



Winter activities in western SLV offer winter fun

— Page 5



Panthers hold off ECA 47-45

— Page 6



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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

January 9, 2024

\$1

SLV Today

Alamosa Chamber's Keck chosen Class Advisor for IOM

CONTRIBUTED
WASHINGTON, D.C.— Institute for Organization Management, the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, chose Erin Keck, IOM, CEO of the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce, to serve as Class Advisor at Institute for Organization Management. Institute is an intensive week-long nonprofit leadership training program held Jan. 3-8 at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Ariz.

Since its commencement in 1921, the Institute program has been educating tens of thousands of association, chamber, and other nonprofit leaders on how to build stronger organizations, better serve their members and become strong business advocates.

Institute's Class Advisors play a pivotal role throughout the week, facilitating learning and building team spirit for their homerooms. Each advisor is an Institute graduate selected by the Board of Regents to serve as an on-site resource for participants.

"Class Advisors are essential to Institute's success," said Raymond P. Towle, IOM, CAE, vice president of Institute for Organization Management at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. "These volunteers not only help their individual classes make the most of their time at Institute, but they encourage group camaraderie prior to the program and keep the momentum alive after the week is over."

Institute for Organization Management is the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. It is the premier nonprofit professional development program for association and chamber professionals, fostering individual growth through interactive learning and networking opportunities.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business organization representing companies of all sizes across every sector of the economy. Our members range from the small businesses and local chambers of commerce that line the Main Streets of America to leading industry associations and large corporations.

SLV WEATHER

Sunny, Wind Chill 24/-4

Wed: Mostly Sunny, Breezy, Chance of snow overnight 31/1

Thurs: Chance of Snow, Partly Sunny 28/-13

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Felix charged with one count of accessory to sexual assault on a child



Mari Felix

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Mari Felix, Alamosa's County Clerk who was arrested on Dec. 21 related to allegations of sexual assault on a child, appeared in court on Jan. 4 where she was charged with one count of accessory to crime of sexual assault on a child by one in a position of trust. The charge

is a class five felony.

At the time of her arrest, Felix, 32, was accused of being complicit in the same alleged crimes for which her husband, Martin Felix-Lopez, 35, was arrested, including sexual assault on a child in a position of trust, a class three felony; unlawful sexual contact, a class four felony; child abuse, a class five felony; and sexual assault on a child,

a class three felony.

Mari Felix posted a \$60,000 cash surety or \$6,000 bond and was released on Dec. 23.

Those charges against Mari Felix have since been reduced to an accessory in committing the single class five felony.

According to Colorado Revised Statutes 18-1603, "a person is legally accountable as principle for the behavior of another

constituting a criminal offense if, with the intent to promote or facilitate the commission of the offense, he or she aids, abets, advises or encourages in planning or committing the offense." In other words, if a person is found to be complicit or an accessory in committing a crime, the penalty is the same as the person who committed the crime.

■ See **FELIX** page 3

Meet Freya Lynn, SLV's first baby of 2024

By SAN LUIS VALLEY HEALTH

ALAMOSA — San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center recently announced the Valley's youngest (and probably newest) resident.

Freya Lynn White came into this world on Jan. 2, weighing 6 pounds and 8 ounces, and was greeted by smiling mom and dad Leanna Taylor and Mark White. She had a little bit of a rough start and is currently in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Heartfelt thanks to those who donated to the New Year's Baby basket, including the OB Department, Kim Marquez Photography, Lucky Bamboo, Get Inked by Yolie, Coyote's Haircut, Woody's Q Sha,k and the Narrow Gauge Book Co-op.

And best wishes for the White family and baby Freya Lynn.



Photo courtesy of SLVRMC

The White family at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center in Alamosa. Pictured (left to right) are Mark White, father, Leanna Taylor, mother, and the little head peeking out from under the blanket, Freya Lynn White.



Vern Heersink

Alamosa County Commissioner Heersink in bid for re-election

ALAMOSA — County Commissioner Vern Heersink has issued this statement regarding his decision to seek re-election in Alamosa County: "After much contemplation, conversation and prayer, I have decided to run for a second term as Alamosa County Commissioner. This initial stint has truly been a learning experience and I am grateful to you all for the education.

"Reflecting on these recent years, I am comfortable with the work we've accomplished. I'm proud of the team we have at

the County and feel confident in their abilities to serve our community. I attempt to take in all the information available and make the best decision I can. I strive to be fair, unbiased, fiscally responsible and to listen.

"As we potentially move forward together, my hope is that Alamosa County will continue to be a place we all are invested in and work to make better.

I would appreciate your support as Alamosa County Commissioner District 3." Heersink can be reached at 719-588-3134.

Alamosa County Commissioners are scheduled to have their first meeting of the year on Wednesday

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa County Board of County Commissioners are scheduled to have their first meeting on Wednesday in their chambers at 8:30 a.m. The meeting is available on Zoom with meeting ID 270-314-6874.

On the agenda is a letter from the commissioners to the Colorado Department of Higher Education in support of matching funds for COSI County Scholarships. The grants for students at Adams State University and Trinidad State College are \$7,353.50.

A services order summary with DBT Transportation and Aviation Support for at the San Luis Valley Regional Airport for \$35,000 is on the agenda.

An agreement between the Alamosa County Assessor and Value West for professional services is on the agenda.

Colorado Department of Transportation Access Permit #523085 — Blue Spruce Ave, ■ See **COUNTY** page 3

The Alamosa Board of County Commissioners will meet on Wednesday at 8:30 a.m., in their chambers located at 8900 Independence Way in Alamosa.

Courier photo by John Waters



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Record

OBITUARIES

Teresa 'Tess' Carpenter



Former Mosca resident Teresa "Tess" Carpenter, 89, passed away peacefully on Jan. 5, 2024, at the San Luis Care Center in Alamosa.

Born in the small community of San Isabel, near Crestone, Colo., on July 14, 1934, she was one of 10 children to Edward King and Mary Felice Strossel King. Tess grew up in Crestone.

Tess went to school in Crestone/Moffat and graduated from Saguache High School in 1953.

Tess met Tad Carpenter, with the help of his mother, Trudy. They married on May 12, 1957, at the Hooper Baptist Church in Hooper, Colo., and lived on the Medano Ranch, and later the Zapata Ranch. The family lived on the ranch until the early 1980s, when they bought a farm on the Five Mile near Mosca. They enjoyed more than 60 years together, until his death in 2018.

For decades, Tess worked as a cook for the Sangre de Cristo Schools at the red brick elementary school in Hooper. She was well known for her cooking skills and made hot rolls almost every day and sometimes the students were treated to her cinnamon rolls. Both were hard to beat. She will be remembered not only for her talented cooking skills, but also for her amazing 'green thumb' as she grew her own flowers and planted them throughout the yard. Her favorite flower was the sunflower.

Her love of dogs lasted all of her life. She was fond of toy poodles and for a time bred them for sale. Her last dog was an adopted bichon frise, after the owner could no longer take care of it when in the nursing home.

She loved helping other people and befriended a number of older women in the community and checked in on them and helped them out with groceries and chores. She spent a great deal of time with her son Casey and was very fond of her only grandchild Paul.

Tess is survived by her children Casey Carpenter of Alamosa; Kimberly (Phil) Clark of Page, Ariz., and Kelly (Jeff)

Johnson of Monte Vista, Colo.; Grandson Paul (Ariana Edie) Clark of Alamosa, Colo.; her sisters Jo Benson, and Carol (John) Fear, both of Salida, Colo.; brother-in-law, Len (Jan) Carpenter of Fort Collins, Colo.; and cousin John (Alice) Leadbeater of Temple, Texas; as well as numerous nieces and nephews, family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and her siblings: Jack King, Robert "Bob" King, Isabelle "Izzy" Wooden, Emily Goehl, Edna Bennett, Pauline "Polly" Coombs and Jim King.

