



ASU women wrestlers drop first two dual meets

— Page 6



Creede Holiday Market showcasing Musical Arts Collective talent this weekend

— Page 12

San Luis Valley
Colorado Genuine
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City Market

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

December 8, 2023

\$1

SLV Today

SLVREC, Ciello board meeting is Dec. 12

MONTE VISTA — SLVREC and Ciello will have the regular meeting of the board of directors at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 3625 US Highway 160 W, Monte Vista. Advance notice is required to attend the meeting, call Michelle Trujillo at 719-852-3538.

SLV Holiday Festivities

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.

Today, 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 planting 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.

Conejos County Library Bake Sale
• 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - at the Conejos County Library Maria De Herrera Branch in La Jara, 17703 Highway 285.

San Luis Holiday Art Fair
• 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - at the Sangre de Cristo Cultural Heritage Center Theater.
Local artisans offer paintings on various media, painted items like T-shirts, hats, items like dreamcatchers and other unique art.

SLV WEATHER

Chance of Snow, Breezy 39/8

Sat: Chance of Snow 32/-3

Sun: Sunny 38/2

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Councilmember Griego savors memories at a reception in his honor

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — Before a standing-room-only crowd at the Alamosa City Council Chambers, longtime councilmember Charlie Griego gave thanks to those in the room and many others during a celebration farewell gathering for him on Wednesday evening. After being elected to the council 10 times (40 years) Griego did not run in the recent election.

Before Griego spoke, Mayor Ty Coleman who emphasized the words, “forty years,” said, “Tonight we are here to honor and

■ See **GRIEGO** page 3

At the celebration for the 40 years he has served on the Alamosa City Council, Charlie Griego (front row third from left) is pictured with past and present city officials.

Courier photo by John Waters



Alamosa City Councilor Jackie Vigil takes oath of office

Griego, Daniel step down from the council

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Alamosa City Council will look a little different from this week on as two councilors — two-term Kristina Daniel and 40-year veteran councilor Charlie Griego — did not seek re-election and, as such, stepped down from their positions during Wednesday night's meeting.

Jackie Vigil, who was endorsed by Griego and won the election to represent Ward 3, took the oath of office and, appropriately so, sat in the chair where Griego was sitting just a few moments before.

The change in representation did not go without heartfelt comments made by all on the council.

When discussing Councilor Daniel's time in office, one word used most frequently by her colleagues was “empathy.” Councilor Liz Hensley thanked Daniel for her “empathy and fairmindedness,” as did Councilor Vigil and Mayor Ty Coleman.

Councilor Dawn Krebs expressed gratitude to Daniel for



Photo by Heather Sanchez

Alamosa City Clerk Holly Martinez administers the oath of office to Jackie Vigil, Alamosa's new city councilor representing Ward 3.

“making [her] feel comfortable after being appointed to office.” Councilor Michael Carson thanked Daniel for “putting up” with him and for the amount of time she devoted to her role on city council.

“The city's losing a big asset with you leaving office,” he said.

Mayor Coleman described Daniel as “reliable, dependable, courageous” and, like others, kindhearted.

Councilor Griego praised Daniel for all she brought

to the council, including her background in mental health issues and professionalism in addressing complex and sometimes controversial topics.

For her part, Daniel, who was visibly and emotionally moved, praised the council for their “willingness to grow together.” She also praised the staff working at the city for the exemplary work they did.

“I've really appreciated my time on city council and all that I have learned,” she said.

■ See **VIGIL** page 3

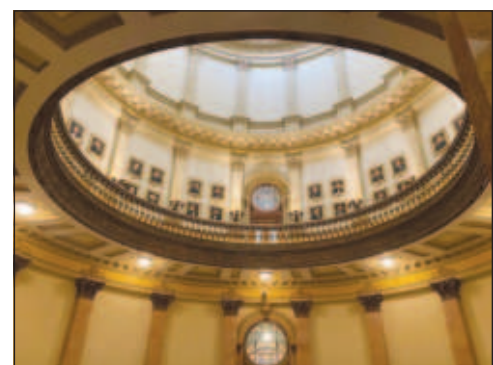


Photo by Quentin Young/Colorado Newswire
View up to the hall of presidents at the Colorado Capitol, April 19, 2023.

Colorado leaders appoint members to commission that could alter long-term property tax policy

Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske appointed

By SARAH WILSON
Colorado Newswire

DENVER— A commission set to begin work this month on brainstorming a solution to rising property tax bills in Colorado now has a full roster as state leaders complete their appointments.

The 19-member Commission on Property Taxation was born out of a recent special legislative session. As lawmakers worked over four hectic days to deliver short-term property tax relief for the current tax year, they also created the commission as a way to address the longer-term issue.

Colorado legislators went back to the Capitol in November after the defeat of Proposition HH, a Democrat-led ballot measure that would have cut residential

■ See **LEADERS** page 3

Launching 2023 Christmas toy, coat and food drive

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Between 400 and 500 people gathered at Alamosa High School stadium Wednesday night to celebrate the holiday season and help launch this year's toy, coat and food drive.

The annual, community-driven event known as “St. Nick at the Bricks” was first started eight years ago by the Alamosa Alumni Association, an organization founded by former educator Jerry Reed, and hosted

in partnership with the Five Star Riders Car Club, Ef's Restaurant and Cooking Away with Mama Ray.

The atmosphere was definitely festive as kids wrote letters to Santa, took “Selfies with Santa” and decorated cookies. All who came were also treated to bowls of Mama Ray's famous posole along with hot chocolate and biscuchitos, served by five cheerful students from Ortega Middle School who are involved in activities with Shooting Stars Cultural and Leader-

■ See **DRIVE** page 3



Selfies with Santa.

Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

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Record

OBITUARIES

Anita Cordova



Monte Vista resident Anita Cordova, 74, died Dec. 4, 2023, at the Evergreen Nursing Home in Alamosa.

Anita was born to Candelario Garza and Anna Cuellar Garza on July 23, 1949, in Fort Lupton, Colo. When she was 17 years old, she married the love of her life, Arthur Eloy Cordova in Leadville, Colo.

Anita worked at several jobs throughout the years, including driving bus, and working as a Clerk for Valley-Wide Health Systems. She was a gardener and loved spending time outdoors and in her yard.

Anita was a very kind and giving person who loved to help anyone. She was an active Jehovah's Witness and enjoyed sharing bible thoughts to

and Rico Lopez; several great-grandchildren; her siblings Jake Garza, Josh Garza, John Garza, and Frances Garza, all of Bakersfield, Calif., and Rosa Ramirez of Alamosa, Colo.; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

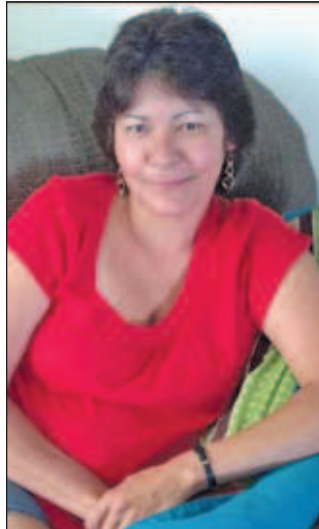
Anita was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Arthur, her granddaughter Brooke Medina, and her sisters Mary Barraza and Rita Aldaz.

many. She also enjoyed going to thrift stores.

Anita is survived by her children April Cordova of Monte Vista, Colo., and Anouk "Nikki" (Jonathan) Ferguson of Corpus Christi, Texas, her grandchildren Justin Mascarenas, Pete Medina, Kayla Sisneros,

Cremation was chosen and a Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes and remarks for Anita's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

Margaret Frances Gutierrez



MONTE VISTA — Our beloved Margaret Frances Gutierrez, 57, was called home on Nov. 29, 2023, surrounded by her loving family who never left her side. Margaret was welcomed into the world on April 16, 1966, the daughter of Danny Fred Lobato and Margaret Espinoza.

Margaret was united in marriage to the love of her life Patrick Gutierrez on March 9, 1986. They shared a long and loving union.

Margaret enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and daughters. She loved cooking, puzzles, worship music, and her pets. She also loved shopping, taking drives to the mountains.

Margaret was a very loving, caring, and generous soul. She was thankful for all the hands that touched her and for all God's strength and guidance through her journey. It's not the end, just the

beginning. Margaret will be missed dearly by all who knew her.

Her legacy will live on through her husband Patrick Gutierrez, daughters Tabitha Gutierrez of Alamosa, Colo., Mandy Gutierrez of Monte Vista, Colo., Patrice Gutierrez of Alamosa, Colo., son-in-law Jarren Archuleta of Monte Vista, Colo., three grandchildren; Darrien Archuleta-Gutierrez of Monte Vista, Colo., Kleeo Archuleta-Gutierrez of Monte Vista, Colo., Hai-

ley Grace Pino of Alamosa, Colo., one sister; Lucille "Mike" Adams, one brother; Wayne Espinoza. She is also survived by numerous cousins and friends.

Margaret was preceded in death by her father Danny Lobato, brothers; Rodney Northrip, and Dwayne Northrip, grandparents Margaret Espinoza, Abel Espinoza, aunts; Lorraine Atencio, Loyola DeHerrera, and Lucille Espinoza, uncles; Paul Espinoza, Frank "Pancho" Espinoza, and Nicholas Espinoza, father-in-law Tim Gutierrez, brother-in-law Tim Gutierrez Jr. as well as her fur baby's momma cat, and JoJo guns.

Services for Margaret will be held at a later date.

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



Courtesy photo

A private, twin-prop airplane veered off the runway while landing Wednesday afternoon at SLV Regional Airport. Neither the pilot nor the sole passenger was injured.

Plane veers off airport runway

STAFF REPORT ALAMOSA — A pilot and a sole passenger escaped injury about 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, when a small, twin-prop private plane went off the runway while landing at San Luis Valley Regional

Airport. First responders with the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Alamosa Fire Department (AFD) and Alamosa EMS responded to the call, as well as local law enforcement.

AFD Capt. Zach Cerny speculated that a rudder issue may have caused the plane to veer off the runway into the adjoining dirt.

Identification of the pilot and passenger was not available.

PENDING OBITUARY

Becky Owsley

Longtime Alamosa resident Becky Owsley, 77, died Dec. 7, 2023, at the Evergreen Nursing Home in Alamosa. Funeral Services are pending and will be announced through Rogers Family Mortuary.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

VALLEY — The San Luis Valley offers many Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous groups.

A.A. and N.A members primary purpose is to

stay sober and help other alcoholics/addicts to achieve sobriety.

