



Action from the first day of Erik Melgoza Shootout



Center Elementary Christmas Concert



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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

December 2, 2023

\$1

SLV Today



City hosting retirement celebration for Councilor Griego

ALAMOSA — On Wednesday, Dec. 6, the City of Alamosa is hosting a retirement celebration for Councilor Charles (Charlie) Griego. After spending 40 years representing his constituency in Ward 3 as a member of the city council, plus his membership on several different boards, Griego is stepping down from the council to focus on his family. The celebration is at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 300 Hunt Ave.

SLV CAC Annual Gingerbread Festival

ALAMOSA — The Children's Advocacy Center of the San Luis Valley (SLV CAC) is having a Drive-Thru Gingerbread Festival from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Rio Grande Farm Park.

Each year, the SLV CAC hosts the Gingerbread Festival for the community to join together and celebrate the holiday season. This drive-thru event is organized so families can stay in their cars and drive through the park, stopping at different stations to receive goodies from Tu Casa, Inc., partnering community agencies and organizations, and Santa and his Teddy Bear Helper. Goodies include items such as hot chocolate donated by Starbucks, gingerbread kits donated by Sweet Life Bakery, and much more. This event is free and open to residents of the San Luis Valley with children. Gingerbread kits, toys, and Santa gifts are limited to children present at the event only.

The SLV CAC is a program of Tu Casa, Inc., a non-profit whose vision is to empower all children and adults to live healthy, violence-free lives. All services are free, confidential, bilingual, and are available throughout all six counties of the San Luis Valley.

SLV WEATHER

Mostly Sunny, Breezy 33/1

Sun: Mostly Sunny, Breezy 43/9

Mon: Mostly Sunny 44/10

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New colors adorn local locomotives

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — The Colorado Pacific Rio Grande Railroad has recently repainted 10 locomotives that now adorn the engines with a motif that includes the company logo which includes a graphic comprised of mountains, water, and farmland that includes grains.

According to Matt Prince with the railroad, it has purchased 10 of the locomotives from BNSF Railway. Prince added ■ See COLORS page 3



These recently repainted locomotives owned by the Colorado Pacific Rio Grande Railroad can often be seen in the railroad yard in Alamosa. Courier photo by John Waters

Alamosa Celebrates the holidays with lights

By JOHN WATERS
News Editor

ALAMOSA —

About 150 people attended the Celebration of Lights in Alamosa on Friday, where Mayor Ty Coleman was assisted by enthusiastic children who helped in turning the holiday lights on at City Hall and the Christmas Tree. Coleman was joined by Council Member Dawn Krebs, Dalton Carelo with Alamosa Parks and Recreation, City Manager Heather Sanchez, and Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske. Coleman thanked those in attendance on behalf of the City of Alamosa for attending the 16th annual Celebration of Lights.

Before the event, Coleman told the Valley Courier, "Our city employees have done a wonderful job decorating our city and getting everything ready for the Celebration of Lights event! I would like to thank our Parks and Recreation crew for brightening up our city for all to see!" Musicians from Adams State University serenaded the crowd with Christmas carols.



Alamosa Mayor Ty Coleman and a few dozen children flipped the switch to turn on holiday lights at the Alamosa City Hall. Courier photo by John Waters

Before the event, Coleman told the Valley Courier, "Our city employees have done a wonderful job decorating our city and getting everything ready for the Celebration of Lights event! I would like to thank our Parks and Recreation crew for brightening up our city for all to see!" Musicians from Adams State University serenaded the crowd with Christmas carols.

Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust opens new regional office in Del Norte

By KARINA PUIKKONEN
Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust

DEL NORTE — The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) has opened a new regional office in Del Norte. Having an office and staff member dedicated to the San Luis Valley and Southern Colorado will enable CCALT to better deliver land conservation services and collaborate more efficiently with communities and landowners in the region.

The new CCALT office sits in a remodeled section of the old Del Norte hospital on the north side of Highway 160 where local business owners Stan Johnson and Ryan Black are remodeling and revitalizing the building

for local businesses. This office location complements CCALT's headquarters in Denver and its Northwest Colorado regional office which opened in 2019 in Steamboat Springs. The Del Norte office enables CCALT to expand its ability to offer services to the southern part of the state where CCALT has had a strong presence since 1998.

"By having a physical office presence in Southern Colorado, CCALT can more meaningfully engage in important discussions about conservation needs specific to this region," said CCALT Executive Director Erik Glenn. "CCALT can better serve the growing number of ranch and farm families who are interested



CCALT's Del Norte office will enable the organization to engage more effectively with communities and partnering landowners in the southern part of the Centennial state. Courtesy photo



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

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Record

BLM plans two pile burns in San Luis Valley

By BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MONTE VISTA—The Bureau of Land Management is preparing to conduct pile burns in two locations this winter, with exact dates to be determined by weather and fuel moisture conditions. Pile burns are conducted each winter to remove dead wood and other flammable materials from forested areas. This process is critical to maintaining the health of the forest ecosystem and to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires.

The piles planned for burning are located at:

• Biedell – 3,000 piles.
Legal Location: T43N R6E sections 21 and 22. Piles are large hand piles and the surrounding fuel type is Ponderosa Pine, Douglas fir, Aspen, and

grass. The project is located on BLM lands 8 miles north/northwest of LaGarita, CO, two miles north of the Lime Creek subdivision on Saguache CR 42K.

• Macintire Mansion piles – 2 piles. Legal Location: T35N R11E section 7 and 18. There are two machine built piles containing Cottonwood debris from the protection of the old mansion and debris from maintaining ditches. The project is located on BLM lands four miles east/northeast of Sanford, CO.

Pile burns could occur as early as December 2023 and may continue through April 2024. Smoke from the pile burns will be visible throughout the day of a burn, mostly during the warmest part of the day. With cooler

temperatures in the evening, smoke may linger and accumulate in low-lying areas. Notifications of confirmed burns will be published on the BLM Colorado Fire facebook and twitter accounts, which can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/BLMColoradoFire> or <https://twitter.com/BLMColoradoFire>

According to the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division, “Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. For more information see www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health.”

For additional information concerning the pile burns, contact Scott Nilson, Fire Management Specialist, BLM Rocky Mountain District Fire and Aviation Management, at 719-852-8150.



Courtesy photo

The Bureau of Land Management is preparing to conduct pile burns in two San Luis Valley locations this winter.

Local veterinarians urge caution this season

Unidentified canine respiratory illness confirmed in Creede

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

SAN LUIS VALLEY—According to local veterinarians from South Fork and Creede, an unidentified canine respi-

ratory illness has been confirmed in Creede. Long-time veterinarian John “Doc” Howard with the Creede Animal Clinic stated that the virus was affecting dogs throughout the country specifically the Front Range in Colorado and densely populated areas of Oregon.

“We have seen about 20 dogs from this area come in with this new respiratory virus and we want to get the word out to people about the dangers it may pose to our

canine friends. The virus has not yet been identified and has not yet been named. There is no diagnostic test available at this time. The symptoms are very similar to tracheobronchitis and is less responsive to treatment,” explained Howard.

Howard stated that the clinic recently went back through their records and has tentatively diagnosed 20 dogs with the unidentified virus.

“The real danger lies in the secondary bacterial

infection that can happen because the virus is not responsive to regular treatments. Pneumonia is also a concern once the dog has been infected with the virus,” Howard added.

Jodi Duff, owner and veterinarian of the South Fork Veterinary Clinic, spoke about the virus stating that though she has not seen any canine outside of those in Creede, she urges caution to pet owners traveling this season.

“It’s important right now to be aware of the virus and to stay home if you can, especially if you are traveling to or from affected areas like Oregon, Florida or the Front Range in Colorado. The virus is spread by air born particles as far as we know,” Duff said.

Duff is working with local boarding kennels to help them navigate the unidentified virus in order to ensure the safety of the dogs that are housed there.

“We are really just encouraging owners to stay away from public places like dog parks and other

locations where the virus could easily spread,” she added.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture released an article about the virus on Nov. 22 stating, “The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) has been receiving calls over the past two months from practicing veterinarians reporting an elevated number of canine respiratory disease cases in the state. Other states, including Oregon, Florida, and New Hampshire, are seeing a similar pattern at this time.

“Veterinarians are currently reporting that they are seeing double the number of cases than what is typically seen during a canine infectious respiratory disease outbreak. The cases are presenting with prolonged coughing which can last weeks to months with minimal response to treatment. In some cases, the dogs have progressed to contracting pneumonia and require hospitalization. In rare cases, the canine patients progress quickly from pneumonia to death.

“Some diagnostics have been completed, but there has not been any conclusive testing to indicate what may be causing the increased prevalence of this respiratory disease. This does not necessarily mean this is a new or novel virus as there are many causes for canine respiratory infections, but we are working on additional diagnostics at this time.

“CDA is currently working with partners from Colorado State University (CSU) Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) and Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL), Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) to coordinate on the situation.

“This website will be updated as we learn additional information, so please check back frequently.”

For more information about the virus, visit www.ag.colorado.gov.

OBITUARIES

Leroy Arthur Trujillo

The patriarch of our family, Leroy Arthur Trujillo sadly passed away on Nov. 21, 2023, at the age of 79. Born to Jesus and Emiliania Trujillo in Del Norte, Colo., he was a lifelong member of the community in which he was highly respected.

He held many positions including several years as a Logger. Anyone who knew Leroy admired his kindness and keen sense of humor. He never missed the opportunity to mentor a young person and was loved dearly by all who knew him.

During his 19 years with the Del Norte School District and in which he retired, he made an impact on the students who will remember the words of advice he so lovingly shared.

Leroy is survived by his wife, Shirley Garcia of 49



years, sons Leroy J. Trujillo (Kate Trujillo), and Ramon M. Trujillo; his grandchildren, Leroy M. Trujillo (Molly), Joseph H. Trujillo, and Julia A. Trujillo. He is also survived by a great-grandchild Leroy B. Trujillo. Extended family include sisters Barbara O’Cana, Marcella Garcia (Frank), and Susanna Gallegos (Charles Garcia).

He was preceded in death by sister Leola San-

chez, and brother Richard Trujillo as well as both parents.

He was an avid hunter who sought solace in the outdoors and never missed the opportunity to engage in an adventurous sport. On any given day, he could be found on the golf course, a sport in which he excelled. Leroy will always be remembered as the great friend he was to so many others.

A celebration of life was held on Saturday, Nov. 25, which was attended by many family and friends. In honor of Leroy Arthur Trujillo, reach out and share some kindness and respect to others; that is what he would want, that is what he always did.

Arrangements were in care of Strohmayer’s Funeral Home in Monte Vista.

