



Is soup the ultimate cold medicine?

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Lady Falcons edge Lady Mean Moose 38-36

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS January 23, 2024 \$1

SLV Today

City of Alamosa ranch property lease

ALAMOSA — The City is requesting proposals to lease approximately 940 acres of City Ranch property for traditional grazing and agricultural purposes. The RFP documents can be found at <https://cityofalamosa.org/public-bids/>. Proposals are due Thursday, Feb. 22, at 3 p.m. Questions regarding the RFP should be directed to: Andy Rice, Parks, Recreation and Library Director via phone or email at 719-587-2429 or arice@ci.alamosa.co.us.

Alamosa Commissioners to meet Wednesday

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa County Board of County Commissioners will meet on Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. for a regular meeting at their chambers located at 8900 Independence Way in Alamosa. The meeting is open to the public and can be viewed on ZOOM with meeting ID 270-314-6874.

2024-25 Alamosa ARTScape call for artists

ALAMOSA — The City of Alamosa is accepting entries now for the eighth annual "Alamosa ARTScape" art-on-loan outdoor public art exhibit. Alamosa ARTScape is open to professional and amateur artists. Applications will be accepted online only at https://artist.callforentry.org/festivals_unique_info.php?ID=12949. Application deadline is March 1. Art will be selected by jury in March and installed on Sept. 13, as part of the Alamosa ARTS Festival on Sept. 13 and 14 in Downtown Alamosa. Installation will be followed by a public-invited artist's reception on Friday evening, and other events with partner Alamosa Farmers' Market on Saturday. For more information about the City's public art program, contact Jasmine Husmann at 719-589-2024.

SLV WEATHER

Mostly Cloudy 37/15
Wed: Mostly Cloudy 41/14
Thurs: Mostly Cloudy 39/17

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SLV Commissioners address migrant issues

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — Preparing for the possibility of an influx of migrants, the San Luis Valley Commissioners Association listened to a presentation by Eric Treinen, Director and SLV Emergency Secretary with the Alamosa County Office of Emergency Management, during a regular meeting on Jan. 22. After updating the commissioners regarding the need to plan in the event of an influx of migrants, commissioners discussed the issue. Currently, the Valley has not seen an influx of migrants and commissioners only discussed planning for

such an event. Treinen and other local emergency managers met recently to discuss how to respond to a possible influx to the region such as what happened in Carbondale in December. That small community witnessed the arrival of about 120 migrants, mostly from Venezuela. Regarding local shelters in Alamosa County, Treinen said, "They are totally

■ See **MIGRANTS** page 3
The San Luis Valley County Commissioners Association met in Alamosa on Monday, Jan. 22, for a regular meeting.

Courier photo by John Waters



Long-time law enforcement officer remembered



MONTE VISTA — Funeral services for William 'Bill' James Lucero, who passed away suddenly on Jan. 9, 2024, at his home in Pagosa Springs, were held Saturday, Jan. 20, in Monte Vista. Bill was born in May of 1964 at Monte Vista Hospital. A service was held in the Monte Vista High School Gymnasium on Saturday. He was laid to rest at the Homelake Cemetery. Lucero graduated from Monte Vista High School. He served in the Marine Corps. Bill dedicated over three decades of his life to law enforcement, serving with various agencies in Colorado. He worked his way up to the rank of Sergeant at the Monte Vista Police Department, continued his service as an Officer at the Town of Pagosa Springs Police Department, worked as a Lieutenant for the Southern Ute Police Department and was a member of their SWAT Team, a Deputy for the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office, the Chief of Police for the Center Police Department, and a Deputy for the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office and Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, where he concludes his service.

Photos by Marie McColm

New funeral home opens in Monte Vista

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

MONTE VISTA — Stephen Hunzeker has opened a new funeral home in Monte Vista. Mountain Valley Mortuary opened its doors in the historic Romero mortuary building on 4th Street just before the year's start, and Hunzeker looks forward to serving the community he and his family have grown to love.

Hunzeker has been a funeral director for over 20 years and has lived in the Valley for 14 years. He was elected Rio Grande County Coroner in 2017 and has worked in mortuaries throughout the Monte Vista area, becoming a well-known and trusted mortician.

"Having the ability to assist families the way



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

Stephen Hunzeker and his family are pleased to announce the opening of the Mountain Valley Mortuary in Monte Vista.

I want to have been a dream of mine. Being able to keep the dignity, respect and focus on the families I hope to serve is one of the main reasons I wanted to do this,"

he said. After Romero Funeral Home consolidated its branches down to their main one in Alamosa, Hunzeker saw the opportunity to bring in

his service and is looking forward to becoming even more active in the community.

"Romero Funeral Home consolidated its branches down to their main one in Alamosa, Hunzeker saw the opportunity to bring in

■ See **MORTUARY** page 3

The 'migrant' conversation: understanding the terms

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — The question of how to prepare in the event that a large group of migrants come unexpectedly to the San Luis Valley has appeared on agendas of county commissioners in recent weeks, culminating with a discussion during Monday's meeting of the San Luis Valley County Commissioners Association.

The topic gained commissioners' interest after witnessing the challenges currently facing the town of Carbondale on the Western Slope following an influx of migrants in December.

Of all the topics in public discourse today, immigration is — and has been for decades — one of the lightning rods, sparking fierce, often partisan debate and even giving birth to conspiracy theories that stretch the imagination and have little to no

■ See **TERMS** page 3



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Record

Adams State Migrant Education thanks sponsors

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY
ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Migrant Education program sponsored several families during the 10 annual Adopt-A-Family Holiday Initiative.

"Wow, what an amazing and successful event," said Director of Southwest Region Migrant Education Esmeralda Martinez. "The holiday season is one of my favorite times of the year,

as community, agencies, foundations and private sectors outpour support for children and families to celebrate traditions. More than 250 children received gifts and toys during this holiday season. A special appreciation to Toys for Tots for the wonderful toys. We were able to extend the donations from sponsors to purchase some of the items in the list of needs from children of agricultural workers."

Martinez appreciates all the sponsors of the 2023 Adopt a Family and looks forward to the implementation of the program in 2024. If you are interested in sponsoring a family, reach out to the ASU Foundation and direct your donation to the Migrant Education Program.

Sponsors included: Alamosa School Dist. RE-11J, Alamosa State Bank, Alece Montez-AJL Foundation, Ana-Dental, Andrea-Med-

ical Dept., Andy-Medical Dept., Anna Lee Vargas, ASU Camp, ASU Party Planning Committee, BLM Monte Vista (Barbara Humes), Board of County Commissioners/Dept. of Social Services Conejos County, Carol and David Osborn, Carole Counihan and James Taggart, Cisco NJ Construction, City of Alamosa, Dr. Meliza Ramirez, EMKHC/EMKDC, Erica-Medical Dept., Eva S. Mejia-Family Dentistry, Farming Tech Inc. Aka MTN. King, Fidel Francisco, High Altitude Convenience, Jenny Lerner, John-Medical Dept., Karina-Medical Dept., Katherine and Michael Lancaster, Lisa Lucero, Luis Hernandez Murillo, Monica-Dental, NFP, Nick Cutforth, Noonan-Medical Dept., Post Commissary, Adams State President David Tandberg and all of E-Team, Randi Snead, Renae Haslett, Sacred Heart Parishioners, San Luis Valley Federal Bank, Sangre De Cristo National Heritage Area, Sarah-Medical Dept., Savvy Management LLC (Blanca Potato and Prime Packing), Schrader's Glass Shop, SLV Immigrant Resource Center, Taber Ward, Tasha-Medical Dept., The Trinchera Blanca Foundation, LLC, Valley Wide Alamosa Family Medical Center, Valley Wide Billing Department, Valley Wide ELT, Valley Wide HR Dept., Valley



Courtesy photo

The SLV Migrant Education Program, located on the Adams State campus, appreciates the sponsors whose donations helped purchase gifts for families like Petrona, Leticia, Ana, and Leticia.

Wide Krista's Team, Valley Wide Sierra Blanca Medical Center, Valley-Wide SLV Clinic Managers, Valley Wide-Andrew Russell, Valley-Wide-Carolyn Davis, Valley Wide-Ed Medina, Valley-Wide-Edward M. Kennedy Health Center, Valley-Wide-Heidi Richardson, Valley-Wide-Justin Hanel, Valley-Wide-Lauren Sonderegger, Valley-Wide-Nurse Family Partnership, Valley-Wide-Stephanie Atkins, Valley-Wide-Cindylee Herrera, Victoria-Dental, Weiss Dry Cleaning, Wendy Stewart, Zapata Seed Company.

The SLV Migrant Education program serves a yearly average of up to 580 students, aged 3-22, from 23 school districts in

the San Luis Valley and Southwest Colorado. The program connects families of seasonal agricultural workers with community resources, monitors children's achievements, and provides continuity as they change school districts.

The SLV Migrant Education Program is located on the Adams State University campus at the southeast corner of Second Street and Richardson Avenue (1424 Second St.). To learn more about the SLV Migrant Education program, or to refer a family who may benefit from services, contact Shanda Taylor 719-587-7612, shandataylor@adams.edu; or Esmeralda Martinez 719-587-7635, emartinez@adams.edu.

