

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

December 6, 2023

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

Today **City hosting** retirement celebration for Councilor Griego

SLV

ALAMOSA 0 n 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.

Signupatwww.bloodhero. com, sponsor code: southfork or contact Karen Miller at 720-313-4834 or 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.

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 Moun-





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. 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



Fri: Chance of Snow, Brreezy 44/7

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tain 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. 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.

Courier photo by John Waters

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

STAFF REPORT WASHINGTON, D.C. — This week, Senator Michael Bennet low-income families and seniors' 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 families were cooking their take-home preparation and consumption, or cold prepared foods. pared rotisserie chickens, hot critical nutrition." sandwiches, and soups.

sense in the 1970s, when most

outdated provision that limits meals at home, it is no longer an accurate reflection of Ameriability to use their benefits to can families' dietary or lifestyle purchase foods designed for needs," wrote Bennet and the lawmakers in their letter. "Allowing the purchase of cold The Hot Foods Act removes this foods, but not their hot equivaprohibition and allows families lents, disenfranchises vulnerto use their SNAP benefits to able Americans who often rely purchase hot foods such as pre- on SNAP benefits for access to

Of the more than 42 million "Since its enactment 60 years SNAP participants, almost 70 ago, SNAP has prohibited the percent of participants are chilpurchase of hot foods. While dren, elderly, or those with disthis restriction may have made abilities. The ability to purchase ■ See SNAP page 3



Sen. Michael Bennet







Diane

OBITUARIES

Tina Nadine Floyd

eight

Our mother Tina Nadine Floyd passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023, after a long, fierce battle with cancer. She was born Jan. 16, 1965, to Orlando and Tina Chacon in Alamosa, Colo.

She grew up in Romeo, Colo., where the Valley will always be home. She moved to Utah for her education and to work at JobCorp, where she met Al-Nur Floyd. They married shortly after and raised their family of two on Hill Air Force Base in Utah, moved to England and then back to Clinton. Utah. Later divorced, she moved back to Colorado.

Tina spent her life helping and caring for people. She served food to the elderly in her 30's, was a bus driver in Elko, Nev., for special needs children and in her final years worked at multiple shelters to care for the homeless.

She was always outspoken and loving. She wasn't afraid to stand up for the abused or mistreated; especially when it came to children.

Despite the traumas she endured at a young age and throughout her life she was always happy, laughing and living. She lived her life making sure

Well-known Sanford resident Scott Kreps, 72, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023. As per his wishes, he spent his final days at his Homestead surrounded by loved ones. Scott was born in Alamosa, Colo., to Noble Eugene and Elva "Mitchell" Kreps. Scott married his sweetheart high-school Sarah Haslett on June 26, 1970, in Manassa, Colo. They were later sealed in the Salt Lake City Temple on April 19, 1980. He remained a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day



everyone in her path was loved and taken care of.

She went above and beyond for her children and later even more for her grandchildren. Arianna and Killian.

The end was hard but having her grandbabies and so many countless aunts and uncles help through it made it easier, especially the "Apple" of her eye and niece April Chacon.

death by her parents Tina Valdez and Orlando Lake City, Utah) with a Chacon, her sister Yolanda Chacon and her Godparents Cirila and Elipio Chacon.

She is survived by her children Tina Rae and Akeem Floyd, her grandchildren, Arianna Hale and Killian Floyd; her

Vigil, Manuel ((Mike) (Norma) Chacon, Lavern (Moises) Ruiz, Angelo (Manuela) Chacon, Orlando (Jackie) Chacon, Richard (Carol) Chacon, Dennis (Tisha) Chacon, Sidney Chacon and Louis Cisneros. She is also survived by countless Aunts, Uncles, Nephews, Nieces and Cousins whom she loved very much.

siblings,

Her big family was one of her greatest joys. She was the best Mom and even better Grandmother. If you had only ever met her once I bet that day was memorable. She will be forever missed. We love you.

May she forever rest in peace. Please hold all those memories of her smile, love and infectious laughter in your hearts.

A funeral mass will be held Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023, at 11 a.m. at She was preceded in Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (257 N 700 W Salt luncheon to follow at the F.O.E. from 1-5 p.m. (1104 W 2100 S Salt Lake City, Utah). A second mass with details to come later will be held in the spring or summer of 2024 which will take place in Colorado.

Monte Vista resident Matthew Eddie Medina, 29, died Dec. 4, 2023, at his home in Monte Vista, surrounded by his family and under Hospice care.

Matthew was born in Pueblo, Colo., on Oct. 22, 1994, to Eddie Medina Jr., and Tracie Wilson Medina.

He worked for 5 years as a Lineman and installing fiber line. Matthew enjoyed climbing poles in true lineman fashion. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, and making many camping memories with his family.

Matthew had a passion for making others laugh and smile. He brought joy to everyone he encountered. He treasured his memories from high school sports and was proud to be a Pirate. Matthew was also a tree warrior in life.

He is survived by his Luna of Las Vegas, Nev., als.com.

Mineral County's Kukuk awarded ACCA Administrator of the Year

standards in the adminis-

tration of county govern-

lic administrators find new

ways to improve customer

service, make county gov-

ernment more efficient

and increase productiv-

ity. The ACCA Adminis-

Commissioners

Each year, creative pub-

ment.

By LYNDSIE FERRELL

MINERAL COUNTY Mineral County Administrator Janelle Kukuk seeking, and exchanging was awarded Administrainformation materials and tor of the Year through ideas that can contribute the Association of Coloto county government; to rado County Administraprovide a central resource tors (ACCA) this month for any individual agency at its annual conference. or organization devoted Administrators are nomito more effective county nated for the award by lomanagement; and to encal officials and then the courage the continued nominations are judged by development of higher ethical and professional a panel of their peers from all over Colorado.

Kukuk was nominated by Mineral County Commissioner Ramona Weber.

"We always laugh and call Janelle the chaos coordinator, but the truth is, that is exactly what she does for us in the county. It is not easy managing a board of county commissioners, but Janelle does seeks to honor those pubit flawlessly and we are so lic administrators whose this award by her peers,"

Matthew Eddie Medina



parents Eddie and Tracie Medina of Monte Vista; his sister Erika Medina of Monte Vista; his grandparents Dick and Linda Wilson of Center, Colo., Eddie, Sr. and Becky Medina of Monte Vista, Colo.; his aunts and uncles Cinda (Sam) Andrew of Bloomfield, N.M., Anita Wilson of Pueblo, Colo., Shelly (Moses) Garcia of line condolences, tributes Alamosa, Colo., Stephanie Sanchez of Denver, Colo., Pam (J.R. Rodriguez) De-

and Daisie (Bobby) Gomez of Monte Vista, Colo.; as well as his cat Sadie and numerous cousins and extended family and friends.

Matthew was preceded in death by his greatgrandmother Betty Wilhis grandmother son, Diane Gonzalez, and his cousin Jessica DeLuna.

A Memorial Service will be held 10 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, at the Valley Church of the Nazarene in Monte Vista. Contributions in his memory are suggested to Parkview Foundation and may be made at www. parkviewmc.com/ways-togive/foundation/donate/.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave onand words of comfort for Matthew's family, please visit www.RogersFuner-

According to the Asso- of effort, innovation and ciation of Colorado County quality of performance Administrators, it is an set the benchmark for all organization dedicated to public administrators in

> Colorado. "Janelle can always find a way to put all the pieces together to come up with a workable plan. She helps with organization and provides the board with the information they need to make the best decisions we can for Mineral County. We are all so grateful she was given the recognition of this award and look forward to continuing to work with her," said Weber.

Kukuk has been with the county for eight years and has helped to streamline meetings, create safe and organized work areas, was a key player in getting the trator of the Year Award courthouse remodeled as well as bringing up to date technological services to happy that she was given service to their Boards of the Mineral County area in the form of cell service and communities, level and other advancements.



Celebration and enjoyed vourself a "Scottie Burger" then you would know that not only did you leave with a full belly but also with an ear full of a myriad of topics; from the weather, to politics, to a poem, or a verse of scrip-Saints throughout his

great-grandchildren, his siblings; brother Jeff (Leigh) Kreps of Sanford, Colo., and his sisters Melanie (Gary) Sego of Rio Rancho, N.M., Michelle (Melvin) Richardson of Manassa, Colo., Jane Christensen of San-Alamosa, Colo.

Scott was preceded in death by his parents, Gene and Elva Kreps and his brother Lance Kreps.

Friday evening on Dec.

three

ford, Colo., Lori (Jim) Gibson of Sanford, Colo., Kandace (Pat) Gunter of

A visitation will be held 8, 2023, from 5-7 p.m. at Rogers Family Mortu-

Norris 'Scott' Kreps

life.

Aside from his religious affiliation, he was a civil servant and truly loved being a part of the community in which he lived. His passion for reading, writing, history, and politics were driving forces in his life. He was an active member of Conejos County Writers Circle and served on the board of the Sanford Museum.

Over the past three decades, anyone to have ever attended or graduated from Sanford Schools probably shared many a meal — at the Sanford Country Store. Not only was it a staple for the student body, but also for many of the faculty through the years.

If ever you have attended the Pioneer Day's

ture.

It didn't matter who you were, what your last name was, or what walk of life vou came from. Scott's country store became a pillar that brought a community together. After 32 years of owning and managing the store, the time came for him to pass on vices to begin shortly the torch. It prides him to thereafter at 11 a.m. Folthis day that his daugh- lowing the Funeral Serter Trudie chose to continue his legacy!

