



2023 college bowl game results

— Page 6



Blue Mesa Reservoir fishing tournament returns in 2024 with a \$10,000 prize purse

— Page 7



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VOLUME 98, NO. 2

Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

January 3, 2024

\$1

SLV Today Center Town Board petitions now available

CENTER — Nomination petitions for the upcoming Center Town Board Election are currently available at the Center Town Hall, 294 Worth St., with a submission deadline of Jan. 22. Election Day is scheduled for April 2. Five of the seven trustee seats, including mayor, will be up for election.

For more information, visit onlinetownofcenter.colorado.gov or call 719-754-3497.

Sangre de Cristo School Board of Education meeting

MOSCA — The Sangre de Cristo School Board of Education regular monthly meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 9, in the school library at 8751 Lane 7 North, Mosca. Copies of agendas are posted at school site, website, the Hooper and Mosca Post Offices, and the Mosca Pit Stop. Meetings are open to the public.

SLV Extension Office offering Servsafe Course

MONTE VISTA — San Luis Valley Area Extension Office is offering a Servsafe Course on Jan. 30.

ServSafe is a nationally recognized program developed by the National Restaurant Association, that provides food safety training, exams and educational materials to food service managers.

Food Service Managers who are not certified by an accredited Food Safety Course should attend. The Colorado Retail Food Establishment Rules and Regulations state that "at least one employee with authority to direct and control food preparation and service shall be a food protection manager who has been certified by an accredited program."

Class space is limited. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, contact Janae Naranjo at 719-852-7138 or janae.naranjo@colostate.edu. To register go to <https://ServSafeJan2024.eventbrite.com>.

SLV WEATHER

Mostly Cloudy, Wind Chill 34/0

Thurs: Snow Likely, Cloudy 30/10

Fri: Mostly Sunny 31/2

INSIDE

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

City council work session will discuss 'concerns'

Public can view this via Zoom link

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Following Wednesday night's regularly scheduled meeting, the Alamosa City Council will be holding a work session where council members will discuss in a public forum concerns raised by former Chief of Police Ken Anderson when he unexpectedly resigned

in November.

Anderson cited several areas as his reason for leaving, including "micromanagement" and disregard for his input by City Manager Heather Sanchez, certain policies being carried out by the city that he felt were having a negative impact on the police department and the LEAD program, which he portrayed as failing to accomplish what it was created to do.

A work session to discuss the LEAD program was held on Dec.

13 and was both open to the public in person, and available for public viewing on Zoom but only in real time as the session was not recorded.

The city council has also conducted three executive sessions since Anderson's resignation. The first two were held to provide opportunities for department heads and "direct reports" to discuss any issues they had with Sanchez's management. The third executive session was with members of the city council

and the city manager, herself.

Executive sessions are, by design, created for the confidential discussion of issues that are inappropriate to speak about in a general meeting with the public. Knowledge of the content of meetings is, by statute, limited to those who are in the meeting.

That confidentiality was nullified when an individual accessed the executive session held on Nov. 22, an act that, if carried out by a public servant, carries

■ See COUNCIL page 3

Body of man found in burned camper trailer

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — After extinguishing a fire in a camper trailer located on private property on Alamosa Avenue, first responders with Alamosa Police Department (APD) and Alamosa Fire Department (AFD) discovered the body of a man inside.

According to a press release sent out by the city of Alamosa on Sunday, Dec. 31, shortly after midnight, AFD and APD responded to a location in the 1300 block of Alamosa Avenue on report of a camper trailer on fire. When they arrived on scene, the camper trailer was already engulfed in flames with witnesses on site saying there was possibly someone inside.

Once the fire was extinguished, officials discovered the body of an unidentified male. The initial assessment of the scene determined that a make-shift fireplace was the likely cause of the fire and, according to APD, a preliminary investigation did not reveal any suspicious circumstances leading to the cause of the fire or the victim's death.

This is an ongoing investigation and APD is waiting on results of the autopsy to show the cause and manner of death. However, the name of the individual will be released by the Alamosa County Coroner once there has been notification of next of kin.



Alamosa's first-ever Shine Bright Tree Decorating Contest announces winners

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — The results of Visit Alamosa's inaugural Shine Bright Tree Decorating Contest are in. Visit Alamosa, in collaboration with the City of Alamosa, has announced the winners who turned our downtown into a winter wonderland.

Taking first place is Rousey Roulette with the jolly Santa-themed tree. Their creativity has earned them a sponsorship package for the upcoming Rio Frio Ice Fest donated by the City of Alamosa.

In second place is White Shell Mountain Ranch, whose Gnome tree brought an extra dose of holiday magic to Downtown Alamosa. White Shell Mountain Ranch will receive a sponsorship package for Visit Alamosa's Beat the Heat BBQ and Brews event.

And securing third place is the merry creation of Spare Keg Brewerks, adding a hoppy touch to the holiday festivities. Spare Keg Brewerks will also receive a sponsorship package for Visit Alamosa's Beat the Heat BBQ and Brews event.

A special shoutout goes to Purple Pig Pizzeria, earning an Honorable Mention for their outstanding contribution to the festive landscape.

■ See CONTEST page 3



Photo courtesy of Visit Alamosa

Pictured above: Rousey Roulette owners with Dalton Carleo, event sponsor and Rio Frio Ice Fest organizer from left: Clarence Rousey, Dalton Carleo, and Josephine Ortega.

Left: White Shell Mt. Ranch crew with their tree, from left: Amy Nicholson and Katharine Clapp.



Rupert Wates

International Folk Star Rupert Wates Coming to Society Hall

By SOCIETY HALL

ALAMOSA — Society Hall is thrilled to welcome globetrotting folksinger Rupert Wates to the stage at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 6.

The doors of Society Hall will open at 6 p.m. The concert will also stream live on the Society Hall Facebook page and YouTube channel. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door and are available at the Society Hall website at www.societyhall.org or at the Green Spot, at 711 State Ave., Alamosa.

"We've heard incredible things about Rupert's songwriting and his performances and are excited that he's coming to the San Luis Valley," organizers stated.

Here are a few things that folks have said about his shows — "How can anyone play guitar like that?" Musicians Corner; "Unbelievable experience with Mr. Rupert Wates" (Charlie Boy).

■ See WATES page 3



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Record

OBITUARIES

Arla Henderson



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of a vibrant, smart, and incredibly funny woman, Arla Henderson, who departed from this world on Dec. 26, 2023. Born on Aug. 7, 1951, in Fort Knox, Ky., her journey through life was a whirlwind of excitement, tenacity, and a deep love of learning and exploring new things.

A registered nurse by profession, Arla Henderson was not just a beacon of compassion and expertise; she was a vibrant and radiant presence that touched countless lives. Fluent in Spanish, her commitment to caring for others was an inspiration to her colleagues and a soothing balm to her Spanish-speaking patients. Arla was not only a devoted caregiver in the hospital but also at home, where she poured her heart into caring for her grandson Peyton, as his home health nurse. Nurturing him with love and compassion that only she could deliver.

A lifelong learner who continuously sought to expand her horizons, at the age of 58, she earned her second bachelor's degree, in Psychology, a testament to her unwavering dedication to knowledge and personal growth. This achievement opened new doors for her, leading to becoming a licensed hypnotherapist, a Reiki healer, and a certified holistic nurse. Her holistic approach to healthcare reflected her dedication to the well-being of the whole person, body, mind, and spirit, keeping her patients feeling truly alive.

But Arla was not just alive; she was a wild firecracker of humor and

wit. Her laughter was infectious, and her funny anecdotes could light up a room with joy. Her practical jokes and quick comebacks were legendary, bringing laughter and joy to everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Arla's creativity and zest for life didn't stop at nursing; she had a remarkable and heartwarming musical talent. Operating a singing telegram business, she fearlessly ventured into people's lives, sharing in their celebrations and adding her own magical touch. With quick wit and soulful songwriting, she crafted and sang unique telegrams, delivering messages of love, laughter, and heartfelt connection. Her songs were more than melodies; they were powerful memories cherished forever.

Arla leaves behind a legacy of laughter, love, and cherished memories that will be treasured for generations to come. She wasn't just smart and funny; she was a force of nature, a dynamic soul, and a source of inspiration and joy to all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her memory will live on forever in the hearts of her family and friends.

She is survived by her husband Neil Henderson, children Charles (Sheila) Sanchez, Jodi Sanchez,

and Dana Sanchez, her grandchildren Tyler Weaver, Peyton Sanchez, Landon Sanchez, and Markis Sandoval, as well as her siblings Ruthie Nelson, Jeff Seamster, Dede Schwartz, Rob (Kathy) Seamster, Annie (Jim) Andreoni, sister of the heart, Deb Dawkins, as well as countless other close family members and friends.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents Violet and Arthur Puebla, her paternal grandmother, Dorothy Braun, her parents Jim and Nancy Seamster, and her brother Jim Seamster.

