



Community supports Saguache VFD Fire and Ice fundraiser

— Page 5



Sanford basketball teams swept by Pagosa Springs

— Page 6



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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

January 5, 2024

\$1



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SLV Today

City of Alamosa Ward 4 Council vacancy

ALAMOSA — The City of Alamosa is still seeking applications to fill a vacancy in the office of City Councilor Ward 4. Interested applicants must be a qualified elector residing in Ward 4; at least 21 years of age; and have been a resident of the City of Alamosa for at least one year.

The appointment will be made by the city council to fill the term expiring November 2025.

The council will interview applicants on Wednesday, Jan. 24, and appoint that same date.

Letters of interest should be submitted to the City Clerk, 300 Hunt Ave., P.O. Box 419 or cityclerk@ci.alamosa.co.us.

Deadline for submissions is 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 19.

For additional information, contact City Clerk Holly Martinez, at 719-589-2272.

No bingo at American Legion Jan. 5

ALAMOSA — No bingo at the American Legion, Alamosa, on Friday, Jan. 5.

New Year Yoga on Saturday

ALAMOSA — New Year Yoga will be at the Alamosa Public Library at 10 a.m. on Saturday, with Jessica from Sweetgrass Therapeutics. This is an introduction level class and mats will be provided or bring your own. For questions, call 719-589-6592.

SLV WEATHER



Chance of Snow 32/6

Sat: Mostly Cloudy, Breezy 29/0

Sun: Chance of Snow, Breezy 27/4

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Council keeps Sanchez, institutes some changes

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — After members of city council logged close to 30 hours in five different executive sessions and one work session to investigate claims made by former Alamosa Chief of Police Ken Anderson upon his resignation, the information gathering marathon has concluded with no significant changes to city council operations.

At the end of the day,

City Manager Heather Sanchez will go forward with the council's unanimous vote of confidence. Despite vocal, if not strong, community opposition, projects like the transitional housing development on Airport Road will continue to progress on schedule.

If Wednesday night's work session was any indication, council meetings will continue as they have been, with the city manager doing the vast major-

■ See **COUNCIL** page 3



Courtesy photo

(Left to right) Alamosa City Councilors Jan Vigil, Dawn Krebs, Jackie Vigil, Mayor Ty Coleman and Councilors Liz Hensley and Michael Carson at the work session Wednesday night where they discussed concerns raised by former Police Chief Ken Anderson when he was resigned from his position last fall.

Leadville-based outdoor apparel company to hire for new Alamosa operation

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

LEADVILLE and ALAMOSA — Melanzana, a Leadville-based outdoor apparel manufacturer, will be opening a second production factory in Alamosa soon. The brand is experiencing increased demand for the products and is expanding its production capabilities to serve its customers better.

The company was founded in 1994 as Eggplant Mountain Gear by Fritz Howard, who according to the company website wanted to live in a real mountain town, not a resort town.

"Melanzana is a local apparel manufacturer, deeply rooted in a legit mountain town," reads Howard's LinkedIn page.

Due to a trademark conflict, the company changed its name to Melanzana, the Italian word for eggplant.

The company originally rented a 3,000 square foot rental property in Leadville, and in 2008 bought property totaling 7,500 square feet. The company now has 76 employees, all in Leadville.

Melanzana is currently looking to hire 12 positions in Alamosa for sewing, cutting and one sewing machine mechanic.



Courtesy photo

Outdoor apparel company Melanzana is hiring for 12 newly created positions in Alamosa.

The jobs pay \$19 to \$21 an hour. The positions offer a 4-day work week, time off, health and dental, profit sharing, and stock ownership.

In response to burgeoning demand at the Lead-

ville store, Melanzana implemented a "By Appointment," system. With available appointments now booked months in advance, the company is taking strategic steps to make their products more accessible. While

■ See **HIRING** page 3

Laske runs for re-election in 2024

By LORI LASKE
Alamosa County Commissioner

ALAMOSA COUNTY

— I am excited to announce that I am running for re-election for Alamosa County Commissioner, District 1. I was born and raised in Alamosa County, I attended Alamosa High School, I have a bachelor's and master's degree from Adams State University, I am a small business owner with my husband, and we have a small ranch. I have been married to my husband for over 30 years and have four children and one grandson. My roots and passions are in Alamosa County. It is more than a place; it is my home. I have done some good things in the last three years, but much more is needed. I want the honor of representing our citizens for another four years.

In conjunction with my fellow commissioners, I feel that I have provided leadership and am an integral part of the Alamosa County team. I am a good candidate; I serve with integrity, a strong work ethic, and have experience in leading the county. For the past three years, I have worked especially hard on enhancing safety, increasing road maintenance, and have been fiscally responsible with county funds.

The commissioners have



pushed to enhance safety for our community by working to increase the Sheriff's Department's budget. These additional funds, over \$1 million (from the 2021 to 2024 budget), have increased the number of deputies, added needed equipment, and provided competitive salaries. We have increased the Alamosa County's portion of the District Attorney's budget by 80% (from the 2021 to 2024 budget), which has increased the number of attorneys and allowed for swifter prosecution.

Based on citizens' input, we have increased the Road & Bridge Department budget for new equipment and directed funds for road oil, all within an environment of increasing cost. For the first time in many years, we have also put funding towards blight mitigation and working to clean up dangerous properties.

As far as fiscal responsibility, ■ See **LASKE** page 3

Rio Grande Hospital Wellness Center is moving toward an opening in June

By RIO GRANDE HOSPITAL

DEL NORTE— The Rio Grande Hospital Wellness Center campus is an innovative project, sitting on five acres south of the hospital and clinic, and includes the 7,500-square-foot communal center.

A recent tour of the building, with all its interior walls' sheetrock in place, made clear the Center's spatial layout. When completed early this summer, visitors will be able to experience the benefits of

all its unique features.

Specifically designed around four concepts of wellness, the facility's informational hallways guide the visitor from one concept to the next.

Lisa Carpenter, architect with Keys and Lauer Architecture says, "coming in through the Vestibule you enter the educational hallway and will immediately see the Welcome Wall. Signage will let you know this is your first stop. This area will give you

■ See **WELLNESS** page 3



Courtesy photo

The Rio Grande Wellness Center is under construction at the Rio Grande Hospital complex in Del Norte.

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Record

OBITUARIES

Theresa Cordova



Theresa Cordova, a cherished resident of Garcia, Colo., entered this world on Sept. 9, 1952, and peacefully departed on Dec. 29, 2023. A woman of grace, strength, and love, Theresa's life wove a beautiful tapestry of compassion, creativity, and joy, leaving an enduring legacy that touched the lives of all who knew her.

Devoted to her late husband, Moises Cordova, Theresa was a loving daughter to Viola and Rudolfo Ortiz and a caring grandmother to her departed grandson, Ezekiel Cordova. Joining her siblings, Elaine Ortiz, Lorraine Ortiz, Juan Ortiz, Felipe Ortiz, Dale Ortiz, Ruth Manzanares, Ben Ortiz, Kenny Ortiz, as well as in-laws Anne and Sigfredo Cordova, she rests in eternal peace.

She is survived by her adoring children, Matthew Cordova (Donna Cordova), Adam Cordova (Andrea Cordova), Amos Cordova (Stacy Madrid), Aaron Cordova (Michelle Preble), and Cassandra Cordova (Amos Cordova). Theresa's loving spirit continues to shine through her grandchildren: Ambrozha Cordova, James Cordova (Ariah Cordova), Adrienne Cordova, Dominic Cordova, Malachi Cordova, Zofia Cordova, Cataleya Cordova, Adison Preble, and Dylan Preble, as well as great-grandchild Yozmani Cordova.

Among her surviving siblings are Tita Padilla, Hazel Martinez, Michael Ortiz, and Joanne Luceo, who share in the grief of losing a beloved sister.

Theresa Cordova's life was a rich tapestry intricately woven with deep devotion to family, a passion for creativity, and an unwavering commitment to her Catholic faith. Whether engaged in the art of sewing, crocheting, crafting ceramics, or actively participating in the Sacred Heart League, Circle of Friends, and the Gualupanas, she poured her heart into each endeavor. This dedication not only left behind a legacy of cherished family heirlooms but also a vibrant spirit deeply intertwined with her faith and community involvement.