OBITUARIES

John Fred Curtis

John Fred Curtis, 93, passed peacefully in his sleep Jan. 13, 2024. He was born near Florissant, Colo., to Fred V. and Helen (Walby) Curtis. The family lived and ranched between Cripple Creek and Guffy, Colo. In 1944, his family moved to the San Luis Valley, and he graduated from Hooper High School in 1949.

A Korean War Veteran, he served in the US Navy from 1950-1954 aboard the aircraft carriers Bone Homme Richard and Essex Epic as a metal smith. After the military, John worked in plumbing and heating trade in Colorado Springs.

He met the love of his life Claudia (Hlatki), and they were married for 63 years. In 1961, he received his Master Plumbing license and he owned and operated Curtis Plumbing & Heating Co. specializing in new construction. God gave John many talents, incredible carpentry skills, he could fix anything, and created fine turquoise and gold nugget jewelry, but the thing John enjoyed the most was building, and together with Claudia they designed and built many beautiful custom homes.

Retiring in 1985, the family moved to Alaska and spent many years enjoy-



ing the nation's last frontier. He loved exploring, camping, gold prospecting, 4 wheeling, hunting, and fishing with nephews, family, and friends.

John's easy-going manner, laughter, and love for children along with his ease in imparting his extensive knowledge to them, made him a popular figure and strong role model. Despite being a hard-working busy man, he always had time for others and opened his home, heartfelt love, counseling, and help to anyone in need.

He lived a good long life with a family who adored him, made lifelong friends wherever he was, had a positive impact on the lives he touched and of all who knew him. John's Christian Orthodox faith as well as his treatment of his fellow man, exemplifies him as the epitome of a LIFE WELL LIVED.

John is survived by his wife Claudia (Hlatki) Cur-

tis of South Fork, Colo., daughters Yvonne (Curtis) Hoffmann of South Fork, Colo., Laurie Curtis of Alamosa, Colo., and two grandchildren Luke Hoffman of Montrose, Colo., and Ava Hoffman of South Fork, Colo., sister Doris (Ted) Ross of Albuquerque, N.M., Charles (Joan) Curtis of Creede, Colo., Ted (Jeri) Curtis of Alamosa, Colo., sisters-in-law Roberta (Glenn) Walls of Parker, Colo., Karen (Joe) Sisneros of Colorado Springs, Colo., Pamela Hlatki of Denver Colo., and many nephews and nieces.

John was preceded in death by his parents, brother Donald (Sue) Curtis, brother George (Margaret) Curtis and sister Violet (Jed) Freel, brother-in-law Gerald (Myrle) Hlatki and sister-in-law Beverly (Richard) Crockett and numerous nephews and nieces.

Services will be held at Rito Alto Church and cemetery County Rd X, Moffat, Colo., on Jan. 27, 2024, at 11 a.m.

Pallbearers are Nephews Clifton Curtis, John Wayne Curtis, Todd Curtis, and Godsons Michael Hlatki, Andy Walls and Joshua Sisneros.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Rito Alto Cemetery Association in John Curtis's name c/o John Albert.

Florentino (Floyd) Estevan Mondragon

Florentino (Floyd) Estevan Mondragon was born on April 30, 1950, in Ft. Garland, Colo., and passed away on Jan. 20, 2024, in Ft. Garland.

He was preceded in death by his Father George Mondragon, Mother Ruby Mondragon, Brother George Mondragon Jr, Sister Rita Elaine Ortiz and six others that passed previous to Mother Ruby.

He is survived by his Daughters Natalie Mondragon (John Perez) and Desiree Ortiz (Esteban Ortiz); Grandchildren Evelio Mondragon DeHoyos, Isaiah Mondragon (Christina), Israel Mondragon (Hailey), Esteban Ortiz III (Melanie) and Amada Ortiz; Great-Grandchildren Ezekiel Martinez, Eastwood Mondragon, Everly Mondragon and Oaklan Mondragon. He is one of

16 Siblings, with eight surviving Siblings — Lorraine Marquez (Leroy), Norma Lopez (Irving), Margaret Mondragon, Shirley Gonzalez (Andres), Gilbert Mondragon (Linda), Barbara Mondragon, Dondi (Andrew) Vargas, James Mondragon and countless Nieces and Nephews.

Floyd was known for being an avid car lover and owner. He was one of the proudest Marines you could ever have met. His family was his life, especially his grand and great-grandchildren.

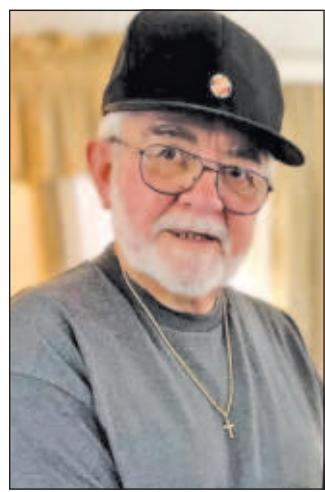
To be around our daddy was to love him. He had the kindest heart and would give anyone the shirt off his back or an ear if you needed one.

We love you daddy you will be missed BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN!!

Services will be held on

Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024,

at Holy Family Catholic Church, Fort Garland, Colo., with a viewing at 6 p.m. and Rosary to follow at 7 p.m. Mass of the Resurrection on Friday, Jan. 26, 2024, also at Holy Family Catholic Church. To leave online condolences, please visit romerofuneralhomes.com. The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Valley Funeral Home of Alamosa.



ASU to build minor in GIS with new CDHE grant

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — Adams State University received a Colorado Credential Pathways Technical Assistance Grant from the Colorado Department of Higher Education, according to Chay-an Lahiri, Ph.D., assistant professor of geosciences and director of the Edward K. Ryan Geology Museum. He said the \$10,779 grant will support development of an advanced course in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and an 18-credit minor and certificate program in GIS.

Ruthanne Orihuela, director of credential pathways and prior learning initiatives at CDHE, said, "The grant program will help ensure greater access to quality, short-term credentials that prepare Colorado's learners and earners for careers in high-value industries. Institutions are building pathways in behavioral health, informa-

tion technology, education, and healthcare."

Lahiri explained, "GIS is a database of information which can be used to make maps and perform spatial analysis on data. This technology is useful not only in the fields of geology and geography, but also in wildlife biology, ecology, archaeology, business, sociology, medicine, and pharmacy."

For example, the appropriate GIS data could help produce maps to determine the percentage of San Luis Valley trees growing near bodies of water and query to see if the trees prefer particular soil types, or to explore whether people who live closer to gyms have fewer health issues. "These are simple examples that we generally know the answers to. However, GIS programs can query and analyze much more complex problems," he added.

Lahiri said the new course, Advanced GIS, will link Introduction to

GIS and Cartography with Remote Sensing, completing an 18-credit minor in GIS, or a stand-alone, non-degree certificate in GIS. Drawing on current trends in GIS, the new course will culminate in an independent project or internship with the Bureau of Land Management. Dr. Lahiri is consulting with the National Park Service and BLM staff to assure the course is professionally relevant for students.

Introduction to GIS is offered each fall semester; Dr. Lahiri plans to launch Advanced GIS in the spring semester, 2025. Key to the Credential Pathways grant is the ability for those with demonstrable skills and experience to waive the prerequisite Intro course.

PENDING OBITUARIES

Pearl Anntsuyako Koshi

Longtime Sanford resident Pearl Anntsuyako Koshi, 79, passed away peacefully of natural causes on Jan. 19, 2024, at San Luis Valley Health in La Jara, Colo. Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of her arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes and words of comfort for the family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

Cara Michele Vollman-Boucher

Alamosa resident Cara Michele Vollman-Boucher, 49, passed away peacefully on Jan. 16, 2024, in Alamosa, Colo. Services are pending and will be announced through Rogers Family Mortuary. To leave online condolences, tributes and words of comfort for Cara's family, visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

School Menu Tuesday January 23, 2024

BREAKFAST

Super Donut Sticks
Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY

Spaghetti/Roll
Broccoli
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Spaghetti/Roll
Broccoli
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL

Spaghetti/Roll
Broccoli
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students

Alamosa School District

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Valley News

Alamosa book bike returns

ALAMOSA — The book bike that belongs to the Friends of the Alamosa Public Library and mysteriously disappeared from the Alamosa Farmers Market on Sept. 2, was recently found at the Ortega Middle School. The friends group thanks the Alamosa Police Department. Don Thompson (left) and Alamosa Police Department Sergeant Brian Cooper (right).



Courtesy photo

Mortuary

■ Continued from Page 1
Home consolidated their other branches and being able to come in and take this building over with an option to buy in a year was really great for me. They are still a part of the Valley and they do still offer their services, I just wanted to be able to add to that here in Monte Vista,” he said.

Hunzeker said that serving as Rio Grande County Coroner has been one of his greatest privileges and that he will continue to offer the services of all funeral homes in the Valley.

“We never suggest one over the other and I think that is one thing that makes this Valley such a wonderful place. The partnerships we build through our tight knit community is what makes us stand out,” he said.

“Helping fill a void through compassion and care is our only goal. Having 14 years of experience in the Valley has taught me the ins and outs of community life here and we are happy to be here,” he said.

The facility itself is under transformation but offers several tranquil



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

Stephen Hunzeker is looking forward to serving the communities he loves through compassion and professionalism throughout the San Luis valley.

aspects that are in place to help comfort and surround grieving families. From the outdoor courtyard to the conference room and gallery, Hunzeker has set out to create a place where families and loved ones feel secure.

Hunzeker is also looking to fortify his impact in the community through outreach, education, and support.