Scott is survived by his wife; Sarah Kreps of tions to the family, please Sanford, Colo., his children; Jared (Tracy) Kreps of Sanford, Colo., Seth Kreps of Sanford, Colo., Trudie (Dwayne) Gylling of Sanford, Colo., Jesse (Kira) Kreps of Alamosa, and words of support and Colo., Eve (Tyler) Sims comfort for Scott's family, of Sanford, Colo., Eden (Mark) Gantt of Syracuse, Utah, 20 grandchildren,

ary, located at 205 North Third St. Manassa, CO. An additional visitation will be held Saturday morning on Dec. 9, 2023, from 10-10:45 a.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 755 Main St. Sanford, Colo., with Funeral Services, Burial will take place at the Sanford Cemetery. In lieu of donamake contributions to the Sanford Museum.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes, please visit www.Rogers-Funerals.com.

PENDING OBITUARY Julianne Prillanan

San Luis resident Julianne Prillanan passed away Dec. 4, 2023. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

COURIER OBITUARY POLICY

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

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

Luis Valley offers many Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous groups.

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

VALLEY — The San stay sober and help oth- ated with any outside er alcoholics/addicts to organizations, but in the achieve sobriety.

NA 12-Step Meetings ules for friends and famthroughout the valley. ily. For information, call A.A. and N.A members The 6th Tradition states 719-937-5083 or see our

spirit of cooperation, we There are AA and list these meeting schedsaid Ramona.

County

Town of South Fork looks to build riverwalk Looking at many funding options including **GOCO** grant

By LYNDSIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — Rio Grande County Commissioners welcomed South Fork Planning and Zoning member Ashlee Bratton to their meeting on Nov. 29. She gave the board an update on a project she has been working on for two vears.

The basics of the plan are to transform a piece of land located east of the Rainbow Grocery store into a riverwalk park for the community.

"I've been working on concepts for the last two years on the possibility of turning the 17-acre property east of Rainbow Grocerv into a town park and riverwalk. The structures I have concepts for include a big multi-use pavilion, playground, two bridges that complete a walkway loop on either side of the river, restrooms, picnic area, and ample parking for festivals, etc.," explained Bratton.

Bratton continued, "I am hoping to be able to apply for a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Land Acquisition grant in the January grant cycle. There's a lot of work that needs to be done to do this, so if we can't submit in January for some reason, the next grant cycle after that would be in May. This is entities including the Rio

in order to do this. Once the land is acquired, then the real work begins on sioners were in support of fundraising and applying for matching grants to develop the 17 acres into the beautiful concept pictures you saw on the Zoom call. Step one, acquire the land."

According to Bratton, the Town of South Fork is also in the process of putting a sales tax increase on the April ballot to support projects like this and to put money toward some desperately needed entities such as the police department and public works.

The possible 1.9% tax increase proposal will be to support town personnel, along with some much-needed capital improvements, such as a riverwalk and new community building. Since South Fork does not have a city property tax, the town's operations are supported through sales tax only. A less than 2% sales tax increase would put South Fork more in line with other Colorado tourism towns in terms of sales tax rates.

"As for the town park and riverwalk, as trustee on the Planning and Zoning Committee and president of the Silverthread Outdoor Club, I am in the process of gathering letters of support from critical just the first step of many Grande County Commis-

sioners," Bratton added.

The county commisthe riverwalk project and drafted a letter of support.

Anyone can send letters of support for the grant application. The deadline to for letters is Jan. 1, 2024, and should be emailed to abratton@southfork.org. Letters are asked to include the following talking points — the impact of a riverwalk and river access within the community, the economy's reliance on tourism, the need for a playground and pavilion, and river conservation for future generations.







ASU Fall Commencement Speaker is Alumna Spier

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University 2023 Fall Commencement Ceremony begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16, in Plachy Hall. Alumna Patricia "Patsy" Spier '91, is the commencement speaker.

As the graduating class of 2023 enters the next phase of their live, Spier will encourage them to trust their instincts.

"When making life decisions, listen to your instincts and follow through," Spier says.

Spier will share her life experiences to illustrate the importance of not letting disappointment, or tragedy, cause the graduates to give up on their dreams.

"Ask questions and listen to what people have to say, when you need help," Spier says.

Spier received her master's in education at Adams State in order to teach internationally. She and her late husband, Rick Spier '88 '91, loved being teachers. In 2002, Rick and three others were killed and 11 others injured, including Patsy, by terrorists in West Papua, Indonesia, during the Timika Ambush.

After recovering from her injuries, Spier took her skills to Washington, D.C. and for the

and forth from Denver to DC, to advocate for justice in the Timika Case. She worked ex- in 2016, Spier was a Victim tensively with congressional of- Outreach Specialist, with the fices, including Senate Foreign US Department of Justice Relations and Appropriations (top secret clearance). She as-Committees: House Appropriations and Foreign Affairs Committees; and the Colorado Dele- their cases were tried overgation to facilitate the passage seas; provided training within of HR 2673 in the 2004 Con- the department to prosecusolidation Appropriations Bill, tors, investigators, and vicwhich withheld International tim advocate staff; provided Military Education and Training funds to the Indonesian on the needs and concerns of Military until the US Secretary of State determined the Indonesian authorities cooperated for United Nations Office on with the FBI, in the Timika investigation.

Spier also assisted the Office of Agents in making effective connections with victims; served as a media spokesperson; worked directly with offices including the FBI Director, Attorney General, Deputy Secretary of State, Deputy Secretary of Defense, and with the Indonesian Government.

many of the gunmen were capta, Indonesia. Spier testified and attended the full trial.

next four years traveled back can make a positive impact in James Lind, D.M.A., on Grand

this world," Spier says.

From 2008 until retiring sisted US citizen victims of international terrorism, when outreach to foreign officials victims of international terrorism; and was a presenter Drugs and Crime.

Spier earned a Master of Arts During this same time period in 2007 from the University of Denver; a Master of Arts in Victim Assistance to develop 1991 from Adams State; and a training videos for FBI Special Bachelor of Arts in 1979 from the University of Northern Colorado; and she currently has a valid Colorado Teaching License.

During the fall undergraduate commencement ceremony, Adams State will award 266 undergraduate degrees including 136 associates; 53 Bachelor Spier's advocacy worked and of Arts; 42 Bachelor of Science; and 35 Master of Arts. Duane tured and stood trial in Jakar- Bussey will deliver a greeting from the Board of Trustees. William Lipke, D.M.A. profes-"Everyone has a voice and sor of music, will accompany



Pictured, Alumna Patricia Spier and recipients of the Adams State Rick Spier Memorial Scholarship, Kade Hankins and Abigail Kemper. Spier will deliver the Adams State 2023 Fall Commencement address on Dec. 16.

music.

Overture No. 1, for the special in person, the event will be livestreamed at adams.edu/ For those unable to attend live.

Lands

■ Continued from Page 1 in Alamosa. He is the fourth generation of his family to farm and ranch in the San Luis Valley. He is the general manager of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, working across the Valley with all stakeholders addressing the water security issues in the basin. He is also currently the Colorado State Senator representing Senate District 6 which is comprised of 14 counties in southern and southwest Colorado, including the west slope and the south slope.

Simpson has served as

Rio Grande Basin Round- vating strategic growth table and as the Round- investments with the table representative to firm's key technology allithe statewide Interbasin ances. A fifth-generation Compact Committee. He Colorado native, he is is also the past chairman dedicated to taking care of the Adams State Uni- of the state's outdoor versity Board of Trustees in Alamosa.

approach to preserving with Volunteers for Outthe landscapes Coloradoans cherish, he expects to served as VOC's board create opportunities for chair. He currently serves the fifth and sixth gen- on the board of Leave erations of his family and No Trace and El Pomar many others to enjoy the abundant and varied nat- Excellence selection comural beauty of our great state.

U.S. Alliances and Eco- enjoying the outdoors systems team which is responsible friends. He is a graduate

spaces.

He is a 20-year boots Through a thoughtful on the ground volunteer door Colorado and also Foundation's Awards for mittee.

When Trujillo isn't Trujillo leads PwC's working, he can be found Commercial with his family and

"Now is our opportu- Alex Padilla (D-Calif.), Free Colorado, Nourish

a representative to the for identifying and acti- of Colorado College and received his master's degree from the University of Colorado. Colorado Open Lands

is a private, nonprofit land trust that works to enhance Colorado's quality of life by protecting its most treasured asset: open lands. Since 1981, COL has helped landowners conserve over 660,000 acres around the state and fostered partnerships responsible for critical innovations in conservation funding, water management, and more. In 2015, COL adopted an ambitious strategic plan to help interested landowners protect a total of 800,000 acres across Colorado by 2025.

Center Kiwanis Christmas Parade is Dec. 16

ter Kiwanis Christmas Parade is set for 1 p.m. on Dec. 16. Entries are asked to lineup between Worth and Broadway on

■ Continued from Page 1

This festive contest is made possible with the collaborative efforts of Visit Alamosa, the City of Alamosa Parks and Recreation, tradition, and to vote for and the active participa- your favorite tree, visit alation of these 18 local businesses: Altitude Appliance, Big Valley HobbyTown, Boys and Girls Club of the SLV, El Hefe's Vape Shop,

CENTER — The Cen- floats — \$100 for first, \$75 for second and \$50 for third.

