

Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship program is seeking participants

— Page 2



Falcons fly past Pirates 61-15



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VOLUME 98, NO. 7

— Page 6



FRIDAY EDITION WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

January 12, 2024

Cotten, top water guy in the SLV, talks water





VALLEY — Winners have been announced in the annual Christmas coloring contest sponsored by the Valley Courier and several local businesses. Coloring books were distributed to San Luis Valley schools and entries were submitted and voted on on-line.

First place winners receiving \$100 prizes were: Aspen Ruybal, Alamosa K-2, Jeremiah Medina, Bill Metz Elementary (Monte Vista), Kayli Gurule, Centauri Middle School, and Alexia Rivera, Monte Vista High School.

Second place winners receiving \$50 prizes were: Makai Abeyta, Alamosa K-2, Kate Ruybal, Alamosa 3-5, Kaylen Medina, Monte Vista Middle School, and Angel Quintana, Alamosa High School.

Third place winners earning gift cards from participating sponsors were: Grayson B., Alamosa K-2, Javonna Miller, Sanford Elementary, Makalan Duran,



Craig Cotten Division 3 engineer

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Aside from air, water is the most crucial resource for human survival. In the San Luis Valley, water is crucial to economic survival, as well, and snowpack in the Sangre de Cristos is 65% of what is typical for this time of year.

With that in mind, Ro-

riod with Craig Cotten, Division 3 engineer with the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR), during their monthly especially relevant.

Cotten started off the conversation by providing a rundown on Division 3, which encompasses the

a question-answer pe- rights — both surface wa- sues," he said. ter and groundwater --which they do with a staff the group with an excelof 31 employees, includ- lent primer in undering water commissioners, standing some of those staff who make certain issues, including legal ismeeting this week was large capacity wells have sues around water rights. meters on them, others who assure dam safety rules were approved by plus employees in admin- the water court in 2017," istration.

San Luis Valley. Division er divisions geographi- capacity wells have to 3 is responsible for the cally but one of the bigger have meters on them and tary Club members spent administration of water divisions in terms of is-

Cotten then provided

"Groundwater use he said, "and rules are "We're one of the small- now in effect. Any large ■ See COTTEN page 3

ACSO swears in significant additions to staff

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Former Chief of Police of the Alamosa Police Department (APD) Ken Anderson was sworn in on Wednesday to serve as the new Division Chief with the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) where he will be in charge of the patrol division.

Sheriff Robert Jackson praised Anderson for his 23 years of experience in law enforcement, citing APD's creation of a co-responder program under his leadership, something that Jackson thinks would work well at the county level.

"That's just an example of the expertise he brings with him," Jackson said. Anderson, who was reluctant to make



See ACSO page 3 Ken Anderson is being sworn in as the new Division Chief at the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office.

Trujillo brings wealth of experience to Adams State BOT



Centauri Middle School, and Kira Taylor, Centauri High School.

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.



Sunny, Breezy 26/-2 Sat: Sunny, Breezy & Gusty 33/9 Sun: Chance of Snow 35/3

INSIDE

Record Page 2
Valley News Page 3
Opinion Page 4
LifestylePages 5, 7, and 12
Sports Page 6
Public Notice Page 8
Classifieds Pages 9 and 10
ComicsPage 11



Photo Courtesy Will Hickman, San Luis Valley Regional Airport

Work continues on the Snow Removal Equipment building under construction at the San Luis Valley Regional Airport.

Airport reaches important passenger number threshold

By JOHN WATERS Courier News Editor ALAMOSA — At the to receive \$1 million in funding of \$1 million. federal funding.

Advisory Board on Jan. in June, 2024. 11.

Under the American tion, the passenger airend of 2023, the San Rescue Plan Act of 2021, line that serves the air-Luis Valley Regional the Federal Aviation port with jet flights to Airport in Alamosa Administration estab- Denver will have a new had a total of 10,904 lished Airport Rescue schedule starting on enplanements (passen- Grants. The plan grants February 1. On Monday, gers) for the year. This airports that have more is an important number than 10,000 annual pasas it enables the airport senger enplanements

In other airport news, Airport Manager Will a Snow Removal Equip-Hickman announced the ment building is under good news at a regular construction at the airmeeting of the San Luis port and is expected to aircraft and 30-passen-Valley Regional Airport be completed sometime ger Dornier 328 jets.

Denver Air Connec-Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, flights will depart Alamosa at 8 a.m., and on Wednesday and Sunday flights depart at 3:30 p.m. The airline uses 50-passenger ERJ-145

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — Colorado Governor Jared Polis appointed Anne Trujillo, of Littleton, to the Adams State University Board of Trustees. Trujillo's term began Jan. 1, and will end Dec. 31, 2027. The position was vacated when Michele Lueck's term ended in 2023.

An alumna of the University of Colorado, Boulder, Trujillo sees Adams State as a perfect place for providing opportunities, which compliments her belief in opening doors for all Coloradans, especially those for whom higher education has not been a consideration or jillo appreciates Adams an option.

me; I am a first-generation college student and remember well what it was like to navigate the higher ed system on my own," she said.

As the newest BOT member, Trujillo will rely on her experience as a life, for themselves and journalist to observe and their families," she said. listen at the beginning of her term.

with President Tandberg her volunteer work with and the rest of the team the Denver Scholarship who are deeply commit- Foundation, ted to helping students scholarships to first gensucceed. I look forward eration families; and the to meeting faculty, staff Nathan Yip Foundation, and students, and getting See **TRUJILLO** page 3



Anne Trujillo

to know the campus and those who make it such an inviting place," she said.

As a Latina and longtime Coloradan, Tru-State's distinction as a "This is personal to Hispanic Serving Institution.

> "I don't think enough people know how meaningful that designation is to families who are looking for a welcoming environment and a place to kickstart a new phase in

Trujillo has experience working with urban and "I'm excited to work rural students through providing



Valley Courier

Record

OBITUARIES

Patsy 'Patricia' Farris

Alamosa resident Patsy "Patricia" Farris, 83, passed away peacefully in her daughter's home in Monte Vista, Colo., surrounded by her loving family on Jan. 7, 2024.

Patricia was born on Feb. 7, 1940, to Eugene Durward Holland and Elvie Lou Duncan Holland in Fox, Ark. She met and fell in love with Austin J. Farris Sr., and they were wed on Dec. 24, 1958, in Solgohachia, Ark. They enjoyed 54 years together until his passing in 2013. She worked at Sunshine Laundry for over 10 years and loved working with "all the little old ladies".

Patricia was the epitome of a homemaker. She took great pleasure in making her home and yard immaculate for all to enjoy. She had the most beautiful flower gardens and grew a wonderful vegetable garden. She would often help her daughter

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

After graduation from high school, he began attending Adams State College in Alamosa. This was

made possible by using the \$64 monthly insurance money his mother Beatrice was receiving from his deceased brother Pascal's death benefit provided by the US Government after he was killed in action 4 weeks before the end of WWII. Dave



can all the vegetables out of their gardens. She enjoyed crocheting, she specialized in making afghan blankets, tablecloths and doilies. Patricia enjoyed doing crossword puzzles and sketching pictures of Elvis Persley. Family was very important to her, she always loved to spend time with them all.

Patricia is survived by her daughters Tamera (Stan) Townsend of Mon-Vista, Colo., Sheila

(the late David) Schwulst of Soda Springs, Idaho; lovingly known as John, her grandchildren Matthew, Ethan, Katy, Chelsea, Kendra and Allyson and great-grandchildren Beau, Ridge, Trayson, Ainsley, Austin; her brother Dwaine Holland of Mountain View, Ark.

She was preceded in death by her husband, both of her parents, her son Austin Joe Farris Jr., of Alamosa, Colo.; her siblings Robert Holland of Heber Springs, Ark., and Donna Bagby of Mountain View, Ark.

A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, at the Alamosa Cemetery at 1:30 p.m.

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

Fidenzio John Zertuche, passed away on Jan. 9, 2024, leaving behind a legacy of hard work and a zest for life. He was born on Jan. 20, 1944, in Monte Vista, Colo., and his presence will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Cremation was selected and a graveside service will take place at a later time at the Homelake Veterans Cemetery in Monte Vista. To express condolences, please visit www. mvmortuary.com

John's life was spent in Monte Vista. He spent much of his younger years in the potato fields farming. Later in life, John transitioned into trail maintenance and various other jobs for the US Forest Service. This career change allowed him to fully embrace his love for nature and the great outdoors. John's tireless efforts ensured that trails were well-maintained and accessible to everyone who sought solace in nature.

John was described as someone with a serious demeanor but possessed a delightful silly side that would often bring joy to those around him. He had a unique ability to lighten up any room with his infectious laughter and playful jokes. It was this combination of seri-

Fidenzio John Zertuche



ousness and silliness that endeared him to both colleagues and friends alike.

Aside from his professional achievements and lighthearted personality, John had many passions outside of work. Hunting, fishing, and spending time outdoors were among his favorite pastimes. His appreciation for nature sured by him. went beyond maintenance He work; it ran deep within them with affechis soul. The serenity he found while engaged in these activities brought him unparalleled joy and contentment.

In addition to his remarkable professional accomplishments and hobbies, John served as a Sargent in the United States Army during Vietnam. His bravery on the battlefield was recognized when he received the Purple Heart — an honor bestowed upon those who have been wounded or ering support throughout killed while serving our his life journey.

country. John's courage during times of adversity is a testament to his strength of character.

Now, as we bid farewell to John, we must remember the lasting impact he had on those closest to him. He was a beloved husband to Julia Zertuche and a devoted father to Fidenzio, Jennifer, and John. His presence radiated love and

warmth in their lives, creating cherished memories that will forever be held dear.

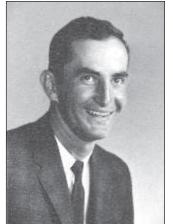
John's grandchildren — Lu-Jamie, cas. Angelica and were treashowered tion and guided them with wisdom, instilling

in them the same appreciation for nature and zest for life that brought him so much joy. Collin, John's great-grandson, also held a special place in his heart.

