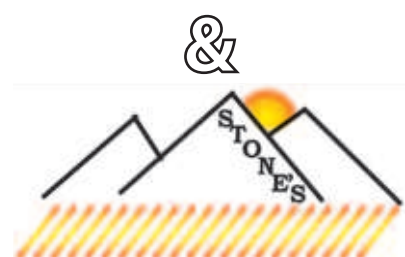




Local football players named All-League



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# Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

December 6, 2023

\$1

## SLV Today City hosting retirement celebration for Councilor Griego

**ALAMOSA** — On Wednesday, Dec. 6, the City of Alamosa is hosting a retirement celebration for Councilor Charles (Charlie) Griego. After spending 40 years representing his constituency in Ward 3 as a member of the city council, plus his membership on several different boards, Griego is stepping down from the council to focus on his family.

The celebration is at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 300 Hunt Ave.

## Blood drive Dec. 9 in South Fork

**SOUTH FORK** — A blood drive is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, at the South Fork Community Building.

Sign up at [www.bloodhero.com](http://www.bloodhero.com), sponsor code: southfork or contact Karen Miller at 720-313-4834 or [mkmillermink@aol.com](mailto:mkmillermink@aol.com).

## Del Norte Rotary is sponsoring a toy drive

**DEL NORTE** — The Del Norte Rotary Club is sponsoring a toy drive for Hope and Home, a local agency that supports foster families in the San Luis Valley and Southern Colorado.

On Dec. 15, during the Parade of Lights in Del Norte, the rotary club will have a booth at Del Norte Bank, where people can buy a hot drink and drop off toys and donations. Any new unwrapped toy is welcome at the drop off. The parade is at 6 p.m.

Trees with tags for a specific child are in Golden Fleece, Lowes Grocery Store, Del Norte Bank, and Pioneer United Church.

## SLV WEATHER



Sunny 51/11

Thurs: Sunny, Breezy 52/11

Fri: Chance of Snow, Breezy 44/7

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## Tribute to 102-year-old Veteran Blake Dec. 7

### Pearl Harbor survivor to participate in ceremony

**By MARIE MCCOLM MONTE VISTA** — Every year, the Pearl Harbor Memorial Foundation has a tribute on Dec. 7, in Hawaii for survivors and fallen heroes of the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. For many years Monte Vista resident and Pearl Harbor survivor, Veteran George Blake would travel to Hawaii to attend the ceremony. As Blake is now 102 years old,

he is no longer able to make the trip, but he will still take part in the ceremony thanks to the effort of local businessman Bob Richards. Blake is one of a small

■ See **BLAKE** page 3

**George Blake survived the Pearl Harbor attack of 1941 and stayed in Pearl Harbor, in Harbor defense. He returned to the mainland and worked as a Radar Instructor in Fort Monroe, Va., until he was discharged July 15, 1945. He lived in Salida for 40 years before moving to Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake. He turned 102 in January.**

Courtesy photo



## Downtown Alamosa sparkles with tree decorating contest

### STAFF REPORT

**ALAMOSA** — Downtown Alamosa is shining brighter than ever this holiday season as 18 local businesses come together for the first Shine Bright Tree Decorating Contest. The initiative, organized by Visit Alamosa and in collaboration with the City of Alamosa Parks and Recreation, aims to highlight the community's character and sense of place this holiday season.

Trees adorned by 18 small businesses are currently on display in Downtown Alamosa and will remain on display through Jan. 3, 2024. The trees were lit for the first time on Dec. 1 during First Fridays, aligning with the Celebration of Lights.

"It was fun coming up with an idea for the tree that would be unique and eye-catching. It is a great way to get the community to interact with the local downtown businesses," said Amity Nicholson, owner of White Shell Mountain Ranch.

Members of the public are encouraged to cast their votes for their favorite decorated tree once a day online at [alamosa.org/first-fridays](http://alamosa.org/first-fridays). Voting remains open throughout December, culminating on Dec. 31.

Winners of the tree decorating contest, featuring the creativity of 18 local businesses, will be announced on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, following the conclusion of voting. The winning business will receive a sponsorship package for the upcoming Rio Frio Ice Fest.

■ See **CONTEST** page 3

**This tree decorated by Wild Boots by Olivias is one of 18 that locals and visitors are encouraged to view and vote upon at the Visit Alamosa website at [www.alamosa.org/first-fridays](http://www.alamosa.org/first-fridays).**

Courier photo by John Waters



Sen. Cleave Simpson

## Sen. Simpson, Trujillo join Colorado Open Lands BOD

### STAFF REPORT

**LAKEWOOD** — Colorado Open Lands (COL) has announced the election of State Sen. Cleave Simpson and Jeff Trujillo to its board of directors. As reported last week in the Valley Courier, Simpson announced this news at the forum on Solar Energy and Agriculture COL sponsored in Alamosa on Nov. 28.