Santa Claus will be at Casa Blanca Park following the parade.

For more information, contact Kiwanis member Dick Ramsetter at 719-580-3329.

Kreative Kraftworks, Milagros Coffee House, Narrow Gauge Book Coop, No Limit Arcade, Purple Pig Pizzeria, Rainbows End, Roots by Blessed, Rousey Roulette, Spare Keg Brewerks, Sweetgrass Therapeutics, White Shell Mt. Ranch, Wild Boots by Olivias, Wild Roses - A Country Store and So Much More.

To be part of this festive

2nd Street at 12:30 p.m. Cash prizes are being awarded to the top three

Contest

The second and third place winners will each receive a sponsorship package for the Summer's Beat the Heat BBQ & Brews event.

SNAP

Continued from Page 1 hot foods or hot foods ready for immediate consumption would provide enormous flexibility to people who rely on this program to supplement their nutrition and dietary needs.

nity to provide families Sheldon Whitehouse (D- Colorado, Food Research the flexibility their lives R.I.), Chris Van Hollen and Action Center, First demand and modernize (D-Md.), Gary Peters the SNAP Program with a simple fix," concluded the lawmakers.

net, Meng, Fitzpatrick, House of Representatives Garbarino, and Spanberger, U.S. Senators Welch Peter (D-Vt.),

Richards,

In addition to Ben-

(D-Mich.), John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.), Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), and 88 members of the U.S. also signed the letter.

The Hot Foods Act is supported by Hunger

Focus Campaign for Children, Feeding America, and Hunger Free America. The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), and the National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS) also support this letter.

mosa.org/first-fridays.

For more information, visit alamosa.org/first-fridays or email events@alamosa.org.





Blake

■ Continued from Page 1 number of survivors that are still alive after that fateful day.

Blake enlisted in the US Army on March 5, 1940, and was stationed in Hawaii for basic training.

On Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, Blake was headed to the gym to play basketball. When the attack started, Blake thought it was a drill.

"It sounded like an airplane landing on a corrugated tin roof," he said. "Suddenly we heard explosions and a rat-a-tattat. The sky was full of planes. It took a while for my mind to comprehend all that I was seeing. I thought it was a very realistic drill, except there were rising suns on those planes."

survived the Blake Pearl Harbor attack 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 Homelake. He turned 102 in January.

Manager for the Vali 3 Theater, stated that although Blake is not going to Hawaii, he will be honored on Thursday, Dec. 7, in Hawaii and he will be acknowledged by the people in Hawaii as being a survivor. Richards decided to also pay tribute to this amazing man, who is a Veteran at the Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake here in Monte Vista.

attend the tribute at the theater.

What we plan to do, is take that feed and put a tribute that will be held camera on George, so that we are shooting George with a full theater of folks behind him, in support of him," Richards said. "When they talk about George in Hawaii, that is what everyone will see all over the world. George in the theater, with a full theater of supporters sitting behind him. This is a chance for Monte Vista to make itself known to a worldwide audience. It is also a chance for Monte Vista and the San Luis Valley to support George in everything that he has done."

Richards also spoke of said.

a poem that Blake wrote Operations when he went back to Hawaii years ago entitled "Why you not me." The poem is powerful and brings about Blake's deep via Zoom, on a big screen feelings about the attack, and his question as to why he survived, but others did not.

Richards feels strongly about memorializing this for Blake and has been working with the Polished Edge, to place the poem on granite and to lay it in either the Faith Hinkley Memorial Park Everyone is invited to in Monte Vista, or at the Community Living Center at Homelake.

As part of the special on Thursday, Dec. 7, Richards along with Pam Self, who is the Director of the Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake, plan to present Blake with a smaller version of the granite stone at the event. Blake does not have knowledge of the presentation that will be taking place, so this will be a special surprise to him.

"The idea is to create something that will last forever. We want to pay tribute to George and make this a forever memorial to him," Richards

The public is invited to attend this free event on Dec. 7, at the Vali 3 Theater. The live feed will begin at 12:30 p.m., everyone is encouraged to come at noon and support Blake.

For more information on the event, contact Self at 719-852-5118 or Richards at 719-852-3581.

The bright promise of winter and political storms

By DAVID SHRIBMAN NORTH CONWAY, N.H. — The snow, soft and silent, fell overnight, leaving this old ski village covered in white, recasting the landscape, altering the view, adjusting the mood, transforming the outlook. Now we know why the Aubuchon Hardware store over in nearby Center Ossipee has been advertising snow blowers, shovels, firewood and heating-stove pellets on its roadside sign. Now we know why the migratory birds have fled, the drizzles have had an icy edge, the storm warnings in these parts suddenly have taken on an air of peril.

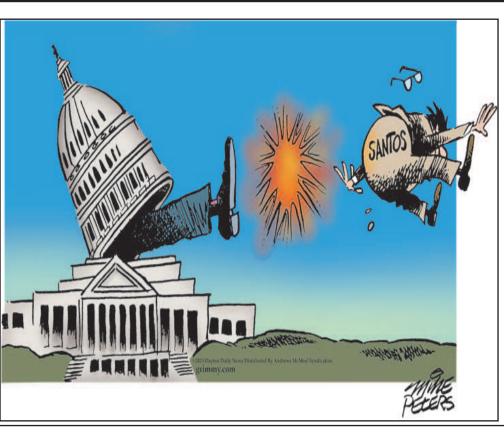
And while the winter solstice — traditionally regarded as the time the season changes — is still nearly three weeks away, meteorologists (and political scientists) have their own perspectives and calendars. "Meteorological winter" — yes, that's a thing — officially began Friday. Political winter begins just about now as well. If the old crooner Andy Williams were still with us — he held a campaign event with Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in the very Los Angeles hotel where the 1968 presidential candidate would be shot three days later — he would tell us that we are now in "the most wonderful time of the year."

At least, we political columnists feel that way.

In this new season, as Ralph Waldo Emerson, who knew these hills, put it in 1847, "the whited air/Hides hills and woods." Though the snow provides a baby-powder application over the lake ice rime, writers and voters alike get to see the candidates with fresh clarity.

We also get to ponder one of the mysteries of winter life, along with why the planar surfaces of snowflakes defy any logical architecture or even explanation: the perennial, or rather quadrennial, question of why the American presidential election season begins in Iowa, where the average January low temperature is 6 degrees Fahrenheit in the town of Cresco, and here in New Hampshire, where the average January low temperature on Mount Washington is minus 4 degrees Fahrenheit. (The average low for the state capital of Concord, New Hampshire, for Jan. 23, the date of this year's primary, is 10 degrees.)

But now the political season takes its cue, if not its rhythmic upbeat, from Frosty the Snowman, who, after all, was "alive as he could be." And so, with the



new perspective that winter brings, here is a look at the altered political landscape:

· Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida has won two important endorsements, one from Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds (a political force in her state) and another from Iowa evangelical leader Bob Vander Plaats (whose support has boosted the last three contested Republican Iowa caucus winners to victory). Those are important, and they both infuriate Donald Trump. DeSantis' volunteers and paid staffers have knocked on nearly three-quarters of a million Iowa doors and have assembled some 30,000 commitments to support him in caucuses. But something feels hollow in the DeSantis campaign. He seems for all the world like the Tin Man of this season, lacking a heart and feeling. If he fails, it will be because voters sense that.

 Former U.N. ambassador Nikki Haley is soaring right now, but the question is whether her campaign has a ceiling. Her moderate profile seems to resonate among traditional Republicans, but truly, how many traditional Republicans are there anymore? Among her supporters are the sort of people who used to be regarded as public influencers, but their influence hasn't prevented Trump from maintaining his strong position despite 91 indictments, charges of rape, increasingly intemperate behavior and rhetoric, and the sort of post-election vision that terrifies even the old Republican establishment.

• Vivek Ramaswamy is moving right-

Water and shelter: Parallel challenges facing Colorado

ward at supersonic speed. The other day, he scheduled an event at the Granite State Indoor Gun Range and Gun Shop in Hudson, New Hampshire, with a special offer: The first 50 people showing up were offered a free full-day pass at the range. (Helpful caveat: "This does not include weaponry, firearms, ammunition or safety equipment.") Purpose of the event: Celebrate the Second Amendment, which he argues is the one that "gives teeth to every other amendment in the Constitution." Ramaswamy is both enfant terrible and agent provocateur of the Republican undercard. He seems to be gunning to be Trump's running mate. As a New Hampshire political observer put it to me: Why vote for Vivek Ramaswamy if you can have the real thing in Donald Trump? · Former Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey is everyone's favorite Trump basher, and he clearly has the range and intelligence to be an American president, but neither of those characteristics is a prerequisite for the nomination. Look for him to endorse Haley in the period between the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary. Indeed, the two might team up just then and say they will run together, she for president, he for vice president, and consolidate their vote - and maybe appeal to some GOP undecideds.

• Trump remains the front-runner and the beneficiary of the Damon Runyon theory: "The race is not always to the swift nor the battle to the strong, but that's the way to bet." Here's one reason why: What would happen to the

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

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

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

anti-Trump forces if DeSantis, who has made a deep investment in Iowa, does well there, while Haley, who is gathering support in New Hampshire, wins that state — and each comes in second in the other's strong spot? Does that guarantee that the two of them continue in the race, essentially fighting each other rather than Trump, and as a result defeat each other and ensure the nomination of the man they both would like to see dethroned?