Robert M. Kirkham

Robert M. Kirkham of Alamosa, Colo., passed away Nov. 17, 2023, at his home following an extended illness. Bob was born Aug. 14, 1951, in Highland, Ill., to Marshall and Blanche (Paul) Kirkham.

He is survived by his wife Lois (McMahon) Kirkham, brothers Dennis (Jo) Kirkham of Greenville, and Ed (Tana) Kirkham of Sherwood, Ore. He is also survived by nieces, Kari Kirkham of Houston, Texas, and Krista Kirkham of Bloomington, Ill., and nephew, Kristopher Kirkham of Liberty, Missouri.

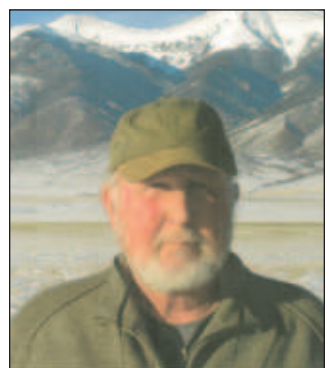
Bob attended Greenville Schools, graduating from Greenville High School with the class of 1969. He attended the University of Missouri-Rolla and Western Illinois University, graduating with a degree in Geology in 1973. He obtained a master’s degree from the University of

Nevada-Reno in 1975, also in Geology.

He began his working career with the Colorado Geological Survey and worked with mine reclamation, earthquake hazards, geological mapping, and other areas in earth sciences. He authored and coauthored many geological publications. After retiring, he started his own consulting firm, GeoLogical Solutions and continued working until the last few months.

Bob and Lois adventured to all continents with many unique experiences including backpacking for several months in the Himalayan Mountains, viewing mountain gorillas in the wild, and riding elephants to explore a rhino preserve. Robert recently completed an extensive genealogical search of the Kirkham name.

Robert never knew a stranger and was always good for a long conversa-



tion. He and Lois made many friends through their travels. He loved his nieces and nephews, taking each for a week-long Colorado adventure for their 16th birthday. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and colleagues.

Cremation was chosen and a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

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

Wakasugi joins SLVREC board

By SAN LUIS VALLEY REC

MONTE VISTA—Kim Wakasugi was recently voted onto the San Luis Valley REC Board of Directors to fill a vacancy left by her husband, Cole, who passed away this past spring. During the Oct. 24 board meeting, Wakasugi was unanimously appointed to serve as the next Costilla County, District 2 director by the other six board members and will serve the remainder of the term ending in 2024.

Born in Ft. Smith, Ark., Wakasugi moved to the San Luis Valley as a teen and graduated from Sierra Grande, then earned her bachelor’s degree in elementary education at

Adams State.

With two small children, Brisha and Bradley, Wakasugi was a stay-at-home mom and worked as a substitute teacher, while also helping on the family farm, Three S Ranch. In 2019, she began working part-time as a district manager for the Trinchera Subdistrict.

“San Luis Valley REC was important to Cole; when no one was stepping up to take over his seat, I decided that I needed to. It’s important for people in our area to have a voice and know about REC and Ciello. As a new board member, I’m looking forward to learning the electrical world and benefitting Costilla County and my commu-



Kim Wakasugi

nity,” Wakasugi stated.

In her spare time, she enjoys cross-stitch, exploring new things and hanging out with family and friends.

COURIER OBITUARY POLICY

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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.

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Alamosa

School Menu - Monday - December 4, 2023

BREAKFAST
 Cereal Bar/Graham Crackers
 Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY
 Mac & Cheese/Roll
 Green Beans
 Veggie Bar
 Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL
 Mac & Cheese/Roll
 Green Beans
 Veggie Bar
 Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL
 Mac & Cheese/Roll
 Green Beans
 Veggie Bar
 Fruit & Milk

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

Valley News

Holiday festivities abound in the Valley

STAFF REPORT
SAN LUIS VALLEY
 The holiday season is upon us, and the San Luis Valley has plenty of festive activities scheduled. We have compiled this list of the many fun events. We will update this list throughout the season.

Saturday, Dec. 2
Sacred Heart Catholic Church Holiday Bazaar
 • 8 a.m.-1 p.m. - 715 Fourth St., Alamosa
 Crafts, bake sale, church raffle, lunch

Gingerbread Festival
 • 9 a.m.-11 a.m. - Rio Grande Farm Park in Alamosa
 Drive-thru event. Santa Claus will be there to greet the children and their families. Hosted by Tu Casa, Inc.

Monte Vista Christmas Celebration
 • 5:15 p.m. - Tree lighting and caroling (with a visit from Santa and the Grinch), Fullenwider Park in Monte Vista.
 • 6 p.m. - Parade on Adams Street

Monte Vista Holiday Bazaar
 • 9 a.m.-4 p.m. - Ski Hi Complex, Monte Vista
 Vendors, crafts, photos with Santa.

Saguache Holiday Bazaar
 • 10 a.m.-3 p.m. - Mountain Valley School Gym, 403 Pitkin Ave., Saguache.

A John Denver Christmas
 • 7 p.m. - Society Hall, 400 Ross Ave., Alamosa
 John Denver tribute artist Chris Collins presents "A John Denver

Christmas." Accompanying Chris will be keyboardist Nigel Newton, from Chris's Boulder Canyon Band.

Wednesday, Dec. 6
St. Nick at the Bricks
 • 4-6 p.m. - Alamosa High School stadium
 The Alamosa Alumni Association along with Maroon Pride, AHS Student Council, Ef's Restaurant and the 5 Star Riders Car Club will be hosting the annual St. Nick at the Bricks. There will be free posole, biscochitos, hot cocoa, and candy canes as well as free craft activities, selfies with Santa, holiday music, and more!
 Please join us for an evening of holiday cheer and good tidings in front of the

AHS athletic stadium. Donations for the Alumni Association food drive, coat drive and toy drive will also be accepted and appreciated that evening.

Friday, Dec. 8
SLV Christmas Concert
 • 7 p.m. - Society Hall, 400 Ross Ave.
 The SLV Community Band will perform a Christmas Concert that will be recorded. \$10.

Saturday, Dec. 9
Winter Market
 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m. - North River Greenhouse, 1155 W 7th St., Alamosa
 Booths with unique gifts, organic food, and local products. Activity booths for pot painting, custom succulents plant-



The Alamosa Christmas Light Parade is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Dec. 23.

ing area. This event is Dec. 9 and Dec.16

Creede Holiday Market
 • 11 a.m.-3 p.m. - downtown Creede
 Local shops and vendors, fire pits, kids' activities, carolers, food, drink, live music
 San Luis Tree Lighting
 • 6 p.m. - Town Hall
 Enjoy tree lighting, presents, apple cider.

Wreaths

Continued from Page 1
 In 2007 the Worcester family established the non-profit group Wreaths Across America to further promote Veterans remembrance. The mission Remember, Honor and Teach characterized the projects goals perfectly.
 The wreath laying, held annually on a Saturday of December, was unanimously voted by the US Congress as "Wreaths Across America Day". Wreaths Across America would not be successful without the help of the volunteers, many active organizations and the generosity of the trucking industry.
 Wreaths Across America Day is Saturday, Dec. 16 — when citizens across the country "come

together to remember our fallen, honor those who serve, and teach younger generations the value of freedom. The courage and sacrifice of our military and Veterans should never be forgotten," organizers stated.
 You can show them your appreciation and gratitude by sponsoring a wreath for the Homelake Veterans Cemetery. This year, the ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. at the Homelake Veterans Cemetery and volunteers will place Veterans' wreaths following the ceremony.
 "You'll be joining fellow patriots as we show their names and say support for their families," local organizers stated.
 For more information or to sponsor a wreath for \$17, contact Pam Self at 719-852-8216.

Office

Continued from Page 1
 in exploring conservation opportunities by increasing accessibility to services and staff."
 The new office location addresses a need for deeper engagement and support for landowners and partners, particularly concerning pressing water issues in the San Luis Valley and across the Southern region. CCALT currently holds 172,964 acres in conservation easements across 20 counties in South and Southwest Colorado, of which nearly 50,000 acres are within the San Luis Valley. The entire region encompasses landscapes with productive agricultural lands and natural wildlife habitat.
 The Trinchera Blanca Foundation provided funding for the new office location and the new staff position filled by Del



Norte resident Jocelyn Catterson. As CCALT's conservation and outreach manager, she will manage the new office and CCALT's services for Southern Colorado.
 "Having a local person to serve the needs of the landowners and conservation community here in the San Luis Valley and Southern Colorado is incredibly important," Catterson said. "I am excited to step into this new role and serve the regional needs of CCALT from a local perspective."
 Prior to starting at CCALT, Catterson was awarded the Colorado Art, Science + Environment Fellowship and has been working closely with conservation and water-related organizations throughout the San Luis Valley on an artistic and educational outreach project tied to groundwater. Through this fellowship, she developed strong relationships with farmers, ranchers, public agencies, and conservation organizations throughout the area.
 The Colorado Cattle-

Colors

Continued from Page 1
 the locomotives are SD-70 MAC's. The paint job also includes the name of the railroad owner Stefan Soloviev.
 The SD-70 MAC's were built by the Electro-Motive Division of General Motors in 2002. Many of the locomotives produced by GM were bought by BNSF and 28 were bought by the Alaska Railroad. According to that railroad, the SD-MAC name is comprised of, SD, which refers to Special Duty, and MAC translates to M for modified cab and AC for Alternating Current traction motors.
 Between 1993 and 2003, over 1,500 locomotives were built for five railroads across North America. The Alaska Railroad terms the locomotives as the "backbone," of daily train operations. Founded in 1922, the Electro-Motive Divi-

sion of General Motors had a long and storied history in the production of these workhorses. In 2005, the business was sold to Greenbrier Equity and Berkshire Partners. In 2010, the business was bought by Progress Rail a division of Caterpillar Inc.
 The Colorado Pacific Rio Grande is a 150-mile line that serves Alamosa, Huerfano, Costilla, Conejos, and Rio Grande counties with 12 stations along its route. In Alamosa, the line splits, with one branch extending south to Antonito, and the other continuing northeast to South Fork. The railroad was bought last in bankruptcy proceedings by Soloviev of New York.
 According to Prince, several of the locomotives will go to the Colorado Pacific Railroad in Eads, which is also owned by Soloviev.
 "The locomotives are definitely an upgrade for us," said Prince.



One of 10 Colorado Pacific Rio Grande Railroad locomotives built by General Motors was repainted by a contractor for the railroad in Alamosa.

Holiday Specials!

Stop in and shop at Krivanek Jewelers where we make the holiday shopping easy! With a new Sale every week! So you never miss an opportunity for the perfect gift!