“Being in this position gives us the opportunity to be supportive of the community through charitable events. It can be as simple as helping with the local baseball teams or as big as making donations to organizations that are in need. We really want to be a community minded business and that is what we set out to do,” he said.

Hunzeker hopes to keep

funeral prices affordable and to seek further education and insurance licensing in the next few months.

“We want to grow and offer what we can to the community we serve,” he said.

In addition, Hunzeker was appointed to the Colorado State Funeral Director’s Board.

“It’s an honor to be able to serve as a rural funeral director and be able to bring a new perspective to the table for consideration as changes are being proposed through legislature. Having a voice on that board is going to be a huge benefit,” he said.

Hunzeker will host a ribbon cutting event soon, and more details about the new funeral home can be found on their website at www.mvmortuary.com.

Terms

■ Continued from Page 1

merit. And now, strong emotions around the issue have only intensified as media coverage has shown groups of migrants being transported via bus from states along the southern border to cities in states further north, like Denver, prompting responses from other smaller communities.

While there is, as of yet, no clear path forward that can gain bi-partisan Congressional support, understanding what terms mean — sanctuary city, illegal immigrant, asylum seeker, migrant — and using them correctly in a conversation might provide some common ground, however small it may be.

There is no legal defini-

tion of “sanctuary city,” but the term is widely used to describe a city (or county or state or university) that limits the extent to which local resources are committed in support of federal immigration agents’ enforcing federal immigration law.

Examples can range from local law enforcement declining to join federal agents in “sweeps” where large groups of people suspected to be without documentation are detained, refusing to jail someone who has posted bond and a judge has ruled they can be released or declining to gather more information than is legally required to obtain services, such as enrolling in public school.

Sanctuary cities do not violate federal law as long as those cities share and maintain information that has been gath-

ered on an individual’s citizenship or immigration status, as federal statutes require. Aside from that, federal law does not require a local entity’s participation in supporting federal immigration agents in enforcing federal immigration law. There are no sanctuary cities or counties in the Valley.

According to the Department of Justice, “illegal immigrant” is a colloquial term used to describe a noncitizen who entered unlawfully or who entered lawfully but has overstayed a visa.

Asylum is a different situation where a person has stated that they have been persecuted or are in fear of being persecuted should they return to their own country.

Asking for asylum is not illegal. Those who have a pending asylum applica-

tions are not in the country illegally and are, in fact, protected from deportation provided certain factors are in place.

According to the Department of Justice, “anyone who has a pending asylum application should have a stay of removal [i.e. protected from being deported]. Technically speaking, the Department of Homeland Services (DHS) cannot deport someone until there is an ‘order of removal’ issued by an immigration judge.

“There are exceptions for people encountered at the border or for people who have been removed before but if the person has filed for asylum or has been found to have a credible fear of persecution or torture by a DHS asylum officer, they should not be removed until a determination on the asylum or withholding of removal

application is adjudicated.”

Once a person has completed the application for asylum and begins the long wait to appear before a judge, biometric data is collected to make certain that he or she has not entered the country illegally before and been removed. The asylum seeker must also register his or her physical address with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (U.S.C.I.S.) Department, check in on regular intervals to see the status of the application and keep their address current if there is a change in residence.

There are also a series of hearings to determine the person’s asylum status. There are consequences should a person miss a hearing, not the least of which is a delay in the process that is currently taking four years to go to court.

The challenge facing many communities is that, for a minimum of 180 days, asylum seekers are prohibited from working, which essentially means they “are protected from deportation but have no status.”

Asylum seekers may not

submit an application for a work permit until they have been in the country for 150 days, and, once that application is submitted, there is another 30-day period after which — if there have been no delays — the work permit is issued.

Due to the current backlog that period may extend far beyond 180 days.

And it is during that six-month (or more) period that most asylum seekers are at the greatest risk since they are in the United States but unable to support themselves or their families, which makes them reliant upon social services that some communities are unable (or, perhaps, unwilling) to provide.

So, where does the term “migrant” come in? It is used as it has always been used: a person who moves — either willingly or, perhaps in this case, not — to another part of the country where they are living is referred to as a migrant.

Immigration has always been a complicated subject. Given the confluence of factors across the globe that are impacting immigration here and elsewhere, it’s not like a conversation that is going away anytime soon.

Migrants

■ Continued from Page 1

full. That is why we have 150 individuals, plus or minus out on the streets. We are tapped out.”

DHS [Colorado Department of Human Services] does not have the resources. Jody Kern from DHS said, “It is a staffing issue, we are in the middle of the unwind for the public health emergency. All of my staff are trying to renew the Medicaid requirements which haven’t been done for the last three years as well as we are seeing an unprecedented amount of SNAP and Medicaid applications coming into county departments. If the county commissioners would want a sheltering requirement for us, we would have to pull those resources. That would mean we would be untimely in processing those applications and no funding to do this.”

Kern added the American Red Cross would not assist if there were an influx of migrants.

Rio Grande County Commissioner Scott Deacon who did not support the motion said, “I’ve had a multitude of people come to me, several constituents have said, ‘this is not immigration this is invasion, and a lot of these people are military

and we are being invaded by China, Russia, all of them, this is the way they can take America over, and I for one stand strong with the other commissioners and there is no way we’re gonna entertain anything in Rio Grande County as far as these people if they show up...like the sheriffs that gas the bus or just moving them on. We don’t want ‘em, and we can’t afford it.”

Robert Jackson, Alamosa County Sheriff said, “We’ve had conversations recently with immigration and they are reluctant to take a stand for obvious reasons.”

Jackson said migrants in the country legally would have documents proving that and “if they do not, if they have no documents at all to call them (immigration) they will come out and process them, they’re not going to deport them, not even take them into custody and we certainly are not either unless they have committed a crime.”

Regarding immigration officers Jackson said, “They’re, not going to take them into custody, they’re not going to deport them. They are just going to document they made contract with them.”

ther.”

Saguache County Commissioner Tom McCracken offered, “I probably think compassion ought to be our guiding light here. We have to deal with the actual issues. I don’t think passing a resolution that we’re not going to deal with it is going to help. If we’re going to deal with it, we have to deal with it.”

Alamosa County Commissioner Vern Heersink said, “We’re not a sanctuary county, we’re trying to get that message out. Be prepared if they do show up and may have small children and it is cold out. I’m in favor of having of our emergency managers coming up with an emergency plan.”

After a discussion of the issue, the group passed a motion to allow all the county emergency services managers to work collaboratively.

Deacon told the Valley Courier he did not support the motion, “Because I’ve only been doing this for four years and when we go to committee it’s kick the can. That is what has happened so many times. Mineral and Rio Grande both put out resolutions and we were hoping to get everybody on board with that and I just think...Rio Grande is going to stay firm on this, my phone has been blowing up. Constituents told

us what they wanted. I’m one commissioner, I am their servant and I work for the people and that is why I had to do what I had to do, I look at this not as immigration but as invasion, believe this is the way they are going to take America over. We’re the last free country, they got Russian and Chinese.”

The Valley Courier has requested a copy of the resolution from Mineral County that Deacon referenced.

In other matters discussed during the meeting, Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske gave an update on the new office building for District Attorney Anne Kelly and said the project was moving forward. Kelly expressed her gratitude to the commissioners for facilitating the new offices. Alamosa County Administrator Roni Wisdom spoke about the building which was donated by Alamosa State Bank.

“This is an awesome opportunity for us,” said Wisdom.

Larry Brown from CSU Extension gave an update and spoke about the annual agriculture conference next month with keynote speaker and CSU faculty member Dr. Temple Grandin. Janae Naranjo from CSU Extension spoke about some upcoming free classes.

UNRESERVED ONLINE LAND AUCTION
4,900± ACRES TEXAS COUNTY, OK
 »SELLING IN 15 TRACTS«

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Tract #3:	160± Acres
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Tract #6:	160± Acres
Tract #7:	160± Acres
Tract #8:	160± Acres
Tract #9:	593.01± Acres
Tract #10:	320± Acres
Tract #11:	320± Acres
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Lifestyles

Basic inmate needs go unmet due to staff shortage in Colorado prisons, report says

By LINDSEY TOOMER
Colorado Newswire

A recent report highlights the continued problems that Colorado prison staff shortages create for the state's incarcerated population.

The Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition, a Denver-based nonprofit, interviewed 400 people who are incarcerated in Colorado to determine how ongoing staff shortages affect them. The survey found that 93% of respondents said their facility is understaffed, with 85% calling the shortage significant or moderate.

"This shortage is creating an untenable and moral crisis," Jason Vitello, CCJRC's manager of equity and community development, said in a statement. "The mission of the (Department of Corrections) is to cultivate transformative opportunities for those under our supervision." Sadly, this data reveals a system that is unable to adequately meet the basic medical, mental health, and safety needs of the inmate population — let alone provide educational, rehabilitative or other transformative opportunities to help people successfully reenter society."

A common practice of the Colorado Department of Corrections is to reassign program staff to work security shifts when there is an insufficient number of correctional officers to meet minimum staffing requirements. Of those who took the survey, 88% said staff like teachers and case managers are frequently or very frequently reassigned to a correctional officer post in their prisons. This leads to less services being accessible to incarcerated people, and the quality of those services are lessened because of staff burnout.

The majority of respondents attributed their difficulties in accessing programming to the ongoing staff shortages. Case managers in particular, who play a "vital role in an inmate's life and success," provide subpar service in part due to staffing shortages, respondents said.

