



Lady Moose stung by Hornets

— Page 6



Snow Country Explorers ride to Love Lake

— Page 12



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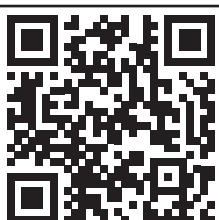
Valley Courier

WEDNESDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

January 10, 2024

\$1



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SLV Today

Forest Specialist Series to feature CAIC forecaster

The Rio Grande National Forest is back for another year of hosting the Forest Specialist Series. Matt Huber, Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) Forecaster, is the featured speaker this month.

Huber is back again to share about local avalanche conditions. He has worked with CAIC since 2018 and currently focuses on highway avalanche safety on the southeast side of the San Juan Mountains.

The online program will be held at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 24, in partnership with the San Juan Mountains Association. Visit the Rio Grande National Forest website, www.fs.usda.gov/riogrande, or Facebook page for event information.

This online event is part of the Rio Grande National Forest's Forest Specialist Series, a once-monthly online presentation in partnership with the San Juan Mountains Association to share information with the community.

Yoga at the Baca Grande Library

SAGUACHE COUNTY—A free yoga session with Allison Wonderland is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 13, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Baca Grande Library located on the T Road near Crestone. The session is titled, *The Spiritual Journey: Awe, Gratitude and Grief for Our World*.

For more information, email allisonwonderland@gmail.com.

SLV WEATHER



Mostly Sunny, Wind Chill 31/4

Thurs: Chance of Snow, Mostly Cloudy 27/-14

Fri: Mostly Sunny, Breezy 25/-4

INSIDE

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ASU Emeritus Professor Crowther is MLK Week keynote

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — Adams State University MLK Week includes a keynote address, "MLK: Non-violence in a Violent World," by Emeritus Professor of History Ed Crowther, Ph.D. The event begins at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 16, in McDaniel Hall 101. The lecture is free and open to the public and light refreshments will be served.

Crowther is a published author of several books and peer-

reviewed articles, including topics that address Martin Luther King Jr. and his legacy. A passionate scholar, Crowther served on the MLK Week committee for over 10 years during his tenure at Adams State, bringing in impressive guest speakers including the Rev. Samuel Kyles, close friend to Martin Luther King Jr. and witness to King's murder; Charles Payne, Ph.D., the Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor in the School of Social Service Administration

at the University of Chicago; Bob Moses, civil rights activist and founder of the Algebra Project; Wayne Flynt, co-founder of the Alabama Poverty Project and Sowing Seeds of Hope; and Charles E. Cobb, Jr., Field Sec-

■ See **KEYNOTE** page 3

Adams State Emeritus Professor of History Ed Crowther, Ph.D., will deliver the free keynote address, 'MLK: Nonviolence in a Violent World,' on Jan. 16.

Courtesy photo



Courier photo by John Waters

The Alamosa County Airport Advisory Board is scheduled to have a regular meeting today, Jan. 10, at 8:15 a.m.

San Luis Valley Regional Airport has sights set on 2024

By JOHN WATERS

Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — The new year brings changes to the San Luis Valley Regional Airport. Most daunting is the possible civil penalty the Federal Aviation Administration may levy against the airport for allegedly failing to ensure aircraft rescue and firefighting personnel were available during scheduled air carrier flights.

According to Rick Breitenfeldt with the FAA, an agreement regarding the matter will be made later this month. In June 2023, the FAA proposed a fine of \$1.2 million for the alleged failures.

The airport plans to finalize a \$6 per day parking fee that Airport Manager Will Hickman estimated will bring in \$79,000 annually in revenue. The parking fee program has been approved by the airport

advisory board.

At the last meeting of the Alamosa County Board of Commissioners, the parking fee was originally scheduled to be discussed at the Jan. 10 meeting to be finalized. Alamosa County Administrator Roni Wisdom has told the Valley Courier that item is not on the agenda.

As previously reported, passenger carrier Denver Air Connection will seek a renewal of its contract with the U.S. Department of Transportation and seek a subsidy for an additional four years under the Essential Air Service (EAS) Program when the bidding process begins in March.

In 2022, Denver Air, which offers service to Denver received EAS funding for a two-year period totaling \$5.2 million. In 1978, the EAS program was put into place under section 419 of the Federal

Aviation Act to ensure small communities such as the San Luis Valley are served and offer passenger service to larger airport, so the public has access to connecting flights nationally and worldwide.

On Thursday, Dec. 11, the Alamosa County Airport Advisory Board, which provides oversight for the facility, will have a regular meeting at the airport at 8:15 a.m. The meeting is open to the public.

On the agenda is an update from Hickman, and updates regarding a Homeland Security grant, general aviation, the marketing committee and Quest Car Rental.

Jon Coleman from Denver Air Connection is also on the agenda and it is not known if he will discuss the renewal of the contract with the Department of Transportation.

Mary Conner to retire from Trinity Lutheran School

Annie Nissen to be new school director

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — Trinity Lutheran School has announced the retirement of Mary Conner, who is retiring in May after serving at the school for 33 years.

Conner started as a part-time assistant in preschool, kindergarten, and first-second grades. She was certified through Trinidad State College and became director in 1998. Through her years of service, she has enjoyed working with students, seeing past students, and teaching children of past students.

According to the school, "Trinity has been blessed to have had Mary on our staff for 33 years and we will miss her greatly."

Trinity announced that Annie Nissen has been appointed as the new school director. She is currently a member of the preschool staff. She has an associate degree in animal science from North Eastern Jr. College in Sterling, a bachelor's in early childhood from the University of Phoenix, and an associate's in elementary education from Colorado Mountain College.

Previously, Nissen was the lead teacher in a preschool class for 4 years, and a kindergarten para for the local school district in New Castle. She has returned to the Valley to work on her husband Grant's family farm. She also has a 3-year old daughter Marlee.



Mary Conner



Annie Nissen

SRMAC keynote speaker is Temple Grandin

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — The Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference (SRMAC) will be held at the Outcalt Event and Conference Center at SLV Ski Hi Complex on Feb. 6-8, and Temple Grandin is the keynote speaker.

Grandin is a world-renowned bestselling author and speaker on autism and animal behavior. Grandin is a professor of animal science and works for Colorado State University.

Grandin is set to present three unique educational sessions on

Wednesday, Feb. 7. Grandin's keynote presentation will be at 11 a.m. Grandin will speak about visual thinking. Her speech will include secret gifts of people who are visual thinkers through patterns and concepts.

Grandin's second session will be held at 1:30 p.m. and will include tips and techniques on handling livestock. A panel discussion will also be held, but the time is yet to be determined for the discussion.

Grandin did not speak until she was 3 and a half years old. Grandin obtained her master's

in animal science while attending Arizona State University. She is known worldwide for developing and implementing specially handled livestock facilities.

Grandin designed a center track restrainer system for meat plants. Her system is curved and designed to help keep cattle calm and reduce stress while they are in a meat plant facility.

The Southern Rocky Mountain Agricultural Conference takes place once a year. Ag producers are always looking

■ See **GRANDIN** page 3



Temple Grandin



Record

Deputy Lucero found dead

STAFF REPORT
P A G O S A
SPRINGS— Deputy William (Bill) Lucero, a longtime law enforcement officer who previously served in the San Luis Valley was found dead at his residence Tuesday during a welfare check in Archuleta County where he has served as a deputy sheriff since the spring of 2022. Currently, the cause of his death is unknown.

According to Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux, Dep-

uty Lucero's career spanned over 30 years, including serving as a United States Marine. He served as a sheriff's deputy, police officer and police chief with multiple agencies across Southwest Colorado, including the San Luis Valley.

Lucero was a Rio Grande County deputy for about one year and became Center Police Chief in 2011. Prior to that, he served in Ignacio with the Southern Ute PD.

"Our deepest sym-



Deputy William Lucero

pathy and condolences are extended to Deputy Lucero's family and friends," Le Roux said in a press release.



Photo by Tyler Cerny

A slash pile is burned at the Rio Grande State Wildlife Area.

Pile burns planned for Rio Grande State Wildlife Area

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE
MONTE VISTA— Colorado Parks and Wildlife, in cooperation with the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, will conduct prescribed pile burning operations at the Rio Grande State Wildlife Area during the months of January and February, as weather conditions allow.

Similar work has safely been completed on the property in previous winters. Piles have been created to remove debris and reduce hazardous fuel accumulation to help reduce the risk of larger wildfires

and for public safety. The piles are burned in areas where other means of disposal are not feasible.

Smoke may be visible in the area and could persist for several days as fuels burn themselves out. Crews will be on scene to monitor the progress throughout the process. The public is reminded not to call 911 or other emergency services if smoke is visible from the burn areas.

CPW works closely with agencies such as the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division, Division of Fire Prevention and Control and local authorities in developing

and implementing any burning project.

Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. Additional information is available at www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdp/prescribed-fire-smoke-and-health.

For more information, contact CPW District Wildlife Manager Tyler Cerny at 719-850-6363 or tyler.cerny@state.co.us.

Rio Grande State Wildlife Area is a 935-acre property in Rio Grande County that offers good fishing and hunting opportunities. It is closed to public access Feb. 15 through July 15 to protect nesting and wintering bird populations.

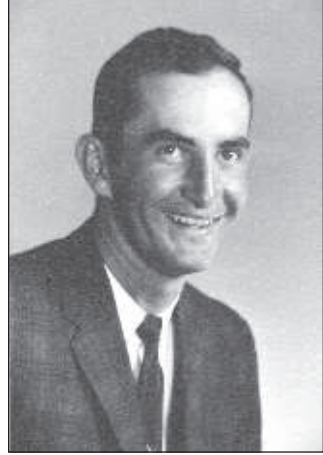
OBITUARIES

Jose David Lucero

Jose David Lucero was born on June 9, 1936, in Blanca, Colo. Eternally Gone Fishing on Jan. 6, 2024, in Colorado Springs, Colo. He was the youngest of 13 siblings. Dave was a Blanca Eagles High School Basketball State Qualifier in 1952 and he graduated from Blanca High School in 1954.