The board is comprised of individuals with backgrounds in land, water, law, finance, business, and philanthropy who help Colorado Open Lands achieve its mission of protecting land and water for people and wildlife.

Board Chair Paul Phillips said, "I'm delighted to welcome Jeff Trujillo and Cleave Simpson onto the COL Board! Their deep Colorado roots and proven commitment to land stewardship and conservation will make them invaluable additions to Colorado Open Lands."

Simpson was born and raised

■ See **LANDS** page 3

## Bennet leads effort to allow use of SNAP benefits on prepared hot meals

### STAFF REPORT

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — This week, Senator Michael Bennet led nearly 100 members of Congress in a letter calling on Ag Committee leaders in the House and Senate to include legislation in the upcoming Farm Bill that allows low-income families and seniors to purchase cold prepared foods, heated foods, and hot meals using their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. The legislation, called the Hot Foods Act, has strong bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate.

Currently, SNAP contains an outdated provision that limits low-income families and seniors' ability to use their benefits to purchase foods designed for take-home preparation and consumption, or cold prepared foods. The Hot Foods Act removes this prohibition and allows families to use their SNAP benefits to purchase hot foods such as prepared rotisserie chickens, hot sandwiches, and soups.

"Since its enactment 60 years ago, SNAP has prohibited the purchase of hot foods. While this restriction may have made sense in the 1970s, when most

families were cooking their meals at home, it is no longer an accurate reflection of American families' dietary or lifestyle needs," wrote Bennet and the lawmakers in their letter. "Allowing the purchase of cold foods, but not their hot equivalents, disenfranchises vulnerable Americans who often rely on SNAP benefits for access to critical nutrition."

Of the more than 42 million SNAP participants, almost 70 percent of participants are children, elderly, or those with disabilities. The ability to purchase

■ See **SNAP** page 3



Sen. Michael Bennet



## Happy Holidays & Merry Christmas from all of us at RG BANK!

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# Lifestyles

## South Fork ice-skating rink opens

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**  
**SOUTH FORK** — The South Fork Visitor Center has announced that the newly improved ice-skating rink at Rickel Park just east of South Fork town proper is open for the winter season. Though temperatures have started to warm in the days since

the announcement, the rink is holding steady for the time being. Ove the course of the summer, the South Fork Friends Foundation in partnership with the Town of South Fork and many generous donors, a large cement pad was poured for the new rink. Funding for the project included donations and

grants. The court-ice rink is 108-foot-by-115-foot poured concrete-rebar pad that will be a multi-functional platform for basketball and skateboarding in the summer and an ice rink in the winter. The foundation has had a successful year and announced this past spring that they were

awarded two grants to help fund the project. The ice-skating rink is one of the main attractions in South Fork during the winter months and though it has been available for public use for several years, having it placed on a permanent foundation will help with the quality of the ice.

and True Grit Excavation. The foundation received a \$20,000 grant from the Robert Hoag Rawlings Foundation in Pueblo and \$30,000 from Rio Grande County. Three years ago, a new shed was built near the rink and thanks to the generous donations from local businesses like 8200 Sports and others, the warming hut was filled with ice skates that can be used by the public for free. The organization in partnership with the South Fork Visitor Cen-

ter will be hosting several events this winter including Saturday Night Skate Night, bonfires, curling competitions and more. Events for the winter will begin in January and more will be planned for the area in the summertime. The rink is cared for by the Town of South Fork Road and Bridge department. A donation box is located inside the warming shed with the ice skates. For more information, visit [www.southfork.org](http://www.southfork.org).

## Percentage of people without health insurance coverage in Colorado hits an all-time low

By **JOHN INGOLD**  
*Colorado Sun*  
 Colorado's uninsured rate — the percentage of people without health care coverage — hit an all-time low this year, but federal policy changes mean it's unclear whether that success can last.

The uninsured rate dropped in 2023 to 4.6%, down from 6.6% when it was last measured in 2021. The figures come from the every-other-year Colorado Health Access Survey, administered by the Colorado Health Institute, a non-partisan health policy think tank. The survey polled 10,000 households and is widely seen as the gold standard for tracking changes in insurance coverage in Colorado.

"This was a statistically significant decrease that we found," CHI director of research and evaluation Jeff Bontrager said Friday when announcing the findings at the institute's annual Hot Issues in Health conference.

Despite the good news statewide, Colorado's uninsured rate remained higher in mountain resort communities. The health statistics region that includes Summit, Grand, Eagle, Pitkin and Garfield counties had an estimated uninsured rate of 12%. That's up from 10% in the 2021 survey.

The increase in coverage statewide was driven by a surge in the number of people covered by Medicaid, the joint state-federal program that most commonly serves people from low-income families. In 2019, just before the COVID pandemic hit, Medicaid covered about 18.7% of people in Colorado. By 2021, that percentage had risen to 24.8%. For 2023, CHI found the percentage is now an even 30% — three out of every 10 people in the state.