In her lively younger years, Theresa showcased her love for life by playing sports like basketball, softball, and baseball, infusing the games with her feisty and competitive spirit.

A lover of shopping, Theresa had an eye for style and a knack for finding the perfect gift.

She found joy in the simple pleasures of life, from challenging rounds of Candy Crush to exploring the intricate world of coloring and experimenting with new recipes in the kitchen. Theresa's culinary skills were legendary, and her tortillas and green chili stew will be dearly missed by family and friends.

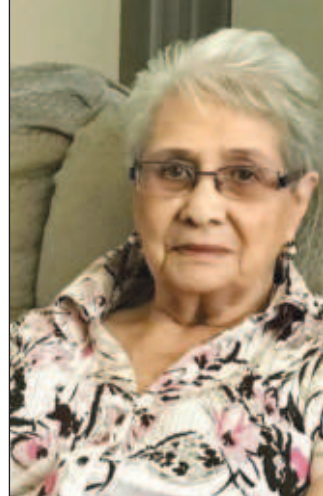
Her love for social media manifested in daily posts on Facebook, spreading positivity to her online community. Theresa's engaging presence and warm-hearted interactions made friends and family laugh and smile.

A Rosary in memory of Theresa Cordova will be held at the Sangre De Cristo Church in San Luis, Colo., at 6 pm on Sunday, Jan. 7. Funeral services will take place at the same location at 12 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 8, followed by her interment at the Garcia Cemetery.

May Theresa Cordova find eternal peace, surrounded by the love and memories she generously shared. Her legacy will continue to inspire and bring comfort to those privileged to be a part of her remarkable journey.

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

Cordy Valdez



Our beloved Cordy Valdez was reunited in heaven with her husband and the Lord on Dec. 29, 2023. Cordy was born on Sept. 25, 1932, in San Francisco, Colo., the daughter of Miguel Martinez and Francisquita Martinez.

After graduating from Centennial High School, Cordy was united in marriage a few years later to the love of her life Tom Valdez on May 10, 1953, in San Luis. The two shared a happy and loving union. From that union they welcomed six children into the world. Cordy devoted her life to being a role model and exceptional wife and mother to her family.

She worked for San Luis Valley Nutrition for many years as a cook. In her free time, she enjoyed sewing, crocheting, quilting and cross stitching. She also loved to watch her Span-

ish novelas, going shopping and cooking delicious meals for her family. She will be dearly missed.

Cordy was preceded in death by her parents Miguel and Francisquita Martinez, husband Tom Valdez, son Anthony Valdez, sister Domicilia Martinez and two brothers Joe Martinez and Eulalio Martinez.

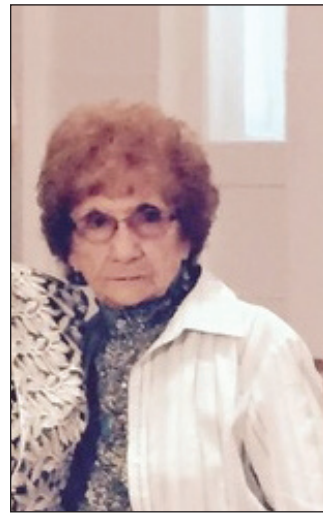
Her memory will live on through her children Ber-

nadette Valdez of Aurora, Colo.; Barbara (Miguel) Villagomez of Aurora, Colo.; Michael Valdez of Denver, Colo.; Tommy Valdez of Alamosa, Colo.; Randy (Janeel) Valdez of Pueblo, Colo.; seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren. She is also survived by many other extended family and friends.

Vigil service with Recitation of the Rosary will be held on Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, at 7 p.m. at Sangre De Cristo Catholic Church in San Luis. Mass of the Resurrection will be on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024. Interment will follow at Sangre De Cristo Cemetery.

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

Mary Maxine Veliz



Longtime Alamosa resident Mary Maxine Veliz, 88, passed away Jan. 1, 2024, at the San Luis Valley Health Regional Medical Center in Alamosa, Colo.

Mary was born to Antonio and Carmelita (Garcia) Santisteven on Sept. 4, 1935, in Amalia, N.M.

Mary was a very loving mother and grandmother who especially enjoyed the time she spent with her family. She liked to pass the time by watching TV and listening to Spanish Music. Mary also enjoyed spending time in the sunshine doing yard work.

Those left to cherish her memory include her children Josie Mireles of Grand Junction, Irene (Ernie) Robinson of Florida, Adolph (Brenda Barbara) Villagomez, Roque

(Josie) Villagomez of La Jara, Frank (LeeAnn Pacheco) Veliz Jr of Alamosa; her siblings Esther (Jose) Raya of Alamosa, Joe (Sandy) Santisteven of Alamosa; 14 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren, 31 great-great-grandchildren as well as numerous aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband Francisco Veliz; both of her parents Antonio and Carmelita; her siblings Eva Arellano, Louisa Mascarenas, Viola Casanova, Rosie Santisteven, Henry Santisteven, Richard Santisteven, and Frances Medina.

A Recitation of the Rosary will be Friday, Jan. 19, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Alamosa. A Memorial Mass will be at the same location at 10 a.m. Burial will follow the Mass in the Alamosa Cemetery.

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

Robert James Jack



Robert James Jack, 92, passed away on Dec. 26, 2023, at the Homelake Veterans Center in Monte Vista, Colo. He was born Feb. 22, 1931, in Sanford, Colo., to Robert H. and Ruby Hansen Jack. He attended Sanford schools and graduated from Sanford High School. He served in the Army in Washington, DC.

Bob was a self-employed farmer, rancher and carpenter. Bob especially liked making things with his hands. He specialized in molding and millwork and supplied many homes and businesses from the Valley with his handy work.

In 1972, he met Beverly Moss Johnson, and they were soon married. That September, Bob and Beverly along with her six children packed up the family and moved from Nampa, Idaho, to Alamosa, Colo. He then had a family with children ages 5 years old to 13. A year later, Rob was born and soon after that James joined the clan.

Bob was a member of the Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-day Saints. Throughout his life, he magnified numerous church callings, including stake high council, stake missionary in Moffat, a counselor to the bishop, he also served in many callings with the youth, a scout leader earning the prestigious Silver Beaver award. Together with his wife he served as a temple worker in the Denver and Albuquerque Temples of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Bob loved hunting, fishing, trapping and spending time in the mountains and outdoors. With the help of his children, they built a cabin in Jasper, where many great family memories have been made.

He is survived by his children; Tawnia Paver

(Don), Trudi Adams, Richard Johnson, Russell Johnson, Cynthia Sowards (Jim), Cydrie Vesser (David), Robert Jack (Shawna), James Jack (Laura), 30 grandchildren, and 51 great-grandchildren.

Bob was preceded in death by his wife Beverly Jack, his parents, Robert H. and Ruby Hansen Jack and his siblings Richard Jack, Don Jack, Betty Workman, Carol Weaver, as well as grandsons TJ Byrd and Kyle Galyon and son-in-law Skip Adams.

A viewing will be held Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024, at Rogers Family Mortuary in Alamosa from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. A second visitation will be Monday morning at the church before the funeral from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Funeral services will be held Monday, Jan. 8, 2024, at the Rock Creek Ward, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 300 Richardson Ave. at 10 a.m. Burial will follow the funeral service in the Sanford Cemetery.

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

Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office to award scholarship to student

By RIO GRANDE COUNTY

RIO GRANDE COUNTY — Rio Grande County Sheriff Anne Robinson recently announced that County Sheriffs of Colorado, Inc. (CSOC), the state Sheriffs Association, will award a \$500 scholarship to a deserving Rio Grande County student this spring.

CSOC established the scholarship program in 1978.

Since then, this effort has continued as a meaningful expression of the sheriffs' confidence in and respect for education and training. CSOC considers this an investment in the future and believes that our membership is helping to provide deserving students with an opportunity to make a positive contribution to society.

Scholarship announcements have been mailed to all high school offices in the eligible counties and to all Colorado high-

er education institutions. Applications are available online at www.csoc.org, or at the Rio Grande County Sheriff's office, 640 Cherry St., Del Norte.