As we bid farewell to this radiant and vivacious woman, let us remember the laughter, love, and unforgettable moments she shared with us. May her soul rest in eternal peace, and may her memory continue to inspire us to live life to the fullest, just as she did.

A celebration of Arla Henderson's incredible life will be held at 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, at Society Hall in Alamosa, Colo. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests you plant a tree in honor of her love of nature through a living tribute via this link <http://tinyurl.com/arlasm-trees>. When completing the order, please use the following shipping address so that we can thank those who have planted a tree in her honor — Mountain Valley Mortuary, 504 4th Ave., Monte Vista, CO 81144 — all information will be forwarded to the family through the funeral home.

Please visit www.mv-mortuary.com to express condolences to the family.

Philip Walter Janowsky

Reverend Philip Janowsky, beloved father, grandfather, friend and minister, passed away at Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs on Dec. 25, 2023.

His father, Walter Janowsky, was a Free Methodist minister and his mother Lena Blowers Janowsky excelled in children's ministry. They served on a Seneca Indian reservation when Phil was a child, and the experience gave him an enduring love of Native American history and culture.

"Phil" was a man of many gifts, and the books in his home office reveal a treasury of wisdom and adventure. He was known for passionate yet intellectual preaching, sensitive pastoral care and mastery of an eclectic mix of history, religion, cowboy music, sports, hunting and fishing.

He was born on Sept. 2, 1934, in Forestville, N.Y. As a young man, Phil loved athletic competition, excelling in basketball, tennis, and weightlifting. He loved to roam the western New York backcountry, usually with a bow or shotgun in hand. While studying at Houghton College in preparation for entering the ministry, he met his lifelong sweetheart, Mary Jo Wilson. They married in 1956 and had four children. Mary Jo passed away during their 57th year of marriage and Phil wore her engagement ring on his little finger to the end of his life.

They were true partners in ministry and served three New York churches before moving "out west," where they served ten churches over the family's years primarily in Colorado and Kansas. Phil earned two advanced degrees along the way: a Master of Arts in Religion from Kansas University and a Master of Divinity from Denver's Iliff School of Theology. Phil's preaching covered a wide-ranging mix of Scripture, humor, scholarship, sports and popular culture, but it always ended with the grace and forgiveness offered to everyone through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Moving west had been one of Phil's boyhood dreams and he especially enjoyed pastoring two rural churches, each for a decade: West Bethany Free Methodist Church northwest of Leoti, Kan., and the Sargent Community Church in Colorado's San Luis Valley. His interest in cowboy culture grew and he created a music presentation called "Pictures, Songs and Stories of the American Cowboy" which led to invitations to perform at various Colorado cowboy poet events.

After his retirement, Phil supported Mary Jo as a teacher at Pagosa Springs Elementary School and later Our Savior Lutheran Church. Every year, he would load up some hay bales and sing his



beloved cowboy songs for her students. In his 80's, he would accept help to climb stage steps and sing "Ghost Riders in the Sky" when his son Andy's Durango-based band The High Rollers was in town. He liked applying his knowledge of history and theology in letters to the editor and he was especially fond of giving thoughtful devotional talks at the conclusion of his son Dan's wrestling camps.

Phil was preceded in death by his wife Mary Jo Janowsky (2013) and son Andrew Thomas Janowsky (2021).

He is survived by his daughter Peggy Haslar (Rick), and sons Daniel Janowsky (Nyana) and Mark Janowsky; grandchildren Benjamin Haslar, Matthew Haslar (Kate), Ronnie Janowsky (Michelle), Caleb Janowsky, and great-grandchildren Philip and Abby Haslar and Kensington and Camden Janowsky.

A memorial service will be held at the United Methodist Church in Pagosa Springs at 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 5.

Robear concert at Society hall rescheduled



A concert by SLV singer, songwriter and musician locally as Robear has been rescheduled for Saturday, Jan. 13, at Society Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the concert begins at 7 p.m. Robear was originally scheduled to perform in December but had to cancel at the last minute due to a health issue.

Photo courtesy of Robear

Colorado Division of Water Engineer to speak at Rotary on Jan. 8

STAFF REPORT
ALAMOSA—The Alamosa Rotary Club invites the public to its regular meeting on Monday, Jan. 8, at noon. The meeting will be held at Juanito's Mexican Kitchen, 2069 First St., Alamosa.

Craig Cotten, Lead Division Engineer at the Colorado Division of Water, will be speaking on "The Water Year 2023 and Looking Ahead to 2024."

Water is a vital resource in the San Luis Valley, and this is a chance to learn more about current conditions and the outlook for the future. The Division of Water Resources (DWR),

also known as the Office of the State Engineer, administers water rights, issues water well permits, represents Colorado in interstate water compact proceedings, monitors streamflow and water use, approves construction and repair of dams and performs dam safety inspections, issues licenses for well drillers and assures the safe and proper construction of water wells, and maintains numerous databases of Colorado water information.

All are welcome to this informal discussion, and a question-and-answer period. Alamosa Rotary Club

members will meet on the evening of Jan. 22, to serve a meal at La Puente shelter. There will be more information at the Rotary meeting on Jan. 8.

The mission of Rotary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. For more information about Rotary International see www.rotary.org/en.

For more information about the Alamosa Rotary Club, call 719-588-2557.

OBITUARY

Geraldine Marez

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of our beloved Geraldine "Jeri" Marez. She was called home to be with the Lord on Dec. 29, 2023. Geraldine passed away peacefully at her home with her loving family and her dog Allie Girl by her side.

Born on April 24, 1952, the daughter of Ernesto Marquez and Cecilia Montoya Marquez. Jeri was a firecracker, an amazing artist and friend to all. People who knew her will always remember her for her kind and compassionate nature.

Jeri loved to play guitar, do anything with arts and crafts, travel, in her good health she enjoyed riding on the motorcycle and was an animal lover. She also liked gardening and spending as much time as she could with her family and friends,



especially her dog Allie who she loved dearly.

Survivors include her partner Euclides Perea, brother Ernesto "Ernie" (Diana) Marquez, Goddaughters Larissa Marquez, Audrea Gallegos, Charmain (Dominic) Martine, Danisha Martinez, Shawntae Martinez, Anaya Martinez, Steve Perea, Liana Gutierrez, Rosi Casper, Wal-

ter (Marbella) Perea, Andrew Perea and of course her Allie Girl. She is also survived by many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. She is also survived by her loving Dutch Mill Family, Gloria, Jolene and Delfino.

Jeri was preceded in death by her parents Ernesto and Cecilia Marquez.

Cremation was chosen. Rosary and Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Conejos. Rosary will begin at 10 a.m. and Mass to follow at 11 a.m. Interment will be held at a later date.

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

PENDING OBITUARIES

Theresa Cordova

Garcia resident Theresa Cordova, 71, passed away Dec. 29, 2023. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Mary Jenkins

Blanca resident Mary Jenkins passed away Dec. 30, 2023. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Martha Ruybal

Del Norte resident Martha Ruybal passed away Jan. 1, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Melanie Garcia

Alamosa resident Melanie Garcia passed away Dec. 22, 2023. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Deloris P. Day

Alamosa resident Deloris P. Day, 68, was called home on Dec. 27, 2023. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

School Menu
Wednesday
January 3, 2024

Christmas
Break!

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

Valley News

League of Women Voters Annual Meeting

STAFF REPORT
ALAMOSA — The League of Women Voters (LWV) of the San Luis Valley will host its annual meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 11, at the First United Methodist Church, 2005 Mullins Ave., Alamosa. Guest speaker, Andrea Compton, Superintendent of the Great Sand Dunes National Park, will give the keynote address. A potluck supper and social time will kick off the evening. A brief annual meeting and board elections will follow the speaker. The LWV is a nonparti-

san political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not endorse individual candidates for office. All are welcome. For further information, contact either Marianna Young at 719-480-3220 or Jan Oen at 719-480-4771.

Members of the League of Women Voters of the San Luis Valley work on a banner for last year's meeting.

Photo courtesy of Jan Oen



Paid family leave benefits started this week for Colorado workers

By COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
 Colorado workers who have been waiting for a statewide solution for paid family and medical leave are getting the program they voted to create this week. The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment's Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Division recently announced that the state's first FAMLI claims started Monday, Jan. 1, and payments will be heading to workers next week, so they can temporarily step away from their jobs. Paid FAMLI leave can be used for life events such as welcoming a new child, managing a serious health con-

dition or caring for a loved one with a serious health condition. Colorado is the first state to set up a paid-leave program through a public vote, instead of through the legislative branch. FAMLI opened Colorado's application portal (called My FAMLI+) in late November to allow workers who need leave right at the beginning of 2024 to get their claims filed in advance.