November 21st - December 2nd all engagement rings and wedding sets will be **20-30% Off**

December 3rd - 9th all Diamond and fashion jewelry will be **20-30% Off**

December 10th - 16th all colored stone jewelry will be **20-30% off**

December 17th- 24th Select Estate Items will be **20-30% Off**

Only at Krivanek Jewelers • 101 F St. • Salida

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY COLORADO		CALENDAR OF EVENTS					December
SUNDAY • 3	MONDAY • 4	TUESDAY • 5	WEDNESDAY • 6	THURSDAY • 7	FRIDAY • 8	SATURDAY • 9	
<p>Theatre Holiday Production: The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong 2 p.m. Theatre Building SLV Federal Bank Main Stage 719-587-8499 theatre.adams.edu</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">www.adams.edu</p>	<p>Music Faculty Recital: Brooke Miller, D.M.A. 7 p.m. Leon Memorial Hall</p>	<p>Lunchtime Talk in STEM: Michael Faraday's Christmas Candle Lectures Marty Jones, Ph.D., 12 p.m. Porter Hall 130 Free</p> <p>Zacheis Planetarium Free Movies: 5:30 p.m. <i>Oasis in Space</i> and <i>Europe to the Stars</i></p>	<p>Zacheis Planetarium Free Movies: 5:30 p.m. <i>Extreme Planets</i> and <i>Cleopatra's Universe</i></p> <p>Faculty Lecture: <i>A Conversation about Wellness and Well-Being in Higher Education</i> Jess Gagliardi, First Year Seminar Director, and AJ Webb, Assistant Professor of Business, 6 p.m. McDaniel Hall 101 Free</p> <p>W Wrestling RMAC Dual 6 p.m. Plachy Hall Gymnasium</p>	<p>W Basketball vs Colo. State University Pueblo 5:30 p.m. Plachy Hall</p> <p>M Basketball vs Colo. State University Pueblo 7:30 p.m. Plachy Hall</p> <p>Theatre Holiday Production: The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong Directed by John H. Taylor, Ph.D., 7:30 p.m. Theatre Building SLV Federal Bank Main Stage 719-587-8499 theatre.adams.edu</p>	<p>W Basketball vs New Mexico Highlands University 5:30 p.m. Plachy Hall</p> <p>M Basketball vs New Mexico Highlands University 7:30 p.m. Plachy Hall</p> <p>Theatre Holiday Production: The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong 7:30 p.m. Theatre Building SLV Federal Bank Main Stage</p>	
<p>Through December 15</p> <p>Cloyde Snook Gallery: <i>Light and Glass - in the spirit of Taos Alchemy</i> Robin Stanaway</p> <p>Hatfield Gallery: <i>Upcycle: a Play on Light</i> Mary Hoffman</p> <p>Gallery Hours: 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday</p>							

Opinion

A happy day to remember

"You light up my life" by Debby Boone was playing in the living room as I was hurriedly trying to find a ride to my OB/GYN Dr. Forks' office in San Antonio.

The apartment complex housed mostly students from Southwest Texas State University, and it was already the winter break and a Friday, too. I don't know how I found her, but I was so glad she answered my knock at 7 a.m. Carol was a sophomore at SWTSU and said she would drive me as long as I promised not to have my baby in her car.

I don't remember what I said to convince her to be my taxi; but Carol was a willing soul, and I was so grateful.

A few hours earlier at 2 a.m. when I was in the bathroom, my water broke. I didn't know what to do. I had official natural birth classes; but no one explained what to do if your husband is hunting in the Texas Hill Country when the baby starts pushing. So, I called my mother. I could hear the excitement in Mom's voice when she urged me, "Get to the doctor's office."

The answering service put me through to Dr. Forks who was adamant I needed to get on the road. I had been trying to reach my husband to no avail. Dr. Forks, calling an hour later, said, "I want you to arrive at the office and from there, we wheel you over to the hospital delivery." In fact, he and his staff didn't understand why I wasn't already there. But as I was still trying to get myself packed and out the door. However, I couldn't reach my husband—no cell phones yet in 1977. Finally, I called the Wimberly sheriff office as the last resort; and they promised to track him down and let him know to "Get to the hospital pronto."

The young student's Chevrolet Caprice had enough room, but my belly took up so much of the passenger side. I remember being on the highway heading from San Marcos to the north side of San Antonio. I remember Carol begging me, "PLEASE don't have the baby in my car!" We were both such novices and I was so glad she decided she could drive an hour to the hospital even with her angst flapping on her sleeve.

Once there, Carol disappeared — most likely returning to her apartment, the nurses ushered me into the doctor's exam room so he could confirm the little boy was on his way.

Sometime during the labored hours, my husband came in from the deer blind and rolling Texas Hills. In the birthing classes, he had learned that telling jokes helps to calm the mother-to-be. However, I found him telling and retelling the same joke. All these years hence, I cannot recall that joke; but I suspect it was something about a preacher walking into a bar. I remember after I had an epidural for the pain, that I kept telling the baby's father: "I need to get home to take care of the pets — those pesky roaches," I laughed in a rare moment without crying.

Nurses finally ushered me into the delivery room, and the little boy, who still lights up my life as my son, arrived at 2:28 p.m. on a Friday afternoon. It was a happy day to remember.

Nelda Curtiss is a retired college educator and long-time local columnist. Reach her at columnsbynellie.com or email her at columnsbynellie@gmail.com.

Movin' On with Nellie



Nelda Curtiss



Christmas tree cutting tradition

What fun I get to have when I talk about one of my favorite subjects — family Christmas traditions. And to be able to combine it with my passion for the outdoors is a real bonus. You've already guessed it! Cutting your own Christmas tree is an age-old family tradition that is as much a part of me as my family is.

The first outdoor activity I did after starting work on the Rio Grande National Forest four years ago was harvesting a Christmas tree. I was certainly not alone in my quest. It's a tradition that millions of families have enjoyed for generations. I wrote about that day in my first submission to Land, Water and People in December of 2019. I also wrote about it in 2020 and I thought it would be fun to dust off parts of both those articles and share with you again, the joy and rules of cutting a Christmas tree.

A couple of years ago one of my daughters and I were able to drive further into the national forest than normal years because of the lack of deep snow. We drove pretty far up a forest road, stopped to put the tire chains on and drove further still. Making first tracks on the road provides almost a childish thrill but hey, I get to have fun too. We finally hit the brakes and the annual march through deep snow began. Secretly, we both wanted to be the one to find that perfect tree, so we passed numerous very lovely trees thinking "I'll remember that one if I don't find a better one." How many times have you done that and never COULD find it again! It is frustrating, but all you can do is laugh! We tracked up the forest's snow blanket, inspected millions (ok dozens) of trees, and left snow angels in the unbroken snow, just to be promptly covered that very evening. We cut our two trees, dragged them, tagged them, and left the area just as the cold was tightening its grip on the mountain. Heading down, we were treated to a spectacular display of colors, typical of San Luis Valley sunsets in the winter. The hot chocolate and something else inside warmed us as we drove back home that evening. I think I know what it was.

A brief history of Christmas trees suggests that they began to be more common in America with first record of one used by German immigrants in Pennsylvania in the 1830's. After Queen Victoria and her German Prince, Albert, were sketched in the Illustrated London News standing

Land, Water and People



Gregg Goodland



Photo by Gregg Goodland

Rio Grande National Public Affairs Officer Gregg Goodland writes this week about his family's Christmas tree cutting tradition.

with their children around a Christmas tree, the tradition was immediately deemed fashionable in both England and America. The Christmas tree had arrived. Since then, families have enjoyed searching for the perfect tree for generations. Many of the trees you will find might be a bit oddly shaped. But, that just adds to the Christmas character of each home.

This weekend, we'll get our tree and will decorate it while listening to our favorite old Christmas songs and some of the kids' newer music. A second batch of treats will be in order as the warmth and tantalizing smells of the oven fill the room and add to the occasion.

Once again, the Rio Grande National Forest is offering permits to cut your Christmas tree this year. Like always, you need to get a permit and follow all the normal rules. They are necessary to maintain a program that will last for generations. Most importantly, be sure you are on Rio Grande National Forest lands before cutting your tree. Please don't disappoint our neighbors by going onto their land.

If you would like to harvest a Christmas tree for your family, feel free to contact one of our offices to learn more about it. You can also visit our dedicated Christmas Tree web page to learn where to buy the permits locally: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/Rio_Grande_Christmas_Tree.

I plan to continue our real Christmas tree family tradition, as long as I can get out there and find one. I said it in my first article — I will always look to our National Forests to provide the location. The Rio Grande National Forest will be my choice for many years to come.

So, if you haven't already, get your permit(s), bundle up, load the sleds,

To submit news, email: news@alamosanews.com

To submit sports, email: khamrick@alamosanews.com

Letters policy

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

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

hot chocolate and your lunch, then jump in the truck and make a day of the excursion. Plan for bad roads, securing the tree to your vehicle and don't forget the hand saw! Your Rio Grande National Forest may still be hiding YOUR perfect Christmas tree.

Gregg Goodland is the Public Affairs Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest. An avid outdoor enthusiast, he promotes the responsible and safe use of our public lands.

Write them

GOVERNOR

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

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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

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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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Your FIRST Source for Local News

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

Religion

Once again, Christmas is changing -- world without end

There was a time, long ago, when it was easy to pinpoint the beginning and end of the "Christmas season."

In cultures linked to centuries of Christian tradition, the feast of Christmas -- the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ or Christ Mass -- was on Dec. 25, the start of a festive 12-day season that ended with the Feast of the Epiphany. Many Eastern Orthodox churches continue to use the ancient Julian calendar, celebrating Christmas on Jan. 7.

Then there is the "Christmas season" for the whole culture. One big change occurred on Dec. 26, 1941, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt -- focusing on Christmas shopping -- signed a joint resolution of Congress defining Thanksgiving as the fourth Thursday in November. That established an official starting line for the dash to Christmas.

By the early 1960s, the name "Black Friday" was attached to the day after Thanksgiving, with armies of shoppers heading to downtown stores and, eventually, the

shopping malls that replaced them. This brand of Christmas opened with a bang, with throngs gathering before dawn to grab "Black Friday" bargains, with police present to control the inevitable pushing and shoving.

Then came the internet, with more changes in the size and shape of the commercial steamroller known as the "Holidays."

"It's safe to say that Black Friday has become a concept, not an event. We have ended up with Black Fridays all the way down" the calendar during November, said Jeremy Lott, managing editor for publications at the Competitive Enterprise Institute and former editor of the RealClearReligion website.

"Basically, we're talking about Black Friday after Black Friday everywhere, world without end. Amen," he added in a telephone interview.

It's true that millions of shoppers can flock to any "malls that are still open," he said. But in terms of large-scale holiday rites, the "liturgy of the shopping mall" has devolved into smaller rites focus-

ing on waves of sales in strip-mall shops and big-box stores located nearby.