A scholarship will be awarded in more than 30 Colorado counties this year. Applications will be reviewed by a local citizens committee appointed by Sheriff Robinson, and a selection will be made on the basis of criteria established by CSOC. This criterion includes leadership, merit, character, involvement and career purpose.

Any legal permanent resident of Rio Grande County enrolled in, or applying to, a vocational training program or institution of higher learning in the State of Colorado as a full- or part-time stu-

dent is eligible to apply. There are no restrictions as to the course of study or training which may be pursued, and no restrictions are placed upon applications by reason of race, creed, age, sex or national origin.

For more information, contact your local high school, college, the Rio Grande County Sheriff's office or County Sheriffs of Colorado, or visit the CSOC Scholarship website at: www.coloradosheriffs.org/scholarships.



PENDING OBITUARY

Karen M. Williams

Monte Vista resident Karen M. Williams, 64, passed away Jan. 4, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

VALLEY — The San Luis Valley offers many Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous groups.

A.A. and N.A members primary purpose is to

stay sober and help other alcoholics/addicts to achieve sobriety.

There are AA and NA 12-Step Meetings throughout the valley. The 6th Tradition states that we are not affili-

ated with any outside organizations, but in the spirit of cooperation, we list these meeting schedules for friends and family. For information, call 719-937-5083 or see our website: slvaa.org

COURIER OBITUARY POLICY

The Courier charges \$75 for each obituary per day. Pending arrangements or death notices are free. This charge affects funeral homes, family or other representatives that place obituaries. All paid obituaries are published on www.alamosanews.com, for no additional fee.

Please email obituaries if possible to squintana@alamosanews.com If the newspaper errors in publishing an obit, corrections will be made and the obit rerun. If the errors are on the part of the submitting party, an additional fee will be assessed.

School Menu
Friday
January 5, 2024

Christmas Break!

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

Valley News

T-Road Brewing ushers in 2024 by going back to 80's

By MARIE MCCOLM
CRESTONE — Back to the 80's was the theme of the New Year's celebration at T-Road Brewing Company in Crestone on Sunday, Dec. 31. The event was hosted by the brewery and Cosmic Pop-up Events.

Tickets to the event were \$30 each and the event included dinner and a drink, a live DJ, a gift bag, and a champagne toast at midnight.

Arielle Blackwell of Cosmic Pop-up events spoke about the celebration and how everything went.

"It was a great turn out and we had a lot of people attend the celebration. There were strobe lights, streamers, a disco ball, there was tons of 80's music playing, including, Wham, Prince, Madonna, Michael Jackson, just about every 80's song you could think of. People

were dancing and laughing, everyone had a great time," Blackwell said.

Blackwell said that after the success of last year's 70's celebration, it seemed only natural to do the 80's this year.

"Everyone was dressed in their 80's clothes. We had the high hairdos complete with rolled socks, some people had leotards on, there were so many different outfits. People were really into the 80's theme. We had a best costume contest, a dance contest, a lip sync contest, there were door prizes it was so great," Blackwell said.

Blackwell said they want to do it again next year.

"We want to just keep moving up next year," Blackwell said. "We will definitely do this next year if we can. Next year's event will be a 90's celebration.

Everyone really seemed to enjoy the event, so we will just keep moving up, and doing this every year hopefully."

Don Salvator, of Center, attended the event and said it was a blast.

"I am from the 80's and I walked in with my leather jacket, my shiny penny shoes, and my hair feathered back. I took my shades in with me. I was wearing a nice white shirt under my leather jacket, and I had some fun. My girlfriend wore her hair really high," Salvator said. "She even bought some Aqua Net from the store to make her hair stand up higher, it was just so funny. We both looked like

we had just walked out of an 80's photo album. The music was great, the people all socialized well. We got to drink and toast at midnight. It was a fun event, If T-Road does it again next year, I will be there. Back to the 80's took us back to the 80's to celebrate the New Year."



Courtesy photos
Back to the 80's was the theme of the New Year's celebration at T-Road Brewing Company in Crestone on Sunday, Dec. 31. The event was hosted by the brewery and Cosmic Pop-up Events.

Hiring

Continued from Page 1
 the ramp-up in Alamosa is expected to be a long-term project, Melanzana aims to eventually reduce lead times and make the shopping experience more accessible. The company has yet to announce the location of the new Alamosa facility.



Courtesy photo
This promotional photo from the website of the outdoor apparel company Melanzana, may soon be changed to include that their products will also be made in Alamosa.

The decision to establish an additional production facility in Alamosa was carefully considered according to the company.

After exploring various cities across Colorado, Melanzana found that Alamosa, with its unique charm and hardworking agricultural history, aligns with the brand's values and the spirit of its original home in Leadville. The town's robust workforce and distinctive vibe make it an ideal location for Melanzana's continued commitment to crafting high-quality, handmade outdoor apparel according to a company statement.

Howard, founder of Melanzana, expressed enthusiasm about the expansion, stating, "Hope-

fully, we can grow something there that is as great as what we have here in Leadville — an awesome staff with good jobs and a business that plays an important role as an anchor in the community. Melanzana needs a huge boost in our manufacturing firepower, so we are excited to invest in a sister-city like Alamosa!"

The additional factory in Alamosa will hire and train locals to make Melanzana's classic hoodies and other outdoor apparel. While recognizing the need for increased production to keep up with demand, the company is committed to

maintaining its high-quality handmade approach to local manufacturing. The hiring process will begin in January and job opportunities and how to apply are listed on melanzana.com

The Leadville production operations will remain unchanged. Melanzana has no plans to open additional retail locations in Alamosa or anywhere outside of its Leadville headquarters. As the company embarks on this significant production expansion, Melanzana remains focused on its core values, ensuring that the handmade, local, and community-oriented ethos is carried forward to the

Alamosa production facility. The company is excited to bring its commitment to quality, craftsmanship, and community to another small mountain town.

Erin Farrow, Communications Specialist at Melanzana, expressed her commitment to the company's mission and the Leadville community, stating, "The thing I love most about Melanzana is our mission to stay local and support the community. We love Leadville, and we are not going anywhere! I'm psyched that with more output, shopping in the Leadville factory may eventually get back to normal."

Council

Continued from Page 1
 city of the explaining while councilors listen attentively and occasionally ask questions but ultimately agree with what the city manager is proposing.

That's not to say that there haven't been some important changes.

In his resignation, Anderson had cited the rule prohibiting communication between members of city council and department heads as an obstacle to council getting input directly from department heads who are impacted by policy decisions. Currently, all information to the council is funneled through the city manager.

Going forward, department heads will be included in city council retreats, a practice that used to be routine until it was ended and, once in place, will allow for more interaction, team building and information sharing.

In a second change, the city council will be adopting a policy at an upcoming meeting that allows a department head to place an item on the agenda if the individual feels an issue has not been properly addressed by the city manager. This step creates an option for frustrated department heads other than resigning from their position.

In response to former Chief Anderson stating that his department's needs weren't being met, Sanchez and interim Police Chief Joey Spangler informed the council of

some equipment purchases that have been made and also showed data that an additional full-time employee — specifically at the sergeant level — is justified, if and when funding comes available.

Another area cited by Anderson included the city attorney whose opinion Anderson felt showed a lack of understanding and experience — specifically related to excessive force. An agreement was made that Erich Schwiesow, city attorney, would meet with APD officers to seek common ground on what officers have to do in the moment and how that is congruent — or not — with

city policy.

All those changes sprung directly out of Anderson's complaints and suggest a quick commitment from the council to address problems that are readily apparent and, basically, fixable.

But the issues that are more nuanced and possibly connected to "communication breakdown", or the significant differences in what constitutes management versus micromanagement or an individual's feeling disenfranchised and dismissed when their input is ignored were not addressed in Wednesday night's work session, other than the city manager

saying, "I don't do [those things]."

Although more than eight hours were spent with council members interviewing every department head about criticisms Anderson had raised regarding Sanchez. None of that real-time, front-line feedback was shared. That makes it difficult for the public to know with any certainty if some of the pervasive issues Anderson brought to light were corroborated or refuted, let alone recognized or addressed.

Meanwhile, Anderson begins working next week for the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office.

