



Creede hosts annual Golden Pick Hockey Tournament

— Page 5



Centauri defeats Alamosa to wrap up top spot in IML East

— Page 6



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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

January 19, 2024

\$1

SLV Today

Nordic Club set to ski during Rio Frio

ALAMOSA — Join the San Juan Nordic Club as they help the City of Alamosa kick off Alamosa 2024 Rio Frio Ice Fest on Friday, Jan. 26, from 6-8 p.m. for a luminaria cross-country ski at Blanca Vista Park Pond, which is north out of Alamosa, on State Avenue just past the entrance to the Cattails Golf Course.

The San Juan Nordic Club will have a half-three-fourths mile course groomed by Alamosa Parks and Recreation staff on the ice of Blanca Vista Park Pond which will be lighted with luminarias. There will also be a fire and hot chocolate. Bring your own skis or pick some up locally at Kristi Mountain Sports in Alamosa. Make sure you dress warmly.

For more information, contact emailerinadamoore@gmail.com or call 719-480-3141.

Crack sealing operations continue on CO 149

RIO GRANDE AND MINERAL COUNTIES — Beginning Jan. 22, motorists can expect up to 15-minute delays on Colorado Highway 149 between South Fork and Creede. Colorado Department of Transportation maintenance crews will repair and seal cracks in the road surface, Mile Points 3-22, through February.

CO 149 surface treatment operations began in mid-December, and crews are continuing to repair the road as weather conditions permit.

- Traffic Impacts
- Operations will take place January 22 through February 22, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Expect one-lane alternating traffic guided by signs, cones and flagging personnel
- A speed reduction of 40 mph will be enforced through the work zones
- Plan for full stops and brief 15-minute delays

DN Food Bank distribution is Jan. 20

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Food Bank will be open for its January distribution on Saturday, Jan. 20. Anyone in need of food assistance is welcome. If you are unable to attend during distribution hours and need food assistance, call 719-850-2643.

SLV WEATHER

Cloudy to Mostly Sunny
38/7
Sat: Mostly Cloudy
42/15
Sun: Mostly Cloudy
41/15

INSIDE

- Record Page 2
- Valley News Page 3
- Opinion Page 4
- Lifestyle Page 5
- Sports Page 6
- Public Notice Page 7
- Classifieds Pages 8 and 9
- Comics Page 10

Enfield sentenced to 35 years for shooting RGCSO Undersheriff

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

DEL NORTE — Toby Enfield appeared in Rio Grande District Court on Wednesday to be sentenced for the Nov. 7, 2022, shooting of Undersheriff Heath Hart with the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office. District Judge Michael Gonzales presided.

In a resolution reached by 12th Judicial District Attorney Anne Kelly and Enfield's defense attor-

neys, Enfield pleaded guilty to criminal attempt to commit murder in the second degree, a class three felony, and assault in the first degree with a deadly weapon, also a class three felony but with a crime of violence sentence enhancer which increases the presumptive range of sentencing.

The agreement also included a stipulation that Enfield, 54, would be sentenced to 17 years in the Department of

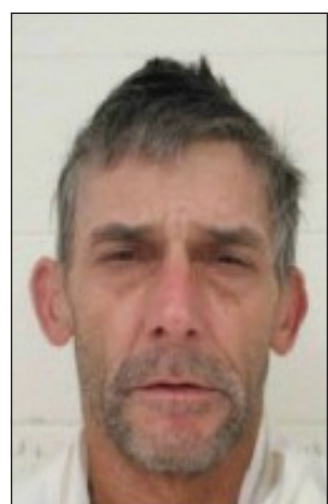
Corrections for the first charge and 18 years for the second to be served consecutively, totaling 35 years.

On Nov. 7, Undersheriff Hart was looking for Enfield who was suspected of stealing a truck when he spotted him driving the stolen vehicle. A chase ensued, Enfield came to a stop in a relatively unpopulated area, exited the truck, and was running away when he turned, aimed and fired multiple

shots at the undersheriff, striking him under his left arm as he dove behind the dashboard of his vehicle.

Kelly described Enfield as someone "who has been involved in criminal activity for decades. "He claimed he was trying to commit "suicide by cop," but his actions directly contradicted that, she said, including numerous times when Enfield didn't stop when being pursued.

■ See ENFIELD page 3



Toby Enfield



Courtesy photo

Alamosa firefighter Johnny Quintana battles a late-night fire Wednesday at a mobile home park on the westside of Alamosa where the sole occupant suffered burns and smoke inhalation and was transferred from SLV Health RMC emergency room.

Man injured in late Wednesday blaze

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — A man in his 50s suffered burns and smoke inhalation here in a manufactured home fire late Wednesday night. He was transferred to San Luis Valley Health Regional Medical Center emergency room and later flown out, according to Capt. Zach Cerny of the Alamosa Fire Department (AFD).

Firefighters were summoned to the Town and Country Mobile Home Park on west Highway 160 about 11:30 a.m. and were on scene for nearly three hours. The single-

wide home was declared a total loss.

Cerny said Alamosa Police Department personnel were first on scene and found the sole occupant standing at the back door. They were able to assist him to escape the blaze, during which one dog perished.

Fifteen firefighters responded to the call with four trucks.

Cerny said the cause of the fire is still under investigation and a Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control investigator has been summoned.

Victim identified in Tuesday night fatal shooting

Further details known about the incident

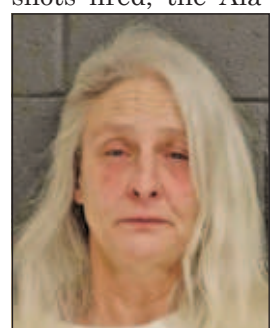
By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — In response to a report of possible shots fired, the Alamosa Police Department responded to the 200 block of State Avenue at approximately 10 p.m. on Tuesday night.

Upon arriving on the scene, officers found the body of a deceased man who had been shot. He was later identified as John Cossel, 58, of Monte Vista.

A female person of interest, later identified as 57-year-old Kawanna Nelson, of Alamosa, remained on the scene and cooperated with the investigation.

According to arrest documents obtained from the Alamosa Clerk's office, ■ See VICTIM page 3



Kawanna Nelson

Bard Edrington V, knowing the language of music

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — When speaking to Bard Edrington V, award-winning songwriter and international touring artist (and yes, that's his given name), certain words come to mind. Authentic. Organic. Deeply rooted. Soulful but not necessarily sorrowful.

Listening to his music, those descriptors are amplified even more by simple but powerful tunes influenced by the blue ridges and smoky mountains of Appalachia and the humble but heartfelt

songs of its people.

Raised in the south and claiming Tennessee as his home state, Edrington is preceded in life by "many, many generations of cotton farmers". Although he wasn't raised in a musical family, he's the descendant of "amazing storytellers", starting with his great-grandmother, a poet who inspired one of his songs, and continuing through Edrington's grandfather and father.

"Growing up, we had lots of family get-togethers, sitting around listening to my grandfather tell stories he'd already told," he says in a deep, humble

voice with just the lingering remnant of a southern drawl. "So, he'd embellish it more each time, usually with humor. We'd always wonder what he was going to add."

With no musical instruments in the house, Edrington was drawn to music entirely on his own when he picked up the guitar, first in his teenage years and then when he started learning with a

■ See BARD page 3

Bard Edrington V and The Blackbirds, performing Saturday at Society Hall.

Courtesy photo



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Record

Ice Fishing Tournament benefits Valley Veterans ReCreation

By DIANE DREKMAN FORT GARLAND — Dozens of brightly colored tents dotted Mountain Home Reservoir outside of Fort Garland on Jan. 13. Despite the frigid weather, 170 people — some all the way from Albuquerque, N.M. — participated in the annual Ice Fishing Tournament.

Families, people young and old, even Senator Cleave Simpson came and supported Veterans through this fundraiser for Valley Veterans ReCreation.

Board members Craig Rauwolf said the non-profit is “focused on Veterans for their mental health to recreate.” There was a donation jar for the family of Jonathan Luce-ro, a Veteran who reportedly took his own life a few months ago.

Outdoor recreation has beneficial effects for everyone, particularly Veterans, according to organizers.

D.J. Salazar is the founder and executive director of Valley Veterans

ReCreation. The other board members are Jason Medina, also a Costilla County firefighter, Duane Mosher, and Diego Martinez.

Valley Veterans ReCreation partnered with American Legion Post No. 142 in San Luis on the event. The post had raffle tickets for prizes like a Mr. Buddy indoor heater, Onyx mapping system which shows back country trails, hunting areas, and backroads, and fishing equipment like pole holders, knife set, and some binoculars. Donations came from Big R in Alamosa, Onyx and GruntStyle.

After fishing on Mountain Home Reservoir for over 4 hours the winners were announced. First and second prizes were given to the people who had the heaviest pike and trout.

Sixteen-year-old Zac Jacques took first prize for his 1.8-pound pike. He left before a picture could be taken. Amy Brady was second with a 1-pound pike. She received an auger for her next ice fish-



Photos by Diane Drekman

Dozens of brightly colored tents dotted Mountain Home Reservoir outside of Fort Garland on Jan. 13 for the Ice Fishing Tournament.

ing adventure.

There was a tie for first in the trout category between Jerome Salazar and Ken Marquez. Both caught a 2.5-pound, 18-inch trout. Through a coin toss, Salazar was awarded first place and an auger. Marquez received a Genz pack fishing system for second place.