Every campaign has a mystery, and this one, along with the persistent appeal of Trump, is how the anti-Trump forces sort themselves out. All these candidates cannot continue their campaigns without assuring that they all lose.

Now a meteorological update: That early snow that hugged the trees and garlanded the mountains here — the "frolic architecture of the snow," in Emerson's characterization — was beautiful to behold. But then the snow turned to rain, and the roads were clogged with sloppy residue that in some spots was impassable.

What started out with wintry promise — how bright the white, how festive the scene through the frosted windows! turned out to be a forbidding mess. The road ahead was obscure until the slush was cleared away. So, too, with the Republican presidential field in Iowa and here in New Hampshire.

David M. Shribman is the former executive editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

By BRAD WIENIG

Board Vice President Colorado Water Trust

I've spent the majority of my career working in the field of affordable housing, trying to provide safe and decent homes for the rapidly increasing percentage of our population who cannot afford it, especially here in Colorado. In what I thought was an unrelated move, I have spent the last few years serving on the Board of the Colorado Water Trust, a nonprofit devoted to utilizing marketbased tools to restore water to Colorado's streams and rivers in need. And while I still know a whole lot less about the landscape and economics of water than I do housing, what has become clear to me are the many parallels between these two worlds.

Colorado, known for its breathtaking mountains and yes, beautiful streams and rivers, has seen an influx of people seeking a piece of the Rocky Mountain dream. However, as more individuals and families settle in the state, the demand for affordable housing continues to outstrip supply. The demands on our water system, driven primarily by population growth in Colorado and the Southwest, continue to grow at a pace that supply (in this case snow!) increasingly can't keep up with.

In the housing market, several factors

ASSOCIATION

Priscilla Waggoner

contribute to the supply and demand imothers policy-inflicted. High construction costs, limited availability of land (with access to water), and local zoning restrictions are some of the culprits. Similarly, the scarcity of water in Colorado can be attributed to a combination of market forces and policy (climate change is undoubtedly another huge driver, but we'll ignore that one for now). Population growth, which in turn drives demand both through direct consumption of water (largely municipal providers) and indirect consumption through food consumption (agricultural users). On the policy side, because of our western "first in time, first in right" water rights structure, there are a lot of baked-in disincentives to using water more efficiently and a lot of trepidation that doing so will result in diminished value of water rights.

Both imbalances have far-reaching consequences and impacts on our neighbors and community as a whole. The shortage of affordable housing leads to skyrocketing rents and home prices, making it challenging for many low- and middle-income residents to find suitable accommodation near where they work, go to school, or have a network of family/ friends. In a parallel vein, the increasing water shortage in Colorado directly affects people's daily lives, and its impact

contribute to the supply and demand imbalance, some of them market-based and others policy-inflicted. High construction costs, limited availability of land (with sources.

The challenges of housing and water in Colorado demonstrate the necessity of collaboration and innovation. Private and public sectors, community organizations, and concerned citizens must work together to find sustainable solutions. Innovative technologies and practices can help optimize resource allocation in both areas.

The biggest difference I see between housing scarcity and water scarcity in Colorado, however, is general awareness. The average resident of Colorado, whether they live in the Front Range or on the Western Slope, generally understands that we have a significant challenge with affordable housing. If you don't struggle with the cost of housing yourself, odds are you know someone who does. However, I believe far too many residents, especially those of us up and down the populous Front Range, take our water for granted and don't fully grasp the very dire supply and demand imbalances that exist in water. Most of us are unaware where the water in our taps, toilets, and hoses even comes from (hint: it's largely the other side of the Continental Divide).

For real and meaningful changes to take place in sustaining and restor-

Mailroom Supervisor/Press



Your FIRST Source for Local News

Staff Writer

Editor's Note: The views expressed in individual columns on this page do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Valley Courier.

Richard R. Quintana

ing our water systems in Colorado and throughout the West, the general population needs to be more aware of the increasingly dire situation we face out here in the arid West. And we need to be motivated to work together with our neighbors to do something about it before it's too late. As hard as it is to build more housing, it's a whole lot harder to build more water. It's why I joined the Board and why I wrote this article. Please read up on water issues, do whatever you can to use less of it, and support great organizations helping us find the balance between healthy environments and communities like Colorado Water Trust

Write them

GOVERNOR

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

STATE HOUSE

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

•STATE SENATE

Cleave Simpson (R), Colorado State Senator, District 35,

200 E Colfax RM 346 Denver, CO 80203 Phone: 303-866-4875

cleave.simpson.senate@coleg.gov

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Washington Office: 1609LongworthHouse Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-4761

Fax: (202) 226-9669;

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



South Fork ice-skating rink opens the announcement, the grants. The court-ice awarded two grants to and True Grit Excava- ter will be hosting sev-

Lifestyles

By LYNDSIE FERRELL SOUTH FORK — The

South Fork Visitor Centhe newly improved iceskating rink at Rickel open for the winter season. Though temperatures have started to

for the time being.

ter has announced that summer, the South Fork a multi-functional plat-Friends Foundation in form for basketball and partnership with the skateboarding in the Park just east of South Town of South Fork and summer and an ice rink Fork town proper is many generous donors, in the winter. a large cement pad was poured for the new rink. had a successful year Funding for the project and announced this past warm in the days since included donations and spring that they were

rink is holding steady rink is 108-feet-by-115feet poured concrete-Ove the course of the rebar pad that will be

The foundation has

The ice-skating rink is one of the main attractions in South Fork dur- Rawlings available for public use for several years, having it placed on a permanent foundation will help with the quality of the ice.

dation, other uses can others, the warming be blading, roller skating, ice hockey, and bicycling, for example. The

help fund the project. tion. The foundation re- eral events this winceived a \$20,000 grant ter including Saturday from the Robert Hoag Night Skate Night, boning the winter months in Pueblo and \$30,000 tions and more. and though it has been from Rio Grande County.

new shed was built near planned for the area in the rink and thanks to the summertime. The the generous donations rink is cared for by the from local businesses Town of South Fork According to the foun- like 8200 Sports and Road and Bridge depickleball, roller hut was filled with ice box is located inside the skates that can be used warming shed with the by the public for free.

The organization in foundation worked with partnership with the visit the Town of South Fork South Fork Visitor Cen- org.

Foundation fires, curling competi-

Events for the winter will begin in Janu-Three years ago, a ary and more will be partment. A donation ice skates.

For more information, www.southfork.

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

By JOHN INGOLD Colorado Sun

rate — the percentage of people without health care coverage changes mean it's unclear whether that success can last.

dropped in 2023 to 4.6%, down from 6.6% when it was last measured in 2021. The figures come from the every-otheryear Colorado Health Access Survey, administered by the Colorado Health Institute, a nonpartisan 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. Asthepandemic 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

Colorado's uninsured to find new coverage.

2023 survey data — on their own. In 2023, gathered hit an all-time low this March and August — Coloradans purchased year, but federal policy likely don't reflect the coverage without help impacts of this rede- from an employer, down termination That means it's unclear share of people who re-The uninsured rate whether the record-low ceived employer-sponuninsured rate is a onetime blip.

> point how many people of people were covered will continue to stay by Medicare. covered and how many people will become un- Institute expects to reinsured in the state," he lease more said.

The rise in people cov- in the coming months.

continue into next year. ered by Medicaid coin-Those folks would have cided with a decrease in the percentage of people Bontrager said the who bought insurance between an estimated 4.9% of process. from 6.3% in 2021. The sored coverage held mostly steady, at just "It is unknown at this under 50%. About 10.5%

The Colorado Health detailed analyses of its findings

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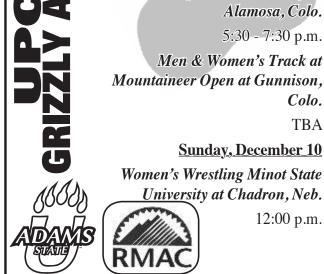
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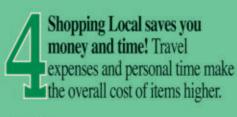


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Courier file photos by Ken Hamrick Left: Monte Vista's Jacob Pacheco. Right: Centauri's Troy Huffaker.

Local football players named All-League

By KEN HAMRICK *Courier sports editor* **ALAMOSA** – The All-League football teams for

all classifications were released in November with several players from the San Luis Valley being recognized.

Class 2A Tri-Peaks League

The Tri-Peaks League football team was released in the middle of November with nine Alamosa players named All-League.

Six of the Mean Moose were first team selections including Riley Honeycutt, Brant Jackson, R.J. Meis, Michael Motz, Karter Tolsma and Dyson Woodward.

The remaining three – Erick Celis, Carlos Garcia, and Mikey Trujillo were honorable mention selections.

In addition to being named to the first team, Jackson was also named the league's outstanding offensive receiver.

La Junta had the most selections with 10. Florence had eight, Woodland Park seven, Manitou Springs six, and Lamar five.

Class 1A South-Central League

An abundance of SLV players were named to the South-Central League team which was also released in the middle of Garcia, Skyler Montague, and Shelton Sowards were all second team, and Marcos Atencio, Jace Haslett, Sean Jarvies, and Carson Shawcroft were honorable mention.