"We're proud to have built a claims application system that makes it as simple as possible for Colorado workers to access this important benefit," said FAMLI Division Director Tracy Marshall. "Most Coloradans have been paying FAMLI premiums for a year now, and

we're excited to have reached the important milestone of issuing our first set of benefit payments."

As of Dec. 31, Colorado has seen 5,213 claims filed. Of those, 3,262 have been approved pending their leave start date.

- 69.4% of claims were to bond with a new child.
- 23.8% of claims were to manage a serious health condition.
- 5.8% of claims were to assist a loved one facing a serious health condition.
- 0.78% of claims were to address their own health and safety needs following sexual assault, domestic partner violence, harassment, or stalking.

- 0.21% of claims were to address needs arising out of a family member's active duty military service.

The first set of approved wage-replacement benefit payments will be distributed the week of Jan. 8. Claimants can choose to receive their payments directly to a banking account or on a reloading debit card. Anyone who filed a claim in advance needs to log into their My FAMLI+ account to let the Division know their leave has officially begun before they will receive their first benefit payment.

As a reminder, anyone working for an employer that is using an approved private insurance plan should talk to their

employers about applying for benefits with that plan instead of filing a claim through the State's My FAMLI+ portal.

To help everyone navigate the process and get their questions answered about applying for FAMLI benefits, the FAMLI Division has two upcoming statewide virtual town halls in English and Spanish:

Jan. 10:
 English: 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
 Spanish: 3-4 p.m.

Feb. 1:
 English: 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
 Spanish: 3-4 p.m.

For more details, check out famli.colorado.gov to find how-to videos, user guides, webinar recordings and FAQs to help navigate the program.



Photo courtesy of Conejos County Sheriff's Office.

Search and rescue teams respond to an overdue snowmobiler on Dec. 31.

Conejos County search and rescue ends well

STAFF REPORT
CONEJOS COUNTY — A 64-year-old man was found safe in the Trujillo Meadows area after spending the night in freezing temperatures, the Conejos County Sheriff's Office reported.

At approximately 10 p.m. on Dec. 30, the Conejos County Sheriff's Office received a report of a missing snowmobiler near the

Trujillo Meadows area. A 64-year-old single rider went up earlier in the day to spend the day riding. The family noticed later in the evening that he had not returned home. Family members went up in an attempt to locate him. His truck and trailer were located but no sign of him or the sled.

A team was put together and assistance

from Flight for Life was requested. The Forest Service also responded to assist. At approximately 2:30 a.m. on Dec. 31, a snowmobile team along with Flight began searching the area. The team returned at approximately 5:30 a.m. and did not locate the party.

The team and Flight refueled and continued the search. At 9 a.m.,

Flight located the man. The man did not sustain any injuries and was transported to his vehicle.

"Conejos County Sheriff's Office would like to extend a great thank you to the Forest Service, Flight for Life, Conejos Search and Rescue members and all the snowmobilers who assisted in the search," the sheriff's office stated.

Saguache County Sales Tax Grants available

By SAGUACHE COUNTY
SAGUACHE — The Saguache County Commissioners invite the public to apply for a Sales Tax Grant through the county's official website at <https://saguache-county.colorado.gov/saguache-county-sales-tax-grant>.

Individuals and agencies can complete the grant application online or download it.

Funding ideas must fall under one of these three categories. Grants awarded range from \$500 to over \$7,500.

- Youth and Senior Services and Programs
- Alternative Energy Projects and/or Business/Job Creation Opportunities
- Emergency Services, Public Health and Safety

The Saguache County Sales Tax Grant was

established through a ballot initiative that created a fund to distribute to individuals, groups and organizations to better the Saguache County community. This funding is derived from a 1% sales tax on most goods sold in Saguache County.

The grant application deadline is 3 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 9. All applications must be submitted by one of the following ways — online, hand delivered to the Saguache County Administration office located at 505 3rd St., Saguache, or mailed in time to meet the 3 p.m. deadline, as stated above, to Saguache County Administration/Sales Tax Grant, PO Box 100, Saguache, CO 81149.

For more information, visit online saguache-county.colorado.gov.

Contest

Continued from Page 1
 "The Shine Bright Tree

Decorating Contest saw the enthusiastic participation of 18 local businesses, each bringing their unique charm to

Downtown. Visit Alamosa, in partnership with the City of Alamosa, expresses heartfelt gratitude to all participating

businesses, and to the public for casting their votes, making this inaugural year truly magical," organizers stated.

Wates

Continued from Page 1

Wates was born in London and studied at Oxford University. In the late 1990s, he signed a publishing deal with Eaton Music and worked for several years as their house songwriter. He moved to Paris in 2001, formed his own quartet and performed regularly

in the city's clubs. He came to the U.S. in fall 2006. Since then, he has received more than fifty songwriting and performing awards. He has been a Finalist in the Kerrville New Folk Song Contest, and an Emerging Artist at Falconridge Folk Festival. A full list of awards can be viewed at www.rupertwatesmusic.com/awards. He has recorded and released nine

CDs — available at www.rupertwatesmusic.com/buy-music.

In addition to writing and recording, Wates plays over 120 live shows a year in venues all over the United States, Canada and in Europe, and has appeared regularly on radio and TV. He prefers smaller, more intimate spaces, where the audience is up close, where true musicianship

Council

Continued from Page 1
 a penalty of up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine, depending upon the motivation for the breach.

representatives on the council interact with each other following a process that extended over two months since Anderson resigned.

According to a press release sent by the city on Friday afternoon an investigation was held, an employee with the city was identified as the person who breached the session, it was determined that there was no malicious intent in the breach and the individual resigned. Despite the breach being related to a process that is of significant interest to some of the public, the announcement stated categorically that no further information would be released regarding the "personnel" issue.

Aside from strong and repeated statements of support for the city manager made by Mayor Ty Coleman, where other members of council stand has been largely unknown. Coleman made his comments of support after the first session concluded but while the investigation was still underway.

The public is allowed to only view the work session, not participate in it. But it allows an opportunity for people to see their

The time of the work session is not known as it will take place after council has adjourned from their regularly scheduled meeting, which begins at 7 p.m. The Zoom link to the work session is the same as the link to the regularly scheduled meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85753492744>.

The dial-in number is 1-719-359-4580 in the U.S. The webinar ID is 85753492744.

The dial-in number is 1-719-359-4580 in the U.S. The webinar ID is 85753492744.

Opinion

LETTERS

Make a conscious effort to support local coffee shops

Editor,
I write with concern as Alamosa, a town of merely 10,000, welcomes a third Starbucks and yet another chain coffee shop on Main Street with four thriving, locally-owned coffee shops in Alamosa, some offering similar menus, the influx of these chains poses a threat to the sustainability of our unique community businesses.

The charm of our community lies in its local establishments, and it's disheartening to witness the potential impact on their revenue and even the risk of closure. While I understand the appeal of well-known coffee chains, it's important to consider the long-term effects on our local economy and community identity.

I believe it's critical for Starbucks and other chain establishments to show a commitment to the growth of the communities they enter. Supporting our local businesses fosters a sense of community, preserving the character that makes our Valley special.

Sure, it's handy to be able to run through the drive-thru to pick up a coffee on the way to work, and I'm not saying we should boycott a place of business because it's a national chain. However, these chains are not considering their effect on our community and therefore we must be more vigilant.

I encourage residents to choose local coffee shops, ensuring the success of these businesses and contributing to the overall growth of our community. There are no winners in this situation, but there are certain losers — the ability to build a strong community loses, the community loses. Together, we can make a conscious effort to preserve the unique flavor and identity that sets our community apart.