A visitation will be held from 12-1 p.m., followed by a Funeral Service 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, 2024, at the Rogers Family Mortuary, 404 Morris St., Monte Vista. Interment will follow services in the San Luis Valley Cemetery in Monte Vista. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the charity of your choice in her memory.

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

Martha Ruybal

Martha Ruybal (born Martha Jaramillo) on Aug. 9, 1936, peacefully passed away on Jan. 1, 2024, at the age of 88 in Alamosa, Colo. Martha was born in Mogote, Colo., and later settled in Alamosa.

Martha is survived by her beloved daughter Irene Gonzalez, as well as Larry Ruybal and Walter Sisneros, Jr. She will

also be deeply missed by her cherished grandchildren Marilynn Gonzalez, Bernie Gonzalez, Robert Gonzalez and her great-grandchildren Jessica Ortega, Charlie Ortega, David Gonzalez, Angel Sisneros, Jayson Cedillo, Stephanie Cedillo, Araya Sisneros, Mikeal Sisneros and Shawn Sisneros.

A Rosary will be held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Alamosa on Monday, Jan. 8, 2024, at 6 p.m.

A Mass of Resurrection will be held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Alamosa on Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024, at 10 a.m.

Interment will follow at the Alamosa Cemetery. Arrangements are under the care of Romero Valley Funeral Home.

MV City Manager Dennis speaks about projects in 2024

By MARIE MCCOLM MONTE VISTA — Monte Vista City Manager Gigi Dennis recently spoke about upcoming events, ideas, and new projects that the city is currently working on.

Dennis spoke of RERC, "We are working on the Recreational Economy for Rural communities. We are still looking for ideas for upcoming projects for RERC."

The RERC Action plan encourages economic development in the city of Monte Vista. In 2021, at the end of the year, San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO!) applied for and received an Environmental Protection Agency grant. Plans to move forward with the RERC Action plan are in the works for the new year, according to Dennis.

"We are still seeking input on this. What other recreational activities can the town offer that will help bring people into town for these activities? Our plans for 2024 will include these."

Dennis also spoke of plans to work with the trees in town.

"We will be planting over the next five years, 500 trees. This helps with climate; this helps with additional shade in the parks," she said.

Dennis said the city received a grant that will help repair alleys between the first and second block on Adams Street.

"This will help with deliveries; this will help with those who live in apartments. This will make it safer with ice buildup, there will be better drainage," she said.

Dennis spoke of making an investment in water meters for the town.

"All of our water meters

are at least 25 years old. We want to have a more accurate way of measuring the water that is being used. We want to help with water line breaks. People will be able to access their own water usage off their computer. It will be real-time water management. So, if you are at home and wondering, you can pull up your account at see the time of day that you used it, how much you have used, so this will be better monitored and managed for people," Dennis said.

Dennis is excited about finishing the exterior of City Hall, and the city is also planning on adding air conditioning to Kids Connection.

Dennis also spoke about the RV hook ups that will soon be available out at the Ski Hi Complex.

"There was also a plan for RV availability in the whole Ski-Hi masterplan. When we received congressional funding to declare Ski-Hi as an emergency center, the whole piece of RV hookups came into play for this. This helps in emergency evacuations, but also helps with events that come to town, like Ski-Hi Stampede, and 4-H Fair. There is planning for a shower building out at Ski-Hi, too."

Dennis also spoke of the hotel project, and how a market feasibility study went out before the initial planning of the hotel project. The study was sent to businesses and people were asked if they had people who came in for events, and on average how long people who came would stay for events. Dennis spoke of how this would also include people who came in for weddings, funerals,

family reunions, any out-of-town guests that would come in.

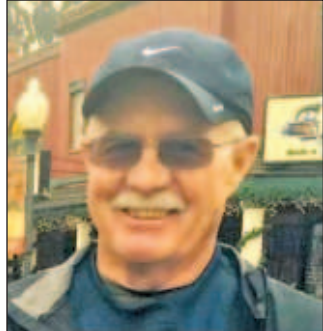
Dennis said it is important to keep people in town, eating at local restaurants, and shopping in local stores, instead of people having to stay elsewhere.

"The hotel is not just about tourists. This is about accommodating local conferences, about people who have the need to stay at Ski-Hi. If you have a wedding party that comes in. We want to keep everything close in our community, keep families together. The community benefits from this also by picking up extra revenue that comes with it. A lot of people who come in for the 4-H Fair often spend the whole week here. There will be more planning for the hotel project. The City Council still needs to pass this," Dennis said.

Dennis is also working on additional holiday lights for next year too. "We are excited about bringing more lights to our town."

Dennis ended her talk about the new year on a positive note saying, "It's been a pleasure to work with so many people within our community. The positivity that I see rubbing off on other people is great. Monte Vista has such a great sense of pride in who their neighbors are. It's so nice that we can all work together for a better Monte Vista."

Tommy Lee Fuller



In Loving Memory of Tommy Lee Fuller

Tommy Lee Fuller, 77, departed this world on Dec. 16, 2023, at Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs, Colo. Tommy was born in Alamosa, Colo., on June 3, 1946, to Thomas and Leona Fuller.

Tommy spent his formative years at Alamosa High School, where he not only excelled socially but also showcased his athleticism on the football and baseball fields. Graduating in 1964, he embarked on a lifelong journey with his high school sweetheart, Korene Manchester, whom he married in July of 1965.

A man of diverse talents, Tommy pursued his passion for technology, attending schools in Denver and Kansas City to become a skilled Computer Programmer. His dedication and expertise led him to a remarkable 35-year career at Adams State University, where he left an indelible mark.

Tommy's zest for life extended beyond the professional realm. An avid hunter, he cherished the moments spent at hunting camp with his family and cousins Johnny Smith and Rodger Fuller. A loyal Miami Dol-

phins fan, he found joy in watching his favorite team compete. Tommy's love for exploration took him on exciting travels, creating cherished memories along the way.

Family was the cornerstone of Tommy's life, and he found immense joy in raising his children and witnessing them create their own families. He took great pleasure in watching his grandchildren, and great-grandchildren participate in sports and various activities. His warm presence and unwavering support made him a pillar of strength for his loved ones.

Tommy is survived by his devoted wife, Korene Fuller, and their children: Todd (Kathleen) Fuller of Golden, Colo., and Kristi (Paul) Duarte of Alamosa. His legacy lives on through his grandchildren: Michael (Cheyenne) Fuller of Clayton, N.M., Steven Fuller of Colorado Springs, Colo., Bradley (Matthew) Wolke of Atlanta, Ga., Kylie Duarte of Littleton, Colo., Tyler Duarte of Alamosa, Colo., and Rian Fuller of Golden, Colo. Additionally, his great-grandchildren Paityn Fuller and her mom Danielle White, Preston Fuller, Eli Fuller, Landon Fuller, Lily Fuller and Genevieve Gregory, will forever cherish his memory.

Tommy was preceded in death by his son Kevin Fuller and his parents, Thomas and Leona Fuller.

As we bid farewell to Tommy Lee Fuller, we celebrate a life well-lived — a life marked by love, family, and the enduring spirit of a kind and compassionate soul. May his memory bring comfort and solace to all who were touched by his warmth and generosity.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, at 1 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 2005 Mullins Ave., Alamosa, Colo.

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

COURIER OBITUARY POLICY

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

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

School Menu Tuesday January 9, 2024

BREAKFAST
Banana Bread
Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY
Smash Bowls
Roll
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL
Smash Bowls
Roll
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL
Smash Bowls
Roll
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

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Alamosa School District
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Valley News

Results of annual Christmas Bird Count from both sides of the Valley

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor
SAN LUIS VALLEY

Starting on Christmas Day in 1900, ornithologist, Frank M Chapman with the newly formed Audubon Society proposed an annual holiday tradition of counting birds and the Christmas Bird Count began.

According to the Audubon Society, "Since that inaugural count, people have always counted every bird of all species encountered during one calendar day; they have reported the number of observers and time and distance during that day, from a prescribed area, making sure to minimize the possibility of double counting."

Today the count is a 15-mile circle area from which observers count and identify all of the birds they see.