Brady was the co-Offensive Player of the Year, and Huffaker and Polkowske were the co-Defensive Players of the Year.

Centauri coach Kyle Forster was the Coach of the Year.

Monte Vista had eight All-League players. Azariah Hurtado, Alex Marquez, Jack Noonan, Kaden Madrid, and Jacob Pacheco were all first team selections. Kevin Cisneros and Ismael Medina were second team, and Chayse Bouet was honorable mention.

Pacheco was also the co-Offensive Player of the Year.

Del Norte had seven selections. Named to the first team were Jace Pacheco, Craig Williams, and Cody Worz. Kelby Mondragon and Marques Quintana were both second team, and Colby Gandy and Paul Neal were both honorable mention.

Center also had seven selections. Jesus Valadez and Luis Valadez were first team, Jordan Duran and Caden Ruggles were second team, and Devan Thompson, Lorenzo Trujillo and Francisco Villa were honorable mention. The Mountain League team was released right at the end of November.

Sanford had seven selections. Cash Caldon, Trason Gartrell and Lincoln Reynolds were first team, Roj Larson, Heber Reed and James Sanchez were second team, and Ryan Cordova was honorable mention.

In addition to being a first team selection, Caldon was also the co-Offensive Player of the Year.

Sargent had six selections. Lucas Garcia and Fernando Venzor were first team, Jacian Sierra, Kade Temple and Mathew Voss were second team, and Trenton Lovelace was honorable mention.

League and state champion Mancos had the most selections with nine. Dove Creek had eight, and Dolores had five.

Six-man Southwest League

The Southwest league was released in the middle of November.

of November. Sierra Grande had four selections. Tyler Kester and Aron Ojeda were first team, and Jaydn Martinez and Brian Ontiveros were second team.

Mountain Valleyhadtwo selections in Riley Heater and Jacob Martinez, both of whom were first team. Kolby Shellabarger was Sangre de Cristo's lone representative and he was on the first team. Branson/Kim had four selections, Primero had four and La Veta had four.

High school standings as of Monday

Team Alamosa

Centauri

League Over									
Team	W-L	W-L							
Centauri	0-0	2-0							
Ignacio	0-0	1-0							
Montezuma-Cortez	0-0	2-1							
Pagosa Springs	0-0	2-1							
Alamosa	0-0	1-1							
Bayfield	0-0	0-3							

CLASS 2A SOUTHERN PEAKS LEAGUE

	League	Overall
Team	W-L	W-L
Sargent	0-0	3-0
Crested Butte	0-0	1-0
Monte Vista	0-0	2-1
Del Norte	0-0	1-1
Center	0-0	1-3
Sanford	0-0	0-1
Trinidad	0-0	0-3

	League	Overal
Team	W-L	W-L
Moffat	0-0	3-0
Sangre de Cristo	0-0	2-1
Sierra Grande	0-0	1-1
Creede	0-0	1-3
Centennial	0-0	0-0
Lake City	0-0	0-0
Antonito	0-0	0-3

Sports Bulletin

Follow sports editor Ken Hamrick on X. His handle is @KenHamrick1. SCOREBOARD MONDAY Prep boys basketball Moffat 69, Cripple Creek-Victor 63 Prep girls basketball Cripple Creek-Victor 46, Moffat 32 TUESDAY Prep girls swimming

Prep girls swimming Pueblo West at Sargent – late College men's basketball Adams State at Fort Lewis – late College women's basketball Adams State at Fort Lewis – late

SCHEDULE THURSDAY Prep boys basketball

basketball Del Norte at Buena Vista, 4 p.m.

Prep boys basketball Primero at Creede, 1 p.m. . Sanford at Ignacio, 3:30 p.m. Antonito at Cotopaxi, 4 p.m. Ellicott at Sierra Grande, 4:30 p.m. Moffat vs. Custer County (South Park Invitational, 4:30 p.m. Alamosa vs. Platte Valley or Middle Park (University Invitational), 5 p.m. Salida at Centauri, 7 p.m. Prep girls basketball Primero at Creede, 1 p.m. . Moffat vs. West Grand (South Park Invitational), 3 p.m. Alamosa vs. St. Mary's or Middle Park (University Invitational), 3:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Sanford at Ignacio, 3:30 p.m. Antonito at Coto-

paxi, 4 p.m. Salida at Centauri, 5:30 p.m.

Prep boys wrestling Alamosa, Del Norte at Delta Invitational, 9 a.m. Center at Limon Invitational, TBA Prep girls wrestling Alamosa at Delta Invitational, 9 a.m. College men's basketball Colorado State Pueblo at Adams State, 7:30 p.m. College women's basketball Colorado State Puebloat Adams State, 5:30 p.m.

Alamosa at University Invitational, TBA **Prep girls** basketball Moffatvs. Mancosor South Park (South Park Invitational), 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. Custer County at Creede, 1 p.m. Ignacio at Del Norte, 1 p.m. The Vanguard at Centauri, 1 p.m. Sierra Grande at Kim/Branson, 2 p.m. Sangre de Cristo at Sargent, 4 p.m. Alamosa at University Invitational, TBA Prep girls swimming Sargent at Arapahoe Relays, 12:30 p.m. **Prep boys wrestling** Alamosa, Del Norte at Delta Invitational, 9 a.m. Centauri, Sargent at Pueblo East Invitational, 9 a.m. Center at Limon Invitational, 9 a.m. Monte Vista at Palmer Ridge Invitational, 9 a.m.

Mountain Valley, Sierra Grande/Centennial at Rob Mickel Invitational (at Salida), 9 a.m.

Bayfield 0 - 01 - 0Ignacio 0 - 01-0Montezuma-Cortez 2-1 0 - 00-0 1-2 Pagosa Springs CLASS 2A SOUTHERN PEAKS LEAGUE Overall League W-L Team W-L Monte Vista 0-0 3-0 Sanford 0-0 1-0 Sargent 0-0 2-1 Trinidad 0 - 02-1 Center 0-02-2 Del Norte 0-0 1-1 Crested Butte 0-0 0 - 0CLASS 1A SOUTHERN PEAKS LEAGUE

GIRLS BASKETBALL CLASS 4A/3A INTERMOUNTAIN LEAGUE

League

0-0

Overall

W-L

2-0

2-0

	League	Overall
Team	W-L	W-L
Sangre de Cristo	0-0	3-0
Lake City	0-0	1-2
Creede	0-0	1-3
Centennial	0-0	0-0
Moffat	0-0	0-2
Sierra Grande	0-0	0-2
Antonito	0-0	0-3

Kim/Branson, 2 p.m.

Sargent, 4 p.m.

Sangre de Cristo at

November.

League champion Centauri had the most selections with 13. Deven Brady, Parker Buhr, Zack Gallardo, Troy Huffaker, Josh Polkowske, and Soencer Smith were all named first team. Jordan

Ignacio had 10 selections and Trinidad had five. **Eight-man Mountain League**

All-League volleyball teams announced

By KEN HAMRICK

Courier sports editor ALAMOSA – The All-League volleyball teams for all classifications were announced following the conclusion of the state tournaments in November.

> Class 3A Intermountain League

The All-Intermountain League features nine local players.

Centauri had five selections. Kailyn Polzin, Jaelyn Jackson and Camryn Wilfong were first team players, and Hannah Curtis and Saige Hostetter were second team.

Polzin was also named the league's Player of the Year.

Alamosa had four selections. Laci Christensen and Morgan Ortega were first team, Addison Rice was second team, and Aubrey Rothermich was honorable mention.

Alamosa coach Annie Mortensen was named the Coach of the Year.

Bayfield had three selections, and Montezuma-Cortez and Pagosa Springs each had two.

Class 2A Southern Peaks League

Sargent had the most



Courier file photo by Ken Hamrick Centauri's Kailyn Polzin.

selections with five. Makayla Brown and Reese Anderson were first team, Kandace Pargin was second team, and Azzy Lister and Kimmy Pargin were honorable mention. Sargent coach Sami Cotton was named the Coach of the Year.

Del Norte had three selections. Kayleigh Haynie was first team, Kailee Gallegos was second team, and Baylie Laymon was honorable mention.

Center had two All-League players. Ximena Miranda and Ciara Paiz were both second team.

Monte Vista had two selections in Kayleigh Garcia and Stefanie Lopez, both of whom were honorable mention.

Sanford also had two selections. Brooklynn Reynolds was first team, and Keylee Anderson was honorable mention.

Buena Vista had four selections, Trinidad two and Crested Butte one.

Class 1A South-Central League

Sangre de Cristo led in selections with four. Palma Enriquez, Presley Wilson and Idahlia Garcia were all first team, and Kylie Smit was second team.

Enriquez was also named the Most Valuable Player.

Antonito had three selections. Destanaya Quintana and Ashlyn Romero were first team, and Luz Parra was second team.

Creede also had three selections. Lila Fairchild was first team, Jazmin Laing was second team, and Angel Edmonds was honorable mention.

Centennial had two selections in Rhylina Serna and Laila Garcia, both of whom were second team.

Sierra Grande also had two selections. Jaylyn Quezada was second team, and Alexia Gonzales was honorable mention.

Mountain Valley's sole selection was Kadence McWilliams who was on the first team. Lake County at Center, 4 p.m.

Alamosa at Frontier Academy (University Invitational), 8 p.m.