But this trend may not last. During the worst months of the pandemic, the federal government instructed states not to drop anyone from Medicaid coverage. This resulted in swelling Medicaid populations across the country. In Colorado, the number of people covered by Medicaid topped 1.7 million.

As the pandemic eased, the federal government ended this safety net and told states they had to begin doing eligibility redeterminations. Officials in Colorado estimated that as many as 325,000 people may lose Medicaid coverage in a wave of redeterminations that began this spring and will

continue into next year. Those folks would have to find new coverage.

Bontrager said the 2023 survey data — gathered between March and August — likely don't reflect the impacts of this redetermination process. That means it's unclear whether the record-low uninsured rate is a one-time blip.

"It is unknown at this point how many people will continue to stay covered and how many people will become uninsured in the state," he said.

The rise in people cov-

ered by Medicaid coincided with a decrease in the percentage of people who bought insurance on their own. In 2023, an estimated 4.9% of Coloradans purchased coverage without help from an employer, down from 6.3% in 2021. The share of people who received employer-sponsored coverage held mostly steady, at just under 50%. About 10.5% of people were covered by Medicare.

The Colorado Health Institute expects to release more detailed analyses of its findings in the coming months.

UPCOMING GRIZZLY ATHLETIC EVENTS

**Thursday, December 7**  
*Women's Wrestling Texas Women's College vs. Colorado Mesa at Alamosa, Colo.*  
 6:00 p.m.

**Friday, December 8**  
*Men & Women's Basketball vs Colorado State University Pueblo at Alamosa, Colo.*  
 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, December 9**  
*Men & Women's Basketball vs New Mexico Highlands University at Alamosa, Colo.*  
 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

*Men & Women's Track at Mountaineer Open at Gunnison, Colo.*  
 TBA

**Sunday, December 10**  
*Women's Wrestling Minot State University at Chadron, Neb.*  
 12:00 p.m.




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- 5 Shopping Local retains our community:** Without the support in the local community, restaurants, shops and services are forced to close.
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# Lifestyle

## Monte Vista bazaar, tree lighting, parade highlights weekend

By MARIE MCCOLM  
**MONTE VISTA** — Monte Vista kicked off its big Christmas weekend with the Monte Vista Chamber Holiday Bazaar on Dec. 1-2 at the Outcall Event and Conference at SLV Ski Hi Complex.

According to Chamber Manager Heather Hillin, approximately 2,500 people attended the bazaar on Friday and Saturday, with a total of 116 vendors at the event. The Grinch and Santa Claus were at the event. There were rows and rows of tables and vendors, and everything was decorated beautifully with a large Christmas tree standing proudly just inside the entrance. Children had their pictures taken with the Grinch and Santa, and people were buying from the vendors.

The Holiday Bazaar was on Friday and Saturday, and the Monte Vista Police Department also had an Ice Cream Social at the event. There were also paid horse-drawn carriage rides at the bazaar.

On Saturday morning, Scrumpy Moo's restaurant hosted Pancakes with Santa. All children that attended ate pancakes for free. There were approximately 50 people who attended the event Saturday morning. Children visited with Santa.

On Saturday afternoon, the Monte Vista Elks Lodge hosted Cocoa with Santa from 2 to 4 p.m. There were approximately 45 kids that attended the event. The Elks served cocoa and popcorn and gave out small oranges. Santa also gave out goody bags with toys and candy. There were games that the children could play and prizes that were given. Children could also make ornaments. The Grinch, along with Santa, and a couple of elves were at the Elks for the kids to enjoy.

On Saturday evening, the Colorado Pacific Railroad Christmas Train was at Fullenwider Park. People took photos and mingled with Santa and the Grinch in front of the beautifully decorated, multicolored train.

Christmas carolers sang near the big tree in the park. Monte Vista City Manager Gigi Dennis thanked everyone for attending the Lighting Ceremony.

"I want to first thank Jennifer Becker for all her hard work. I know Martha Lock is helping to judge floats. I want to thank my Public Works Department for all they have done. I also want to shout out to San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative. They helped put the lights out at the library and out at Ski Hi. In addition, we had some very generous donations to buy some additional lights this year. I want to thank Wilbur Ellis, RG Bank. I want to thank Monte Vista Rotary, Western Star, and the Valley Nazarene Church. Thank you. These lights are so expensive. It is really heart-warming that we have community organizations and businesses that want to continue to enhance this.

There are additional snowflakes out on North Broadway. We will have a nice addition to Marsh Park soon too. I want to shout out to the Colorado Potato Administrative office. We talked them into adding some lights to the building. Together we can make this a beautiful Christmas town. I want to wish you all a very safe and warm family Christmas this year," she said.

Mayor Dale Becker invited everyone to gather around the tree, and Dennis invited some children to help light the tree. The countdown was done, and the big tree was lit. Many

residents oohed and awed over the big tree and took pictures before leaving the park.