At the same time, regional, national and international computer networks and digital "clouds" are making it easy for on-the-ground businesses to create new "Holiday" options in the marketplace, in which everyone, everywhere, is caught in a life-and-death struggle with Amazon.com and the online giants.

Thus, the old "Black Friday" after Thanksgiving led to "Small Business Saturday," followed by "Cyber Monday" and "Giving Tuesday." Meanwhile, anyone paying attention to television networks, cable television networks and online streaming services has seen "Christmas" and "Holiday" programs and advertisements creep, in reverse, past Thanksgiving and even Halloween.

In a Washington Examiner commentary, Lott noted that it's hard to know how these realities will shape the future -- for businesses or consumers. One shopper told Lott that the trend of extending the borders of the season "makes me turn into a combination of Charlie Brown and Ted Kaczynski," referring to the domestic terrorist known as the Unabomber.

"The jury is still out on whether earlier sales will provide a big boost for retailers," wrote Lott. "Many consumers profess disgust at the widening of the holiday selling season, yet economists distinguish between stated and revealed preferences. Stated preferences are what we say; revealed preferences are what we actually do."

Based on polling from this fall, Gallup researchers reported that when asked "when they planned to start shopping this year, 41% of U.S. holiday shoppers" said they planned to "start their shopping be-

fore November."

What about Christmas, the holy day? In the midst of all this change, it's getting harder for Christian leaders to know how to handle Christmas, not to mention the once quiet, penitential season during the weeks before Dec. 25, known as Advent (Nativity Lent in Eastern Orthodoxy).

The question is whether the rise of online shopping and "Holiday" sales spread over a larger amount of time will make it easier, or harder, for religious believers to focus on their faith before and after Dec. 25.

"The one big mall is dead," noted Lott. "The mall has been unbundled and now it's everywhere. You can go online and do your shopping without heading into the old Black Friday crush and maybe even getting hurt. You don't have to do that anymore. You have other options. The question is what kinds of choices people are going to make when dealing with these changes."

Terry Mattingly leads GetReligion.org and lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He is a senior fellow at the Overby Center at the University of Mississippi.

On Religion



Terry Mattingly

Bible Digest

Saturday, December 2, 2023

"He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that rules his spirit than he that takes a city." (Proverbs 16:32 AKJV)

These are good words to heed on a daily basis. They will save us a lot of grief.

Sunday, December 3, 2023

"And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice." (1 Kings 19:12 AKJV)

God sometimes speaks in the still small voice. Are you listening?

Monday, December 4, 2023

"Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed to Baal, and

every mouth which has not kissed him." (1 Kings 19:18 AKJV)

Dear follower of the Lord. You are not alone. God has others who are following Him also.

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

"O give thanks to the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endures for ever." (Psalms 136:1 AKJV)

Amen! God is good and He is merciful. Thank you Lord.

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

"The beginning of strife is as when one lets out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with." (Proverbs 17:14 AKJV)

Don't say something that you will regret later. You will be glad that you

held your tongue.

Thursday, December 7, 2023

"And Elijah came to all the people, and said, How long halt you between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered

him not a word." (1 Kings 18:21 AKJV)

There is no in between with God. You have already made a choice. What is it?

Friday, December 8, 2023

"And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God." (1 Kings 18:39 AKJV)

It's true. The Lord is the one and only true God.



Finding Joy in Your Everyday Life

John 10:10 has been one of my favorite scriptures for many years. It says: "The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)" (AMPC). This verse clearly shows us that God wants us to enjoy our lives—in abundance, to the full, until we're overflowing with joy!

I remember when God gave me the revelation that it's His will for me to enjoy my life. It was life-changing, because I used to be a miserable person who was emotionally unstable and couldn't be happy unless I got my way most of the time. Because of the abuse I had experienced throughout childhood, I was insecure, angry, and didn't trust anyone. But once I started seriously studying God's Word, I came to realize that He didn't want me to live this way. I could be healed and whole in my mind and emotions, and I could learn how to really enjoy my everyday life.

Now, when I say God wanted me to enjoy my everyday life, I'm talking about living an ordinary life with a calm delight and a smile on my face (John 15:11). Enjoying life includes not dreading the normal, daily responsibilities we have to do—things like cleaning the house, doing the dishes, mowing the grass, going to work, and the list goes on.

take ordinary life and make it extraordinary is to learn to do every single thing you do with and for God. We make a mistake when we separate our sacred life from our secular life. We can be just as close to God in the grocery store as we are at church. And He wants us to do everything we need to do WITH Him.

It actually adds an edge of excitement when we let God be involved in everything we do. He's everywhere, all the time, and He's just as interested in the routine, mundane tasks of our lives as He is in the more "spiritual" things we do.

It's amazing to realize that God wants to have fellowship with us—He wants to spend each day with us. Don't just settle for seeking Him once a week at church or when you're in a desperate situation. Decide that you are going to enjoy your everyday relationship with God!

The abundant life Christ offers goes deeper in our hearts than the way we feel about things. It's an amazing thing when we learn how to have the peace and joy only God can give in every area of our lives, instead of the type of enjoyment that's just based on emotional excitement.

The joy of the Lord is much greater than simply feeling happy. It brings peace and contentment to your soul, even when your circumstances are difficult and don't make any sense. Nehemiah 8:10 says, "The joy of the Lord is your strength."

This kind of joy makes the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday routine enjoyable. And since most of life is Monday through Friday, we need to enjoy it!



giveness may be of full measure and complete and overflowing. In the ten verses leading up to this one, Jesus is talking about abiding in Him, because that's the key to living with His joy.

Abiding means "to live, dwell and remain in." It's having a personal relationship with Christ, getting to know Him through His Word, and talking to Him about anything and everything. It's doing life together! The truth is that apart from Jesus, we can do nothing of real value, but with Him, we can bear much good fruit (John 15:5).

God wants to abide with you every day, all throughout the day. He doesn't just want you to seek Him when you go to church or when you're desperate. His desire is to have a personal relationship with you, so you can experience His presence in everything you do. That's when your everyday life is really enjoyable!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource Joy and Enjoyment. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

All-Denominational
Emmanuel Chapel - Independent Bible Church
0432 Hwy 149, South Fork
719-573-5411
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

Church of the Living God
11611 2nd Avenue, Hooper
719-378-2080
Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship
Sunday, 6 p.m. - Book of Acts Study
Monday, 7 p.m. - Youth
Thursday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study

San Luis Valley Christian Center
305 S. Broadway (3rd & Broadway), Monte Vista
719-852-6168
Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship
Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - Bible Study

Prayer House Church
410 Main Street, La Jara
Pastor Jaime Flores - 719-298-0007
Sunday Morning Service, 10:30 am
Wednesday Family Ministry, 6:30 pm
Friday Night Bible Study, 7:00 pm

Sargent Community Church
6967 N. County Rd. 2 E., Monte Vista (across from Sargent School)
Pastor Stephen Burns • 719-852-2980
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Back Row Church - Church Community
In the Alamosa Presbyterian Church Building
Alamosa
www.backrowchurch.com
Kim Nipple • 303-532-9342
Worship Service - Wednesday Evening at 5:00 pm

Apostolic
Alamosa Apostolic Church
510 First St., Alamosa
Meets Sundays 1-2 p.m.
2-3 p.m. - Lunch
3-5 p.m. - Worship Service

Antonito Apostolic Church
710 Main St., Antonito
Meets sundays
11-12 p.m. - Sunday School
12-1 p.m. - Worship service

Apostolic Pentecostal
Church of Champions, Acts 2:38
9056 Hwy 285 South, Alamosa - 719-587-3351
Dan Dawning Pastor, 719-588-7307
Sunday, 1:00 p.m. - Service

Assembly of God
River of Life Church
2602 Clark Avenue, Alamosa
Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship
Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Service

Center Assembly of God
7th & Miles • P.O. Box 507, Center, CO 81125
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Worship, 7:00 p.m.

Assembly of God
Sons And Daughters Of God Ministry
677 Madison Street, Monte Vista
Pastor Leonard Sandoval, 719-849-0212
Sunday 10:00 a.m Service
Wednesday 7:00 p.m Prayer

New Life Fellowship
520 7th St., Del Norte, 81132
719-657-3360
Adult Sunday School - 9:00
Services - 10:00

Bahai Faith
meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m on Zoom.
Email hartline@gqjade.org for a Zoom invite

Baptist
Grace Community Baptist Church
431 Lincoln Ave., Monte Vista
Rev. Bill Walstrom - 719-937-1451
Worship: 9:30; Sunday School: 11:00 am
Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 pm

Living Water Bible Fellowship
2910 Clark Street, Alamosa
719-589-6351
Sunday, 9:00 & 10:45 am Worship Services**
Sunday, 10:45 am Children's Ministry (PreK-5th grade)
Sunday, 10:45 am Teen Bible Study (6th-12th grade)
Tuesday 7:00 pm Young Adults/College Group
Wednesday 6:30 pm Bible Quizzing (1st-6th grade)
Wednesday 6:30 pm Reign Youth Group (6th-12th grade)
Wednesday 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study*
Saturday 5:00 pm Worship Service**
Small Groups meets throughout week, please call for info
** Nursery is available (twk/prk)

College Heights Baptist Church
Pastor Anthony Bowden
2045 Church Avenue, Alamosa
Sunday, 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Morning Worship

San Luis Valley Baptist Church
930 State Avenue, Alamosa
719-589-5938
Pastor R.L. McDonald
Wednesday 7 p.m. - Worship
Saturday, 2 p.m.
Sunday, 10 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Morning Worship
Sunday, 6 p.m. - Evening Worship
Spanish Ministry- Iglesia Bautista Rehobot
Pastor Sal Garcia, 589-3020

Calvary Bible Chapel
7160 Brush Lane, Alamosa
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Worship
Sunday, 10:20 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Ministry of the Word
Small group studies meet during the week.

Calvary Blanca
Pastor Matthew Leonard - 719-379-3317
Sunday, 9:30 am - Bible Study
Sunday, 11:00 am - Service
Wednesday, 6:30pm - Community Get to Know You

Calvary Baptist Church
2160 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista
Sunday, 9:45 a.m. - Bible Study
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Worship
Tuesday, 6 p.m. - C.L.A.Y. Youth
Thursday, 6:30 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study

South Fork Baptist Church
0130 Four Seasons Dr. (Old Chizum Bldg), South Fork
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Worship
(East side near laundrymat & car wash)
Sunday School, 9:30am
Sunday, 10:30am - Worship
For more information - Pastor Paul Moon - 719-496-7702

United Presbyterian Church of Antonito
P.O. Box 665, Antonito
Office Hrs. Tues, 9:00am-12:00

Sunday - 9:45am - Sunday School
10:45am - Service

Catholic
Sacred Heart Church
715 4th Street, Alamosa
Saturday, 4:00 p.m. - Mass
Saturday, 6:00 p.m. - Spanish Mass
Sunday, 8 a.m. - Mass
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Mass

Hooper Church
3rd and Adams, Hooper
Sunday, 9 a.m. - Morning Worship

Meditation, Kriya
Mountain Institute
Alamosa - (575)758-5876

United Church of La Jara
522 Walnut, La Jara
719-274-5250
Terry Buckman, Pastor
Cell Phone: 339-8444
Office Hours: Mon. 9:00 am - 12:00
Sunday 9:00 am - Contemporary
Coffee Fellowship 10:00 am

Christian Science Services
400 Ross Avenue, Society Hall, Alamosa
Services - Sundays at 10:00 p.m.
The second Wednesday of each 4 p.m.
Thanksgiving Day 10 a.m.