“The fundraiser raised over \$8,000 through sponsors and donations,” organizers said. Valley Veterans Recreation plans on having more events this year.



Amy Brady was second with a 1-pound pike in the Ice Fishing Tournament on Jan. 13. She received an auger for her next ice fishing adventure.



In the trout category of the Ice Fishing Tournament on Jan. 13 at Mountain Home Reservoir, Jerome Salazar, pictured, and Ken Marquez both caught 2.5-pound fish. A coin flip decided first place went to Salazar.

Spiritual Book Club meets Thursdays at Baca Grande Library

By MARIE MCCOLM CRESTONE — Jennifer Young, of Crestone, has started the Spiritual Book Club. The casual group meets from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Thursdays at the Baca Grande Library in Crestone.

“You don’t even have to read the book,” she said. The book club will be reading one chapter per week and then discussing the chapter on Thursday. The public is invited to attend.

“The club meets generally for one hour,” Young said, “but it

can move into two hours. The book that we are currently analyzing and researching and looking at together is called ‘The Seat of the Soul.’ We are reading this book chapter by chapter. I hope to continue in spiritual books. It has been so rewarding being able to have likeminded souls around to come together and discuss a lot of things that are changing in the world right now and our evolution and spiritual beings. This is very refreshing.”

Young said the club is just getting started; there have been

two meetings so far. The group has averaged about five people for each meeting.

“We are just getting started on this,” Young said. “We read the chapters there and we discuss the chapter right after that. It’s a very on the spot type of learning that we are doing and socializing at the same time.”

Young said she hopes to continue with the club and stay connected with everyone at the library and on Facebook. Young said her inspiration for starting the club was because she enjoys

engaging in spiritual conversations.

“I enjoy being a part of this. I think it’s really important right now, especially the area that we are in, Crestone. The whole Valley has a great center of consciousness. Being able to move this forward with people and have these types of discussions is so important,” she said.

Young appreciates being able to meet at the library.

“This has been such a blessing. I have tried this before, and even have had people come out

to my house but it can be very difficult,” Young said. “I really do want to put a thanks out to the library. Thank you, Baca Grande Library. This is such a great resource that they have available. I appreciate the ability to be able to meet there because that’s really what makes it all work. People come more. I believe that this allows people to make their way there, the location.”

For more information on the book club or to join, email event-promostaffing@gmail.com.



Photo courtesy of SLV Health

Cordless fetal monitors were a piece of equipment that the OB department had been wanting for a long time. This \$21,000 project became a reality thanks to the funds raised from the 2022 Sandie Wehe Music Show paired with surplus funds from previous years from the SLVH Foundation and generous donors. SLV Health is grateful to Wehe and all of the students who learned about philanthropy through their many performances and donations.

Advancements in the SLV Health Women’s Center

By MORGAN HYKES ALAMOSA — The SLV Health OB Team is excited about the addition of cordless fetal monitors in the Women’s Health Center. This piece of equipment allows for increased mobility for mothers who are in labor which has shown to have advanced results in speeding up the labor process.

“Moms don’t have to be in bed, and it allows them more freedom and comfort when they are in

the hospital. It’s a huge patient satisfier,” commented Harli Monejano, OB/Postpartum RN.

Since 2017, Sandie Wehe’s Music Studio has done an annual show to help raise funds for SLV Health.

“We want the money to go towards something the music students can appreciate. They should get the kudos! They choose the project since they are the ones who make it all happen,” commented Kelly Gurule.

Valley to Valley Senior Center is back on track after delay

By MARIE MCCOLM SAGUACHE — Construction of the new Valley to Valley Senior Care Center located in Saguache Colorado was recently halted. The reason for the delay was due to a change in state codes.

According to Chairman of the Board for Valley to Valley Senior Care, Terry Gillette, state codes and statutes were changed due to COVID. The codes now do not allow senior daycare residents and permanent residents to be together in the same building.

Gillette said that although there should be interaction between the residents, the codes would not allow the two together in the same building. Gillette said with this type of code enforcement being in place, that the only thing that could be done to rectify the situation was to try to obtain another building.

“The original site plan that we had, did show us putting together another building for daycare, we just weren’t planning on doing it right away,” Gillette said. “We did get a grant from one of the larger ag people in the state and they put up an entire manufactured daycare building up for us, and the grant paid for the whole thing.”

Gillette said they had to change some things with the Saguache County board when the codes changed.

“The county board decided that we had to go back through planning, zoning, all of that though, and get it reapproved,” Gillette said.

“We have also had commissioners change within the past two years, while we have been working on this, and they didn’t seem to have a good grasp of what we were trying to do.”

Gillette said they jumped through all the hoops and got all the modified permits filed. This has led to about a 3-month delay. The additional building is expected to arrive in about 3 weeks.

Gillette said the building was built off site and when it is brought in it will be basically dropped off, and ready to go.

“We will have this building caddy corner to the other one, and residents can come out on the patio that will be out there, and garden and enjoy the sun,” Gillette said.

Gillette said there is still more to be done, like getting the state to inspect the facility for a healthcare type facility. Gillette expects it to be an easy pass with the state.

“As long as state guidelines don’t change again,” Gillette said with a chuckle. “It should be OK, and up to the requirements, and all compliance.”

Gillette was excited to share that during the construction they also found a different general contractor right in the Valley for the building.

“We felt good about this because they work better with the other people in the Valley,” Gillette said. “We handed it off to them, they seem a lot more attentive to get things done on our timeline. This was something we had hoped

for from the start. We are happy to be going through local contractors, if we have a problem then they are right here.”

The Valley to Valley Senior Care Center in Saguache officially broke ground in November of 2022 just east of Saguache, right off the highway.

“It’s a beautiful little spot, we have got, 10 acres, and it’s right off the road. It’s got the National Forest right around it. It gives us a lot of space we can do gardens and other activities to develop the site. For most of the seniors this is a much better environment than the city. We can put in gardens and add activities. There’s a lot of people who have a parent or someone with them and they need a place to take them while they are working. A lot of these people are functioning well, they just need someone to make sure they are OK and that is what this other building will be,” Gillette said.

The idea for the Valley to Valley Senior Living Center began with Eve Braden. Braden is passionate about helping the senior community. Braden’s father suffered from Alzheimer’s and Braden moved her father from New York to live with her in Colorado.

Braden’s father passed away, but she wanted to do something to honor his memory. Braden began the Valley to Valley Senior Care non-profit organization in 2006. She is currently the Chief Executive Officer and the Facility Director for the Valley to Val-

ley Senior Center in Salida.

The facility in Salida houses both regular and Veteran residents and the center in Saguache will do the same.

Gillette is excited to see the completion of the buildings.

“I am happy to be a part of it all, to see this all coming together,” Gillette said. “We have people waiting in line to get in. It’s nice to see something like this happening, this will really help our older residents stay with a sense of community and help their family members stay close to them. We are always taking donations as well, and appreciate the donations, big or small they all go to the completion of our center.”

For more information or to donate, contact Gillette at 515-480-1636.

School Menu
Friday
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Valley News

SLV 4-H Livestock Judging Team competes at Arizona Nationals

By SAN LUIS VALLEY EXTENSION OFFICE PHOENIX, ARIZ. —

During the New Year's weekend, San Luis Valley 4-H members traveled to Arizona to participate in Livestock Judging at the Arizona National Livestock Show. The Senior Team (age 14 and older) placed 14 out of 29 teams.

The local team consisted of Elena Escobedo, Ellaree Rockey, Durae Naranjo, and Emily Seger. The contest consisted of judging eight classes: Steers, Heifers, Market Lambs, Breeding Ewes, Market Goats, Yorkshire Gilts, Berkshire Gilts, and Market Hogs. Teams traveled from all over the U.S., including Florida, Montana, and Hawaii to participate.

Tynnley Burh, the only Junior Member from the SLV, placed third overall as an individual out of 69 participants.

Livestock judging requires contestants to make logical decisions, in a fixed amount of time. When a judging team member analyzes a class, she or she is not only comparing the individuals in the class but also comparing each individual to the ideal product in that field. The judge must establish priority areas and develop strategies to reach the final placing of that class.

Then students must utilize their senses to perceive the differences in structural correctness, muscularity, and fat deposition. After weighing the placing factors, the student must persuasively present in oral form a set of reasons explaining the factors that influenced their class placing.

Points are awarded to the contestant for accuracy, organization, and speaking/writing ability. A judging contest



San Luis Valley 4-H member Tynnley Burh placed third as an individual in the Junior Livestock Judging at the Arizona National Livestock Show.



San Luis Valley 4-H members — Elena Escobedo, Ellaree Rockey, Durae Naranjo, Emily Seger and Tynnley Burh — competed in the Arizona National Livestock Show. Escobedo, Rockey, Naranjo and Seger placed 14th in Senior Team Livestock Judging.

Courtesy photos

builds character and instills self-confidence. Team members are exposed to teamwork, effective communication skills and analytical thinking. Team members also build self-confidence as they become comfortable with both components of judging. Development of these skills benefits every area of the judge's life.

An additional benefit from participating on a judging team is having the opportunity to travel to new places and meet and interact with livestock industry leaders. Many times, these relationships will aid 4-H members in the future as they choose career paths in the livestock industry.