City Council Statement

When concerns were raised regarding several City of Alamosa programs, initiatives, and work environment; Alamosa City Council set out on a path of deliberate review. The concerns have been and continue to be taken seriously. Since City Council can only meet as a group to dig into those concerns, the process has been lengthy.

As part of the process, City Council has held two executive sessions to meet with every Department Head and members of the Leadership Team to learn more about the work environment. These meetings allowed all those who participated to ask straightforward questions and communicate freely and directly on any thoughts related to the work environment.

City Council then held an executive session to gather their thoughts on the information they heard and determine a path going forward. A fourth executive session was held to meet with City Manager Heather Sanchez to share those thoughts.

City Council appreciates the time that members of the Leadership Team took to meet with them and engage in very honest discussions. While no system is ever perfect and City Council and City Manager Sanchez have identified some improvements going forward, City Council remains supportive in Sanchez's leadership and looks forward to working together. These improvements were reviewed during a public work session on January

3rd.

In conclusion, City Council expresses gratitude for the collaborative efforts of the Leadership Team, the insightful discussions held during executive sessions, and the valuable input received during public work sessions. As we move forward, City Council is committed to implementing identified improvements, fostering a positive work environment, and continuing the fruitful collaboration with City Manager Sanchez to ensure the success of ongoing initiatives and programs for the betterment of the City of Alamosa.

Ty Coleman
 Michael Carson
 Liz Hensley
 Dawn Krebs
 Jackie Vigil
 Jan Vigil

3rd.

In conclusion, City Council expresses gratitude for the collaborative efforts of the Leadership Team, the insightful discussions held during executive sessions, and the valuable input received during public work sessions. As we move forward, City Council is committed to implementing identified improvements, fostering a positive work environment, and continuing the fruitful collaboration with City Manager Sanchez to ensure the success of ongoing initiatives and programs for the betterment of the City of Alamosa.

Ty Coleman
 Michael Carson
 Liz Hensley
 Dawn Krebs
 Jackie Vigil
 Jan Vigil

Laske

Continued from Page 1
 sibility. The fund balance had a 99% increase from 2020 to 2022. We planned and utilized the ARPA Funds responsibly, and strategically planned for future needs while securing our ability to provide services.

Supporting Commissioner Heersink, we implemented 1041 Regulations to protect water resources.

I have directly fought for Opioid Settlement funds coming to the SLV instead of the front range. I am currently working with the Colorado Department of Energy on a grant to study the feasibility of a regional transmission line for reliance/redundancy of electricity and the option to export solar energy. I am a current appointee to the Colorado Property Tax

Task Force. I have taken on leadership roles, including the chair of the Alamosa County Commissioners in 2023 and 2024 and the chair of the 19-county Southern District of Colorado Counties Inc. I am a current appointee to the Colorado Child Fatality Protection Committee, and I am a Rural Caucus member of the National Association of County Commissioners.

In all these groups, I am fighting for rural counties, safety, water, and our way of life while working to remind the state of the importance of rural Colorado.

I appreciate the confidence the citizens of Alamosa County have put in me. I will continue to work hard and would appreciate the honor to continue to fight for Alamosa County citizens. Please feel free to contact me at 719-850-1640.

Wellness

Continued from Page 1
 general knowledge about Blue Zone living."

"From here you can meander to each Blue Zone node to learn more about the four main concepts — Connect, Nutrition, Mindfulness, and Move."

The Connect Wall education node will have displays and information promoting wellness, community activities, health events, the Center's activities, organizational events, and other social opportunities that promote health.

To the right, is the 700-square-foot Community Lounge where people can meet with friends, family, or colleagues to converse or maybe play a board game together. The lounge has an exterior door opening onto the Front Porch, which provides additional space for people to comfortably get together while relaxing and enjoying the outdoors.

Through a connecting doorway is the Community Hall. At 2,200 square feet, it is a space for larger gatherings and events. It is spacious enough to accommodate the entire hospital staff for meetings or to hold regional conferences. Large windows reveal the entire Upper Rio Grande Valley to the west, including two sets of glass doors that open to the covered Veranda so people can gather outside.

The hall has a countertop that opens directly to the 400-square-foot, centrally located Teaching Kitchen — a place for healthy cooking demonstrations, classes, and community meals focusing on nutrition.

Next is the Nutrition Wall education node beside the Garden Meeting Room with its fragrant foliage-laden living herb wall. The Nutrition Wall will also feature information about the campus's Geodesic Dome greenhouse. Both areas will teach how to grow a variety of sustaining herbs and foods.

Proceeding down the hall, the Mindfulness Wall education node shares information about the labyrinth-patterned floor in the Community Hall, and provides access to the two private, Quiet Rooms.

Labyrinth floors have been used therapeutically in hospitals and hospices and proven to be able to quiet the mind or boost recovery.

The Quiet Rooms, each with a massage chair and nooks for meditation enable such things as deep relaxation, reflection, and healthy outlooks.

Rounding out the tour, the Move Wall education node focuses on the body and is located just outside the Exercise Studio, which will be equipped with a variety of exercise equipment. The studio also has a set of doors that open to the covered Veranda for outdoor workouts and group classes.

The move zone exterior doors provide direct access to the outdoor walking paths connecting all elements of the campus — the Wellness Center, the cottages, the geodesic dome, the hospital, and the health clinic as well as the town's 8-mile Lookout Mountain walking and biking trail system.

A grand opening celebration is scheduled for some time in June.



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Opinion

Happy New Year

I hope that most of you are enjoying the New Year as by the time you read this it will be underway and 2023 will be a crossed-out blemish on the calendar of life.

I am sitting in my recliner writing this column as the year winds down on the clock and glad I am here safe and sound.

Perusing the channels on the idiot box I see there are celebrations going on all over the country and world. People are massed together singing and gyrating and all Ol' Dutch can think is how glad I am not there.

No traffic to navigate, no drunks to dodge and no obnoxious strangers blowing a horn in my face and wishing me a happy new year. Bah Humbug.

My plan early on was to celebrate here with Miss Trixie and maybe even sneak in a New Year's smooch but she was called away today to help her ailing aunt and uncle.

So much for pitching woo with my sweetie, at least on this night. I guess Mr. Cooper and I will have to hold down the fort alone and he is not much on kisses, let me tell you.

Looking back on 2023, Ol' Dutch has plenty to be thankful for. We had some real health miracles with some close family members and those are always most appreciated of all blessings.

We started building a new house and although it's slow going as Ol' Dutch is superintendent, foreman, laborer, cook and chief bottle washer on the project. But it's coming along, and I am thankful that I will finally have a home again when completed.

Resolutions are part of every New Year and Ol' Dutch is full of them. Well, he is full of something, according to Miss Trixie.

The first resolution is pretty straightforward. Ol' Dutch really needs to reduce tonnage and it seems no matter how hard I work around the farm, I just do not make much of a dent on the scale of life.

Not too long ago I had to fill out some questionnaires about my health and one question was "What kind of shape are you in?" I just typed in "Round." That pretty much describes anything they might need to know about me, I think.

It was not sufficient for the bean counters however and they pestered me night and day for two weeks for a clarification and better description of my decrepit self.

So, looking back I really think I have very little to complain about. In 2023, I heat, food and hot showers every day and so I am thankful for the little things, so it seems.

The year ahead looks to be challenging at least on the world stage as there are wars and rumors of wars in the news every day and it's worrisome at the least. I guess we need not be surprised about all that as it says that exact thing in the Bible, so it's been with us it seems like forever.

I think the saddest thing about any war is that the common people never want one. We all just want to go to work, go home and take care of our families. No sane person could ever want to be subjected to the hardships that conflicts bring but somehow, we let others lead us down the paths of destruction.

2024 will also bring us a national election and it's times like this that Ol' Dutch is glad he does not have any of the television channels that will pour out the vile lies from politicians seeking office. I can sit comfortably in my RV and watch Andy Griffith or Green Acres on the antennae and avoid all the hubbub.