"I have been incarcerated for 25 years and have

never seen prison this bad," one person said in the survey. "We are basically being warehoused. There are very few programs or educational classes... no one wants to work here."

The report includes recommendations for the Colorado Legislature that CCJRC leadership presented to the Joint Judiciary Committee earlier this month. Recommendations include safely reducing the prison population; creating an oversight commission for the DOC; expanding training opportunities for the incarcerated population to increase peer-led programming; partnering with organizations that can help with rehabilitative and reentry programs; and requesting an internal staffing analysis from the DOC as well as an economic study.

"Despite increasing the DOC budget by more than \$192 million in just the past two years to close the staff vacancy gap, the increase in the prison population is outpacing the increase in net new hires in DOC," the report concludes. "Little tangible progress has been made. Efforts to reduce the prison population must also be part of the strategies utilized to bring the number of staff, prison beds, inmates, and services/programs into alignment."

CDOC spokesperson Alondra Gonzalez said in a statement to Newswire that the department will review the report and continue to address staff shortages. While at this time last year the department's vacancy rate was about 24%, it dropped to just over 16% after implementation of new financial incentives to improve recruitment and retention.

Department data shows Colorado has just over 13,000 people incarcerated in its state prisons. The DOC lowered the minimum age to be a corrections officer to 18 and started recruiting staff out of Puerto Rico in an attempt to remedy the staff shortages.

"The CDOC recognizes the impact staffing shortages may have on our operations and understands the importance of address-

ing these issues," Gonzalez said. "We continue to actively work on assessing our staffing needs, implementing thoughtful solutions, and exploring innovative ways to attract and retain qualified professionals."

The report includes a letter from One Voice United, an advocacy group that works with unions to support correctional officers and non-custody staff in prisons.

"No one knows better the failure of the current system than the men and women who witness those failures firsthand every day," One Voice United founder Andy Potter wrote in the letter. "We believe that it is those same professionals and the unions that represent them that have the greatest potential to be the drivers of reform. We also believe that absent their voices, meaningful, sustainable, reform will remain illusory."

Potter said better pay, benefits, training and increased hiring standards are temporary solutions that don't address the core issues in corrections. He also said reducing the prison population should be considered during efforts to address the state of corrections.

Hilary Glasgow, the executive director of Colorado Workers for Innovative and New Solutions — better known as Colorado WINS, the union that represents more than 24,000 state employees, including those within corrections — said that if someone sent the same survey questions asked in the CCJRC report to corrections staff, she'd expect the same results.

"One of the things we're trying to wrap our heads around at WINS is how do we ensure that we have enough security safety staff, but that we also hold programming sacred," Glasgow said. "Sure, we can depopulate, we can reduce the number of inmates. But we're sending people out into the streets that haven't had programming in four years, because we've had to suspend classes and counseling so that those workers can go serve on security."

Colorado House GOP leader narrowly survives vote of no confidence

By SARA WILSON
Colorado Newswire

Colorado House Minority Leader Mike Lynch survived a vote to oust him as the Republican caucus leader Monday morning, following reports last week that the Wellington lawmaker was arrested in 2022 on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol.

Lynch is running for Colorado's 4th Congressional District seat.

The blind vote of no confidence was split 9-9, with Rep. Stephanie Luck absent. In the event of ties, the vote fails.

Before the vote, Lynch defended himself and said that the circumstances of his arrest do not require a resignation from his post.

"I do not believe that it has adversely impacted my ability to be a good minority leader. I think we've done great things in this caucus. We've had

more cohesion than I've seen in the past and I look forward to that continuing. If I believed that this event, which occurred outside of this building and outside of the session, had an impact and was detrimental to my ability to perform this job, I would gladly step aside from this job," he said.

Lynch was pulled over for speeding and arrested in September 2022 for suspicion of drunken driving and being in possession of firearm while intoxicated. He pleaded guilty to both charges and was sentenced to 18 months of probation and 150 hours of community service. The Denver Post first reported the incident last week.

He was then elected as minority leader a few weeks later, in November 2022.

"With the arrest and the probation and then serving as minority leader —

actually getting elected as minority leader — while on probation, I don't think these are quality ethical standards. I think there is a right thing to do here ... to keep the integrity of the Republican caucus," Rep. Scott Bottoms, a Colorado Springs Republican, said as he called for the vote of no confidence.

Rep. Brandi Bradley of Littleton said the incident has "tarnished" the reputation of the caucus and Lynch's removal would be an act of accountability.

There was contention after the vote over whether Luck, who recently had a baby, was properly notified of the caucus meeting. Some lawmakers sought a revote, but the meeting adjourned without one. Luck's vote would have broken the tie.

Lynch's future is not certain. The caucus can meet again and take another vote on the matter.



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- 4 Shopping Local saves you money and time!** Travel expenses and personal time make the overall cost of items higher.
- 5 Shopping Local retains our community:** Without the support in the local community, restaurants, shops and services are forced to close.
- 6 Shopping Local retains our distinctiveness:** Local businesses respond quicker to the needs of the customers and stock products to meet the core community's needs.
- 7 Shopping Local encourages community growth.** By choosing to do business locally you help maintain Alamosa's diversity, charm & appeal. Which in turn, attracts new community members.
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- 9 Local shops value you more:** Local businesses survive by their reputation & repeat business which means you get a higher standard of service.

Keith R Cerny
Publisher

Brian Williams
Managing Editor

Valley Courier

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Health

Is soup the ultimate cold medicine?

(METRO) — Having a cold is not fun. A stuffy nose, sniffles, sore throat, and other symptoms make having a cold a generally unpleasant experience.

According to data collected by the Consumer Healthcare Products Association, the average consumer shops for over-the-counter medicine 26 times a year, with peak visits occurring in the wintertime, when colds and flu infections are more prominent.

To make cold-related matters worse, a U.S. Food and Drug Administration panel concluded in September 2023 that the popular decongestant phenylephrine, which is found in many over-the-counter cold remedies, is ineffective when taken orally. Phenylephrine became the standard decongestant in formulations when pseudoephedrine, another decongestant, became more closely regulated due to its usage in the production of illegal drugs like methamphetamine. Phenylephrine

products the became the go-to, as they did not need to be stored behind pharmacy counters and “signed out” like products that included pseudoephedrine.

Rather than accepting their cold symptoms this season, individuals may want to turn to something much more natural that also has great promise: soup. It is no old wife’s tale that soup can be helpful for colds and other illnesses. In fact, Egyptian Jewish physician Moshe ben Maimonides prescribed chicken soup as a treatment for respiratory tract illnesses as early as the 12th century. Penn Medicine advises that soup can be a go-to food to combat illness because it is light, easy-to-digest, nourishing, and even restorative.

Here’s a look at some of the ways soup can help when people are feeling under the weather.

• Hydrating broth: Staying hydrated is one of the ways the body can more effectively fight off illness.

Broth-based soups are hydrating and tasty. They may be tolerated more readily than sports drinks or water for a person who needs fluids.

• Soothing: The warmth of soup can soothe an irritated throat. Furthermore, soups usually have softened ingredients in them, making it much less likely that sharp or tough ingredients will scrape an inflamed throat.

• Nutrient-dense: Most soups are loaded with vegetables, beans and other healthy ingredients. They provide many of the vitamins and minerals the body needs, and may even

help replenish nutrients that have been depleted due to illness.

• Sodium content: Sodium is an essential mineral the body needs. Proactive Health Labs says soup regulates body fluids and transmits electrical impulses in the body. Sodium in moderation may be good when a person is feeling ill. In addition, sodium and other seasonings in soup can awaken taste buds that are dulled when sick with a cold. Salt also helps alleviate sore throat pain and can help clear nasal congestion.

• Garlic infusion: Soups that contain garlic or gar-



Soup may be the best medicine when a person has a cold. Its many properties may help make soup as effective, or even more so, than some products at the pharmacy.

lic extract may reduce the severity of cold and flu symptoms, according to a University of Florida study published in the journal Clinical Nutrition.



Tea can provide a host of health benefits, and individuals are urged to discuss those properties with a physician as they look to turn over a healthier leaf.

Does tea have medicinal properties?

(METRO) — The common cold can strike at any time of year, but most people likely associate colds with winter. Colds tend to spread more easily in winter, when people typically spend more time indoors with windows closed, thus making it easier for colds and other viruses to spread.

Many people have their own remedies when it comes to treating colds, and those strategies may include a daily glass of tea.

Tea has been a beloved beverage for quite some time. According to the UK Tea & Infusions Association, tea can be traced all the way back to 2737 B.C. in China. As the legend has it, Chinese Emperor Shen Nung was sitting beneath a tree when some leaves blew into some boiled drinking water his servant had been preparing for him. The emperor tried the concoction and the rest is history.

Since tea was first (accidentally) consumed, it has become an integral part of many people’s daily lives. That’s even more so when people feel a little under the weather, which might prompt some to wonder if tea actually boasts any medicinal properties or if it’s all just legend. According to Penn Medicine, various types of tea do, in fact, provide some notable health benefits.

White tea

A comparative study published in the Journal of Food Science in 2010 found that white tea might be the most effective cancer-fighting tea thanks to its robust antioxidant content. Penn Medicine also notes white tea is a source of fluoride, catechins and tannins, which means it could help to strengthen teeth and fight plaque.