This 2023 count had 662 counts worldwide and included two local counts and over 50 other counts in Colorado.

The Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge held its annual Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 16. Eighteen people (six teams) spent a total of 6.5

hours (24 party hours) and covered over 280 miles on the count. Weather conditions during the day were cool with clear skies and no wind. The day started out at -4° and rose to a balmy 29°F. The teams covered all of the 176 square miles of the circle. This year's numbers were above average. A total of 51 species were documented and 5,833 individual birds were observed. Sixty-three species is still the record. Best birds were Virginia Rail, Lincoln's Sparrow, Ferruginous Hawk, Merlin, Sandhill Crane, and Prairie Falcon. During the count week, a Townsend's Solitaire was reported.

On the other side of the San Luis Valley, Great Sand Dunes National Park held its annual count on Dec. 30 and recorded 30 species. Twelve observers walked eight miles and drove 54 miles during the count. Common birds were Western Scrub Jay, Stellar's Jay and Juniper Titmouse. Two sightings of a Virginia Rail and an American Wigeon required the filing of a rare bird report.

In other birding news,

a pair of bald eagles was spotted recently by this reporter who saw the two at a nest site in the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge along the banks of the Rio Grande. In early November, the Valley Courier reported that the nesting in the lower elevation areas of the Valley was a first. At the time, John Rawinski a local field ornithologist and former US Forest Service employee, who has been keeping records of bird data in the Valley for over 40 years, told the Valley Courier, "The successful nest is certainly a milestone. It is unprecedented in that for the first time, we have had a nesting pair of bald eagles nesting in the Valley proper, that is along the Rio Grande and in the flat of the Valley."

According to Rawinski, the origin of the breeding pair is unknown, "they could have come from the south, down into New Mexico, and maybe followed the river up. They also could have come from Southwest Colorado. Those are our nearest breeding populations. I'm not sure I have an answer. It remains a



Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

During the annual Christmas Bird Count on the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, a Ferruginous hawk was sighted. The stunning birds are the largest of our soaring Buteo Hawks.

mystery as to where they ended up where they did. It is very, very, exciting news because we're going to have to monitor this and see what happens next."

It has yet to be determined if the recent bald eagles sighted are the pair that nested previously. Stay tuned.

A pair of bald eagles has again been sighted at a nest site on the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge.

Photo courtesy Evert Brown



ASU Department of Art exhibit opens Jan. 22



Courtesy photo

F*!N*S, an Adams State University Department of Art Exhibition, opens Jan. 22, in the Cloyde Snook Gallery. Artists include Bill Tite, assistant professor of art; Beth Johnston, assistant professor of art; Mary Wilhelm, assistant professor of art; Anthony Guntren, assistant professor of art; Charise Mixa, administrative assistant and Analiesa Connor-Meissner, visiting assistant professor of art. An opening reception will be held from 5 until 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 26, in the Visual Art Building. The show continues through Feb. 22. Gallery hours are 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Colorado Legislature again set to consider solutions to housing crisis this session

By SARA WILSON
Colorado Newswire

The Colorado Legislature begins its new 120-day lawmaking term on Wednesday.

Democrats will remain the majority in both chambers, but since adjournment last May, there have been some shake-ups as Democratic lawmakers left office. Sen. Dafna Michaelson Jenet, previously a representative, moved chambers to replace former Sen. Dominick Moreno, Rep. Tim Hernández grabbed the seat of former Rep. Serena Gonzales Gutierrez, Rep. Manny Rutinel replaced Michaelson Jenet in the House, and Rep.-elect Chad Clifford was tapped to replace former Rep. Ruby Dickson. Yet another vacancy committee will pick a replacement for former Rep. Said Sharbini on Jan. 18.

Lawmakers will also be working with the 2024 campaign season in the background. Minority Leader Mike Lynch and Rep. Richard Holtorf are both competing for the Republican nomination for Colorado's 4th Congressional District, and Republican Rep. Gabe Evans is running for Colorado's 8th Congressional District. Congressional primaries are on June 25.

The daily schedule for the Legislature, as well as links to floor and committee audio, is available on the General Assembly's website.

Expected bills on housing As it was last year, housing will be a policy priority this year in the Capitol. But instead of trying to push through a mammoth, multifaceted bill to address the state's housing crisis, like last year's doomed Senate Bill 23-213, Democrats are eyeing at least three separate priority bills.

One bill will likely be about local needs assessments. Last year, one of SB-213's many iterations was the creation of a state board tasked with helping local governments assess their affordable housing needs and develop long-term plans. Those plans would rely on state-suggested policies such as upzoning land or allowing the construction of accessory dwelling units by right.

"That's something that is going to provide a roadmap for each individual community and region, to know what the need is, what the progress is in meeting that need and what they need to do from a menu of options to get to the goal," Senate President Steve Fenberg, a Boulder Democrat, told Colorado Newswire. State Senate President Steve Fenberg listens to testimony during a hearing at the Colorado Capitol in Denver, March 8, 2023. (Kevin Mohatt for Colorado Newswire)

There will also likely be a bill around transit-oriented development that would include incentives for local governments to relax zoning regulations and allow for denser development along transit corridors. Upzoning that land was a provision of SB-213 and an idea Democratic Gov. Jared Polis has championed throughout the legislative interim, with the hope being that Colorado residents can live close to an efficient mode of transportation and rely less on single-occupancy vehicle travel.

Fenberg said the state is also planning to "double down" on transit investment. This would include leveraging federal money available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

"A lot of the pushback we

got from local communities was that we want them to bring all this housing around transit, but what is the state going to do to provide that transit? We think that's valid," he said.

Finally, leadership said another bill would allow property owners to build accessory dwelling units, also known as carriage houses or mother-in-law suites, on their land. That was an idea included in SB-213.

Soaring property tax solution While those will be the three priority bills from Democrats on housing, there will be many more from individual members.

For example, the Legislature will likely take up another "for cause" eviction bill this year after last year's version, led by progressive Democrats, died on the calendar. That bill would define when and why a landlord can evict a tenant or decline to renew a lease. Advocates argue that such a law would increase housing stability and reduce the risk of homelessness for a tenant forced to relocate.

A bill developed by an interim committee that will be introduced this session would hike taxes on thousands of short-term rental properties. If approved, it would classify homes that are rented out for at least three months during the year as a lodging property, kicking the property tax up to 27.9%.

Sponsor Sen. Chris Hansen, a Denver Democrat, said that "significant" amendments are likely.

"The problem we're trying to solve is that you've got properties, in some cases being used virtually the same as lodging properties like a hotel," Hansen said during a legislative preview

hosted by The Colorado Sun on Thursday. "The balance we're trying to strike is to be able to allow people to own second, third properties and use them on a part-time basis and make sure they're taxed appropriately for that, but treating that differently than the corporate properties that own thousands of these units across the state that are basically running them as hotels. That's a very different thing."

Lawmakers will also consider whether to take on any policy proposals that come out of the Property Tax Commission, which was created during the recent special session to develop a long-term solution for soaring property taxes. The commission will present its findings and make recommendations to the Legislature in March, giving the House and Senate ample time to pass related bills.

On the school finance side, legislators are optimistic they can fully fund public education this year and eliminate the "budget stabilization factor," which refers to the amount the state falls short of yearly school finance requirements. Last year, the amount was about \$140 million. Polis laid out his plan in a budget proposal to completely fund education for the first time since the Great Recession.

"This is an exciting year because we're finally going to pay off the B.S. factor and hopefully be done with it forever. We're excited to do it, because we're finally at a place where we think we can make the promise of fully-funded education and, even if we hit a recession around the corner, not have to reopen the B.S. factor ever again," Fenberg said.

CORRECTION

Correction to Mountain Valley Transit

SAN LUIS VALLEY— The article in the Jan. 6 edition of the Valley Courier on Mountain Valley Transit should have stated the Antonito to Alamosa service runs on Monday and Friday. For a complete schedule see: www.mountainvalleytransit.com

Felix

Continued from Page 1

Mari Felix has been serving as Alamosa's County Clerk since she was sworn into office in January of 2023, following her election to office in November 2022.