Livestock Judging is just one of the many activities a 4-H member can participate in. 4-H enrollment closes on Jan. 26. For more information, call the SLV Area Extension Office 719-852-7381.

Bard

■ Continued from Page 1

friend while attending the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. That's where he "really got hooked."

"The college is close to the Smoky Mountains and there's lots of good music there. I went to see a band that was a string band, and I was just blown away by the music. I'd never seen people play mandolins and fiddles and been around people who wrote songs."

Then Edrington and his wife, Zoe, moved to Blowing Rock, North Carolina, just down the road from Doc Watson. "I'd go to these old-time jams so steeped in old time music. That's really where I cut my teeth. I don't play many of those old-time songs, but it set the foundation for me as a musician."

That's also where Edrington gained the skills to jam and play with other people.

"It's such an important part of music. I talk about this with my family and friends. As musicians, we're really blessed with knowing the language of music. I can go practically anywhere and sit down with another musician — people I have nothing in common with except for the instruments in our hand. It's a very intimate thing."

His songs can range

from Taos Lightning to the steep landscape of Chiapas to a waltz titled "Spread Too Thin." His music comes almost entirely from personal experience, he says. And in his case, that's saying quite a lot.

In addition to performing, traveling, being an outdoorsman, recording albums (he's working on his tenth at Howlin' Dog Records) plus touring in the United Kingdom and Netherlands where he has a devoted and growing fan base, Edrington is also a stone mason, landscaper and degreed ornithologist. With all of that to pull from, he's still occasionally mystified by the experience of writing a song.

"I think of songwriting like this passing thing. I know the song is there and sometimes I feel like it's already written. I just have to find it. I have to take the time to sit down and clear my mind and start with the melody — some music coming out of an instrument to draw the lyrics out. For me it comes from the music. It creates this vision and emotion and feeling."

And, sometimes, the song just won't let him alone until it's done.

"It's like having a splinter in your hand. You can see it. You know it's there and you might pick and pick at it. And then, one day, it just pops out, and you have this feel-

ing of relief." He laughs. "Yeah. Sometimes, I feel like writing songs are like splinters and I just have to work it out."

Other times, the songs speak to him from the past, as happened when he stumbled upon "Poems of Life", written by his great-grandmother, Mable Flannigan Edrington. That's where he found a poem titled "Dog Tags 1942", a moment he could envision so clearly he was inspired to write a song.

"She wrote it the day her son came home after enlisting and showed her his dog tags. And you know what those dog tags are for, right? They're for identifying someone when they're dead."

That led to writing "Dog Tags 1942", including these lyrics.

"Those brawny hands have nestled soft on her firm and white young breast/Those trusting eyes she loved those years and trained those thought the best/Mother come see my dog tags here, he called from another room/What do you mean 'dog tags', son, though my heart is filled with gloom."

And some songs, even once written, will continue to haunt him. "I think of songs as photographs, as reminders of that experience. I feel it the most in certain songs, the ones that mean the most to me, and I feel like are the best ones. They'll take me to that

place exactly. When I'm singing a song like 'Dog Tags' 1942, I feel like I'm standing right in that room while my great-grandmother is looking at those dog tags."

While connection to the song is paramount, connection to people in a live performance is equally precious to Edrington's music because of the profound emotion that can be found in a moment that is fleeting.

"You only have this one moment to enjoy it. Every note played in this song when it's live will disappear. It's gone and it's not coming back. And when it's that right recipe of notes and music and emotions...It's almost like a scalpel that can cut right to the core of that emotion and pull it out so fast.

"I know I feel it when I listen to other musicians and I hope people feel that when they listen to my songs. I don't know what makes music so powerful and profound. Maybe it's just a combination of so many things. It's quite a mystery to me." And then, he laughs again. "If you figure that out, let me know."

Bard Edrington V and The Blackbirds, Society Hall, Saturday night 7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door and available at www.societyhall.org or the Green Spot, 711 State Ave., Alamosa.

Victim

■ Continued from Page 1

Nelson and Cossel were close friends and had had a brief altercation over him wanting the keys to his car and Nelson being concerned about his ability to drive. Cossel then left her apartment.

Nelson, who said she suffers from PTSD due to a previous violent incident, said Cossel then returned to her apartment and was banging on the door yet did not identify himself when asked to,

twice.

She says she opened the door, while holding her 9 mm Smith and Wesson, and Cossel came inside and "went at her." She then shot him, once, not realizing that the man she shot was John Cossel.

Nelson was taken into custody, subsequently charged with second-degree homicide and transported to the Alamosa County Detention Center. She appeared in court on Wednesday afternoon for a hearing on advisement of charges.

Enfield

■ Continued from Page 1

Kelly then zeroed in on the shooting, stating that Hart was just getting out of his vehicle when Enfield turned and fired multiple shots, aiming directly at Hart's head.

"If Undersheriff Hart hadn't ducked behind the dashboard with his left arm extended," she said, demonstrating Hart's actions, "he would have been killed."

Enfield claims to have issues with mental health and addiction but she has never seen a document supporting that. "All those claims were from the defendant only."

She concluded by saying the defendant has no place in society and

has proven he's a danger. She asked the court to consider the impact of the shooting on Hart, the Rio Grande Sheriff's Office, the law enforcement community and community at large in the ruling.

Public defender Jamie Keairns said Enfield has never denied what he did and takes responsibility for his actions, pointing out that, in his criminal history, none involved assault. She described a man who was at a low point in his life but is taking multiple medications for mental health issues now that he's in jail and has been working on his issues.

"He can never repair what he's done but he's trying to better his life," Keairns said. He's asking for the chance to make those changes

and "needs a goal of getting out of prison at some point." If given the minimum sentence of 28 years, he would be released in his 70s, which gives him hope.

Enfield's statement was brief. He apologized to Undersheriff Hart and said he deserves to pay for the pain he has caused. He also apologized to Kelly and to the court for the time it took to negotiate a plea deal.

Judge Gonzales admonished Enfield for failing to take advantage of opportunities he had been given, including support from his family, and for a criminal history that paints "a pretty horrible picture" with seven convictions that sent him to DOC.

He then focused on Enfield trying to take the life of a law enforcement

officer who was "just trying to do his job in keeping the community safe."

"Law enforcement isn't perfect, but they are held to a higher standard," Gonzales said, "and we look down on them because of one or two officers. It's not an easy job. Every day they go to work not knowing if they will come back. You aimed a gun at Undersheriff Hart and tried to kill him. There can be no excuse for that. A man willing to shoot a police officer who has a gun is a danger."

Gonzales acknowledged that no one should have to experience what Enfield has in his life but "that doesn't give you the right to do what you did."

"If there's one message, we should send in this case it's that this community will not tol-

erate [violence against a police officer]."

Judge Gonzales said he did not impose the sentence easily but he "is not there to give [the defendant] hope." He then sentenced Enfield to the maximum sentence of 35 years in the DOC.

Kelly made the following statement after the sentence had been delivered. "Mr. Enfield attempted to assassinate Rio Grande County Undersheriff Heath Hart.

For this despicable act of extreme cowardice and depravity, Mr. Enfield deserves every day of every year that he spends in prison. This community fully supports our men and women who wear the badge and risk their lives every day to keep us safe. This sentence reflects our community's commitment to holding dangerous offenders fully accountable for their murderous actions."



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Opinion

It's cold in them there hills

This week has dawned frigid with a biting wind and those conditions usually drive even Ol' Dutch inside for a while. And this time was no different as an Arctic blast of super cold air has seen fit to invade the heartland of America bringing a lot of snow and ice and wind.

Having worked outside all my life in blizzards and cold conditions, I am somewhat a little more prepared for something like this when it hits but this time it all seems so rude.

Tonight, temperatures are to dip down to the single digits and that's darned cold for Texas where I currently reside. And to top that off, the furnace in the RV went on vacation and even though I had a repairman come out, I guess he didn't get it fixed after all.

It is fortuitous that Miss Trixie and I were asked to babysit Grand #1 and #2 as we are at their cozy home and at least for another night, can relax in comfort. I did get a part ordered for the furnace and am watching for its arrival with bated breath and probably bated breath according to Miss Trixie who has to live in close proximity to me.

We do have some space heaters and I will go out to the Ponderosa and see if they even take the chill off the camper or if we are going to have to make other plans to sleep somewhere else when the number 1 son comes home.

I had to go out there today to make sure the cows had food and water and it was about all I could do to hook up a hose and give them water then drain it again. But I got it done and they were happy and went over and laid in the hay by the feeder.

I do have the fattest cattle in Texas and they showed their true colors today not only eating a lot but just laying up afterwards like tourists on a cruise ship enjoying the view. Not a twitch or shiver one from them and I think that honestly, they are probably cool for the first time since enduring the Texas summer.

So as I mentioned, I have spent some time indoors of late and so got to watch some late season football on the tube. The Kansas City Chiefs hosted the Miami Dolphins in Kansas City and also included temperatures down in the minus 10 range and that was without the wind chill. It looked miserable and there were warnings for people to not leave the house but some 76,000 ranting, cheering, brave and crazy souls braved those temperatures and attended the game.