There are AA and NA 12-Step Meetings throughout the valley. The 6th Tradition states that we are not affili-

ated with any outside organizations, but in the spirit of cooperation, we list these meeting schedules for friends and family. For information, call 719-937-5083 or see our website: slvaa.org

COURIER OBITUARY POLICY

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

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

Chomans celebrate 50 years of marriage

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Chet and Linda Choman are celebrating their 50-year wedding anniversary this month. The couple met in 1970 when they were living in the same apartment complex in Lakewood and were married by Chet's uncle, Father Francis Ciaptacz, on Dec. 9, 1973, in Denver.

They moved to Alamosa shortly after, which has been their home ever since. Chet has been active in real estate in the San Luis Valley since the early 1970s, and together he and Linda built a thriving business in Colorado Realty and Land Company.

The couple have been active in several local charities throughout the years, with Chet being a founding member of La Puente Home. The two

are often found together at Sunday mass at Sacred Heart Church, followed by brunch and a quick nine holes on the golf course or birdwatching on their back deck. They also enjoy an annual escape from the Colorado cold to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Throughout their many decades together, Chet and Linda's greatest joy has been raising their family. They have set an unwavering example of love, kindness, and forgiveness for their three children, Daniel (Sandy) Choman, Marie (Nick) Whitehead, and Sarah (Andy) Scherm. They have also shared many laughs, kisses, and words of wisdom with their eight grandchildren (Brianna, Daniel, Layla, Samuel, Zosia, Elouise, Theodore, and Darby).

The couple will be celebrating their golden anniversary in Punta de Mita, Mexico this winter.

School Menu
Friday
December 8, 2023

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Valley News

Leaders

Continued from Page 1

and commercial property tax rates over a decade. They passed seven bills, including a bill to cut the property tax rate to 6.7% for 2023, another bill for \$30 million in emergency rental assistance, and another bill to establish the commission.

The commission's purpose is to "identify, consider, and evaluate legislative options for a permanent and sustainable property tax structure for the state," according to the bill's legislative declaration. That means coming up with ideas that soften the rise in property taxes while making sure local governments and public schools, which rely on that tax revenue, are able to operate.

Colorado homeowners are facing sharp rises in their property tax bills as home values increase, especially since voters repealed the Gallagher Amendment in 2020. That amendment prevented property taxes from rising too quickly, but it created local budgetary burdens.

The makeup of the commission shifted during the

legislative process, but the final iteration includes more local voices — there are five county commissioners from different parts of the state, up from the two included in the original version of the bill. People who serve on the bipartisan committee will have substantial influence on the state's property tax landscape for years to come if their ideas make it through the legislative process.

"The appointments I made to the bipartisan Commission on Property Tax bring a wealth of knowledge to this policy space and are well-aligned with the different needs of Coloradans living around the state, including in our mountain towns and low-income communities. Addressing the rising cost of living is a top priority for Colorado Democrats and this commission is an important step toward making it easier to not only live in our beautiful state, but thrive," House Speaker Julie McCluskie, a Dillon Democrat, said in a statement.

Appointments for most of the seats were made by legislative leaders from both parties. Gov. Jared Polis made two appointments and groups representing

impacted communities, like schools and local governments, made the others.

These are the members of the commission:

- Lori Laske, an Alamosa County commissioner. She was appointed by Lundeen.

- Sen. Chris Hansen, a Democrat from Denver. Hansen was a prime sponsor on the main property tax relief bill passed during the special session in November, as well as the bill that laid the groundwork for Proposition HH. He was appointed by Senate President Steve Fenberg, a Democrat.

- Rep. Chris deGruy Kennedy, a Democrat from Lakewood who also serves as speaker pro tempore in the House. He also sponsored the special session property tax relief bill and the bill from earlier this year that became Proposition HH. He was a vocal and visible advocate for the passage of Proposition HH. He was appointed by McCluskie.

- Sen. Mark Baisley, a Republican from Sedalia. He was a prime sponsor of a successful bipartisan bill earlier this year that more easily allows local governments to provide temporary property tax relief. He

was appointed by Senate Minority Leader Paul Lundeen, a Republican.

- Rep. Lisa Frizell, a Republican from Castle Rock. Frizell also sponsored the bipartisan local property tax reduction bill, as well as a bill to create a property tax exemption for charitable low-income housing. In a statement, Frizell said that she hopes the commission can "finally produce bipartisan solutions to this complicated and important issue." She was appointed by House Minority Leader Mike Lynch, a Republican.

- Andy Kerr, a current Jefferson County commissioner and former state lawmaker. He was appointed by Fenberg.

- Tamara Pogue, a Summit County commissioner. She was appointed by McCluskie.

- Chris Richardson, an Elbert County Commissioner. He was appointed by Lynch.

- Ann Terry, the executive director of the Special District Association.

- Bob Olme, the treasurer of the Colorado State Fire Chiefs and the support services chief for West Metro Fire Rescue.

- Brenda Dones, the Weld County assessor. She

was appointed by Gov. Jared Polis, a Democrat.

- Brett Johnson, the chief financial officer at Aurora Public Schools. He was appointed by the Colorado Association of School Executives.

- Cody Davis, a Mesa County commissioner. He was appointed by Polis.

- Guyleen Castriotta, the mayor of Broomfield. She was appointed by the Colorado Municipal League.

- JoAnn Groff, Colorado's property tax administrator

- Jonathan Cappelli, the executive director of the Neighborhood Development Collaborative, a coalition of Denver-area nonprofits that provide low income housing. He was appointed by McCluskie.

- Kevin Vick, the vice president of the Colorado

Education Association. He was appointed by Fenberg.

- Loren Furman, the president and CEO of the Colorado Chamber of Commerce. She was appointed by Lundeen.

- Sean Dougherty, a former Larimer County commissioner and realtor. He is on the legislative policy committee for the Colorado Association of Realtors. He was appointed by Lynch.

The commission will meet twice per month until March, when it will present its work and findings to the governor and Legislature. That gives lawmakers enough time to pass a potential bill or package of bills the commission recommends. Lawmakers head back to the Capitol for the 120-day regular lawmaking term in January.

Vigil

Continued from Page 1

When council turned their attention to Councilor Griego, there were equally heartfelt words of praise, many of which focused on Griego's commitment to his constituents and making sure their voices were heard.

Councilor Daniel said, "It was more than an honor to work with you and I appreciate the context you bring to discussions."

Councilor Hensley thanked Griego for reaching out to her when she was elected, adding, "There are two things I've learned from you — even when we disagree, we can still come together and your voice in always speaking up for Ward Three. That's something we can all learn to do more."

Councilor Carson said that Griego had "always been a mentor" and has "set an example."

Krebs said that Griego showed her how to lead with kindness and heart.

Vigil, who said Griego is "like a father" to him, said he admired Griego's passion for Ward 3 and his being a champion for "the poor and those who are sometimes shunned by others."

Mayor Coleman said he "wouldn't be on council if not for Griego" and others, and referred to him as a historian who gave guidance to the council through tough times.

When it was his turn to speak, Griego repeated something he has often said in council meetings.

"To do this job is not just one person, it takes a team," he said.

He then praised other "team" members on the council and promised to "still be sitting in and listening" to council meetings with an indication that he might offer his opinion on things a time or two in the future.

With those parting comments, Councilors Daniel and Griego vacated their seats on the council, signaling an end to one era and the beginning of another.

Griego

Continued from Page 1

celebrate a person who has served his community for forty years — forty years, Mayor Pro Tem Griego; the way he measures his term on council is, 'Well that was about five public works directors before, ...we have been truly blessed and honored to have Mayor Pro Tem Griego here on council because he has brought a lot of wisdom, knowledge, professionalism and class to the role that he has. Tonight, we are going to celebrate him and present a plaque.

The plaque presented to Griego reads, "Thank you for the 40 years you have served as City Councilman representing the 3rd Ward of the City of Alamosa. Your presence has helped shape Alamosa into the city it has become today, 1983 to 2023."

Griego said, "Thank you for everyone who has come down, this is going to be a tough time to stand up here and not say goodbye, but to leave the council. I want to thank Ward 3, the people of Ward 3 who have support-

ed me for all these years. I've gone through ten elections, if you want to make it sound a little longer, that is four decades of city government. At any time, they could have gotten someone to run against me."

Griego continued his thanks, "This is not just one person, it is not just Charlie Griego, this is a team effort. It takes all seven members of this council to make this city move forward, and I've been fortunate to work with a lot of great, great, people." Griego then offered his gratitude to dozens of people he has worked with over the decades. He invited many past members of the council to the reception so he could thank them. Griego also thanked the many regional municipalities in the region he has worked with.

In thanking his family Griego said, "My brother Val, we were in business for 37 years, because of him that all of this was possible, and do all this council stuff... my wife [Janice], yesterday, we just celebrated 45 years of marriage... when you have some tough meetings and you come home and she was there to



Courier photo by John Waters

Alamosa City Council Chambers were packed with well-wishers for longtime Council Member Charlie Griego at a reception in his honor on Dec. 6.

listen, and never telling me to quit or give up, just find a way to solve it. Without my wife, I think she even had me win a couple of elections because everyone knew her.

"We live in a great, great community, we all have our issues, and we always seem to come together and find a way to figure out those issues. And with our Lord Jesus Christ on our side, we'll continue to find ways to work together."

After Griego spoke, Coleman passed around a microphone and allowed anyone in the room to speak and give thanks to Griego and many did so. His niece,

Sophia Griego said, "For all the years he has served on city council, I know that his motivation has been for the people and also for the youth...I thank you as my uncle, and I thank you as councilman for getting us these things that now my children get to enjoy, things that I got to enjoy, things to appreciate on our side of town, and also for being an inspiration to do the things and work towards the things that you believe in no matter what the obstacles or where you come from, no matter what limitations there are in our life, just to fight for it and believe in it."



Photos by Priscilla Waggoner

Serving up the biscuchitos, behind the table left to right: Elijah Cardenas, Christian Gamboa and Jamie Dominguez.

Drive

Continued from Page 1

ship Center in Alamosa.

"I think it shows what's possible when a community comes together for each other," says Jamie Dominguez, board member of Alamosa Alumni Association, founder of Five Star Riders Car Club, co-founder of Shooting Stars Cultural and Leadership Center and owner of Ef's Restaurant.

The organizations are asking for gift donations, including toys for both boys and girls and gifts for teenagers such as socks, beanies, sweaters and gloves. The request is that all gifts be new and unwrapped.