After graduation from high school, he began attending Adams State College in Alamosa. This was made possible by using the \$64 monthly insurance money his mother Beatrice was receiving from his deceased brother Pascual's death benefit provided by the US Government after he was killed in action 4 weeks before the end of WWII. Dave was inducted into the Army on July 14, 1960. He served 2 years active duty, 1 year of which was overseas in Korea.

After military service, Dave eventually returned to Adams State College where he completed his studies in 1968. Around this same time Dave pursued a career as park ranger. He worked at the Sand Dunes National Monument and Yellowstone National Park as a summer park ranger. Dave did his student teaching at the San Luis High School in the 1967-68 school year. He began



working in Manzanola the following year.

It was at this time that he suffered a major life altering event. He suffered a debilitating brain hemorrhage from an aneurysm that nearly ended his life. His sister Aurelia took care of him and nursed him back to health. He was mostly unchanged afterward except for the three boreholes from the brain surgery to clip off and contain the aneurysm that had nearly ended his life. Later in life he would put marbles in those indentations to entertain his little nephews and nieces. After his recovery, Uncle Dave applied for a position in the Social Security Administration. He worked there until he retired in 2001.

After retirement he mostly enjoyed doing what he loved most: traveling, fishing, gambling, watching the Broncos and visiting with family and friends. He eventually moved to the Span-

ish Peaks Veterans Community Living Center in August of 2021. He developed a respiratory ailment in December of 2023 which eventually took his life.

Dave was preceded in death by His Mother Beatrice Esquivel Lucero, his Father Magarito Lucero, infant sister Julianita and infant brother Magarito, brothers Tito Benigno, Reynaldo Pascal, Pablo Amado, Gaspar, Juan Fransico Carlos, and Ruben Fernandez. Sisters Manuelita Emilia and Aurelia.

He is survived by his sister Marcella Lucero Roybal of Blanca, Colo., sister-in-Law Priscilla Salazar (Gaspar) Lucero of Pueblo, Colo., numerous nieces, nephews, grand nieces, grand nephews, and many friends. A special thank you to those who cared for him during his last days.

Vigil Services with Recitation of the Rosary will be held on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Funeral mass will follow at 10 a.m. Burial to follow after mass at the Ft. Garland Cemetery. Friends and Family are welcome to enjoy a meal and fellowship at the Blanca/Ft. Garland Community Center after the burial.

To Leave online condolences, please visit romerofuneralhomes.com. The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Valley Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Kenneth J. Naramore

Kenneth J. Naramore, 89, of San Luis, Colo., was called home on Dec. 3, 2023, at the San Luis Valley Care Center surrounded by his loving family. Kenneth was welcomed into the world on May 5, 1934, to Coy Lewis Naramore and Lilly Mae Barber.

Kenneth was united in Marriage to Marjorie Garcia Quintana on May 21, 1982. Kenneth was a metal spinner and would help build parts for the space shuttles. He also enjoyed fishing, hunting, and the time he spent in the mountains with his loving family. Kenneth also enjoyed watch-

ing westerns in his spare time.

His greatest pastime was the time he spent with his loving family and friends. Kenneth will be missed by all who knew him.

His legacy will live on through his loving wife Marjorie, son Gary Naramore, grandchildren Kim Brusea, Chris Brusea, Stephanie Naramore, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his parents Coy and Lilly Naramore, daughter Kathern Naramore Lane, and sons Thomas James Naramore and Clarence Delbert Naramore.



Services will be held at a later date.

To leave online condolences, please visit romerofuneralhomes.com. The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Valley Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Florencio Suazo (Alfie, Fonzy)



Sunrise Dec. 18, 1945, to Marcelina Chavez and Oligario Suazo. Sunset Nov. 27, 2023.

Survived by wife Tonita Suazo, daughter Guadalupe Suazo, granddaughter Gloria VandeWalle, sisters Flora Trujillo, Ambrosia Orskovich, Rachel Trujillo and Gloria Woodman.

Preceded in death by his parents, his beloved grandparents, his four brothers, two sisters, son Rick Chavez, and daughter Gloria Ruby Suazo.

He was an avid Colorado sports fan, a kind soul that lit up any room he was in.

Funeral and Rosary will be Jan. 18, 2024. Rosary at 9:30 a.m. and Mass at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church in Alamosa. Dinner after.

To leave online condolences, please visit romerofuneralhomes.com. The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Valley Funeral Home of Alamosa.

CSU Extension Office's Gurule offering Strengthening Families program

By MARIE MCCOLM MONTE VISTA — Carole Gurule is excited to talk about the program Strengthening Families. Gurule, who is the 4-H Juntos Development Area Specialist, is no stranger to helping youth and their families.

Gurule is excited about this program because it is targeted at strengthening relationships between families, parents, and children. The program promotes positive communication, family bonding, and joint problem-solving skills.

Strengthening Families is a six-week program that meets one night a week for two hours. Hour one, parents and their children will separate but work on similar skills. Hour two, families get together and have fun, they play games and work on family projects.

Youth and parent sessions while apart include, discussions, group skills practices, and games, video presentations, and skill building activities. Each night, the meetings will begin with a free family meal.

There is also free childcare provided at the meetings for younger siblings.

For parents areas of work will be, helping parents set appropriate lim-

its for youth, motivating children to apply good behavior skills, protecting against risks in youth, and sharing expectations with youth.

For youth there will be goal setting skills, stress management skills, parent appreciation skills, understanding and following rules, and becoming resistant to peer pressures.

"I believe that strength is a bond that already exists between families. This program encourages so much. I want to help families strengthen what already exists, but also help families solve any type of problem together. This is a program I believe in, and I know that we can help," Gurule said.

Gurule spoke about what the program entails.

"This program works with families, their core values, their dreams, their goals. We explain to parents that their children have dreams and goals just like they did when they were young. We then speak to their children and explain to them that their parents were once young also, and they had dreams and goals just like them. It is important to look at both sides, so that parents and children can gain a better understanding of each other," she said.

The program targets children ages 10-14. It is designed to help youth succeed during their teen years. The program helps strengthen families and build problem solving skills so that families are encouraged to grow and enjoy and understand each other.

Gurule said this also helps families in crisis.

"This is a program that helps families and youth understand each other. You get a certificate, it's a six-week program, parents can use this for parenting class verification, there are different things parents and youth can use this for. Overall, it's great, and I am looking forward to getting some people in for registration to help their families get stronger," Gurule said.

Currently, there is registration available for classes starting Jan. 15. The location will be announced, with dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m., and the program starting at 6 p.m. To register or for more information about the program, contact Gurule at the Colorado State University SLV Area Extension Office at 719-852-7381.

PENDING OBITUARIES

Roger 'Riff' Arthur Fenton

Longtime Saguache resident Roger "Riff" Arthur Fenton, 79, passed away on Jan. 7, 2024, in his home surrounded by his loving family. Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes and words of comfort for Roger's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

Karen Williams

Monte Vista resident Karen Williams passed away Jan. 4, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Timothy Salazar

Monte Vista resident Timothy Salazar passed away Jan. 7, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

School Menu
Wednesday
January 10, 2024

BREAKFAST
Egg, Cheese Pork & Bacon Breakfast Sandwich/Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY
Beef Cannoli
Broccoli
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL
Beef Cannoli
Broccoli
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL
Beef Cannoli
Broccoli
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students
Alamosa School District
To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553

Valley News

Rio Grande Hospital receives MultiPlan Rural Health Grant

STAFF REPORT
DEL NORTE — MultiPlan Corporation, a leading provider of technology-enabled cost management solutions to the U.S. healthcare industry, recently announced the recipients of its 2023 Rural Health Grants. The four healthcare providers, including Rio Grande Hospital, selected to receive this year's grants have each submitted creative proposals to help address the healthcare needs of people in their community.

The recipients of the 2023 MultiPlan Rural Health Grant are:

- Rio Grande Hospital and Clinics in Del Norte
- Benewah Community Hospital in St. Maries, Idaho
- New River Health Association in Oak Hill, W.Va.
- Springhill Medical Center in Springhill, La.

Rio Grande Hospital and Clinics cares for residents as well as visitors who come to enjoy a variety of year-round outdoor activities. Rio Grande County's elevation is over 13,200 feet, and they treat many patients in the emergency room with ailments that directly relate to the high altitude. They will use the MultiPlan Rural Health Grant for education materials at visitor locations and pulse monitoring devices and hydration packets for emergency patients. The grant will also help fund Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for a limited number of patients.

Benewah Community Hospital will use the MultiPlan Rural Health Grant to offer pediatric vaccines at their clinic during their well-child visits. Families previously needed to travel an hour north to the nearest pediatric clinic that offers vaccines, often taking time off work to do so. This removes a bar-

rier for the low-income families in the area and expands access to healthcare for children in their community.

Located in coal mining country, New River Health Association will use the MultiPlan Rural Health Grant to expand their Black Lung Clinic services by adding a respiratory therapist/exercise physiologist. The services provided will help miners be more active and breathe better, which also benefits their families and the community.

Springhill Medical Center identified a need for a patient transport service to help get patients to and from their appointments because many residents do not have access to transportation as they would in a more urban area. The center will use the grant for initial staffing costs and to equip a 14-passenger bus with a 360-degree camera and backup sensors.

"We received 69 applications for our Rural Health Grant this year. With so many worthy initiatives, it was difficult to choose," stated Bruce Singleton, Senior Vice President, Network Development Strategy for MultiPlan. He added, "The four recipients illustrate the unique needs of different rural communities around the country, and MultiPlan is happy to further their community outreach programs."