Most of them were dressed from head to tail in every imaginable piece of cast off and purchased cold weather gear and I hope none of them are worse for the wear from attending the game. And a few nutty folk were even cheering the Chiefs on without shirts or hats or gloves. I can almost guarantee you that these are the same people that can't make it to work if a snowflake falls anywhere within 100 miles too.

Following that game time with the Dallas Cowboys non-show against the Green Bay Packers and poor Miss Trixie, ever a Boys fan got so disgusted with their poor performance that she got up and cooked supper. So, it worked out well for Ol' Dutch as I sure didn't have a dog in that fight and could care less who wins. I guess I am not much of a fan of any team as I will root for both teams if they make a good play.

True to their Texas roots, all the chatter online is about how "next year" is the year for sure for sure. And how the quarterback hurt his pinky and that was why it was so bad of a showing.

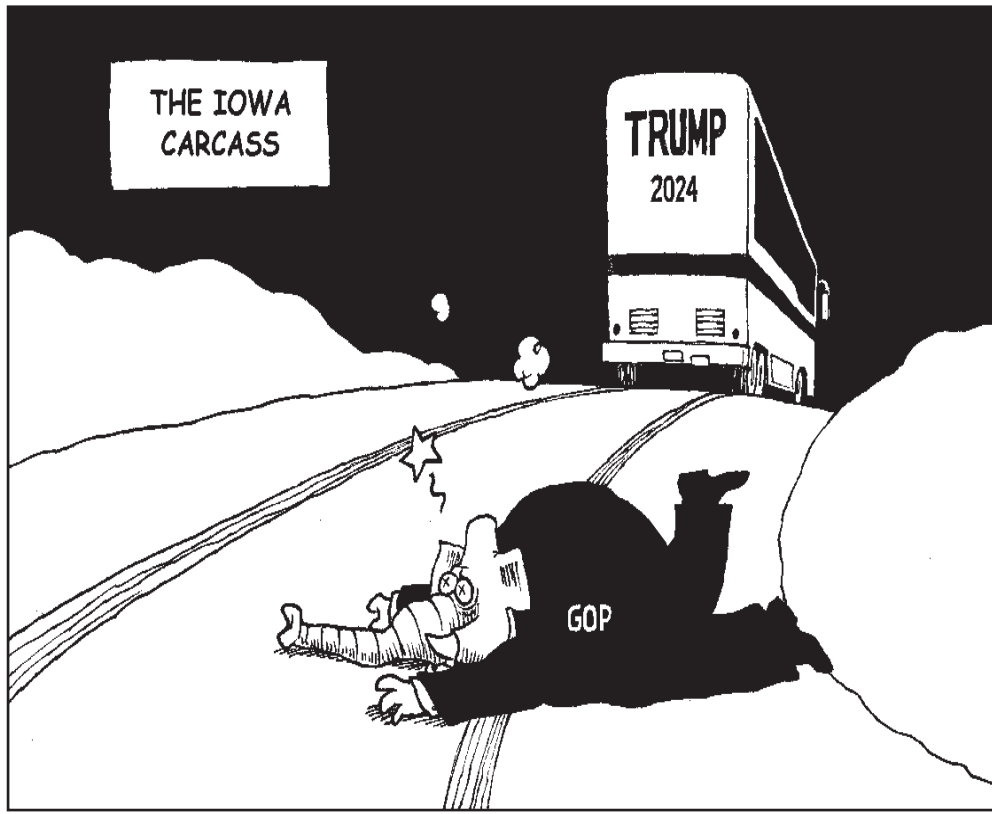
Wherever this week finds you, keep warm and safe in the days ahead as they look to be even colder than they have been at least for a while. And if you are lucky, maybe your beloved's team will lose, and you will get a good supper out of it at the least.

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

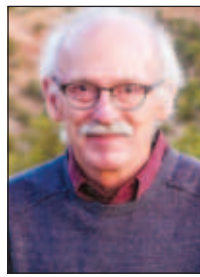


by Kevin Kirkpatrick



A terrible dilemma faces the Great Basin

The long drive between Salt Lake City, Utah, and Reno, Nev., on Interstate 80 feels endless, the landscape timeless. But these basins and ranges of the Great Basin Desert are changing dramatically.



By Stephen Trimble

Wildfire, climate change and aridification are transforming plant communities, while animals, including humans, try to figure out how to respond. Meanwhile, the dwindling Great Salt Lake risks becoming a toxic dust bowl.

Sagebrush now covers only half the territory it did before European settlers arrived with their livestock in the 1800s. Exotic annual grasses, including cheatgrass, have increased eightfold here since 1990, accelerating the fire cycle, outcompeting native plants and decreasing the available forage for grazers, wild and domestic.

I called this place "the sagebrush ocean" when I first wrote about it in the 1980s. Now, scientists mourn the loss of 1.3 million acres of healthy sagebrush each year, threatening animals that need sagebrush, like the Greater Sage Grouse and pygmy rabbit. Recent photographs of Nevada and Utah West Desert basins document a cheatgrass sea.

Researchers and federal lands staffers chant the management mantra for sagebrush ecosystems: "identify the core, protect the core, grow the core, mitigate impacts."

But what is this dwindling core? Think intact ecosystems with abundant sagebrush and native understory, with minimal threats from invasive grasses, encroaching conifers or modification by people. Not much land fitting that de-

scription is left.

The core that's left is rare and vulnerable. Although the Intermountain West is no longer the exclusive domain of the livestock industry, grazing continues to affect more acres than any other human use. Large expanses of sagebrush with grasses and wildflowers eaten down to nubs by cattle do not constitute "restoration."

That is why land managers are hard put to save threatened animals that need sagebrush, like the greater sage grouse and pygmy rabbit.

But the dilemma is this: Saving sagebrush puts the aromatic shrublands at odds with piñon-juniper woodland — a landscape just as beloved, just as vital. Range ecologists believe that growing the sagebrush core means that half of the Great Basin woodlands need "treatment" — removing younger stands of trees while retaining old growth forest. Treatment means ripping the trees from the earth with a chain stretched between bulldozers or "masticating" trees to shreds.

A spree of "treatments" approved at the end of the Trump administration in 2020 opened millions of acres of woodland in the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau to destruction. I happened upon one such project in the Kern Mountains of easternmost Nevada last summer, where a crew had been contracted to thin a dense woodland. The crew created a firebreak, but I felt I'd entered a war zone, with the scattered corpses of hundreds of trees littering newly cleared ground.

Before 1860, two-thirds of Great Basin landscapes in woodland habitat were treeless. Today, less than one-third is treeless, as trees decrease the acreage and vitality of sagebrush. But it's unclear if sagebrush animals will repopulate cleared habitat anytime soon.

No more than half of tree treatments result in the regrowth of native grasses. Meanwhile, flocks of Pinyon Jays that depend on the trees suffer steep declines.

Here's the rub: both sagebrush and woodland landscapes harbor incredible biodiversity. Piñon or sagebrush — which matters most? To sage grouse, pygmy rabbits and piñon mice? To backcountry recreationists, to cattlemen? To Indigenous Great Basin Washoe, Paiute and Shoshone people — citizens of what ethnobotanist Gary Nabhan calls "Piñon Nut Nation?"

When you live in a piñon-juniper woodland, you live with the trees, not under them. "Tree" usually means tall, vertical, but these trees often are round, comforting. I have enormous affection for the "p-j," my home territory. Yet who doesn't love the smell of sagebrush after a rain and cherish its native wildlife?

As sweeping change comes to the Great Basin, federal managers need to address causes, not symptoms. Their challenge is huge: to confront invading cheatgrass and junipers and reverse the decline of sagebrush, nut harvests, native grass and birds. All this, while ensuring that mule deer and cows flourish.

If we want to heal the land and restore the balance between sagebrush and woodland, we need to treat these landscapes as we would with those we love — using every bit of wisdom from both western and Indigenous traditions for the benefit of our collective future.

Stephen Trimble is a contributor to *Writers on the Range*, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West, writersontherange.org. A 35th anniversary edition of his book, *The Sagebrush Ocean: A Natural History of the Great Basin*, will be published this year.

Keith R Cerny
Publisher

Brian Williams
Managing Editor

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



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

This year's annual Creede Golden Pick Tommyknocker Pond Hockey Tournament was a chilling success. Several people ventured out and braved the cold to watch from the sidelines as over 25 teams vied for the top spot over the weekend.



Creede hosts annual Golden Pick Hockey Tournament

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

CREEDE — As the sun rose above the Caldera peaks north of Creede on Saturday, hockey pucks slid across the ice at Silver Ice Park and hockey players from all over the US took to the ponds for a weekend of fun competition and old-fashioned hockey.

bonfires burning along the edges of the two ponds. The tournament has gained popularity over the past several years since its inception and people come to Creede once a year to enjoy the winter activities and participate in the hockey tournament.

next to one of the burning bonfires. The hockey tournament was broken into two levels with about 17 teams per level. As the day wore on, teams dropped out of the brackets, leaving two final teams to compete on Sunday afternoon. The two days were full of fun, cheering fans and delicious food prepared by Freeman's Guest Ranch.

Silver Ice Park was packed with people who ventured to the small mountain town and braved the freezing temperatures to enjoy two days of fun and adventure at the Golden Pick Tommyknocker Pond Hockey Tournament on Jan. 13-14.