Prep girls basketball

Del Norte at Buena Vista, 4 p.m. Lake County at Center, 4 p.m. Alamosa at Frontier Academy (University Invitational), 6:30 p.m. **Prep boys wrestling** Alamosa at Gunni-

son, 5 p.m. **Prep girls wrestling** Alamosa at Gunni-

son, 4:30 p.m. College women's wrestling Texas Women's at

Adams State, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY Prep boys

basketball Moffatvs.SouthPark or West Grand (South ParkInvitational), noon or 3 p.m. Ignacio at Del Norte, 1 p.m. Sierra Grande at

Prep girls wrestling

Alamosa at Delta Invitational, 9 a.m. Monte Vista, Mountain Valley at Rob Mickel Invitational (at Salida), 9 a.m.

College men's basketball

New Mexico Highlands at Adams State, 7:30 p.m.

College women's basketball

New Mexico Highlands at Adams State, 5:30 p.m. College indoor track and field Adams State at West-

ern Colorado Open, TBA

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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 Outcalt 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 Fridav and Saturdav. 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

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 dow contest judges, Kelly with Vice President of the and 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, in- for the lights, Cliff Kincancluding a tractor decorated non for PA System, Bob



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 win-Amber Desautell, Courtney Arthur, Hope Quintana, Stephen Hunzeker, Rhianna Bate, Monte Vista Journal, MVPD, the Fire Department for giving Santa a ride, City of Monte Vista, and Public Works

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

residents oohed and awed with a giant beautifully lit Richards KYDN Radio, the park, Heather Hillin place the Nazarene Thrift RG Bank for sponsoring of the MV Chamber, Tim and Wendy Davidson of Scrumpy Moo's for hosting the North Pole and all the awesome activities all place Wilbur Ellis, second day, and her husband Dale place City of Monte Vista Becker.

The business window winners were -– third

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



Cardiology Consultation ECG Monitoring

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 heartwarming 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 friendly 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



Photos by Marie Mccolm



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Public Notices

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District, Saguache County, Colorado, will make final payment on December 20th, 2023, to Cooley and Sons Excavation, Inc. 4469 Cty. Rd. 108 Mosca, CO 81146 for all work done by said contractor on Hillcrest Overlook Water and Sewer Extension

This notice is provided pursuant to CRS 38-26-107(1). Any person co-partnership, association of persons, company or corporation that has furnished labor, materials, term hire, sustenance, provisions provender or other supplies used or consumed by such Contractor or his Subcontractors in or about the performance of the work contracted to be done and whose claim therefore has not been paid by the Contractor or his Subcontractors, at any time up to and including the time of final settlement for the work contracted to be done is required to file a verified statement of the amount due and unpaid on account of such claim to the Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District at 57 Baca Grant Way, Crestone, CO 81131 at or before the time and date hereinabove shown. Failure on the part of any claimant to file such verified statement of claim prior to such final settlement will release said Town of Olney Springs, its Town Board, Officers, Agents and Employees, of and from any and all liability for such claim. No. 3677.

Published in the Valley Courier on November 28 & December 6, 2023

AUCTION LEGAL NOTICE WEST SIDE STORAGE, LLC / HEALD WORKS, INC. SELF-STORAGE PUBLIC NOTICE West Side Storage, LLC / Healdworks, Inc. will sell at Public Auction

Online via Storage Treasures.com, all personal property and the per-sonal goods stored therein by the following, which may include, but are not limited to general household goods, furniture, boxes, clothes,

and appliances stored in its facility by: Lynn Brown- Unit # A10-044, Micah Bringman- Unit # A05HC-017, Kyla Green- Unit A20-111, Elisabeth Gudmundson- Unit # A20HC-037 Nancee Sims- Unit # A10-020, James Erickson SR- Unit # M10-049, Venus Strail-Huss- Unit # M10-021, Jon Allmer- Units # M40HC-007, M10-039, M10-041, Cody McEwen- H10HC-006, Socorro Cardenas-Unit # C10-006, Juanito Garcia- Unit # C20-143, Ashlee Green- Unit # C10-041, Mitch Oppy- Unit # C20-111, Angi Richardson- Unit # C20-035, Amy Rowe- Unit # C20-014, James Wolfe- Unit # C20-166

at 8:00 am, Friday morning December 15, 2023, online at StorageT-reasures.com this auction will commence. Sale is subject to cancel in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party. No. 3690.

Published in the Valley Courier on November 29, December 1, 2, 5 6, 8, 9, & 12, 2023.

Request for Bids

Rio Grande Water Conservation District is requesting bids for Jani-torial Service for their office building located at 8805 Independence Way in Alamosa, Colorado. Potential bidders may inspectide the on December 14h and December 15th, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please refer to rgwcd.org for a Scope of Work. Bids must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, December 21st, 2023, to Kylie Gregg, Office Manager, at 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, Colorado, 81101. Rio Grande Water Conservation District retains the right to raised a caccent any bid in the host interset of the Owner. right to reject or accept any bid in the best interest of the Owner No. 3692.

Published in the Valley Courier on December 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15 16, 19, & 20, 2023.

TOWN OF CRESTONE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING As per CRS 29-1-106 through 109 a public hearing will be held on Thursday, December 14th 2023 at 1:30 pm at Crestone Town Hall's Alder Meeting Room (111 S. Alder St., Crestone, CO) regarding adop-tion of a 2024 budget. The draft budget will be available for review at Town Hall on Thursday. December 7.

The town officers for the hearing are Mayor Danforth, and Trustees Adam Kinney, Benjamin Byer, Armando Medez-Sanchez, Kizzen Laki, Kim Martinez, and Dennis Posluzsny.

Any interested elector of the local government may file any objec-tion to the proposed budget at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget by the governing body. Comments on the proposed 2024

Budget to the Town Clerk in one of the following ways: * In person at the 12/14 Public Hearing * Via email to crestonetownoffice@gmail.com * Via USPS to the Town of Crestone (PO Box 64 Crestone, CO 81131) * Via the secure payment slot located to the right of the entrance to Town Hall (108 W. Galena Ave.)

No. 3693 Published in the Valley Courier on December 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, & 13,

PUBLIC NOTICE TO BOAT AND VESSEL OWNERS AND LIEN-

HOLDERS given to owners and lienholders of the removal of aban doned boats from State Parks Division property through the authority

of the Commissioner of the State of Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources pursuant to Title 33, Chapter 5A, Code of Alabama, 1975.

The following boats and vessels will be removed from their current moored location at Joe Wheeler State Park Marina in Rogersville, Alabama for failure to pay mooring fees and will be placed in storage Vessel 1: 1970 Chris Craft Commander. Registration: AL-1980-SD. UVC: MPND41ADV00001. Current amount due \$26,875.00. Storage fees are \$4.50 per day. Last known owner is Bertis L. Bevis, Jr. No lien indicated

Vessel 2: 1985 27 ft Baveria Sailboat, Vessel number: AL-1718-AR Hull number: BVY600571188 Current amount due \$11,706.00. Storage fees are \$4.50 per day. Last known owner is Phyllis F. Mullin. No lien indicated

Vessel 3: 1988 Sea Ray 305 Sedan Bridge, Registration: TN-0035-CT. Hull number: SERRI006C888. Current amount due \$17,920.00. Storage fees are \$4.50 per day. Last known owner is Leslie Stafford No lien indicated.

If this vessel is not redeemed by the recorded owner or lienholder of record within 45 calendar days from the date of receipt of this notice the vessels may be sold.

Ways To Advertise Valley Classifieds 589-2553



Plan

TWO

Guaranteed Ad - \$24.00

Ads must be prepaid, private parties only. One item only, no real estate (rentals, sales, apts. etc...), and no professional services. If item does not sell within 14 days, you must call to renew before the expiration date at NO CHARGE up to 20 more days. No refunds or copy changes except price reductions. Up to 20 words, additional charge for extra words.

Multiple Location - \$5.00

Any regular or guaranteed ad can be picked up into another classified category for the entire length of the running time. Must be same ad, no copy changes. Ads run multiple locations in same issues.

Free Ad

As a thank you to our readers, any item placed in the Courier with an advertised price of \$50 or les s will be pub-Plan lished FREE for 1 week (4 issues). (Limit one per customer per week) Here's how it works: 1. Private parties only.



- 2. Ad must be 20 words or less.
- 3. Price must be listed.
- No yard or garage sales run free.

Multiple items in 1 ad may not equal more than \$50.00.

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VALLEY COURIER P.O. Box 1099,

Alamosa, CO 81101

AD COPY

Please Check One PLAN 1 PLAN 2 PLAN 3 SKIP A SPACE BETWEEN WORDS

To redeem a boat or vessel, contact Chad at 334-247-5466 extension 377, Joe Wheeler State Park Marina, 4403 McLean Drive, Rog ersville, AL 35652, Lauderdale County. Office hours are Mon - Fri 8:00am – 4:00pm.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, pregnancy, national origin, genetic information, veteran status or disability in its hiring or employment practices nor in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities.

STATE OF ALABAMA

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES CHRISTOPHER M. BLANKENSHIP

COMMISSIONER

DATE: No. 3696

Published in the Valley Courier on December 6 & 13, 2023.