Since the program's inception in 1995, MultiPlan has been helping hospitals in rural areas and the populations they serve. Grant recipients use the funds to introduce or expand services, educate their populations, provide screenings and undertake other endeavors that support the healthcare needs of people in their communities. Get more information about the MultiPlan Rural Health Grant

Ice fishing tournament Jan. 13 at Mountain Home Reservoir



Courier photo by John Waters

COSTILLA COUNTY— This happy angler shows off his catch in this file photo from a 2023 ice fishing tournament on the Mountain Home Reservoir. Valley Veterans ReCreation will hold an ice fishing tournament at the Mountain Home Reservoir on Saturday, Jan. 13, with a check-in beginning at 6:30 a.m. Prizes and raffles by American Legion 142. Contact DJ at 719-480-0270, for details. To register and pay fees, see www.paypal.me/vetrecreation.

IRS won't tax Colorado's 2023 TABOR refunds

By COLORADO NEWSLINE

Coloradans don't have to worry about paying taxes on their Taxpayer's Bill of Rights refunds this year.

A spokesperson for Democratic U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet said he confirmed in a meeting with Gov. Jared Polis and Internal Revenue Service leadership Tuesday that TABOR refunds will not

be taxed this filing season.

New IRS guidance released in August left the possibility for TABOR refunds to be considered taxable income for the 2023 tax year, and it's still possible the IRS will tax the refunds in the future.

Shelby Wieman, a spokesperson for Polis, said the confirmation that TABOR refunds

paid to Coloradans in 2023 won't count as taxable income for the 2024 filing season means taxpayers don't need to report the refunds when they file their taxes ahead of April 15.

Polis and other Colorado officials argued against the possibility of taxing the refunds last year, which they said would have reversed nearly 30 years of precedent in how

the IRS treats Colorado's refund mechanism. Colorado voters approved the TABOR amendment, which mandated the refunds alongside a variety of other anti-tax measures, in 1992.

Coloradans filing their taxes this year can expect an \$800 TABOR refund from the state, though the dollar amount is expected to decrease over the next few years.

Colorado property manager will pay \$1 million settlement for charging tenants unlawful fees

By LINDSEY TOOMER
 Colorado Newsline

A Colorado property management company will pay a \$1 million settlement after improperly charging tenants, particularly college students in Boulder, a variety of undisclosed fees.

Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser and Boulder District Attorney Michael Dougherty, both Democrats, announced a settlement with Four Star Realty that the property manager agreed to, requiring not only \$1 million for restitution but also a commitment to improved business practices.

"Too often, renters are nicked and dined and misled by property managers and landlords," Weiser said Tuesday at a press conference at the Colorado Bar Association office in Denver. "When renters move out, they're at a particularly vulnerable time and their security deposits often are not returned to them as the law requires."

The settlement comes af-

ter Dougherty's office heard multiple complaints about undisclosed fees and unethical practices particularly from University of Colorado Boulder students and their families. Dougherty said Four Star manages about 4,600 properties in Colorado across Boulder, Fort Collins, Greeley and Denver.

An investigation by Weiser's department found Four Star repeatedly charged tenants for typical wear and tear along with other damages they did not cause, charged fees not included in lease agreements, and billed tenants for unnecessary work and repairs. Weiser said Four Star complied with the investigation and committed to fixing its unlawful practices, which a consent decree now requires.

"For the property managers and landlords paying attention, this is a wake-up call," Weiser said. "You need to look at your business practices. You need to evaluate whether you are following the sorts of com-

pliance that are mandated in this consent decree."

Four Star will provide Weiser's office with a list of tenants who moved out of a Four Star property between January 2020 and December 2023, and Weiser's team will then work to track down former tenants who would be eligible for restitution payments. Weiser encouraged tenants who think they've been mistreated to reach out to his office, but if someone doesn't reach out they can still be contacted and receive the money they are owed.

The settlement marks the first enforcement of a 2022 law establishing a Fair Housing Unit within the Department of Law meant to ensure that property managers and landlords don't illegally withhold security deposits. Dougherty said property managers cannot charge former tenants for improvements landlords complete only to maintain or increase the value of the property for fu-

ture tenants.

"It's important to remember that security deposits are the property of the tenant — not the property of the management company or the property owner — it's the property of the tenant," Dougherty said. "That's held in trust by the property owner. Landlords are not permitted to use that unless there's actual cause to do so, and under the law in the state of Colorado, normal wear and tear doesn't qualify as actual cause."

Four Star said in a statement that it denies "many of the factual allegations made by the State, including that it engaged in a course of conduct to improperly withhold security deposits." The statement cited language in the settlement where Four Star denies any wrongdoing and entered the consent decree to "avoid further inconvenience and costs of potential litigation."

"Four Star Realty has always been committed to following industry standards,"

Caldwell Sullivan, CEO of Four Star Realty, said in a statement. "However, in a time of progressive tenant advocacy that is quickly changing the landscape of property management in Colorado, we experienced scrutiny in this investigation for practices that are widely used in the industry. Industry standards will undergo many changes as a result of these policy decisions. We look forward to leading the industry in adapting to those changes."

Weiser announced another \$1 million settlement with Wyatt's Towing in December. The attorney general said both recent settlements are about maintaining fair consumer practices. He said in both cases, customers who knew how to advocate for themselves were treated lawfully and received their money.

"Most renters, however, aren't in a position to do that," Weiser said. "They don't have the time or the training or the patience.

They get mistreated."

Dougherty noted that with many of Four Star's tenants being college students, sometimes they will leave town after their lease agreement ends without giving their former leases any additional thought, meaning they paid fees charged unlawfully and didn't think to argue otherwise.

Weiser and Dougherty encouraged tenants who think their landlord or property manager violated their rights to report it to the attorney general's office. Both said their offices will work to ensure other cases where tenant rights are violated will be investigated, and the Four Star settlement won't be the only one to come from the work of the new Fair Housing Unit.

"This clearly is a message that what Four Star is now doing and what they have in place has to be followed by other property owners and property managers," Dougherty said.

Keynote

Continued from Page 1
 Secretary in the Mississippi Delta Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

Crowther retired from Adams State in 2018 but continues to serve the institution in many capacities including Adams State University Founda-

tion Board Chair and assistant football coach.

The 2024 theme, "It Starts with Me: Shifting the Cultural Climate through the study and practice of Kingian Non-violence," includes an opportunity for Adams State faculty, staff, and students to participate in A Day of Service on Jan. 20, with La Puente Home, Inc.

Grandin

Continued from Page 1

for more ways to enhance their knowledge, and skills in modern day agriculture works. The Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference features many work sessions, with many experts, who actively engage in every facet of the agriculture

world and want to share their knowledge with local ag producers to help make the agriculture world thrive. The conference delivers applicable information and is put together by a collaborative effort of producers from the ag industry, including CSU Research professionals and the CSU Extension.

This educational conference showcases a wide

variety of subjects for all different types of ag producers. Topics will include potato, livestock, and alfalfa handling, and soil and water management. There will be demonstrations with equipment, breakout sessions, and much more.

The conference is a 3-day event and will feature a trade show. It works through a committee with the Monte Vista

Chamber of Commerce. Participants of the trade show can register for a single day or all three days.

The trade show will feature many vendors, who offer a wide variety of products and services to ag producers. Some vendors who attend are also sponsors of the show.

For more information, visit online.agconference.com.

Opinion

LETTER

In Fiscal Year 2023, over \$324M invested in Colorado through over 70-plus programs

Editor,
Our housing programs assisted 126 families in Colorado with either the purchase or repair of their home. Through our Business Programs we were able to invest over \$143 million in 62 business entities. In our Community Programs over \$104 million was awarded to assist 19 rural communities with critical infrastructure investments. This is a great credit to our USDA Rural Development team who believe in the mission to support this type of investment throughout all of Colorado, especially rural Colorado.

I will be departing USDA Rural Development on Jan. 26. I am leaving to serve as the 16th President of Colorado State University-Pueblo. While I am greatly excited for this next step in my professional journey, I find it a bittersweet moment because I have significantly enjoyed working with rural communities around our great state. It has been an honor to serve as the State Director for USDA Rural Development here in Colorado. I love our state! And, I'm passionate about serving rural communities to help them grow and continue to make progress. I will still get to do that in my next role. It will just be with a different approach.

There are so many dedicated individuals in our state who believe in the success of our rural communities. It has been such a pleasure to meet and work with so many of you. Thank you for sharing your talents in making Colorado the dynamic leader of progress creating quality communities in the heart of the Rocky Mountains. In addition, I want to thank my tremendous team who are represented in our seven offices around the state. They are highly qualified individuals who offer significant experience, expertise, knowledge, and empathy in delivering the investment of the American people into Rural America. Please continue to leverage their abilities in accessing the valuable programs available from USDA Rural Development.

As we look forward into 2024, change will always bring opportunity. While this change may seem sudden, I am more than confident that we have a strong team in place to help you and your community in future endeavors. In the interim, Irene Etsitty, Deputy State Director, will be the Acting State Director. She will be supported by a team of leaders who are accessible to your requests. This team includes:

Amy Mund – Public Information Officer

Robert McElroy – Program Director for Rural Business & Cooperative Services

Duane Dale – Program Director for Community Programs

You can always reach out to any of these individuals for assistance and they will connect you to the resources available.

On behalf of Team RD Colorado, we thank you for giving us the opportunity to work with you and look forward to many more partnerships in 2024.

Armando Valdez
USDA Rural Development State Director for Colorado



They struggle to come to America: One woman's story

Exactly what causes people to leave their homeland and make a difficult trek of 3,000 miles?

A young woman I'll call Jhovid, who came here from Venezuela, has asked me to listen to her answer, so that I and others may understand.

Her hair is neatly pony-tailed, her clothes tidy, she looks composed — but her food is uneaten and tears streak her face. She tells me that people are starving to death in Venezuela. She looks at me to make sure I understand. Starving.

We know about the dire conditions generally, and we know that our Colorado town of Fort Collins, like many, has absorbed large numbers of newly arrived immigrants who fled for their safety. But she hopes someone will bear witness to her particular journey, and so we gather with my friend, bilingual author Laura Resau, who has collaborated with other South American women to help them share their stories.

Jhovid is one of the many Venezuelan refugees who climbed off a bus months ago with no coat, food, shelter or contacts. She's 32, she tells us, and graduated from college with a degree in business administration, but Venezuela was sinking economically as she was growing up. Jobs were scarce and gangs were everywhere.