They are also hosting a coat drive — preferably new coats in all sizes. Used

coats are welcome as long as they are in very good condition with no tears or stains.

The group is also hosting a food drive for the holidays, specifically non-perishable goods.

For those who would prefer to donate cash, both cash and checks are being accepted at Shooting Stars Cultural and Leadership Center located at 900 Ross Avenue in Alamosa.

The deadline for donations is Dec. 20, to get gifts compiled and distributed by Christmas. All donations should be dropped off at Shooting Stars Cultural and Leadership Center, open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Ef's Restaurant, 1227 Railroad Ave., open Wednesday through Sunday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Students from Ortega Middle School handed out biscuchitos and holiday cheer at the toy, food and coat drive Wednesday night. Left to right, back row: Cristalray Dominguez, Christian Gamboa (OMS-eighth grade) and Liliana Castro (OMS-seventh grade). Front row: Esmeralda Francisco (OMS-sixth grade), Julian Silva (OMS-seventh grade) and Elijah Cardenas (OMS-seventh grade).



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Notice of Request for Bids to Manage Six Center Pivot Irrigated Fields Planted to Drought Tolerant Species

Subdistrict No. 4 of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District is seeking bids to maintain sprinklers, chop/mow weeds, as needed, and manage irrigation to establish a drought tolerant species mix on six quarters north of Moffat. Bidders should itemize bids and should include the costs: To chop weeds and oats on three fields planted in 2024 with a minimum stubble height of 4-5 inches 40-50 days after planting (August), To manage irrigation on all six fields in consultation with the Subdistrict for the 2024 irrigation season. To maintain and perform routine repairs on all six sprinklers Bidder will be responsible for irrigation for the entire irrigation season. Irrigation scheduling will be dependent upon direction of the Subdistrict and their consultants. Bids should also include a description of the equipment to be used for mowing/chopping and the bidders experience. The Subdistrict will be responsible for the costs of water, electricity, meters, sprinkler parts and major sprinkler repairs. For further questions and details please contact Chris Ivers at 719-589-6301 or chris@rgwcd.org. Proposals will be accepted through January 19th, 2024, and may be submitted in person or by mail to 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO, 81101, or by e-mail to chris@rgwcd.org.

Notice of Request for Bids to Plant Three Center Pivot Irrigated Fields to Drought Tolerant Species

Subdistrict No. 4 of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District is seeking bids to plant a drought tolerant species mix on three quarters north of Moffat (approx. 360 acres). Bids should include the costs to drill the seed mix into each field between mid-June and the Fourth of July. Bids should include a description of the equipment to be used and bidders experience. When reviewing bids priority will be first given to grass drills with pickers, second to no-till drills with adequate depth control, and third to double disc drills. For further questions and details please contact Chris Ivers at 719-589-6301 or chris@rgwcd.org. Proposals will be accepted through January 19th, 2024, and may be submitted in person or by mail to 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO, 81101, or by e-mail to chris@rgwcd.org.

Notice of Request for Proposal to Lease Six Well and Sprinkler Irrigated Small Grain Quarters

Subdistrict No. 4 of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District is seeking proposals to lease six quarters north of Moffat, with options for renewal. The fields can be leased in groups of two or larger. Proposals for annual crops will be accepted, with the goal of the lease being to maintain soil health and stability. Each field is subject to a 180 acre-foot pumping limitation. The fields are being leased as they are, any soil or dirt work needed will be the responsibility of the lessee. Lessee will be responsible for subdistrict fees, utilities, and the first \$2,000.00 of repairs per season. For questions, further details, including a map, or to set up a time to view the quarters please contact Chris Ivers at 719-589-6301 or chris@rgwcd.org. Proposals will be accepted through January 19th, 2024, and may be submitted in person or by mail to 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO, 81101, or by e-mail to chris@rgwcd.org.

Opinion

Week from Hell

Wow, it's been a challenging week for Ol' Dutch and I suppose for Miss Trixie, too, having to put up with my constant whining about all the things that went wrong.

But I am not alone in this life struggle as Moon Doggey and Gidget have told me all the things that they have had to fix just recently in their home. It seems if it's not one thing it's another. And I think probably most of you can relate to that, too.

I remember when I built my first house back in Bedrock in the Stone Age and within a few months I was having to fix things. I complained to my Dad, Fast Freddy, and he sadly told me that owning a house is like that. And so it seems life is as well.

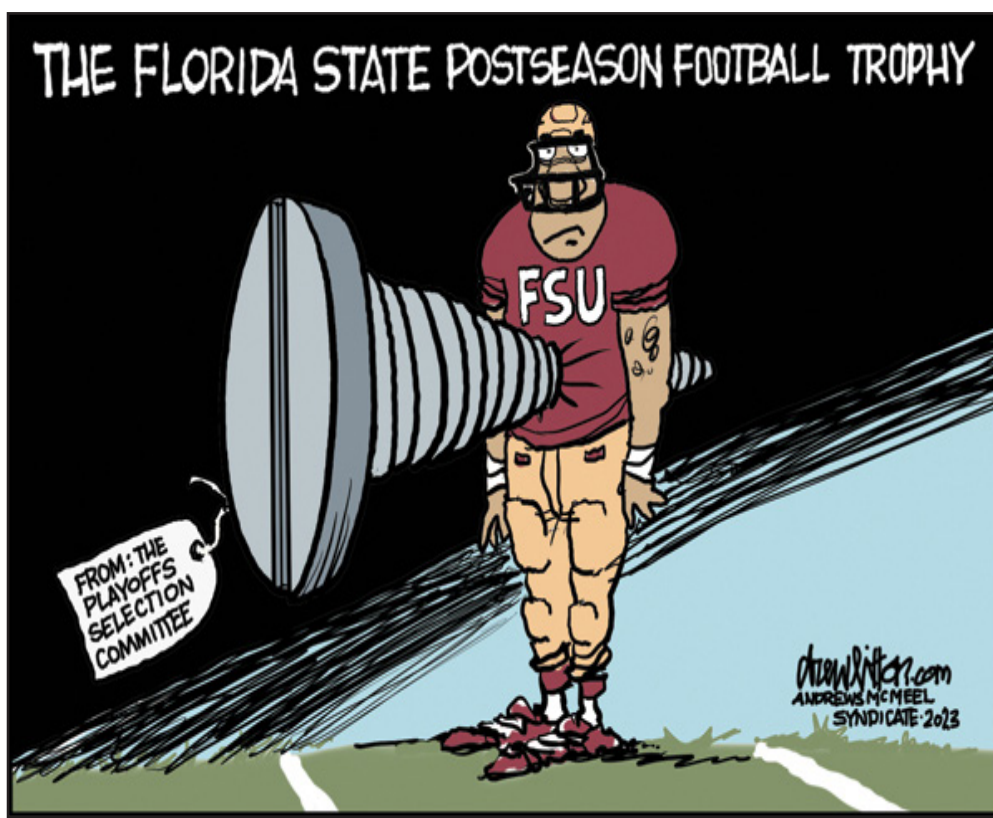
Things just come along, and we are forced to deal with them or check into the local looney bin and let someone else make all the decisions. I guess I will have to man-up and face the music here and just move along as I am not sure the nut house will even take me since they have downsized and turned most of the whackos loose. Some people already believe that's where Ol' Dutch came from but don't start that this morning, please.

Thankfully, I have insurance to cover the fender-bender I had with the big brute trailer I pull. I am usually so careful with that thing in town but the other guy parked at an angle while I was in the store and didn't see him coming out. One scratched bumper later.

Trout Republic



by Kevin Kirkpatrick



And also thankful for actually looking at my water bill rather than discarding it to the email trash bin as it was super high although it should not have been. A call to the local water outfit informed me something was running full force when nothing was on. Oh boy.

So Miss Trixie and I dowsed our way across a 20-acre pasture with two welding rods and after a while we found the leak out in the middle of nowhere. If you have never used two metal rods to find water lines, sewer lines, electrical lines, graves, buried treasure, or anything else underground, it does work. I am not sure how but it has something to do with the disturbed earth and magnetic fields, I guess. An old timey water-witcher I am not, but I can find about anything else you may want to locate if I try.

So anyhow, with Miss Trixie as my ground man or woman as you would have it, we dug that up with the trusty

big iron backhoe I have and within the day had clean potable water once again at the Ponderosa.

Ol' Dutch had just settled into some form of comfort when a baby calf got sick and that has been a mess yet to be resolved with her spending the nights in our bathtub to keep her warm. And of course if she lives will probably have to bottle feed her for some four months which means having to be here every day most of the day.

As you may have heard we started building a house which means Ol' Dutch is building a house by himself. I really do not mind but let me tell you doing it at 67 and not 27 is a lot different animal so to speak. I have gotten a lot done and the foundation is all ready for the floor to be put on next as soon as I get a spare moment. But all that action and the previously mentioned activity has resulted in a drop in my bank account and that

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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."

never is good for Ol' Dutch.

Seeing that go down, down, down is discouraging but I am thankful that I have a good pension too so there is that. So as you can see I am trying my best today to look at the bright side of life in light of all the things that did go wrong and yes, we have food and heat and family so life is wonderfully good.

If you, too, are struggling with the daily things that seem to test your resolve, step back and count your blessings. For as all my female friends always tell me. It could be worse, you could be hitched to Ol' Dutch.

And the world laments, "Poor Miss Trixie."

Kevin Kirkpatrick and his Yorkie, Cooper, fish, hunt, ATV or hike daily. His email is Kevin@TroutRepublic.com. Additional news can be found at www.troutrepublic.com.

100 Years Ago in the San Luis Valley December 1923

By BARBARA KRUSE

SAN LUIS VALLEY—Both the Alamosa Courier and the Monte Vista Tribune issued very attractive Christmas editions in December 1923. The papers were covered with Christmassy designs illustrated on 12–14 pages, in color, on good paper.

Gift suggestions from the Smart Shop: For men, Mahjong sets, linen handkerchiefs, and writing paper. There were many more suggestions for women, powder and rouge, garters, a corsage, Italian jet beads, silver mesh bag, string of pearls, or French perfume. For children- dainty little vanity bag, baby pearls.

No woman has as much silverware and cut glass as she would like. Supply her wants now at Ditto's store big sale. J.C. Penny advertised a handsome collection of useful gifts which makes their store ideal and practical for thrifty holiday buyers. Or give her something electrical. Electric iron \$7.25, percolator \$9.00, electric washer \$145, motor-driven brush vacuum sweeper \$50, floor lamp \$3.50, and a phonograph \$100.00.