In addition to his immediate family, John is survived by his sisters Mary Zertuche, Libby Espinosa, and Sally Ortiz. They were a source of unwav-



Jose David Lucero



San Luis High School in the 1967-68 school year. He began working in Manzanola the following year. It was at this time that he suffered a major life altering event. He suffered a debilitating brain hemorrhage from an aneurysm that nearly ended his life. His sister Aurelia took care of him and nursed him back to health. He was mostly unchanged afterward except for the you to those who cared for three boreholes from the him during his last days.

brain surgery to clip off and contain the aneurysm tation of the Rosary will be that had nearly ended his held on Saturday, Jan. 13, life. Later in life he would put marbles in those in- mass will follow at 10 a.m. dentations to entertain his Burial to follow after mass little nephews and nieces. at the Ft. Garland Cem-After his recovery, Uncle etery. Friends and Fam-Dave applied for a position ily are welcome to enjoy a in the Social Security Administration. He worked Blanca/Ft. Garland Comthere until he retired in munity Center after the 2001.

ally moved to the Spanish Peaks Veterans Community Living Center in August of 2021. He developed a respiratory ailment in December of 2023 which eventually took his life.

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

He is survived by his sister Marcella Lucero Roybal of Blanca, Colo., sisterin-Law Priscilla Salazar (Gaspar) Lucero of Pueblo, Colo., numerous nieces, nephews, grand nieces, grand nephews, and many friends. A special thank

Vigil Services with Reci

Page 2

was inducted into the Army on July 14, 1960. He served 2 years active duty, 1 year of which was overseas in Korea.

After military service, Dave eventually returned to Adams State College where he completed his studies in 1968. Around this same time Dave pursued a career as park ranger. He worked at the Sand Dunes National Monument and Yellowstone National Park as a summer park ranger. Dave did his

After retirement he mostly enjoyed doing dolences, what he loved most: trav- romerofuneralhomes. eling, fishing, gambling, com. The care of arrangewatching the Broncos ments has been entrusted and visiting with family to Romero Valley Funeral student teaching at the and friends. He eventu- Home of Alamosa.

2024, at 9:30 a.m. Funeral meal and fellowship at the burial.

To Leave online conplease visit

PENDING OBITUARIES Marcia Lucero

Alamosa resident Marcia Lucero, 62, passed away peacefully in her own home on Jan. 5, 2024. Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online words of comfort, remembrances, and condolences for Marcia's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

Virginia Chavez

Manassa resident Virginia Chavez, was called home Jan. 10, 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.

primary purpose is to that we are not affili- website:slvaa.org

stay sober and help oth- ated with any outside achieve sobriety.

NA 12-Step Meetings ules for friends and fam-

er alcoholics/addicts to organizations, but in the spirit of cooperation, we There are AA and list these meeting schedthroughout the valley. ily. For information, call A.A. and N.A members The 6th Tradition states 719-937-5083 or see our

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.

Courtesy photo

Coy Stocking, a participant in the initial Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship program, continues to use a rowing machine for his daily cardio workout. The Adams State School of Kinesiology is seeking volunteers to participate in this ongoing program again this spring.

Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship program is seeking participants

All cancer survivors ages

18 years or older are wel-

come regardless of gender,

type, or stage of cancer.

This spring's research

study begins the week of

January 22 with appoint-

ments for individual fit-

ness testing. There is no

cost to the participant,

but completing the entire

twelve weeks of the study

is crucial to ensure accu-

combination of a resistance

training circuit plus cardio

training. Participants will

be post-tested to determine

any changes in fitness and

Interested participants

week of April 8.

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

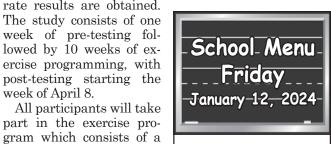
ALAMOSA The Adams State University Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship program offers cancer survivors in the San Luis Valley the opportunity to participate in an individualized exercise program conducted in a group setting which meets three times per week for 10 weeks.

Now in its fifth year, this program continues to offer a place where participants can work toward their personal fitness goals in a non-judgmental setting while enjoying a support network of fellow cancer survivors. The program also gives Adams State undergraduate and graduate kinesiology students experience in fitness testing and guiding and supporting program participants throughout the exercise program.

The Department of Kioverall health at the end of nesiology will continue the study. important research on the benefits of several types of are encouraged to attend one of the following preexercise on the physical, mental, and social health registration meetings: 12 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16; or of cancer survivors. The 12 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. program is funded through local support from the SLV 17. All meetings will be Health Foundation, in- held in the Adams State cluding the Larry Holder East Campus Building, room 109. The East Cam-Memorial Golf Tourna-

ment, after completing a pus building is on the cortwo-year grant from the ner of First Street and La Colorado Cancer Coalition. Veta Avenue in Alamosa.

> For more information. or for those who can't attend one of the scheduled pre-registration meetings, contact the Adams State School of Kinesiology program coordinator: Nico Alvarez: 720-272-4635, alvarezna@adams.edu: Rob Adams: 480-249-7859, adamsrr@adams.edu; or Peggy Johnson: pvjohnson@ adams.edu.



No School

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



CDA hiring for two Regional Assistant **Commissioners**

By COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

fill two new regionally ship team." based Regional Assis-Agriculture orado.

are in addition to those community. communities.

sistant ers Jo Stanko of Routt policies impacting aging since early 2023, and feedback. and their success in munities

week, will be based in try.

track record of cultivating meaningful relationships and advanc-BROOMFIELD ing shared goals in their - The Colorado De- communities. These popartment of Agriculture sitions are also critical announced a search to members of my leader-

These unique positant Commissioner of tions will work closely positions with the Commissioner that will serve as a liai- of Agriculture, the Agson between the Depart- ricultural Commission, ment and agricultural and CDA's senior team communities across Col- to serve as a direct connection between the The two new positions Department and their Qualified filled in 2023. The Re- candidates will have gional Assistant Com- experience and knowlmissioner of Agricul- edge in the agricultural ture roles serve as a key field and in ag economresource and conduit ics, stewardship and to CDA to support the conservation practices, Department's goals of supporting future gencommunity engagement erations in agriculture, and developing and and promoting animal maintaining trusted re- health and welfare. The lationships with rural position will advise the Department on issues Current Regional As- related to agricultural Commission- production and other County and George ricultural communities Whitten of Saguache and provide policy posi-County have been serv- tion recommendations

The Department is these roles has led CDA looking for leaders from to hire two additional agricultural communipositions. These new po- ties who are skilled in sitions will also repre- engaging local decision sent a region of Colora- makers, building and do. While the positions strengthening relationare open for anyone in ships, and committed to Colorado meeting the increasing equity, diverminimum requirements sity and inclusion in agto apply, CDA is specifi- riculture. The Regional cally seeking applicants Assistant Commissioner from Eastern Colorado applicants should be and from the State's able to demonstrate a urban, Tribal, or other wide range of commuunderrepresented com- nity involvement and have experience that These positions will covers multiple areas of average 5-10 hours per the agricultural indus-



Photos by Priscilla Waggoner

Eighteen new commission deputy sheriffs were also sworn in who will be working in the Alamosa County Detention Center. Top Left to Right: R.A. Ramirez, D. Gandall, J. Clark, C. Valesey, K. Forrester, S. Zeiglemann, Sheriff Robert Jackson, M. Reimann, B. Lira, M. Decker, Z. Sanvig. Bottom Left to Right: R.A. Lopez, B. Carson, D. Lopez, R. Martin, T. Falcon, G. Alcorta, R. Williams, J. Boss.

ACSO

■ Continued from Page 1 a speech, said he looks forward to working with ACSO.

"I think I bring a little to this agency," Anderson said. "[Sheriff Jackson] taught me a lot ever since I was a kid and he hired me. It's kind of ironic that he's hired me again. I look forward to it in a county I don't know much about. I need to learn the geography. That's kind of clear. I do look forward to getting to know the guys in the patrol division and a lot of the jail deputies, as well. Thank you for this opportunity."

Jackson then swore in Zach Decker as ACSO's investigator, a position Jackson has been wanting ACSO to have for quite a while.

Before hiring on with ACSO, Decker worked at the Great Sand Dunes National Park. Alamosa Police Department and Adams State University Police.

"I started [as an investigator] about 7 months ago, in June," Decker said in a speech. "At first, they had me get to know the



Zach Decker being sworn in as ACSO's investigator.

Alamosa Police Depart- One of my campaign the academy and then ment and then, a week promises nine years ago make up hours when later, they gave me a ho- was to provide 24/7 and they're not in school by to the team'. It's been that happen. It wasn't they can get a lot of their busy ever since."

There was also a swearing in ceremony for 18 newly hired commission deputy sheriffs who will work in the Alamosa have that anymore." County Detention Center.

a big part in allow- panded on the apprentice including deputies and ing us to expand to the program with the Valley point where we could Courier. bring Chief Anderson on board," Jackson said. viduals who are working Joey Spangler, Alamosa "This is a good thing. It in the jail who are also brings us almost up to in the police academy," complete in the sheriff's Jackson said. "We'll take lan VanRy and County office and we're almost two of those and put them Administrator Roni Wisgeography of the county up to par in detention, so in our apprentice pro- dom.

then I rode patrol with things are looking good. gram where they'll go to micide and said 'welcome we're close to making going on patrol, where that long, back in the [training] check-offs done. day, when there was a separation between the of the academy, their field sheriff's office and the training will be cut from city. We're glad we don't

After the swearing in 'Commissioners were ceremony, Jackson ex-

Photos by Priscilla Waggoner

Then, when they get out 14 weeks to 7. That's a good thing."

A number of people attended the ceremony, administrative staff with the sheriff's office, APD "There are five indi- Interim Police Chief County Commissioners Vern Heersink and Ar-

diverse agricultural partnerships.

tural families to be part their Greenberg. "We gional Assistant Com- form. A paper applicamissioners to join the tion form is also availteam who have a proven able at the link above.