She traveled with her sister to Colombia, where they worked for five years in a tennis shoe factory. But economic conditions soured there too, so the women went to Chile, traveling 23 days by foot and bus.

“We were crossing a banana plantation on the Ecuador-Peru border and men approached, asked for valuables, but we didn't have any, so they said, ‘You'll have to pay with something else, then.’”

I wince, predicting what is to come, but she offers a small smile. “I gave them my cheap cell phone and they left.”

Luck, kindness and perseverance seem to be the themes of her story, where, time after time, good people — in law enforcement, nonprofits, people living in poverty themselves — offered help.

Like the time that immigration officials in Chile “gave us medical help and food, and we got jobs in fruit processing.” She liked the factory, the country, and sending money to her family.

Pero después. But then. Her father, a retired police officer, who had been kidnapped and rescued, developed Parkinson's disease. Her family was desperate for help. Jhovid knew that if she could make it to the U.S.-Mexico border where there was a “Very Famous Hole” through the border wall, she could get to America and find work that paid more.

For the next three months, the sisters traveled north, walking and hitchhiking through three countries. In Panama, they foraged for food in the jungle with los animales. Worst of all,

To submit news, email:
news@alamosanews.com

To submit sports, email:
khamrick@alamosanews.com

Letters policy

Letters are welcome and encouraged. All letters submitted for publication in the Valley Courier must be typewritten, signed by the author, and must include a phone number and address where the author can be reached. Letters must not be libelous. The Courier will not run letters that are negative to specific businesses. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, civility and accuracy. Please limit letters to 500 words or less.

The Courier's editorial board reserves the right to reject a letter for reasons it believes are appropriate. Letters may be subject to editing to fit available space, or exclusion from the Opinion Page. Please, no poetry. Please send signed letters to P.O. Box 1099, Alamosa, CO 81101 or email them to news@alamosanews.com. Letters to staff, not for publication, should be marked “personal.”



By Laura Pritchett

LETTER

Alamosa County Treasurer shares some changes coming in 2024

Editor,
Our office would like to share some changes that are coming in 2024. First, your tax statements will be mailed later than normal due to changes in State Law.

The Colorado Legislature and Governor Jared Polis recently enacted changes to laws to accommodate property tax relief, which will delay Colorado counties certifying their tax roll. The new tax roll deadline is Jan. 24, 2024, which is two weeks later than previous years. This extra time will allow taxing authorities sufficient time to certify their mill levies and county assessors more time to compile newly required data.

The changes do not alter the first-half payment due date for property taxes which is Feb. 29, 2024, due to the 2024 Leap Year. We anticipate the tax notices will be mailed on approximately Feb. 10, 2024; which is almost one month later than in previous years. We apologize but this is out of our control.

Second, our software provider for the last 14 years aged out and went away. We are now with a company known as Tyler Treasurer Plus. Unfortunately, there are many changes and not all of them for the better. Please come in before June 2024 if you need any previous year tax notices or any duplicate receipts for the last five years. After June 2024 we may or may not have access to that data.

Finally, please be patient with our office as the legislative and software changes are going to make having some of the data you are used to receiving a bit challenging. Our goal is to continue to serve our constituents with a smile and the most efficient and effective service possible, but that may look different than in previous years.

Please feel free to contact me at 719-589-3626 if you have an issue you need to discuss with me directly.

Amy McKinley
Alamosa County Treasurer and Public Trustee

Write them

GOVERNOR

Governor Jared Polis (D), State Capitol Building Room 136, 200 East Colfax, Denver CO 80203; (303) 866-2471; Fax: (303) 866-2003.

STATE HOUSE

Matthew Martinez (D), Colorado State Representative, District 62, 200 E Colfax, Room 307, Denver, CO 80203; phone: 303-866-2916; email: matthew.martinez.house@coleg.gov

STATE SENATE

Cleave Simpson (R), Colorado State Senator, District 35, 200 E Colfax RM 346 Denver, CO 80203; Phone: 303-866-4875

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Valley Courier

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Lifestyles

U.S. Capitol Police union says not enough done to improve security after Jan. 6 attack

By JENNIFER SHUTT
Colorado Newsline
WASHINGTON — The union representing U.S. Capitol Police is warning that the federal law enforcement agency doesn't have enough manpower to address threats to members of Congress and is criticizing the Architect of the Capitol for not implementing some of the changes proposed following the Jan. 6, 2021 attack.

"We've never seen a threat environment like this," union Chairman Gus Papathanasiou said in a written statement. "Given the profound divisions in this country and this year's elections, people ask me if I'm concerned and I tell them I am worried — very worried."

"There may be another contested election and we still haven't addressed the manpower and security vulnerabilities that have been identified," he added.

The two most significant issues facing Capitol security are that USCP leaders aren't close to hiring all the officers they are authorized to and the "failure" of the Architect of the

Capitol to implement certain changes to the buildings and surrounding campus, he wrote.

As the number of threats against lawmakers and their staff continues to increase each year, Papathanasiou said the USCP needs to hire more people to account for the number of officers who have left or are eligible for retirement.

"Putting aside the need to increase hiring, we urgently need to address the pending loss of officers who are due for retirement — over 500 officers are eligible to retire at any time," Papathanasiou said.

"Many of the younger officers who were hired post-January 6th have resigned due to the conditions and hours we're asked to work," he said. "We lack the manpower to fill mission requirements, so officers are forced to work enormous amounts of overtime."

As a result, USCP officers often work six days a week and double shifts, he said.

A USCP spokesperson said in a written statement that the agency has "more sworn employees than at any other

point in this Department's history — not to mention all of the new civilian positions to better support them."

"Still, we agree that we all have to continue that progress as our mission to protect the Members of Congress during a heightened threat environment continues to expand," the USCP spokesperson said. "Luckily, our recruiting team is working around the clock to bring us nearly 1,000 officer applications a month. The toughest task for us is to find the right women and men out of those applicants to join our growing Department."

The USCP is authorized to hire 2,126 officers and currently has more than 2,000, according to the spokesperson. The department had about 1,800 on Jan. 6, 2021.

Police funding

Congress is currently debating how much funding to allocate for USCP as part of the annual government funding process that was supposed to wrap up Oct. 1.

House Republicans' bill proposed \$780.9 million for USCP

during the current fiscal year, a \$46.3 million increase compared to current funding levels. That total includes \$588.1 million for salaries and benefits, a boost of \$46.3 million.

The report that accompanied the House bill noted "that, while the Department has aggressively sought qualified civilian applicants, it has had difficulty finding candidates that meet the Department's rigorous standards."

"The Department's projections for fiscal year 2023 civilian hiring are below the authorized and appropriated levels and the Committee believes it will be difficult to hire the requested civilians for fiscal year 2024," the House report states. "While the authorized number of civilians is supported, the Committee's recommendation includes a reduction to the account due to historical under execution for civilian personnel."

The Senate spending bill, which garnered bipartisan support, proposed \$792 million for USCP, nearly \$58 million more than its current budget. Almost

\$589 million would go toward salaries, benefits and overtime.

The Senate panel's report said that lawmakers recognized "the expanding mission requirements for the United States Capitol Police in the area of Member protection."

The report also calls on USCP to submit a report "that outlines the on-board strength of the USCP broken down by officials, officers, sworn recruits and civilians" as well as a "multi-year strategy to remediate staffing shortages and incentivize sworn hiring and retention in future fiscal years."

"The Committee expects this report to be thorough and timely from the Department," the report says. "The USCP shall provide quarterly updates to the Committee thereafter on its staffing efforts."

The House and Senate are supposed to pass a final version of that Legislative Branch funding bill before the Feb. 2 deadline.

The Architect of the Capitol didn't respond to a request for comment.

Fewer Colorado students dropped out in 2023 while more graduated high school

By ERICA BREUNLIN
Colorado Sun
Colorado saw more students graduate from high school last year than in 2022, with the state experiencing one of the biggest boosts to its graduation rate in recent years, while fewer students dropped out, according to data released Tuesday morning by the Colorado Department of Education.

The graduation and dropout numbers from the state's class of 2023 are encouraging to state education officials, particularly after the dropout rate in 2022 increased for the first time since 2015.

Colorado's four-year graduation rate in 2023 jumped by 0.8 percentage points to 83.1% as 56,812 students earned their high school diploma — 528 more students than in 2022, according to a media release from the state education department.

Improvements were widespread, with graduation rates increasing from the year before or staying consistent in 65% of Colorado's 179 school districts, according to CDE.

Graduation rates among classes of students who take longer than four years to graduate high school also improved. The state tracks students who take up to seven years to earn their high school diploma. Last year's five-year graduation rate was 86.1%, up from 85.7%.

The seven-year graduation rate hit 87.6%, inching up from 87.3%.

The state's dropout rate fell from 2.2% in 2022 to 2.1% last year, with 859 fewer students leaving before earning their degree.

A total of 9,665 students in grades 7-12 dropped out in 2023.

The outcomes are "all moving in the same direction for improvement," said Johann Liljengren, director of CDE's Dropout Prevention and Student Re-engagement Office. "We're seeing kind of a continued upward trajectory with the graduation rate."

Colorado's four-year high school graduation rate has continued to increase since 2010, when the state changed how data is reported. The only exception to that streak

of improvements was in 2021 at the height of the pandemic, when the graduation rate declined for the first time in more than a decade.

"Given the challenges that our students and educators have faced over the last four years, I am glad that in Colorado we continue to see an improved graduation rate and a decreasing dropout rate," Colorado Education Commissioner Susana Córdova said in a statement. "It shows students know the value of staying in school and receiving a quality education."

Still, significant gaps remain for particular groups of students, including students of color and students who come to school with additional challenges.

Compared with white students, whose four-year graduation rate last year was 88%, Black students' graduation rate was 78.6% while the graduation rate among Hispanic or Latino students was 76.1% and the graduation rate among American Indian or Alaska Native students was 68%.