Herbal tea

Harvard Medical School notes the curious distinction that herbal teas are not technically tea, as they

typically lack the leaves or leaf buds of tea plants. Herbal teas are in fact made from tisanes, which are blends or infusions of dried fruits, flowers, spices, or herbs. Harvard Medical School advises speaking with a physician prior to drinking herbal teas, as they can cause problems among individuals with certain medical conditions. If a doctor gives the green light for herbal teas, people may be happy to learn that they’ve been linked to a host of health benefits, including improved sleep, reduced stress and lower blood pressure, among others.

Green tea

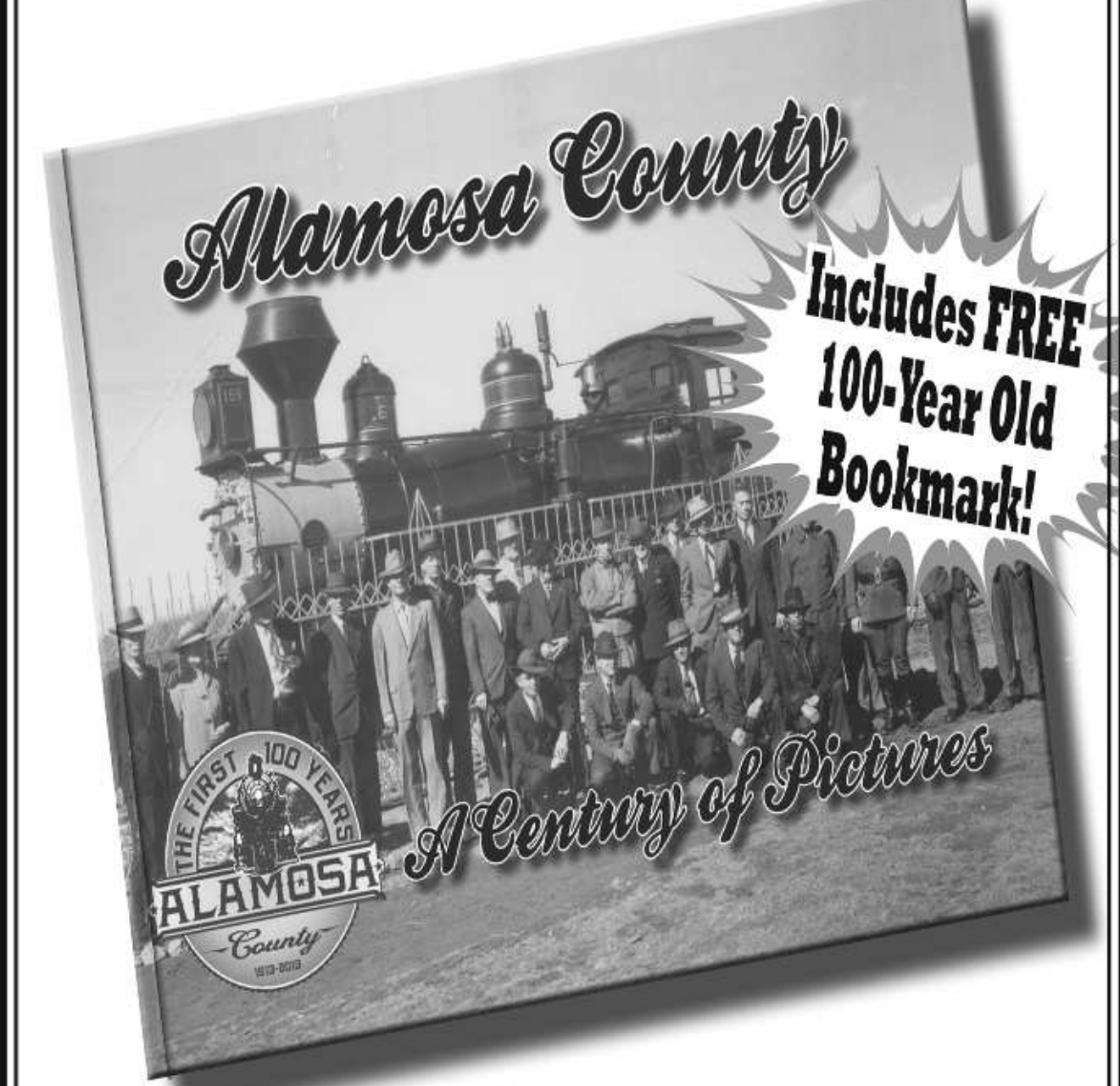
Penn Medicine notes that green tea is high in flavonoids, which are a type of metabolite found in plants. Flavonoids have been linked to improved heart health because they can help to lower levels of bad cholesterol and reduce blood clotting. In addition, a 2014 study published in the European Journal of Nutrition concluded that green tea and its catechins can help to improve blood pressure.

Should certain teas be avoided?

Though white tea, herbal tea, green tea, and other forms of the popular beverage have been linked to various health benefits, Penn Medicine notes other types of tea are best avoided. For example, detox teas, which Penn Medicine notes are often laced with laxatives, can be harmful to overall health. Bubble teas also tend to be high in sugar and calories. In general, it’s best to discuss tea with a physician before making it a part of your daily routine.

Tea can provide a host of health benefits, and individuals are urged to discuss those properties with a physician as they look to turn over a healthier leaf.

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Lady Falcons edge Lady Mean Moose 38-36

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Alamosa High School girls basketball team was looking to return to win column on Saturday as it hosted Centauri, the sixth-ranked in Class 3A, at the AHS gym.

The Lady Mean Moose played the Lady Falcons tough, but when the game ended, Centauri came away with a 38-36 win. Morgan Ortega gave Alamosa the early lead with a layup just four seconds into the game. But Hannah Curtis and Rylie McCarroll both scored to put Centauri in front at 4-2.

Ortega split at the free throw line, and Laci Christensen made a 3-point basket to help the Lady Moose regain the lead at 6-4.

Rylie McCarroll and Jocelyn Jarvies both made a free throw to tie the score. Taybor Wiedeman scored in the paint, and she later made one of two free throws. Ortega and Christensen both made layups to give Alamosa its largest lead of the game at 13-6.

Centauri quickly dissolved the lead as Jarvies drove for a layup and Curtis drained a three. Wiedeman split a pair of



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick
Alamosa High School's Laci Christensen (2) fires up a 3-point shot over Centauri's Jaelyn Jackson (4) in Saturday's game at the AHS gym. The Lady Falcons defeated the Lady Mean Moose 38-36.

free throws, but Rylie McCarroll scored to bring the Lady Falcons within a 14-13 deficit at the end of the first quarter.

Centauri started the second quarter red-hot as it scored the first 12 points of the period. Joselyn McCarroll scored six of the points, while Rylie McCarroll, Braelyn Tucker and Jarvies all scored two.

Wiedeman ended the run with a free throw, and Ortega scored four points to narrow the Centauri lead to 25-19 at halftime.

Christensen made a trey to open the third quarter, and Ortega and Wiedeman both scored layups to put the Lady Moose back into the lead at 26-25. Rylie McCarroll gave the lead right back to the Lady Falcons, but Ortega scored a layup, and Jaelin Garcia made one of two free throws. Curtis made a pair of free tosses to tie the score at 29-29 at the end of the period.

Aubrey Rothermich started the fourth-quarter scoring with a layup, and Christensen nailed her third 3-pointer of the game to give Alamosa a 34-29 advantage.

That would prove to be the Lady

Moose's last lead. Jarvies made a 3-pointer, and Curtis scored a layup and added a free throw to put Centauri back in front at 35-34.

Curtis scored again to extend the lead to three.

Free throws proved to be the difference down the stretch as Alamosa missed four of six attempts in the final minute.

Alamosa had two players score in double figures with Ortega leading with 12 points and Christensen had 11.

Curtis was Centauri's top scorer with 10 points, followed by Rylie McCarroll with nine, and Jarvies with eight.

Alamosa (8-6, 2-2) will host Bayfield on Friday and Ignacio on Saturday.

Centauri (9-3, 3-1) will host Ignacio on Friday and Pagosa Springs on Saturday.

Centauri 38, Alamosa 36

Centauri – Hostetter 0 0-0 0, Jarvies 3 1-4 8, Jackson 0 1-2 1, R. McCarroll 3 3-4 9, Curtis 3 3-3 10, Tucker 1 0-2 2, Norton 1 0-0 2, J. McCarroll 3 0-0 6, Tibbitts 0 0-0 0, Holman 0 0-0 0. Total 14 8-15 38.

3-point goals – Curtis 1, Jarvies 1. Total 2.

Alamosa – Christensen 4 0-2 11, Ortega 4 4-8 12, Rothermich 1 0-0 2, Garcia 0 102 1, Wiedeman 2 4-10 8, Quintana 0 0-0 0, Montoya 0 0-2 0, Felix 0 0-2 0, Rice 0 0-0 0, Hawkins 0 0-0 0. Total 11 9-26 36.

3-point goals – Christensen 3. Total 3.

Centauri	13	12	4	9-38
Alamosa	14	5	10	4-36

Fouls – Centauri 23, Alamosa 19. Fouled out – Jarvies, Tucker.

Falcons fly past Mean Moose 46-33

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Alamosa and Centauri high school boys basketball teams were engaged in a tight battle Saturday at the AHS gym. At least for 3 ½ quarters.