Mimi Dolan
Hooper
(Not a coffee shop owner)

New year and time for people to be better citizens

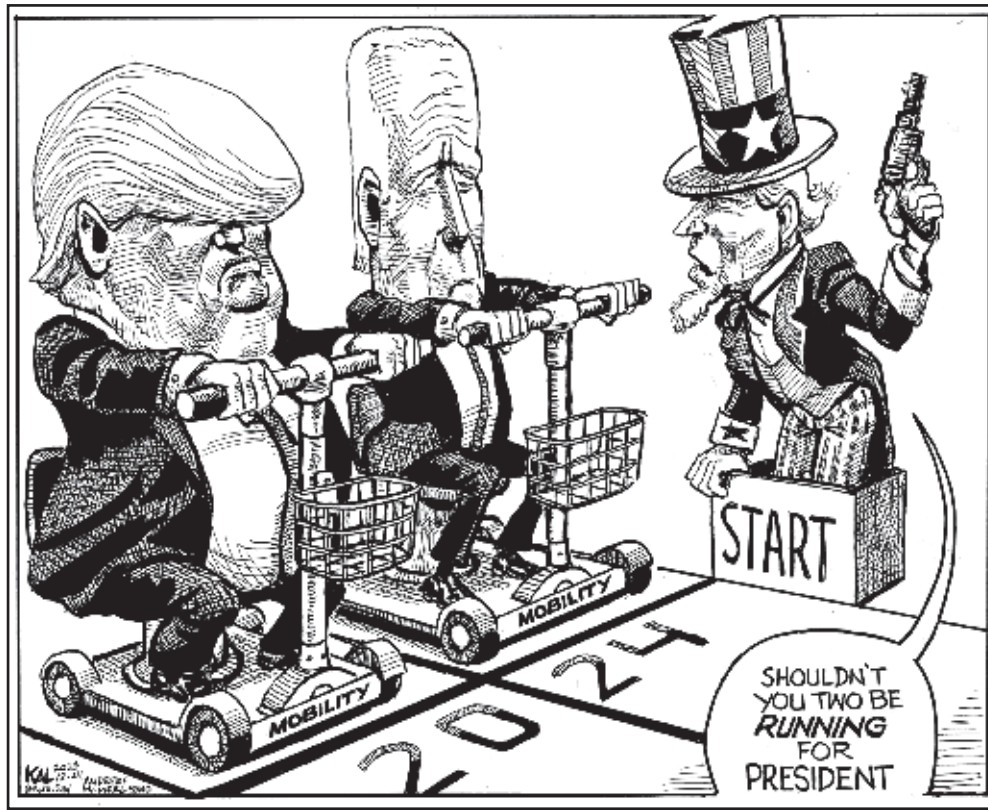
Editor,
Well, it's a new year and it is time for all of us to be better citizens. Open your eyes, get involved, ask questions (and expect answers), etc. The best way to do this is by attending the first Alamosa City Council meeting tonight at 7 p.m. It would be even better if you attended the work session at 6 p.m. to listen to "Interview Questions for Council Vacancy".

I hope they find someone who knows where the Southside (otherwise known as Lower Downtown Alamosa) is. Someone who will fight for the southside. Someone who will visit the businesses on the Southside more than four times in 20 years. Someone who will help get lit Christmas decorations on our poles. And, maybe some decorative lamp posts, trash cans, etc. Doesn't hurt to dream, does it?

The actual meeting will be pretty short, I think. And then there is a work session at the end of the meeting. I don't know that I have ever seen that before. Topic to be discussed, "Discussion of concerns raised during the police chiefs resignation". Boy, oh boy, I can hardly wait to hear this!

I hope to see some of you at the meeting. In my humble opinion, if you don't get involved, you have no right to complain. It's a terrible thing to give up your rights.

Ruthie Brown
Alamosa



To submit news, email:
news@alamosanews.com

To submit sports, email:
khamrick@alamosanews.com

Letters policy

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

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

Multi Agency Parade Float Discourages Mischief on Public Lands

As twilight descended on the relatively quiet mountain valley town there was a sense of building energy. While it's hard to describe the feeling, I know the others around me were feeling it too. The cold began to set in as the last light of the day gave way to the inevitable darkness of the daily cycle. Yet, where we were, there was a mounting glow of not only light, but an exciting inner feeling shared by hundreds. The last-minute preparations have all been done and the idea machine was now turned off. Now was the time to put the idea into motion. Literally. The 2023 Alamosa Christmas Light Parade was set to begin in just a short 30 minutes, and we were in it.

This day, "we" was defined as your four federal land management agencies of the San Luis Valley. The Bureau of Land Management San Luis Valley Field Office, the National Park Service Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, the US Fish & Wildlife Service San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex, and the US Forest Service Rio Grande National Forest worked together to build a float to participate in the parade and promote the responsible use of your federal lands.

To do this, we decided to use two well-known holiday icons to help us — the Grinch and Elf on the Shelf. Both characters represent some form of mischief, and we were able to use them to help deliver our message. Like many parade floats, we started with a base idea and let the individual creativity of the participating employees expand to develop the final idea. The Grinch was riding a snowmobile recklessly through decorated Christmas trees and up onto a closed road. The agencies all have similar needs for special rules that help manage our respective lands. These rules often include road closures. The point of the Grinch was to encourage folks to respect the road closures, even if they don't make sense to you. There is definitely a good reason for road closures and complying with the closures is the legal and moral thing to do.

The Elf on the Shelf was having a campfire but when Elf decided to leave, the ever-watching Smokey Bear was there to encourage Elf to use the lighted bucket of water to fully extinguish the fire before leaving. This message has been the same since the beginning of the public land agencies and indeed since our beloved Smokey Bear was born some 79 years ago. The only responsible thing to do is have water to fully put out your

Land, Water and People



Gregg Goodland



Courtesy photo

The Bureau of Land Management San Luis Valley Field Office, the National Park Service Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, the US Fish & Wildlife Service San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex, and the US Forest Service Rio Grande National Forest worked together to build a float to participate in the Alamosa Light Parade and promote the responsible use of your federal lands.

campfire or not have one. Our society is getting better at doing this, but we still need help to encourage everyone to do it right. We have too much to lose from a wildfire started by a campfire that should have been put out. And, even on that cold December evening, we're pretty sure the parade watchers got the message.

Why do "we" do this? I see this as an opportunity to connect with the communities that we serve on a different level. We also want to highlight that, while we have different missions, the four agencies work regularly together and share a basic philosophy. We all promote sustainable land stewardship and use.

We also see an opportunity to remind folks that the employees of these agencies live and work here too. Our kids go to school with your kids. We go to the same grocery stores, churches and gyms. Some of our friends, spouses and children even participated in the parade. So, yes, "we" are definitely part of this community.

The parade ended and we quickly disassembled the float so we could have the rest of the evening with our families. I had fun though and it left me with a good feeling of participating in a community event, both on a personal and professional level. This was the second year of the float since I've been around, and I'll be a big advocate to rally the agencies again next year. I'm already looking forward to seeing what that will bring and how we can connect with the great folks of the San Luis Valley.

Write them

GOVERNOR

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

STATE HOUSE

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

STATE SENATE

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

cleave.simpson.senate@coleg.gov

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Lauren Boebert (R)
Pueblo Office: 503 N. Main, Suite 426, Pueblo, CO 81003 (719) 696-6970;

Washington Office: 1609 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

Phone: (202) 225-4761

Fax: (202) 226-9669;

Contact: <https://boebert.house.gov/>

U.S. SENATE

Michael Bennet (D)
SLV Regional Office: 609 Main Street, Suite 110, Alamosa 81101; Phone: 587-0096; Fax: 587-0098;

Washington office: 458 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510; DC Phone: 202-224-5852;

Contact: bennet.senate.gov

John Hickenlooper (D)

Washington office: B85 Russell Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510

(202) 224-5941

Contact: www.hickenlooper.senate.gov

Keith R Cerny
Publisher



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Brian Williams
Managing Editor

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Your FIRST Source for Local News

Lifestyles

Thinning Colorado forests to reduce fire danger also helps bees and flowers, research shows

By WILLIAM ALLSTETTER
Colorado Sun

A more-than-decade-long effort to thin Front Range forests to reduce fire danger has brought more bees, more flowers and increased resilience to climate change, new research shows.

The raw number and the diversity of bees and plants exploded a few years after ponderosa pine forests were restored to a “pre-European” state, researchers from Colorado State and Utah State universities found.

“We found that if you cut trees and open up the canopy, between three and 10 years later, you see a pretty good response,” said Seth Davis, associate professor of forest and rangeland stewardship at Colorado State University and co-author of a study recently published in “Ecological Applications.”

“Forest restoration and forest thinning is one of the ways that we can conserve our native communities.”

For thousands of years, natural fires have been an integral part of healthy forest ecosystems in the West. Small fires that clear out underbrush every five to 30 years as well as more devastating fires that can raze the forest to the ground every 50 to 100 or more years clear the way for new growth. Native Americans were known to set small fires to clear out undergrowth for better hunting and regeneration of valuable plants, but did not cause major changes in the ecosystem. Then, beginning in 1859, Euro-Americans flooded into Colorado seeking gold and silver.

“Suddenly, in a span of decades, the Colorado Rockies were engulfed by this new, highly unpredictable world of commodity capitalism, of smelters and railroad investment, of boomtowns and sudden busts, of landscape changes so fundamental that they dwarfed the modest human impacts made over the prior 10 centuries,” historical geographer William Wyckoff wrote in his book “Creating Colorado.”

Vast swaths of the Front Range forests were cleared to obtain wood for mining, construction and railroads. Extensive fires also surged across the landscape, fueled by accidental and intentional fires.

To combat the rampant and unregulated logging of these forests, the federal government in the early years of the 20th century created the White River, Pike, and Arapaho and Roosevelt national forests along the Front Range and high into the Rockies. At about the same time, firefighters began trying to suppress all fires.