Pioneer United Church in Del Norte, Colorado
A Congregation of Evangelical Covenant Order Presbyterians
630 Spruce St. (1.5 blocks south of Hwy. 160)
Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Worship Service - 11:00 a.m. Sunday

Church of the South Fork
0116 Landon Dr., South Fork, Co, 81154
Sunday are at 9 am - Services
School Room. Choir is held on Wednesday at 6pm during the summer months with a final practice at 8:15am on Sunday

Christian
Bethel Christian Church
Pastor Erik Lira
Worship Service Sunday 3:00 p.m.
Bible Study Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Bilingual Services
Monday Free Music Classes
Instrumental Classes 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Voice & Bass Guitar 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Word of Faith Christian Center
401 Santa Fe, Alamosa
Sunday, 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, 6:00 p.m. M.O.S.H. Youth Night

The Peak Community Church
510 San Juan, Alamosa
Sundays, 6 p.m. - Fellowship
Sundays, 7 p.m. - Worship & More

Pentecostal
Alamosa Pentacostal Church
184 East 2nd St, Alamosa - 719-589-0475
Pastor Carl Sutter
Bible Study Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Sunday School Sunday 1:00-1:45
Worship 2:00-3:00

Christian Fellowship Church
The Door
1300 West 12th St., Alamosa
Pastor Martin Montoya • 719-587-6197
Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Worship
Sunday, 6:30 p.m. - Victory Service
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. - Revival

Christian Independent
Alamosa Christian Church
410 McQuerry, Alamosa
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. - Family Night & Youth Group

Christian Reformed
Alamosa Christian Reformed, 719-589-3493
1861 Rd 10 S., Alamosa
Pastor Philip VanderWindt
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - Worship

Churches of Christ
Alamosa Church of Christ
408 Victoria Avenue, Alamosa
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Classes
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Bible Study
Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study
Healing Hearts, a Bible-based 12 step group meets, every Friday at 7 p.m.

South Fork Church of Christ
205 Birch St., South Fork, 719-873-1259
Nathan Wheeler Pastor
Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Central Church of Christ
200 Franklin Street, Monte Vista, 719-852-3811
David L. Baker Preacher
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Class
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Worship
Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study

San Luis Valley Church of Christ
704 Del Sol, Alamosa, 719-589-2114
Sunday Bible Study 9 am
Sunday Worship 10 am
Wednesday Bible Study 6 pm
Comerstone Community Church
Hwy. 160 Del Norte next to Rio Grande Medical Clinic
Pastor Mark 719-657-9107
Sunday 9:00 a.m. free breakfast
Sunday 10:20 a.m. Contemporary Worship & Children Sunday School
Wednesday 5:15 p.m. Dinner, music, fellowship, teachings

Episcopal
Saint Thomas Episcopal Church
607 4th Street, Alamosa
Sunday, 9 a.m. - Service

Saint Stephen the Martyr
729 3rd Avenue, Monte Vista
Sunday, 10 am Service
First Christian Church
518 First St. (First & State) Alamosa
589-6805
Sunday, 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - Bible Service
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - Church Service

Valley Fellowship
240 East 5th Street, Center - 719-754-3904
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship and Bible Study
*Bible Studies during the week, call for information.

First United Methodist
First United Methodist Church
2005 Mullins Ave., Alamosa - 719-589-2243
"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"
Morning Worship - Sunday, 10:15 am
Children's Church - Sunday, 10:30 am

Community Churches
United for Christ Community Church (SBC)
"Community Centered Around Love"
7th & Broadway in Blanca - 719-379-3317
Sunday School 9:30-10:30
Worship Service 11am

Bible Believer's Community Church
11762 E US HWY 160, Alamosa, Co 81101
719) 206-3239
Sunday worship 10:30
Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm
www.bbcchurch.co

Presbyterian
Alamosa Presbyterian Church
330 San Juan Avenue, Alamosa
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship

Hispanic Pentecostal
Iglesia Pentecostal Unida LA
907 Tenth St. Alamosa - 719-587-3546
Gudalupe Salazar Pastor
Wed. 7:00 p.m. Service
Sat. 7:00 p.m. Youth Service
Sun. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
Sun. 5:00 p.m. Worship

New Hope Church
"The Church on the Hill"
25258 Hwy 160, South Fork, Co. 81154
Pastor John Jayne • 719-873-1202
www.newhopest.com
Morning Worship - 10:00 am
Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 - 9:45

Anabaptist Fellowship of Alamosa
330 San Juan Ave., Alamosa, CO 81101
alamosafellowship@gmail.com
Sunday 4:30 PM Worship in the north wing of the Alamosa Presbyterian Church

Independent, Fundamental Baptist
First Baptist Church of Costilla County
9717 County Rd H, Mesita - 719-206-0011
Pastor Paul Jones
Sunday, 9:45 am - Sunday School
Sunday, 10:45 am - Morning Worship
Sunday, 12 Noon - Potluck Dinner
Sunday after dinner - Afternoon Worship
Thursday, 7:00 pm - Mesita Bible Study and Prayer meeting

DEAF MINISTRY FOR ALL SERVICES
Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Alamosa Y S A Ward
300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa
Sunday, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Alamosa

Second Ward
927 Weber Drive, Alamosa
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Alamosa Third Ward
300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Alamosa Fourth Ward
927 Weber Drive, Alamosa
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Sierra Vista Branch (Spanish Language)
300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa
Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Lutheran
St. Peters Lutheran Church & School
Church: 1821 Grande Avenue, Monte Vista
School: 330 Faraday Street, Monte Vista
Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - Services
School: K-8, Monday-Thursdays

Trinity Lutheran Church & School
52 El Rio Drive, Alamosa
Sunday, 8:45 a.m. - Bible Study
Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship

Small Bible Study Groups Throughout the Week
-Pre-School through 5th grade
Church: 589-4611, School: 589-3271
Conejos Canyon Community Chapel
20062 State Hwy. 17 (between mile posts 21 and 20)
Fellowship Sunday, 8:30 a.m.
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - Worship Service

Mountain Valley Church
408 State St., Alamosa
Pastor: Richard Pinkerton
589-2899 or 588-7662
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

Presbyterian Church of Monte Vista
702 Second Avenue, Monte Vista
(719) 852-2555
Sunday, 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Sunday Worship

Seventh-day Adventist
Seventh-day Adventist Church
315 Craft Drive, Alamosa
Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study
Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - Worship

United Methodist
Mosca United Methodist Church
538 Barker Street, Mosca
970-270-3078
Pastor Steve Dunkel
Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m.

Unitarian Universalist
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
330 San Juan Ave., Alamosa
*North Wing of Alamosa Presbyterian Church
719-587-5529
Service & Youth Programs at 10:30 am
Sunday

Valley Church of the Nazarene
Pastor: Chris Yocom
228 Madison, Monte Vista - (719) 852-5858
churchoffice@valleynaz.com
Sunday
Sunday Morning Worship 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School Classes 9 a.m.
Wednesday
Dinner at 6 p.m.
Small Group Classes at 7 p.m.

Thursday
Teen Activities (beginning at 6:30 p.m.)
*Nursery is available during all services
Visit website at www.valleynaz.com for online
bulletins and service information or call the
number above.

Church of Scientology
511 Main Street, Suite #12, Alamosa
719-587-5554
Monday and Wednesday, 7-10p.m. - Services

Grace Assurance Ministry
Church without Religion
9851 CR 4 S., Alamosa, CO
Sunday Mornings - 10:30
Randy Brown - 719-588-7004
Eric Wolf - 719-480-3977

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Sunday School 9am
Sunday Service 10:15am
1861 Rd 10 S
www.alamosacr.org
719-589-3493

See you at Sunday School

Sports

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD THURSDAY Prep boys basketball

Centauri 57, Dove Creek 17
Center 62, Creede 41
Monte Vista 35, Rocky Ford 33, OT
Sangre de Cristo 52, Antonito 13
Sargent 51, Cheraw 39

Prep girls basketball

Centauri 40, Dove Creek 30
Center 66, Creede 30
Monte Vista 48, Pueblo Centennial 15
Sangre de Cristo 78, Antonito 4
Sargent 47, Cheraw 39

FRIDAY Prep boys basketball

Alamosa 76, Ellicott 19
Cheraw 59, Creede 31
Lamar 34, Del Norte 33
Moffat 52, South Park 36
Monte Vista 45, Swallows Charter Academy 34
Sangre de Cristo 44, Dolores 41
Salida 71, Sanford 46
Sargent 43, Center 25
Sierra Grande at Springfield - no report
Soroco 58, Antonito 23

Prep girls basketball

Alamosa 55, Ellicott 16
Cheraw 50, Creede 26
Lake City 31, Antonito 26
Lamar 37, Del Norte 12
Moffat vs. South Park - no report
Monte Vista 52, Pueblo Central 20
Salida at Sanford - no report
Sangre de Cristo 52, Dolores 26
Sargent 44, Center 38
Springfield 61, Sierra Grande 12

Prep boys wrestling

La Junta 51, Monte Vista 26

College men's basketball

Western Colorado 77, Adams State 76, OT

College women's basketball

Adams State 71, Western Colorado 69

SCHEDULE SATURDAY Prep boys basketball

Creede vs. Antonito (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 9:40 a.m.
Del Norte vs. Ellicott (Erik Melgoza Shootout at Alamosa), 11:30 a.m.
Dove Creek vs. McClave (Mountain Top Invitational), 11:30 p.m.
Ignacio at Centauri (Mountain Top Invitational), 11:30 p.m.
Monte Vista vs. St. Mary's (Rye Invitational), 11:30 a.m.
Cheraw vs. Soroco (Sangre de Cristo

Shootout), 1 p.m.

Durango at Centauri (Mountain Top Invitational), 2:30 p.m.
Sierra Grande vs. Holly or South Baca (R.L. Ballard Invitational at Springfield), 3 or 6 p.m.

Lamar at Alamosa (Erik Melgoza Shootout), 2:30 p.m.