And compared with the state's overall four-year

graduation rate of 83.1%, the graduation rate for students with disabilities was 69.3% while the graduation rate for students learning English was 69.4%. Meanwhile, the graduation rate for students living in poverty was 73.3%; the graduation rate for migrant students was 67.2%; the percentage of homeless students who graduated in four years was 58%; and the percentage of students living in foster care who graduated in four years was 36.2%.

"When we start to look at student groups and start to disaggregate some of that data, we are seeing improvements," Liljengren said. "In many cases, we're seeing those groups improve faster than the statewide rate, but they're still really large gaps for many of them."

Colorado's improved graduation and dropout rates last year coincided with continued struggles across districts to draw students to class regularly. Nearly 270,000 students — equal to more than 1 in 4 — were chronically absent during the 2022-23 school year, meaning they missed at

least 10% of school days. That was fewer than the number of students who were reported as chronically absent during the height of the pandemic throughout the 2021-22 school year, when a record 36% of students missed school consistently.

"In order for us to continue to get better, we are going to have to see all three of them (graduation, dropouts and chronic absenteeism) continue to

improve or in some ways we might hit a ceiling ... of not being able to improve that much farther or not improve as fast," Liljengren said.

Among the districts that have continued to see their graduation rate increase is Harrison School District 2 in Colorado Springs, where 82.3% of students from the class of 2023 graduated in four years, up from 80% in 2022.

Superintendent Wendy Birhanzel attributes much of that boost to the relationships that district and school staff members work to build with their students.

"To me, it goes back to the old adage that students don't care what you know until they know you care," Birhanzel said, "and our students know that everyone will go above and beyond to help them be successful."



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UPCOMING GRIZZLY ATHLETIC EVENTS

Friday, January 12
Men & Women's Track at Potts Invitational at Boulder, Colo.
TBA

Men & Women's Basketball at Regis University at Denver, Colo.
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Wrestling vs Colorado Mesa University at Alamosa, Colo.
6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 13
Women's Swim at Western Colorado University at Gunnison, Colo.
TBA

Men & Women's Track at Potts Invitational at Boulder, Colo.
TBA

Men & Women's Basketball at University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Colo.
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.




Sports

Lady Moose stung by Hornets

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Alamosa High School girls basketball team was dealt its third consecutive loss on Tuesday as it was defeated by Pueblo County 35-24 at the AHS gym.

Jaelin Garcia gave the Lady Mean Moose the early lead, but Kyla Ruzich tied the score. Taybor Wiedeman drove for a layup and Aubrey Rothermich made two free throws for a 6-2 Alamosa advantage.

That would be the last time the Lady Moose would be in the lead as the Lady Hornets scored the next eight points. Zoey Stupnik scored six of the points and Charli Kirkland scored the other two.

Lexi Montoya ended the run with a layup, but Shannon Kushner scored for Pueblo County and the Lady Hornets led 12-8 at the end of the first quarter.

Rylee Stupnik accounted for the only scoring of the second quarter with a short jumper. The Lady Mean Moose were shut out in the period and trailed 14-8 at halftime.

Wiedeman ended the Alamosa scoring drought with a layup with 6:42 left in the third quarter. Rylee Stupnik answered with a jumper, but Garcia scored again to cut the deficit to 16-12.

Rylee Stupnik made another jumper and Zoey Stupnik made one of two from the free throw line.

Garcia scored again, but Rylee Stupnik scored two more baskets for a 23-14 lead.

Arreli Felix knocked down a jump shot, but Shayla Kushner made the game's only 3-point basket and Pueblo County had a 26-16 advantage at the end of the third quarter.

Rothermich opened the fourth quarter with a jumper, and Laci Christensen scored a layup to bring Alamosa within a 26-20 deficit.

Kirkland split at the line, but Morgan Ortega drove for a layup to bring the Lady Mean Moose within 27-22.

But Zoey Stupnik made five out of six free throws to give the Lady Hornets their largest lead of the game at 34-22. Wiedeman drained a jumper, but Kirkland made one of two free throws to wrap up the scoring.

The Lady Mean Moose were led by Garcia and Wiedeman who both scored six points each.

Zoey Stupnik led all scorers with 12 points, followed



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

Alamosa High School's Jaelin Garcia (15) dribbles the ball while being closely defended by Pueblo County's Tylee Glenn (21) in Tuesday's game at the AHS gym. The Lady Mean Moose lost to the Lady Hornets 35-24.

by Rylee Stupnik with eight.

Alamosa (6-4) will open Intermountain League play on Friday as it will travel to Ignacio for a 4:30 tip-off. The Lady Mean Moose will host Montezuma-Cortez on Saturday. There has been a time change for that date as the two JV games are at noon, followed by the girls varsity at 1:30 p.m. and the boys varsity at 3 p.m.

Pueblo County 35, Alamosa 24

Pueblo County – Ruzich 1 0-0 2, Z. Stupnik 2 8-10 12, Glenn 0 0-0 0, Kirkland 2 2-6 6, R. Stupnik 4 0-2 8, McCafferty 0 0-0 0, Romero 0 0-0 0, Shay. Kushner 1 0-0 3, Shan. Kushner 2 0-0 4, Holcomb 0 0-0 0. Total 12 10-18 35.

3-point goal – Shay. Kushner 1. Total 1.

Alamosa – Christensen 1 0-0 2, Ortega 1 0-0 2, Rothermich 1 2-2 4, Garcia 3 0-0 6, Wideman 3 0-0 6, Quintana 0 0-0 0, Montoya 1 0-0 2, Felix 1 0-0 2, Villava 0 0-0 0, Rice 0 0-0 0. Total 11 2-4 24.

3-point goals – none.

Pueblo County	12	2	12	9 – 35
Alamosa	8	0	8	8 – 24

Fouls – Pueblo County 7, Alamosa 14.

High school basketball standings as of Saturday

BOYS BASKETBALL CLASS 4A/3A INTERMOUNTAIN LEAGUE

Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Pagosa Springs	0-0	9-1
Alamosa	0-0	7-2
Centauri	0-0	5-3
Ignacio	0-0	4-4
Montezuma-Cortez	0-0	3-5
Bayfield	0-0	1-6

CLASS 3A/2A SOUTHERN PEAKS LEAGUE

Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Sargent	0-0	5-1
Crested Butte	0-0	4-2
Monte Vista	0-0	5-3
Sanford	0-0	4-4
Del Norte	0-0	1-5
Center	0-0	1-7
Trinidad	0-0	0-7

CLASS 1A SOUTHERN PEAKS LEAGUE

Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Moffat	0-0	8-1
Sierra Grande	0-0	6-2
Sangre de Cristo	0-0	4-3
Centennial	0-0	2-3
Creede	0-0	1-6
Lake City	0-0	0-0
Antonito	0-0	0-6

GIRLS BASKETBALL CLASS 4A/3A INTERMOUNTAIN LEAGUE

Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Centauri	0-0	6-2
Pagosa Springs	0-0	7-3
Alamosa	0-0	6-3
Montezuma-Cortez	0-0	4-3
Ignacio	0-0	4-4
Bayfield	0-0	3-4

CLASS 3A/2A SOUTHERN PEAKS LEAGUE

Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Monte Vista	0-0	6-1
Sanford	0-0	6-2
Trinidad	0-0	6-3
Center	0-0	5-3
Sargent	0-0	3-3
Del Norte	0-0	2-4
Crested Butte	0-0	1-3

CLASS 1A SOUTHERN PEAKS LEAGUE

Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Sangre de Cristo	0-0	5-2
Creede	0-0	3-4
Lake City	0-0	1-2
Sierra Grande	0-0	1-6
Moffat	0-0	1-7
Antonito	0-0	0-6
Centennial	0-0	0-6

Sports Bulletin

Follow sports editor Ken Hamrick on X. His handle is @KenHamrick1.

SCOREBOARD

TUESDAY

Prep boys basketball

Dolores at Sargent - late

Prep girls basketball

Dolores at Sargent - late

Pueblo County 35, Alamosa 24

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

Prep boys basketball

Crested Butte at Creede, 5 p.m.

Lake City at Sangre de Cristo, 5 p.m.

Prep girls basketball

Crested Butte at Creede, 5 p.m.

Lake City at Sangre de Cristo, 5 p.m.

Prep boys wrestling

Alamosa, La Junta at Florence, 4 p.m.
Centauri at Monte Vista, 6 p.m.
Sargent, Sierra Grande/Centennial at La Veta, TBA

FRIDAY

Prep boys basketball

Sanford at Escalante (N.M.), 3 p.m.

Custer County at Sangre de Cristo, 3:30 p.m.

Centennial at Coto-paxi, 4 p.m.

Center at Del Norte, 4 p.m.

Moffat at Antonito, 5 p.m.

Sargent at Creede, 6 p.m.

Alamosa at Ignacio, 7 p.m.

Centauri at Pagosa Springs, 7 p.m.

Prep girls basketball

Sanford at Escalante (N.M.), 3 p.m.

Custer County at Sangre de Cristo, 3:30 p.m.

Centennial at Coto-paxi, 4 p.m.

Center at Del Norte, 4 p.m.

Lake City at Sierra Grande, 4 p.m.

Grande, 4 p.m.

Moffat at Antonito, 5 p.m.

Alamosa at Ignacio, 5:30 p.m.

Centauri at Pagosa Springs, 5:30 p.m.

Sargent at Creede, 6 p.m.

Prep girls swimming

Sargent at Durango, TBA

Prep boys wrestling

Alamosa, Centauri, Monte Vista at Florence Invitational, 9 a.m.

Centauri JV, Center, Mountain Valley, Primero, Sargent at Mountain Valley Invitational, 9 a.m.

Prep girls wrestling

Alamosa at Palmer Ridge, 6 p.m.

College men's basketball

Adams State at Regis, 7 p.m.

College women's basketball

Adams State at Regis, 5 p.m.

College men's wrestling

Colorado Mesa at Adams State, 6 p.m.