As a result, over the past century, dense forests with thick undergrowth have grown up across the Front Range and the entire West. Many of the plants that thrived in the pre-European forests disappeared from the now shady forest floor. And with them went many of the animals that ate and pollinated them.

“You end up with a rather homogenous landscape that doesn’t have a lot of flowers in it,” Davis said. “You end up with a situation where you can’t have a lot of native bees there.”

In Colorado and across the nation, sharply declining populations of native bumblebees and nonnative honeybees have raised concerns about these important pollinators at the base of the food web. Loss and fragmentation of bee-friendly habitat, pesticides, diseases and climate change have all been blamed. Colorado recently limited access to a particularly harmful class of pesticide, neonicotinoids, and commissioned a study to evaluate the state of pollinators across the state, presumably with an eye

toward more conservation. Colorado Parks and Wildlife, however, has no authority to manage or protect insects like bees, beetles and other pollinators.

Dense forests that have grown up over the past century have fostered more frequent devastating crown fires that are extremely difficult to fight and have destroyed thousands of homes. Ponderosa pine forests, growing between 6,000 and 9,000 feet in elevation, are especially prone to burning.

In 2020 alone, five devastating fires burned 25% of the Arapaho and Roosevelt national forests. Drier and warmer weather from climate change are further increasing the fire danger.

In an attempt to reduce fire danger and restore forests across the West closer to their healthier, pre-European state, the federal government in 2009 funded a 10-year program, called the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program. Thirty-two thousand acres — or 50 square miles — of the most vulnerable and degraded forests along the Front Range were chosen for restoration, through physical removal of excess trees and undergrowth and low-intensity prescribed fires.

It is still too early to know if the thinning has reduced fire danger. However, thinning did have a beneficial effect on at least one large fire.

“The Cameron Peak fire burned into some of the areas that did have that thinning and prescribed fire,” said Tony Cheng, director of the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute at Colorado State University. “That fire basically kind of laid down once it hit those thinned areas. It transitioned from being a running crown fire into being more of a grass kind of surface fire, which is exactly the kind of fire that we would have expected more of historically. So that was really kind of an eyewitness demonstration where a lot of that work really did have an impact on the fire.”

Davis and his colleagues studied 15 thinned and 15 unthinned plots near Estes Park, Lyons and Buffalo Creek. The thinned plots were sunnier, warmer and more open.

“Think ‘open and park-like,’ or ‘savannah woodland,’” Davis wrote in an email. In contrast, the unthinned forest was colder and darker with pine needles and woody material covering the forest floor. “Think ‘thick pine forest that wants to burn up,’” he wrote.

Sweat bees, so named because of their attraction to human sweat, were

the most common group of bees. Bumblebees were the second-most common group and two of the most common species. Leafcutter bees were another group often found in the forests.

Compiling a list of the plants and bees provides a very limited picture of the forest ecosystem. It is kind of like naming the characters in a play without performing the play. It does not tell you how the characters interact, who is important and who plays a minor role.

To get a more direct and relevant measure of the ecological effects of forest thinning, Davis and his colleagues cataloged which bees visited which plants.

They found an impressively richer, more dense and resilient web of life. While the bee population roughly doubled, the number of interactions between bees and plants rose eightfold and there were five times as many unique connections between specific bee species and plant species.

The researchers illustrated the interactions in a diagram, which visually depicts a richer, more complex web of life.

“Yeah, it’s kind of mind-blowing,” Davis said. “You just see there’s just far more diversity or more complexity.”

“You get the idea that if you lost one or two of the flowers or one or two of the bees out of this system, the whole network doesn’t just collapse and fall apart. Whereas on these control plots, if you remove one or two things, you just got a lot more vulnerable ecosystem.”

“This paper is a strong piece of evidence for the ecosystem benefits of forest thinning in areas where fire has been suppressed and the canopy is overgrown,” said Amy Yarger, director of horticulture at the Butterfly Pavilion. She was not involved in the research. “With climate change and biodiversity loss posing existential threats, mindful forest management is key for conservation and for preserving our way of life in Colorado.”

By mapping those interactions, Davis was able to identify several plant species that are particularly important for a healthy ponderosa pine forest: blue mist penstemon (*Penstemon virens*); field chickweed or prairie mouse-ear (*Cerastium arvense*); sand dune or Western wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum*); and pineywoods geranium (*Geranium caespitosum*).

In addition to being visited by many bees, these plants also connect different groups of bees and plants that interact, sort of like the person in high

school who was both a jock and part of the theater crowd. These connector plants help make the network more resilient should one or more species of plant or bee disappear.

“Here are some really key species for supporting a lot of biodiversity of pollinators, which in turn supports biodiversity of plants,” said Julian Resasco, assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Colorado. “Things that maintain the integrity and the diversity of these ecosystems make them more robust to other threats, like climate change.”

The researchers recommended that forest managers seed ponderosa pine

forests with these plants to promote a robust pollinator network. They also could be good plants for people to plant in their gardens. “These are good choices for planting because they’re going to support the bee-flower interaction network,” Davis said.

He believes the environmental benefits extend beyond bees and plants. “We’re sort of measuring one little component of the overall food web here,” Davis said. “By bolstering their abundances, you’re also bolstering the abundances of things which prey upon them, like predators, which could be birds and other animals.” Another study from 2020 suggests that the thinned forests also benefit-

ed bird populations.

The thinning by the original landscape restoration program ended in 2019. Since then, the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act have funneled more money into the program and the Forest Service has announced a strategy to reduce wildfire hazards across the West. The initial funding for that program, however, will run out in three to four years, said the Forest Restoration Institute’s Cheng, and it is not clear what will happen after that.

“I think the question is always what comes next to sustain the funding for this continued forest management,” Cheng said.



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Sports

2023 college bowl game results



Saturday, Dec. 16
Myrtle Beach Bowl
 At Conway, S.C.
 Ohio 41, Georgia Southern 21

Cricket Celebration Bowl
 At Atlanta Ga.
 Florida A&M 30, Howard 26

R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl
 At New Orleans, La.
 Jacksonville State 34, Louisiana 31

Avocados From Mexico Cure Bowl
 At Orlando, Fla.
 Appalachian State 34, Miami (Oho) 9

Isleta New Mexico Bowl
 At Albuquerque, N.M.
 Fresno State 37, New Mexico State 10

Starco Brands L.A. Bowl hosted by Gronk
 At Inglewood, Calif.
 UCLA 35, Boise State 22

Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl
 At Shreveport, La.
 Texas Tech 34, California 14

Monday Dec. 18
Famous Toastery Bowl
 At Charlotte, N.C.
 Western Kentucky 38, Old Dominion 35

Tuesday, Dec. 19
Scooter's Coffee Frisco Bowl
 At Frisco, Texas
 Texas-San Antonio 35, Marshall 17

Thursday, Dec. 21
Roofclaim.com Boca Raton Bowl
 At Boca Raton, Fla.
 South Florida 45, Syracuse 0

Friday, Dec. 22
Union Home Mortgage Gasparilla Bowl
 At Tampa, Fla.
 Georgia Tech 30, Central Florida 17

Saturday, Dec. 23
76 Birmingham Bowl
 At Birmingham, Ala.
 Duke 17, Troy 10

Camelia Bowl
 At Montgomery, Ala.
 Northern Illinois 21, Arkansas State 19

Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl
 At Fort Worth, Texas
 Air Force 31, James Madison 21

Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
 At Boise, Idaho
 Georgia State 45, Utah State 22

68 Ventures Bowl
 At Mobile, Ala.
 South Alabama 59, Eastern Michigan 10

SRS Distribution Las Vegas Bowl
 At Las Vegas, Nev.
 Northwestern 14, Utah 7

Easypost Hawai'i Bowl
 At Honolulu, Hawai'i
 Coastal Carolina 24, San Jose State 14

Tuesday, Dec. 26
Quick Lane Bowl

At Detroit, Mich.
 Minnesota 30, Bowling Green 24

Servpro First Responder Bowl
 At Dallas, Texas
 Texas State 45, Rice 21

Guaranteed Rate Bowl
 At Phoenix, Ariz.
 Kansas 49, Nevada-Las Vegas 36

Wednesday, Dec. 27
Military Bowl presented by gobowling.com
 At Annapolis, Md.
 Virginia Tech 41, Tulane 20

Duke's Mayo Bowl
 At Charlotte, N.C.
 West Virginia 30, North Carolina 10

DirectTV Holiday Bowl
 At San Diego, Calif.
 Southern California 42, (15) Louisville 28

Texact Texas Bowl
 At Houston, Texas
 (20) Oklahoma State 31, Texas A&M 23

Thursday, Dec. 28
Wasabi Fenway Bowl
 At Boston, Mass.
 Boston College 23, (24) Southern Methodist 14

Bad Bow Mowers Pinstripe Bowl
 At Bronx, N.Y.