With names like Chilly Civilians, Ice Guys Finish Last and Wapiti Warriors, these teams have one thing in mind and that is to have fun and compete for bragging rights by the end. "We always have a great time coming to watch the teams play. We weren't quite ready for the cold, but we just went home and added more layers," laughed a spectator as he and his wife took a spot

On Sunday as the teams hit the ice for the final few games, the wind died down enough to allow the sun to warm the cold air. The last two games came down to Level A teams Naughty or Ice and Perry's Fairies, who took the championship, and Level B teams Rio Grande Lip Rippers and Breck Brew with the Lip Rippers coming in as champions.



Courtesy photos

The champions of the annual Golden Pick Tommyknocker Pond Hockey Tournament for Level A were Perry's Fairies (left) and for Level B were the Rio Grande Lip Rippers.

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Sports

Centauri defeats Alamosa to wrap up top spot in IML East

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

LA JARA – The ninth-ranked Centauri High School wrestling team locked up the Intermountain League East Division Thursday as the Falcons defeated Alamosa 63-15 at the CHS gym.

“It feels good,” said Centauri coach Micah Keys. “We always know these duals are going to be tough, and for the boys to go out there and do what they did. It was superb.” “I thought our guys wrestled hard,” said Alamosa coach Rusty Johnson. “Centauri is a really good team. They’re strong all the way through their line-up. We knew it would be tough to beat them. They came out and wrestled hard, and I think we wrestled well. They’re just that much better than us right now.”

The meet started with the 106-pound match and it featured two highly-ranked individuals in Centauri’s Matthew Salazar, ranked third, and Alamosa’s Jeremiah DeLaCerde, ranked fifth. Salazar got the early advantage and he rode that momentum to a win by fall in 1:48.

Caden Casias continued the rally into the 113-pound match as he won by a 7-2 decision over Anthony Meder. Casias led 4-2 after the first period, and after a scoreless second period, Casias recorded a three-point near-fall in the third to wrap up the victory.

At 120 pounds, Aundre Chavez also won by fall as he pinned Zaviera Maez in 2:31.

Aiden Knecht took the 126-pound match by forfeit to give the Falcons a 21-0 advantage.

The Mean Moose finally got on the scoreboard at 132 pounds when two more ranked wrestlers, Riley Valdez, the fourth-ranked wrestler at 126, moved up a weight to take on Anthony Griego, who is ranked fifth at 132.

The match turned out

to be a barn-burner. After a scoreless first period, Griego took a 4-2 lead after the second. Valdez recorded an escape in the third and made several efforts to score a takedown, but he ran out of time as Griego won by a 4-3 decision.

Dyson Woodward brought Alamosa closer in the 138-pound match as he pinned Konnor Horton in 1:44.

In another close match at 144, Xavier Ramirez took a 10-6 lead only to see Nathaniel Garcia close to within 10-8. But Ramirez pinned Garcia in 5:03 to bring the Mean Moose within a 21-15 deficit.

The rest of the dual meet belonged to the Falcons as they won the remaining matches.

Troy Munson pinned Caleb Quintana in 53 seconds at 150. Parker Buhr won by forfeit at 157 for a 33-15 Centauri lead.

The Falcons won the next three matches by fall. Spencer Smith pinned Ryan Cordova in 2:53 at 165, Aaden Quintana pinned A.J. Joshua in 1:34 at 175, and Josh Polkowske pinned Dominic Martinez in 1:18 at 190.

Dorian Quintana won the 215-pound match by forfeit, and Skylar Montague pinned Aaron Jordan in 4:48 to cap off the victory.

Centauri will be at home again on Saturday as it will host a tri-meet against Pagosa Springs and Buena Vista.

Alamosa will travel to Boulder on Saturday to compete in the Fairview Invitational.

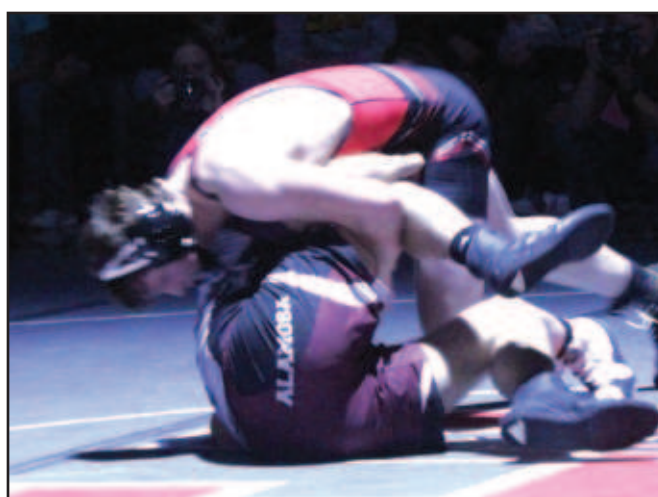
Centauri 63, Alamosa 15
 106 – Salazar (C) pinned DeLaCerde, 1:48; 113 – Casias (C) dec. Meder, 7-2; 120 – Chavez (C) pinned Maez, 2:31; 126 – Knecht (C) by forfeit; 132 – Griego (A) dec. Valdez, 4-3; 138 – Woodward (A) pinned Horton, 1:44; 144 – Ramirez (A) pinned Garcia, 5:03; 150 – Munson (C) pinned Quintana, 0:53; 157 – Buhr (C) by forfeit; 165 – Smith (C) pinned Cordova, 2:53; 175 – A. Quintana (C) pinned Joshua, 1:34; 190 – Polkowske (C) pinned Martinez, 1:18; 215 – D. Quintana (C) by forfeit; 285 – Montague (C) pinned Jordan, 4:48.



Courier photos by Ken Hamrick
Centauri High School's Caden Casias (top) attempts to put Alamosa's Anthony Meder on his back in the 113-pound match Thursday at the CHS gym. Casias won the match 7-2 and the Falcons won the dual meet 63-15.



Alamosa's Dyson Woodward (right) records a quick takedown against Konnor Horton in the 138-pound match, Woodward pinned Horton in 1:44.



Centauri's Josh Polkowske turns Dominic Martinez on his back in the 190-pound match. Polkowske finished the pin in 1:18.

Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference standings

MEN'S BASKETBALL		
Team	Conf. W-L	Overall W-L
Colorado Mesa	9-0	13-2
Fort Lewis	8-1	13-2
Colorado School of Mines	8-1	14-3
Chadron State (Neb.)	6-3	9-6
Black Hills State (S.D.)	5-3	7-7
Regis	5-4	8-7
Metropolitan State Denver	4-4	10-4
Colorado State Pueblo	4-5	8-7
South Dakota Mines	4-5	6-9
Colorado Colorado Springs	4-6	8-8
New Mexico Highlands	4-6	7-8
Colorado Christian	3-6	6-8
Adams State	2-7	4-11
Western Colorado	1-7	4-10
Westminster (Utah)	0-9	4-11

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL		
Team	Conf. W-L	Overall W-L
Colorado School of Mines	9-0	14-1
Regis	7-2	12-3
Colorado Colorado Springs	7-3	10-6
Colorado Mesa	6-3	12-4
Colorado Christian	6-3	10-5
Adams State	6-3	11-6
Black Hills State (S.D.)	5-3	8-4
Fort Lewis	5-4	8-7
Colorado State Pueblo	4-5	9-8
South Dakota Mines	4-5	4-11
Chadron State (Neb.)	3-6	5-8
New Mexico Highlands	3-7	4-12
Metropolitan State Denver	2-6	3-10
Western Colorado	0-8	2-11
Westminster (Utah)	0-9	2-13

MEN'S WRESTLING		
Team	Conf. W-L	Overall W-L
Western Colorado	3-0	6-2
Chadron State (Neb.)	2-0	4-1
Adams State	1-0	3-0
Colorado State Pueblo	1-0	3-2
Colorado Mesa	3-1	5-1
Colorado School of Mines	2-1	4-1
New Mexico Highlands	1-3	3-6
San Francisco State	0-4	4-5
Simon Fraser (B.C.)	0-4	3-5

WOMEN'S WRESTLING		
Team	Conf. W-L	Overall W-L
Simon Fraser (B.C.)	4-0	6-1
Colorado Mesa	2-1	10-5
Texas Woman's	2-2	2-5
Chadron State (Neb.)	1-3	5-5
Adams State	0-3	1-7

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD THURSDAY

Prep boys basketball

Lake County 62, Center 36

Trinidad at Sargent - no report

Prep girls basketball

Center 60, Lake County 8

Sargent 60, Trinidad 29

Prep boys wrestling

Centauri 63, Alamosa 15

SCHEDULE FRIDAY

Prep boys basketball

Moffat at Sangre de Cristo, 4 p.m.

Center at Crested Butte, 4:30 p.m.

Lake City at Creede, 4:30 p.m.

Antonito at Centennial, 5 p.m.

Montezuma-Cortez at Centauri, 7 p.m.

Pagosa Springs at Alamosa, 7 p.m.

Prep girls basketball

Moffat at Sangre de Cristo, 4 p.m.

Center at Crested Butte, 4:30 p.m.

Lake City at Creede, 4:30 p.m.

Antonito at Centennial, 5 p.m.

Montezuma-Cortez

at Centauri, 5:30 p.m.

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

Prep girls wrestling

Monte Vista at Grand Junction Central Invitational, 1 p.m.