Mistletoe and holly 60 cents. Plum or Fig Pudding- 50 cents/can.

Interestingly the December 1923 paper featured an article entitled "Thirty-Five Years Ago on this Date", which would make it the year 1888. Travelers Insurance was putting the finishing touches on the Blanca Hotel in Monte Vista with a new roof almost finished. The hotel promises to be the commercial and agricultural center of the SLV. The very first school board meeting in Monte Vista was held at a private residence. Six months of school was held that year in a rented building with one teacher.

In Pagosa Springs, hot spring water was piped into the Post Office and Montray building radiators, and they were now enjoying heat furnished by Mother Nature. Pagosa Springs schools were closed due to a serious epidemic of scarlet fever. Public gatherings were also prohibited taking much of the joy out of the holiday season for the people there. Meanwhile, a Pagosa Springs cattleman was rounding up yearlings when his horse fell just as he was about to swing

his lariat over his head. When the horse regained his footing, he ran 125 yards which caused the lariat to grow taunt around the rider's neck. Fortunately, his nephew was able to follow the horse into the willows and release his uncle. The last report said he would recover.

Two cases of asphyxiation were reported in the December editions. A mechanic, McClain Thayer, employed in Del Norte, was overcome by motor exhaust and died from the effects. Thayer was working on a car belonging to Ralph Ellithorpe. When Mr. Ellithorpe came to the garage the next morning, he discovered Thayer unconscious. Nineteen-year-old Thayer passed away later that afternoon. The Monte Vista County Clerk narrowly escaped from being asphyxiated from gas that leaked out of the heater in his Buick sedan. They were on the road between La Jara and Alamosa when the driver lost consciousness. A passenger grabbed the wheel, stopped the car, and rubbed snow on the driver's face and he regained consciousness. Once in Alamosa, he suffered a second relapse in a res-

taurant. He was treated and returned home after a day in the hospital.

"RSVP is not used much these days because people are supposed to have the politeness to answer invitations without having to be asked."

A man accused of selling hooch to Monte Vista high school boys on two occasions got off with a light fine of \$100.00. "A self-respecting decent bootlegger would not sell booze to kids."

Total enrollment at Colorado University that fall quarter was 2,522. Nine students were from Monte Vista out of 2,033 from Colorado. The remainder of the students were from 42 states and 6 foreign countries.

Much criticism of Governor Sweet for pardoning a man who committed cold-blooded murder of a saloon keeper in Alamosa. This is proof conclusive to the people of the SLV that Sweet is unfit to occupy a position of executive privilege.

"A man may smile and bid you well yet wish you with the devil. But when a good dog wags his tail, you know he's on the level."

LETTER

Frustrated with Alamosa City Manager Heather Sanchez

Editor,
We are frustrated with Alamosa City Manager Heather Sanchez and feel she should be let go.

We have lived here for 75-plus years and don't agree with the homeless agenda that has been pushed by Sanchez and La Puente. We are disappointed in the City Council for not putting the brakes on this.

We are frustrated by all the homeless here and all the taxpayer money, including grant money, that is being spent on them. There are so many people who do truly need help, but to enable so many

is wrong.

The city built a place for the homeless with free water, wi-fi, electricity, and even trash service that by our observations is not being used by them.

Another project is underway near the airport. It will be interesting to see what the people who fly into Alamosa say about this.

We have many questions about this project and how it will be managed. We feel this will be a drain on the city's finances.

Another issue we have is the narrow Main Street in Alamosa, another idea

from Sanchez that was backed by the council. We know of two semis versus car accidents and have heard about many close calls this summer alone. Many people will not drive down Main Street anymore to shop.

We believe the city has lost a lot of good people — chiefs, supervisors with the police department, street dept., water and sanitation dept., parks and rec dept. — because they do not like to work under Sanchez.

The City of Alamosa lost one of the best law enforcement officers — Chief Ken Anderson — since Ben Phillips was

Sheriff here. Anderson proved repeatedly he was committed to the safety of the city and his officers. But he felt he could not work with her any longer and left.

We are encouraged to see the City Council meeting with department heads, but we would like to see them go a step farther. Spend a day on the job with these employees, walk and talk with them with no threat of reprisal.

The council needs to get out and see and hear what is going on instead of Sanchez giving only her version. Remember she works for you ... you don't work for her!

Ed and Linda Teem
Alamosa County

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Publisher

Brian Williams
Managing Editor

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Lifestyles

New fuel facility finished at Monte Vista Municipal Airport

Ribbon cutting ceremony was held Nov. 29

By MARIE MCCOLM
MONTE VISTA — Approximately 40 people attended the ribbon cutting ceremony on Nov. 29 for the new fuel facility at the Monte Vista Municipal Airport.

A red ribbon was strung across the front of the new fueling station, and Monte Vista City Manager Gigi Dennis smiled and thanked everyone for attending the event, as she cut the ribbon with scissors.

The idea and design for the new facility began with an airport masterplan led by the Aviation Planning Group, LLC, in 2020. The new fuel facility was funded in part by a 90% grant from the Colorado Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics, \$334,723, with a 10% local match for the grant of \$37,191.

The new facility will provide the airport with a

contemporary 12,000-gallon self-service 100LL fuel tank. It will also improve the level of assistance the airport can give pilots.

At the ceremony there was a fly-over with some stunting led by the San Juan Pilots Association of Pagosa Springs. There were also several pilots who flew in just to attend the event.

Justin Heid and Leah Whitfield of the Aviation Planning Group were at the event and spoke about the airport, and about the new fueling facility.

“We are the co-founders of the company, and own the company,” Whitfield said. “We started working here at the airport and began the airport masterplan in 2018. We really looked at what the airport would need infrastructure-wise in 5, 10, 15, and 20 years. This was one of the projects that was identified through that airport masterplan. We finished the masterplan in early 2020.”

Whitfield said that it was great to start the

planning and then watch it come to life throughout the design and construction process.

Heid added, “This airport had one of the oldest fuel facilities in the state. This is just part of our modernization plan and building for the future. We are looking at being able to take this into the future, and carry this, as this fuel facility will last forever.”

Fixed Based Operator for the Airport Jed Ellithorpe said, “Today was a great day for Monte Vista. Our little airport was the focal point of efforts from many different people, all with one common goal, to make the airport better.”



Approximately 40 people attended the ribbon cutting ceremony on Nov. 29 for the new fuel facility at the Monte Vista Municipal Airport. Monte Vista City Manager Gigi Dennis, middle wearing a white jacket, cut the ribbon.

U.S. House Democrats and advocates push for additional federal childcare funding

By SAMANTHA DIETEL
Colorado Newswire

WASHINGTON — U.S. House Democratic leaders on Wednesday called on Congress to pass President Joe Biden’s \$16 billion supplemental childcare funding request.

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York and Whip Katherine Clark of Massachusetts gathered with childcare activists and other House Democrats at a press conference outside the U.S. Capitol.

Childcare providers with the Care Can’t Wait coalition discussed their support for the Biden administration’s supplemental funding request, which has not been acted upon yet in Congress.

The Care Can’t Wait coalition includes organizations such as the Service Employees International Union and Community Change Action.

Community Change Action is a group advocating for “low-income people, especially low-income people of color,” according to the organization’s website. Members of the coalition also spent the day lobbying lawmakers in a call for action on childcare funding.

Other Democrats showing support at the press conference included U.S. Reps. Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut, Suzanne Bonamici of Oregon, Lois Frankel of Florida, Sara Jacobs of California and Joaquin Castro of Texas.

With pandemic-era American Rescue Plan funds expiring, the White House requested that Congress pass \$16 billion in supplemental funds to help continue support for childcare providers.

This funding would “support more than 220,000 childcare providers across the country that serve a total of more than 10 million kids,” according to a November White House press release.

Jeffries said House Democrats will do “whatever it takes” to support childcare providers. He said Democrats will

“stand strongly and fight” for “the entire amount of funding.”

“We are going to continue to show up, we are going to continue to stand up, we are going to continue to speak up,” Jeffries said, “until we are able to secure here in the Congress \$16 billion in funding necessary to allow the childcare system to continue to function in a dignified fashion.”

Clark said that without this supplemental funding, “workers will be laid off, kids will lose their classrooms and parents will have nowhere to turn.”

DeLauro said many families are “accepting lower household income and a lower standard of living in order to stay home and take care of their children.”

Bonomici called for a bipartisan effort to pass the Biden administration’s supplemental childcare funding request.

“We must work together and save childcare because care can’t wait,” Bonamici said.

BriTanya Brown, a Community Change Action member and childcare provider from Texas, said she struggled to afford childcare for her own children.

“I couldn’t afford to put my children in care,” Brown said. “There were no care options available.”