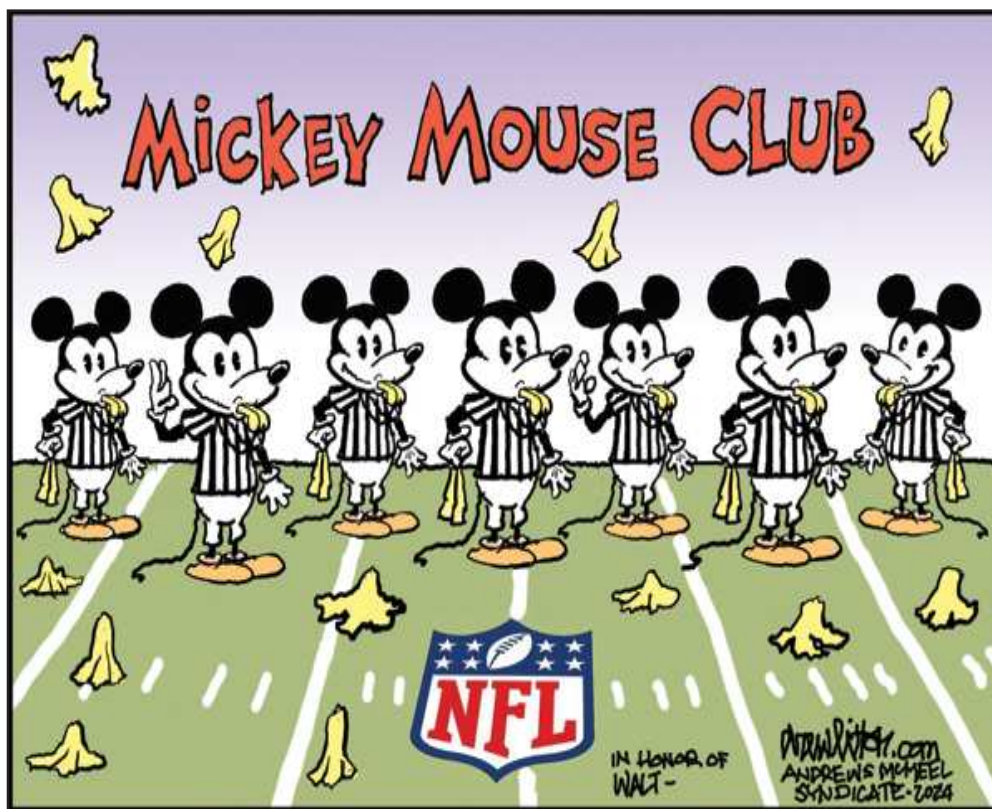
Wherever the New Year finds you, be a blessing to those around you and especially to those less fortunate than yourself. And if you find yourself in need of help yourself, my prayer is that each and every one of you find a path forward in this New Year and that you yourself will become a blessing to many.

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.

Trout Republic



by Kevin Kirkpatrick



To submit news, email:
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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."

Biden and the polls: He's fallen and he can't get up

In an interview with the Financial Times, the long-time Washington political analyst Charlie Cook noted that President Joe Biden's job approval rating has been stuck below 50% for a long time — 2 1/2 years — and shows no signs of rising above 50% anytime soon. "There seems to be virtually no elasticity there," Cook told the paper. "I wonder whether people have just changed the channel — they've just written him off."

To understand what Cook said about "elasticity," look at the Gallup President Job Approval Center. Biden started his presidency, in January 2021, with a 57% approval rating. He stayed around that level until the beginning of summer, and then the slide began. By July 2021, Biden fell below 50% for the first time and has never returned. He fell below 40% in July 2022, and is at 39% today.

For 2 1/2 years, Biden's job approval has bounced around in a roughly 8-point range between highs in the mid 40s and lows in the high 30s. That's what Cook meant about lack of elasticity — Biden doesn't seem to go up and down in relation to his accomplishments or lack of accomplishments. He just sort of sits there, like voters have written him off.

Some Biden supporters like to point out that President Barack Obama had some tough times in the polls before he won reelection in 2012. Yes and no. Obama began his first term, in January 2009, on a huge high — 67% approval in the Gallup rating. But by November of that year Obama had fallen below 50%. The difference between Obama and Biden is 1) Obama occasionally rose back to 50% or higher, as he did in February and April of 2010, and January and May of 2011; and 2) although Obama fell to 40% a

few times, he never sank below that.

The great hope of Biden partisans is that he will rise in the polls as November's election approaches, as Obama did in 2012. So can Biden replicate that feat? It seems safe to say — although not guaranteed — that his polls will increase in September and October, no matter who he is facing as a Republican opponent. That just generally happens as Democrats and Republicans dig into their partisan positions with an election approaching. But where will Biden start from? Obama rose from 44% to 52% to win. What if he had started at 34%, or even 38%? It would have been a much tougher job.

What about Trump? The former president lost the 2020 popular vote by millions, but came fairly close in the Electoral College, losing three key states — Arizona, Georgia and Wisconsin — by a combined total of about 45,000 votes. Trump's trajectory in the Gallup Poll was different from Biden's and Obama's. Taking office in January 2017, he started low, at 44% approval, and fell to 36% by August. That was his low point. On the other end, Trump rose to 48% in February 2020 and 49% in May 2020. But in the last week before the 2020 election, Trump dipped to 45%, compared to Obama's 52% at the same time in 2012. That was the difference.

Today, Biden is closer to Trump territory — actually, in December, he was six points below where Trump was at the same time in his presidency — than to Obama. To win in November, Biden will have to stage an energetic recovery.

Everybody knows the reasons for Biden's unpopularity. Majorities in both parties think the 81-year-old president is too old for a second term. Biden-era inflation has made going to the grocery store an ordeal for millions of Americans. The world seems to be blowing up — Ukraine, the Middle East — which has many Americans worried that more might be on

the way if Biden remains in the Oval Office.

Biden can only do so much to recover. His campaign and allies in the press are desperately trying to talk up the economy. (One recent Washington Post column began: "There's only one appropriate word to describe the U.S. economy in 2023: 'miracle.'") As far as the world situation is concerned, certainly it cannot all be laid at Biden's feet, but it does bring to mind the words of former Defense Secretary and CIA Director Robert Gates, who in 2014 wrote that Biden "has been wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue over the past four decades." Biden hasn't gotten any better.

Finally, the one thing that Biden absolutely, positively, unquestionably cannot do is get any younger. Americans have watched in real time as the president slowed down in front of them. He shuffles. His voice sounds weak. He becomes confused and can have difficulty completing thoughts. Anyone who has ever had an elderly relative — and that is about everyone — knows what is going on.

The White House, the Biden campaign and the Democratic Party know they are just one serious health episode away from a crisis in which they have to find a new presidential candidate in an election year. Biden's handlers are working to make sure he gets his rest, but there is only so much they can do.

That doesn't mean Biden can't make it to November and win reelection. It could happen, especially in what promises to be the most volatile presidential campaign in anybody's memory. But Biden's current situation -- polls, age, job performance — just doesn't look good. He has fallen so badly that getting up again will be a very difficult proposition.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

LETTER

Not happy with the direction of the United States

Editor,

I am not responsible for someone's college debt. I don't think my government is either.

It looks like we have a one-man government. I would like 435 other folks we pay to take the government back or quit and go home.

The folks invading our country are not doing it for fun. Many have heard that we will give them money and a place to live, and they don't have to work. Many will laugh at us for a long time.

In 1756 one nation sent troops to take the country from us. They had single shot guns, as we did, and we sent them

home. Now some people in this country want to take our guns away from us.

Then when another country wants to take the "USA" away from "we the people," we will have fight using bows and arrows and slingshots.

U.S. Veteran Virgil L. Varner
Monte Vista

Keith R Cerny
Publisher

Brian Williams
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Valley Courier

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Editor's Note: The views expressed in individual columns on this page do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Valley Courier.

Lifestyles

Community supports Saguache VFD Fire and Ice fundraiser

By MARIE MCCOLM
SAGUACHE—Nearly 100 people attended the second annual Saguache Volunteer Fire Department Fire and Ice benefit celebration on Sunday, Dec. 31.

The celebration is a fundraiser for the Saguache Volunteer Fire Department. The event was kid friendly.

Members of the fire department wore firefighter button up shirts and blue jeans. There were tables and chairs spread out in the Saguache Community Building where the celebration was held. People ate a hearty dinner, enjoyed the country music of the local group Kicker, and took part in a silent auction.