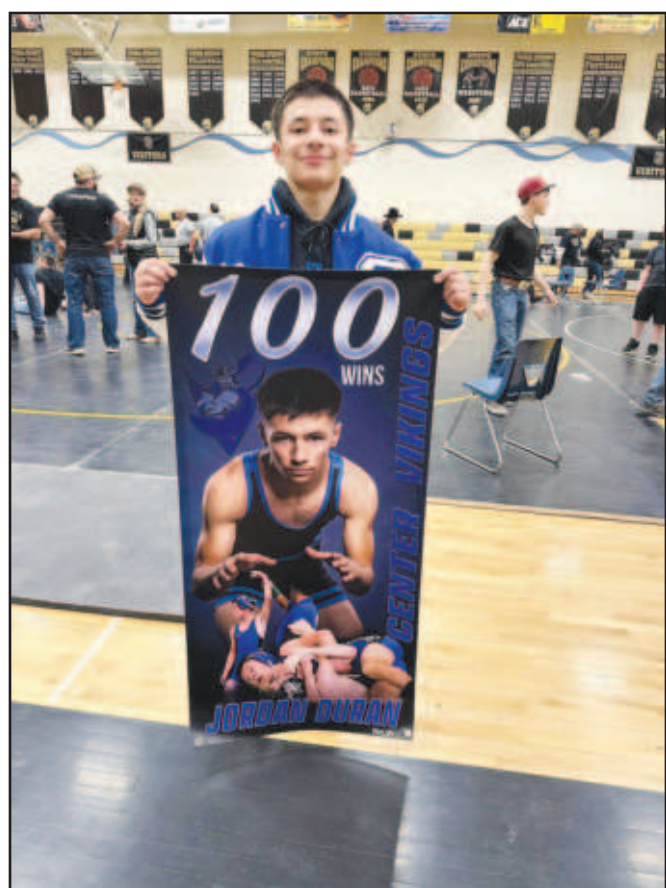
Correction on wrestling story

There was an error in the coverage of the Rocky Mountain Invitational wrestling match on Tuesday.

Center's Jordan Duran was the champion at 113 pounds and not second as the story reported. The win was also Duran's 100th career victory.

Courtesy photo

Center High School's Jordan Duran recorded his 100th career victory at the Rocky Mountain Invitational Saturday in Pagosa Springs.



PARKS AND REC VOLLEYBALL REGISTRATION

The Alamosa Parks and Recreation coed youth volleyball registration deadline is approaching quickly. Those interested in playing volleyball can register at www.alamosarec.com or by dropping by the AP&R located at 2222 Old Sanford road.

Registration is open until Jan. 26.

The cost of jerseys is \$12. It is the AP&R black/white reversible jerseys that were used for youth soccer, flag football and basketball. If a child still has his/her jersey and it still fits, they can still use it. If not, parents/guardians will have to purchase a new one at the recreation center.

The district encourages parents/guardians to donate their used jerseys back for those children who struggle to afford one. They must be in good shape.

The AP&R will give a complementary three-day punch pass to the ice rink or the rec center for their generous donation in helping others.

Lifestyle

Continuing education retreat at Joyful Journey Hot Springs

By JOYFUL JOURNEY
SAN LUIS VALLEY

— Joanna Johnson will be offering a Zero Balancing educational retreat at Joyful Journey Hot Springs on Feb. 7-11. This 25-hour continuing education retreat offers a blend of western osteopathy and eastern acupuncture.

Zero Balancing (ZB) offers health care professionals easier and more effective tools to engage and treat patients. ZB is nationally accredited for massage therapists and acupuncturists and physical therapists in Colorado. This retreat is also available to yoga teachers and wellness enthusiasts.

ZB is a wellness system practiced through clothing to release bone held tension and balance ligamentous structure. The skill set developed in the Zero Balancing classroom allows practitioners to gently treat patients with less effort, creating less wear on the hands overall. This easy on the hands method of treatment effectively treats chronic pain, bio-mechanical limitations, skeletal and ribcage injuries, healed fractures, etc.

Students will learn how to palpate and release bone held tension and evaluate and balance ligaments.

This first Zero Bal-

ance class, Core I, gives the students a complete protocol to use or integrate into their current protocol. These classes provide an understanding of the interface between bio-mechanical function and eastern energy theory, allowing practitioners a foothold in both allopathic and complementary medicine.

Johnson has been a practicing massage therapist since 2002 and began studying Zero Balancing in 2004. Having become a certified practitioner, Johnson completed her faculty training in 2012. She currently practices and teaches Zero Balancing and Kundalini Yoga in Creede.

Held at Joyful Journey Hot Springs, this delightful venue offers a variety of accommodations, vegetarian and gluten-free meals and hot mineral springs. Discover more about Joanna Johnson and Zero Balancing at www.jo-johnsoncreede.com.

Joyful Journey will again be offering a Zero Balancing continued education program this February.

Courtesy photo



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221 - HELP WANTED

221 - HELP WANTED

TOWN OF CENTER is accepting applications to fill **TWO POSITIONS** in their **UTILITY DEPARTMENT**. Applicant should possess knowledge and skills in all aspects of high voltage power lines - lineman preferred, gas systems, water distribution, and sanitation. Applicant should accept duties of construction, repair, maintenance, and operation of these systems. Applicant must also have a valid driver's license and be able to operate trucks, backhoe, and other equipment in the performance of these duties. The duties also included are heavy manual labor and utilization of a large variety of hand tools. Some experience is preferred and continued training will be provided. Compensation will depend on experience. Applicant must also have the ability to interact with customers and possess good communication skills. Applicant must also pass a background check and pre-employment drug testing. The candidate will also be subject to random drug testing upon hiring per CDOT regulations. CDL license preferable but not required. The job description and the application is on the Towns website, towncenter.colorado.gov. Please submit your application to Town Hall or email to jhurtado@centerco.gov. The deadline is until positions are filled. (1/23/24AS)

OFFICE MANAGER: THE SAN LUIS VALLEY REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY has an opening for **OFFICE MANAGER**. The successful candidate must be able to work a rotating 6-day work schedule to include alternating Saturdays. Must have a good understanding and working knowledge of Quick Books and accounting principles. Candidate must be able to multi task, be a quick learner and detail oriented. Candidate must have strong background in Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable as well as payroll. The salary range for this position is \$19.25 per hour with an attractive benefits package. Job posting closes on January 12, 2024. Interested parties can obtain an application and job description by going to <https://www.riograndecounty.org/departments/business-offices/land-use-or-from-Rio-Grande-County-Land-Use-Office>, email to rgclanduse@riograndecounty.org (1/10/24AS)

CITY OF MONTE VISTA is hiring for a **STREETS and PARKS FIELD SUPERVISOR**. This position plans and supervises the daily operation of the City's streets, parks maintenance, and personnel assigned to Streets and Parks. Coordinates, supervises and performs street construction, maintenance and repair. Develops and refines preventive maintenance programs; reviews new construction for street related capital projects; oversees progress of out-sourced projects; assists in the preparation of the annual Departmental budget and prepares reports. Requires a valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL), a minimum of five years of experience in planning, operation and maintenance of streets and utility facilities, including three years of supervisory responsibility and relative experience working with the public. This is an exempt position and salary range is \$60,000 - \$65,000 per year plus an excellent benefit package. Applicant must submit a completed job application and resume to the Human Resources Office, 95 W. 1st Ave., Monte Vista, CO 81144. Applications and a full job description are available at <https://cityofmontevista.colorado.gov/> or at City Hall. Position will remain open until filled, first review is January 4, 2024. For more information, please contact Human Resources at jphillips@ci.montevista.co.us. EOE/ADA. (1/10/2024AS)

TOWN OF CENTER is accepting applications for the position of full time **COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**. Position requires High School Diploma or equivalent. Individuals must have computer experience, ability to multi task and function in a sometimes stressful environment. Bilingual preferred but not mandatory. Two-way radio and multiline telephone experience also required. Communications Officer is a benefited position. This will position additionally requires shift work. Position starts at \$15.50 with an increase after successful completion of six-month probation. Successful candidates will be trained in all phases relating to the communication center. Must be 18 years old, and be able to pass a background, psychological and drug test. You may pick up an application at a Center Town Hall or online at: www.townof-center.colorado.gov. 294 S. Worth St Center, CO 81125. Applications accepted until the position is filled. For more information, please contact Center Police Dispatch Supervisor Jerry Montoya at 719-754-2442. (1/10/24AS)

1ST SOUTHWEST BANK, a locally owned CDFI community bank, is seeking a **MARKETING and COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST**. FSWB offers competitive compensation, generous benefits, & career development. Join FSWB's award-winning team dedicated to supporting rural Colorado's agricultural, nonprofit and small businesses. For details and to apply, visit fswb.bank/about/careers. EOE. (1/12/24AS)

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221 - HELP WANTED

MELANZANA IS NOW hiring for full-time SEWING MACHINE OPERATORS, FABRIC CUTTERS, and a SEWING MACHINE MECHANIC for our new manufacturing facility in ALAMOSA. Applicants must be skilled with hands, have a strong work ethic and the ability to stay focused in a busy manufacturing environment. Previous experience not necessary; manufacturing experience is a plus. On-the-job training provided for the right candidates. Positive work environment and full-time benefits: 4 day/32 hr work week, Paid time off, Medical/Dental/Vision, Profit Sharing, and Employee discount. Starting wage is \$19/hr with potential for increase at 4 months and 1 year. Applications are being accepted now through February 2, 2024. Apply online at melanzana.com/jobs. (1/24/24AS)

HEAD VOLLEYBALL COACH needed at DEL NORTE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL. We are looking for the following abilities in our coach: Experience as a volleyball coach or assistant coach at the high school or college level is preferred. Must possess: effective coaching techniques and skills; a thorough knowledge of the rules, regulations, and techniques of the sport; and have the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with school administrators, parents, and students. Please contact Gilbert "Gibbs" Sanchez, Athletic Director, at: gsanchez@urtigers.co, 719-657-4020; or Annie Hardy, Principal, at: ahardy@urtigers.co, 719-657-4020. Applications may be found on our website; www.urtigers.co. (1/23/24AS)