These part-time, termcommunities, and will limited positions will operate with a high serve as a spokesperson level of flexibility to al- for CDA in their comlow working farmers, munity and will bring ranchers or ag workers feedback from various to consider this role. ag communities back These positions were de- to the Department. The veloped through conver- positions do not oversations with Colorado's see staff or programs agricultural community but support the departas to how to expand rep- ment's work by connectresentation and deepen ing stakeholders with rado are based on the appropriate decision "We created the Re- makers and acting in gional Assistant Com- a liaison capacity with missioner roles to allow ag communities across more working agricul- their region of Colorado. The full position deof CDA and represent scription and applicacommunities tion can be found online. across the state," said The application period Colorado Commission- is open now and closes er of Agriculture Kate on Jan. 31. Qualified apare plicants should fill out looking for two new Re- the online application

Trujillo

■ Continued from Page 1 focused on providing assistance to teachers in rural districts.

"I have learned the importance of making personal connections to help people chart their course in life. That's where I see my goals aligning with those of Adams State University and I am honored to be a part of the Board of Trustees," she said.

Trujillo's career as a news anchor with KMGH Denver 7 spans over 39 years. She is a Laand a 12-time National Journalists.

Association of Television Arts and Sciences (NA-TAS) Emmy winner for

excellence in reporting, anchoring and breaking news coverage. She was inducted into the NATAS Fame.

Trujillo currently serves on multiple community boards; and served as co-chair of the E.W. Scripps Latino/Hispanic Employee Resource Group, and as a member of the Denver7 Diversity Committee. She is cofounder of the Colorado He cited the Conejos Watino Leadership Institute Chapter of the National ter Conservancy District Legacy Award Recipient; Association of Hispanic that has been attempting

Cotten

Continued from Page 1 replace depletions to the streams because we know that pumping groundwater has an impact on surface water — that is the water that runs in rivers, streams and ditches."

Water rights in Coloprior appropriation system, also known as "first in time, first in line." Put simply, the owners of water rights that were issued the longest time ago are also the owners whose water rights will be fulfilled before those with younger water rights will receive water.

Because surface water rights, including ditches, were issued before rights to groundwater, they are referred to as "senior" water rights. Any action that would negatively impact senior water rights is described as an "injury".

When asked how people can "replace depletions", Cotten explained that sometimes well owners will lease or purchase Silver Circle for service a ditch and, instead of 1 submitted their first to journalism; and was taking that water out to named to the 2019 Den- divert or irrigate, they ver Press Club Hall of leave the water in the ditch to offset water they have pumped from wells underground.

> He was also asked about the feasibility of building more reservoirs.

> In terms of engineering, "reservoirs are very realistic," Cotten said, "but they're also political."

stream system just outside Antonito.

"They've learned that, if they can put [the reservoir] off the stream and just dig a ditch versus building it on the stream, that's a lot less red tape."

Cotten also gave an overview of the seven subdistricts in the Valley, described as "a conglomeration of well owners in the Valley who, among other things, assess fees based on how much water is pumped and then use money they have collected to keep water in stream systems."

That led to a discussion of sustainability.

There are two main components of wells, he said. One is replacing depletion of the rivers, and the other is to ensure sustainability of the aquifers, which is unique to our area.

'There's no other place in the state where people are required to sustain the aquifers, specifically by statute, except for here," he said.

In 2012, Subdistrict No. plan to ensure sustainability, which cut back water usage over a 20year period to rebuild the brought up water exports, unconfined aquifer to a sustainable level.

"We're 12 years into that 20-year period and [water in the aquifer] is lower than 2012. The state engineer sent some letters a few years ago saying they had to build the aquifer back up or face the possibility of wells being shut down. Shutting sion of Water Resources the valley would be a big

a reservoir on the Conejos astate our agricultural neer. economy," he said,

As a result, Cotten said, if the case should be ap-Subdistrict No. I developed a new plan that's currently in water court DWR is concerned that and is based on the rule a water court case will that any water pumped injure other water rights out of the aquifer must be holders, "We can step out replaced one-to-one.

"So, if you have surface water rights for one Cubic Foot per Second (CFS), then you can put would be a big issue. How that into the aquifer and can you move water and pump your well at one not cause injury?" CFS. It works well. It's a good approach."

But people who don't have surface water rights to offset their groundwater pumping oppose the rule.

A group of well owners called Sustainable Water Augmentation Group (SWAG) with land northeast of Center who don't Great Sand Dunes dehave many surface water rights have objected to the new water plan for Subdistrict No. 1, he said. Their objection will lead to a trial in water court.

a court case to get out of allows unique plants and Subdistrict No. 1 and develop their own augmentation plan, which will are critical parts of a also go to court.

One Rotary member asking, "Where does the Division [of Water Resources] stand on that?"

As a general statement, Cotten said, any time anyone wants to change a right owned by the Great water right, (taking water out of the Valley would clearly be a change), they have to go to water court where, initially, the Divifor "about 12 years" to get down wells would dev- acts as the court's engi-

"We advise the court proved or denied."

Cotten added that, if of our consultation role into a former opposer role and become a party to the case. The injury part

In a further illustration, Cotten brought up the Great Sand Dunes which has a water right "that says they have to hold water in the ground to a certain elevation or the sand will blow away."

A brief article on the nps.gov/grsa website related to hydrology in the scribes the situation in more detail. "As in our own bodies" the website reads, "water is the glue that holds this complex system together, through flowing streams, wet-SWAG has also filed lands, and moisture that animals to survive in the sand. [These streams] huge natural system that shapes and maintains the Great Sand Dunes as we know them today."

With the statute that requires sustaining the aquifers in the San Luis Valley plus the water Sand Dunes that must be used to hold water in the ground, Cotten summarized his point by saying, "Taking water out of hurtle."

Good news, bad mood

By STEVEN ROBERTS

As the new year dawns, the American economy is in good shape. But the public is in a bad mood. That contradiction dominates our political life, and how voters untangle their feelings over the next 10 months could well decide the election in November.

The only real certainty is uncertainty. "Things are getting better and people think things are going to get worse — and that's the most dangerous piece of this," Democratic pollster Celinda Lake told the Associated Press. "Honestly, I'm kind of mystified by it."

The statistics are, in fact, mystifying. "By many measures, the U.S. economy is rock solid," reports the AP. Almost 200,000 jobs were created last month, reducing the unemployment rate to 3.7%. Inflation over the last year has dropped from 9.1% to 3.2%, and the economy seems headed for a "soft landing" without a recession. The Federal Reserve foreshadows future interest rate cuts, fueling a stock market boom.

And yet, gloom persists. Navigator Research polled voters in key congressional districts and found only 26% viewed the economy positively while 73% were negative. In a CNBC survey, only 33% approved of Biden's handling of the economy, with 62% giving him poor marks.

So, what gives? Start with the persistent, and poisonous, impact of inflation — always the most damaging of all political issues. As the economic writer Annie Lowery put it in the Atlantic in 2022, "Inflation is an everyone problem and unemployment is a some-people problem."

Much attention has focused on fuel prices, for good reason, but the real Ground Zero in the inflation war is the grocery store, not the gas station. The Atlantic conducted a na-



tional survey, trying to pinpoint the real cause of voter unhappiness, and reported: "When the results came in, one finding jumped off the screen: Americans are really, really unhappy about grocery prices.'

Yes, those prices have settled down, but they have stabilized at much higher levels than before the pandemic. And that gap, that memory, is killing voter confidence. "Collectively, there's still this coming to grips with the idea that we're never going back to 2019," explained Joanne Hsu, director of consumer surveys at the University of Michigan. "We're in a new normal now, and we're still adjusting to what that new normal feels like."

Economists agree there is always a lag time before perceptions catch up with reality, and that's what Democratic strategists are counting on. As Jared Bernstein, Biden's chief economic adviser, tells AP: "We just need more time to get these gains to working Americans -- that's our plan."

But lingering price hikes are only part of the problem. Many households are feeling the loss of emergency pan-

demic relief payments, plus high interest rates are aggravating credit card debt and delinquency rates are soaring.

Moreover, as a messenger of good news, Biden faces many obstacles. Polarization is so deep that many Republicans simply refuse to believe the facts. New York magazine raises the possibility that the economic turmoil during Biden's first two years in office "poisoned his image as an economic manager."

No one has ever described Biden as an eloquent or inspirational leader, and he's thrashing around for a message that works. "Bidenomics" has fallen flat as a campaign slogan. Lately the president has started blaming others for his failure to change opinion — the news media for being too negative, big corporations for "price gouging," Donald Trump for handing him an economic mess.

"You can't jawbone people into feeling better," Democratic political strategist David Axelrod warned on CNN.

The lingering economic effects of the pandemic, while serious, don't fully University.

To submit news, email: news@alamosanews.com To submit sports, email: khamrick@alamosanews.com

Letters policy

Letters are welcome and encouraged. All letters submitted for publication in the Valley Courier must be typewritten, signed by the author, and must include a phone number and address where the author can bereached. 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."

explain the disconnect between fears and facts. There's something else going on. The larger impact of the pandemic goes well beyond prices. It has damaged our national confidence, our ability to believe in the future. Democratic pollster Jay Campbell said on CNBC, "people have this continued malaise about them" and added, "The fact is, bad news and difficult times stick with people much longer than good news and happy times."

"People still seem rattled and disconnected by the shock of the pandemic," Claudia Sahm, former Federal Reserve economist, tells AP. "People have really been jerked around. Things have been turned on and off. Everything has moved fast. It's been disruptive and confusing. We're just tired."

The problem for Joe Biden is that he seems tired, too. Can he summon the energy, and the message, to change the national mood? To lift our spirits? To restore confidence in ourselves?