The Falcons rallied in the latter half of the fourth quarter as they cruised to a 46-33 win over the Mean Moose.

Carson Bagwell scored the first points of the game for Centauri, but Michael Motz tied the score. Bagwell then made a 3-point basket, and Troy Sowards hit a jumper. Jace Haslett made back-to-back layups to give the Falcons an 11-2 lead.

The Mean Moose ended the quarter on a hot streak as Zack Crowther and Kiler Ullery both drained threes to reduce the deficit to 11-8 at the end of the first quarter.

Bagwell made a jumper to open the second quarter, and Sowards also knocked down a shot for a 15-8 Centauri lead.

The Mean Moose again had a strong finish to the period. Motz drove for a layup, followed by R.J. Meis hitting a jumper. Brant Jackson made a trey just before the period expired to tie the score at 15-15 at halftime.

Sowards began the third quarter with a jumper. Victor Zepeda and Kaleb Anderson both made a free throw for their respective teams. Jackson tied the score with a jumper, but Anderson put the Falcons back on top.



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick
Alamosa High School's Brant Jackson (3) drives to the basket against Centauri's Carson Bagwell (12), Jace Haslett (23) and Kaleb Anderson (25). The Falcons defeated the Mean Moose 46-33.

Jackson scored again, but Bagwell made a jumper for a 22-20 Falcons lead. Tajuan Jamestown made a

jumper at the buzzer to deadlock the score at 22-22 at the end of the third.

Sowards scored the first five points of the fourth quarter and Haslett drove for a layup for a 29-22 Falcons advantage.

Jackson got the Mean Moose back into the game by scoring five straight points. Bagwell and Sowards both scored to give Centauri a 33-27 lead.

Motz made two charity shots, but Bagwell answered with a three.

Centauri made 10 out of 12 free throws in the final minute to seal the victory.

Jackson was Alamosa's top scorer with 12 points.

Bagwell and Sowards both scored 15 points to lead Centauri.

Alamosa (8-5, 1-3) will play host to Bayfield on Friday and to Ignacio on Saturday.

Centauri (8-4, 3-1) will host Ignacio on Friday and third-ranked Pagosa Springs on Saturday.

Centauri 46, Alamosa 33

Centauri – Russell 0 1-2 1, Sowards 6 2-2 15, Bagwell 6 1-2 15, Haslett 3 2-2 8, Anderson 1 5-6 7, Jarvies 0 0-0 0, Garcia 0 0-0 0, Shawcroft 0 0-0 0. Total 16 11-14 46.

3-point goals – Bagwell 2, Sowards 1. Total 3.

Alamosa – Zepeda 0 1-2 1, Gilmore 0 0-0 0, Jackson 4 3-4 12, Motz 2 2-3 6, Meis 1 0-2 2, Ullery 1 0-0 3, Crowther 1 0-0 3, Ruybal 0 0-0 0, Jamestown 3 0-0 6. Total 12 6-16 33.

3-point goals – Crowther 1, Jackson 1, Ullery 1. Total 3.

Centauri	11	4	7	24-46
Alamosa	8	7	7	11-33

Fouls – Centauri 11, Alamosa 17.

Del Monte Gun Club starts sporting clays on Saturday

ALAMOSA – The Del Monte Gun Club winter sporting clays league will begin on Saturday and run through March 10. Members will have this time frame to shoot all 500 targets. Shooting will be on Saturdays and Sundays only.

The cost for the league is \$150 for adults, \$125 for women, and \$50 for

juniors 18 and younger. This is the same cost as last year.

The club will have shells available.

Entrants can register the first time they shoot. They don't have to pre-register.

Lunch will be available.

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD

FRIDAY
Prep boys basketball
 Centauri 63, Montezuma-Cortez 35
 Centennial 82, Antonito 38
 Creede 52, Lake City 24
 Crested Butte 69, Center 28
 Pagosa Springs 53, Alamosa 43
 Primero 51, Sangre de Cristo 26
Prep girls basketball
 Centauri 56, Montezuma-Cortez 45
 Centennial 41, Antonito 33
 Center 57, Crested Butte 20
 Creede 52, Lake City 28
 Pagosa Springs 41, Alamosa 26
 Sangre de Cristo 60, Primero 37

Cripple Creek-Victor 58, Creede 38
 Del Norte 29, South Park 27
 Moffat 66, Antonito 38
 Sanford 54, Monte Vista 40
 Sierra Grande 61, Trinidad 29

Prep girls basketball
 Centauri 38, Alamosa 36
 Creede 71, Cripple Creek-Victor 38
 Del Norte 45, South Park 19
 Lake City 26, Centennial 23
 Moffat 56, Antonito 35
 Monte Vista 55, Sanford 51, OT
 Trinidad 32, Sierra Grande 29

Prep boys wrestling
 Buena Vista at Centauri – no report
 Forge Christian 36, Monte Vista 23
 Monte Vista 30, Akron 27
 Monte Vista 39, Stratton 6
 Pagosa Springs at Centauri – no report
 Resurrection Christian 34, Monte Vista 24
 Rocky Mountain 52, Monte Vista 22

College men's basketball
 Adams State 104, Chadron State (Neb.) 77
College women's basketball
 Adams State 2, Chadron State (Neb.)

0, forfeit
College men's wrestling
 Adams State 29, Simon Fraser (B.C.) 17
 San Francisco State 24, Adams State 23

SCHEDULE

TUESDAY
Prep boys basketball
 Crested Butte at Monte Vista, 2 p.m.
 Sierra Grande at Walsenburg, 4:30 p.m.
 Del Norte at Sangre de Cristo, 5 p.m.
 Alamosa at Taos (N.M.), 7 p.m.
Prep girls basketball
 Custer County at Centennial, 4:30 p.m.
 Sierra Grande at Walsenburg, 4:30 p.m.
 Del Norte at Sangre de Cristo, 5 p.m.
Prep girls swimming
 Sargent at Pueblo County, 5 p.m.

THURSDAY
Prep boys basketball
 Center at Sargent, 4:30 p.m.
Prep girls basketball
 Center at Sargent, 4:30 p.m.
Prep boys wrestling
 Monte Vista at Alamosa, 6 p.m.
 Antonito hosts Antonito duals, TBA
Prep girls wrestling
 Monte Vista at Alamosa, 6 p.m.



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Public Notices

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PRAIRIE DITCH COMPANY SHAREHOLDERS

THIS IS TO NOTIFY YOU: That the Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of the Prairie Ditch Company will be on February 3, 2024 at 10:00 AM., at the Mosca Community Church Fellowship Hall, located in Mosca, Colorado.

The purpose of the Meeting will be to:

- 1) Vote on changes to the Bylaws ; Article V, Section 1 to add subsection (i), Article VII Section 1, Section 9
- 2) Set the assessment for 2024.
- 3) Nominate and elect two Directors to the Board, the Western District, currently Held by LaVern Hart Jr. and one at Large currently held by Clay Mitchell; both are 3-year terms.
- 4) Any Other business that may legally come brought before the meeting.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the changes to Bylaws and your proxy form.

The board of Directors urges shareholder that do not expect to attend the Annual Meeting to sign and designate a proxy; YOUR VOTE CANNOT BE COUNTED WITHOUT A DESIGNATED PROXY AND IT MUST BE SIGNED. Please return to the Prairie Ditch Company, P.O. BOX 32, Mosca Colorado 81146, by January 29, 2024

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU MUST, INFORM THE SECRETARY BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING. WHO IS QUALIFIED TO REPRESENT YOU AND YOUR STOCK, AT THE ANNUAL MEETING (Article III Section 4, as per regulations adopted Feb 4, 2018)

Your PROXY WILL NOT BE USED if you later decide to attend the Annual Meeting and desire to vote your shares.

Lunch to be provided.

Given by the order of
Board of Directors of, The Prairie Ditch Company
No. 3735.
Published in the Valley Courier on January 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30, 2024.

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

PROFESSIONAL AIRPORT ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING (A/E) SERVICES FOR:
RUNWAY BROOM PROCUREMENT
SAN LUIS VALLEY REGIONAL AIRPORT
ALAMOSA, COLORADO

San Luis Valley Regional Airport ("Airport") is seeking professional architectural/engineering (A/E) services from multi-discipline A/E firms for the selection and procurement of a factory new Runway Broom, design and preparation of plans and specifications and support services for including but not limited to bidding services, project administration, supervision, and coordination for this sole project.

Statements of Qualifications will be received at the San Luis Valley Regional Airport, 2490 State Avenue, Alamosa, Colorado 81101 until 5:00 p.m., local time, Wednesday, January 31, 2024. Any Statement of Qualifications received after this time will be considered non-responsive and returned unopened. Qualifications will be evaluated only from teams that meet the minimum criteria as set forth in the complete Request for Qualifications ("RFQ") document.

The Request for Qualifications document may be obtained at www.sanluisvalleyairport.org.

The Airport reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive technicalities, and make award(s) as deemed to be in the interest of the Airport.

Thank you,
San Luis Valley Regional Airport
No. 3759.
Published in the Valley Courier on January 19 & 23, 2024.

ORDINANCE 568

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING GENERAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2024 TO HELP DEFRAY THE COSTS OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE TOWN OF CENTER, COLORADO, FOR THE 2024 BUDGET YEAR.
TOWN OF CENTER
No. 3765.
Published in the Valley Courier on January 23, 2024.