Under the direction of Jennifer Becker, the crowd moved over to the Parade of Lights which was then held in the middle of town. The Monte Vista Police Department led the parade, with a decorated SUV followed closely by Jennifer Becker, smiling, and waving, and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

Parade Marshalls Jim and Raina Bowsher followed closely behind, along with Vice President of the OptiMystics Citizens Action Network Mark Renshaw, and Dustin Sigaty.

Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue was in the parade, along with the Monte Vista Ambulance and various other floats, including a tractor decorated

with a giant beautifully lit Christmas present in the front. Santa Claus was also in the parade on top of a Monte Vista Fire Protection Truck. Santa Claus smiled and waved at all the onlookers at the parade. The Monte Vista High School Marching band was also in the parade playing a festive tune as they marched down the street.

Jennifer Becker thanked the parade entries, parade judges Martha and Adam Lock. All business window participants, business window contest judges, Kelly and Amber Desautell, Courtney Arthur, Hope Quintana, Stephen Hunziker, Rhianna Bate, Monte Vista Journal, MVPD, the Fire Department for giving Santa a ride, City of Monte Vista, and Public Works for the lights, Cliff Kincannon for PA System, Bob

Richards KYDN Radio, RG Bank for sponsoring the business window winners, MV Coop for gift certificates for parade winners and the hot cocoa, Sunflour Bakery's Rhoda Koehn for the cookies for the North pole, Nazarene Church for the Christmas Carols at

the park, Heather Hillin of the MV Chamber, Tim and Wendy Davidson of Scrumpy Moo's for hosting the North Pole and all the awesome activities all day, and her husband Dale Becker.

The business window winners were — third

place the Nazarene Thrift Store, second place Rainbows End, and first place Scrumpy Moo's. Winners for the parade were — third place Wilbur Ellis, second place City of Monte Vista and Public Works Department, and first place the Monte Vista HeadStart.



Photos by Marie Mccolm

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**SANGRE DE CRISTO SCHOOL DISTRICT** has a vacancy for a **BUSINESS MANAGER**. Position open until filled. Please apply at [www.sangreschools.org](http://www.sangreschools.org). (12/9/23AS)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

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**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 [nmieman@landmarkmanagement.com](mailto:nmieman@landmarkmanagement.com) Equal Employment Opportunity. (12/22/23AS)

**ALAMOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT** is now accepting applications for the following positions: **GIRLS INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL COACH (OMS)**. Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org>. For more information, contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (12/9/23AS)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY** is hiring an Extension Area Specialist, 4-H Youth Development, for the SLV Area. This position will foster strong, healthy, youth by providing leadership, guidance, direction, and assistance in the implementation of the overall 4-H Youth Development program. This is a full-time, twelve (12) month, non-tenure track Extension faculty position. For the job announcement, required qualifications, salary range, and application instructions, go to <https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/136813> Application deadline is December 17, 2023. We are committed to increasing the diversity of our staff and providing culturally responsive programs and services. Therefore, we encourage responses from people of all backgrounds and abilities. We invite you to review Colorado State University's Principles of Community that guide our mission and vision of access, teaching, service, and engagement. CSU is an EO/EA/AA employer and conducts background checks on all final candidates. For more information, call Larry Brown at 719-852-7381. (12/16/23AS)

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT** R-1 is accepting applications for a **HIGH SCHOOL BOY'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH and ASSISTANT COACH**. Applications are available online at [www.centennial.k12.co.us](http://www.centennial.k12.co.us) For more information, email [roxann.serna@centennial.k12.co.us](mailto:roxann.serna@centennial.k12.co.us). (12/6/23AS)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY** seeking **ASSISTANT MANAGER** located at the **SAN LUIS VALLEY RESEARCH CENTER NEAR CENTER, Colorado**. Min. Requirements include an earned BS/BA degree +3 yrs. professional exp. or Master's degree. Professional experience in related field crop production including relevant knowledge of cropping and irrigation systems. Read full job description and apply online at <https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/136415> by 12/31/2023 for full consideration. CSU is an EO/EA/AA employer and conducts background checks on all final candidates. (12/30/23AS)

**EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR: JOIN us and make an impact!** Executive Coordinator wanted at **SAN LUIS VALLEY LOCAL FOODS COALITION**. Manage budgets, fundraising, and projects for a dynamic nonprofit fostering local food equity. Bilingual English/Spanish preferred. 32 hrs/week, \$25/hr. Benefits include PTO, holidays, health/dental insurance, and more. Send your Resume and Cover Letter to [opportunity.slvlocalfoods@gmail.com](mailto:opportunity.slvlocalfoods@gmail.com). For more information, visit our website at [www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/](http://www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/) (1/2/24AS)