Fire department member Jeff Phillips and Chief Kendal Adolph spoke about the history of the event and how it helps the department.

“What we do is use these funds to buy things we need for our station,” Phillips said. “After 2020

and COVID, we felt like there was a void, the dance hadn’t been here. For whatever reason it just hadn’t taken place in a long time, but it used to be here. We had a meeting and amongst all of us we decided we wanted to bring it back. We wanted to bring it a step above though. We’ve had a dinner, and we had a silent auction and we also brought in the best local music we could find. It’s been great. The community needed this as much as we do.”

Phillips said they appreciate all the support from the community.

“We cannot thank the community enough. Without the community, we couldn’t do this,” Phillips said. “This is a big deal. We had the firefighters here from all the different districts, Center, Hooper, Mosca, they came in. We had two helicopters come in. Those guys came and supported us too. We can’t thank them enough.”

Chief Adolph said the

12-person fire department had 1,470 man-hours of 911 calls in 2023. They also had 552 hours of training hours.

“This is our way of thanking the community by holding this, and this is their way of thanking us by being here,” Adolph said.

The department also handed out awards. Warren Collin was named officer of the year. Firefighter of the Year was Zack Joyner.

The Saguache Volunteer Fire Department thanked everyone for attending, the local businesses that donated to the silent auction and its event sponsors.



Courtesy photos
 Nearly 100 people attended the second annual Saguache Volunteer Fire Department Fire and Ice benefit celebration on Sunday, Dec. 31. People ate a hearty dinner, enjoyed the country music of the local group Kicker, and took part in a silent auction.



Saguache Volunteer Fire Department Chief Kendal Adolph, left, awarded Zack Joyner with the department’s Firefighter of the Year honor during the Fire and Ice celebration on Dec. 31 in Saguache.

Democrat Chad Clifford selected to fill vacant Colorado House seat

By SARA WILSON
Colorado Newsline

Chad Clifford will represent Colorado’s House District 37 during the lawmaking term that starts next week, a group of local Democrats decided Wednesday night.

Clifford was selected on a 22-19 vote, beating educator Ashish Vaidya during the second round of voting. Kevin Biehl was eliminated during the first round of voting.

“I am excited to be part of something, even in such a vitriolic time at the Capitol,” he said during the virtual meeting.

“It’s just really crazy that the Democrats are fighting the Democrats in a building where it’s supposed to be a debate. It’s very important that everyone understands that the Legislature is a deliberative body,” he said. “It’s a very big difference between being a legislator and an activist, and I think that’s what I bring to the table — to bring legislation and to work through varying ideas and come up with solutions that really impact our district and our people.”

The seat became vacant when former Rep. Ruby Dickson resigned immediately after November’s special session, citing the “sensationalistic and vitriolic nature” of the chamber.

Clifford is a registered lobbyist for the Colorado Rangers, a statewide shared police reserve force. He did not report any income from that job

in 2023, according to records from the secretary of state. He volunteers as a police officer for the group.

Clifford also works as a government operations lead for the American Red Cross.

During a candidate forum ahead of the vacancy committee vote, Clifford said he supports a reform of Colorado’s construction defect law to make it more attractive for developers to construct high density housing, which will likely be part of a bill lawmakers consider this year. Increasing the supply of housing, he said, is a bigger priority than measures like rent control.

He was nominated by Sen. Tom Sullivan, a Centennial Democrat.

“This is a contentious seat. This is a seat that we’re going to have to work incredibly hard to keep it on the blue side, and Chad has already proven that he is working towards that goal,” Sullivan said.

The district includes Greenwood Village and parts of Centennial and has been represented by a Democrat since 2018. Dickson won the seat by 12 percentage points in 2022.

The Legislature reconvenes on Jan. 10. There will be one vacant seat when members start work, as Democrats will hold another vacancy committee meeting to replace former Rep. Said Sharbini in House District 31 on Jan. 18.



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Sports

Mustangs crushed by top-ranked Pagosa Springs

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

SANFORD – The Sanford High School boys basketball team had a tough task to start the new year on Thursday as it hosted Pagosa Springs, the top-ranked team in Class 4A, at the SHS gym.

The Pirates proved why they are the No. 1-ranked team as they used a potent fast break and a stingy defense for a 62-34 win.

Blake Laner scored the first points of the game for Pagosa, but Cash Caldron drained a 3-point basket to give the Mustangs a 3-2 lead.

That would be the last time Sanford would have the lead. Laner scored again, and Seth Ziegler drove for a layup for a 6-3 Pirates lead.

Ben Sittler hit a 3-pointer to deadlock the score at 6-6. Pagosa then ran off seven unanswered points to take a 13-6 advantage.

Caldon scored a layup, but the Pirates scored the final six points of the first quarter for a 19-8 lead.

Pagosa continued the run into the second quarter by scoring the first six points of the period to take a 25-8 lead.

Cahl Larsen ended the run, but Ridge Wilson and Laner both scored to stretch the advantage to 29-10.

Caldon made two free throws, but Pagosa scored the next five points. Travis Canty capped off the first half scoring with a layup but the Pirates had a 34-14 lead at the intermission.



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick
Sanford High School's Cash Caldron (5) makes a move to the basket against top-ranked Pagosa Springs Thursday at the SHS gym. The Mustangs lost to the Pirates 62-34.

Ben Sittler opened the second half scoring with a trey, but Pagosa scored the next 11 points to extend

its advantage to 45-17.

Ben Sittler drove for a layup to end the rally. Roy Larson also scored to cut the deficit to 45-21.

Both teams scored five points in the final 3:02 of the period and Pagosa led 50-24.

The Pirates scored the first seven points of the fourth quarter before Colter Canty scored for the Mustangs. Wilson hit a 3-pointer to give Pagosa its largest lead of the game at 60-26.

Caldon scored five points in the final 4:09 and Ben Faucette scored two.

Caldon was Sanford's top scorer with 15 points, followed by Ben Sittler with eight.

Pagosa had three players score in double figures. Laner led the way with 16 points, followed by Wilson with 14 and Colt Lewis with 10.

Sanford (4-3) will play at Alamosa today. The varsity game begins at 7 p.m.

Pagosa Springs 62, Sanford 34

Pagosa Springs – Harper 1 0-0 2, Laner 8 0-0 16, Kinsley 4 0-0 9, Lewis 3 4-5 10, Wilson 6 0-0 14, Dozier 1 0-0 2, Garcia 1 0-0 2, Ziegler 1 3-4 5, Scheil 1 0-0 2. Total 26 5-9 62.

3-point goals – Wilson 2, Kinsley 1. Total 3.
 Sanford – A. Sittler 0 0-0 0, Caldron 5 3-5 15, B. Sittler 3 0-0 8, E. Larsen 0 0-0 0, Gartrell 0 0-0 0, Larson 1 0-0 2, Faucette 1 0-0 3, C. Canty 1 0-0 2, T. Canty 1 0-0 2, C. Larsen 1 0-0 2. Total 13 3-7 34.

3-point goals – Caldron 2, B. Sittler 2, Faucette 1. Total 5.

Pagosa Springs	19	15	16	12	– 62
Sanford	8	6	10	10	– 34

 Fouls – Pagosa Springs 14, Sanford 20. Fouled out – Gartrell.

Lady Mustangs' comeback not enough in 38-27 loss

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

SANFORD – It was a battle of Top 10 teams on Thursday as the Sanford High School girls basketball team, ranked seventh in Class 2A, hosted Pagosa Springs, the sixth-ranked team in Class 4A, at the Sanford gym.

The higher classification got the better of the contest as the Lady Pirates defeated the Lady Mustangs 38-27.

Karsyn Shahan scored the first points of the game for Pagosa, but Shasta Bond tied the score. Shahan hit a 3-point basket which sparked a 9-2 run to give the Lady Pirates an 11-4 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

Kylie Ketchum opened the second quarter with a pair of 3-pointers, and Elizabeth Currier knocked down a jumper to extend the Lady Pirates' lead to 20-4. Riley Willett ended the run, but Shahan scored again for a 22-6 Pagosa lead.