ORDINANCE 569

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING SUMS OF MONEY TO VARIOUS FUNDS AND SPENDING AGENCIES, IN THE AMOUNTS AND FOR THE PURPOSES AS SET FORTH BELOW. FOR THE TOWN OF CENTER, COLORADO, FOR THE 2024 BUDGET YEAR.
TOWN OF CENTER
No. 3766.
Published in the Valley Courier on January 23, 2024.

DISTRICT COURT, RIO GRANDE COUNTY, COLORADO

Court Address: 925 6th Street, Del Norte, CO 81132
Phone: 719 657-3394

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO
IN THE INTEREST OF:
J.F.M. (D.O.B. 05/16/2023) A CHILD,
AND CONCERNING:
KARRIE SCRIVANO (D.O.B. 10/29/1987)
MOTHER OF CHILD,
RESPONDENT.

Attorney for Rio Grande County Dept of Social Services:
W. Ryan Dunn
Address: PO Box 40 Del Norte, CO 81132
Phone: 719 657-3381 Fax: 719 657-4013
E-Mail: attorney.riograndedss@gmail.com Reg No: 39307
COURT USE ONLY
Case Number:
2023JV030008
Div.: 7 Ctrm:

ALIAS SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
TO: JOHN DOE (THE UNKNOWN BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF J.F.M.)
You are hereby notified that a Verified Petition for Adjudication of Dependency and Neglect of the above-named child/ren has been filed in the above-named Court in which it is represented to the Court that the child/ren, is/are dependent or neglected for the reasons set forth more fully in said Petition, the original of which is on file in the above Court and copies of which will be made available to you upon request during normal business hours at the office of the Clerk of the District Court in Rio Grande County.
DATE: MARCH 19, 2024
TIME: 9:30 A.M.
LOCATION: 925 6TH STREET, DISTRICT COURTROOM, DEL NORTE, CO 81132

You are further notified that TERMINATION OF THE PARENT-CHILD LEGAL RELATIONSHIP IS A POSSIBLE REMEDY AVAILABLE IF THIS PETITION ALLEGING THAT THE CHILD/REN IS/ARE DEPENDENT OR NEGLECTED IS SUSTAINED. A SEPARATE HEARING MUST BE HELD BEFORE SUCH TERMINATION IS ORDERED. TERMINATION OF THE PARENT-CHILD LEGAL RELATIONSHIP MEANS THAT THE CHILD/REN WHO IS/ARE SUBJECT TO THIS PETITION WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR ADOPTION.

Pursuant to Rule 4.1 of the Colorado Rules of Juvenile Procedure, a responsive pleading is not required, although you may file one, if you so desire, nor is it necessary for you to deny any allegations of the Petition, except jurisdictional matters of age and residence of the child/ren which shall be deemed admitted unless specifically denied.

You are further informed that if you choose to appear at the hearing at the time and place hereinabove stated, you shall be fully advised by the Court of your constitutional and legal rights pursuant to C.R.S. 19-3-202, as amended. You may demand a trial by jury of not more than six. Unless a jury is demanded, it shall be deemed to be waived. You have the right to be represented by counsel at every stage of the proceedings. If you request representation by an attorney and you are found to be without financial means to afford an attorney, an attorney will be appointed for you by the Court.

You are further advised that, if the court finds that the allegations in the Petition are supported by the necessary standards of proof, the Court shall hold a dispositional hearing, but that in a proper case, providing prior notice thereof is given to you, and, you are now so advised, the dispositional hearing may be had co-extensively with the adjudicatory hearing.

If you fail to enter your appearance, or if you fail to deny jurisdictional matters, if any, as permitted by law, the above matter, and any other related matters that may come before the Court will be decided without further notice to you.

Furthermore, you have the following additional rights:

1. The right to subpoena witnesses;
2. The right to know the nature of the allegations contained in the Petition;
3. Any admission on your part must be voluntary;
4. If you admit the allegations of the Petition, the Court is not bound by any promises or representations made by anyone about the dispositional alternatives by the Court;
5. The Court may appoint an attorney as a Guardian ad Litem to represent the interest of the child/ren;
6. The right to present evidence;
7. The right to cross examine witnesses;
8. The right to appeal;
9. In order for the Court to find the child/ren to be neglected or dependent, it must be proven to a judge or jury by the preponderance of evidence;
10. In order to terminate the parent-child legal relationship, the Court would have to find at a separate hearing by clear and convincing evidence either of the following:

- a. That the child/ren has/have been adjudicated dependent and neglected and has/have been abandoned by his/her/their parent or parents.
 - b. That the child/ren is/are adjudicated dependent or neglected, and the Court has found by clear and convincing evidence that no appropriate treatment plan can be devised to address the unfitness of the parent or parents.
 - c. That the child/ren is/are adjudicated dependent or neglected and all of the following exist:
 - i. That an appropriate treatment plan approved by the Court has not been reasonably complied with by the parent or parents or has not been successful;
 - ii. That the parent is unfit;
 - iii. That the conduct or condition of the parent or parents is unlikely to change within a reasonable amount of time;
- WITNESS my hand and official seal of said Court this 22ND DAY OF JANUARY 2024.
- /S/ RYAN DUNN,
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER
No. 3767.
Published in the Valley Courier on January 23, 2024.

District Court CONEJOS County, Colorado

Court Address: 6683 County Road 13/PO Box 128, Conejos, CO
In the Interest of:
x In the Matter of the Estate of:
ALBERT NICOLAS GARCIA aka ALBERT N. GARCIA aka ALBERT GARCIA aka RAY RUYBALD
COURT USE ONLY
Gordon J. Bosa
202 Edison Avenue/PO Box 58
Alamosa, CO 81101
Phone Number: (719)589-6603 E-mail: bosalaw@gmail.com
Atty. Reg. #: 8905
Case Number: 2024PR30001
Division Courtroom
NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-10-401, C.R.S.
To: the daughters of Albert Nicolas Garcia aka Albert N. Garcia aka Albert Garcia aka Ray Ruybalid
Last Known Address, if any:
A hearing on Petition for Adjudication of Intestacy and Formal Appointment of Personal Representative (title of pleading) for Probate Without a Will regarding Albert Nicolas Garcia aka Albert N. Garcia aka Albert Garcia aka Ray Ruybalid will be held at the following time and location or at a later date to which the hearing may be continued:
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 Time: 1:30 p.m.
Parties may appear virtually using the Web Ex application and entering access code: 927 174 122
OR by calling (720)650-7664 and entering access code: 927 174 122 # #
The hearing will take approximately 30 days hours x minutes.
No. 3768.
Published in the Valley Courier on January 23, 30, & February 6, 2024.

102 - CARD OF THANKS

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

173 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

LICENSED PLUMBER DOES all types of plumbing & plumbing repairs. Quick service! Call anytime, weekends & evenings: 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (3/15/24-monthlyAS)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for a **STRUCTURAL TRADES II** Position in the Facilities Services Department. Starting salary for this position is \$4,033 per month. For application or more information, please see <https://www.adams.edu/hr/employment/> AA/EOE. (1/31/24)

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



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Just fill out the form to the left and mail or drop off the form along with your favorite photo to the Valley Courier, 2205 State Ave., P.O. Box 1099, Alamosa, CO 81101. Include the \$15 fee which must be paid when submitting your form and photo.

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

Baby's Name: _____

Birthdate: _____

Parents: _____

Brothers and/or Sisters: _____

Grandparents: _____

Phone Number: _____
(will not appear in paper)

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221 - HELP WANTED

V C L C A T
HOMELAKE is seeking permanent full-time **CUSTODIAN, STRUCTURAL TRADES I (BUILDING & GROUNDS MAINTENANCE), and CNA (CLIENT CARE AIDE)** positions for our 24-hour Skilled Nursing Home as well as **TEMPORARY CNA, RN (PRN) & STRUCTURAL TRADES (BUILDING & GROUNDS MAINTENANCE)** positions. We offer competitive salary, retirement plan (Public Employees Retirement Account (PERA), 401K/457), health and dental insurance options, life insurance, short term disability, 11 paid holidays/year, paid sick, vacation and bereavement for permanent positions. Must have a current driver license; pass a CBI/FBI background check, and drug screen. Interested candidates in the above positions must complete an official State application. <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/colorado> Contact Nina Esquibel for assistance at 719-852-8215. For questions regarding available open shift(s) for RN, & CNA positions, contact Sandra Qualls, DON, or Christina Gillenwater, ADON at 719-852-5118. (1/23/24AS)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Boxing punch
 - 4 Not fully closed
 - 8 Willing
 - 12 — Jima
 - 13 One way to fly
 - 14 Puerto —
 - 15 Liquid meas.
 - 16 Clan
 - 17 Augury
 - 18 Baseball's — Berra
 - 20 World Cup sport
 - 22 High octane fuel
 - 23 Caviar
 - 24 Computer display
 - 28 Sandwich of a kind
 - 31 Divisible by two
 - 32 "The Raven" poet
 - 34 Bill and —
 - 36 "Till There — You"
 - 37 Actor — Mineo
 - 38 Broth
 - 39 Toy block name

- 42 Disagreement
 - 44 Literary collection
 - 46 "Every dog — its day"
 - 47 Church officers
 - 50 Cultural fields
 - 52 Rum drink
 - 53 Arab ruler
 - 55 Abbr. in business
 - 57 Helper
 - 58 Remedy
 - 59 Train unit
 - 60 Root veggie
 - 61 No longer young
 - 62 Secret agent
- DOWN**
- 1 Lively dance
 - 2 Far and —
 - 3 Meat and tomato sauce
 - 4 Leg up
 - 5 Java
 - 6 Matter-horn's range