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# Classifieds

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**MARKET & OUTREACH COORDINATOR:** Join Us and Make a Difference! Market & Outreach Coordinator Opportunity at SAN LUIS VALLEY LOCAL FOODS COALITION. Elevate our programs through marketing, events, and community engagement. Bilingual English/Spanish preferred. 32-40 hrs/week, \$23/hr. Enjoy benefits like PTO, holidays, health/dental insurance, and more. Submit your Resume and Cover Letter to opportunity.svlocalfoods@gmail.com. Details at www.svlocalfoods.org/jobs/. Act now to be part of positive change! (1/2/23AS)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**BOOKKEEPER: LOCAL, WELL-RESPECTED NON-PROFIT** agency hiring a full-time bookkeeper. Responsibilities include payroll and benefits administration and support for other accounting projects. We're looking for a motivated, values-driven individual with experience in QuickBooks. Excel. Initiative essential; training and support provided. Join our staff of dedicated professionals and learn the joys and satisfaction of serving others. Salary \$40k-45k, DOE, full benefit package. Send cover letter, resume/request job description to hr@lapuente.net, 719-589-5909 ext238. www.lapuente.net (12/20/23AS)

**DEL NORTE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL** is accepting applications for a **SECONDARY FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHER** and **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER (ELL) K-12 SITE COORDINATOR**. The applicant will need to be able to teach Spanish. The applicant will also be responsible for managing the ELL requirements of CDE, including ACCESS testing for ELLs, ELL identification, and ELL classroom supports. If interested, please send a completed application, resume, and cover letter to Annie Hardy, DNHS Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Mrs. Hardy at (719) 657-4020 for more information. Applications can be downloaded from www.urtigers.co. (12/15/23AS)

**CAFETERIA STAFF NEEDED** at UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. Must have a high school diploma and or GED and some knowledge of working in a kitchen or a willingness to be trained. Pay is dependent on prior experience. Please contact Leslie Martinez at 719-657-4040, x1100 or email her at lmartinez@urtigers.co. (12/15/23AS)

**SALAZAR MEATS NEAR MANASSA** interviewing for salaried, full-time **MANAGEMENT POSITION**, starting \$40-50K based on experience. Please call 347-407-1622 for next steps in the hiring process. (12/15/23AS)

**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)

**CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26Jt** is paying years of service and single health insurance benefits. Apply now to become part of our dynamic district as we are now accepting applications for the position of **SECONDARY SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER**, for the remaining 2023-2024 School Year. Qualifications: Special Education Certification as required by the State of Colorado or such alternative to the above qualifications as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. Applications can be found on the District Website https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities or contact the District Office at (719)754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (12/6/23AS)

**DRIVER/LABOR: MUST HAVE** dependable ¾ ton+ full size pickup, good driving record, must be dependable, have **CONSTRUCTION EXPERIENCE**, & pass a drug test. Call 719-992-1396. (12/22/23AS)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**WANTED EXPERIENCED PRESSMAN.** Must be reliable, flexible, and dependable. Apply in person, 2205 State Street, ALAMOSA. (TFN-AS)

**NEED A SECOND INCOME?** child support? Car Repairs? Taxes Due? Earn up to \$800/month DELIVERING THE VALLEY COURIER. Contact Keith at 719-589-2553. (2/26-TFN-AS)

**307 - APPLIANCES**

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

**324 - SEED & FEED**

**HORSE & COW HAY:** GRASS, GRASS/ALFALFA, ALFALFA. 3x3 and 4x4 bales, various quality and pricing. 719-850-8917. (12/6/23AS-monthly)

**NATIVE GRASS HAY** for sale. Small bales, HORSE HAY QUALITY. USDA certified. Call or text (719)657-1876. (12/19/23AS)

**HORSE HAY \$9/BALE; COW/GOAT HAY \$4.50 per bale.** 719-274-0380. (12/29/23AS)

**345 - WOOD**

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

**353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK**

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

**SALE BLACK ANGUS HI-ALTITUDE BULLS** calving ease Brink Livestock Services. 800-641-3750 / direct line 719-580-3526 www.brinklvestock.net (12/30/23AS)

**360 - MISC. FOR SALE**

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

**LIKE NEW ELECTRIC HOSPITAL BED** with remote, bed is mobile, mattress & rails included. Call 719-480-1210. (1/16/24AS)

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

**362 - HOME FURNISHINGS**

**OAK ENTERTAINMENT CENTER;** minor scratches from TV, \$200/obo. 719-588-7982. (E-TFN)

**368 - PETS & SUPPLIES**

**AKC FRENCH BULLDOG PUPPIES.** Ready December 24TH, full DNA, chipped, wormed, shots, started on crate & potty training. Solid, brindle & Merle \$3,500 719-640-6404. (12/16/23AS)