Rutgers 31, Miami (Fla.) 24

Pop-Tarts Bowl
 At Orlando, Fla.
 (25) Kansas State 28, (18) North Carolina State 19

Valero Alamo Bowl
 At San Antonio, Texas
 (14) Arizona 38, (12) Oklahoma 24

Friday, Dec. 29
Taxslayer Gator Bowl
 At Jacksonville, Fla.
 (22) Clemson 38, Kentucky 35

Tony the Tiger Sun Bowl
 At El Paso, Texas
 (16) Notre Dame 40, (19) Oregon State 8

Autozone Liberty Bowl
 At Memphis, Tenn.
 Memphis 36, Iowa State 26

Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic
 At Dallas, Texas
 (9) Missouri 14, (7) Ohio State 3

Saturday, Dec. 30
Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl
 At Atlanta, Ga.
 (11) Mississippi 38, (10) Penn State 25

Transperfect Music City Bowl
 At Nashville, Tenn.
 Maryland 31, Auburn 13

Capital One Orange Bowl

At Miami Gardens, Fla.
 (6) Georgia 63, (5) Florida State 3

Barstool Sports Arizona Bowl
 At Tucson, Ariz.
 Wyoming 16, Toledo 15

Monday, Jan. 1
ReliaQuest Bowl
 At Tampa, Fla.
 (13) Louisiana State 35, Wisconsin 31

Cheez-it Citrus Bowl
 At Orlando, Fla.
 (21) Tennessee 35 (17) Iowa 0

Vrbo Fiesta Bowl
 At Glendale, Ariz.
 (8) Oregon 45, (23) Liberty 6

College Football Playoff Semifinal at the Rose Bowl presented by Prudential
 At Pasadena, Calif.
 (1) Michigan 27, (4) Alabama 20, OT

College Football Playoff Semifinal at the Allstate Sugar Bowl
 At New Orleans, La.
 (2) Washington 37, (3) Texas 31

Monday, Jan. 8
College Football Playoff National Championship Game presented by AT&T
 At Houston, Texas
 (2) Washington (14-0) vs. (1) Michigan (14-0), 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)



RMAC standings

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

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

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

WOMEN'S WRESTLING		
Team	Conf. W-L	Overall W-L
Simon Fraser (B.C.)	4-0	7-1
Colorado Mesa	2-1	8-2
Texas Woman's	2-2	2-3
Chadron State (Neb.)	1-2	3-3
Adams State	0-3	1-7

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD FRIDAY
College men's basketball
 Colorado State 106, Adams State 61

SCHEDULE THURSDAY
Prep boys basketball
 RockyFord at Center, 2 p.m.
 Pagosa Springs at Sanford, 4 p.m.
Prep girls basketball
 RockyFord at Center, 2 p.m.
 Pagosa Springs at Sanford, 4 p.m.

Prep boys wrestling
 Gunnison, Primero at Mountain Valley, TBA
Prep girls wrestling
 Gunnison, Primero at Mountain Valley, TBA

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

Prep girls basketball
 Centennial at Sargent, 4:30 p.m.
 Creede vs. Moffat (at

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

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

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

Prep girls basketball
 Center at Peyton, noon
 Evangel Christian at Sierra Grande, noon
 Moffat at Weldon Valley, 1 p.m.
 Centennial at South Baca, 2 p.m.
 Sangre de Cristo at

Trinidad, 2 p.m.
 Alamosa at Delta, 2:30 p.m.
 The Vanguard at Centauri, 2:30 p.m.
 Ignacio at Monte Vista, 3 p.m.
Prep boys wrestling
 Alamosa at Peoria (Ariz.) Invitational, 9 a.m.

College men's basketball
 Mountain Valley at Gunnison Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Sierra Grande/Centennial at Rye Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Centauri, Center, Monte Vista at Rocky Mountain Wrestling Invitational (at Pagosa Springs), 10 a.m.

Prep girls wrestling
 Alamosa at Peoria (Ariz.) Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Monte Vista, Mountain Valley at Gunnison Invitational, 9 a.m.
College men's basketball
 Adams State at South Dakota Mines, 6 p.m.

College women's basketball
 Adams State at South Dakota mines, 4 p.m.
College men's wrestling
 Adams State at Tracy Borah Duals (at Gunnison), TBA

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.

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Lifestyles

Blue Mesa Reservoir fishing tournament returns in 2024 with a \$10,000 prize purse

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

GUNNISON — Anglers will once again have the chance to earn cash prizes this winter while helping Colorado Parks and Wildlife achieve management goals of lake trout within Blue Mesa Reservoir.

The Blue Mesa Reservoir Lake Trout Tournament is scheduled to run Jan. 1 through April 30. The third edition of this tournament is sponsored by CPW in an effort to reduce the population of lake trout 24 inches in length and smaller. This is the first time CPW has held this tournament since 2021.

This harvest-incentive tournament will help aquatic biologists maintain adequate kokanee salmon fry survival by limiting predation from lake trout. Abundant kokanee are also key to maintaining excellent trophy lake trout growth and condition within the reservoir.

“Colorado Parks and Wildlife is asking anglers to be our partners in helping to manage the renowned Blue Mesa Reservoir fishery,” said Dan Brauch, aquatic biologist for CPW in Gunnison. “We know we can have an excellent kokanee fishery and a trophy lake trout fishery, but we need to continue our work for both species and we need the continued help of Colorado’s anglers.”

Anglers participating in the tournament must possess a valid Colorado fishing license and follow all Colorado boating and fishing regulations.

To participate, anglers who harvest a lake trout 24 inches or smaller can turn in the whole fish or the fish head and place them in a plastic bag provided at one of three boat ramps at the reservoir. Bags can be found at the Iola, Elk Creek and Lake Fork boat ramps. Heads may also be turned into CPW’s offices in Gunnison or Montrose.

Previous tournaments were held in 2020 and 2021. In the most recent edition, 516 anglers participated and harvested 5,759 of the target-sized lake trout.

Cash prizes will be awarded in two categories at the conclusion of the tournament. Anglers who place in the top four of most fish turned in will earn a large portion of the total purse. First place will receive \$3,000, second will earn \$1,500, third place will take home \$1,000 and fourth will claim \$500.

In addition to those prizes, every angler will be entered in a raffle for each fish they turn in. A total of 20 winners will be randomly selected, and each will earn \$200. All winners will be contacted by May 31, 2024.

Unchecked lake trout population growth caused significant declines in kokanee abundance in previous decades. The two previous tournaments were successful, and subsequent lake trout monitoring resulted in a recommendation to not hold tournaments in 2022 and 2023.

“Recent monitoring has documented an increase in numbers of small lake trout, so ongoing harvest of small lake trout

is needed to maintain numbers at appropriate levels,” Brauch said.

CPW research shows that smaller lake trout, those 24 inches and smaller, consume the most kokanee. Consequently, the tournament is focused on removing those fish.

Though recent drought conditions have led to reduced kokanee survival, it is expected that improved reservoir conditions – along with maintenance of small lake trout abundance at desired levels – will allow recovery of kokanee populations.

Maintaining abundant kokanee supports quality-fishing opportunities for kokanee and provides a source of kokanee eggs for restocking needs at up to 25 waters in Colorado. Abundant kokanee are also essential for maintaining continued growth of trophy lake trout at Blue Mesa Reservoir.

“We appreciate angler participation in maintaining balance in the



A small lake trout is pictured after being caught at Blue Mesa Reservoir. The 2024 ice fishing lake trout tournament is set to return and offers a \$10,000 prize purse.

Courtesy photo

Blue Mesa fishery,” Brauch said. “Working together, we will continue to provide quality oppor-

tunities for both kokanee and trophy lake trout.” For more information about fishing at Blue Mesa Reservoir, including how to catch lake trout, research studies and management plan-

ning, go to: <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/BlueMesaReservoirFisheryManagement.aspx>.

Kids' Corner

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2	1		10
	6	4	10
9	3		20
11	10	19	

8	3	9
4	9	0
7	1	2

Solution

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

TOH UPSO

ANSWER: Hot soup

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1911: KAPPA ALPHA PSI, THE WORLD'S THIRD-OLDEST AND LARGEST BLACK FRATERNITY, IS FOUNDED.
- 1944: THE DAILY MAIL BECOMES THE FIRST MAJOR LONDON NEWSPAPER TO BE PUBLISHED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.
- 1972: U.S. PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON ANNOUNCES THE SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM.