Center vs. Dolores (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 4:20 p.m.

Moffat vs. Cripple Creek-Victor or Cotopaxi (Cotopaxi Invitational), 4:30 or 7:30 p.m.

Sargent at Sangre de Cristo (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 7:40 p.m.

Prep girls basketball

Creede vs. Antonito (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 8 a.m.

Del Norte vs. Lamar (Erik Melgoza Shootout at Alamosa), 10 a.m.

Dove Creek at Centauri JV (Mountain Top Invitational), 10 a.m.

Ignacio vs. Olathe (Mountain Top Invitational), 10 a.m.

Cheraw vs. Lake City (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 11:20 a.m.

Ellicott at Alamosa (Erik Melgoza Shootout), 1 p.m.

Monte Vista vs. Swink (Rye Invitational), 1 p.m.

Sierra Grande vs. Holly or South Baca (R.L. Ballard Invitational at Springfield), 1:30 or 4:30 p.m.

Durango at Centauri (Mountain Top Invitational), 2:30 p.m.

Center vs. Dolores (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 2:40 p.m.

Moffat vs. Cripple Creek-Victor or Cotopaxi (Cotopaxi Invitational), 3 or 6 p.m.

Sargent at Sangre de Cristo winner (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 6 p.m.

Prep boys wrestling

Alamosa at Rocky Ford Invitational, 8:30 a.m.

Centauri at Buena Vista Invitational, 9 a.m.

Center, Del Norte, Monte Vista, Sargent, Sierra Grande/Centennial at Fowler Invitational, 9 a.m.

College indoor track and field

Adams State at Sharon Colyear-Danville season opener (at Boston), 10 a.m.

MONDAY Prep boys basketball

Cripple Creek-Victor at Moffat, 5 p.m.

Prep girls basketball

Cripple Creek-Victor at Moffat, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY Prep girls swimming

Pueblo West at Sargent (at Plachy Hall pool), 5 p.m.

College men's basketball

Adams State at Fort Lewis, 7 p.m.

College women's basketball

Adams State at Fort Lewis, 5 p.m.

College women's wrestling

Adams State at Bob Smith Open (at Hays, Kan.), TBA

Alamosa boys bury Ellicott; Lamar comes back to defeat Del Norte

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The First Annual Erik Melgoza Shootout saw two contrasting games in the boys contests Friday at the Alamosa High School gym.

The first game saw Lamar come from behind to defeat Del Norte 34-33, and the second saw Alamosa crush Ellicott 76-19.

Alamosa 76, Ellicott 19

The Mean Moose got off to a fast start as they scored the first 16 points of the game. Brant Jackson scored six of the points.

Ellicott got on the board on a jumper by Parris Erickson, but Alamosa scored the final six points of the quarter for a 22-2 lead at the end of the first.

The Thunderhawks closed to within 26-7, but the Mean Moose scored eight straight points and led 36-10 at halftime.

Parker Gilmore, Victor Zepeda and Zack Crowther all hit 3-point baskets to begin the third quarter and they eventually led 58-10. Ellicott scored the final four points of the quarter.

The fourth quarter was played under a running clock with Alamosa outscoring Ellicott 18-5.

Jackson led all scorers with 25 points, followed by Gilmore with 12 and Zepeda with 10.

Tavon Flewellen led Ellicott with seven points.

Lamar 34, Del Norte 33

Gabrian Jacobs gave the Thunder the early lead by splitting a pair of free throws. LaShawn Trujillo gave the Tigers the lead with back-to-back layups.

Jacobs scored a layup, but Del Norte got five straight points. Lamar got a layup to close the margin to 9-5 at the end of the first quarter.

The second quarter was a low-scoring affair with both teams tallying on six points apiece as the Tigers led 15-11.

Lamar came back to tie the score at 17-17 midway through the third quarter, but Kelby Mondragon hit a three for Del Norte. Tytus Atencio scored the Tigers' final two points of the quarter for a 25-20 lead.

Lamar rallied to reduce the deficit to 27-26, but Del Norte scored six straight points to take its largest lead at 33-26.

Lamar scored the final eight points with Jacob Dunning putting Lamar into the lead with two free throws with 32 second remaining.

Del Norte attempted a shot just before time expired, but it was blocked.

Atencio led Del Norte in scoring with 13 points, followed by Mondragon with 12.

Dunning was Lamar's top scorer with eight points, followed by Jacobs with seven.

Today's schedule

The tournament concludes today with Del Norte (0-1) facing Ellicott (0-1) at 11:30 a.m., and Alamosa (1-0) will play Lamar (1-0) at 2:30 p.m.

Alamosa 76, Ellicott 19

Ellicott – Flewellen 2 2-2 7, Peters 1 0-0 3, Bourgeois 1 1-1 3, Bonilla 0 0-0 2, Orberg 0 0-0 0, Briggs 1 0-0 2, Cerros 0 0-0 0, Erickson 1 0-0 2, Robles 1 0-0 2, Pickett 0 0-0 0. Total 7 3-5 19.

3-point goals – Flewellen 1, Peters 1. Total 3.

Alamosa – Zepeda 4 1-2 10, Gilmore 5 0-0 12, Jackson 12 0-0 25, Motz 3 1-1 7, Meis 3 0-0 7, Lujan 1 0-0 2, Crowther 3 1-3 9, Moeller 0 0-0 0, Heredia 1 0-0 2, Ruybal 1 0-0 2. Total 33 3-6 76.

3-point goals – Crowther 2, Gilmore 2, Jackson 1, Meis 1, Zepeda 1. Total 7.

Lady Moose crushes Ellicott; Del Norte loses to Lamar

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The First Annual Erik Melgoza Shootout got underway on Friday at the Alamosa High School gym.

The girls games saw Lamar easily defeat Del Norte 37-12, and Alamosa cruise past Ellicott 55-16.

Alamosa 55, Ellicott 16

The Lady Mean Moose started quickly as they scored the first 12 points of the game. The Lady Thunderhawks got on the board with 3:45 left in the first quarter, but Taybor Wiedeman scored the final points of the quarter and Alamosa led 14-2.

Ellicott scored the first points of the second quarter on a pair of free throws. That would be its only points of the period as Alamosa scored the final 12 points for a 26-4 advantage at halftime.

Laci Christensen started the second half with a 3-point basket and Aubrey Rothermich followed with a layup. Ellicott scored four straight points and after a layup by Arreli Felix, the Lady Thunderhawks got a three from Kayley Wright to close within 33-11.

Christensen nailed another trey, and Morgan Ortega scored the final five points of the quarter for a 41-12 advantage.

Alamosa finished strong as it outscored Ellicott 14-4 in the final quarter.

Ortega led the Lady Mean Moose with 19 points, and Christensen added 14.

Leading Ellicott were Wright and Hayden Ferguson both with four.

Lamar 37, Del Norte 12

The Lady Thunder took off to an early lead as they shut out the Lady Tigers 15-0 in the first quarter. Brooklyn Robbins scored 10 points for Lamar in the first quarter.

The Lady Thunder continued the momentum into the second quarter as they scored the first five points to extend their lead to 20-0.

Kayleigh Haynie put the Lady Tigers on the board with a layup. Lamar scored two more baskets, but Emma Parra closed out the quarter with a layup to cut the Lady Thunder's lead to 24-4 at halftime.

Lamar scored the first five points of the third quarter. Parra accounted for Del Norte's only score in the quarter but the Lady Thunder led 29-6 at the end of the period.

Del Norte's Reese Brown scored the team's first 3-point basket of the game. Lamar scored eight points in the fourth quarter, but Kaitlyn Velasquez hit a trey for the Lady Tigers to round out the scoring.

Parra led Del Norte in scoring with four points, followed by Brown and Velasquez both with three, and Haynie with two.

Robbins led all scorers with 21.

Today's schedule

Del Norte (0-1) will play Ellicott (0-1) at 10 a.m., while Alamosa (1-0) will take on Lamar (1-0) at 1 p.m.

Alamosa 55, Ellicott 16

Ellicott – Ferguson 1 0-2 3, Erickson 1 2-2 4, Perez 0 0-0 0, Lujan 1 1-2 3, Wright 1 1-2 4, Tacoronte 0 2-4 2, Cecreca-Esparza 0 0-0 0, Baca 0 0-0 0, Legarda 0 0-0 0, Flewellen 0 0-0 0. Total 4 6-12 16.



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

Alamosa High School's Brant Jackson dunks the ball in Friday's Erik Melgoza Shootout game against Ellicott at the AHS gym. Jackson scored 25 points as the Mean Moose defeated the Thunderhawks 76-19.

Ellicott	2	8	4	5 - 19
Alamosa	22	14	22	18 - 76
Fouls – Ellicott 7, Alamosa 12.				

Lamar 34, Del Norte 33

Lamar – Martinez 1 0-0 3, DeLaRosa 0 0-0 0, Williamson 1 0-2 2, Jacobs 2 3-8 7, Thacker 2 0-0 4, Estrada 2 0-0 5, Vasquez 1 1-1 3, Pollart 1 0-0 2, Moreno 0 0-0 0, Shelton 0 0-0 0, Dunning 3 2-6 8. Total 13 6-17 34.

3-point goals – Estrada 1, Martinez 1. Total 2.

Del Norte – Trujillo 3 0-0 6, Atencio 6 0-0 13, Pacheco 0 0-0 0, Mondragon 5 0-0 12, Bailey 1 0-0 2, Williams 0 0-0 0, Worz 0 0-0 0, Estrada 0 0-0 0. Total 15 0-0 33.

3-point goals – Mondragon 2, Atencio 1. Total 3.

Lamar 5 6 9 14 - 34

Del Norte 9 6 10 8 - 33

Fouls – Lamar 11, Del Norte 9.



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

Alamosa High School's Morgan Ortega (3) moves past Ellicott's Kayley Wright (15) for a layup in Friday's game at the AHS gym. Ortega scored 19 points as the Lady Mean Moose defeated the Lady Thunderhawks 55-16.

3-point goals – Ferguson 1, Wright 1. Total 2.

Alamosa – Christensen 5 1-2 14, Ortega 6 5-7 19, Rothermich 2 0-2 4, Garcia 3 0-0 6, Wiedeman 1 0-0 2, Quintana 0 0-0 0, Montoya 2 1-2 6, Felix 1 0-0 2, Villava 1 0-0 2. Total 21 7-13 55.

3-point goals – Christensen 3, Ortega 2, Montoya 1. Total 6.

Ellicott 2 2 8 4 - 16

Alamosa 14 12 15 14 - 55

Fouls – Ellicott 14, Alamosa 16. Fouled out – Tacoronte. Technical foul – Ellicott bench.