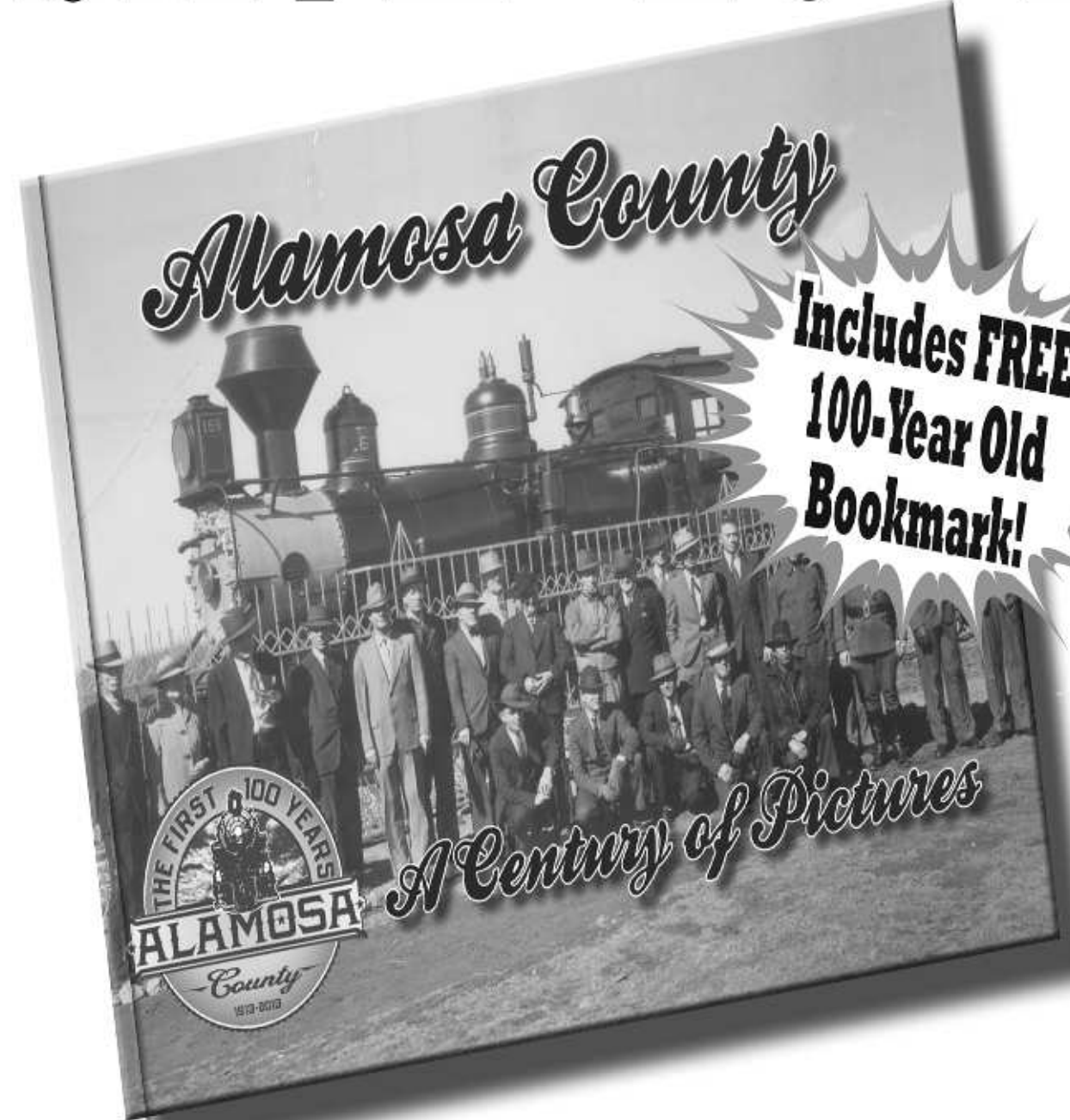
Brown said her limited options for childcare are because of a teacher shortage. Many teachers “do not have rising wages to support their own families,” Brown said.

Brown said it is important for children to have “an equal opportunity for the highest education.”

Maria Angelica Vargas, a childcare provider from California and SEIU member, said families struggle to get the “affordable childcare they need.”

“Let’s make sure families have access to affordable, high-quality childcare by investing in our childcare systems through additional emergency funding,” Vargas said.

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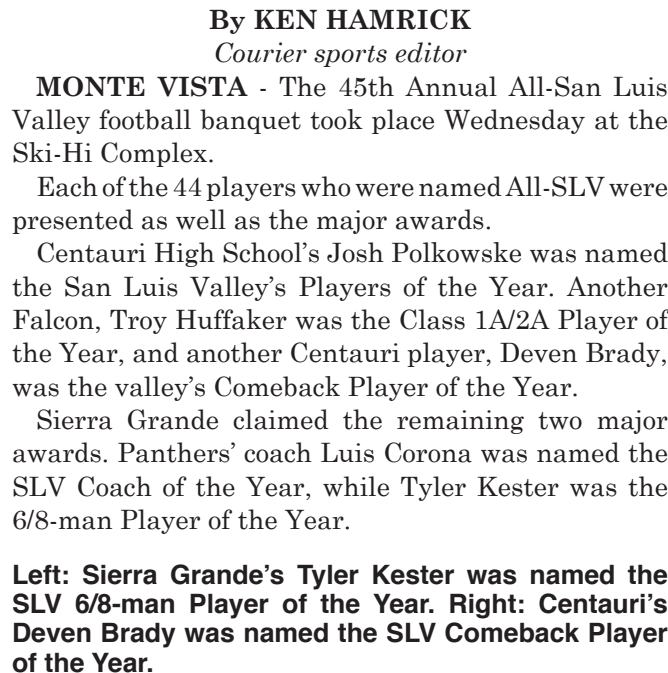
Sports

All-San Luis Valley football major awards



Left: Centauri High School's Josh Polkowse (right) was named the San Luis Valley Football Player of the Year at the All-SLV Football banquet Wednesday at the Ski-Hi Complex. Also pictured is former Monte Vista player Robert Siemering who was the Player of the Year in 1982. Center: Sierra Grande's Luis Corona (right) was named the SLV Coach of the Year. Also pictured is Dave Forster. Right: Centauri's Troy Huffaker was named the SLV Class 1A/2A Player of the Year.

Courier photos by Ken Hamrick



By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

MONTE VISTA - The 45th Annual All-San Luis Valley football banquet took place Wednesday at the Ski-Hi Complex.

Each of the 44 players who were named All-SLV were presented as well as the major awards.

Centauri High School's Josh Polkowske was named the San Luis Valley's Players of the Year. Another Falcon, Troy Huffaker was the Class 1A/2A Player of the Year, and another Centauri player, Devan Brady, was the valley's Comeback Player of the Year.

Sierra Grande claimed the remaining two major awards. Panthers' coach Luis Corona was named the SLV Coach of the Year, while Tyler Kester was the 6/8-man Player of the Year.

Left: Sierra Grande's Tyler Kester was named the SLV 6/8-man Player of the Year. Right: Centauri's Deven Brady was named the SLV Comeback Player of the Year.

ASU women wrestlers drop first two dual meets

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor
ALAMOSA - For the first time in program history, the Adams State University women's wrestling team competed in a dual meet Thursday at Plachy Hall gym. Two of them in fact.

The Lady Grizzlies hosted Colorado Mesa University and Texas Woman's University. Unfortunately, they lost both matches, falling to the Lady Mavericks 45-4 and then to the Lady Pioneers 28-13.

Holland won by a technical fall over Adriana Gomez at 116 pounds. The score was 12-1 and the time of the fall was at 3:21.

That would be ASU's only win.

Colorado Mesa won the next two matches by fall as Hania Halverson (123) pinned Bella Devoto in 3:53, and Kaydence Boyd (130) pinned Brianna Johnson in 1:10.

Holly Beaudoin won the 136-pound match by a technical fall over Trinity Perez. The final score was 10-0 and the time was 1:03.

Colorado Mesa won two more matches by fall. Valerie Glenn (143) pinned Madison Segó in 2:24, and Celina Cooke (155) pinned Miranda Sanchez in 2:01.

The Lady Mavericks won the last two matches by forfeit with Kimberly Carlin (170) and Shandiin Largo (191) picking up the victories.

Texas Woman's 28, Adams State 13

There was no match at 101 pounds, and the dual started with the teams exchanging forfeit wins. Sloan Stewart won at 109 for the Pioneers, and Taniel Espinoza won at 116 for ASU.

Devoto gave the Lady



Adams State University's Austria Holland (top) looks to turn Colorado Mesa's Adriana Gomez onto her back in the 109-pound match Thursday at Plachy Hall. Holland won the match by technical fall, but the Lady Grizzlies lost the dual meet 45-4. ASU also lost to Texas Woman's University 28-13.

Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

Grizzlies the lead as she won by a 4-0 decision over McKenzie England at 123. Perez then won the 130-pound match over Laisha Rios in 2:10.

Once again, ASU would be shut out the rest of the way.

Kira Phillips won at 136 by a 12-0 technical fall at the 2:04 mark. Poorna Babu pinned Segó in 2:47 at 143, and Nari Miller won by a technical fall over Sanchez at 155 by a score of 10-0 and at the 1:19 mark.

Hannah Vos (170) and

Faith Perez (191) closed out the meet with forfeit wins.

Adams State (0-2) will be in Chadron, Neb., on Sunday for dual meets against Chadron State and Minot State (N.D.).

Different scoring rules

Collegiate women's wrestling has several different scoring rules than that of the men.

The NCAA uses freestyle and Greco-Roman rules for the women.

Team scoring has a team picking up five

points for a win by fall, forfeit or injury default. Four points are awarded for a technical fall in which the match ends after at least a 10-point margin. Matches decided by 1-9 points result in a three-point decision, and matches consist of two three-minute periods with a 30-second break between periods.

In individual scoring, one point is awarded to a step-out, reversals, passivity and freestyle cautions. Two points are awarded for takedowns,

all turns, correct throws, Greco-Roman cautions and fleeing in danger. Four points are awarded for "feet to danger" throws, throws, grand amplitude throws that do not land in danger, and lifts plus rotation. Five points is for grand amplitude throws that do land in danger.

In the case of an individual draw, the match is decided by scoring criteria.

Breaks occur after a 10-second stalemate, and there are no wrestler positions.

Colorado Mesa 44, Texas Woman's 5 - 101 - Martinez (CMU) by forfeit; 109 - Gomez (CMU) tech. fall Stewart, 10-0, 3:00; 116 - Morales (CMU) by forfeit; 123 - Halverson (CMU) pinned Lozano, 0:35; 130 - Boyd (CMU) pinned Tipmanee, 0:44; 136 - Beaudoin (CMU) pinned Phillipa, 1:22; 143 - Babu (TWU) pinned Glenn, 1:43; 155 - Carlin (CMU) pinned Vos, 2:14; 170 - Cooke (CMU) pinned Miller, 1:21; 191 - Largo (CMU) pinned Perez, 2:41.

Colorado Mesa 45, Adams State 4 - 101 - Martinez (CMU) by forfeit; 109 - Morales (CMU) by forfeit; 116 - Holland (ASU) tech. fall Gomez, 12-1, 3:21; 123 - Halverson (CMU) pinned Devoto, 3:53; 130 - Boyd (CMU) pinned Johnson, 1:10; 136 - Beaudoin (CMU) tech. fall Perez, 10:0; 143 - Glenn (CMU) pinned Segó, 2:24; 155 - Cooke (CMU) pinned Sanchez, 2:01; 170 - Carlin (CMU) by forfeit; 191 - Largo (CMU) by forfeit.

Texas Woman's 28, Adams State 13 - 101 - no match; 109 - Stewart (TWU) by forfeit; 116 - Espinoza (ASU) by forfeit; 123 - Devoto (ASU) dec. England, 4-0; 130 - Perez (ASU) pinned Rios, 2:10; 136 - Phillipa (TWU) tech. fall Johnson, 12-0, 2:04; 143 - Babu (TWU) pinned Segó, 2:47; 155 - Miller (TWU) tech. fall Sanchez, 10-0, 1:19; 170 - Vos (TWU) by forfeit; 191 - Perez (TWU) by forfeit.

