect place to enjoy your hot morning cup of coffee. The master bath has a beautiful large walk-in tile shower and dual sinks. There are two additional nice size guest bedrooms for your company to stay and enjoy. The kitchen overlooks the living area with large eat in counter and plenty of counter space and lots of built-in cabinets. There is a butler pantry for extra storage that features a beautiful, frosted glass door. This is an outstanding property with abundant wildlife surrounded by national forest and BML land and close to the mighty Rio Grande River, Wolf Creek Ski area and the Rio Grande Golf Resort. There is numerous hiking, four wheeling, mountain biking trails in the area for you to have fun and explore! Don't miss this opportunity! Start your adventure! Call/text me and schedule your personal showing today! **Price \$669,500** **MLS #796518**
115 La Lomita Circle • South Fork
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SOLD

Beautiful 1,728 Sq. Ft. Mountain Home property, 3 beds, 2 baths with additional large lot. Welcoming entrance with closed in front porch. Beautiful Kitchen with matching appliances and custom-made cabinets with soft close drawers that include spice rack and corner round with plenty of storage for all your cooking entertainment needs. Dining area just off the kitchen and living room area with propane stove and beautiful brick fireplace with wood burning stove in living area. Perfect place with beautiful views to curl up enjoy the fire and devour a good book. This home has three heat sources to keep you cozy and warm all winter long. Off back side of the kitchen is a bright sunroom currently being used for a wonderful craft room with large sliding door looking out to the back deck with stunning views with large closet and cozy picture window seat for bird watching. Wonderful place to just sit with your morning cup of coffee, relax and enjoy. Off the sunroom is door to large 2 car garage with huge workbench and cabinets for all your tools and woodworking needs. Upstairs you have an additional bath and two guest bedrooms with large windows where you feel as if you are sleeping amongst the beautiful pine trees. Off the sunroom and out the back garage door awaits a wonderful lot to the back yard with a gas grill hooked up to propane for grilling and entertaining friends and family. Out back you will be charmed by the little fly shop with electricity and all its storage amenities with extra shelving. There is an additional shed which is used and perfect for wood storage. This home is one you must see! Located in Ponderosa Country Estates with no HOA, paved roads and Town of South Fork water and sewer system. You will love visiting with the abundant wildlife that visit this neighborhood, moments from the Rio Grande River, Rio Grande Golf Club, Wolf Creek ski area and everything outdoors! Don't let this one pass you by! Won't last! Call me and schedule your personal showing today! **\$585,000** **MLS #796641**
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UNDER CONTRACT

This South Fork Beauty checks all the boxes, both his and hers - and is a fun place for family and friends. Custom built Log home tucked in the trees and backs up to the National Forest. The majestic South Fork River and Mighty Rio Grande with world class fishing is just a short walk from the property. The main floor consists of an open kitchen, dining and living area with beautiful carved mantel stone fireplace with large log cathedral ceiling. Stunning entrance to behold! Custom designed kitchen with beautiful designer backsplash and large eat in counter space looking over the living area with custom soft close cabinets and plenty of storage and room for all your entertaining. Kitchen has wonderful large butler pantry with pantry sink and beautiful custom stained-glass door. The Detailed Check Boxes include radiant floor heating with four zones and two Rinnai on-demand water tanks. Light Touch lighting system and electrical in the floor. Master bedroom is on the main floor with sitting area with luscious mountain views. Master bath with beautiful large tiled walk-in shower. Guest bedroom and bath on main floor with elegant soaking antique tub. Upstairs spacious loft with two electronic skylights with rain sensors that will close automatically with additional sleeping areas including office space and additional large size bedroom with barn door and bath. Enjoy your 3-car garage with large workshop and more than enough room for all your mountain toys. Your family and friends will love the upstairs bungalow above the garage with kitchenette, living area, built-in beds additional bedroom and bath. Bring your family and friends to gather to enjoy the great outdoors! Boarders National Forest, with streams, creeks, lakes rolling topography, open fields, pine, fir, aspen trees, mountain views and abundant wildlife! Beautifully designed home tucked peacefully into the woods and easily accessible to town, Wolf Creek Ski Area and the Rio Grande Golf Course Resort. Once in a lifetime Opportunity! This property perfectly captures the best of both worlds between outdoor recreation and exceptional entertainment. Start your dream and Call/Text me to schedule your personal showing today! **\$1,395,000** **MLS #796960**
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Charming D-Log 1,807 sq ft 2-bedroom 2 bath mountain home with attached garage and circular drive. Your perfect get away or full-time residence located in the well sought-after neighborhood, Ponderosa Estates. This home has a large Master/Guest room upstairs with full bath that could easily be use for large family rec room or used as a bunk room with plenty of sleeping space for guest if so desired. You have lots of options! There is an additional room upstairs you can use for craft/hobby room or small home office. Top of the stairs landing is adorable sitting area that would make the perfect spot for a relaxing reading nook to enjoy a good book. This home has an open floor plan with eat in kitchen and large living room area with wood burning stove that will keep you cozy and warm all winter long. Kitchen door leads out to a nice back deck with large yard and beautiful views of the mountains. Perfect for that first hot cup of coffee in the mornings. Downstair bedroom off the kitchen area has been used as the main bedroom with hallway bath and located on the main floor. This residence is close to town and only moments away from the Rio Grande River, Golf Club, and 20 minutes from Wolf Creek ski area. Off your front deck is a wonderful place for viewing all the mule deer and wild turkeys that frequent this neighborhood! No active HOA and in an area that does allow short term rentals. Close to skiing, fishing, hiking, four wheeling, hunting and everything outdoors. Start Your Adventure! Call and schedule your showing today! **\$450,000** **MLS #797758**
298 Aspen Drive • South Fork
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810 Grand Ave, Del Norte
 Prime business location, 3,000 sq ft. **BUSY CORNER LOT** - Can become any business! **MLS#779889** Call for price



Text 134436 to 25678 for more info
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0 Old Homestead Road, Del Norte
 48 acres bordering National Forest. Easy, year-round access, both Forest Service Road AND a county-maintained road to the lot line. Ride out and enjoy without trailering your ATV or snowmobile. **\$425,000** **MLS#796222**



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634 Arapahoe Road, South Fork
 3 bedroom 2 bath home on 0.36 acres. No covenants, Air B&B/VRBO OK. Great Views, incredibly well kept. **\$315,000** **MLS #797774**



Text 134108 to 25678 for more info
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SOLD

\$433,000 **MLS #789027**
83 Highland • South Fork
Bernadette Gingrass • Steffens & CO. Realty
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SOLD

Incredible views from this Mountain property! Varied topography with mature Fir, Aspen, Pine and Pinion trees. This 5.02-acre property allows you several building sites to choose from. Paved roads located in gated Bear Creek subdivision. This property gives you great sun exposure with access to the forest service and a common area for homeowners located on 20+ acres of the Rio Grande River. Utilities and Good Well already in place 15 GPM. Gold Medal fishing, hunting and 4 wheeling just moments away. Not to mention fabulous skiing at Wolf Creek Ski Resort! Bring Your house plans this is the perfect property to build your Dream Home! Start your Adventure! Call and schedule your showing today! **\$149,500** **MLS #795402**
4495 Bear Creek Circle • South Fork
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*** * * There's No Place Like Home * * ***
 for the **HOLIDAYS**

Thank you to everyone who let me help them find a home in 2022

Call Bernadette today!

Steffens & Company Realty, INC
Cell 719-850-1993
Bernadette Gingrass, Broker Associate
30635 US Hwy 160 • South Fork
www.bernadettegingrassrealestate.com