HEAD HIGH SCHOOL eSPORTS COACH is needed at DEL NORTE SR HIGH SCHOOL. We're looking for a leader to develop & maintain our new eSports program promoting sportsmanship and teamwork. Our eSports coach will assist each student in gaining skills and confidence while learning game rules and strategies; as well as CHSAA eSports rules. The Coach must be professional, organized, dedicated, and well versed in gaming. The Coach is responsible for conducting practice times after academic classes and supervising the team at school activities. The Coach will also train, test, and receive our small-vehicle certification for driving school vehicles to gaming tournaments. CHSAA eSports competition games include Super Smash Bros, Ultimate, Mario Kart 8, Rocket League, Splatoon 3 on Nintendo Switch; Madden NFL & NBA 2K on PS4. Please complete our coach application found on our website, urtigers.co please contact Gibbs Sanchez, Athletic Director, at: gsanchez@urtigers.co 719-657-4020; or Annie Hardy, Principal, at: ahardy@urtigers.co, 719-657-4020 for further information. (1/23/24AS)

HEAD FOOTBALL COACH needed at DEL NORTE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL. The coach's responsibilities include: leading training sessions, providing motivation and advice during gameplay, developing game plans, and attending tryouts, as well as scheduling team meetings. The coach should be able to identify the individual abilities of each player and provide one-to-one coaching wherever required. The coach should demonstrate great love for the game of football, and be able to foster good sportsmanship in your players. Outstanding candidates are highly motivated, committed, disciplined, and patient. We are looking for the following abilities in our Coach: experience as a football coach or assistant coach at the high school or college level is preferred. Must possess: effective coaching techniques and skills; a thorough knowledge of the rules, regulations, strategies, and techniques of the sport; and have the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with school administrators, parents, and students. Please contact Gilbert "Gibbs" Sanchez, Athletic Director, at: gsanchez@urtigers.co, 719-657-4020; or Annie Hardy, Principal, at: ahardy@urtigers.co, 719-657-4020. (1/16/24AS)

221 - HELP WANTED

MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PERSON, or TEAM, wanted for a 12 unit apartment complex in DEL NORTE, CO. Duties include but not limited to office paperwork, cleaning, minor plumbing, minor electrical, drywall repair, painting, and grounds keeping. Fax or email a letter of interest and/or resume to 712-274-1230 or nnieman@landmarkmanagement.com Equal Employment Opportunity. (1/13/24AS)

DELOSS INDUSTRIES IN ALAMOSA is Hiring Full-Time, 40 Hours Per Week, Wages 24 to 40 Dollars Per Hour. Looking to hire: EQUIPMENT MECHANICS, MECHANICS HELPER, WELDERS and MACHINIST. The mechanics helper will be paired with a mechanic in the shop. Primary equipment serviced and maintained are forklifts and materials handling related equipment. This is a full-time position, 40 hours per week. Paid vacation and sick leave. Health insurance may be provided. Pay rate is 24 to 40 dollars per hour, depending on experience. Tools are provided. Must have clean driving record, CDL is a plus. Must pass drug test and background check. Must have stable work history. This is a career opportunity with a stable company that has been in the Valley for 36 years. Shop is located in Alamosa, CO. Call 719-589-3213 for interview or send resume to DelossJohn@aol.com. (1/13/23AS)

307 - APPLIANCES

PAT SOLD HER ELECTRIC STOVE IN JUST 3 DAYS THROUGH THE VALLEY COURIER'S CLASSIFIED ADS. (AS)

324 - SEED & FEED

HORSE & COW HAY: GRASS, GRASS/ALFALFA, ALFALFA. 3x3 bales, various quality and pricing. 719-850-8917. (2/14/24AS-monthly)

345 - WOOD

THANK YOU, VALLEY COURIER. I SOLD MY WOOD SPLITTER! Frank.

FIREWOOD: PONDEROSA PINE \$225; White Pine & Ponderosa mix \$200; Engelmann Spruce \$200. 719-589-4912. (1/10/24AS)

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. \$225 cord. 719-588-1183. (2/14/24AS)

353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

I SOLD MY HORSE IN 2 DAYS TO A GOOD HOME. THANKS VALLEY COURIER! Rick. (AS)

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

SOLD MY WHEELCHAIR IN 2 DAYS. WONDERFUL HEARTWARMING EXPERIENCE. A WIN-WIN FOR BOTH OF US! Yolanda. (AS)

387 - WANTED TO BUY

TOYOTA TRUCKS ONLY: 4x4 from 80's to early 90's, running or not, wrecked ok. 719-580-8101 call or text. (2/10/24)

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

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410 - AUCTIONS

AUCTION. STORAGE UNITS; 1824 State Ave #136, ALAMOSA, CO 81101. January 13, 2024, at 10:00 AM. (1/13/2024AS)

AUCTION. STORAGE UNITS; 2049 Mullins Ave, ALAMOSA, CO 81101. January 20, 2024. #4 at 10:00 AM, #62 at 11:00 AM, #181 at 12:00 PM. (1/20/2024AS)

AUCTION. STORAGE UNITS; 131 Price #22, ALAMOSA, CO 81101. January 13, 2024 at 1:00 PM. (1/13/2024AS)

420 - LOTS & ACREAGES

MULTIPLE 35+ ACRE TRACTS For Sale. The Rio Grande Water Conservation District is accepting sealed bids for tracts of land LOCATED AT 14355 G.S, ANTONITO. The minimum acceptable bid is \$2,000/acre. Bids must be received by U.S. mail or hand delivered to the RGWCD's office at 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101. Detailed information regarding the tracts is available for review by appointment at the RGWCD office or by visiting the District's website at www.rgwcd.org/subdistrict-no-3/publicbid. The land may be inspected with District personnel by appointment only. Appointments can be made by calling the District office at (719) 589-6301 or by emailing angelo@rgwcd.org. Bids must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on January 31st, 2024. Late bids will not be accepted. The District reserves the right to reject any bid in its sole discretion. (1/27/2024AS)

426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

FOR SALE IN ALAMOSA County: 1980 GLENWOOD TRAILER HOUSE \$6,700. Must be moved. 402-269-7172. (E-TFN-AS)

525 - GUNS

ZACH'S EUROPEAN MOUNTS. Professional work, low prices. 719-580-0398. (TFN-AS)

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

TWO BEDROOM DUPLEX. Double garage. Rent \$1,000/mo (first & last) \$500 Deposit. REFERENCES. No pets, No smoking, No water beds. 2630 Clark, ALAMOSA. Call 719-588-3431. (1/16/24AS)

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2256 E. Drive Monte Vista, CO
852-4302

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Accepting Applications for waiting list for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Family units available
West View Villas
510 Dunham Monte Vista, Colo
852-3949

TTY 1-800-659-2656
This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

611 - HOMES FOR RENT

KUDDOS TO THE VALLEY COURIER FOR RENTING OUR HOUSE IN 2 DAYS! Thanks, Gerry. (AS)

701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

1 DAY ADVERTISED IN THE VALLEY COURIER, SOLD MY CAR! GREAT SERVICE! Samuel. (AS)

Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Criticism
 - 5 Bat wood
 - 8 Pack
 - 12 Comedian — Love
 - 13 Actor — Pace
 - 14 Thatching palm
 - 15 The devil, mostly
 - 16 Like a steak knife
 - 18 Water sources
 - 20 Ordinary
 - 21 Least bit
 - 23 Winter mo.
 - 24 Palm fruit
 - 28 “— of Fools”
 - 31 Paris airport
 - 32 Confused state of mind
 - 34 Pig
 - 36 Beethoven’s “— to Joy”
 - 37 Pitch
 - 38 Slide off course
 - 39 Possesses
 - 42 Scrap

- 44 “I could — a horse!”
- 46 Extinct bird
- 47 Indistinct
- 51 Blink of an eye
- 55 Like vegetarian fare
- 57 Thailand neighbor
- 58 Sicilian mount
- 59 Tall bird
- 60 Release
- 61 — -do-well
- 62 “Zip-a — -Doo-Dah”
- 63 Narrative

- DOWN**
- 1 Went by air
 - 2 “Can’t Buy Me —”
 - 3 Indigo dye
 - 4 Spoilsport
 - 5 Gore and Pacino
 - 6 Crystal-gazer
 - 7 Notorious king
 - 8 Take
 - 9 Small monkey

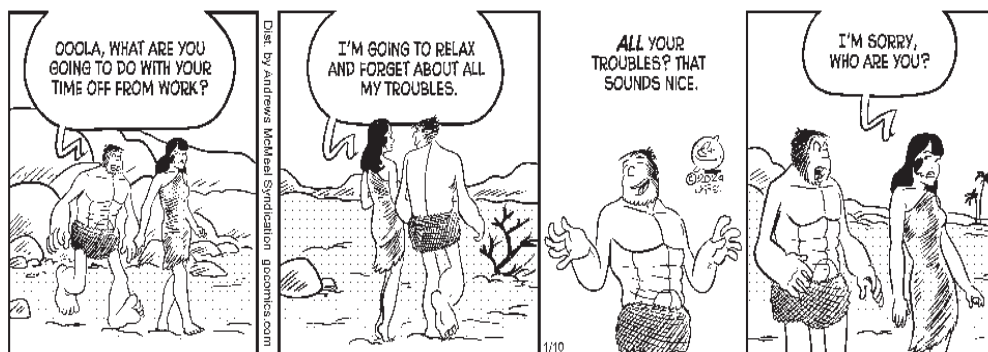
Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