County Clerks are responsible for administering elections, at all levels, in the county where they were elected. With primaries coming up in June of 2024 followed by what promises to be a contentious general election in November, Alamosa County officials were asked to comment on the situation.

Roni Wisdom, County Administrator for Alamosa County, wrote, "The Board of County Commis-

sioners has no individual supervision of the Clerk and Recorder. This is an elected position and as such, the elected official is directly accountable to the voters. If a county office becomes vacant according to the criteria set forth in C.R.S. 30-10-105, then the Board of County Commissioners has a statutory obligation to fill that office until such time as an election is held. The Board of County Commissioners will continue to monitor this matter and will take appropriate action as necessary. The county has every confidence in the employees of the office of the Clerk and Recorder and does not anticipate any disruptions to the services provided through that office."

County

Continued from Page 1

will be discussed.

County Commissioner Vern Heersink will be named as county representative to the Colorado Health Pool.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Alamosa County Department of Human Services and the Colorado Depart-

ment of Early Childhood is on the agenda.

A Retail Liquor License Renewal Application between Mini Mart Inc., Doing Business as Loaf N Jug #750010 located at 102 Highway 160 East, Alamosa is on the agenda.

As of press time, a resolution regarding the proposed parking fee at the San Luis Valley Regional Airport that was dis-

cussed at the last Board of County Commissioner meeting did not appear on the agenda. The airport advisory board has recommended the airport charge \$6 per day to park at the airport as a revenue generating measure.

In other county news, the San Luis Valley Regional Airport Advisory Board will have a regular meeting on Thursday at 8:15 a.m. at the airport.

The Valley Courier will have more on that meeting in our edition tomorrow and Friday. In an email received on January 8 from Rick Breitenfeldt with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), an announcement regarding the proposed June 2023 \$1.2 million civil penalty against the airport the FAA is seeking may be made in mid to late January.

Lifestyles

Colorado rivers may shrink by 30% as climate change continues, report says

By JERD SMITH AND MICHAEL BOOTH
Colorado Sun

Climate change will continue to hammer Colorado's hallmark rivers and streams, with a new report showing their flows will shrink by 5% to 30% over the next nearly 30 years.

And it's not just drying up our water.

Human-caused global warming has raised Colorado's annual average temperature by 2.3 degrees between 1980 and 2022, the report says. Colorado climate change, exacerbated in the fall months and in the southwestern and south central parts of the state, will add another 1 to 4 degrees of average temperature by 2050.

The news comes with the release today of the Colorado Climate Report, the third in a series of papers the state has issued since 2008 documenting the impact of the warming climate.

Beyond drying rivers, the steady heating of Colorado will worsen toxic ozone pollution along the Front Range, drive more wildfire danger and push wildlife further out of current comfort zones, according to climate experts from environmental groups who saw the embargoed report.

And the emergencies will tend to become the norm. Within 26 years, the report says, our "normal" years will be as hot as the hottest years leading up to 2022.

"Those are alarming numbers," said State Sen. Dylan Roberts, D-Frisco. Roberts is among several Colorado lawmakers working on legislation to cushion the blows of a warming climate.

"Coloradans who depend on rivers and stream flow for agriculture and recreation notice if a stream dips even a couple of points," Roberts said. "To hear of a 30% reduction is shocking and really concerning. But looking forward, that also gives support and credence to what we're trying to do now, which is preparing Colorado for that reality and doing with less water."

Extreme heat will also become more common and dangerous.

"The wild beauty that is at the heart of our state identity is at risk," said Heidi Leathwood, climate policy analyst with the nonprofit advocacy group 350 Colorado. "The expected temperature rise and increasingly more frequent and severe heat waves will hit all of us hard, but will continue to hit low income communities and people of color even harder unless the state takes immediate and effective steps toward environmental justice."

Farmers, kayakers and anglers are likely to feel the impact the most with urban users feeling less of the pain, said Becky Bolinger, assistant state climatologist and a co-author of the report.

much as 80% of the water generated in Colorado and as its take shrinks, the productivity of farm fields will shrink also. The industry contributes \$47 billion to Colorado's economy, according to the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

Farmers already wrestling with a long-term drought and warming temperatures, face tough choices, said Joel Schneekloth, a specialist in irrigation practices and agricultural water use at Colorado State University.

"Growers are already dealing with declining (water) supplies," said Schneekloth, who works with farmers in the South Platte and Republican river basins. "Years ago they had wells that could pump 600 to 700 gallons per minute. Now some are down to 200 to 300 gallons per minute."

As a result, he said, "We know some of these areas are going to come to an end. ... It's not a rosy picture."

At the same time the state's \$13.9 billion skiing, rafting and fishing industries will also take a hit, as streams shrink, and the timing of the skiing and rafting seasons grow shorter and shift.

"Of course we're concerned," said Andy Neinas, a 37-year veteran of Colorado's rafting industry whose company, Echo Canyon River Expeditions, survived the droughts of 2002, 2012 and 2018.

"Those hit us on our head, and we had to learn to adapt," he said of the drought years. "So we changed the logistics of our trips, changed the duration, and we started using smaller craft (able to float on smaller streams). And though we are known as white water outfitters, a lot of what we do is scenic, so even though water levels may be lower, it doesn't change the value of the scenery and the experience of being out in nature."

Environment advocates said the continuing pattern of warming anticipated by the study is cause for extreme worry — and action.

"With the projected declines in snowpack, and the increases in wildfires, heatwaves and dry conditions, the outdoor recreation industry is at extreme risk, our agricultural industry will suffer, and outdoor workers and those living without air conditioning will be in increasing danger," Leathwood said.

"Nowhere will communities be safe from the threat of wildfire which could strike at any time and place. It will be increasingly difficult or even impossible for wildlife to adapt," Leathwood said.

Urban areas are likely to feel the least impact, Bolinger said, because they use just 7% of the state's water and have flexibility in managing their water supplies each year.

Bolinger said there are hopeful trends, largely in the way Colorado is already adapting to climate change.

"It's scary to look at some of these numbers ... but with reports like this, you're increasing awareness of the issues and as long as we're planning we can be better prepared for a lot of events that will inevitably occur. It makes you feel not quite so helpless when we know there are things we can do to protect ourselves and our ecosystems," she said.

Environmental advocacy groups want Colorado lawmakers to go well beyond adapting to conditions. They say the report underscores why they will be working at the 2024 legislature and beyond on policy changes to combat global warming, at what they see as the prime source: the fossil fuel industry.

"The oil and gas industry in particular is a significant contributor to several of the costly crises discussed in the report," said Ryan Maher, staff attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity. "The industry puts pressure on limited water resources. It's the single largest anthropogenic cause of Colorado's ozone problem, which will only worsen with higher temperatures from climate change. And the industry's ozone is itself a dangerous greenhouse gas."

Colorado regulators are still letting oil and gas companies "off the hook," Maher said. They are permitting too many new oil and gas wells, failing to enforce leak regulations on existing wells, and allowing drilling and production on the hottest summer days in a way that worsens the ozone problem on the Front Range, the advocates say. Nine northern Front Range counties have been categorized by the EPA as "severe" violators of toxic ozone regulation, and face various sanctions as a result.

"This report underscores that if the Polis administration doesn't get serious about phasing out drilling and fracking, Colorado stands to suffer tremendously," Maher said.

Dan Haley, president of the Colorado Oil and Gas Association, responded that environmental advocates should stop trying to drive fossil fuel production out of Colorado.

"As an industry, we have decreased greenhouse gas emissions, such as methane, in Colorado by more than 70 percent over the past decade, and our scientists and engineers work each day to reduce it further," Haley said. New technology and tight regulation means that in coming years, "the state's emissions profile from this industry likely will continue to decrease," Haley said. "The world will need more energy to survive and thrive in the 21st century," Haley said, "and it should come from places like Colorado that protect the environment."