SIMMER

to keep food just below boiling when cooking or heating it

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Soup
- SPANISH:** Sopa
- ITALIAN:** Minestra
- FRENCH:** Soupe
- GERMAN:** Suppe



SOUPS ARE BROKEN DOWN INTO TWO GROUPS: CLEAR SOUPS AND THICK, CREAMY SOUPS.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CHICKEN SOUP



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Classifieds

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing before the Conejos County Board of Adjustments will be held on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 6:15 PM. The hearing will be held in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Conejos County Courthouse, 6683 County Rd 13, Conejos. The purpose of this hearing is to consider an application for a Variance to the County setback requirements.
 The applicants are Mahlon & Mary Ann Girod, 16010 US HWY 285, La Jara. The property is legally described as: That Part of SE1/4 NW1/4 of Section 3, Township 34N, Range 9E, NMPM, Conejos County, Colorado. Parcel #586703200016.
 The full details of this application are available for public inspection in the Office of the Land Use Administrator at the Conejos County Courthouse during regular office hours of 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Interested persons may appear to be heard at the public hearing.
 Linda DeHerrera
 Land Use Administrator
 Published in the VALLEY COURIER on 12/20/2023 and 1/3/2024
 No. 3706.
 Published in the Valley Courier on December 20, 2023 & January 3, 2024.

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION
 CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 954-23
 To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:
 On October 20, 2023, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Alamosa records.
 Original Grantor(s)
 CHRISTOPHER V SALAZAR AND KELLI R SHAWCROFT
 Original Beneficiary(ies)
 CHAMPION MORTGAGE, A DIVISION OF KEYBANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
 Current Holder of Evidence of Debt
 U.S BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF CITIGROUP MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2019-RP1
 Date of Deed of Trust
 December 16, 2006
 County of Recording
 Alamosa
 Recording Date of Deed of Trust
 January 04, 2007
 Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.)
 329256
 Original Principal Amount
 \$68,800.00
 Outstanding Principal Balance
 \$51,867.10
 Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust and other violations of the terms thereof.
 THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.
 ALL THE REAL PROPERTY TOGETHER WITH IMPROVEMENTS, IF ANY, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF ALAMOSA AND STATE OF COLORADO DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
 THE WEST 100 FEET OF LOT 3, AND THE WEST 100 FEET OF THE SOUTH 32 FEET OF LOT 2, BLOCK 93, COLT'S SUBDIVISION TO THE CITY OF ALAMOSA, ALAMOSA COUNTY, COLORADO.
 Also known by street and number as: 1004 EDISON AVE, ALAMOSA, CO 81101.
 THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.
NOTICE OF SALE
 The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.
 THEREFORE, Notice is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, 02/21/2024, at County Office Building, 8999 Independence Way, Alamosa Colorado, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.
 First Publication 12/27/2023
 Last Publication 1/24/2024
 Name of Publication Valley Courier
 IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;
 DATE: 10/20/2023
 Amy McKinley, Public Trustee in and for the County of Alamosa, State of Colorado
 By: Amy McKinley, Public Trustee
 The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:
 Ryan Bourgeois, Esq. #51088
 Barrett Frappier & Weisserman, LLP 1391 Speer Boulevard, Suite 700, Denver, CO 80204 (303) 350-3711
 Attorney File # 0000009595745
 The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.
 ©Public Trustees' Association of Colorado Revised 1/2015
 No. 3728.
 Published in the Valley Courier on December 27, 2023, January 3, 10, 17, & 24, 2024.

District Court Conejos County, Colorado
 Court Address: 6683 County Road 13, Conejos, CO 81128
 Date Filed: August 11, 2023 11:52 AM
 In re:
 X The Marriage of:
 The Civil Union of:
 Parental Responsibilities concerning:
 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 tingyphn@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 Response 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.

173 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

221 - HELP WANTED

LICENSED PLUMBER DOES all types of plumbing & plumbing repairs. Quick service! Call anytime, weekends & evenings: 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (1/5/24-monthlyAS)

THE EAST ALAMOSA WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT is taking applications for a PART TIME CLERICAL POSITION, mainly 12:00 - 4:00 pm daily, average 20-25 hours per week (\$14.42/hour). Ideal candidate will have excellent customer skills and computer skills. Resume may be dropped off at 10 Costilla Ave., in EAST ALAMOS, or mailed to P.O. Box 1092, Alamosa, CO 81101. Resumes accepted until position is filled. (1/6/24AS)

221 - HELP WANTED

WE GOT THE HELP WE WERE LOOKING FOR WITH THE HELP OF THE VALLEY COURIER. Smokin Spuds. (AS)

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

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, rgclanduse@riogrande-county.org (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)

NOTICE
 Notice of Request for Bids to Source and Install a Variable Frequency Drive (VFD). Subdistrict No. 3 of the Rio Grande Water Conservation 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 accommodate 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 bidder'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 further 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 to angelo@rgwcd.org.
 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.

NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Rio Grande & San Luis Ditch Company will be held at the Outcall Event & Conference at SLV Ski Hi Complex, 2335 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista, Colorado on Friday the 11th of January 2024, at the hour of 10:00 a.m.
 The purpose of this meeting is to levy an assessment and to transact such other business that may properly come before said meeting.
 No. 3731.
 Published in the Valley Courier on January 3 & 10, 2024.

NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Consolidated Ditch & Headgate Company will be held at the Outcall Event & Conference at SLV Ski Hi Complex, 2335 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista, Colorado on Thursday the 11th of January 2024 at the hour of 8:00 a.m.
 The purpose of this meeting is to levy an assessment and to transact such other business that may properly come before said meeting.
 No. 3732.
 Published in the Valley Courier on January 3 & 10, 2024.

NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Lariat Ditch Company will be held at the Outcall Event & Conference at SLV Ski Hi Complex, 2335 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista, Colorado on Thursday 11th of January 2024, at the hour of 12:00 p.m.
 The purpose of this meeting is to levy an assessment and to transact such other business that may properly come before said meeting.
 No. 3733.
 Published in the Valley Courier on January 3 & 10, 2024.

SAVE ON FUEL! SHOP LOCALLY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 Notice is hereby given that the Conejos County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing to discuss the adoption of the final Conejos County Budget for the fiscal year 2024. Meeting will be held in the Conejos County Commissioners Boardroom on Thursday January 4th 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
 Dated: December 28th 2023
 Mitchell Jarvis
 Chairman, Conejos County Commissioners
 No. 3734.
 Published in the Valley Courier on December 29, 30, 2023, January 2, & 3, 2024.

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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 jphillips@ci.montevista.co.us. EOE/ADA. (1/10/2024AS)

MELANZANA IS NOW hiring for full-time SEWING MACHINE OPERATORS, FABRIC CUTTERS, and a SEWING MACHINE MECHANIC for our new manufacturing facility in ALAMOSA.

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

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

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)

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)

CITY OF MONTE VISTA is hiring for an EQUIPMENT OPERATOR II that will assist work crews in street construction, maintenance and repair as assigned. The Equipment Operator performs physical labor in construction, concrete and asphalt repair, and traffic control. Regularly operates a single or tandem axle dump truck, snowplow, and other assigned vehicles, and performs other related duties and special projects as assigned. Requires a valid Colorado Commercial Driver's License (CDL) to operate City equipment and/or vehicles, including the appropriate endorsements/restrictions. This is a 40 hour per week full-time position. The general starting wage is \$19.00 - \$22.00 per hour plus an excellent benefit package. Applicant must submit a completed job application to the Human Resources Office, 95 W. 1st Ave., Monte Vista, CO 81144. Applications and a full job description are available at <https://cityofmontevista.colorado.gov/> or at City Hall. Position will remain open until filled, first review is January 4, 2024. For more information, please contact jphillips@ci.montevista.co.us. EOE/ADA. (1/5/24AS)

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)

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

TOWN OF CENTER is accepting applications for the position of full time COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER. Position requires High School Diploma or equivalent. Individuals must have computer experience, ability to multi task and function in a sometimes stressful environment. Bilingual preferred but not mandatory. Two-way radio and multiline telephone experience also required. Communications Officer is a benefited position. This will position additionally requires shift work. Position starts at \$15.50 with an increase after successful completion of six-month probation. Successful candidates will be trained in all phases relating to the communication center. Must be 18 years old, and be able to pass a background, psychological and drug test. You may pick up an application 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)

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS located in CENTER, CO seeks a dynamic and innovative person to fill a full-time IN SCHOOL RESTORATIVE PRACTICES FACILITATOR for the 2023-2024 school year. Candidates should have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in education or other related field. The right candidate will have experience working with youth in education. Ability to speak Spanish is preferred, but not required. The position will involve collaborating with a team to provide restorative discipline and alternatives to suspension. The position salary will be based on experience and professional endorsements. Center Consolidated Schools is an equal-opportunity employer. If you wish to apply, please send a cover letter and resume and completed non-certified employment application found <https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities> to Carrie Zimmerman, Superintendent of Schools, Center School District 261T, 550 S. Sylvester Avenue, Center, CO 81125. For more information, please contact Katrina Ruggles at kruggles@center.k12.co.us. (1/5/24AS)