**OOPS! GOT PUPPIES WHO NEED A HOME?** San Luis Valley ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY is a nonprofit ANIMAL RESCUE dedicated to stopping the euthanasia of healthy adoptable pets. Having pets altered is the number one way to stop pet overpopulation. If your pet has had puppies contact us. We will take the puppies into our rescue and spay the mama dog for free after the puppies are weaned. If needed, we will also provide dog food & gas money to get the dogs to us to help in this situation. Spay/neuter is one of the greatest gifts you can provide your pet, your family, and your community. We have found good responsible homes for over 8,000 animals. Contact 719-587-9663 (WOOF); email: woof@slvaws.org. (TFN-AS)

**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

**420 - LOTS & ACREAGES**

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

**426 - MOBILE HOMES 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**

**COZY 1 BEDROOM** IN REMODELED DUPLEX, near Cole Park, washer/dryer, no pets. \$700 month, \$700 deposit. 719-580-5400. (12/9/23AS)

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

**606 - BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT**

**RENT COMMERCIAL SPACE HAIR SALON** 800-641-3750 / 719-480-3932. (12/30/23AS)

**611 - HOUSES 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. (12/16/23AS)

**713 - PICKUP TRUCKS**

**2015 RAM LONGHORN** ECO DIESEL, 4-wheel drive, red over cream, 103,000 miles, \$26,500. 719-376-5639. (12/19/23AS)



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**Valley Courier**  
**589-2553**

# Comics

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Face card
  - 5 Aid to navig.
  - 8 Fish organ
  - 12 Metallic element
  - 13 Order's partner
  - 14 Actress — Adams
  - 15 Role in a Puccini opera
  - 16 Simian creature
  - 17 Minus
  - 18 Brewed beverage
  - 20 — apso
  - 22 Farm implement
  - 23 Allow
  - 24 Legal wrongs
  - 27 Tune
  - 30 Goat hair fabric
  - 31 Contribute
  - 32 Scull
  - 34 Marshy area
  - 35 Miles away
  - 37 Make a choice
  - 38 Gift by will
- DOWN**
- 1 Comedian — Gaffigan
  - 2 Seed cover
  - 3 Unconscious state
  - 4 Man in shining armor
  - 5 Fierce look
  - 6 Drivel
  - 7 Ballooned

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

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

- 8 Frozen dessert
- 9 — of March
- 10 Actress — Kudrow
- 11 "— Miserables"
- 19 Dawn personified
- 21 Kept
- 24 Bar bill
- 25 Greek weight
- 26 Prevail uncontrolled
- 27 — Tyler Moore
- 28 Postern
- 29 Puppy sounds
- 33 Abbr. on a map
- 35 Eat nothing
- 36 Reach
- 39 Collect
- 40 Greek letter
- 41 White fur
- 43 Engender
- 44 Struggle for air
- 45 Wine city in Italy
- 47 S-shaped molding
- 48 Actual
- 49 Existed
- 51 Hit the jackpot
- 53 "— a Little Tenderness"

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		
49					50	51			52	
54					55				56	
57					58				59	

## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆


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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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


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

## HERMAN



"You go ahead of me. I think you're faster."

## ALLEY OOP



MY CALCULATIONS SAY IT'S MATHEMATICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR LORD ODON TO BE ALTERING THE TIMELINE JUST WITH WING FLAPS.

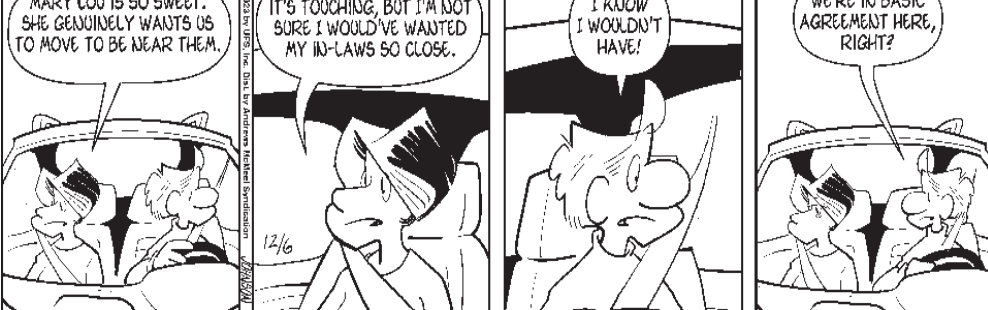
HOW DID YOU FIGURE THAT OUT MATHEMATICALLY?

IT'S VERY COMPLICATED. LOTS OF INTEGRALS AND PROBABILITY... FRACTIONS AND SUCH.

THIS IS JUST A DRAWING OF A DRAGONFLY WITH A RED X SCRAWLED THROUGH IT.

IT'S SEMIOTIC MATH. YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

## ARLO & JANIS




MARY LOU IS SO SWEET. SHE GENUINELY WAISTS US TO MOVE TO BE NEAR THEM.

IT'S TOUCHING, BUT I'M NOT SURE I WOULD'VE WANTED MY IN-LAWS SO CLOSE.

I KNOW I WOULDN'T HAVE!

WE'RE IN BASIC AGREEMENT HERE, RIGHT?