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- Local shops value you more:** Local businesses survive by their reputation & repeat business which means you get a higher standard of service.

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Brian Williams
Managing Editor

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Your FIRST Source for Local News

Lifestyles

Winter activities in western SLV offer winter fun

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Winter can be a wonderful time of year to get out and enjoy the San Luis Valley. Whether it is skiing at Wolf Creek Ski Area or heading out for a walk in the woods, there is something for everyone to enjoy in the many unpopulated areas throughout the San Juan Mountains.

From hockey tournaments in Creede to sledging down steep hills on the top of Wolf Creek Pass, the area on the western end of the Valley can be a winter wonderland for outdoors enthusiasts of all ages. Now is a great time to get out and explore this winter landscape and to see what winter has to offer.

South Fork is at the center of well over 300 miles of trails that can be accessed through several U.S. Forest Service roads leading into the back country. Many of the trails that have immediate access from town or just beyond are groomed and cared for all year long.

Snowmobiling is one of the more popular activities in the area due mainly to the access to trails throughout the region. Places like Beaver Creek and Cross Creek offer about 23 miles of passable trails for more experienced riders and offers views of the San Juan Mountains along Forest Service Road 359.

Fox Mountain and Park Creek trails are a great way to get out in the backcountry on Park Creek Road 380. This trail leads to large open meadows that can be a snowmobiler's dream of a winter play land with plenty of room to reach high speeds and glide over the powder that usually resides there in the dead of winter.

Besides snowmobiling, some look for more quiet activities. Winter can be a



very peaceful time of year when the world takes a deep breath and silently holds it until spring. The area is rich in cross country skiing trails that offer spectacular views and a chance to see plentiful wildlife. Local organizations like the Powder Busters and Silver Thread Outdoor Club host outings to these trails which they also help keep groomed throughout the winter. A free map is located at the South Fork Visitors Center for those who wish to learn where these hidden gems are.

Other activities also include ice fishing at the many reservoirs in the area like Beaver Creek which is easily accessible during winter months. Other ice fishing locations include Tucker Ponds and Big Meadows Reservoir which requires either snowshoes, cross-country skiing or snowmobiles to gain access but the trip is worth the effort with lakes packed full of late season fish.

Winter in the San Luis Valley is a wonderful time to see what the Colorado lifestyle is all about, though caution is needed when venturing out into the back country, especially if it is for the first time. Many local groups, like the two listed above are a great way to get an introduction to what people need to know about the mountains during the winter months.

Some of the simpler things to remember holds true no matter what season it is and that is to inform

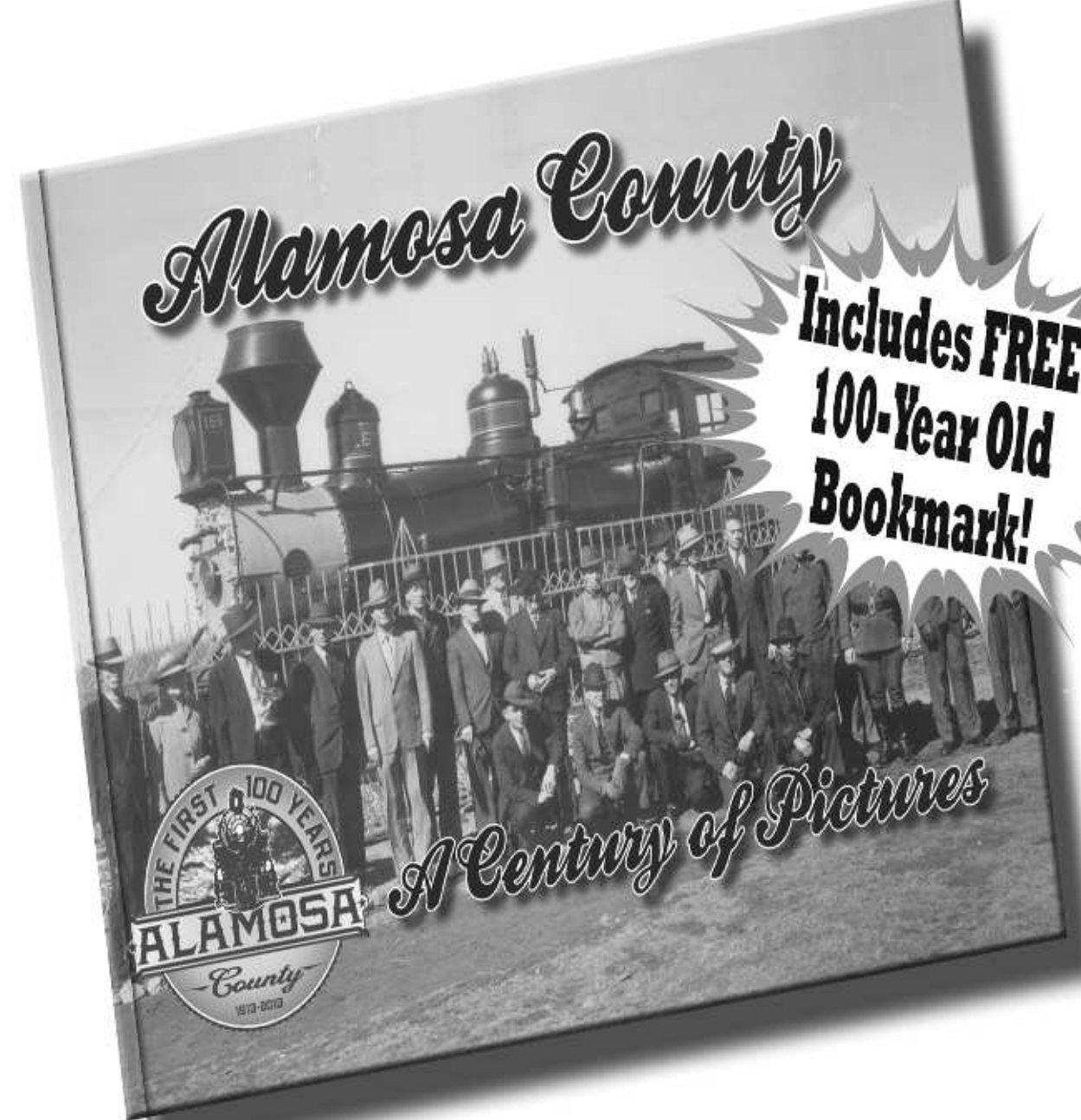
people of where you plan to adventure, when you plan to return and to always be familiar with the surroundings before venturing out into any area. For more information, the South Fork Visitors Center is an excellent source of information or by visiting www.southfork.org.



File photos

Winter is in full swing in the San Luis Valley and whether you head out to build a snowman or hit the fresh powder on a snowmobile, the San Juan Mountains is the place to go for winter fun.

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Alamosa

Red swamp crayfish importation, transportation and possession now legal in Colorado

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

DENVER - Crawfish lovers can rejoice as red swamp crayfish, otherwise known as Louisiana crawfish, become legal in Colorado. Beginning Jan. 1, 2024, Coloradans can import, transport and possess red swamp crayfish for human consumption. Release and use as bait remains illegal to protect Colorado's lakes and rivers.

For many, spring crawfish boils are an important family and community event. Unbeknownst to many, the importation of red swamp crayfish, tasty and popular to consume, was illegal in Colorado, until now.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife now allows the importation, transportation, and possession of live red swamp crayfish in Colorado for human consumption, provided the following conditions are met:

- No person may possess an individual of the species alive for more than 72 hours.

- Any person who possesses the species alive must have:

- a copy of an importation license that authorizes the importation of the crayfish in the person's possession; and

- a receipt or delivery confirmation reflecting the date the person took possession of the crayfish.

The importation of many live aquatic species is illegal due to the threat they can pose to our aquatic resources (e.g. rusty crayfish, New Zealand mudsnails, zebra/quagga mussels) and the importation of most live crayfish species remains illegal in Colorado.