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

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

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

FOR SALE: FAIRLY new 25 TON SPECO 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 \$260. 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)

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

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

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

FOR SALE: RECLINER / LIFT CHAIR; neutral brown, excellent condition, remote control, for extra tall person (6'4"). Call for details 719-589-3788. (1/9/24AS)

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

TOYOTA TRUCKS ONLY: 4x4 from 80's to early 90's, running or not wrecked ok. 719-580-8101 call or text. (1/5/24AS)

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

Century Property Management & Sales, LLC
Alamosa • 589-5744

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE

For all your rental needs please call 719-589-5744 or stop by 823 Main St. Alamosa, CO 81101
www.alamosarentals.com

410 - AUCTIONS

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

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

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

420 - LOTS & ACREAGES

MULTIPLE 35+ ACRE TRACTS For Sale. The Rio Grande Water Conservation District is accepting sealed bids for tracts of land LOCATED AT 14355 G.5, ANTONITO. The minimum acceptable bid is \$2,000/acre. Bids must be received by U.S. mail or hand delivered to the RGWCD's office at 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101. Detailed information regarding the tracts is available for review by appointment at the RGWCD office or by visiting the District's website at www.rgwcd.org/subdistrict-no-3/publicbid. The land may be inspected with District personnel by appointment only. Appointments can be made by calling the District office at (719) 589-6301 or by emailing angelo@rgwcd.org. Bids 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

Accepting applications for 1 bedroom apartments. Must be 62 or older or disabled
Cielo Vista Apartments
166 S. Wills Center, Colo
754-3664

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

Accepting Applications for 2 & 3 bedroom family units
Valley Grande Apts.
2256 E. Drive Monte Vista, CO
852-4302

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

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

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

611 - HOMES FOR RENT

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

701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

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

710 - CLASSIC AUTOS

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



FEEL LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER?

New in town?
Get acquainted with and all it has to offer by ordering a subscription to the

Valley Courier
719-589-2553

Where To Shop!
Where To Dine!
Community Bulletin Board!
Professional Services!
....And more!

Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Liquid meas.
 - 4 "Fernando" band
 - 8 "— was I ere I saw Elba"
 - 12 — Grande
 - 13 Labor
 - 14 Thing used on stage
 - 15 Large arboreal snake
 - 17 Affectation
 - 18 Japanese sport
 - 19 Like a ghost town
 - 21 — Palmas
 - 23 Join
 - 24 Object of worship
 - 26 Grief
 - 28 Youngster
 - 31 — and Tobago
 - 33 Treat for Fido
 - 34 "— does it!"
 - 35 Support for fireplace logs
 - 37 Horned viper
 - 38 Sailor's assent
- DOWN**
- 1 Mardi —
 - 2 Indigenous Japanese
 - 3 Rich soil
 - 4 From — — Z
 - 5 Investment choices
 - 6 Wait for
 - 7 "—, poor Yorick!"
 - 8 Pome fruit
 - 9 Seamless carpet
 - 10 "— in Space"
 - 11 Item for a fencer

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 16 Settlement
- 20 Be in the red
- 22 Actress — MacGraw
- 24 Levin and Gershwin
- 25 Cause dislike
- 26 Dwindle
- 27 "The — Couple"
- 29 Actress — Bancroft
- 30 — Moines
- 31 Brewed beverage
- 32 Sunup to sundown
- 33 Neighbor of Paraguay and Uruguay
- 36 Hoosier State (abbr.)
- 38 T-man
- 41 Less than
- 42 "Jetsons" dog
- 43 In that case
- 44 Used to be
- 45 Single thing
- 46 Continental coin
- 48 Leg part
- 49 Double curve molding
- 50 Sign gas
- 53 Letter No. 19

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				

ALLEY OOP

ARVAL, YOUR WILL TO LIVE IS STRONG, SO I WON'T SQUASH YOU.

INSTEAD, YOU CAN LIVE IN THIS JAR.

IT'S A LITTLE CRAMPED, BUT I FEEL SAFE IN HERE AND IT BEATS THE ALTERNATIVE!

YOU REMEMBERED TO PUNCH HOLES IN THE LID, RIGHT, DOC? DOC?

SPEAKING OF PUNCHING HOLES IN LIDS, WHO WANTS TO TALK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE?

ARLO & JANIS

Did you forget?!

Our argyle socks are still a wonderful gift anytime!

GREAT

I'M BEING HAUNTED BY THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!

BIG NATE

AND THIS IS OUR COMMON ROOM!

WHY ARE THERE JIGSAW PUZZLES ALL OVER THE PLACE?

MANY OF OUR RESIDENTS ENJOY THEM.

SNORT! I'VE GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN... UH...

...THAN SIT AROUND AND... UH...

NEED HELP WITH THAT CORNER?

GET YOUR OWN PUZZLE.

THE BORN LOSER

I REALLY OVERDID IT OVER THE HOLIDAYS! I PUT ON TEN POUNDS!

I RESOLVE TO TAKE THE DOG ON A ONE-MILE WALK EVERY DAY, REGARDLESS OF THE WEATHER!

THAT'S JUST GREAT! HE OVERINDULGES FOR EIGHT WEEKS AND I HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE, TOO!

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

HAVE YOU FINISHED THE EDITORIALS?

YES.

WHAT ABOUT THE FINANCE SECTION?

ALMOST.

I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN I'M DONE WITH THE SPORTS AND CLASSIFIED.

ASK HIM IF HE WANTS THE COMICS NEXT OR THE "LIFE-STYLE".

FRANK & ERNEST

BANK CHECKING

WE FINALLY BALANCED YOUR ACCOUNT BUT WE HAD TO USE IRRATIONAL NUMBERS.

GARFIELD

SOMEBODY WANTS TO PLAY FETCH

AND SOMEBODY DOESN'T

THE GRIZZWELLS

THIS YEAR, I RESOLVE TO DO THINGS FOR OTHERS THAT WILL MAKE THEM FEEL GOOD ABOUT THEMSELVES

HOW? BY LETTING THEM TAKE ME SHOPPING

SEE? DON'T YOU FEEL GENEROUS?

PEANUTS

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH READING CEREAL BOXES...

SOME OF THE BEST STORIES I'VE EVER READ WERE ON CEREAL BOXES... AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO TURN ANY PAGES!

I PREDICT THAT SOME DAY A CEREAL BOX WILL WIN THE PULITZER PRIZE!

SEE, MARCIE? I DID IT!

YOU'RE WEIRD, SIR...

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN

"Can you eat turkey leftovers again?"

Husband's change of heart wasn't so sudden after all

DEAR ABBY: Three months ago, my husband of 30 years came home from work, told me he wasn't happy anymore and said he wanted a divorce. He announced he was moving in with his brother until he could find a place. Six days later, I found out he'd moved in with a woman he'd been seeing for a few months.

I am devastated. He flaunts his new heifer all around town, forcing her on our granddaughters and rubbing her in my face. My divorce has been filed on the grounds of adultery. I can't believe he dragged my adult children into the middle of this and made them lie to me.

I have been trying to let go, but how do you let go of someone who gave you so much to remember? I'm still very much in love with him. After such a long marriage, must I just let it end like this? -- DUMBFOUNDED IN TENNESSEE

DEAR DUMBFOUNDED: I suppose you could talk to your lawyer and try to drag out the divorce, hoping your husband will "come to his senses." But at some point, you will have to admit to yourself that the man you married isn't the person you thought he was.

You have every right to feel pain and anger,

but your time and money would be better spent in the office of a licensed mental health professional. That your adult children went along with keeping you in the dark is shameful. It will take time to work through this, and the sooner you start, the better.

DEAR ABBY: I moved to a rural area a couple of years ago and was surprised at how friendly my neighbors were. They seemed eager to help at first. I got sick and had to spend a few days in the hospital. I asked the couple to please feed and water my pets until I could come home. They did, but they also made a copy of my house keys, entered my home after I returned to work and stole several thousand dollars' worth of stuff from me.

I am hurt and very angry over this. The police said I have to show receipts to prove ownership of the things that were taken. But most of it I have owned for years, and I no longer have the receipts.

I'm going to confront this couple, but how do I get over what they did? I can't believe how trashy and low-class they are. They both have jobs. I live alone on one salary. A lot of the things they stole I had to save up to pay for. They



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

are nothing more than liars and thieves. What do you suggest? -- VICTIMIZED IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR VICTIMIZED: Please accept my sympathy. You trusted your neighbors, and they took advantage. But the horse is out of the barn. Change the locks on your house if you haven't already done it. Install security cameras linked to your cellphone so you have a record of who enters your property when you are out. Photograph and list the serial numbers on your valuable items and store it away from home. (A safety deposit box would be a safe place.) And insure any items of value so you are protected in case it happens again.