Bond hit a jump shot with 1:58 left in the second quarter to reduce the deficit to 22-8 at halftime.

Claire Crowther began the second half with two free throws to bring Sanford within 22-10. Shahan scored Pagosa's first points of the third quarter, but Erica Miller drove for a layup to cut the lead to 24-12.

Annie O'Donnell and Shahan both scored to give the



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick
Sanford High School's Erica Miller (33) makes a move to the basket against Pagosa Springs' Annie O'Donnell Thursday at the SHS gym. The Lady Mustangs were defeated by the Lady Pirates 38-27.

Lady Pirates their largest lead of the game at 28-12. Miller made a jump shot, and Crowther made two more free tosses to bring the Lady Mustangs within 28-16. Amberlynn Snarr stretched the lead to 30-16, but

Makynlee Faucette made two from the line, and Miller split a pair of free throws to reduce the deficit to 30-19 at the end of the third quarter.

Bond opened the fourth quarter with a layup, and Crowther also scored a layup and added a free throw to bring the Lady Mustangs within 30-24.

That's as close as Sanford would come. Ketchum ended the run with two free throws, and DaveyAnn Snarr and O'Donnell both drove for layups to extend the margin to 36-24.

Willett scored a layup and Bond made one of two from the line to narrow the gap to 36-27. Currier capped off the scoring with two free throws.

Bond led Sanford in scoring with nine points, followed by Crowther with seven and Miller with five.

Shahan led all scorers with 11 points. Ketchum was next for Pagosa with eight.

Sanford (5-2) will travel to Alamosa today. The varsity game begins at 5:30 p.m. at the AHS gym.

Pagosa Springs 38, Sanford 27

Pagosa Springs – Currier 2 2-2 6, Ketchum 2 2-3 8, D. Snarr 2 0-0 4, O'Donnell 3 0-0 6, Shahan 5 0-0 11, Hittle 0 0-0 0, A. Snarr 1 1-2 3. Total 15 5-7 38.

3-point goals – Ketchum 2, Shahan 1. Total 3.
 Sanford – Reynolds 0 0-2 0, Willett 2 0-0 4, Caldron 0 0-0 0, Bond 4 1-2 9, Miller 2 1-3 5, Smith 0 0-0 0, Crowther 1 5-5 7, Faucette 0 2-2 2. Total 9 9-14 27.
 3-point goals – none.

Pagosa Springs	11	11	9	8	– 38
Sanford	4	4	11	8	– 27

 Fouls – Pagosa Springs 14, Sanford 10. Fouled out – Reynolds.

Elks Hoop Shoot is Saturday at ASU

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor
ALAMOSA – The Alamosa Elks Lodge No. 1,297 will host its annual hoop shoot Saturday at the Plachy Hall field house. Registration is at 9 a.m. with the contest to begin at 10 a.m.

The hoop shoot is a free throw contest for children ages 8-13. There are three divisions for both boys and girls – 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13. Ages are determined by the contestant's age as of April 1 of this year. Each contestant gets 25 free throw attempts.

The winner in each age division for both the boys and the girls will advance to the district competition later this year. For further information, contact hoop shoot director Royce Brubacher at (719) 480-3689.

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD THURSDAY

Prep boys basketball
 Rocky Ford at Center Pagosa Springs at Sanford
Prep girls basketball
 Rocky Ford at Center Pagosa Springs at Sanford
Prep boys wrestling
 Gunnison, Primero at Mountain Valley
Prep girls wrestling
 Gunnison, Primero at Mountain Valley

SCHEDULE FRIDAY

Prep boys basketball
 Centennial at Sargent, 4:30 p.m.
 Creede vs. Moffat (at Saguache), 5 p.m.
 Centauri at Delta, 7 p.m.
 Sanford at Alamosa, 7 p.m.
Prep girls basketball
 Centennial at Sargent, 4:30 p.m.
 Creede vs. Moffat (at Saguache), 5 p.m.
 Centauri at Delta, 5:30 p.m.

Sanford at Alamosa, 5:30 p.m.
Prep boys wrestling
 Alamosa at Peoria (Ariz.), Invitational, 5 p.m.
 Rocky Ford at Monte Vista, 5 p.m.
Prep girls wrestling
 Alamosa at Peoria (Ariz.) Invitational, 5 p.m.

College men's basketball

Adams State at Black Hills State (S.D.), 7 p.m.
College women's basketball
 Adams State at Black Hills State (S.D.), 5 p.m.
College men's wrestling
 Adams State at Western Colorado, 11 a.m.


SATURDAY

Prep boys basketball
 Center at Peyton, noon
 Evangel Christian at Sierra Grande, noon
 Moffat at Weldon Valley, 1 p.m.
 Centennial at South Baca, 2 p.m.
 Sangre de Cristo at Trinidad, 2 p.m.
 Alamosa at Delta, 4 p.m.
 Ignacio at Monte Vista, 4:30 p.m.
Prep girls basketball
 Center at Peyton, noon
 Evangel Christian at Sierra Grande, noon
 Moffat at Weldon Valley, 1 p.m.
 Centennial at South

Baca, 2 p.m.
 Sangre de Cristo at Trinidad, 2 p.m.
 Alamosa at Delta, 2:30 p.m.
 The Vanguard at Centauri, 2:30 p.m.
 Ignacio at Monte Vista, 3 p.m.
Prep boys wrestling
 Alamosa at Peoria (Ariz.) Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Mountain Valley at Gunnison Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Sierra Grande/Centennial at Rye Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Centauri, Center, Monte Vista at Rocky Mountain Wrestling Invitational (at Pagosa Springs), 10 a.m.
Prep girls wrestling
 Alamosa at Peoria (Ariz.) Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Monte Vista, Mountain Valley at Gunnison Invitational, 9 a.m.

College men's basketball

Adams State at South Dakota Mines, 6 p.m.
College women's basketball
 Adams State at South Dakota mines, 4 p.m.
College men's wrestling
 Adams State vs. Findlay (Ohio) (Tracy Borah Duals at Gunnison), 10:30 a.m.
 Adams State vs. Minot State (N.D.) (Tracy Borah Duals at Gunnison), 1 p.m.



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221 - HELP WANTED

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)

ALAMOSAHOUSING AUTHORITY is seeking a qualified individual for a full time **MAINTENANCE LABORER**. Minimum of three years of knowledge in small appliance repair, electrical, plumbing, grounds, common hand tools, repair minor furnace problems and carpentry. Must live in Alamosa County and be able to be on-call for emergency maintenance requests. Must also have a valid Colorado Driver's License, and must be able to pass Colorado Background Investigation and a drug test. We offer a full benefit package. Wage is determined upon experience. Apply at Alamosa Housing Authority, 213 Murphy Drive. Job will close on January 22, 2024. (1/12/2024AS)

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)

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 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)

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)

PAINTERS NEEDED. IF you're reliable, hard-working and willing to learn, WE'LL TEACH YOU THE TRADE. Call BLUE MOON BAY 719-588-1339. (1/10/24AS)

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

CITY OF MONTE VISTA is hiring for an **EQUIPMENT OPERATOR II** that will assist work crews in street construction, maintenance and repair as assigned. The Equipment Operator performs physical labor in construction, concrete and asphalt repair, and traffic control. Regularly operates a single or tandem axle dump truck, snowplow, and other assigned vehicles, and performs other related duties and special projects as assigned. Requires a valid Colorado Commercial Driver's License (CDL) to operate City equipment and/or vehicles, including the appropriate endorsements/restrictions. This is a 40 hour per week full-time position. The general starting wage is \$19.00 - \$22.00 per hour plus an excellent benefit package. Applicant must submit a completed job application 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.monte-vista.co.us. (EOE/ADA) (1/5/24AS)

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

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS located in CENTER, CO seeks a dynamic and innovative person to fill a full-time **IN SCHOOL RESTORATIVE PRACTICES FACILITATOR** for the 2023-2024 school year. Candidates should have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in education or other related field. The right candidate will have experience working with youth in education. Ability to speak Spanish is preferred, but not required. The position will involve collaborating with a team to provide restorative discipline and alternatives to suspension. The position salary will be based on experience and professional endorsements. Center Consolidated Schools is an equal-opportunity employer. If you wish to apply, please send a cover letter and resume and completed non-certified employment application found <https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities> to Carrie Zimmerman, Superintendent of Schools, Center School District 26JT, 550 S. Sylvester Avenue, Center, CO 81125. For more information, please contact Katrina Ruggles at kruggles@center.k12.co.us. (1/5/24AS)