How does this affect consumers and businesses? This regulation change

will primarily impact businesses that import crayfish into Colorado and should have minimal impact on the average consumer. In most cases, the business importing live crayfish will apply for the importation license and a copy of the approved license must accompany the shipment of crayfish. Consumers buying live crayfish from a vendor will receive a copy of the importation license along with the required receipt. Consumers buying cooked crayfish from a restaurant will be unaffected.

Importation licenses are available for \$91 per calendar year through cpwshop.com.

Why was this change made?

In early 2023, CPW became aware of a large market for live red swamp crayfish in the state. After further investigation, it was discovered that illegal imports of live red swamp crayfish had been occurring for years, if not decades, with most importers unaware they were breaking the law.

A public outreach campaign determined that many members of the public believed that CPW should allow the regulated importation of live red swamp crayfish for human consumption.

CPW then drafted proposed regulation changes (approved by the Colorado Fish Health Board) that were finalized at the November Commission meeting.

In Nov. 2023, the Parks and Wildlife Commission approved regulation changes to allow for the importation, transportation and possession of live red swamp crayfish in Colorado for human consumption. The changes went into effect on Jan. 1.

Sports

Panthers hold off ECA 47-45

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor

BLANCA – The ninth-ranked Sierra Grande High School got off to a fast start when it hosted the Evangelical Christian Academy, a Class 2A team, Saturday at the Panthers' gym.

The Eagles, however, made a comeback and took the lead of several occasions. The Panthers again took a big lead late only to see ECA make another comeback effort. But Sierra Grande held off ECA and won by a score of 47-45.

"We needed out to try to find a win against a good 2A team," said Sierra Grande coach Matt Lucero. "They have height, they're disciplined and they're coached extremely well. We found a way to win even though it wasn't pretty. I told the guys a win is a win and we'll learn from our mistakes and get better at what we try to do."

Aron Ojeda scored the first points of the game for Sierra Grande, but Brock Jones made a 3-point basket for ECA. Jaydn Martinez scored two baskets and Brian Ontiveros scored one to push the lead to 8-3.

Levi DeJong scored a layup and Jones made two free throws to bring the Eagles within an 8-7 deficit. Manuel Miranda made a 3-pointer and Martinez and Carlos Lopez both scored to increase the lead to 15-7.

Bo Gallarti scored the final five points of the quarter to cut the Panthers' lead to 15-12.

Gallarti opened the second quarter with a jumper and a free throw to tie the score at 15-15. Martinez split at the free throw line to put Sierra Grande back into the lead, but Drew Gregory drove for a layup to give the lead back to ECA.

Ojeda drained a trey to put the Panthers back in front, and Ontiveros drove for a layup. Miranda made another three. Rolando Najera hit a jumper to increase the lead to 26-17.

Once again, the Eagles finished the period strong as they scored the final five points to reduce their deficit to 26-22 at halftime.

Josh Maes made a 3-pointer for ECA and Jones scored in the paint to put the Eagles back on top at 27-26. Martinez helped Sierra Grande regain the lead, and Ojeda scored a layup and added a free throw for a 31-27 lead.

Gallarti cut the lead to one point with a trey, but Ojeda answered with a three on the other end of the court. Martinez then made a layup and a free throw to extend the margin to 37-30.

Gallarti scored four points in the final minute of the third quarter to narrow the gap to 39-34.

Ojeda scored the first points of the fourth quarter, but Jones made a pair of free tosses. Martinez drove for another layup, but Jones drained a 3-pointer to bring ECA within 43-39.

Martinez made one of two free throws, but Jones



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

Sierra Grande High School's Jaydn Martinez (12) looks to put up a shot while Evangelical Christian Academy's Bo Gallarti (13) plays defense. The Panthers defeated the Eagles 47-45.

scored a layup to reduce the lead to 44-41.

Martinez made two free throws and Miranda made one of two for a 47-41 advantage with 1:05 left in the game.

Gregory's layup closed the lead to 47-43, and Gallarti made two free throws to cut the margin to 47-45 with 22 second remaining.

The Eagles had a couple of chances to either tie the score or win in the final seconds but came up empty.

The Panthers had two players score in double figures as Martinez scored 17 points and Ojeda added 15.

The Eagles also had two players in double figures with Jones scoring 18 points and Gallarti 17.

Sierra Grande (6-2) will travel to Cheraw for a 3:30 p.m. tip-off.

"Cheraw went into overtime with ECA, so it's going to be a big challenge for us on the road," Lucero said.

Sierra Grande 47, Evangelical Christian 45

ECA – Gregory 2 0-0 4, Gallarti 5 5-5 17, Lucia 0 1-2 1, DeJong 1 0-0 2, Jones 5 6-8 18, Maes 1 0-0 3, Moore 0 0-0 0, Barger 0 0-0 0. Total 14 12-15 45.

3-point goals – Gallarti 2, Jones 2, Maes 1. Total 5.

Sierra Grande – Ontiveros 2 0-0 4, Miranda 2 1-4 7, J. Martinez 6 5-9 17, Ojeda 6 1-1 15, C. Lopez 1 0-0 2, D. Martinez 0 0-0 0, Kester 0 0-0 0, Najera 1 0-0 2, A. Lopez 0 0-0 0. Total 18 7-14 47.

3-point goals – Miranda 2, Ojeda 2. Total 4.

	12	10	12	11 – 45
ECA	12	10	12	11 – 45
Sierra Grande	15	11	13	8 – 47

Fouls – ECA 15, Sierra Grande 14.

with a trey for the Lady Panthers. Mia Castro and Sarah Caldwell both scored to give ECA a 52-17 advantage at the end of the third quarter.

The fourth quarter was played under a running clock with the Lady Panthers outscoring the Lady Eagles 9-3 in the period. Quezada scored five of the points, and Naylani Velasquez and Yazmin Molina scoring two points each.

Gonzales led Sierra Grande in scoring with 10 points, followed by Quezada with eight.

Leading ECA in scoring were Sarah Caldwell and Ellie Wagner both with 13 points.

Sierra Grande (1-6) will host Lake City on Friday for a 4 p.m. tip-off and then will travel to Cheraw on Saturday with game time slated for 2 p.m.

Evangelical Christian 55, Sierra Grande 26

ECA – Ripple 0 0-0 0, Castro 4 0-0 8, Sar. Caldwell 5 0-0 13, Schultz 3 1-3 7, Lucia 1 0-0 2, Maez 1 0-0 2, Wagner 5 0-0 13, Gregory 0 1-2 1, Sad. Caldwell 0 2-2 2, LeCerte 0 0-0 0, Mann 1 0-0 2, Stonestreet 1 0-0 3, Molitor 1 0-0 2. Total 22 4-7 55.

3-point goals – Sar. Caldwell 3, Wagner 3, Stonestreet 3. Total 7.

Sierra Grande – Quezada 3 0-0 8, Al.

Garcia 2 0-0 4, Velasquez 1 0-0 2, Molina 1 0-0 2, Ah. Garcia 0 0-0 0, Gonzalez 4 1-3 10. Total 11 1-8 26.

3-point goals Quezada 2, Gonzalez 1. Total 3.

	26	17	9	3 – 55
ECA	26	17	9	3 – 55
Sierra Grande	5	9	3	9 – 26

Fouls – ECA 12, Sierra Grande 4.

Centauri wrestlers win Pagosa meet

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Centauri High School wrestling team won the championship at the Rocky Mountain Invitational Saturday in Pagosa Springs.

The Falcons had a team score of 203 points – 29 points better than the host team, Pagosa Springs. They had three individual champions in Matthew Salazar (106), Parker Buhr (157), and Josh Polkowske (190).

Centauri had two additional finalists who finished second in Riley Valdez (126) and Spencer Smith (165).

Also placing for the Falcons were Caden Casias who was third at 113, Aundre Chavez who was third at 120, Skylar Montague who was fourth at 215, Troy Munson who was seventh at 150, and Aaden Quintana who was eighth at 174.