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD TUESDAY

College men's basketball
Fort Lewis 100, Adams State 80

College women's basketball
Adams State 76, Fort Lewis 56

THURSDAY

Prep boys basketball
Alamosa at Frontier Academy - no report
Del Norte at Buena Vista - no report
Prep girls basketball
Alamosa at Frontier

Academy - no report
Del Norte at Buena Vista - no report
Prep boys wrestling
Alamosa 53, Gunnison 24

Prep girls wrestling
Gunnison 24, Alamosa 21
College women's wrestling
Colorado Mesa 45, Adams State 4
Texas Women's 28, Adams State 13

SCHEDULE FRIDAY

Prep boys basketball
Primero at Creede, 1 p.m.
Sanford at Ignacio, 3:30 p.m.
Antonito at Cotopaxi, 4 p.m.
Moffat vs. Custer County (South Park Invitational), 4:30 p.m.
Alamosa vs. Platte Valley or Middle Park

(University Invitational), 5 p.m.
Salida at Centauri, 7 p.m.
Ellicott at Sierra Grande, TBA

Prep girls basketball
Primero at Creede, 1 p.m.
Moffat vs. West Grand (South Park Invitational), 3 p.m.
Alamosa vs. St. Mary's or Middle Park (University Invitational), 3:30 p.m.

Sanford at Ignacio, 3:30 p.m.
Antonito at Cotopaxi, 4 p.m.
Salida at Centauri, 5:30 p.m.
Ellicott at Sierra Grande, TBA
Prep boys wrestling
Alamosa, Del Norte at Delta Invitational, 9 a.m.
Center at Limon Invitational, TBA
Prep girls wrestling

Alamosa at Delta Invitational, 9 a.m.

College men's basketball
Colorado State Pueblo at Adams State, 7:30 p.m.

College women's basketball
Colorado State Pueblo at Adams State, 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Prep boys basketball
Moffat vs. South Park or West Grand (South Park Invitational), noon or 3 p.m.
Ignacio at Del Norte, 1 p.m.
Sierra Grande at Kim/Branson, 2 p.m.
Sangre de Cristo at Sargent, 4 p.m.
Alamosa at University Invitational, TBA
Prep girls basketball
Moffat vs. Mancos or South Park (South Park

Invitational), 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.

Custer County at Creede, 1 p.m.
Ignacio at Del Norte, 1 p.m.

The Vanguard at Centauri, 1 p.m.
Sierra Grande at Kim/Branson, 2 p.m.
Sangre de Cristo at Sargent, 4 p.m.

Alamosa at University Invitational, TBA

Prep girls swimming
Sargent at Arapahoe Relays, 12:30 p.m.
Prep boys wrestling
Alamosa, Del Norte at Delta Invitational, 9 a.m.
Antonito, Mountain Valley, Sierra Grande/Centennial at Rob Mickel Invitational (at Salida), 9 a.m.
Centauri, Sargent at Pueblo East Invitational, 9 a.m.
Center at Limon Invitational, 9 a.m.

Monte Vista at Palmer Ridge Invitational, 9 a.m.

Prep girls wrestling
Alamosa at Delta Invitational, 9 a.m.

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

College men's basketball
New Mexico Highlands at Adams State, 7:30 p.m.

College women's basketball
New Mexico Highlands at Adams State, 5:30 p.m.

College indoor track and field
Adams State at Western Colorado Open, TBA

Lifestyle

Saguache Holiday Bazaar brings community together

By MARIE MCCOLM SAGUACHE — It was a chilly but beautiful morning on Saturday, Dec. 2, as people and vendors began to fill the gymnasium at Mountain Valley School for the Saguache Holiday Bazaar. The event took place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The gym was decked out with lots of Christmas decorations, and Santa Claus also attended the event with his white and red hat, and black boots.

There were rows of tables just inside the gym with at least 20 vendors. One table had Christmas signs that had been hand painted with various jolly sayings like, "Santa Stop Here, we have cookies," "Baby it's Cold Outside," "Have Yourself a Merry little Christmas," and "Let it snow, Let it snow, Let is snow."

There was a table set up for the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program, where people could donate three nonperishable food items and enter to win a drawing for two gas cards that were worth \$25.

There was a long table filled with homemade goodies for purchase including cakes, pies, brownies, cookies, tortillas, Christmas cookies, fruit, pumpkin, and nut rolls, suckers, candied marshmallows and apple and peach cobblers.

Award-winning author of the "Corky Tails" series, Joni Franks, was at the event and said that everything was going well.

Children were in line to visit Santa. Each child was smiling and getting ready for their time with Santa. One small girl

named was in line and excited to ask Santa for a new brush set and a baby doll with a real baby bottle. Santa also gave some stuffed animals to the boys and girls in line. Parents took pictures of their children sitting with Santa.

The Saguache Sagebrush Quilters were at the event and had a big table set up with beautiful hanging handmade quilts. The Sagebrush Quilters provide comfort

quilts for community members who are ill or have lost someone and provide quilts to preschool through kindergarten children at Mountain Valley and Moffat schools.

"We have had a lot of people come down. We have been doing well. The sales and the tickets for the quilts have been wonderful, yes, they have been great. We have had a good turn out and things really picked up

when Santa came, too," said Pat Tullos of the Sagebrush Quilters.

Saguache resident Lyla Brooks said she and her kids were enjoying the event.

"My kids were in line to see Santa and were so excited," Brooks said.

"We have been living here almost 2 years now, and really appreciate the small town, lovely little festival that they have going here. I have done some Christmas shopping and probably gotten more sweets today than I need, but it's been fun. A

great way to spend time with your kids and family for the weekend for sure. This has drawn our community together for sure. I have seen lots of my friends here, it's just a sweet thing that Saguache has done. Very nice."



Photos by Marie Mccolm

The Mountain Valley School gymnasium was packed with vendors and shoppers during the Saguache Holiday Bazaar on Dec. 2.



The Saguache Sagebrush Quilters had a table at the Saguache Holiday Bazaar on Dec. 2 with plenty of handmade quilts. They were also raffling off a quilt.

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AUCTION LEGAL NOTICE WEST SIDE STORAGE, LLC / HEADWORKS, INC. SELF-STORAGE PUBLIC NOTICE

West Side Storage, LLC / Headworks, Inc. will sell at Public Auction Online via StorageTreasures.com, all personal property and the personal goods stored therein by the following, which may include, but are not limited to general household goods, furniture, boxes, clothes, and appliances stored in its facility by:

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

at 8:00 am, Friday morning December 15, 2023, online at StorageTreasures.com this auction will commence. Sale is subject to cancel in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.

No. 3690.
Published in the Valley Courier on November 29, December 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, & 12, 2023.

Request for Bids

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

No. 3692.
Published in the Valley Courier on December 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19, & 20, 2023.

TOWN OF CRESTONE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

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

Any interested elector of the local government may file any objection to the proposed budget at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget by the governing body. Comments on the proposed 2024 Budget to the Town Clerk in one of the following ways:

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

No. 3693.
Published in the Valley Courier on December 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, & 13, 2023.

CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

Ward Four City Councilor - The City of Alamosa is seeking applications to fill a vacancy in the office of City Councilor Ward 4. Interested applicants must be a qualified elector residing in Ward Four; at least 21 years of age; and have been a resident of the city of Alamosa for at least one year. Appointment will be made by City Council to fill the term expiring November 2025.

Council will interview applicants on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 and appoint that same date.

Letters of interest should be submitted to the City Clerk at 300 Hunt Avenue, P.O. Box 419 or cityclerk@ci.alamosa.co.us. Deadline for submissions is January 10, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

For additional information, please contact City Clerk, Holly Martinez, at (719) 589-2272.

No. 3697.
Published in the Valley Courier on December 5, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2023 & January 5, 2024.

District Court ALAMOSA County, Colorado

Court Address: 8955 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101
In the Matter of the Estate of WALTER RILEY PAULSON
Deceased
COURT USE ONLY
Gordon J. Bosa
202 Edison Avenue/PO Box 58
Alamosa, CO 81101
Phone Number: (719)589-6603
E-mail: bosalaw@gmail.com
Atty. Reg. #: 8905
Case Number: 2023PR30047
Division Courtroom
NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-12-801, C.R.S.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Walter Riley Paulson, Deceased
Case Number 2023PR30047
All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Alamosa, County, Colorado or Denver Probate Court of the City and County of Denver, Colorado on or before April 10, 2023 (date), or the claims may be forever barred.

Steven Kent Paulson
Type or Print name of Person Giving Notice
2654 Branding Iron Way
Address
Mead, CO 80542
City, State, Zip Code
No. 3704.
Published in the Valley Courier on December 8, 15, & 22, 2024.

Notice of Request for Proposals to Survey +/-420 Acres for Cultural and Archaeological Resources

Subdistrict No. 4 of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District is seeking proposals to conduct a surface survey to locate, identify, and if possible, date cultural and archaeological resources on approximately 420 acres in Saguahe County Colorado. Proposals should include an itemized description of the cost to perform the field work and generate reports as well as a timeline for completion. The successful bidder will be responsible for conforming with all local, state, and federal laws and must be willing to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement with the District and or Subdistrict. For further questions and details, including maps and a shapfile, please contact Chris Ivers at 719-589-6301 or chris@rgwcd.org. Proposals will be accepted through December 18th, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. and may be submitted in person or by mail to 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO, 81101, or by e-mail to chris@rgwcd.org.

No. 3705.
Published in the Valley Courier on December 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, & 16, 2023.

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PERSON, or TEAM, wanted for a 12 unit apartment complex in DEL NORTE, CO. Duties include but not limited to office paperwork, cleaning, minor plumbing, minor electrical, drywall repair, painting, and grounds keeping. Fax or email a letter of interest and/or resume to 712-274-1230 or nnieman@landmarkmanagement.com. Equal Employment Opportunity. (12/22/23AS)

EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR: JOIN us and make an impact! Executive Coordinator wanted at SAN LUIS VALLEY LOCAL FOODS COALITION. Manage budgets, fundraising, and projects for a dynamic nonprofit fostering local food equity. Bilingual English/Spanish preferred. 32 hrs/week, \$25/hr. Benefits include PTO, holidays, health/dental insurance, and more. Send your Resume and Cover Letter to opportunity.slvlocalfoods@gmail.com. For more information, visit our website at www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/ (12/24AS)

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)

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)

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

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)

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Hey Kids!

Santa is waiting for your letters...




The Valley Courier will print your letters to Santa in our special holiday section and then send them on to the North Pole.