Steven Roberts teaches politics and journalism at George Washington

Legislators need a lawsuit diet

By MARK HILLMAN Capitol Review

Businesses that fuel Colorado's economic engine can't be blamed for cringing at the specter of the Colorado legislature's return this month. Plaintiffs lawyers, however, are not cringing. Instead, the people who pay to put their faces on billboards along our busiest highways are licking their chops. Last year, lawmakers went on a lawsuit binge, introducing a record 25 bills that used private lawsuits for enforcement, rather than entrusting enforcement to a government agency. According to the Common Sense Institute, 43 similar bills have been introduced since 2019.Using litigation for enforcement violates the constitutional separation of powers. As most of us learned in school, the legislative branch writes the laws, the executive branch enforces the law, and the judicial branch applies or interprets the law. Enforcement agencies are accountable to our elected officials; that's why enforcement of state laws is typically their responsibility. Billboard lawyers, by contrast, are accountable to no one except their clients, and both are given an incentive to sue by this misguided legislation. Lawsuits should be a last resort, used when all other options are exhausted. Instead, private lawsuits make litigation a primary means of enforcement. A business owner's first formal notification of a complaint shouldn't be when served with a lawsuit.

injury or damages certainly have their enforcement lawsuits are a different mechanism entirely. Instead of solving a dispute involving actual damages,

ing parties resolve disputes involving ment lawsuits allow billboard lawyers should halt the lawsuit binge and use to use the force of government against place in our civil justice system. Private businesses for their own profit. When their client does win, the lawyer typically receives up to 40% of the damages.

laws that use private lawsuits for en- one of the most stable litigation cliforcement encourage litigation by creat- mates in the nation. That didn't mean laws were stacked in favor of business. monetary or liquidated damages that Instead, laws were written by the legislature and applied by the courts in such a way as to make the outcome predictable for both plaintiffs and defendants. Predictability creates a bright-line standard of expected conduct which discourages unsafe practices or products, protects businesses that operated on the bright side of that line, and rewards legitimate victims when businesses cross into shady conduct. As recently as 2010, Colorado was among the ten best states in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Lawsuit Climate Survey. Now, Colorado is one of the mostexpensive states for litigation. U.S. Chamber rates Colorado's tort system as ninth most-costly in the country at \$4,044 per household. That means Colorado residents are needlessly paying more for housing, transportation, health care, insurance and other basic household needs. A study for the American Tort Reform Association found that excessive litigation costs reduced personal income of Colorado residents by \$5.7 billion in 2020. Litigation has a legitimate purpose to resolve disputes when all else fails. This year's Colorado legislature

traditional means to enforce the laws it passes.

Former Senate Majority Leader Mark Twenty years ago, Colorado boasted Hillman is executive director of Colorado Civil Justice League (www.ccjl.org).

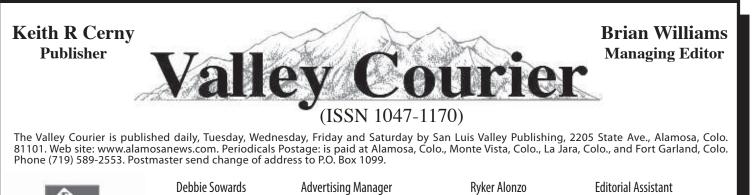
Traditional lawsuits in which oppos-

ing "magic damages" — newly-defined would not otherwise exist. These magic damages are merely fines by another name, but rather than being enforced by a government agency, they provide a financial incentive for a billboard lawyer to file a lawsuit.

Private lawsuit enforcement bills typically include one-way fee-shifting ("loser pays," but only for one side, the plaintiff). Successful defendants rarely recover their costs, so it's a lose-lose scenario for businesses who always bear the cost of their own defense, even when they've done nothing wrong, but can be ordered to pay the plaintiffs' costs, as well.

Such laws also tend to set up legal presumptions that business defendants are at fault or deprive them of meaningful legal defenses. Instead, businesses deserve the assumption that they intended to comply with the law unless ill-intent or habitual bad behavior can be proven.

With all of these legal advantages, it's no wonder billboard lawyers favor these bills. Handing the force of government over to a private attorney is intimidating to the Colorado business or individual facing such a lawsuit. Private enforce-



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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

Adams State water course is available for community and high school students

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — A thriving community needs people who understand the connection between water and pretty much everything else, including the environment, the economy, our food supply, and our future.

To help students and community members better understand the water challenges and opportunities in the San Luis Valley, Adams State University is again offering the emphasis on the Upper introductory Water 101: Rio Grande Basin. Par-Water Essentials: How Water Works in the West course for the spring 2024 semester.

Water 201 will be taught by Kevin Boyle of the Colorado Division of Water Resources. He brings his deep knowledge and understanding

of water to the program. can register to audit Wa-Kevin is teaching the course in order to

help students and the community members Adams State University to broad - 🚺

en their knowledge of the legal framework rounding water. He hopes that course participants will gain a working knowledge of how water resources are administered in Colorado with an ticipants will join Adams State students to learn and civic participation for directly from experts, local water users and managers. Field trips will provide hands-on understanding of regional water use on the ground. Classes begin Jan. 16. Community members their school counselor.

ter 101 as a "Listening Course" for \$150 for the full semester. For more information, including how regiso ter. email

Great Stories Begin Here pdcus tomerser-

sur- vice@adams.edu. The water

studies classes are designed to: •

Prepare students for challenges that lay ahead,

 Enhance professional development across diverse career paths, and

Increase community a sustainable future.

In addition to being available to Adams State students, high schools can enroll in this course as a concurrent class, for early college credits, through Do you have a chronic wound that just won't heal? We provide comprehensive care to support the wound-healing process!

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Youth hockey tournament to take place in South Fork on Feb. 3

By LYNDSIE FERRELL

hockey tournament will on Feb. 3 in partnership with the Town of South Fork.

South Fork's new ice rink in Rickel Park is all set to host the inaugural Hockey on the Rio Youth Tournament from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 3. Youth hockey enthusiasts aged 14 and under can engage in 3-on-3 age brackets.

aged to bring chairs and each age group will reimmerse themselves in ceive a customized hock-SOUTH FORK — The the action while enjoy- ey puck and a picture in South Fork Chamber of ing bonfires warming the South Fork Tines," Commerce recently an- up the event. The tour- said new South Fork nounced the first youth nament promises more Chamber of Commerce than just hockey, with Administrator be held at Rickel Park live DJ entertainment, LeSueur. local restaurants offering hockey-themed specials Center will also host its throughout the day, and Saturday Skate Night a variety of attractions party after the tournaadding to the excitement.

"We want this to be a family centered event those who need them and we are excited to and sledding opportuniwelcome youth hockey ties dependent on snow. participants from Alamosa, South Fork and www.SouthForkCham-Creede. We will be play- ber.com or follow the gameplay across various ing a round-robin-style South Fork Chamber tournament with a 3-on- of Commerce Facebook Attendees are encour- 3 format. The winner of page.

Renee

The South Fork Visitor ment which will have bonfires, free skates for

For updates, visit

First DUI enforcement period of the year underway

By COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

It's officially the season of winter fun and powder ski days, but motorists are encouraged not to start their year on a downhill slope toward a DUI. From Jan. 11 to 24, the Colorado Department of Transportation will support the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) and 69 local law enforcement agencies for the Winter Blitz DUI enforcement period. Patrols across the state will remove impaired drivers from roads and encourage Coloradans to begin the new year safely. During enforcement periods, drivers may see sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols, and additional law enforcement on duty dedicated to impaired driving enforcement.

Based on preliminary data, there were 218 impaired-related crash fatalities on Colorado roads in 2023, down from 286 last year. The 2023 number will likely increase slightly while data is finalized. The counties with the highest number of fatalities involving an impaired driver in 2023 were Arapahoe (26), Adams (22), El Paso (21) and Jefferson (20). Adams County has ranked

ties for impaired-related perts (DRE) in Colorado fatalities in the state trained to recognize imsince 2019. Additionally, pairment in drivers unthe Colorado Springs police department reported other than, or in addition 740 DUI arrests in 2023, the most of any other police department in the you're okay to drive, it's state. CSP reported a total of 1,101 DUI arrests across all 16 high-visibility enforcement periods.

Blitz enforcement period behind the wheel while resulted in over 370 DUI arrests," said Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "Don't risk losing your time, money, license or even your life because of a DUI. Even if you think Eve Weekend enforceyou're okay to drive, it's ment period concluded always better to plan for a sober ride. All motorists, passengers and pe- The agencies with the destrians are counting on highest arrests were Denyour decisions this year."

Driving under the influence of any impairing substance is illegal, not just alcohol. The majority of Colorado State Patrol troopers have specialized training in drug detection, known as ARIDE from Feb. 8 to 14. (Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement). All Colorado law enforcement agencies are able to administer alcohol and drug toxicology tests to drivers following local law enforcement a fatal DUI crash. Additionally, there are over codot.gov/safety/trafficamong the top three coun- 120 Drug Recognition Ex- safety-reporting-portal.

der the influence of drugs to, alcohol.

"Even if you think always better to get a ride with a sober driver," said CDOT's Office of Transportation Safety Director "Last year's Winter Darrell Lingk. "Getting under the influence puts others in danger and greatly increases the risk of a crash. There's never a good reason to drive impaired."

> The recent New Year's with 221 arrests across 82 participating agencies. ver Police Department (26), Thornton Police Department (15) and Colorado Springs Police Department (11). CSP reported 36 arrests. The next DUI enforcement period will be Super Bowl Weekend

> For yearly impaireddriving crash and fatality data in Colorado, visit www.codot.gov/safety/ traffic-safety/data-analysis/fatal-crash-data. For agency plans, visit www.

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Falcon wrestlers fly past Pirates 61-15

By KEN HAMRICK Courier sports editor

MONTE VISTA – The Intermountain League wrestling season opened on Thursday night as Monte Vista High School hosted Centauri, ranked ninth in Class 3A, at the Pirates' gym.

The Falcons proved their ranking as they rolled to a 61-15 victory.

"It was an impressive win," said Centauri coach Micah Keys. "The boys wrestled tough."

The Falcons took off to an early lead and never looked back.

MatthewSalazaropened the dual meet by pinning Stetson Romero in 1:26 at 106 pounds. Centauri took the next two matches by forfeit with Caden Casias (113) and Aundre Chavez (120) both recording wins.

Riley Valdez increased the Falcons' lead to 22-0 as he defeated Elijah Baumgardner by a 13-1 major decision at 126 pounds.