Center was third with 162 points. Taking championships were Aaron Valadez (144) and Martin Palma (165).

Also placing for the Vikings were Jordan Duran who was second at 113, Jesus Valadez who was second at 175, Andre Meraz who was third at 144, Francisco Villa who was fifth at 126, Caden Ruggles who was fifth at 150, and Devin Thomson who was seventh at 190.

Duran also won his 100th career match. Monte Vista was sixth with 134 points. Kevin Cisneros was an individual champion for the Pirates at 150 pounds.

Also placing for Monte Vista were Ethan Wolfe

who was second at 132, Jeremiah Baumgardner who was second at 157, Jacob Pacheco who was third at 165, Elijah Baumgardner who was fourth at 126, Jon Enderle who was sixth at 138, Jose Zamarripa who was sixth at 285, Julian Pacheco who was seventh at 175, and Joshua Salazar who was seventh at 285.

Del Norte was 14th with 29 points, and Sargent was 15th with 28.

Placing for the Tigers were Paul Neal who was fourth at 150, Anthony Conn who was eighth at 113, and Ulices Maez who was eighth at 190.

The Farmers' placers were Jaycian Sierra who was fourth at 138, and Matthew Voss who was seventh at 126.

Team scores

Centauri 203, Pagosa Springs 174, Center 162, Bloomfield (N.M.) 161, Rocky Ford 154, Monte Vista 134, Durango 114, Monticello (Utah) 114, Ignacio 99, Montezuma-Cortez 94, Nucla 92, Taos (N.M.) 81 ½, Bayfield 56, Del Norte 29, Sargent 28, Dolores 25.

Peoria Tournament of Champions

Two Alamosa High School boys wrestlers and two girls placed at the Peoria Tournament of Champions last weekend in Peoria, Ariz.

Sarah DeLaCerde won a major tournament for the second time this season as she took first place at 114 pounds over Sunnyside's (Ariz.) Iliana Castaneda by fall at 1:42. She won at the Reno Tournament of Champions in December.

Also placing for the Lady Mean Moose was Samantha Maestas who was fourth at 120.

Uriah Martinez took third place at 120 pounds, and Jeremiah DeLaCerde was fifth at 106.

ECA runs past Sierra Grande girls

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor

BLANCA – The Sierra Grande High School girls basketball team, which has only six players, hosted an Evangelical Christian Academy team with 13 players Saturday at the Sierra Grande gym. The numbers proved to be the difference as the Lady Panthers lost to the Lady Eagles 55-26.

ECA started fast as it scored the first 18 points of the game. Alexia Gonzalez put Sierra Grande on the board, but the Lady Eagles scored eight more points to extend their lead to 26-2. Alexandra Garcia ended the run with a layup, and Gonzales made one of two from the free throw line to bring the Lady Panthers within a 26-5 deficit at the end of the first quarter.

ECA continued its momentum into the second quarter by scoring the first nine points of the period and increasing its lead to 35-5.

Alexandra Garcia made a jump shot, and Gonzalez scored two baskets to bring Sierra Grande within 36-



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

Sierra Grande High School's Alexia Gonzalez puts up a shot against the Evangelical Christian Academy on Saturday. The Lady Panthers lost 55-26.

The Lady Panthers ran off seven straight points before Gonzales made a 3-point basket to reduce the margin to 43-14 at halftime.

ECA's Sarah Caldwell opened the second half with a 3-pointer, but Jaylyn Quezada answered

with a trey for the Lady Panthers. Mia Castro and Sarah Caldwell both scored to give ECA a 52-17 advantage at the end of the third quarter.

The fourth quarter was played under a running clock with the Lady Panthers outscoring the Lady Eagles 9-3 in the period. Quezada scored five of the points, and Naylani Velasquez and Yazmin Molina scoring two points each.

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Sierra Grande	5	9	3	9 – 26

Fouls – ECA 12, Sierra Grande 4.

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD

FRIDAY

Prep boys basketball

Alamosa 32, Sanford 31

Centauri 57, Delta 48
Moffat 62, Creede 29
Sargent 50, Centennial 27

Prep girls basketball

Creede 34, Moffat 20

Delta 66, Centauri 40
Sanford 44, Alamosa 37
Sargent def. Centennial – score not reported

Prep boys wrestling

Rocky Ford 48, Monte Vista 22

SATURDAY

Prep boys basketball

Alamosa 78, Delta 76

Moffat 68, Weldon Valley 46
Monte Vista 52, Ignacio 44

Peyton 74, Center 29
Sangre de Cristo 45, Trinidad 23

Sierra Grande 47, Evangelical Christian 45
South Baca 47, Centennial 41

Prep girls basketball

Centauri 63, The Vanguard 44

Delta 63, Alamosa 45
Evangelical Christian 55, Sierra Grande 26

Monte Vista 37, Ignacio 31
Peyton 60, Center 29

South Baca 57, Centennial 8
Trinidad 47, Sangre de Cristo 41

College men's basketball

Adams State 83, South Dakota Mines 77

College women's basketball

South Dakota Mines 67, Adams State 62

College men's wrestling

Adams State 45, Findlay (Ohio) 6

Adams State 31, Minot State (N.D.) 14

SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

Prep boys basketball

Dolores at Sargent, 4:30 p.m.

Prep girls basketball

Dolores at Sargent, 4:30 p.m.
Pueblo County at Alamosa, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Prep boys basketball

Crested Butte at Creede, 5 p.m.
Lake City at Sangre de Cristo, 5 p.m.

Prep girls basketball

Crested Butte at Creede, 5 p.m.
Lake City at Sangre de Cristo, 5 p.m.

Prep boys wrestling

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

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221 - HELP WANTED

221 - HELP WANTED

221 - HELP WANTED

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

OFFICE MANAGER: THE SAN LUIS VALLEY REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY has an opening for **OFFICE MANAGER**. The successful candidate must be able to work a rotating 6-day work schedule to include alternating Saturdays. Must have a good understanding and working knowledge of Quick Books and accounting principles. Candidate must be able to multi task, be a quick learner and detail oriented. Candidate must have strong background in Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable as well as payroll. The salary range for this position is \$19-25 per hour with an attractive benefits package. Job posting closes on January 12, 2024. Interested parties can obtain an application and job description by going to <https://www.riogrande-county.org/departments/business-offices/land-use-or-from-Rio-Grande-County-Land-Use-Office>. Successful candidates will be trained in all phases relating to the communication center. Must be 18 years old, and be able to pass a background, psychological and drug test. You may pick up an application a Center Town Hall or online at: www.townofcenter.colorado.gov. 294 S. Worth St Center, CO 81125. Applications accepted until the position is filled. For more information, please contact Center Police Dispatch Supervisor Jerry Montoya at 719-754-2442. (1/10/24AS)

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

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

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

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

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

307 - APPLIANCES

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

324 - SEED & FEED

HORSE & COW HAY: GRASS, GRASS/ALFALFA, ALFALFA. 3x3 bales, various quality and pricing. 719-850-8917. (1/10/24AS-monthly)

345 - WOOD

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

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

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

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

353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

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

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

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

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

387 - WANTED TO BUY

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

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

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410 - AUCTIONS

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

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

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

420 - LOTS & ACREAGES

MULTIPLE 35+ ACRE TRACTS For Sale. The Rio Grande Water Conservation District is accepting sealed bids for tracts of land LOCATED AT 14355 G.5, ANTONITO. The minimum acceptable bid is \$2,000/acre. Bids must be received by U.S. mail or hand delivered to the RGWCD's office at 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101. Detailed information regarding the tracts is available for review by appointment at the RGWCD office or by visiting the District's website at www.rgxcd.org/subdistrict-no-3/publicbid. The land may be inspected with District personnel by appointment only. Appointments can be made by calling the District office at (719) 589-6301 or by emailing angelo@rgxcd.org. Bids must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on January 31st, 2024. Late bids will not be accepted. The District reserves the right to reject any bid in its sole discretion. (1/27/2024AS)