College men's basketball

Colorado Christian at Adams State, 7:30 p.m.

College women's basketball

Colorado Christian at Adams State, 5:30 p.m.

College swimming

Adams State at Colorado College Classic, TBA

SATURDAY

Prep boys basketball

Creede at Cripple Creek-Victor, 1 p.m.

Lake City at Centennial, 2 p.m.

South Park at Del Norte, 4 p.m.

Antonito at Moffat, 5 p.m.

Sangre de Cristo at Primero, 5 p.m.

Centauri at Alamosa, 7 p.m.

Monte Vista at Sanford, 7 p.m.

Trinidad at Sierra Grande, 4 p.m.

Prep girls basketball

Creede at Cripple Creek-Victor, 1 p.m.

Lake City at Centennial, 2 p.m.

South Park at Del Norte, 4 p.m.

Antonito at Moffat, 5 p.m.

Sangre de Cristo at Primero, 5 p.m.

Centauri at Alamosa, 5:30 p.m.

Monte Vista at San-

ford, 5:30 p.m.

Trinidad at Sierra Grande, 4 p.m.

Prep girls swimming

Sargent at Grand Junction Invitational, 10 a.m.

Prep boys wrestling

Alamosa at Fairview Invitational, 9 a.m.

Centauri hosts Centauri Invitational, 9 a.m.

Center at North Fork Invitational, 9 a.m.

Del Norte, Mountain Valley, Sargent, Sierra Grande/Centennial at Gene Gagliardi Invitational, 9 a.m.

Monte Vista at Platte Valley Invitational, 9 a.m.

Prep girls wrestling

Alamosa at Brighton Invitational, 9 a.m.

Monte Vista at Grand Junction Central Invitational, 9 a.m.

College men's basketball

Chadron State (Neb.) at Adams State, 7:30 p.m.

College women's basketball

Chadron State (Neb.) at Adams State, 5:30 p.m.

College swimming

Adams State at Colorado College Classic, TBA

College men's wrestling

Adams State at Simon Fraser (B.C.), TBA

Adams State vs. San Francisco State (at Burnaby, B.C.), TBA

SUNDAY

College swimming

Adams State at Colorado College Classic, TBA



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Public Notices

NOTICE

The Alamosa Housing Authority will be accepting bids for an office remodel. Please come by our office for a bid packet. The bid packet will be ready for pick up in our office at 213 Murphy Dr. Alamosa, Co. 81101 on January 12, 2024.
No. 3755.
Published in the Valley Courier on January 13, 16, 17, & 19, 2024.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

January 12, 2024
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on February 21st, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at the South Fork Community Building, 254 Highway 149, South Fork, Colorado, the Town of South Fork Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on the application for a Conditional Use Permit application to allow the owner of 94 Squaw Drive (parcel #2303102005), within the Town of South Fork, Rio Grande County, Colorado, to use the property for a RV Storage, and a primary residence with residential rental units above the structure. The property is located in a Commercially Zoned area.
Any person wanting additional details on the above referenced property may review the Conditional Use Permit application at the South Fork Town Hall, 0100 Silver Thread Lane, South Fork, Colorado between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Any person may appear at such hearing and present evidence upon any matter to be considered by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Any person unable to attend the hearing and wishing to present information pertinent to the application may do so by email to: townadministrator@southfork.org or mail to the address listed below.
No. 3757.
Published in the Valley Courier on January 19, 2024.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS/REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ("RFQ")

PROFESSIONAL AIRPORT ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING (A/E) SERVICES FOR: RUNWAY BROOM PROCUREMENT
SAN LUIS VALLEY REGIONAL AIRPORT
ALAMOSA, COLORADO
San Luis Valley Regional Airport ("Airport") is seeking professional architectural/engineering (A/E) services from multi-discipline A/E firms for the selection and procurement of a factory new Runway Broom, design and preparation of plans and specifications and support services for including but not limited to bidding services, project administration, supervision, and coordination for this sole project.
Statements of Qualifications will be received at the San Luis Valley Regional Airport, 2490 State Avenue, Alamosa, Colorado 81101 until 5:00 p.m., local time, Wednesday, January 31, 2024. Any Statement of Qualifications received after this time will be considered non-responsive and returned unopened. Qualifications will be evaluated only from teams that meet the minimum criteria as set forth in the complete Request for Qualifications ("RFQ") document.
The Request for Qualifications document may be obtained at www.sanluisvalleyairport.org.
The Airport reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive technicalities, and make award(s) as deemed to be in the interest of the Airport.
Thank you,
San Luis Valley Regional Airport
No. 3759.
Published in the Valley Courier on January 19 & 23, 2024.



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102 - CARD OF THANKS

221 - HELP WANTED

THE FAMILY OF Richard B. Quintana would like to thank everybody for helping with a wonderful Rosary, Mass, and burial for our husband, father, grandpa, and great-grandpa. We would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls, food, flowers, prayers, and donations, as well as the phone calls & prayers when he was ill. Thanks to Father Jay for the wonderful mass. I would like to thank Neighbors in Christ for preparing the wonderful meal. I would like to also thank my brothers, sisters, aunts, cousins, and in-law family. Thank you to Adam Martinez & Family, Maryann Rendon, Lorenzo Martinez, Jaedon Quintana, Victoria Scheibe, Fatima, Roberta Chavez, Lucia Valdez, Eli Lucero & Romero Funeral Home for wonderful job preparing me and my wonderful husband (Richard B. Quintana) at the time in need. I would like to also thank God for sending all the wonderful people. Prayer are with you all. Theresa (Teresita) Quintana, Lisa & Alan Scheibe & Family, Richard R. & Shasta Quintana & Family. (1/23/24)

WE ARE SEEKING a responsible, self-motivated, "preferably" experienced DENTAL ASSISTANT to join our amazing team at HARDING DENTAL GROUP where our patients experience the difference at the premiere dental practice in the San Luis Valley. We use the latest technology and materials to provide exceptional dental care to our growing patient population. Please email resumes to june@hardingdentalgroup.com. (2/6/24AS)

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ALAMOSA WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT is seeking a candidate for the position of MANAGER. The position reports directly to the District Board of Directors and is responsible for the administrative duties of the East Alamosa Water & Sanitation District. Candidate must have a strong knowledge of QuickBooks, Word and Excel, with the ability to quickly learn new software programs and applications. This is a full-time salaried position with some benefits and a simple 401K. The schedule is Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. thru 5:00 p.m. with some night meetings. Annual salary is \$45,000+ DOE. Resumes can be delivered to the District office at 10 Costilla, Alamosa or emailed to jamie@eastalamosaws.org, no later than January 20, 2024 at 5:00 pm. A complete description of job duties is available upon request or can be viewed online at eastalamosaws.org. (1/23/24AS)

173 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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221 - HELP WANTED

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SANGRE DE CRISTO SCHOOL is looking for an ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL / ATHLETIC DIRECTOR for the 2024 / 2025 school year. Please see www.sangreschools.org for more information. (2/20/24AS)



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GRANDPARENTS, PARENTS, AUNTS & UNCLES...

Show off your son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, niece, nephew or your favorite beautiful baby (4 years & under) in the Valley Courier's We Love Babies Edition!

THIS IS NOT A CONTEST. Just fill out the form to the left and mail or drop off the form along with your favorite photo to the Valley Courier, 2205 State Ave., P.O. Box 1099, Alamosa, CO 81101. Include the \$15 fee which must be paid when submitting your form and photo.

PLEASE BE SURE TO WRITE YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON THE BACK OF THE PHOTO. PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY, THE VALLEY COURIER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MISPELLED NAMES

Baby's Name: _____
 Birthdate: _____
 Parents: _____
 Brothers and/or Sisters: _____
 Grandparents: _____
 Phone Number: _____
(will not appear in paper)

Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

221 - HELP WANTED

221 - HELP WANTED

221 - HELP WANTED

NIGHT STAFF NEEDED AT LA PUENTE HOME. Need Mature, dynamic, compassionate people that are able to deal with all types of clients. Must be able to work weekend and graveyard shifts (9:00 pm - 7:00 am). Must be at least 21+. Bilingual preferred. Looking for the unique applicants who will be a part of an awesome team of individuals helping others. Beginning pay is \$15.00 per hour. Some day shifts may also be available. Join our staff of dedicated professionals and learn the joys and satisfaction of helping others. (2/16/24AS)

CITY OF ALAMOSA is seeking a full-time **WATER WASTEWATER TECHNICIAN I.** Hiring pay is \$19.63 to \$20.62 per hour DOQ. Fringe benefits include CO PERA Retirement employer contribution 14.73% & employee contribution is 9.00%, or Empower 401K, 10% match, 11.5 holidays per year, 2 personal days, 80 hours of sick leave and 80 hours of vacation leave per year. Employer paid life insurance, STD, LTD & AD&D, 75% of medical, vision, and dental premiums paid by the employer, Wellness Program, and discounted recreational memberships. This position performs a variety of preventative maintenance and repair of City public infrastructure and property related to water distribution and wastewater collection systems. Work varying shifts and schedules, including on-call, as needed and required by supervisor. Some overtime will be occasionally required and assigned as necessary. This position must work well independently and with teams, while providing excellent, respectful customer service. For a full job description and to apply, visit cityofalamosa.org or stop by City Hall at 300 Hunt Ave. The City of Alamosa provides Equal Opportunity Employment for accommodations, please submit them in writing with the application. Application deadline - open until filled. (1/31/24AS)