## BIG NATE



WHAT'S WRONG, NATE?

KIM IS RUINING MY LIFE.

SHE'S GOT IT IN HER HEAD THAT SHE AND I ARE SOUL MATES!

YOU LUCKY DUCK!

I WISH KIM WOULD RUIN MY LIFE THAT WAY!

KA-BOING!

SHE'S YUMMY!

## THE BORN LOSER

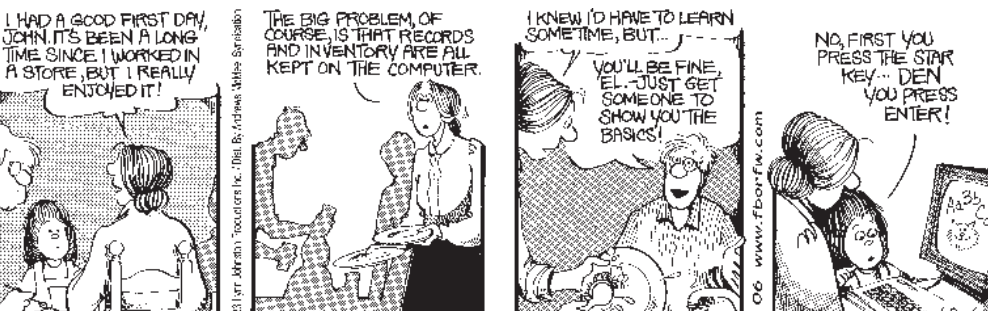


I'VE LEARNED AN IMPORTANT BUSINESS LESSON—IT'S WHO YOU KNOW, NOT WHAT YOU KNOW, THAT COUNTS!

AND WHO DO YOU KNOW?

SIGH... NO ONE!

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



I HAD A GOOD FIRST DAY, JOHN. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I WORKED IN A STORE, BUT I REALLY ENJOYED IT!


THE BIG PROBLEM OF COURSE IS THAT RECORDS AND INVENTORY ARE ALL KEPT ON THE COMPUTER.

I KNEW I'D HAVE TO LEARN SOMETIME, BUT...

YOU'LL BE FINE, EL—JUST GET SOMEONE TO SHOW YOU THE BASICS!

NO, FIRST YOU PRESS THE STAR KEY... THEN YOU PRESS ENTER!

## FRANK & ERNEST



DO YOU WORK HERE?

MEGA CORP.

YES, BUT I HOPE TO GET INTO MANAGEMENT.

## GARFIELD



BARK!

NEXT!

HE'S EXTRA BUSY AROUND THE HOLIDAYS.

## THE GRIZZWELLS



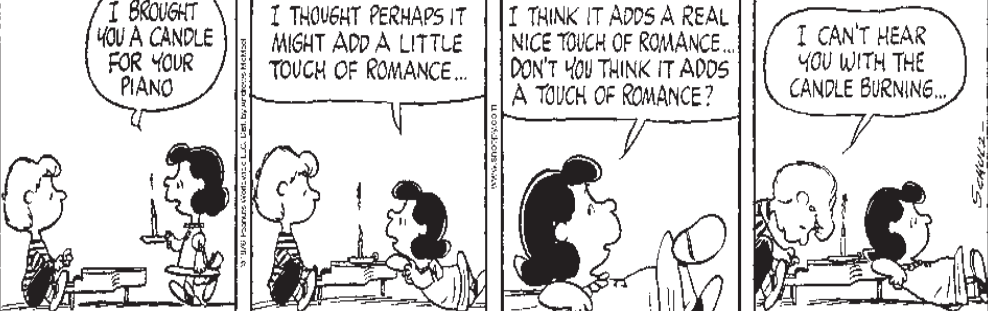
I'M GOING TO THE SKI LODGE TO SCARE OFF THE SKIERS, RANSACK THE KITCHEN...

...AND STEAL ALL THE FOOD.

NO WAY HE'S NOT ON SANTA'S NAUGHTY LIST.

BIG TIME.

## PEANUTS



I BROUGHT YOU A CANDLE FOR YOUR PIANO.

I THOUGHT PERHAPS IT MIGHT ADD A LITTLE TOUCH OF ROMANCE...

I THINK IT ADDS A REAL NICE TOUCH OF ROMANCE... DON'T YOU THINK IT ADDS A TOUCH OF ROMANCE?

I CAN'T HEAR YOU WITH THE CANDLE BURNING...

## Parents upset by daughter's opaque and dodgy love life

**DEAR ABBY:** Three days before my daughter "Ginger's" wedding, her fiance called to announce that he could not marry her because she's bisexual. It's something he knew about for a year but waited until three days before the wedding to mention.

Needless to say, my husband and I were shocked, embarrassed and devastated. We had gone to a wedding with Ginger and her fiance the Saturday before her wedding date, and they were excited about their own wedding, talking about the home they were building and about having a baby. By the following Wednesday, it was over! She has reimbursed us for half of our expenses for the wedding.