426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

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

525 - GUNS

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

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

611 - HOMES FOR RENT

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

701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

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

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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Witty one
 - 4 Again
 - 8 Soapstone
 - 12 Yoko — Lennon
 - 13 Capital of Peru
 - 14 Understanding remark (2 wds.)
 - 15 Actor — Lowe
 - 16 Advantage
 - 17 Tie together
 - 18 Potato turnover
 - 20 "— porridge hot ..."
 - 21 Beret
 - 23 Director's directive
 - 24 — avis
 - 27 Bouquet
 - 29 Opposite of NNE
 - 32 Astringent substance
 - 33 Apple remnant
 - 34 "— of the Worlds"
 - 35 Unruly group
 - 36 Outer layer
 - 37 Hindu goddess

- 38 Place for farm animals
 - 39 Folk singer — Seeger
 - 40 Ivan's denial
 - 41 Ancient lang.
 - 42 Pair
 - 44 Crisp cookie
 - 47 Raise
 - 51 — vera
 - 52 Stampeding animals
 - 55 Bill and —
 - 56 Prince in opera
 - 57 Atwitter
 - 58 Doctrine suffix
 - 59 "— Sings the Blues"
 - 60 Cupola
 - 61 Poor grade
- DOWN**
- 1 Function properly
 - 2 Unknown auth.
 - 3 Desert in Asia
 - 4 First Greek letter
 - 5 Zero
 - 6 Big bird

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 7 "I — only joking"
- 8 Where Lhasa is
- 9 — Minor
- 10 Microscope part
- 11 Yield
- 19 Con game
- 20 Unadulterated
- 22 8-ball destination
- 23 Horn
- 24 LA players
- 25 "That means —!"
- 26 Prized gem
- 28 "Go ahead!" (2 wds.)
- 29 Swing
- 30 Retail event
- 31 Court order
- 36 Practice with gloves
- 37 Fort —, Kentucky
- 41 Suspicious
- 43 Force in
- 44 Lament
- 45 Pond growth
- 46 Victuals
- 48 Something corrosive
- 49 Suffer defeat
- 50 Book
- 52 "It — To Be You"
- 53 The "I"
- 54 CD- —

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13				14				
15			16				17				
18			19				20				
			21			22					
						23					
24	25	26				27	28		29	30	31
32						33			34		
35						36			37		
38						39			40		
						41					
							42	43			
44	45	46					47		48	49	50
51						52	53	54		55	
56						57				58	
59						60				61	

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



"We've just walked two miles... that's 14 for him."

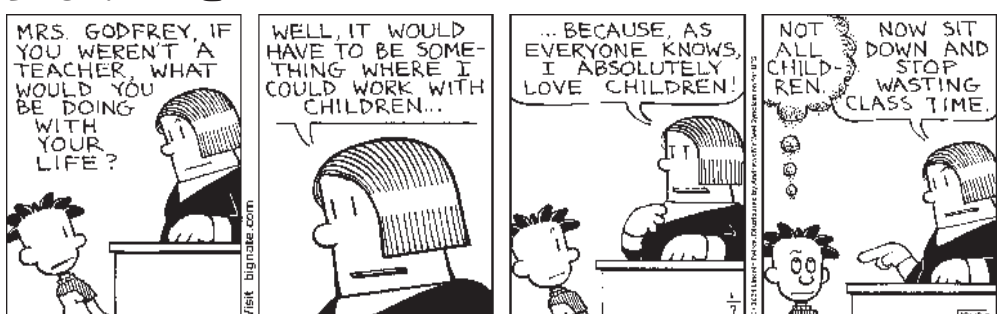
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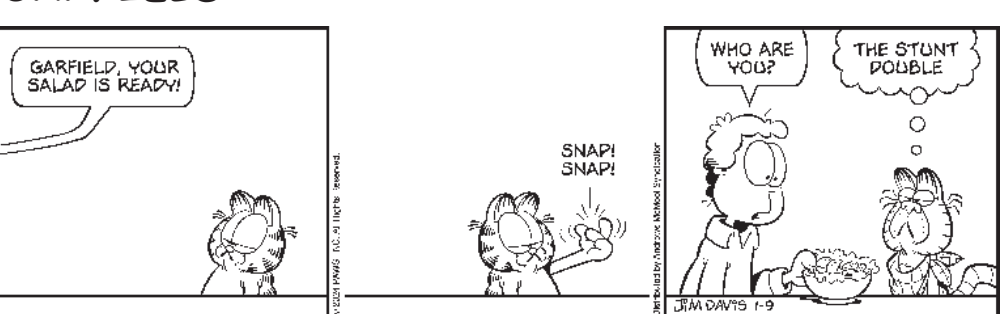
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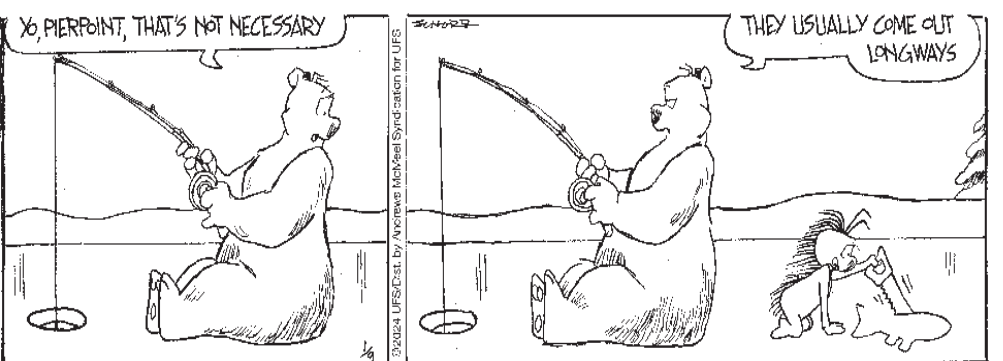
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PEANUTS



Brother chooses to cut off contact after mother's death

DEAR ABBY: My brother, who I will call "Alan," has cut me off. We each received 50% of our mother's estate, as specified by her will. Our respective inheritances amounted to a considerable amount of money. Alan thinks I stole \$8,000 from him. This is both untrue and impossible.

Alan spoke with the only remaining relative of our generation, our cousin "Jay," who subsequently contacted me and told me Alan will never speak to me again. This is terribly painful.

Alan has been using medical marijuana to deal with back pain, and his habit has taken over his life. I believe it has distorted his mind. He's also living with a woman I believe is his enabler.

I have my theories as to what is actually going on, but I have no proof to back up my suspicions. What would you advise in this situation? Is it redeemable? I miss the close relationship we once enjoyed, but I can't compete with the drugs. -- DISILLUSIONED IN OHIO

DEAR DISILLUSIONED: I find it peculiar that cousin Jay was the person who delivered

that message to you, rather than Alan, which would have provided an opportunity to defend yourself. Have you actually tried to contact your brother and been rebuffed? If you have done so, and have really been accused of grand theft, consider defending your reputation with the help of an attorney and accept that your brother chooses to remain estranged from you.

DEAR ABBY: I am a single man in good health. I'm intelligent, friendly, funny and have been told by more than one woman that I don't look my age. But I do have one exasperating personality trait. I can't tell whether a woman is just friendly or romantically interested in me. I have no clue. None.

I met a very attractive single woman, relatively close to my age, a couple years ago. Over time, she has seemingly become more enthusiastic about saying hello to me when I visit her workplace to deliver items every week. She always smiles when we speak to each other. Conversations have gone from short and clipped to longer and more personal. I like her very much.

How can I tell if a



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

mature woman is flirting with me or just being personable? She often works small compliments about me into our conversations. I want to ask her straight out if she is flirting, but if she says no, I'd be very embarrassed. I need your good advice. -- CLUELESS IN MICHIGAN

DEAR CLUELESS: If the woman didn't like you, she would keep those conversations short and strictly business. Do not ask her if she is flirting. DO ask if she'd like to have lunch sometime because your conversations are always too short. If she says yes, you will know your interest in her is reciprocated.