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for full-time **CUSTODIAN.** This is a full-time position with benefits. Preference will be given to applicants with maintenance experience. A full list of desired qualifications can be viewed on the district website. Monte Vista School District offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, HSA match, and life coverage. The salary for this position will be paid from the current MVSD Maintenance and Custodial Salary Schedule, which can be viewed on the district website - Employment Opportunities page. Placement on the salary schedule will be determined by education and experience at time of hire. Applications may be submitted through our online employment application <https://www.pirates.monte.k12.co.us/employmentopportunities> by January 25, 2024 or until the position is filled. For application questions, contact the District Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (1/31/24AS)

CONEJOS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH is seeking a **PART TIME COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTOR.** 28 hrs/week. Distributes commodities, packs food boxes, lifts up to 30 lbs, drives and delivers boxes to clients, maintains client records and inventory, and basic computer skills, starting wage \$14.42/hr Valid driver's license required. Application Form Required available on our web site conejoscounty.colorado.gov or via email upon request at cricei@co.conejos.co.us. Inquiries call 719-274-4307 or 719-376-6799. EEOE. (1/20/24AS)

12TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROBATION DEPARTMENT currently has an opening for a full-time **PROBATION OFFICER** with a monthly salary range of \$4463 to \$8065. Minimum requirements are a Bachelor Degree from a four year college or university with major course work preferably in Criminal Justice, Sociology, Psychology, Social Work, or related field. Upon hire and as a condition of continued employment, the employee must complete all Mandatory New Employee Training. Prospective employees are subject to a background investigation prior to hiring. A Colorado Judicial Department Application, located at www.courts.state.co.us/Careers, under Job Title "PROBATION OFFICER", Location "ALAMOSA" must be submitted via the website no later than January 25, 2024. Please include a detailed resume as well. (1/24/24AS)

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY is looking for candidates to fill the position of **BUDGET DIRECTOR** within the Business and Finance department. You can apply here https://adams.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/ASU/details/Budget-Director_R183. We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, please reach out to our Human Resources department 719-587-7990. (2/14/24AS)

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for a **ROUTE DRIVER FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.** Applicants for this position must have a current driver's license (a CDL IS NOT REQUIRED) and pass a drug test. For additional information contact Mark Hotz, Maintenance/Transportation Director, at 719-852-2881. Applications may be submitted through our online employment application <https://www.pirates.monte.k12.co.us/employmentopportunities> by January 25, 2024, or until the position is filled. For questions regarding the application process, contact the Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (1/31/24AS)

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

CITY OF ALAMOSA is accepting VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER applications. As a volunteer member of Alamosa Fire & Rescue, you will have the honor of serving your community in emergency situations. Additionally, all members have the opportunity to meet and work with other highly trained, motivated, and enthusiastic volunteers, and interact with numerous local, state, and national fire and rescue organizations. Please visit our website at <https://cityofalamosa.org/> for more information and to complete an online application. For questions please contact Fire Chief Stone at (719) 587-2530. (2/14/24AS)

CITY OF ALAMOSA is seeking a full-time COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER. Hiring pay is \$21.59 to \$22.67 per hour DOQ. Fringe benefits include CO PERA Retirement employer contribution 14.73% & employee contribution is 9.00%, or Empower 401K, 10% match, 11.5 holidays per year, 2 personal days, 80 hours of sick leave and 80 hours of vacation leave per year. Employer paid life insurance, STD, LTD & AD&D, 75% of medical, vision, and dental premiums paid by the employer, Wellness Program, and discounted recreational memberships. This position performs a variety of professional and technical work necessary to identify, investigate and enforce violations of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Alamosa as specified by Article II, Section 2.37 of the Code of Ordinances authorized by the City Manager. For a full job description and to apply visit cityofalamosa.org or stop by City Hall at 300 Hunt Ave. The City of Alamosa provides Equal Opportunity Employment for accommodations please submit them in writing with the application. Application deadline - open until filled. (1/19/24AS)

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for two SECONDARY SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS for the 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR. A complete list of desired qualifications and experience is posted on the district website. The District operates on a 4-day week (Monday - Thursday) and offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, HSA match, and life coverage. The salary for this position will be paid from the current MVSD Teacher Salary Schedule, which can be viewed on the district website - Employment Opportunities page. Placement on the salary schedule will be determined by education and experience at time of hire. Applications may be submitted through our online employment application <https://www.pirates.monte.k12.co.us/employmentopportunities> by January 25, 2024 or until the positions are filled. For application questions, contact the District Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (1/30/24AS)

DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEER COORDINATION: Local, well-respected non-profit agency seeking individual to recruit, train, and place community volunteers and service groups to assist La Puente's diverse programs. Additional responsibilities: presentations, special events, building community partnerships, management of support staff. Self-starter, values driven, comfort engaging a diversity of people, administrative skills. Join our staff of dedicated professionals and learn the joys and satisfaction of serving others. Salary \$43k-46k DOE, full benefit package. Start date: flexible between February 1-April 1st. Request job description; send resume/cover letter Emily: hr@lapuente.net, 719 589-5909, ext238. www.lapuente.net (1/24/24AS)

221 - HELP WANTED

CENTER FOR RESTORATIVE PROGRAMS has the following positions open: **INTENSIVE CASE MANAGER III (ICM III)** Responsible for providing specialized intensive case management/wraparound services to assigned caseload, provide support, mentoring, training to CM team around crisis plans, challenges, and effective implementation. At least 5 years experience providing wraparound services, intensive case management, advocating and working with adults with substance use and/or mental health disorders, homeless population, recovery support, and collaboration with community partners and families. Will work closely with community partners such as justice system, law enforcement, behavioral health, medical, housing, human services, schools and workforce development. Must be willing to travel, work some nights and weekends. Spanish speaking is a plus. **INTENSIVE CASE MANAGER (ICM II)** Responsible for providing intensive specialized case management/wraparound services; working closely with community partners such as criminal justice systems, law enforcement, behavioral health, medical, housing, human services, schools and workforce development. Ability to work independently, needs strong organizational/communication skills, ability to establish wraparound plans and help navigate systems. Successful candidates will have at least 3 years relevant experience providing wraparound services, intensive case management, advocating and working with adults with substance use and/or mental health disorders, homeless population, recovery support, and collaboration with community partners and families. Must be willing to travel, work some nights and weekends. Spanish speaking a plus. **FOR BOTH POSITIONS:** See webpage for more details: restorativeprogram.org and Email resume & cover letter to clarissa@restorativeprograms.org Positions open until filled. CRP is an EOE. (1/27/24AS)

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, townofcenter.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)

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)

OAT STRAW & BARLEY STRAW 3'x4'x8' bales. 719-580-2562. (1/27/24)

BARLEY STRAW FOR Sale. 3'x4'x8' big square bales. Good clean, bright straw. \$90 per ton. Stacks located near ANTONITO and also near MOF-FAT. 719-480-4289. (2/17/24AS)

NATIVE GRASS HAY for sale. Small bales, HORSE HAY QUALITY. Contact Ed, if interested leave a message (719) 852-3069. (2/14/24AS)

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)

307 - APPLIANCES

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BARLEY STRAW FOR Sale. 3'x4'x8' big square bales. Good clean, bright straw. \$90 per ton. Stacks located near ANTONITO and also near MOF-FAT. 719-480-4289. (2/17/24AS)

NATIVE GRASS HAY for sale. Small bales, HORSE HAY QUALITY. Contact Ed, if interested leave a message (719) 852-3069. (2/14/24AS)

341 - GARAGE SALE

INSIDE GARAGE SALE, afternoons only, starting at 1:00 p.m. Call for appointment 719-298-6110. (1/24/24AS)

345 - WOOD

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

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

350 - FARM EQUIPMENT

WANTED TO RENT- OTECO TRACK FILLER. Would like to rent in February or March. I will provide insurance. Also, open to hiring the work done. Located north of CARMEL. 719-480-4289. (2/17/24AS)

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. (2/10/24AS)

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

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410 - AUCTIONS

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)

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.rgwd.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@rgwd.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 FORSALE

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

ALAMOSA: 1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH apartment in DUPLEX; great location. Washer/dryer, recently updated, no pets. \$675 month, \$675 deposit. Call 719-580-5400. (1/24/24AS)

Rental Assistance Apartments Available - Applications Now Being Accepted for 1,2 & 3 Bedroom Apartments With
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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)



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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Chatter
 - 4 Tibetan priest
 - 8 "That's all — wrote"
 - 11 Cut gems
 - 12 " — corny as Kansas ..."
 - 13 Fossil fuel
 - 15 Tell a tale
 - 16 — of the earth
 - 17 Stockings
 - 18 Improvise (2 wds.)
 - 20 Singer — Lynn
 - 22 Lens type
 - 24 Zodiac animal
 - 25 Flavoring plant
 - 27 Activist Chavez
 - 31 Keep — on
 - 32 Child's play
 - 34 AFL —
 - 35 Earthbound bird
 - 36 Rind
 - 37 Lose color
- DOWN**
- 1 — monster
 - 2 Battery fluid
 - 3 The devil
 - 4 Portuguese capital
 - 5 Org. for doctors
 - 6 Shopping center
 - 7 John Jacob —
 - 8 Make a plan
 - 9 Owl's cry
 - 10 " — of Eden"
 - 14 Grassland
 - 19 Free electrons
 - 21 Risque
 - 23 Too compliant
 - 25 Renown
 - 26 Secular
 - 28 Figure in a field
 - 29 Opera by Verdi
 - 30 Caviar
 - 31 Broadcaster — Koppel
 - 33 Unseen difficulty
 - 36 Greek portico
 - 37 Indoor plant
 - 39 Flip
 - 41 Cat that hunts
 - 43 Distance around
 - 45 — Beta Kappa
 - 46 "Darn it!"
 - 47 Greek god
 - 48 Learning
 - 50 Atmosphere
 - 51 Look searchingly
 - 54 — generis