The Pirates got their first win of the night at 132 pounds as Ethan Wolfe pinned Aiden Knecht in 3:12.

The Falcons won the next two matches by fall. First Konnor Horton pinned Jon Enderle in 1:44 at 138 pounds, and Nathaniel Garcia pinned Deon Baumgardner in 2:59 at 144.



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

Monte Vista High School's Jeremiah Baumgardner (left) and Centauri's Parker Buhr battle for position in the 157-pound match Thursday at the Pirates' gym. Buhr won the match 2-1 and the Falcons defeated the Pirates 61-15.

Kevin Cisneros won the next match for Monte Vista as he recorded a 7-2 decision over Troy Munson at 150.

The 157-pound contest was a thriller as Parker Buhr scored a 2-1 decision over Jeremiah Baumgardner.

After a scoreless first period, Baumgardner recorded an escape in the second period. Buhr evened the score with an escape in the third and he was awarded another point after Baumgardner was called for excessive stalling penalties and it proved to be the match winner.

Another outstanding match was at 165 pounds with Spencer Smith defeating Jacob Pacheco. The first period was scoreless, but Pacheco led 3-2 after the second period. Smith evened the score at 6-6 after the third period and the match went into sudden victory. Smith pinned Pacheco in 6:41 to increase the Centauri lead to 43-9.

The final Pirate win came at 175 pounds as Julian Pacheco pinned Aaden Quintana in 3:17.

Centauri took the final three matches. First Dorian Quintana won by forfeit at 190, Josh Polkowske pinned Tyler Bartee in 1:30 at 215, and Skylar Montague pinned Joshua Salazar in 1:38 in the 285-pound match.

Both Centauri and

facing the New Mexico Ice

Here is the schedule:

Friday NM Ice White vs. SLVYHA, 5:15 p.m. El Paso vs. NM Ice Red, 6:45 p.m.

Saturday

White at 5:15 p.m.

Taos vs. NM Ice Red, 8:15 SLVYHA vs. El Paso, 9:45 p.m.

NM Ice Red vs. Taos, 1:15 p.m.

Monte Vista, as well as Alamosa, will compete in the Mel Smith Invitational in Florence beginning today.

"It's one of the toughest tournaments of the year,' Keys said. "We're trying to prep ourselves for that and I think we're ready. Centauri 61, Monte Vista 15

106 - Salazar (C) pinned Romero, 1:26; 113 - Casias (C) by forfeit; 120 -Chavez (C) by forfeit; 126 - Valdez (C) maj. dec. E. Baumgardner, 13-1; 132 Wolfe (MV) pinned Knecht, 3:12; 138 - Horton (C) pinned Enderle, 1:44; 144 - Garcia (C) pinned D. Baumgardner, 2:59; 150 - Cisneros (MV) dec. Munson, 7-2; 157 - Buhr (C) dec. J. Baumgardner, 2-1; 165 - Smith (C) pinned Ia. Pacheco, 6:41, SV: 175 - Ju. Pacheco (MV) pinned A. Quintana, 3:17; 190 - D. Quintana (C) by forfeit; 215 -Polkowske (C) pinned Bartee, 1:30; 285 Montage (C) pinned Salazar, 1:38.

First On the Mat wrestling rankings of 2024

By KEN HAMRICK

Courier sports editor ALAMOSA - Tim Yount released his fifth On the Mat high school boys wrestling rankings and the first of 2024 last Thursday.

A total of 29 grapplers from the San Luis Valley are mentioned.

Class 3A

Inj Class 3A, Centauri dropped from the fifth position to ninth while Alamosa has dropped out of the Top 10.

Mullen is the new top-ranked team, followed by Eaton, Jefferson, Brush, Valley, Fort Lupton, Gunnison, Severance, Centauri and Pueblo Central.

Alamosa

The Mean Moose have four wrestlers in the rankings. The list includes Jeremiah DeLaCerda who is fifth at 106, Anthony Griego who is fifth at 132, Uriah Martinez who is sixth at 120, and Dyson Woodward who is seventh at 138

Centauri

The Falcons have seven mentioned wrestlers. Leading the way is Josh Polkowske who is second at 190.

The rest of the ranked Centauri competitors include Matthew Salazar who is third at 106, Riley Valdez who is fourth at 126, Caden Casias who is sixth at 113, Spencer Smith who is eighth at 175, Aundre Chavez who is ninth at, 120, and Parker Buhr who is 10th at 150.

Class 2A

Center is the only SLV team in the Class 2A Top 10 as the Vikings rose from sixth to fifth.

Center

The Vikings have eight ranked wrestlers. The list includes Michael Archuleta who is second at 106, Martin Palma who is third at 165, Jordan Duran who is fourth at 113, Francisco Villa who is fifth at 126, Aaron Valadez who is fifth at 150, Jesus Valadez who is fifth at 175, Andre Meraz who is seventh at 157, and Caden Ruggles who is 13th at 150.

Monte Vista

There are six Pirates wreslters in the rankings. The ranked Monte Vista participants include Jeremiah Baumgardner who is second at 157, Kevin Cisneros who is fourth at 150, Jacob Pacheco who is fifth at 165, Elijah Baumgardner who is seventh at 132, Stetson Romero who is 11th at 106, and Ethan Wolfe who is 11th at 132.

Sargent

The Farmers have three ranked wrestlers including Garett Thomson who is 12th at 150, Matthew Voss who is 12th at 132, and Jaycian Sierra who is 13th at 138. Sierra Grande

The Panthers have one wrestler in the rankings in Diego Rodriguez who is 15th at 113.

Neither Del Norte nor Mountain Valley have any ranked wrestlers this week.

SLVYHA hosts tournament this week

By KEN HAMRICK *Courier sports editor* ALAMOSA – The San Luis Valley Youth Hockey Association is hosting an 18U tournament beginning today.

There are five teams in the tournament.

Sports

In addition to the SLVYHA, the remaining participating teams include El Paso (Texas) New Mexico Ice Red, New Mexico Ice White and Taos (N.M.).

The tournament begins today with the SLVYHA

(N.M.), 3 p.m. Custer County at Sangre de Cristo, 3:30 p.m. Centennial at Cotopaxi, 4 p.m. Center at Del Norte, 4 p.m. Lake City at Sierra Grande, 4 p.m. Moffat at Antonito, 5 p.m. Alamosa at Ignacio, 5:30 p.m. Centauri at Pagosa Springs, 5:30 p.m. Sargent at Creede, 6 p.m. **Prep girls swimming** Sargent at Durango, TBA Prep boys wrestling Alamosa, Centauri, Monte Vista at Florence Invitational, 9 a.m. Centauri JV, Center, Mountain Valley, Primero, Sargent at Mountain Valley Invitational, 9 a.m. **Prep girls wrestling** Alamosa at Palmer Ridge, 6 p.m. College men's basketball Adams State at Regis, 7 p.m. College women's basketball Adams State at Regis, 5 p.m. College men's wrestling Colorado Mesa at Adams State, 6 p.m. SATURDAY **Prep boys** basketball Las Animas at Center, noon Del Norte at Cotopaxi, 1 p.m. La Veta at Sargent, 1 p.m. Mancos at Sanford, 2 p.m. Moffat at Lake City, 2 p.m. Sierra Grande at Ch-

eraw, 2 p.m. Montezuma-Cortez at Alamosa, 3 p.m. Bayfield at Centauri. 4 p.m. Creede at Antonito, 5 p.m. Trinidad at Centennial, 5 p.m. **Prep girls** basketball Las Animas at Center, noon Del Norte at Cotopaxi, 1 p.m. La Veta at Sargent, 1 p.m. Montezuma-Cortez at Alamosa, 1:30 p.m. Mancos at Sanford, 2 p.m. Moffat at Lake City, 2 p.m. Sierra Grande at Cheraw, 2 p.m. Bayfield at Centauri, 2:30 p.m. Creede at Antonito, 5 p.m. Trinidad at Centennial, 5 p.m. Prep girls swimming Sargent at Durango, TBA **Prep boys wrestling** Alamosa, Centauri, Monte Vista at Florence Invitational, 9 a.m. Antonito, Center, Del Norte, Mountain Valley, Sargent at Custer County Invitational, 9 a.m. **Prep girls wrestling** Alamosa, Monte Vista, Mountain Valley at Vista Ridge Invitational, 9 a.m. College men's basketball Adams State at Colorado-Colorado Springs, 7 p.m. College women's basketball Adams State at Colorado-Colorado

Springs, 5 p.m.

El Paso vs, NM Ice White, 2:45 p.m. SLVYHA vs. Taos, 4:15 p.m. NM Ice White vs. NM Ice Red, 5:45 p.m. Taos vs. El Paso, 7:15 p.m. NM Ice Red vs. SLVYHA, 9 p.m. Sunday Third place game, 8 a.m. Championship, 10 a.m.



Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD TUESDAY **Prep boys** basketball Sargent 61, Dolores 48 Prep girls basketball Pueblo County 35, Alamosa 24 Sargent 64, Dolores

16

THURSDAY **Prep girls** basketball Crested Butte at Creede - no report Prep boys wrestling Alamosa, La Junta at Florence - no report Centauri 61, Monte Vista 15 Sargent, Sierra Grande/Centennial at La Veta - no report

SCHEDULE FRIDAY **Prep boys** basketball Sanford at Escalante (N.M.), 3 p.m. Custer County at Sangre de Cristo, 3:30 p.m. Centennial at Cotopaxi, 4 p.m.

Center at Del Norte, 4 p.m. Moffat at Antonito, 5 p.m. Sargent at Creede, 6 p.m. Alamosa at Ignacio, 7 p.m. Centauri at Pagosa Springs, 7 p.m. **Prep girls** basketball

Sanford at Escalante

CULL

Sundays 12 p.m. - 7 p.m., 20 players are drawn to receive \$100* cash and \$100* in Bonus Cash. If a winner is not found, the prize will roll over to the following drawing.

*Rules apply. Visit Ohkay Winners Club for complete details.