EDUCATION COORDINATOR: RIO GRANDE FARM PARK seeks Education Coordinator to empower the community through regenerative agriculture. Details at www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/. (1/16/24AS)

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. (1/10/24AS-monthly)

345 - WOOD

FOR SALE: FAIRLY new 25 TON SPEECO WOOD SPLITTER, paid \$1,500, asking \$850 cash only. Call 719-588-1183. (1/17/24AS)

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

WOOD FOR SALE: \$175/cord, delivery in selected areas may vary upon location. 719-850-0430. (1/9/24AS)

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. \$225 cord. 719-588-1183. (1/9/24AS)

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)

STAMINA AIR EXERCISE BIKE. \$125. Call 719-852-8879. (1/9/24AS)

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

362 - HOME FURNISHINGS

OAK ENTERTAINMENT CENTER; minor scratches from TV. \$200/obo. 719-588-7982. (E-TFNAS)

368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

FREE RABBITS, MALES and females available. 719-480-4017. (1/6/24AS)

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. (1/5/24AS)

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.5, 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)

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)

710 - CLASSIC AUTOS

FOR SALE: FAMILY owned since 1949, MODEL A FORD 1929. Excellent condition, new tires, \$18,500. Serious inquires only. Text 719-849-1722. (1/6/24AS)



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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 "The — Bang Theory"
 - 4 Mackerel shark
 - 8 "Darn it!"
 - 12 Actress — MacGraw
 - 13 EU nation
 - 14 Needle case
 - 15 Kid
 - 16 Furnish
 - 17 Charged particles
 - 18 Forbidden
 - 20 Mystery
 - 22 Certain party mem.
 - 23 "Holiday —"
 - 24 Rend
 - 26 Vaudeville routine
 - 27 Paid athlete
 - 30 Sends forth
 - 32 DDE, familiarly
 - 33 Wine variety
 - 34 — Alamos
 - 35 Linking word
 - 37 Artless
- DOWN**
- 1 Football's — Starr
 - 2 Homeric epic
 - 3 Nonsense word
 - 4 Venus de —

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 5 Broke a fast
- 6 "Citizen —"
- 7 Satan (2 wds.)
- 8 Hold sway
- 9 Tiny piece
- 10 Fish in a can
- 11 Family mem.
- 19 Leave out
- 21 Aim
- 25 Holy songs
- 26 — -de-camp
- 27 Network ratings focus (2 wds.)
- 28 Race an engine
- 29 Pindaric
- 30 Shade tree
- 31 Swab
- 36 Distant planet
- 38 Verdi opera
- 42 Usher's beat
- 44 Fragrant wood
- 45 Pith helmet
- 46 Diluted
- 47 Pack
- 48 Burn
- 49 Not at all common
- 50 Chore
- 52 Rd.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13				14				
15			16				17				
18			19		20		21				
	22					23					
		24		25		26			27	28	29
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34				35	36			37	38		
39				40				41			
			42					43		44	
	45	46				47		48			49
50					51		52			53	
54					55					56	
57					58					59	

ALLEY OOP

SO, DOC, ARE THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT AND THE DRAGONFLY EFFECT NOT REAL?

IT DOES SEEM OUR EXPERIENCES HERE HAVE CAST SOME DOUBT ON THE THEORIES OF CAUSALITY.

MAYBE THERE'S NO WAY TO EXERT ANY CONTROL WHATSOEVER ON THE WORLD. MAYBE IT'S ALL MEANINGLESS.

UH-OH. I GUESS IT'S TIME TO OPEN DOC'S EMERGENCY KIT.

"IN CASE OF NIHILISM, BREAK GLASS."

IT'S A BOOK OF INSPIRATIONAL COMICS AND KITTEN MEMES.

ARLO & JANIS

IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH ENERGY YARDWORK BURNS UP!

BIG NATE

HOW COME THIS PLACE IS FULL OF OLD LADIES? WHERE ARE ALL THE OLD MEN?

WELL, MEN DON'T LIVE AS LONG AS WOMEN.

CHANCES ARE GRAMPS WILL DIE BEFORE I DO...

...MAYBE SOON.

HI, LADIES.

THE BORN LOSER

REMIND ME TO STOP AT THE FAST-FOOD PLACE ON THE WAY HOME TO PICK UP LUNCH FOR BRUTUS.

OKAY, WHAT DOES HE WANT?

CHEESEBURGER, FRIES AND A MINI APPLE PIE.

AN APPLE PIE WITH LUNCH? DOES HE HAVE DESSERT WITH BREAKFAST, TOO?

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

CAN EDGAR SLEEP W/IF ME. NO HONEYHE HAS HIS PLACE IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM.

HE'S USED TO IT. HE HAS HIS TOYS AND HIS BLANKET... AND HE'S HAPPY IN HIS CAGE, BEE?

FRANK & ERNEST

NURSE

BATH TIME!

GARFIELD

ARLENE, WOULD YOU SAY I GET BETTER LOOKING EVERY DAY?

WELL...

UH...

EVERY OTHER DAY?

THE GRIZZWELLS

I HEARD PEOPLE ARE PASSING LAWS AND ATTACKING EACH OTHER OVER WHERE FOLKS GO TO THE BATHROOM

HMMPH!

HUMANS HAVE WAY TOO MUCH TIME ON THEIR HANDS

SAD

THE WOODS

PEANUTS

THEY'RE JUST SNOWFLAKES...

A FEW SNOWFLAKES LANDING ON YOUR HEAD CAN'T HURT YOU...

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

HERMAN

"They should move Christmas to January — everything's cheaper."

Mother has second thoughts on decisions made for sons

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I moved near the ocean last year. I have two sons, 21 and 17. My older son moved across the country with some friends. The younger son, "Cody," chose at the last minute to stay with his dad.

Abby, it has been awful. Cody dropped out of high school and did not keep up with his home-school work. He quit his jobs, and he's on depression medication. This week, both boys moved where I am. My house is small, so I got them an apartment in my name. The landlord thinks I'm going to be living there.

My question is, how often should I go there and clean, make dinner and visit? I feel like I'll want to be there all the time -- before work, after work and on weekends. My husband thinks I should back off, but Cody is only 17 and going through a lot.

They moved into the apartment today, so this is still new. Also, is it crazy that I paid to put them in their own apartment? I felt like it was an OK choice since our house is so small. They both are planning to get jobs, and the younger one wants to start college classes. But they're lazy and messy, and I feel like I need to step in to help more. Any suggestions? -- MOM OF BOYS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR MOM: Your older son is an adult. Your younger one is on the verge of becoming one. It's time for both to learn the skills they need to take care of themselves. Going there every day to cook, clean, do laundry and visit would be counterproductive to teaching them how to become independent.

If your older son has a job, he should contribute to the rent and groceries. Your younger son will never get into college if he doesn't do the homework he's ignoring. Having a small home doesn't mean he couldn't live with you until he establishes a healthy routine. Although it's tempting, please do not deprive them of this learning opportunity.

DEAR ABBY: I have a brother-in-law I have no contact with because he is jealous of my success and has made violent threats toward me. Every holiday and family function, when my mom asks me to attend, I ask if "Mr. Violent" is going to be there. Her answer is always, "I can't tell him he is not invited."

It always turns out that my wife and kids attend, and I go either to work or to a bar to watch sports because I don't want to be around this person whom I cannot stand. Any advice on how I should handle this? I am considering moving



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

far away from my family. -- LOATHING IN FLORIDA

DEAR LOATHING: Your brother-in-law's jealousy is his problem; you have made it yours. That was a mistake. If an alcohol or drug problem has caused his threats of violence, your entire family should be urging him to get into treatment. If he has actually acted out, the police should have been called to discourage it from happening again.

Moving may be an expensive solution to your in-law problem. A more practical one might be to accept that you will never have a close relationship with this brother-in-law, allow him to "enjoy" his jealousy and pretty much ignore him.