Lamar 37, Del Norte 12

Lamar – Milenski 3 0-0 6, Fernandez 1 0-0 2, R. Chavira 0 1-2 1, Robbins 8 1-1 21, Rodriguez 2 0-0 4, Gomez 0 0-0 0, K. Chavira 1 1-2 3. Total 15 3-5 37.

3-point goals – Robbins 4. Total 4.

Del Norte – Velasquez 1 0-2 3, Parra 2 0-5 4, Laymon 0 0-0 0, Brown 1 0-0 3, Haynie 1 0-0 2, Leggett 0 0-0 0. Total 5 0-7 12.

3-point goals – Brown 1, Velasquez 1. Total 2.

Lamar 15 9 5 8 - 37

Del Norte 0 4 2 6 - 12

Fouls – Lamar 11, Del Norte 7.

Lifestyle

Service Sight: Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS)

By VANESSA RENÉ ALAMOSA — There can be a degree of uncertainty that comes with being a recent college graduate and a feeling of fear that comes with jumping into a career. Some recent graduates choose to do service work. This avenue allows them to gain experience while permitting opportunities for professional and personal growth.

Mennonite Voluntary Service is a one-year volunteer service opportunity for individuals 20 years old and older. Participants play integral roles in transforming community social systems relating to health, education, immigration, food, housing, and more.

Cindi Boyer joined MVS in September of 2023. She's originally from North Virginia and recently graduated from Eastern Mennonite University, and it was at school that she learned about MVS. She is a full-time volunteer at the Rio Grande Hospital in Del Norte. This position allows her to act like a student and shadow professionals in the hospital. She's able to absorb so much knowledge while earning volunteer hours for graduate school. Once her term is over in August 2024, Boyer is hoping to return to school and, become a Physician Assistant.

Jake Myers has been serving with MVS since July 2022. This Ohio native grew up gardening and can use his skills to serve La Puente's Valley Educational Gardens Initiative (VEGI) Program.

What drew Myers to MVS is the intentional community element of the program. Myers renewed his term earlier in 2023 and will be finishing in July 2024. Before serving, he graduated from Eastern Mennonite University with a degree in Environmental Science. He's hoping to find a job relevant to his degree, and possibly pursue more schooling in the future.

Myers, Boyer, and the other MVS members live in a house together, where they can come home to a welcoming household community after a long day of service work. They hold weekly dinners, share resources, and are encouraged to explore the San Luis Valley together. They even tend to a flock of chickens in the house's backyard!

Grantley Showalter is an MVS alumni. They served from 2017-2018 with the Center for Restorative Programs. Within that position, they were able to learn about a growing crisis of reliable transportation in Alamosa. They found that without a car, it is very difficult to get around. This motivated them to take inspiration from the Bicycle Co-Op they were a part a student at Eastern Mennonite University and begin something similar here in Alamosa. In 2019, Showalter banded together with a friend and their MVS local placement coordinator. As a team, they were able to apply

for grants, purchase tools, attend community events, and begin helping people with their bikes. In 2020, they were able to rent a space behind HobbyTown on Main Street, where the Alamosa Bicycle Coalition has resided ever since, with Showalter serving in the Executive Director position of this non-profit.

The most rewarding part of the work that Showalter does is teaching them how to take care of their bikes, ride their bikes, and give them a level of independence and responsibility.

If you ever want to see the kind of work that these MVSers do, there are some opportunities to volunteer

or attend public events. The Rio Grande Hospital has a volunteer program where individuals can assist in different tasks around the facility. The VEGI program will begin Community Garden Days in the spring. Alamosa Bicycle Coalition will be having master mechanic classes starting in January/February, where a local volunteer will teach community members how to care for their bikes on Sunday evenings. Although their reasons for joining MVS differed, Boyer, Myers, and Showalter had an eagerness to serve, and Mennonite Voluntary Services gave them the opportunity.



Cindi Boyer




Grantley Showalter



Jake Myers

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Council Chambers, 300 Hunt Avenue



New York Republican George Santos expelled by U.S. House in bipartisan vote

By JENNIFER SHUTT Colorado Newswire WASHINGTON — New York Republican George Santos on Friday became the sixth lawmaker in history and the first member of the GOP to be expelled from the U.S. House of Representatives.

The 311-114 bipartisan vote, which required two-thirds support, followed months of scandal that culminated in a federal criminal indictment and a damning report from the House Ethics Committee. Two Democrats voted "present" and 105 Republicans voted for expulsion.

Several Republicans said during debate Thursday the lies Santos allegedly told to fundraise and get elected, as well as misuse of campaign funds, should bar him from finishing his term.

"He has manufactured his entire life to defraud the voters of his district an honest choice for a member of Congress," said New York Republican Rep. Marc Molinaro. "He has lied to donors and to colleagues, taking advantage of election law, using campaign funds to personally benefit himself. And he has defamed not only his office, but the institution itself."

Pennsylvania Democratic Rep. Susan Wild, the ranking member on the Ethics Committee, said during floor debate that Santos should no longer hold a seat in the House of Representatives.

"One of our most basic obligations as members of Congress is to adhere to the principle that public office is a public trust,"

Wild said. "As the Ethics Committee's report lays out in thorough detail, Mr. Santos has repeatedly, egregiously and brazenly violated the public's trust."

Special election The expulsion means that residents in New York's 3rd District will vote in a special election within the next few months to fill the seat that has swung between Democrats and Republicans over the years.

The district covers parts of Long Island, including a northeastern section of Queens and much of Nassau County.

Santos won election to his first term in November 2022, when he garnered about 20,000 more votes than his Democratic opponent.

The district was represented by Democratic lawmakers for the prior decade. Its residents were represented by a Republican from 1993 until 2013, though the shape of the district has changed somewhat over the years.

The election could further narrow Republicans' majority in the House, making it even more difficult for GOP leaders to pass partisan legislation.

The balance of power in the House changed to 221-213 following the expulsion vote, with Republicans holding just three more seats than required to pass legislation.

History of House expulsions

Congress is granted the ability to "punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member," according to the U.S.

Constitution.

The U.S. House has used its authority before Friday to expel five members, while the Senate has removed 15 lawmakers.

Three of the House members previously expelled — John B. Clark and John W. Reid of Missouri, and Henry C. Burnett of Kentucky — were kicked out for "disloyalty to the Union" in 1861 amid the Civil War.

In 1980, House lawmakers expelled Michael J. Myers of Pennsylvania for bribery, conspiracy and Travel Act violations.

In 2002, the House voted to remove James A. Traficant of Ohio for illegal gratuity, conspiracy, obstruction of justice, defrauding the government, racketeering and tax evasion violations.

Senators voted to expel 14 lawmakers turned Confederates between 1861 and 1862 for "disloyalty to the Union."

The other senator expelled, William Blount of Tennessee, was removed from Congress in 1797 for "disloyalty to the United States."

Blount, who was experiencing "serious financial difficulties," had "concocted a scheme for Indians and frontiersmen to attack Spanish Florida and Louisiana, in order to transfer those territories to Great Britain," according to the U.S. Senate Historical Office.

"Unfortunately for the senator, a letter, in which Blount thinly disguised his desire to arouse the Creek and Cherokee Indians to aid his plan, fell into the hands of Federalist president John Adams."

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Alamosa, CO 81101



Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

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

CONSERVATION PROJECT COORDINATOR 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 summary 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)

221 - HELP WANTED

AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL ADVISOR Wanted. MOSCA-HOOPER CONSERVATION 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. Experiences 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 STUDENTS. JOIN our CENTENNIAL TEAM as a SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNSELOR. 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 recommendation. 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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

HEAD JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS' BASKETBALL 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 contact 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)

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

HELP WANTED: COOK & WAITRESS (will train) at the Wagon Wheel in LAJARA. Contact Margie, 719-274-5965. (12/2/23AS)

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

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

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

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

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

307 - APPLIANCES

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

324 - SEED & FEED

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

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

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

353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

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

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

FOR SALE: 181-231 head cow GRAZING PERMIT on APACHE RANGE. 719-580-9444. (12/5/23AS)

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

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

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

368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

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

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

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420 - LOTS & ACREAGES

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

426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

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

525 - GUNS

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601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

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601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Accepting Applications for waiting list for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Family units available
West View Villas
510 Dunham Monte Vista, Colo
852-3949
TTY 1-800-659-2656
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606 - BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT

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

611 - HOUSES FOR RENT

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

701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

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

710 - CLASSIC AUTOS

FOR SALE: FAMILY owned since 1949, MODEL A FORD 1929. Excellent condition, new tires, \$18,500. Serious inquires only. Text 719-849-1722. (12/16/23AS)

713 - PICKUP TRUCKS

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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Tolkien creature
 - 4 Sack
 - 7 Food thickener
 - 11 — constructor
 - 12 Billy goat, e.g.
 - 13 Rib
 - 14 Waste-basket
 - 15 Ruler of Norse gods
 - 16 Uppy one
 - 17 Shock
 - 19 Dish with a cover
 - 21 Bar mem.
 - 22 Daystar
 - 23 Attempted
 - 27 Actor — Hawke
 - 31 "From Russia — Love"
 - 32 Wetland
 - 34 Cover with frosting
 - 35 Student at Yale University
 - 36 Beige
- DOWN**
- 1 Flow
 - 2 "— & Clark"
 - 3 Marvelous
 - 4 "The — News Bears"
- 37 Shrek or Princess Fiona**
- 38 Sylvester Stallone role**
- 41 Plume**
- 43 Dine**
- 45 Spot on a card**
- 46 Sluggishness**
- 49 Since: 2 wds.**
- 51 Take shape**
- 52 Raise**
- 54 "— a Camera"**
- 56 "— Love Her"**
- 57 Bakery item**
- 58 Gun lobby org.**
- 59 Cheer**
- 60 Antlered animal**
- 61 — Mex cuisine**

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 5 Dismounted
- 6 Group in biology
- 7 Missing
- 8 "— in 60 Seconds"
- 9 Soon
- 10 Johnny —
- 12 "The Full —"
- 18 Landlocked state
- 20 Regret
- 23 Pitcher
- 24 Missile housing
- 25 Newt
- 26 Unhearing
- 28 Best part: 2 wds.
- 29 "God's Little —"
- 30 — do-well
- 33 Direction letters
- 37 Elevator name
- 39 Miss Piggy's beloved
- 40 Bark
- 42 In pieces
- 44 Rich cake
- 46 — avail
- 47 Church calendar
- 48 True-to-life
- 50 Get along
- 51 "So —, so good"
- 53 Big boat
- 55 Upper limit