Every Tuesday, earn 100 points and Pick Your Prize!* Earn 200 points and collect another prize. Choose \$20 Bonus Cash*, a \$20 gas voucher*, or a gift. Available at any kiosk.

*Prizes are limited.

Saturdays, be one of ten (10) players drawn to win \$250* cash and \$250* Bonus Cash, and two players will qualify for the BIG BUCKS grand prize drawing of \$25,000* on March 30, 2024! Good Luck!

*Rules apply. Visit Ohkay Winners Club for complete details.

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Valley Courier

Public Notices

NOTICE

Notice of Request for Bids to Source and Install a Variable Frequency Drive (VFD). Subdistrict No. 3 of the Rio Grande Water Conservaiton District is seeking bids to source and install a VFD on a well it owns just north of Antonito, CO. Bidders should itemize bids and should include the costs to: 1) Source a 3 phase VFD that would ac commodate a 200 hp motor, plus all required connections, 2) Repair and/or replace all disconnects, as needed, and 3) Install the VFD at the well (as opposed to the power source). Bids should also include a description of the VFD, the equipment to be used, and the bid-der's qualifications. The Subdistrict will be responsible for all costs associated with the completed installation of the VFD. The Subdistrict reserves the right to accept the bid it deems most accurate for the scope of work proposed. To schedule a site visit or to answer fur-ther questions and/or get more details please contact Angelo Bellah at 719-589-6301 or angelo@rgwcd.org. Proposals will be accepted through January 15th, 2024, and may be submitted in person or by mail to 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO, 81101, or by e-mail

No. 3725. Published in the Valley Courier on December 19, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29, 30, 2023, January 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, & 13, 2024

District Court Coneios County, Colorado

Court Address: 6683 County Road 13, Conejos, CO 81128 Date Filed: August 11, 2023 11:52 AM

X The Marriage of: The Civil Union of: Parental Responsibilities concerning:

Petitioner: Denise Tucker a.k.a. Harvey

Petitioner: Denise Tucker a.k.a. Harvey and Co-Petitioner/Respondent: Milton Alexander Harvey COURT USE ONLY Case Number: 2023DR17 Division/Courtroom

Party Without Attorney (Name and Address)

Denise Harvey

750 Juniper

Sanford, CO 81151 Phone Number: 435-849-1694

E-mail tingryphon@outlook.com

SUMMON FOR REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN DECREE

To the _Petitioner X Co-Petitioner/Respondent named above This Summons serves as a notice to appear or respond in this case. If you were served in the State of Colorado and if you wish to respond to the Petition, you must file your Response with the clerk of this Court within 21 days after this Summons is served on you.

If you were served outside the State of Colorado and if you wish to respond to the Petition, you must file your Response with the clerk of this Court within 35 days after this Summons is served on you. You may be required to pay a filing fee with your Response. The Re-sponse form (JDF 1315) can be found at www.courts.state.co.us by clicking on the "Self Help/Forms" tab.

The Petition requests that the Court have jurisdiction over the subject matter and of the person in like manner as if the original suit or action

had been commenced in Colorado. Once the orders, judgments and decrees are entered by this Court, either party may use the jurisdiction of this Court to modify, enforce,

or to request new orders. If you fail to file a Response in this case, the above matter may be decided without further notice to you.

Date 8/11/2023 /s/

Brooke Valdez

X Signature of the Clerk of Court Deputy

Signature of the Attorney for the Petitioner (if any) No. 3726.

Published in the Valley Courier on December 20, 27, 2023, January 3, 10, & 17, 2024.

NOTICE OF STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

The San Luis Valley Canal Company NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual meeting of the Stock holders of the San Luis Valley Canal Company is called for and will be held at the Mosca Community Church Annex in the Town of Mosca, County of Alamosa, State of Colorado on Saturday, January 13, 2024, commencing at the hour of 11:00 o'clock a.m. for the purpose of certification of proxies, with the business meeting to commence promptly at 1:00 o'clock p.m. for the following purposes:

1. Levying of an assessment for operation expenses for 2024; and, The election of two (2) directors to serve for a term of three years

and, 2. The transaction of such other business as may come before such

a meeting No. 3730.

Published in the Valley Courier on January 5 & 12, 2024

ALAMOSA COUNTY

ALAMOSA COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held be-fore the Alamosa Planning Commission on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 6:00 PM and again before the Alamosa Board of County Commissioners on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 8:30 AM, in the Alamosa County Services Center, 8900 Independence Way, Ala-mosa, Colorado for the purpose of considering an application for a Replat and Minor Subdivision submitted by Daniel Russell on prop-erty currently identified as Parcels 541318300235, 541318100228 and 541319200133. The applicant is proposing to replat and divide the existing three tracts totaling ~102.67 acres into eight tracts comprising Tract 1 of 35.08 acres, Tracts 2 through 6 of 5.00 acres each, Tract 7 of 5.62 acres and Tract 8 of 36.17 acres. These properties are within the Rural (RU) zone district. RUSSELL TRACT Beginning at the West Quarter Corner of Section 18, thence S89°550'2°E a distance of 690.18 feet; thence S00°44'36°E a distance feet to the east line of said SW1/4; thence S00°44'06°E a distance of 2043.51 feet; thence S88°58'04'E a distance of 2036.689 feet to the east line of said SW1/4; thence S00°44'06°E a distance N88°58'04'W along the south line of said SW 1/4 a distance of 1599.17 feet; thence M13°22'50'W a distance of 103.25 feet; thences of

N88°58'04"W along the south line of said SW 1/4 a distance of 1599.17 feet; thence N13°22'50"W a distance of 103.25 feet; thence N88°58'04"W a distance of 605.88 feet to a point on the east rightof-way line of South 106 Road as described in Book 274 at Page 84 of the records of the Alamosa County Clerk and Recorder; thence following the arc of a curve to the left of said right-of-way a distance of following the arc of a curve to the left of said right-of-way a distance of 577.91 feet (Curve Data: Central Angle = 28°09'29"; Radius= 1175.92; Chord Bearing= N22'48'47"W; Chord Length= 572.11 feet; thence N36°58'05"W along said R-O-W a distance of 12.52 feet; thence fol-lowing the arc of a curve to the right of said R-O-W a distance of 703.76 feet (Curve Data: Central Angle= 36°08'01"; Radius= 1115.92 feet; Chord Bearing= N18°54'05"W; Chord Length= 692.15 feet); thence S89°09'56"W a distance of 30.00 feet to the west line of Section 18; thence N00°50'04"W along said west line a distance of 1149.43 feet, to the True Point of Beginning, containing 47.63 acres, more or less. AND SUBJECT TO any and all exiting easements including but not limited to an easement for the existing South 106 Road and the 60-foot wide access easement to the Bachus Pit described as follows: A 60 foot wide non-exclusive access and utility easement connecting A 60 foot wide non-exclusive access and utility easement connecting the South 106 Road with the Bachus Pit, the centerline of said ease-ment is described as follows: Beginning at a point on the east line of said South 106 Road from which the West Quarter Corner of Section 18 bears N07°39'47"W a distance of 252.32 feet; thence N89°09'56"E a distance of 72.14 feet; thence following the arc of a curve to the right (Curve Data: Central Angle= 46°10'07"; Radius= 300.00 feet; Chord Bearing= S67°45'01"E; Chord Length= 235.25 feet) a distance of 241.74 feet; thence S44°39'57"E a distance of 643.73 feet to the west line of the Bachus Pit parcel. ABSMEIER TRACT

NEWS BELEASE

TOWN OF BLANCA THREE BLANCA TRUSTEE SEATS UP FOR ELECTION IN APRIL Blanca will hold an election for three trustees on April 2, 2024. Anyone over the age of

18 by the date of the election and who is a registered voter and has resided within the town limits of Blanca for at least consecutive 12 months is eligible to

run for any of the positions Nomination petitions can be picked up at Town Hall, 601 Main Street,

beginning on January 2, 2024. Candidate's packets will also include the election calendar and

instructions for the process of getting on the ballot

Any Blanca resident, who wants to vote in the upcoming election and has not registered to vote, must do so by April 2, 2024. The Costilla County Clerk and

Recorder in San Luis will accept registrations during normal business hours

Absentee voter applications for the municipal election will be available at Town Hall beginning on January 2, 2024. Anyone applying for an absentee bal-

lot and mailing or taking the application to Town Hall can only vote using the absentee ballot. He/she will

not be allowed to vote at the polls on Election Day. The application 4:30 p.m. on March 29, 2024, and the absentee ballots must be

turned in by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day at Town Hall The incorporated limits of the Town of Blanca constitute the boundar-

ies of the municipal precinct for the purposes of Municipal Elections

No. 3742

Published in the Valley Courier on January 6 & 12, 2024.

ALAMOSA COUNTY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held before the Alamosa Planning Commission on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 6:00 PM and again before the Alamosa Board of County Commissioners on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 8:30 AM, in the Alamosa County Services Center, 8900 Independence Way, Alamosa, Colorado for the purpose of considering an application for a Minor Subdivision submitted by Preston Porter of Alamosa Storage, LLC on

property currently identified as Parcels 528735400028. The applicant is proposing to develop divide the existing 9.5 acre tract into three lots, being Tract 3A of 3.22 acres, Tract 3B of 3.14 acres, and Tract 3C of 3.14 acres.. This property is in the Rural (RU) zone district.

The legal description of the property is: Tract 3, Mr. Peat Division of Land, the plat of which was recorded June 12, 2003 at Reception No

212278, County of Alamosa, State of Colorado Details regarding this application are available for public inspection in the Alamosa County Land

Use Office at 8999 Independence Way Suite 100 during regular office hours or at (719) 589-3812. **Richard Hubler**

Land Use Administrator Alamosa County No. 3749

Published in the Valley Courier on January 12, 2024.