Ginger has since been involved mostly with women who have stolen from her, treated her badly and lied to her. We no longer trust our daughter because we thought she was happily engaged, but she lied when she told us how happy she was and how great she and her fiance got along. We cannot accept the current situation, and our relationship with her is now very strained.

We told her to live her life but not to bring these women around. Since then, she has chosen to stay away. We miss our daughter but are not willing to accept

this behavior. We don't think Ginger is even trying to gain back our trust. Please give us your best advice. -- LOST IN LOUISIANA

**DEAR LOST:** Has it occurred to you that your daughter may be a lesbian who tried to appease you and her father by claiming to be bisexual? It is a blessing to all concerned that the wedding was canceled.

If you're a regular reader of my column, you surely must be aware that some women have dysfunctional "manpickers." In your daughter's case, she's having the same problem choosing her female partners. Rejecting her because you don't want "those women" around is not the solution to her problem. Instead, suggest she seek counseling at the nearest LGBTQ community center so she won't continue seeking love in all the wrong places.

**DEAR ABBY:** My boyfriend and I were excited to go on an \$11,000 Caribbean cruise. His 22-year-old son was not that enthusiastic. We invited him to join us for dinner, shows or to play games, but the majority of the time he refused. The only time he'd join us was for events that were paid for in advance.

He called his mom, grandmother and girlfriend every night, but not once did he call his father's



mother. To me, it seems like he's not interested in his father, grandma or me. The moment we arrived home from vacation, he bolted out the door to meet his girlfriend and slept at his mom's house. What can I do to bring this family together? -- SOCIAL DISASTER

**DEAR SOCIAL DISASTER:** Although at 22 your boyfriend's son is legally an adult, he don't act like one on that trip. In fact, he demonstrated that he was uninterested and didn't want to interact with his father or with you. It is nice of you to want to bring him and his dad closer, but it's time for you to step back and let them work it out. Nothing you can do will fix this.

# Lifestyle

## December is here!

### By HIGH VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER DEL NORTE

Christmas is our favorite holiday at the High Valley Community Center, and we are all decked out in Christmas spirit to prove it. The kids love getting to see all the garland, lights and our ladder-climbing Santa. Feel free to pop in to see just how much we love celebrating Christmas!

We sure did miss the kids during the break and are so glad to have them back. This week, they started doing a medley of different holiday-themed activities. They learned carol songs, decorated Christmas cookies and created their own advent calendars!

The Rio Grande County Museum was kind enough to invite us to come hear Christmas stories and decorate cookies with us this last Friday. The kids had so much fun getting to pour icing and sprinkles all over their cookies and gobbling them up. Santa even showed up and played the fiddle for us!

This Friday, we will be having a Pajama Party and caroling for the folks over at the River Valley center. Make sure your kids show up in their

comfiest PJs and with their most festive spirit!

Our Encore program had the opportunity to all go to the Holiday Bazaar and get some Christmas shopping done. HVCC provided transportation and lunch. It was a great day of community-building and perusing all the wonderful creations of local artisans!

The last day to register for the Hot Shots basketball team is Dec. 15. Make sure to get your kiddo signed up for a fun season on the court! You can register your child(ren) online at thehvcc.org. Happy holidays!

**The Del Norte Public Library in partnership with the Rio Grande County Museum and the High Valley Community Center hosted a holiday story hour at the museum on Dec. 1. Students from the center came for an afternoon of Christmas stories read by Del Norte Public Library Director Susan Williams and then decorated cookies provided by Sweet Life bakery of South Fork.**

Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell



**kids' corner**

**FOOD FACT!**

THERE ARE MORE THAN 3,000 VARIETIES OF THIS FRUIT WORLDWIDE.

ANSWER: PEAR

*How they SAY that in...*

**ENGLISH:** Sweet  
**SPANISH:** Dulce  
**ITALIAN:** Dolce  
**FRENCH:** Sucré  
**GERMAN:** Süß

**future**

### Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-10. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	1		13
	0	2	9
5	5		18
15	6	19	

8	5	5
7	0	7
6	1	3

*Solution*

### Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

R E P A R T T A

ANSWER: Pear tart

### THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

**DEC 8**

- 1962: WORKERS AT FOUR NYC NEWSPAPERS BEGIN A STRIKE THAT ULTIMATELY LASTS FOR 114 DAYS.
- 1990: THE GALILEO SPACECRAFT FLIES PAST EARTH FOR THE FIRST TIME.
- 2013: METALLICA PERFORMS A SHOW IN ANTARCTICA, MAKING THEM THE FIRST BAND TO PERFORM ON ALL SEVEN CONTINENTS.

### New word

**MATURE**

fully developed

### Did you know?

PEARS ARE ONE OF THE FEW FRUITS THAT HAVE AN EXTENSIVE HISTORY, DATING BACK TO AROUND 1,000 B.C.

### GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: PEARS

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