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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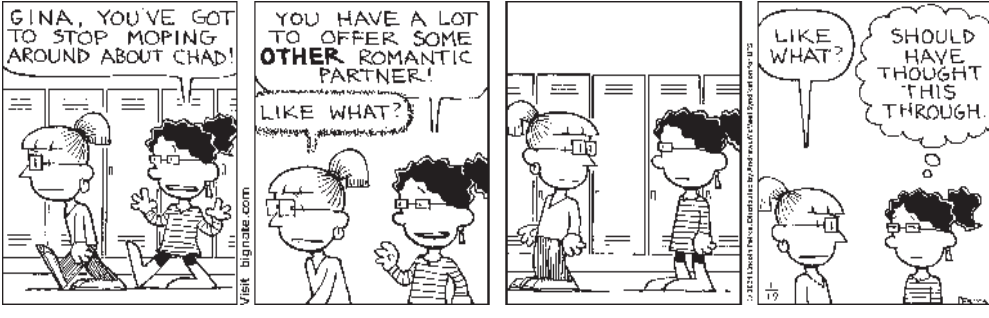
ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



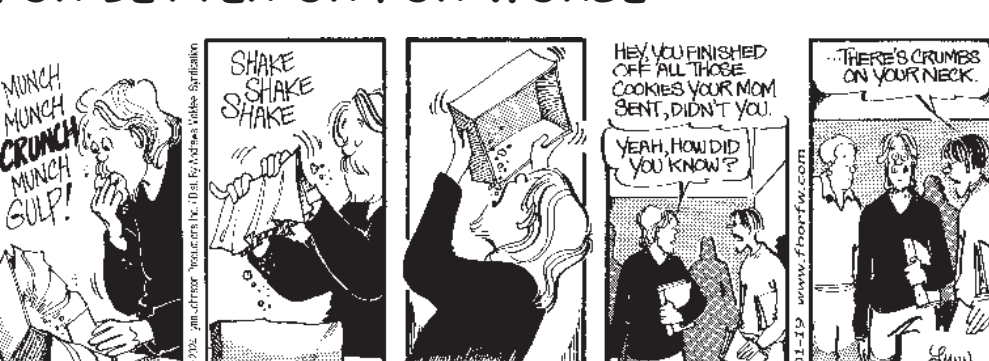
BIG NATE



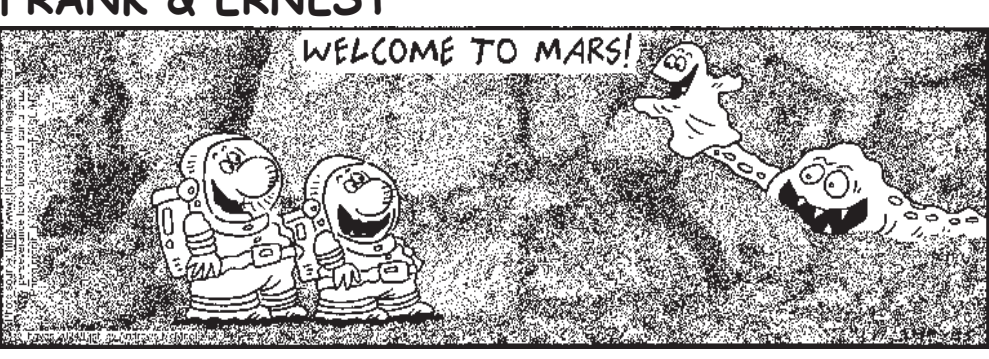
THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



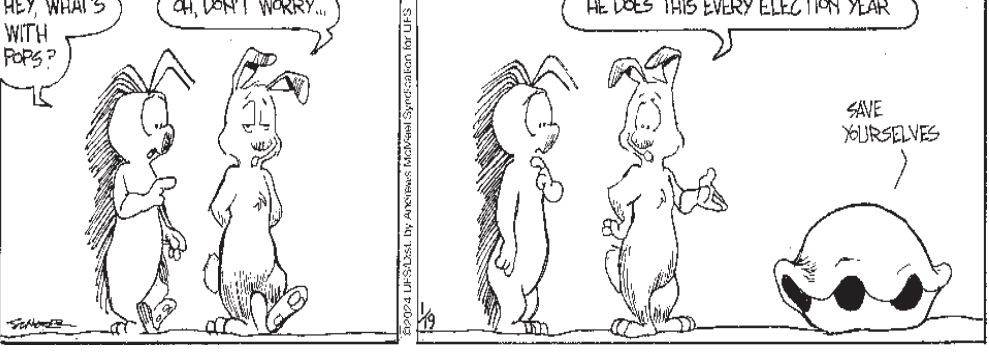
FRANK & ERNEST



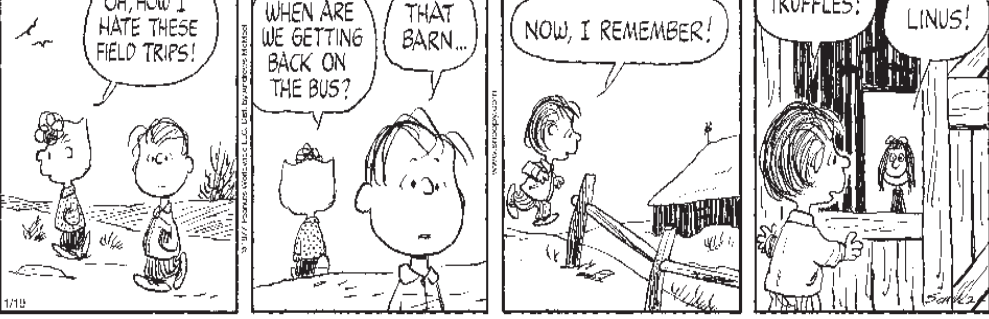
GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
11			12				13		14			
15			16				17					
18			19			20		21				
	22			23		24						
	25				26		27		28	29	30	
31				32		33			34			
35				36					37			
38			39			40			41			
			42		43		44					
45	46	47				48		49			50	51
52					53		54				55	
56					57						58	
		59									61	

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

Absent father wonders about the fate of mother and child

DEAR ABBY: Almost 50 years ago, I got a girl pregnant. She left the state and two years later sent me a letter and a picture of the cutest baby -- mine. Her letter ripped me apart. I admit I was a terrible person and deserved everything she wrote.

Now that I'm up in years, I would like to know about her and the child. I have thought about the baby often throughout the years. I don't want back into her life, but I would certainly like to see her. I have been thinking about hiring a private investigator to find her whereabouts. Your thoughts on this? -- DEFERRED DAD IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR DAD: After the private investigator lets you know where your old girlfriend is (providing she's still on this side of the sod), refrain from showing up in person. Clearly, the "girl" has gone on with her life, and the "baby" is well into middle age. Write your old flame a letter, or have your lawyer do it, explaining you have thought about her and the child, and ask if either of them is willing to meet with you. Then cross your fingers.

DEAR ABBY: I have been obese most of my life. Recently, I had a health issue that resulted in my losing a significant amount of weight. Thankfully, I'm

doing much better now.

While I'm happy to be enjoying life as a thinner person, how do I handle the well-meaning questions from people who want to know how I did it? My family and a few close friends know what I went through, but I'm not comfortable sharing the details with co-workers, clients, neighbors, etc., regarding how I got my new figure. How do I satisfy the curiosity of the questioners without seeming rude or divulging too many details? -- KEEP-ING IT TO MYSELF

DEAR KEEP-ING: You do not have to answer every question that is asked of you. Bear in mind that these folks are acknowledging your achievement, so try this: "Thank you for the compliment, but I prefer not to discuss it." (Then smile and try not to look like you're gloating.)

DEAR ABBY: I live in a different state than my parents with my husband and two children. When we FaceTime with them (mainly my mom) or they come to visit, Mom only talks about my niece and nephew. I love my niece and nephew, but it feels like they are all I hear about.

It makes it seem like Mom doesn't care or pay attention to my children because she and Dad are thinking only about my niece or nephew. They often



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

compare my children to their cousins as well. If I mention something one of my kids did, Mom instantly says my niece or nephew did the same thing.

Other people have commented that they have noticed her doing this, so I know I'm not being overly sensitive. What can I say to her without upsetting the rest of the family? -- MY KIDS COUNT, TOO

DEAR MY KIDS: If your mother is oblivious to what she has been doing, make clear to her that her favoritism is blatant. Tell her what she is doing is insensitive, that other people have noticed and pointed it out to you and you want it stopped before your children are old enough to catch on. Period.

HERMAN