221 -**HELP WANTED**

ALAMOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT is now ac-

PORTABLE OXY-GEN CONCENTRA-**TOR** for sale. Call 719-580-5745. (12/6/23AS)



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

221 -**HELP WANTED** WE GOT THE HELP

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

cepting applications for the following position: LONG TERM FLOAT-SUBSTITUTE ING TEACHER OMS (Second Semester). Applica-tions are available online at https://www.alamosaschools.org/ For more information, contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600 or tvigil@alamosaschools. org. Application dead-line is until filled. EOE.

(12/15/23)

ADAMS STATE UNI-VERSITY seeks appli-cants for multiple CUS-TODIAN I positions in the Facilities Services Department. Starting salfor this position is ary \$3,160 per month. For application or more information, please see https:// www.adams.edu/hr/employment/ . AA/EOE. (12/13/23AS)

Are you an Type A parson who kwas numbers, organization, and been? If so, you might be the partect. This is purchased: Bud Phere Structure Company & Distiliant is incident for a full-time or part-time. bookkeeper/office assistant to join our isusiness office As a bookkeeper/office assistant, To be successful in this role, you will be responsible for: you should have: Specifications interve Freichickley girch all explore fastlertehlart vita connactational lighteration del taking and a farst statistication and a farst statistication perception and a fande hyst Material Wielde Englowie sol and conclusion pathologication operational factor dari ingestivierni operational factor dari ingestivierni Celly is called providing the seconds Managing accounts are and accounts provide w sympactonics on anostronisp. Wongs protessor Yantang weik yarledeingaap s Sannigard ng komma -adingkatakes (nw an eral Kong gatherbinsa batehade Cherufe assigned This is a full-time or part-time, year-round ce tion with evenings and weekends off, and le required interaction with the general public (net autom/se anatysicases in amontores) You will also benefit from: Senset Sevices Earlier negerates Senser, george Etraficia en Jusée Intraction Nécession (camp of season a mold lease Sensey sector d'an de la koja and nego Capacitalite: forking-terr good hand development

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Classifieds

221 -

HELP WANTED

221 -**HELP WANTED**

CENTER CONSOLI-DATED SCHOOLS located in CENTER, CO seeks a dynamic and innovative person to fill a full-time IN SCHOOL RESTOR-ATIVE PRACTICES FACILITATOR for the 2023-2024 school year. Candidates should have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in education or other related field. The right candidate will have experience working with youth in education. Ability to speak Spanish is preferred, but not required. The position will involve collaborating with a team to provide restorative discipline and alternatives to suspension. The position salary will be based on experience and professional endorsements. Center Consolidated Schools is an equal-opportunity employer. If you wish to apply, please send a cover letter and resume and completed non-certified employment application found https://www. center.k12.co.us/page/ employment-opportunities to Carrie Zimmerman, Superintendent of Schools, Center School District 26JT, 550 S. Sylvester Avenue, Center, CO 81125. For more information, please contact Katrina Ruggles at kruggles@center.k12. co.us. (1/5/24AS)

SANGRE DE CRISTO SCHOOL DISTRICT has a vacancy for a BUSINESS MANAG-ER. Position open until filled. Please apply at www.sangreschools.org. (12/9/23AS)

221 -**HELP WANTED**

1ST SOUTHWEST BANK, a locally owned CDFI community bank, is seeking a CENTER/ SAGUACHE BRANCH MANAGER, MAR-KETING and COM-MUNICATIONS SPE-CIALIST, & TRAIN-ING COORDINATOR. FSWB offers competitive compensation, generous benefits, & career development. Join FSWB's award-winning team dedicated to supporting rural Colorado's agricultural, nonprofit and small businesses. For details and to apply, visit fswb.bank/ about/careers. EOE. (12/22/23AS)

MANAGEMENT AND MAINTE-NANCE 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, mi-nor electrical, drywall repair, painting, and grounds keeping. Fax or email a letter of interest and/or resume to 712-274-1230 or nnieman@ landmarkmanagement. com Equal Employ-ment Opportunity. (12/22/23AS) ALAMOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT is now ac-

checks on all final can-didates. For more in-formation, call Larry Brown at 719-852-7381. (12/16/23AS) **CENTENNIAL** SCHOOL DISTRICT cepting applications for the following positions: GIRLS INTRAMU-RAL BASKETBALL R-1 is accepting ap-plications for a HIGH SCHOOL BOY'S BAS-KETBALL HEAD COACH and ASSIS-TANT COACH. Ap-plications are available COACH (OMS). Applications are available online at https://www. alamosaschools.org. For plications are available more information, con-tact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (12/9/23AS) online at www.centen-nial.k12.co.us For more information, email roxann.serna@centennial. k12.co.us. (12/6/23AS)

COLORADO STATE COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY is hir-ASSISTANT MAN-AGER located at the SAN LUIS VALLEY RESEARCH CENTER ing an Extension Area Specialist, 4-H Youth Development, for the SLV Area. This posi-tion will foster strong, NEAR CENTER, Colorado. Min. Require-ments include an earned healthy, youth by pro-viding leadership, guid-ance, direction, and BS/BA degree +3 yrs. professional exp. or Master's degree. Profesassistance in the implementation of the overall 4-H Youth Development sional experience in re-lated field crop producprogram. This is a full-time, twelve (12) month, tion including relevant non-tenure track Extenknowledge of cropping and irrigation systems. sion faculty position. For the job announcement, Read full job descriprequired qualifications, tion and apply online at https://jobs.colostate. edu/postings/136415 by 12/31/2023 for full 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 provid-ing culturally responsive consideration. CSU is an EO/EA/AA em-ployer and conducts background checks on all final candidates.

221 -

HELP WANTED

(12/30/23AS) ing culturally responsive EXECUTIVE COORprograms and services. Therefore, we encourage **DINATOR: JOIN** us and make an impact! responses from people of all backgrounds and abilities. We invite you Executive Coordinator wanted at SAN LUIS VALLEY LOCAL FOODS COALITION. to review Colorado State University's Principles Manage budgets, fundof Community that guide our mission and raising, and projects for a dynamic nonprofit fosvision of access, teaching, service, and engage-ment. CSU is an EO/ EA/AA employer and conducts background tering 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.slvlocal-foods@gmail.com. For more information, visit our website at www. slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/ (1/2/24AS)

LOOKING FOR TRUCK DRIVER WITH CDL and clean driving record. Must be willing to work on farm/ranch when needed. Full-time position. Call John 719-937-1591. (12/30/23AS)

719-350-6941

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221 -**HELP WANTED**

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

CONSERVATION PROJECT COOR-DINATOR Wanted. MOSCA-HOOPER CONSERVATION DISTRICT seeks an INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR as Project Coordinator for a crop water conservation planning project. Project duties are: training and co-hosting for six workgroup sessions, coordinating a field day of farm tours, and preparing a sum-mary report of the project. Experience with small group collaborative learning is required. Experience with planning and coordination of field trips is preferred. Project duties will require 6-8 workdays in January-March and 3-4 workdays in August-September, 2024. Compensation is up to \$40 per hour, based on experience. Interested persons should respond by December 6[°]to email moscahoopercd1@ gmail.com. (12/6/23AS)

AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL ADVI-SOR Wanted. MOSCA-HOOPER CONSER VATION DISTRICT seeks a CONSULTING AGRONOMIST to be the subject matter expert for a crop water conservation planning project consisting of six workgroup sessions and one field day of farm tours. Extensive work experience at improving soil water retention and irrigation efficiency is required. Experienc-es with small group collaborative learning and farm field trips are preferred. Project duties will require approximately 16 hours of work during January-March and 8 hours of work in August, 2024. Compensation is up to \$100 per hour, based on experience. Qualified persons please inquire by December 6 to email: moscahoopercd1@ gmail.com. (12/6/23AS) EMPOWER STU-DENTS. JOIN our CENTENNIAL TEAM as a SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNSEL-OR. Guide academic & personal growth. Collaborate with teachers, offer support, and create a positive environment. Masters in School Counseling required. Application materials include a completed application, resume, cover letter, transcripts, and three letters of recommen-dation. Applications are printable from the district website (centennial.k12.co.us) or can be picked up from the front office. Submit application materials to kimba.rael@centennial.k12.co.us. EOE. (12/6/23AS) HEAD JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS' BAS-KETBALL COACH needed at DEL NORTE JR. HIGH SCHOOL. Experience as a coach or assistant coach at the middle school and or high school level is preferred. Must possess: effective coaching techniques and a thorough knowledge of the rules of the sport; and have the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with school administrators, parents, and students. Please con-tact Gibbs Sanchez, Athletic Director, at: gsanchez@urtigers.co 719-657-4020; or Annie Hardy, Principal, at: ahardy@urtigers. co, 719-657-4020. Applications may be found on our website, urtigers. co. (12/30/23AS) DRIVER/LABOR: MUST HAVE depend-able ³/₄ ton+ full size pickup, good driving record, must be dependable, have CON-STRUCTION EXPE-RIENCE, & pass a drug test. Call 719-992-1396. (12/22/23AS)

221 -**HELP WANTED**

BOOKKEEPER: LO-CAL, WELL-RE-SPECTED NON-**PROFIT** agency hiring a full-time bookkeeper. Responsibilities include payroll and benefits administration and support for other account-ing projects. We're looking for a motivat-ed, 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 descrip-tion to hr@lapuente. net, 719-589-5909 ext238. www.lapuente. net (12/20/23AS)