WRITE TO SANTA CLAUS IN CARE OF THE VALLEY COURIER AND LOOK FOR YOUR LETTER ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

Deadline is noon December 13th

Please send your letters to:

Letters to Santa
c/o Valley Courier
PO Box 1099
Alamosa, CO 81101



Valley Courier

173 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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

CONEJOS COUNTY IS seeking a full-time GRANT SPECIALIST. Primary functions will be to research, obtain, write, monitor, and administer grants for Conejos County. Will be responsible for ensuring all compliance with Federal and State regulations as it relates to grants. Excellent writing ability that is clear, concise and analytical preferred. Must be able to meet deadlines, be self-motivated and have strong computer skills. Salary \$45,000-\$50,00 DOE. Applications can be obtained on our website: conejoscounty.colorado.gov or you can email critic@co.conejos.co.us. Applications accepted until filled. Inquiries call 719-376-6799. (12/16/23)

221 - HELP WANTED

ALAMOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT is now accepting applications for the following position: LONG TERM FLOATING SUBSTITUTE TEACHER OMS (Second Semester). Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org/> For more information, contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600 or tvigil@alamosaschools.org. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (12/15/23)

ALAMOSASCHOOL DISTRICT IS accepting applications for the 2023-2024 School Year. INSTRUCTIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL at AES 3-5. Applications are available online at <http://alamosa.k12.co.us>. For more information, please contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (12/16/23)

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for multiple CUSTODIAN I positions in the Facilities Services Department. Starting salary for this position is \$3,160 per month. For application or more information, please see <https://www.adams.edu/hr/employment/> . AA/EOE. (12/13/23AS)

Classifieds



Lunch Break.
We're There.

Valley Courier
To Subscribe, Call 589-2553

221 - HELP WANTED

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

DELOSS INDUSTRIES IN ALAMOSA is Hiring Full-Time, 40 Hours Per Week, Wages 24 to 40 Dollars Per Hour. Looking to hire: **EQUIPMENT MECHANICS, MECHANICS HELPER, WELDERS and MACHINIST**. The mechanics helper will be paired with a mechanic in the shop. Primary equipment serviced and maintained are forklifts and materials handling related equipment. This is a full-time position, 40 hours per week. Paid vacation and sick leave. Health insurance may be provided. Pay rate is 24 to 40 dollars per hour, depending on experience. Tools are provided. Must have clean driving record, CDL is a plus. Must pass drug test and background check. Must have stable work history. This is a career opportunity with a stable company that has been in the Valley for 36 years. Shop is located in Alamosa, CO. Call 719-589-3213 for interview or send resume to DelossJohn@aol.com. (1/13/23AS)

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)

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

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)

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)

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3 Ways To Advertise Valley Classifieds 589-2553

Plan ONE

Guaranteed Ad - \$24.00

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

Plan TWO

Multiple Location - \$5.00

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

Plan THREE

Free Ad

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

1. Private parties only.
2. Ad must be 20 words or less.
3. Price must be listed.
4. No yard or garage sales run free.
5. Multiple items in 1 ad may not equal more than \$50.00.

CLIP OUT AND MAIL

VALLEY COURIER
P.O. Box 1099,
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Please Check One

PLAN 1 __ **PLAN 2** __ **PLAN 3** __
SKIP A SPACE BETWEEN WORDS

AD COPY

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Save on Fuel Shop Locally

420-LOTS & ACREAGES

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

426-MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

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

525-GUNS

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

601-APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

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 inquiries only. Text 719-849-1722. (12/16/23AS)

713-PICKUP TRUCKS

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

307-APPLIANCES

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

324-SEED & FEED

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

NATIVE GRASS HAY for sale.

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

HORSE HAY \$9/BALE; COW/GOAT HAY \$4.50 per bale.

719-274-0380. (12/29/23AS)

345-WOOD

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

353-FARM & LIVESTOCK

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

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

360-MISC. FOR SALE

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

362-HOME FURNISHINGS

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

368-PETS & SUPPLIES

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

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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Not very busy
 - 5 Navigation aid
 - 8 Charity
 - 12 Domesticated
 - 13 "— you for real?"
 - 14 Water-filled trench
 - 15 Proof
 - 17 Domed house
 - 18 Butter serving
 - 19 Bottle
 - 20 Auctioneer's exclamation
 - 21 Muffles
 - 23 Brake part
 - 26 Yield, as territory
 - 27 Sales agent
 - 30 Intended
 - 32 Composition for piano
 - 34 — suzette
 - 35 "Thinker" sculptor
- DOWN**
- 1 Pace
 - 2 Kind of lamp
 - 3 Leave unmentioned
 - 4 Join
 - 5 Lunatic
 - 6 Where gamers assemble
- 36 Range of vision**
- 37 Headgear**
- 41 "— face it"**
- 42 Completely wrecked, as a car**
- 44 Engrave**
- 47 Iridescent stone**
- 48 NZ bird**
- 51 Bellow**
- 52 Elite U.S. commando at sea (2 wds.)**
- 54 Lazy**
- 55 Storm's center**
- 56 Saucy**
- 57 Nat King —**
- 58 Feeling down**
- 59 — Domini**

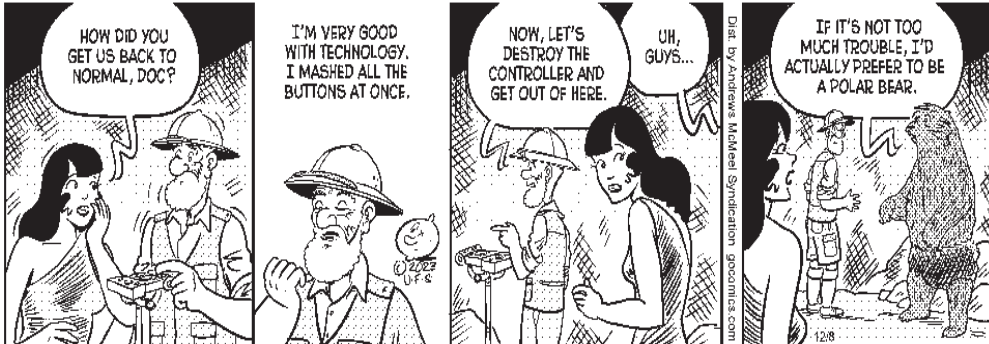
Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 7 Skinned
- 8 Wrongly
- 9 Corporate emblem
- 10 Where shoppers assemble
- 11 Tire cleat
- 16 "All About —"
- 21 Profound
- 22 — -do-well
- 23 Dismiss
- 24 Charter
- 25 Sign
- 27 Ill-mannered
- 28 Redact
- 29 Animal enclosures
- 31 Design style
- 33 Narrated
- 38 Makes expiation
- 39 Tropical fruit
- 40 Toiled
- 42 Playing card
- 43 Isle of —
- 44 Guitarist
- 45 Kerfuffle (hyph.)
- 46 Christen
- 48 Sharp
- 49 Bring home the bacon
- 50 Palo —
- 53 Resort

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
				13				14			
				16				17			
				19				20			
			21				22				
		23	24	25		26			27	28	29
				31			32	33			
							35				
				37	38	39	40		41		
			42					43			
44	45	46			47				48	49	50
					52				53		
					55				56		
					58				59		

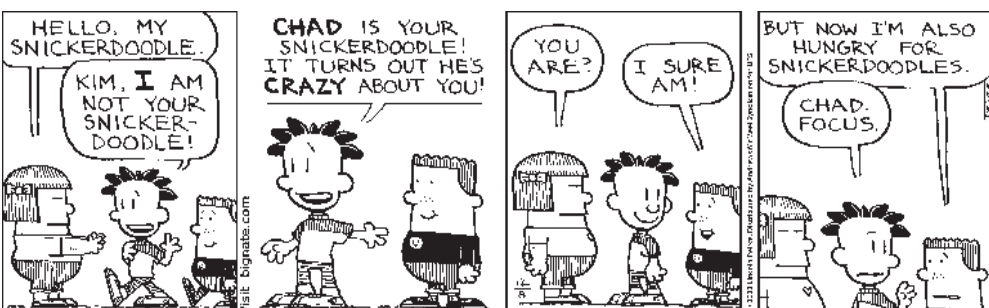
ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



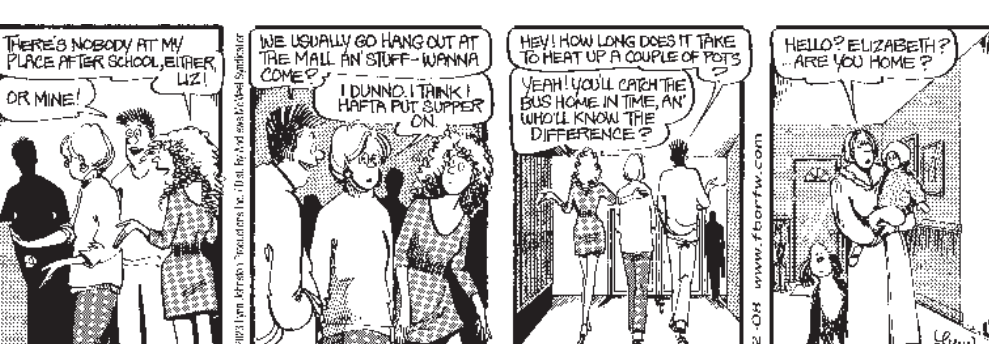
BIG NATE



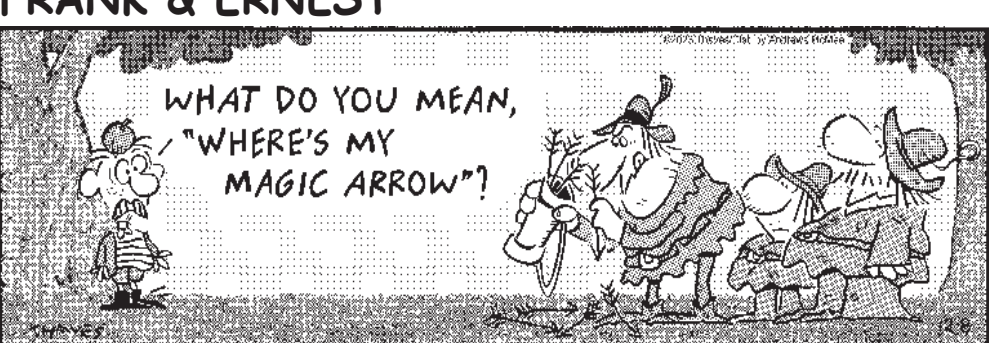
THE BORN LOSER



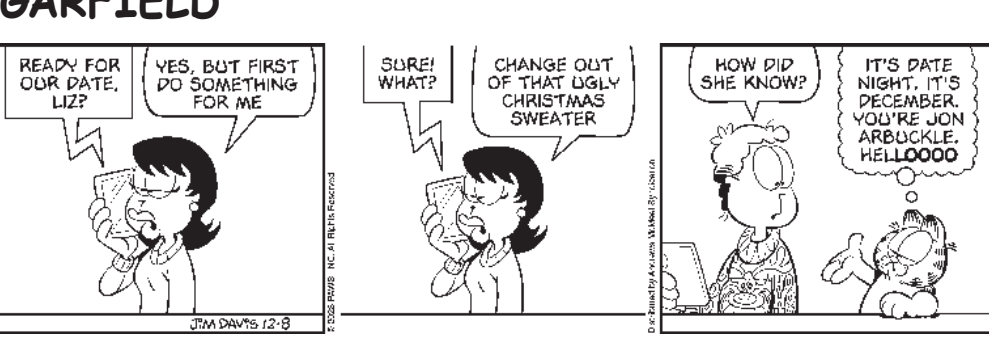
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