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

ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



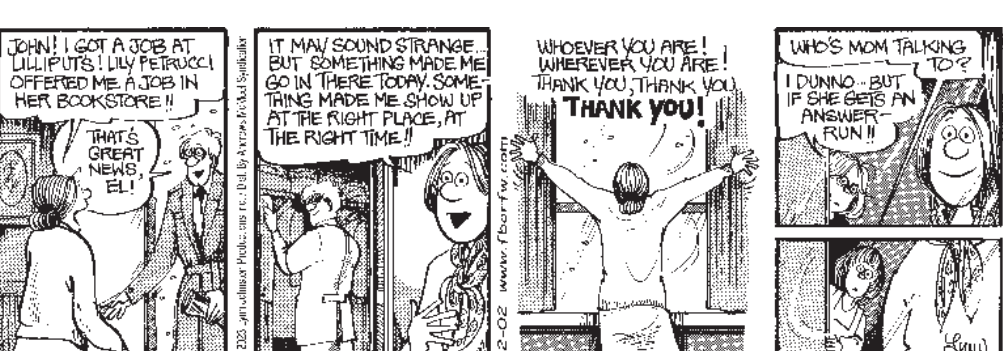
BIG NATE



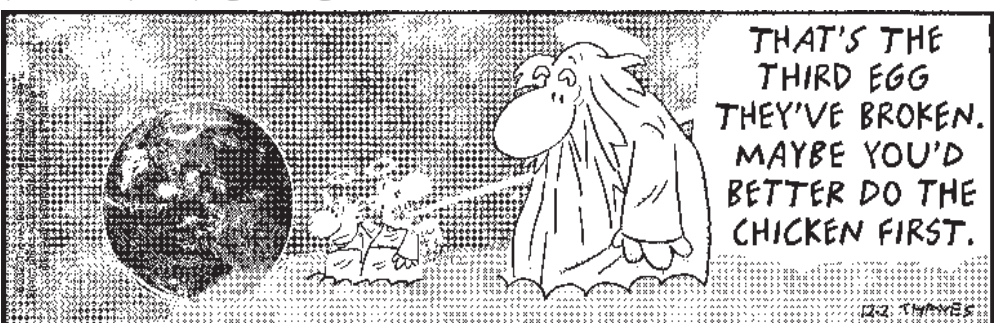
THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



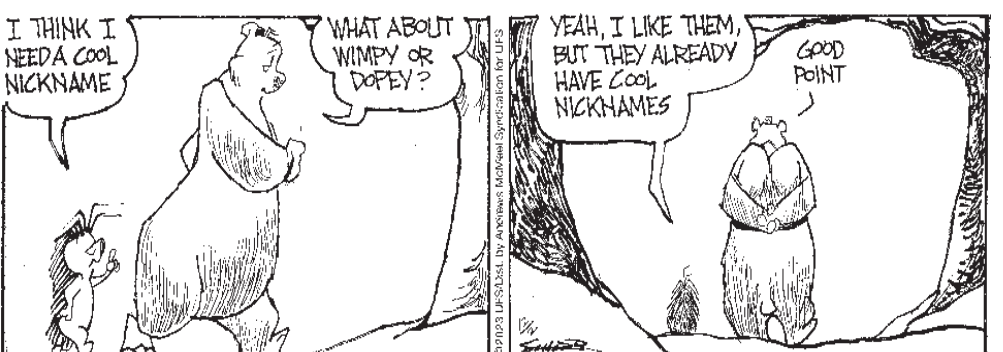
FRANK & ERNEST



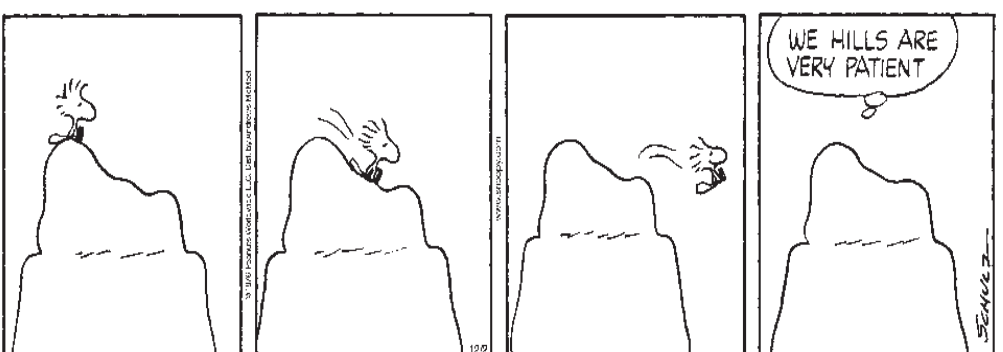
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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



"My husband will be doing all the parking."

Family at odds over wedding invitation involving sister

DEAR ABBY: My young daughter is the half-sister of a famous athlete's wife. They were married last year and invited my daughter. A week later they DISinvited her! There is a 20-year gap in their ages, but my daughter looks up to her half-sister. My daughter's feelings were really hurt. My feelings may have been even more hurt. All of her other siblings were there, as well as several other family members. We were never told why my daughter was disinvented. Her father did not stand up to his older daughter for breaking his younger daughter's heart. My daughter is getting older, and she knows who her brother-in-law is when she sees him on TV. How can I stop being angry at these people for hurting my baby? -- FURIOUS MAMA IN MICHIGAN

DEAR MAMA: You stated there is a 20-year age gap between your daughter and the bride. Is it possible that the bride and her famous fiance had concerns about someone so young (7, 8, 9?) at their high-profile wedding? Before your resentment continues to build, try having a rational conversation with your daughter's half-sister so you fully understand the circumstances.

While I do not support disinventing someone from a celebration, it's possible that the invitation was sent in error.

DEAR ABBY: My son, who is 32, moved back home six months ago. He's a college graduate with a degree in business, which he has never used. He works as a valet at a well-known golf and spa resort. He has no health insurance and stays in his room a lot playing video games. How can I help him find himself? -- KID'S MOM IN FLORIDA

DEAR MOM: Is your son suffering from depression or some other emotional problem? Is he at least paying rent? If the answer to that question is no, help your son "find himself" by encouraging him to become independent and by refusing to continue allowing him to avoid accepting responsibility for himself by hiding in his room playing video games. Start now, or you will be writing me in another 10 years with this same issue.

DEAR ABBY: For his 60th birthday, my niece gave her brother a handmade quilt of pictures of their paternal grandmother and her second husband. There was not



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

one picture of his maternal grandparents, who practically raised them. Their mother (my sister) argued with me that I was wrong to question why our parents were excluded. I would love to know your opinion. -- WONDERING IN THE EAST

DEAR WONDERING: I am glad you asked. This was none of your business, and you should have stayed out of it. Although you are entitled to your feelings, your niece gave her brother a gift from the heart, which took time and effort to create. You were wrong to criticize. If you feel she left some relatives out, create a family album for your nephew and give it to him.

Lifestyle

Colorado lawmakers approve recommendation for basic jail standards

By SARA WILSON
Colorado Newsline

A group of Colorado lawmakers on Tuesday approved a baseline set of standards for how jails in the state should house, feed, restrain, treat and care for the people within their facilities, concluding a 17-month-long process to develop guidelines for the first time in the state's history.

The lengthy report from the Colorado Jail Standards Commission details standards in 16 areas of a jail's operations, including housing, communication, visitation, health care, use of force and restraints. The Legislative Oversight Committee Concerning Colorado Jail Standards signed off on the report and will use it as a basis for legislation to be introduced next year.

"I am very confident saying that we did our best to represent all perspectives and to balance an approach of reforming and innovating and raising standards while also meeting counties and jails where they're at, trying to be mindful that you can't build something with nothing," commission Chair Meghan Baker told committee members.

The commission and committee were created through 2022 legislation. The commission includes county commissioners, sheriffs, police officers, a district attorney, representatives from organizations that advocate for minorities and people with lived experience being incarcerated, among others.

The standards touch nearly every aspect of how an incarcerated person experiences jail. They include, for example, having access to medical professionals as early into their incarceration as possible, and receiving health care through-

out incarceration that is medically necessary, culturally sensitive, and offered through a nonjudgmental, gender-affirming approach.

The standards also state that jail staff should be trained annually on how to recognize and respond to suicidality, and should make meaningful observations of suicidal individuals with no more than 15 minutes between checks.

"Incarceration heightens risk of suicide. Given that the majority of deaths by suicide occur in persons with no known mental health condition, the need for primary prevention cannot be over-emphasized," the report reads.

The commission also set a standard for jails to serve "nutritionally adequate" food with an appropriate amount of calories. That includes three meals per day, two of which are hot. Food cannot be withheld or changed as punishment.

Another standard states that all forms of restraint should be used only when necessary and "in the least restrictive manner and for the shortest duration necessary to accomplish the given goal," and that staff should be trained to recognize signs of a medical emergency.

As of 2019, there were 61 jails in Colorado that house people who have been arrested and are awaiting resolution of their charges, as well as people who have been convicted and sentenced to serve up to two years of incarceration.

Legislation from the committee, to be introduced when the Legislature reconvenes in January, would create a jail standards advisory committee to assess compliance with the adopted

standards and prepare an annual report for lawmakers. The advisory committee would be made up of two sheriffs, two county commissioners, the state public defender, a health professional with experience working in jails and a person representing a statewide organization that advocates on behalf of incarcerated people.

That bill would also require the attorney general's office to work in conjunction with the peer advisory committee to review standards compliance. If their findings are different than the advisory committee's, they can file their own addendum to the annual report.

The attorney general's office would also be able to conduct a special assessment by request from the governor, the oversight committee or a sheriff.

"This is important for the attorney general right now because they have no knowledge of jails. They have no experts. So it will build up their expertise and have someone in the attorney general's office to immerse themselves in the standards," Jack Johnson, the Public Policy Liaison for Disability Law Colorado, told lawmakers during an Oct. 13 meeting.

The bill will start in the House and be sponsored by Rep. Judy Amabile, a Boulder Democrat, and Rep. Lorena Garcia, an Adams County Democrat. In the Senate it will be sponsored by Sen. Rhonda Fields, an Aurora Democrat, and Sen. James Coleman, a Denver Democrat.

The adoption of the standards on Tuesday mark the first time there has been a uniform set of guidelines for all of Colorado's jails. Still, the legislative committee can re-

vising specific standards in the future.

"This is meant to be a living document. What we say today might not

be the best practice in five years," Baker said.

"I am confident that it is not perfect, but I am confident that it is the best

compilation of all of the knowledge that we have here in Colorado and what we've been able to glean from other states."

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Center Elementary Christmas Concert



Photo by Marie McColm

The Elementary Christmas Concert for Center Consolidated Schools will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 7, inside the Center varsity gymnasium. The students are under the direction of Elementary Music Teacher Gabriel Swanson. Pictured are Mary McClure, Board member of The Eileen G Kerr Children's Foundation, with Center Elementary School students and Swanson. The students created a huge Thank You Card for the foundation, which donated scarves for the upcoming Christmas Concert, as part of a song some of the children will be singing.

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