DEL NORTE JR/ SR HIGH SCHOOL is accepting applica-tions for a SECOND-ARY FOREIGN LAN-GUAGE TEACHER and ENGLISH LAN-GUAGE LEARNER (ELL) K-12 SITE CO-ORDINATOR. The applicant will need to 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. Applica-tions can be downloaded from www.urtigers. co. (12/15/23AS)

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

SALAZAR MEATS NEAR MANASSA interviewing for salaried, full-time MANAGE-MENT POSITION, starting \$40-50K based on experience. Please call 347-407-1622 for next steps in the hiring process. (12/15/23AS) CHAIR IN 2 DAYS. WONDERFUL, DELOSS INDUS-TRIES IN ALAMOSA HEARTWARMING EXPERIENCE. A is Hiring Full-Time, 40 Hours Per Week, Wages 24 to 40 Dol-WIN-WIN FOR BOTH OF US! Yolanda. (AS) lars Per Hour. Looking to hire: EQUIPMENT MECHANICS, ME-CHANICS HELPER, LIKE NEW ELEC-TRIC HOSPITAL BED with remote, bed WELDERS and MA-CHINIST. The meis mobile, mattress & rails included. Call 719-480-1210. (1/16/24AS) chanics helper will be pared with a mechanic ZACH'S EUROPEAN MOUNTS. Professionin the shop. Primary equipment serviced and al work, low prices. 719-580-0398. (TFNmaintained are forklifts and materials handling AS) 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 **OAK ENTERTAIN**hour, depending on ex-MENT CENTER; perience. Tools are prominor scratches from vided. Must have clean driving record, CDL is TV, \$200/obo. 719-588-7982. (E-TFN) 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 CONSOL-IDATED SCHOOL** DISTRICT 26Jt is pay-ing years of service and single health insurance benefits. Apply now to become part of our dynamic district as we are now accepting ap-plications for the position of SECONDARY SPECIAL EDUCA-TION 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 ac-ceptable. 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)

HELP WANTED

WANTED EXPERI-ENCED PRESSMAN. Must be reliable, flexible, and dependable Apply in person, 2205 State Street, ALAMO-SA. (TFN-ÁS) **NEED A SECOND** INCOME? child sup-

221 -

port? Car Repairs? Taxes Due? Earn up to \$800/month DELIV-ERING THE VAL-LEY COURIER. Con-tact 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, ALFAL FA. 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 AN-GUS HI-ALTITUDE BULLS calving ease Brink Livestock Ser-vices. 800-641-3750 / direct line 719-580-3526 www.brinklive-

stock.net (12/30/23AS)

360 - MISC. FOR SALE SOLD MY WHEEL-



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



701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

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

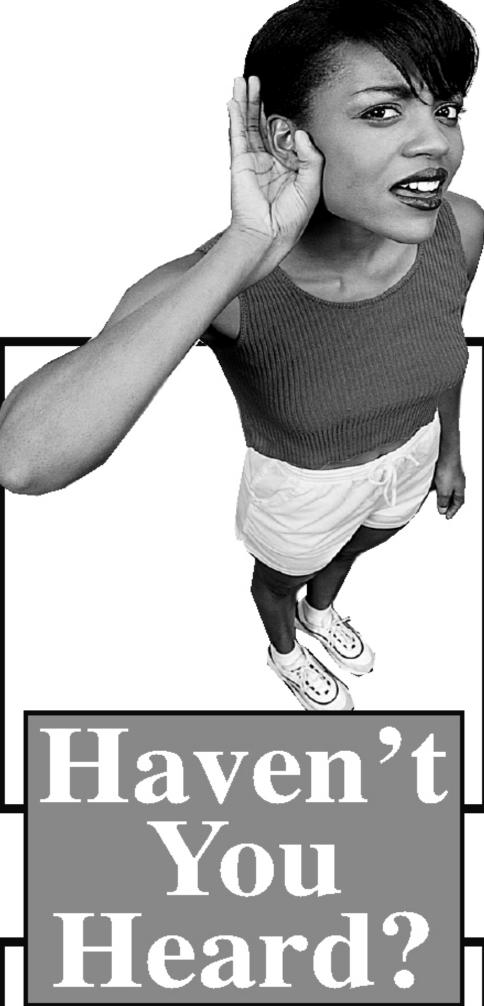
710 - CLASSIC AUTOS

FOR SALE: FAM-ILY 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 LONG-HORN ECO DIESEL, 4-wheel drive, red over cream, 103,000 miles. \$26,500.719-376-5639. (12/19/23AS)







Apartments 166 S. Wills Center, Colo 754-3664

ТТҮ 1-800-659-2656 🕋 This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employe

Accepting Applications for 2 & 3 bedroom family units Valley Grande

Ápts. 2256 E. Drive Monte Vista, CO

A K C F R E N C H BULLDOG PUPPIES FRENCH Ready December 24TH, full DNA, chipped, wormed, shots, started on crate & potty train-ing. Solid, Brindle & Merle \$3,500 719-640-

368 - PETS &

SUPPLIES

362 - HOME

FURNISHINGS

6404. (12/16/23AS) **OOPS! GOT PUP-**PIES WHO NEED A HOME? San Luis Val-FARE SOCIETY is a nonprofit ANIMAL RESCUE dedicated to stopping the euthana-sia of healthy adopt-able 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)



606 - BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT

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



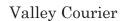
KUDDOS TO THE VALLEY COURIER FOR RENTING OUR HOUSE IN 2 DAYS! Thanks, Gerry. (AS)

Buying and Selling in the Valley Courier **Classifieds** can be the **Best Way to get the most Bang for Your Buck!**

Give Us a Try!

Valley Courier

589-2553



IT'S SEMIOTIC

MATH. YOU WOULDN'T

UNDERSTAND

WE'RE IN BASIC

AGREEMENT HERE,

RIGHT?

THIS IS JUST A DRAWING OF A

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

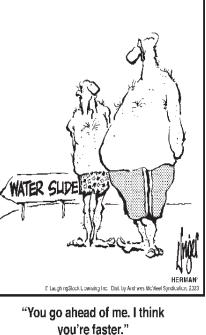
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ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



BIG NATE



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 7

DUCK!

V



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE









TO GET

INTO

12-6 THAVES



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HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column	3
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numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.	6

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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 LOUI-SIANA

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 dysfunction-al "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 goonan\$11,000Caribbean 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



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

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 fam-ily together? -- SOCIAL DISASTER

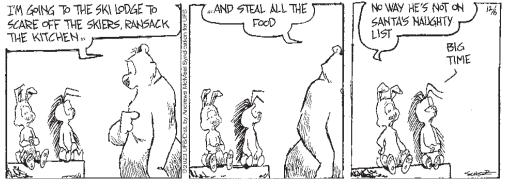
DEARSOCIALDISAS-TER: Although at 22 your boyfriend's son is legally an adult, he didn't act like one on that trip. In fact, he demonstrated that he was uninterested and didn't want to interact with his father or with you. It is nice of you to want to bring him and his dad closer, but it's time for you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

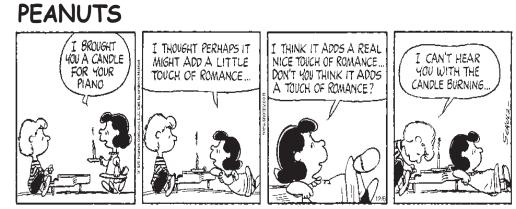
YES, BUT CORP. I HOPE MANAGEMENT.

GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS





Lifestyle

December is here!

By HIGH VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

NORTE DEL 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

Operation **Christmas Child** volunteers send Christmas joy to children overseas CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — Area volunteers are celebrating the collection of giftfilled shoeboxes that will send a message of joy to children around the world.

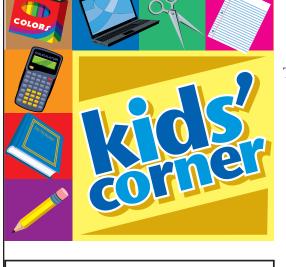
This year, tens of thousands of volunteers contributed to Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, by packing shoeboxes filled with fun toys, school supplies, and personal care items. The global Christmas project will deliver these gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 100 countries, including many who are suffering from war, poverty, disease and disaster. Each shoebox is an opportunity to share the message of the Gospel and bring hope to children in need around the world. Although drop-off locations have closed, there is still time to share hope and love with children overseas by packing a gift-filled shoebox online. Shoeboxes built online go to some of the hardest-to-reach areas in the world. Those who prefer the convenience of online shopping can browse samaritanspurse.org/buildonline to select gifts matched to a child's specific age and gender, then finish packing the virtual shoebox by adding a photo and personal note of encouragement. For more information on how to participate in Operation Christmas Child, visit samaritanspurse.org/occ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 209 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories. This year, Operation Christmas Child will celebrate its 30th year of ministry.

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

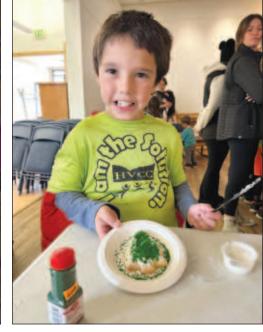




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Math Blocks

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.

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1962: WORKERS AT FOUR NYC NEWSPAPERS BEGIN A STRIKE THAT ULTIMATELY LASTS FOR 114 DAYS.

• 1990: THE GALILEO SPACECRAFT FLIES PAST

Ph. 589-2564

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