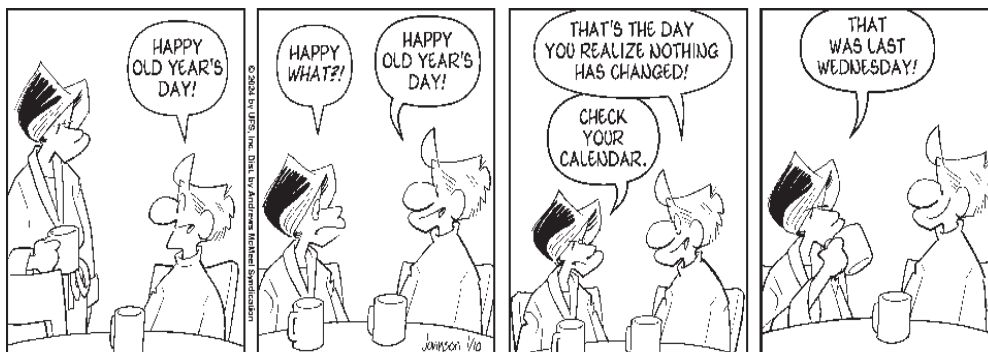
- 10 Golf event
- 11 Cross a shallow stream
- 17 Regrets
- 19 Favorite —
- 22 Bunch of grass
- 24 Bill and —
- 25 Church calendar
- 26 Ball of yarn
- 27 Former tadpole
- 29 “La — Bonita”
- 30 Rain hard
- 33 Horrible
- 35 Unite
- 38 Blood-red
- 40 Tasty drink
- 41 “Better Call —”
- 43 Drunkard
- 45 Cornered
- 47 Prophetic sign
- 48 — noire
- 49 Healthy upstairs
- 50 Salinger title girl
- 52 “— Camera”
- 53 Watch spring shape
- 54 Princely Italian family
- 56 Seek damages

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
				13			14			
15				16		17				
18			19		20					
		21		22		23				
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58					59				60	
61					62			63		

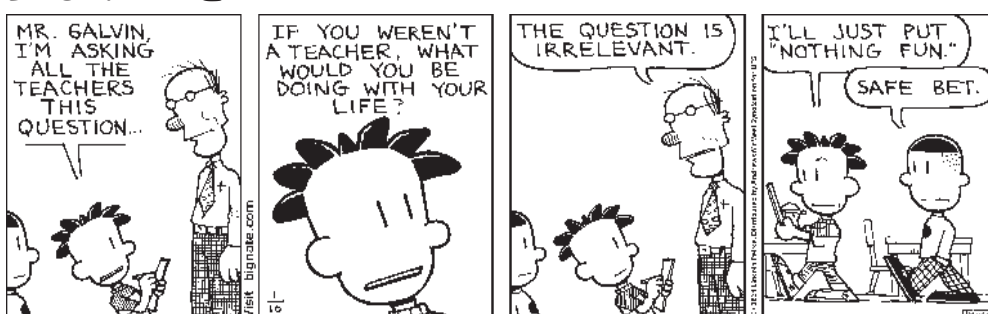
ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



BIG NATE



THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

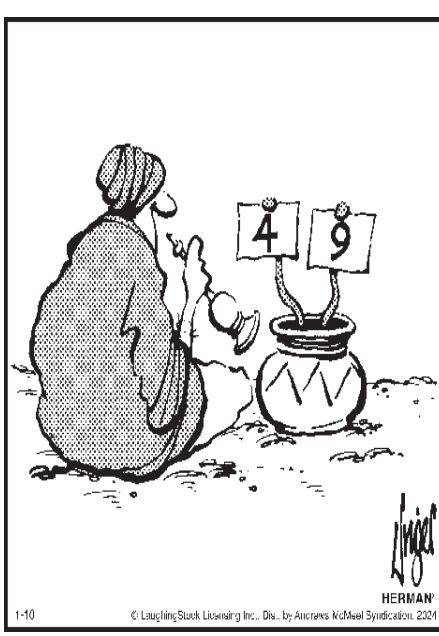
				7	3	6				
				5						
		6	9	3						1
7	6		1	3	5					2
		3	7		5	9				
8		9	4		2			3	7	
2				4	1	8				
				7						
3	7	5								

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

HERMAN



Opinions and beliefs put relatives at odds

DEAR ABBY: My grandmother and I have lived together for the past 22 years. She raised me from the age of 3. We used to be best friends. However, over the last few years, things have changed. We don't agree on a lot, and we have very different opinions on almost everything. We argue and fight with name-calling, threats and a lot of disrespect.

I have suggested we go to counseling a couple of times, but she's never shown any interest. I know I have an anger problem, which I take full responsibility for. I also know the best thing to do in these situations is probably to turn around and walk away, but sometimes she pushes my buttons and I can't help but fight back.

I understand this is a problem that needs to be fixed, and I want to, but I don't know how to start. I know you've written a booklet about anger. What can I do short of moving out? -- **OUT OF CONTROL IN COLORADO**

DEAR OUT OF CONTROL: By admitting you have an anger problem, you have already taken a significant first step in dealing with it. You and your grandmother aren't the only people experiencing heightened emotions these days. We live in increasingly stressful times

that have affected most of us in one way or another. Because you are now an adult, the nature of your relationship with your grandmother may have changed. As adults, you are entitled to your own opinions. However, reasonable adults don't try to inflict their opinions on the people they love.

Recognizing what causes these flare-ups can help you avoid taking anger out on each other. It takes self-control and maturity to react calmly instead of exploding. Saying, "We both feel strongly about this. Can we discuss this another time?" and then going for a walk can help to maintain a calmer perspective.

My Anger Booklet contains many suggestions for managing and expressing anger appropriately in various situations. This is a skill that will prove increasingly important as you grow older. It can be ordered by sending your name and address, plus a check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mt. Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

We live in a time in our society when anger and divisiveness have reached new heights. As we have seen in the media, explosive anger is the most danger-



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

ous of all. Perhaps anger management should be taught in schools to help people more effectively communicate in a healthy manner.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating this girl for eight months. She tells me she and her ex-boyfriend remain good friends, and that he is her best friend. She sees him regularly and says she has gotten over him. I plan to marry her, but she wants to invite him to our wedding. The ex gives my girlfriend money. She says no sex is involved. Should I drop her over this? -- **ALARMED IN TEXAS**

DEAR ALARMED: Probably, because accepting money from her ex-boyfriend indicates she is not independent of him.

Lifestyle

Snow Country Explorers ride to Love Lake

By SNOW COUNTRY EXPLORERS MINERAL COUNTY-

On Dec. 30, 10 members of the Snow County Explorers, the Creede snowmobile club, braved sub-zero temperatures and rode to Love Lake and beyond as the first organized ride of the season.

The riders, starting out about a mile south of Soward Ranch on Middle Creek Road, headed up to Love Lake, proceeded to the Copper Creek crossing, and then rode up to the Copper Ridge bowl. There was uncompacted deep snow alongside the groomed trail for most of the ride, so there was limited opportunity to venture off-trail into some of the usual play areas.

The snow in the bowl was more amenable to off-trail riding, however, and nearly all riders were able to enjoy the snow. The club rode up to

the overlook on the west side of the bowl to view the mountainous landscape toward Wolf Creek Pass, including the area devastated by the West Fork Fire back in 2013.

“Our thanks to Bob Kukuk, the club groomer, for providing this opportunity for the club to take this early season ride,” the club stated.

The club is open to snowmobilers of all levels of expertise. If anyone is interested in joining the club and the Colorado Snowmobile Association, you can join online at snowmobilecolo.com. On the home page click “join” and follow the prompts. Be sure and “add a club” by selecting District 7, Snow Country Explorers of the Upper Rio Grande.

For more information, contact Leslie Dustin at dondustin1@aol.com or by phone at 719-658-0184.



Ten members of the Snow County Explorers gathered at the Copper Ridge overlook to have lunch and to view the scenery above the Trout Creek Canyon and the nearly 12,000-foot peaks of the San Juans.

Courtesy photo

URGED welcomes Monte Vista Chamber director for January meeting

By LYNDISIE FERRELL MONTE VISTA —

The Upper Rio Grande Economic Development meeting was held at the Ski Hi Complex in Monte Vista on Tuesday, Jan. 9. The group welcomed Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce Director Heather Hillin as the keynote speaker.

After the URGED director’s report, Hillin spoke about a conference she recently attended in Arizona for the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Hillin said the conference was highly educational and because of her attendance, the Monte Vista Chamber and its members were now part of the United States Chamber of Commerce organization which would increase resources to local business owners.

“I just attended the United States Chamber of Commerce Institute of Organizational Management conference, and it was such an amazing program. The Monte Vista Chamber is now a member of United States Chamber of Commerce so that directly translates to all of our members. They have a federation program which gives them a membership with the United States Chamber as well as us,” explained Hillin.

Hillin continued to state that through this membership, she would soon offer leadership training courses, which she hopes to start offering by mid-year.

“I am hoping to get courses started after the Crane Festival once we figure out the best possible way to offer it to our members,” she said.

Hillin said that having these resources available through the United States Chamber of Commerce Advocacy Program it would further support local business members.

“Being able to tap into their Advocacy Program will be beneficial to local businesses because it’s not something we have been able to offer.

We now have a direct pipeline into their resources,” she said.

Hillin finished her presentation stating

that all large annual events are scheduled for the year beginning with the Southern Rocky Mountain Agricultural

Conference which will take place Feb. 6 through 8 and then the Monte Vista Crane Festival is March 8 through

10. Hillin stated that members will be made aware of resources available to them as

soon as details are figured out.

“We hope to have things rolling by mid-year,” she said.



kids' corner



THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY ALLOWS THE BRAIN TO KEEP WORKING BUT ALSO RELAX IN A MEANINGFUL WAY.

ANSWER: HOBBY

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Hobby

SPANISH: Hobby

ITALIAN: Hobby

FRENCH: Passe-temps

GERMAN: Hobby

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THIS DAY IN...

JAN 10

HISTORY

- 1430: PHILIP THE GOOD ESTABLISHES THE ORDER OF THE GOLDEN FLEECE, THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS ORDER OF CHIVALRY.
- 1812: THE FIRST STEAMBOAT ON THE OHIO RIVER OR THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER ARRIVES IN NEW ORLEANS.
- 1920: THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES TAKES EFFECT, ENDING WORLD WAR ONE FOR ALL COMBATANT NATIONS EXCEPT THE UNITED STATES.

New Word

RECREATION

activity enjoyed when not working

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