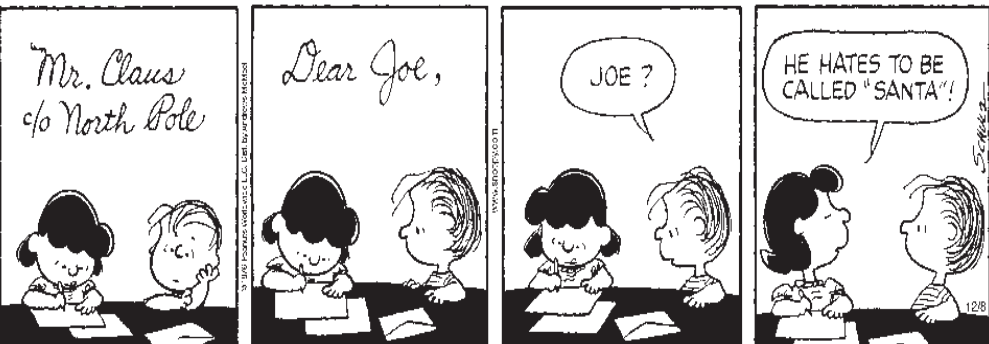
GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

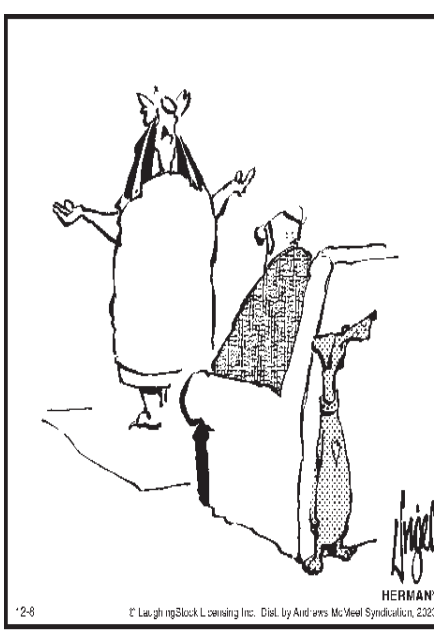
				4	2					
2	3									
	8	4		2	9					
1	5	8						3		
		9		1			6			3
	2				7	8				1
			3	7			1	8		
									6	3
		6	5							

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



Childhood friend knows truth of man's parentage

DEAR ABBY: Forty years ago, a neighborhood boy fathered a child with a neighborhood girl. "Billy" was 17 at the time, and "Becky" was 14 or 15. Both were friends of mine. They were not a steady couple. She liked him, but I feel he used her. I heard that she married an older gentleman who accepted the baby, "Matt," as his own.

Ten years ago, I found Matt on Facebook. I told him I knew his mother, and he shared her contact information with me. When I called Becky, we enjoyed talking about old times, and I let her know that Billy had passed away. She informed me that her husband had also passed away.

I was surprised when she told me she never told Matt who his biological father was. He was raised believing his biological father was Becky's husband. I have photographs of Billy, and Matt has an aunt he is unaware of. As tempted as I am to inform him who his father was, I know that is not the right thing to do.

We don't communicate regularly, but Becky and I are friends on Facebook. I believe she's having health issues now. Abby, if she passes away, do you think I should let Matt know who his father was, share the photographs and let him

know about his aunt? I think I'd want to know. --OLD FRIEND IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR OLD FRIEND: If Becky's health problems are life-threatening, she's the person you should consider approaching. The question you should pose is this: Would she want her son to think he's all alone in the world after she's gone?

I do not think you should lay this news on Matt after his mother's death. His parents would not be there to answer his inevitable questions, and he would likely feel hurt and angry that he wasn't told the truth.

DEAR ABBY: My wife is an active member of her church, whereas I am a non-believer. It is, of course, her right to practice her religion and enjoy belonging to a community of like-minded people. The difficulty stems from the many hours spent every week above and beyond the services, such as prayer sessions, Bible study groups, etc.

I have begun to resent her heavy involvement in church administration that has nothing to do with worship, and the resulting lack of spontaneity in our relationship. To plan an activity or vacation, she needs at least two months' notice because of her nev-



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

er-ending, self-imposed commitments. This has increased over the years.

We have a large circle of friends, and our marriage has no other major issues. We try to find a balance, but it's not easy. What advice do you have for us? -- FAITHLESS IN FRANCE

DEAR FAITHLESS: Does your wife realize you are so upset about the imbalance in her relationship to the church and to YOU that you wrote to an advice columnist for help? By all means, tell her. The two of you are overdue for a serious discussion about the way she budgets her time, since you feel cheated. Begin that conversation now and, if necessary, involve a mediator.

Lifestyle

Creede Holiday Market showcasing Musical Arts Collective talent this weekend

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

CREEDE — There is another wonderful opportunity to come out and enjoy a weekend packed with holiday flair on Saturday, Dec. 9, in Creede. The Creede Holiday Market kicks off on Dec. 9 at 11 a.m. and goes on to 3 p.m.

This market will feature the Colorado Brass Band thanks to the efforts of the Creede Musical Arts Collective. The band will be popping up all over town throughout the day, sharing their festive holiday cheer.

In addition to the Colorado Brass Band, the Creede Holiday Festivities Committee is asking anyone who wishes to participate to come and join them in a day of caroling. All ages are welcome and anyone wanting to join can contact Debbie Whitmore at dawhitmore@outlook.com or by calling 719-480-2823.

The Creede Holiday Market features vendors with homemade wares, delicious treats made by local businesses, and much more. Warm heaters are placed along Main Street in picturesque Downtown Creede. Restaurants and select shops are open for

holiday shopping.

The Creede Repertory Theatre is hosting its "Jacob Marley" production for two more weeks. Directed by Kate Berry, with scenic design by Morgan M. Manfredi, costume design by Berry, lighting design by Jake Harbour, sound design by Robert Neuhaus and original composition by Larry Schanker, this play brings back a nostalgic feel to brighten the holidays.

Starring Lavour Addison, "Jacob Marley" is a production that cannot be missed.

"Marley was dead, to begin with... And what happens to Ebenezer Scrooge's old business partner after that? Chained and shackled, Marley is condemned to a hellish eternity. He's even given his own private tormentor: a malicious little hell-sprite who thoroughly enjoys his



work. Desperate, Marley accepts his one chance to free himself: To escape his own chains, he must first redeem Scrooge. So begins a journey of laughter and terror, redemption, and renewal. Lavour Addison plays 18 different characters in this adventurous one-man version of Tom Mula's take on this holiday classic."

Reviews are flying in, and the results are nothing short of what is expected from the renowned Creede Repertory Theatre.

"It was amazing!!! Would highly recommend this show!!!"

"Truly amazing play and performance."

"Wow! Double and triple WOW! Don't miss this!

Give it as a Christmas gift or treat yourself to an outstanding evening! Lavour Addison's talent will blow you away! He transports his audience...CRT, you have done it again!"

For more information, a full schedule of shows and or Creede events, visit www.creede.com or www.creederep.org.

The next Creede Holiday Market kicks off Dec. 9 in Creede with local vendors, holiday shopping, delicious food and so much more. There is also a chance to go see Creede Repertory Theatre's production of 'Jacob Marley,' starring Lavore Addison.

Courtesy photos



Annual Sharing Christmas event continues at Center school district

By **MARIE MCCOLM**

CENTER — The Center Consolidated School District will again take part in the annual Sharing Christmas event. For the past 9 years, Susan Banning, who is the McKinney-Vento Liaison for the CCSD, has headed up this special outreach program for the community of Center.

Banning helps take donations, and puts together food baskets, meals, and Christmas gifts for families in need.

"One of the things we have done for the last 9 years has been to purchase a new toy for the people in a family as well as a food box," Banning said. "We try to adjust the food box according to their culture and heritage so that it is ethical. We want to give food to each family according to the family's traditions."

As an example, they purchase flour, oil, masa, tomatillos, Jello and evaporated milk, chocolate, onions, different things that different cultures might make.

"I also help coordinate with the Kiwanis, who create 15 baskets for families who also enjoy just eating a traditional turkey dinner, with stuffing and potatoes. We coordinate the two together for a total of 50 baskets. I make 35 baskets through the McKinney-Vento foundation, and the Kiwanis does the 15," she said.

Banning said that the staff at the school will also donate food, money, or their time. Banning said that she also has private community donors that will often donate money for the project. Banning said that

she orders food from K&J Thriftway in Center, and they sell it to her at cost.

Banning also explained the registration process for the baskets.

"So, the way that it works is, when we start school, and as students come in, they fill out a housing survey," Banning said. "So, by definition McKinney-Vento is for people that are either doubled up or are in a housing situation where they do not have adequate housing. I use that list; I go through the list. I go through to see who is having some hardships, and to see who needs that extra food. I also get 25 bags of food a week from Care and Share so I help with that too. There are a total of 148 McKinney-Vento kids, that represents 89 families."

Banning said she relies on other entities.

"I hook some of the people up with these programs to help bring my numbers down so that I can really give to those 50 people that are in the most need," Banning said.

Banning said she sometimes gives K&J gift cards to families. She also said that with the end of the year having a two-week break for the schools, she tries to include extra food to help the families out, realizing that when they are not in school and cannot have free-or-reduced breakfast and lunch with the school.

Banning said the distribution for the McKinney-Vento baskets would be held Tuesday, Dec. 19, this year, and the distribution for the Kiwanis baskets would be held on Wednesday, Dec. 20.

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Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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