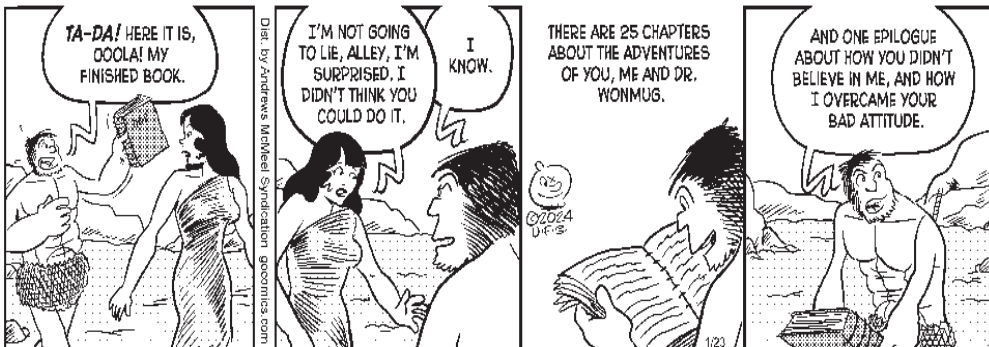
Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

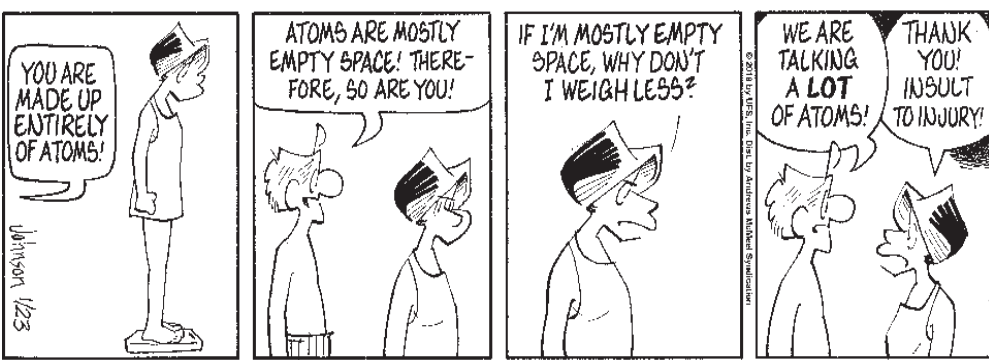
- 7 Revolving machine part
- 8 Food vendor
- 9 Key — pie
- 10 Maple young genus
- 11 Musician — Henley
- 19 Profit
- 21 Intimidate
- 24 Gull
- 25 Unusual office shape
- 26 Harvest deity
- 27 Highway
- 29 Study of sound
- 30 Show displeasure
- 33 Yale student
- 35 Unclose, poetically
- 38 Box
- 40 Gizmo
- 41 " — if by land ..."
- 43 Used with others
- 45 Betel palm
- 47 Freshwater lake
- 48 Ore deposit
- 49 Self-satisfied
- 51 Crisp cookie
- 52 Yak
- 54 Wrath
- 56 " — Me a River"

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		
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		44		45		46				
	47	48			49		50			51
52				53		54		55		56
57				58				59		
60				61				62		

ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



BIG NATE



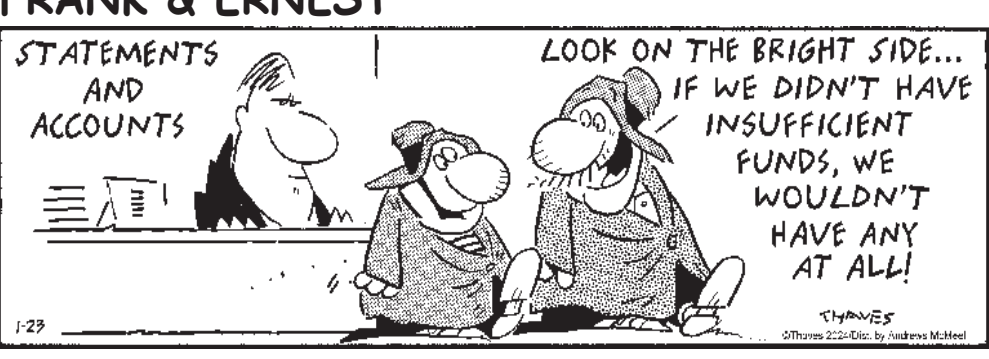
THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



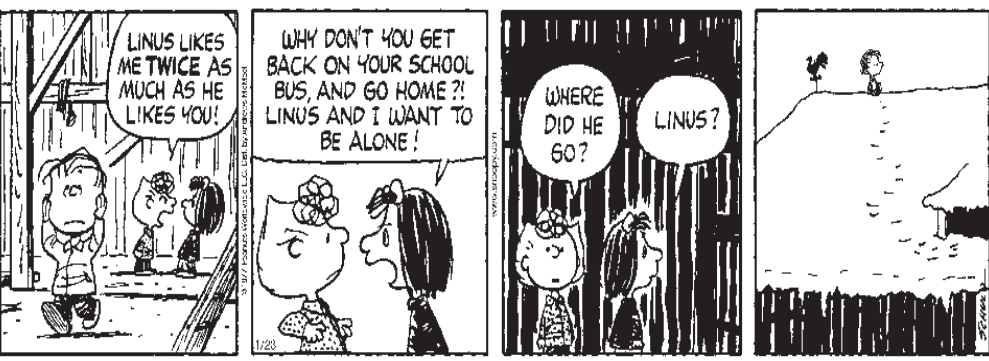
GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

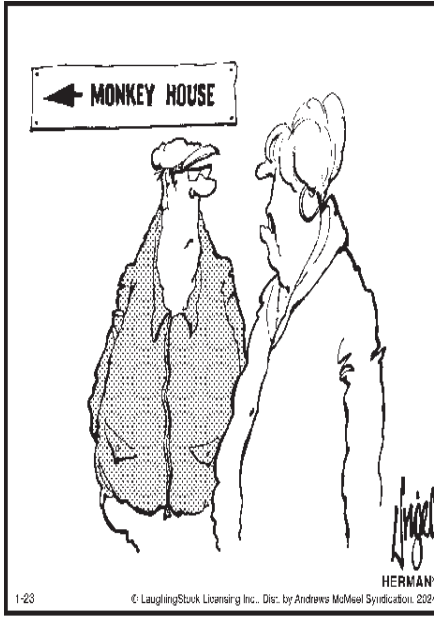
	3		1	6						
5		1	2	8	4					
	2			3	5	4				9
	7	5		2						6
	4	3	5	6	1	8	9			
6				7		5	4			
3		7	6	4					8	
			8	1	7	3			5	
			9	3		7				

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



Baby's arrival exposes deep fissures in family

DEAR ABBY: My stepdaughter, "Zoe," has recently had her first baby and we are very excited. She lives far away. My husband, "Karl," is taking the trip, but I have to stay because my elderly mother is living with us. I asked family to stay with Mom, but they're involved in their busy lives, and Mom clings to me.

While I called to congratulate other relatives on becoming new aunts, etc., none of them reciprocated. Later, one of them reluctantly said they were told I was NOT the grandmother (even if Zoe's biological mother had passed away), nor would I ever be.

This is bittersweet. I do not want to replace anyone. I've been hoping for a grandchild for a long time. I have been with Karl for more than 20 years. I'm crushed. No pictures are being sent to me, though when I was planning Zoe's wedding from soup to nuts, we were in constant contact and I thought we were growing closer. I guess not.

How do I navigate this? My mother-in-law is barely speaking to me since I can't join in the trip to see the baby and has become very snotty. Must I just admire from afar like a bystander, pretending to care? -- CAST ASIDE IN NEW YORK

DEAR CAST ASIDE:

I wish you had mentioned which family member was telling the others you're not to be considered that baby's grandmother. Could it have been Zoe's mother? If that's the case, there appears to be more than a little jealousy on her part and a blatant attempt to isolate you.

You are the child's STEP-grandmother, and photos should be shared with you. I hope Karl will impress this upon his daughter as well as let her know how hurt you have been by the treatment you have been receiving. What happened was unjustified. The more love in this world, the better, and labels should be used to include rather than isolate.

DEAR ABBY: My friend often complains that she and her husband don't have any other friends and she doesn't know why. I know why, but I'm not sure if I should say anything.

Her husband is nice, but he's a long-winded talker who takes over every conversation, bragging about himself and the people he knows. I believe he does this to impress people, but it actually repels them. He does this every time, and I have witnessed guys walk away and keep their distance from him. This includes my husband.

She wants my husband to get closer to him, but my



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

husband can't stand him because of this. So, should I be honest and tell her what the deal is? I don't want to hurt her feelings. Or must I keep pretending I don't know? -- KNOWS WHY IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR KNOWS WHY: I think you would be doing the woman a favor by telling her something like this: "I can't arm-twist my husband into a closer relationship with yours than they already have. If you would like to know why, I will tell you." If she says yes, explain that you like her very much, but her husband's need to dominate the conversation and brag about his accomplishments, net worth, etc. (fill in the blanks) drives people away.