ALAMOSA COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held be-fore the Alamosa Board of County Commissioners on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 8:30 AM, in the Alamosa County Services Cen-ter, 8900 Independence Way, Alamosa, Colorado for the purpose of considering an application by RWE Clean Energy, LLC to permit the construction and operation of an approximately 96-megawatt battery energy storage system (BESS) on a 17.5 acre site located on prop-erty identified as parcels 500928200067 & 500928100064. This activity is regulated by Alamosa County HB1041 Regulations, Chapter 6: Regulations for Site Selection and Construction of Major Facilities of a Public Utility.

The legal description of the property is: The NW 1/4 and the NE 1/4 of Section 28, T40N, R9E, N.M.P.M., County of Alamosa, State of Colorado.

Details regarding this application are available for public inspection in the Alamosa County Land Use Office at 8999 Independence Way Suite 100 during regular office

hours. Questions can be addressed to Richard Hubler at 719-589-3812 extension 1541 or by email to rhubler@alamosacounty.org. **Richard Hubler**

Land Use Administrator Alamosa County

No. 3750 Published in the Valley Courier on January 12, 2024.

NOTICE

is hereby given that a proposed Supplemental 2023 budget has been submitted to the Board of Directors of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District.

That a copy of such proposed supplemental budget is filed in the office of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District located at 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101, where same is open for public inspection. That such proposed supplemental budget will be considered at a meeting of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board of Directors at the Rio Grande Water Conservation District. 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO, 81101 on January 16, 2024, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Any interested elector within said Rio Grande Water Conservation District may inspect the proposed supplemental budget and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the supplemental budget. No. 3752

Published in the Valley Courier on January 12, 2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR CON-STRUCTION MANAGER/GENERAL CONTRACTOR SERVICES Alamosa County is requesting Statements of Qualifications and ProAlamosaBridge.com







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719.587.3514

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Independent & Assisted Living

ABSMEIEH THACT Beginning at a point from which the West Quarter Corner of said Section bears N89°55;02"W a distance of 690.18 feet; thence S89°55'02"E a distance of 2006.96 feet to the Center Quarter Corner of said Section 18; thence S00°44'06"E along the east line of said SW1/4 a distance of 700.07 feet; thence N89°55'02"W a distance of 1929.95 feet; thence S00°04'58"W a distance of 1344.95 feet, thence N89°56'04"W a distance of 730.07 feet; thence N89°55'02"W a distance of N88°58'04"W a distance of 87.01 feet; thence N00°04'58"E a dis tace of 2043.51 feet to the True Point of Beginning, containing 35.02 acres, more or less. TOGETHER WITH and subject to a 60 foot wide non-exclusive ac-

cess and utility easement connecting the South 106 Road with the above described parcel, the centerline of said easement is described above described parker, intervention of said easements beschoed as follows: Beginning at a point on the east line of said South 106 Road from which the West Quarter Corner of Section 18 bears N07°39'47"W a distance of 252.32 feet; thence N89°09'56"E a dis-tance of 72.14 feet; thence following the arc of a curve to the right (Curve Data: Central Angle= 46°10'07"; Radius= 300.00 feet; Chord Bearing= S67°45'01"E; Chord Length= 235.25 feet) a distance of 241.74 fort theore 6448/2015T"E 241.74 feet; thence S44°39'57"E a distance of 643.73 feet to the west line of the above described parcel. HEERSINK TRACT

HEERSINK TRACT Beginning at the Northwest Corner of said E1/2NW1/4NW1/4 of Section 19 from which the Northwest Corner of Section 19 as said corner is shown on the U.S. Resettlement Administration Survey of Waverly District, being the same as the Northeast Corner of Section 24, Township 37 North, Range 9 East of said survey, monument-ed by a 30° long #6 rebar with a 3.25° aluminum cap set by PLS No. 38317, bears N88°58'04"W a distance of 664.13 feet; thence S88°58'04"E with the north line of said Northwest Quarter of said Section 19 a distance of 664.12 feet to the Northwest corner of said S1/2NW1/4NW1/4 being the same as the northwest corner of said S1/2NW1/4NW1/4 being the same as the northwest corner of the E1/2NW1/4NW1/4 being the same as the northwest corner of the Gary Morgan Tract 15 as shown on the survey plat filed with the Ala-mosa County Surveyor's Records under Reception No. 311; thence S00°22'50"W with the east line of said E1/2NW1/4NW1/4 and the west line of said E1/2NW1/4NW1/4 and a corner of said Tract 15; thence North Sar Sorregical E1/2NW1/4NW1/4 and a corner of said Tract 15; thence North Sar Sorregical E1/2NW1/4NW1/4 (ANW1/4 (ANW1/4 (ANW1/4 (ANW14 (ANW thence N89°0243"W with the south line of said E1/2NW1/4NW1/4 and the boundary of said Tract 15 a distance of 664.02 feet to the southwest corner of said E1/2NW1/4NW1/4; thence N00°22'36"E with the west line of said E1/2NW1/4NW1/4 and the boundary of said Tract 15 a distance of 371.93 feet to the point of intersection with the east line of the Gaither Tract as described in the deed recorded under Reception No. 250172 in the office of the Abreace County Clark and Reception No. 359172 in the office of the Alamosa County Clerk and Recorder; thence N21°2146°E with said Gaither Tract and Sason of the Namosa County Clerk and Recorder; thence N21°2146°E with said Gaither Tract a distance of 317.30 feet to the northeast corner of said Gaither Tract a distance of 51520°W with the north line of said Gaither Tract a distance of 112.89 feet to the west line of said E1/2NW1/4NW1/4 and the south-east corner of Tract 1 of the Russell Home Tract Replat as shown east conter of match of the Russel notine fract replat as shown on the plat recorded under Reception No. 378211 in the office of the Alamosa County Clerk and Recorder; thence N00°22'36°E with the west line of said E1/2NW1/4NW1/4 and the east line of said Tract 1 a distance of 672.50 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 20.02 acres, more or less, being subject to any and all existing easements including but part limited to: including but not limited to:

1. An easement near the north line of Section 19 for an existing buried

 An easement near the north line of Section 19 for an existing burled phone line near the north boundary.
An easement for the burled electric line and water line serving the Gaither property to the west.
The Well on this property is subject to the shared interest by the owners of the Gaither Tract as per the deed Recorded under Recep-tion by Group (1) tion No. 273663.

Together with the Right to use the 30 foot wide ingress, egress and buried utility easement as shown on that plat of the Russell Home Tract Replat as Recorded under Reception No. 378211.

Details regarding this application are available for public inspection in the Alamosa County Land

Use Office at 8999 Independence Way Suite 100 during regular office hours or at (719) 589-3812. Richard Hubler

Land Use Administrator Alamosa County No. 3748.

Published in the Valley Courier on January 12, 2024

project involving substantial renovations and alterations to the 13,000 sf Alamosa State Bank Building into offices for the 12th Judicial Dis-Companies interested in a formal copy of the Request for Proposa

should contact Don Spencer, A.I.A., Spencer Architecture Studio LLC by email at: rdspencer2017@mail.com. All questions concerning this solicitation must be addressed to the Architect by email only. Submissions will be due no later than 4:30 PM, Tuesday, February 6, 2024, Attn: Ms. Roni Wisdom, Alamosa County Administrator, 8900 -A Independence Way, Alamosa, Colorado, 81101 No. 3753

Published in the Valley Courier on January 12, 2024



CITY OF ALAMOSA is seeking a full-time WATER WASTEWA-

LICENSED PLUMB-**ER DOES** all types of plumbing & plumbing repairs. Quick service! Call anytime, weekends & evenings: 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593.



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ADAMS STATE UNI-VERSITY is looking for candidates to fill the position of BUDGET DIRECTOR within the Business and Finance department. You can apply here https://adams. wd1.my workdayjobs. com/en-US/ASU/de-tails/Budget-Director_ R183. We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, please reach out to our Human Resources de-partment 719-587-7990. (2/14/24)

CONEJOS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH is seeking a PART TIME COMMODITIES DIS-TRIBUTOR. 28 hrs/ week. Distributes com-modities, 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 cricci@ co.conejos.co.us. Inqui-ries call 719-274-4307 or 719-376-6799. EEOE. (1/20/24)

TER 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. Employ-er 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. Ap-

plication deadline - open

until filled. (1/31/24)



(3/15/24-monthlyAS)



221 -**HELP WANTED**

221 -**HELP WANTED**

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DIS-MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT TRICT is accepting applications for two SÉCONDARY SPE-CIAL 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) **EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR: RIO** GRANDE FARM PARK seeks Education Coordinator to empower the community through regenerative agriculture. Details at www.slvlocalfoods. org/jobs/. (1/16/24AS)

is accepting applications for full-time CUSTO-DIAN. This is a full-time position with ben-efits. Preference will be given to applicants with maintenance experi-ence. 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 pack-age 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/ employmentopportuni-ties by January 25, 2024 or until the position is filled. For application questions, contact the District Administration Office at 719-852-5996.

(1/31/24)MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PERSON, or TEAM, wanted for a 12 unit apartment complex in DEL NORTE, CO. Duties include but not limited to office paperwork, cleaning, minor plumbing, minor electrical, drywall repair, painting, and grounds keeping. Fax or email a letter of interest and/or resume to 712-274-1230 or nnieman@landmarkmanage-ment.com Equal Employment Opportunity. (1/13/24AS)

CITY OF ALAMOSA is accepting VOLUN-TEER FIREFIGHT-ER applications. As a volunteer member of Alamosa Fire & Rescue, you will have the honor of serving your community in emergency situations. Ad-ditionally, 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. (2/14/24)

221 -

HELP WANTED

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applica-tions for a ROUTE DRIVER FOR STU-DENTS WITH SPE-CIAL 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. Applica-tions 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. (1/31/24)

seeking a full-time COM-MUNITY SERVICE OF-FICER. Hiring pay is \$21.59 to \$22.67 per hour DOQ. Fringe benefits include CO PERA Retirement employer contribu-tion 14.73% & employee tion 14.73% & employee contribution is 9.00%, or Empower 401K, 10% match, 11.5 holidays per war 2 personal days, 80 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 de-scription and to apply visit cityofalamosa.org or stop by City Hall at 300 Hunt Ave. The City of Alamosa provides Equal Oppor-tunity Employment for accommodations please submit them in writing with the application. Application deadline - open until filled. (1/19/24AS) **1ST SOUTHWEST** BANK, a locally owned CDFI community bank, is seeking a MARKET-ING and COMMUNICA-TIONS SPECIALIST. FSWB offers competitive compensation, generous benefits, & career development. Join FSWB's award-winning team dedicated to supporting rural Colorado's agricul-tural, nonprofit and small businesses. For details and to apply, visit fswb. bank/about/careers. EOE. (1/12/24AS)

221 -

HELP WANTED

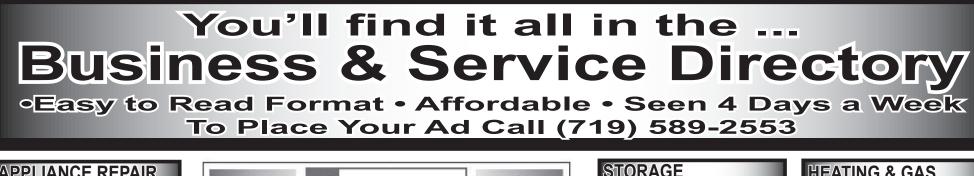
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360 - MISC.

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410 -

AUCTIONS

AUCTION. STOR-

AGE UNITS; 1824

State Ave #136, ALA-

MOSA, CO 81101. Jan-uary 13, 2024, at 10:00 AM. (1/13/2024AS)

AUCTION. STOR-AGE UNITS; 2049 Mullins Ave, ALA-MOSA, CO 81101. January 20, 2024. #4 at 10:00 AM, #62 at 11:00 AM, #181 at 12:00 PM

(2/10/24)

WONDERFUL

221 -**HELP WANTED**

CENTER FOR RE-STORATIVE PRO-GRAMS 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 enforce ment, 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 organiza-tional/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 week-ends. Spanish speaking a plus. FOR BOTH POSI-TIONS: 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 DE-PARTMENT. 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 du-ties. 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 customcommunication 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 dead-line is until positions are filled. (1/23/24AS) ALAMOSA HOUS-ING AUTHOR-**ITY** is seeking a qualified individual for a full time MAINTE-NANCE LABOR-ER. 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 pack-age. Wage is determined upon experience. Apply at Alamosa Housing Authority, 213 Murphy Drive. Job will close on January 22, 2024. (1/12/2024AS)

221 -**HELP WANTED**

DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATION: Local, well-respected nonprofit agency seeking individual to recruit, train, and place community volunteers and service groups to as-sist 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. Sal-ary \$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)

MELANZANA IS NOW hiring for full-time SEWING MA-CHINE OPERATORS, FABRIC CUTTERS, and a SEWING MA-CHINE MECHANIC for our new manufacturing facility in AL-AMOSA. 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 VOLLEY-**BALL 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 asvided. Must have clean sistant coach at the high driving record, CDL is school or college level a plus. Must pass drug is preferred. Must postest and background check. Must have stable sess: 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 Świtch; Madden NFL & NBA 2K on PS4. Please complete our coach application found on our website, urtigers.co please contact Gibbs Sanchez, Athletic Director, at: gsanchez@urtigers.co 719-657-4020; or Annie Hardy, Principal, at: ahardy@urtigers. co , 719-657-4020 for further information. (1/23/24AS)

HEAD FOOTBALL COACH needed at DEL NORTE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL. The coach's responsibilities include: leading training sessions, providing motivation and advice during gameplay, developing game plans, and attending tryouts, as well as scheduling team meetings. The coach should be able to identify the individual abilities of each player and provide one-to-one coaching wherever required. The coach should demonstrate great love for the game of football, and be able to foster good sportsmanship in your players. Outstanding candidates are highly motivated, committed, disciplined, and patient. We are looking for the following abili-ties in our Coach: experience as a football coach or assistant coach at the high school or college level is pre-ferred. Must possess: effective coaching techniques and skills; a thorough knowledge of the rules, regulations, strategies, and

221 -

HELP WANTED

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)

DELOSS INDUS-TRIESIN ALAMOSA is Hiring Full-Time, 40 Hours Per Week Wages 24 to 40 Dollars Per Hour. Looking to hire: EQUIPMENT MECHANICS, ME-CHANICS HELPER, WELDERS and MA-CHINIST. The mechanics helper will be pared 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 ex-perience. Tools are pro-

AM, #181 at 12:00 PM. (1/20/2024AS) AUCTION. STOR-AGE UNITS; 131 Price #22, ALAMO-SA, 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, ANTONI-TO. 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/subdistrictno-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)

701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

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



Save on Fuel Shop Locally



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 -



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

324 - SEED & FEED NATIVE GRASS

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

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

345 -WOOD

THANK YOU, VAL-LEY COURIER. I SOLD MY WOOD SPLITTER! Frank. FIREWOOD FOR

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



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



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



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

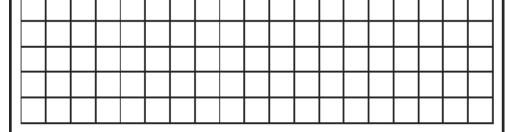


601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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



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



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MAKE TIME FOR FAMILY READING

You'll find fun and informative news and features on a wide range of topics. Plus, reading the newspaper with your children helps them understand what's happening in the world and how it affects them.

Valley Courier

For Subscription Information, call 589-2553

ALLEY, DID YOU STILL WANT TO

HEAR ABOUT HOW I

GET PLEAS OPP A

STEGOSAURUS

YOU KNOW I DO,

SKRAK!

(E)

YOU MIGHT BE A VERY GOOD

ISTENER, BUT IF YOU NEVER SAY ANYTHING, HOW DO I KNOW?

THAT'S WHERE I

THINK YOU'RE WRONG.

ALLEY, NOBODY WANTS

TO HEAR ABOUT

SOMEONE ELSE'S DOB.



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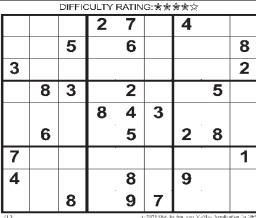
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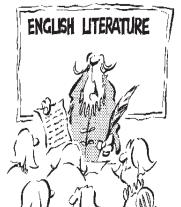
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SUDOKU



HERMAN



ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



BIG NATE



MAY SIGH* HAVE COME AT A BAD ANYTHING. TIME

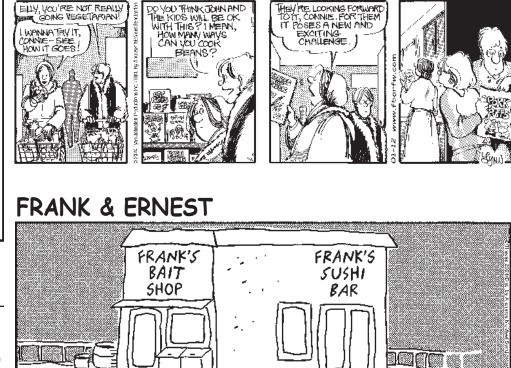
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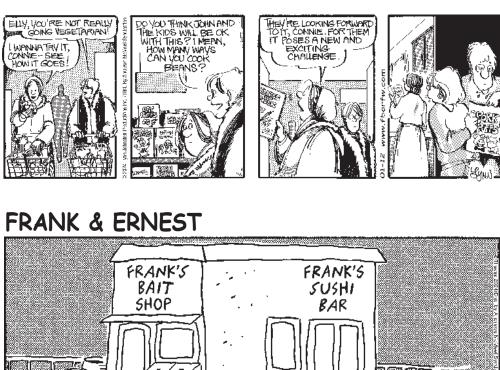




FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE









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	HERMAN
1-12	ClaughingStock Licensing Inc., Dis., by Ancrews McMeel Syndication, 2024
	"Shakespeare, did your father help

you with this homework?"

Abused spouse believes time to escape is near

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my abusive husband for almost 30 years. I made several attempts to leave him, which resulted in him stalking me and threatening to seriously harm me and our children. Despite all his threats and abuse, I was forced to allow him to take our children unsupervised. I would end up going back so I could be present when he was around the children.

Our youngest just moved out and, surprisingly, my husband has calmed down. I am going to leave, and I'm looking for places out of state where he won't be able to find me. Honestly, I'm terrified. How do I move somewhere new and start over alone? -- ANONY-MOUS IN THE U.S.

DEAR ANONY-MOUS: Because you feel you may be in danger if you follow through with your plan to leave your abuser and start a new life, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline. Its toll-free phone number is: 800-799-7233. The people there can help you formulate a safe way to escape. I wish you good luck and a MUCH happier life

DEAR ABBY: I work nine hours a day in a mental health clinic talking to the clients and doing billing and collections among many other things. I love my job. The problem is that when I step outside to take a break, I want it to be my quiet time.

Most people say a quick "hi," and that's fine, but a man in the business downstairs from me comes out and chats every time. He calls me by the wrong name (which I have not corrected) and talks while I respond with the bare minimum to show I'm not interested. Is there a nice way to say I am not interested in his company while I am on break? --DECOMPRESSING IN WISCONSIN

DEAR DECOM-PRESSING: Yes, but it will take backbone on your part. The next time you see this person, tell him there are two things about you he needs to know. They are: Your name isn't "Joan," and when you take a break from the pressure of your job, you would like to do it ALONE.

DEARABBY: Mywife's sister died 14 months ago at the young age of 52. Since then, my brotherin-law has been texting and calling my wife constantly. He is grieving, and his alcohol problem has gotten worse. I have tried to be patient about their communication, but



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

I'm finding myself getting jealous. What's your ad-vice? -- BOTHERED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR BOTHERED: Have a talk with your wife about this. She is grieving the loss of her sister as well as trying to help her widowed brotherin-law. Put your jealousy aside, at least for now, and suggest she join a grief support group.

As to your brother-inlaw, understand that his drinking problem won't resolve itself until he admits he has one and decides to join a support group or to dry out in rehab. You would be within your rights to point that out to him, as long as you do it with compassion rather than anger.

GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS

