



Sanford basketball teams sweep Centauri

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MV Children go Christmas Shopping with a First Responder

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# Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

December 13, 2023

\$1

## SLV Today

### City of Alamosa Sponsorship Program

ALAMOSA — The City of Alamosa is inviting organizations that are hosting events from January through June of 2024 to apply for the city's Sponsorship Program. Applications will be accepted until Friday, Dec. 29.

Visit [www.cityofalamosa.org](http://www.cityofalamosa.org) to find a copy of the application or contact Jasmine Husmann at 719-587-2024 or [jhusmann@ci.alamosa.co.us](mailto:jhusmann@ci.alamosa.co.us).

### AHS After Prom hosting craft fair this weekend

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa High School After Prom Committee is hosting a Christmas Craft Fair from 4-8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15, and from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16, in the Alamosa High School Commons Area. There will be a basketball tournament running as well, which will contribute significantly to vendor traffic. Vendors include LuLaRoe, Scentsy, Tupperware, cards, tumblers, jewelry, bath products, makeup, jams, quilted and crocheted items, wood items, ornaments, and much more.

## CORRECTIONS

In a story that appeared in the Dec. 12 edition of the Valley Courier, "RG Bank provides remote financial literacy learning resources to local schools", the opening paragraph incorrectly referred to RG Bank as Rio Grande Bank. The official name of the bank is RG Bank and should not have appeared otherwise in the story. The Valley Courier apologizes for the error.

In a story that appeared in the Dec. 12 edition of the Valley Courier, "Local Pearl Harbor survivor attends ceremony virtually," the opening paragraph incorrectly referred to the National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony as the Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony put on by the Pearl Harbor Memorial Foundation. The ceremony is held at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial in Hawaii. The Valley Courier apologizes for the error.

## SLV WEATHER

Snow 38/16

Thurs: Chance of Snow 36/7

Fri: Mostly Sunny 36/-4

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## CRT's version of 'A Christmas Carol' is a must see

A Review

By KEITH R. CERNY  
Courier Publisher

CREEDE — A 10-year-old girl's comment after watching "A Christmas Carol" that "Marley got a raw deal", led playwright Tom Mula to write "Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol," currently on stage at the Creede Repertory Theatre. But there's only one weekend left to see this classic.

Presented on stage two years ago at CRT's Ruth Humphreys-Brown Theatre with four cast members, the 2023 version features only long-time actor Lavour Addison, brilliantly playing 18 characters. He has acted in productions across the state and region for several years.

Mula himself played Ebenezer Scrooge for seven seasons in The Goodman Theatre's annual production of "A Christmas Carol" in Chicago in the 1990s. The inspiration for the Marley version came from Hazel, the daughter of a friend. Her take was, "if Scrooge got a second chance, why shouldn't poor Marley."

Mula wrote a book, then transformed it into a one-person show, originally directed by CRT alumnus Steve Scott, and a few years later a four-person version was created in partnership with the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company. In



Photo courtesy of CRT

Lavour Addison as Jacob Marley in 'Christmas Carol' at the Creede Repertory Theatre.

the original Dickens' version, Marley and Scrooge are business partners.

"My hope is that 'Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol' could become a holiday tradition you come back to see year after year, with different faces

■ See THEATRE page 3

## MVHS students featured in Nat Geo 'Science Fair: The Series'

Available now on Nat Geo and Disney Plus

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Monte Vista High School science students are featured in the National Geographic documentary — "Science Fair: The Series" — that was released on Nat Geo on Dec. 10 and Disney Plus on Dec. 11. The series is an offshoot of the critically acclaimed National Geographic movie "Science Fair" that was released in 2018.

The three-part documentary that features Monte Vista students began filming in 2021. It follows the students on their science fair journey from region to state, and their climb to compete in the biggest science fair in the

■ See SCIENCE page 3

## San Juan Avenue closure this morning for decorative light project

By JOHN WATERS  
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — The half block of San Juan Avenue between Main Street and the alleyway south of Fourth Street will be closed this morning, Dec. 13, to complete the decorative light project across San Juan. All vehicles must be removed before 6 a.m.

This beautification project is made possible by a donation from Adams State University. To celebrate the City's partnership with the university on this project, a ribbon cutting is scheduled with ASU

President David Tandberg and Mayor Ty Coleman on Saturday, Dec. 23, at 5:30 p.m., before the Alamosa Christmas Light Parade downtown. The public is invited to join in celebrating this important part of the San Juan Festival Street vision from the city's downtown design plan.

In an interview, Adams State University President Tandberg said, "We are interested in being good partners with the city and working collaboratively with the city. As part of that, the university came up with the idea of light-

ing San Juan Avenue, and of course, we want green lights. What I think we have agreed upon are changing lights so they can be green part of the time."

The official logo of Adams

■ See CLOSURE page 3

Part of San Juan Avenue in Alamosa will be closed this morning at 6:00 a.m. as crews return and continue to work on the decorative light project that is a collaboration between Adams State University and the City of Alamosa. In this photo from Nov. 29, the crews began their initial work on the project.

Courier photo by John Waters



## Geminid meteor showers to peak tonight



(c) Glenn Randall, www.glennrandall.com

Photo by Glenn Randall Photography

Geminid meteor shower is hitting its peak viewing tonight, Dec. 13.

By NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
COLORADO — One of the most reliable annual meteor showers is hitting its peak viewing tonight on Dec. 13, and into the morning of Dec. 14. The Geminids' first recorded observation was from a river boat on the Mississippi River in 1833. Then there were only 10-20 meteors per hour, now NASA predicts seeing up to 120 per hour under perfect conditions.

The Geminids are one of two meteor showers that originate from an asteroid. Most of the other meteor showers we see come from comets. Both are very similar, especially the asteroid that the Geminids come from. 3200 Phaethon is still being classified, but scientists have defined it as a rock comet, with an orbit around the sun that takes 1.4 years to complete.

Getting their name from the constellation Gemini, you would want to set your eyes south to see where the meteor shower will originate from. The meteors right around the constellation will not be the only ones tonight. Almost all over the sky, you will see a few different groups of meteors with longer trains than the ones in the southern portion of the sky.

The Great Sand Dunes is one of the best places to experience this and many other

■ See GEMINID page 3



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

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# Record

## Brass band, carolers share in Creede



Photos by Keith R. Cerny

The Colorado Brass Band and local carolers performed Saturday in downtown Creede during the holiday market, sponsored by the Creede Musical Arts Collective. The singers performed inside the CRT's Ruth Humphreys Brown Theatre to welcome attendees of 'Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol' at the Saturday matinee. Shown are, from left, Lana Mills, Debbie Whitmore, Kim Kosciusko and Judy Stroh, with Erin Tiley directing.



Courtesy photos

South Fork Friends Foundation President Luke Brennan and South Fork Veterinary Jodi Duff pose with a furry friend as Brennan helps kick off a fundraiser that will be held at the LOGE on Dec. 20 to raise money for the South Fork Veterinary Clinic Pet Rescue.

## Bring your pets to meet Santa, support a wonderful cause

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

**SOUTH FORK** — The South Fork Friends Foundation is kicking off a new fundraiser this holiday season and there will be a chance for the community of South Fork to give back on Dec. 20 from 6 to 8 p.m. The event is for dogs only and those interested can come and have their dog's picture taken with Santa for a minimal donation that will go toward the South Fork Veterinary Clinic Pet Rescue.

For the past several months, the South Fork Pet Rescue has been providing no-cost housing, minor medical procedures, food, fostering services, and other compas-

sionate care to stray dogs and cats in the area.

The rescue was started by the South Fork Veterinary Clinic to address some of the animal issues within the community. Whether it be attending to stray cats in need of care or neutering or help with veterinary bills for medical procedures, the fund is set up to help with anything and anyone with animal care needs.

"We want to help offset the costs of these services with this fundraiser. People can have their dog's photo taken with Santa and receive a print for a donation of \$25 or a digital file for \$20," said South Fork Friends Foundation President Luke Brennan. Brennan kicked off the

fundraiser with a \$200 donation from the foundation.

People can support a wonderful cause in the South Fork area and help animals along the way. The event is held and sponsored at the LOGE at Wolf Creek, a new venue that has been making waves throughout the community since it opened this past summer.

South Fork Veterinary Clinic owner Jodi Duff is the founder of the rescue and is the person who administers the needs and medical care to animals helped through the fund. Duff will be present at the fundraiser which will also include hot chocolate, s'mores packets, firepits and more.

## Colorado's Low-income Energy Assistance Program sees a record-breaking number of applications

Applications are up more than 10 percent over last season

By COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

**DENVER** — For the second straight year, Colorado's Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) is receiving a record number of applications to start the heating season as the cost of energy and other essentials continue to rise and many Coloradans struggle to pay their bills.

As a federally funded, statewide program, LEAP helps eligible individuals and families pay a portion of winter home heating costs by making a one-time payment directly to the utility company on behalf of each LEAP-eligible household. Since Nov. 1, more than 65,500 Coloradans have applied for LEAP, a 10% increase over this time last season. This season, eligible families can expect to receive between \$200 and \$1,000 in energy assistance, depending on the type of heating fuel, income and other deter-

mining factors. Applications will be accepted through April 30, 2024.

"Many Coloradans continue to experience a tremendous need for energy assistance," says Theresa Kullen, LEAP manager. "No one should have to live in a cold home or choose between heating their home and paying for essentials like food and rent. If you think you may be eligible for LEAP, we encourage you to take a few minutes to apply."

In addition to applying for LEAP, there are other steps that can be taken to help lower heating bills. Coloradans can ensure their home's furnace is ready for winter by having it inspected and changing the furnace filter every three months during the winter. Sealing gaps around doors and windows can also help keep in the heat on cold days. In addition to home heating bill assistance, LEAP recipients may be eligible to receive furnace repair and

replacement in heat-related emergencies and weatherization services pending the results of a home energy audit.

To qualify for LEAP, Coloradans may have an income up to 60 percent of the state median income, equating to a household income of less than \$71,112 a year for a family of four. Additionally, LEAP recipients must pay home heating costs directly to a utility company or landlord as part of their rent and have at least one U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident of the U.S. living in the household.

To access the LEAP application, visit [cdhs.colorado.com/leap](http://cdhs.colorado.com/leap). Online applications are processed through the Colorado PEAK system. You can also call the HEAT HELP line at 1-866-HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435) to receive an application via mail or email or visit your local county department of human services office to pick up or drop off an application.

## NFPA: Holiday season contributes to December being the top month for U.S. home fires

By NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

Many hallmarks of the holiday season, including Christmas trees, holiday decorations, and festive meals, present potential fire hazards that contribute to an annual increase in U.S. home fires. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Christmas Day and Christmas Eve are among the leading days of the year for home fires.

"December is a leading month for home fires, which is largely due to the activities we engage in during the holiday season," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. "Additionally, an increase in the use of heating equipment, driven by colder temperatures across most of the country, contributes to this heightened risk."

Fortunately, Carli notes, many winter fires can be averted with added awareness and planning. "By knowing where potential fire hazards exist and taking basic precautions to prevent them, people can enjoy a festive, fire-free holiday season," said Carli.

NFPA's winter holiday resources include tips and guidelines for helping reduce the risk of fires, while the association's latest statistics underscore the increased risk of fire during the holiday season and beyond:

• Christmas trees

• An annual average of 150 home fires involving Christmas trees were reported by the US fire departments between 2017-2021.

• Electrical distribution or lighting equipment, such as decorative lights, were involved in more than two of five (44 percent) home Christmas

tree fires.

• Nearly 1 in 5 Christmas tree fires (19 percent) were started by decorative lights. Eight percent were started by candles.

• As Christmas trees dry out, they become more flammable. Thirty percent of Christmas Tree fires occur in January.

Decorations

• An estimated average of 790 home fires began when decorations (excluding Christmas trees) caught fire. These fires caused an annual average of 4 civilian fire deaths, 33 civilian fire injuries, and \$14 million in direct property damage between 2017-2021.

• 17 percent of home decoration fires occurred in December.

• In 48 percent of fires involving decorations, the decoration was too close to a heat source such as candles or operating equipment.

Candles

• An estimated average of 5,700 home fires (2 percent) started by candles caused an average of 80 civilian deaths (3 percent), 560 civilian injuries (5 percent), and \$247 million (3 percent) in direct property damage per year between 2017 and 2021.

• Year-round, 33 percent of fires began with candles; in December, the number jumped to 46 percent.

• Christmas is the peak day for candle fires, at an average of 35 fires, roughly 2.5 times the daily average; Christmas Eve ranked second. New Year's Day is ranked third, with 30 fires per day.

• In three of every five candle fires, the candle was too close to something that could catch fire.

• Falling asleep with-

out extinguishing the flame was a factor in 10 percent of home candle fires and 12 percent of the associated deaths.

Cooking

• Cooking is the leading cause of reported home fires (49 percent) and home fire injuries and the second-leading cause of home fire deaths.

• Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires.

• Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve. Know what you can do cook safely.

In addition, home fires caused by heating equipment peak during the winter months, with nearly half (49 percent) of home heating fires occurring in December, January, and February. Put a Freeze on Winter Fires, an annual NFPA campaign with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), works to educate the public about ways to stay safe during the colder months, offering tip sheets and other resources to help reduce the risk of heating fires and other winter hazards.

**School Menu**  
**Wednesday**  
**December 13, 2023**

### BREAKFAST

Turkey Sausage/Roll  
Fruit & Milk

### ELEMENTARY

Turkey  
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  
Roll/Christmas Desert/Veggie Bar  
Fruit & Milk

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

Turkey  
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  
Roll/Christmas Desert/Veggie Bar  
Fruit & Milk

### HIGH SCHOOL

Turkey  
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  
Roll/Christmas Desert/Veggie Bar  
Fruit & Milk

Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students  
Alamosa School District  
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# Valley News

## Colorado Cattlemen's Association and Gunnison County Stockgrowers Association files suit to delay wolf introduction

**By COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION**  
**LAKEWOOD** — The Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and Gunnison County Stockgrowers Association (GCSA) filed a complaint on Tuesday in the United States District Court for the District of Colorado regarding the pending release of gray wolves in Colorado. The lawsuit names U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) as defendants.

The associations representing ranchers and farmers across Colorado have filed litigation to address concerns about the potential impacts of wolf introduction on livestock and

rural communities.

The decision to pursue legal action comes after extensive discussion and consultation with CCA and GCSA members, who are committed to the prosperity of Colorado's agricultural industry and the well-being of their livestock.

Both organizations, CCA and GCSA, have opposed wolf introduction since it was a proposed ballot initiative and were involved in every step of the process.

CCA and GCSA actively participated in developing the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission's Wolf Management Plan as members expressed detailed oral and written concerns regarding the scope of impacts associated with the potential release.

The subsequent renewal of the Cooperative Agreement between FWS and CPW authorizing the proposed release is clearly a major federal action that is subject to NEPA requirements, according to the lawsuit.

The following recent quote from CPW personnel underscores the significance of the introduction program:

"I think the whole agency recognizes that there's nothing we've taken on as an agency that's nearly as big and meaningful," said Eric Odell, CPW's Species Conservation Program Manager, to 9NEWS, Dec. 6.

Andy Spann, fifth-generation rancher from Gunnison and GCSA President,

concerns of livestock producers are adequately addressed before any further steps are taken in the wolf introduction process. The associations seek to highlight the risks to livestock, wildlife, and the potential economic repercussions for the agriculture sector should the introduction proceed without the proper safeguards and mitigation strategies.

The litigation seeks to delay the release of wolves until the proper environmental impact review has been conducted.

In the interim, the associations are grateful for the Colorado Parks and Wildlife partnership and the finalized FWS 10(j) rule, which went into effect on Dec. 8, to provide Colorado

producers management flexibility for potential wolf and livestock interactions.

"Throughout the state's wolf introduction process, Colorado Cattlemen's Association leadership and members dedicated time and effort to ensuring livestock production and rural communities are protected. Today, the association, in partnership with Gunnison County Stockgrowers Association, reaffirms its commitment. We regard this path of litigation not out of a desire for conflict, but rather as a testament to our unwavering commitment to supporting Colorado's agriculture community and producers of the western slope," said Robert Farnam, CCA President.

## Science

Continued from Page 1

world, the International Science and Engineering Fair, also known as ISEF.

MVHS Science Teacher Loree Harvey said she was contacted by National Geographic casting director Whitney Adams in early August of 2021.

"She said, 'Hey you know we're going to be doing this new series,' she's like have you seen 'Science Fair,' the movie. I'm like, 'Oh, yes, definitely.' I kind of gushed about it because it's a great film, that National Geographic produced in 2018. We actually showed it at 'Vali 3,'" Harvey said.

Adams told Harvey, they were looking at doing a six-part series instead of a movie and were considering Monte Vista because of its "track record" with ISEF.

"I'm like wow that's incredible," Harvey said.

Adams said they can see the ISEF records, and kids from Monta Vista come up quite a bit.

"In my mind, there's a lot of amazing schools across the country, so to know that we got on their radar, I am like wow," Harvey added.

Adams asked to interview some of the kids via Zoom.

"At that time, the kids were doing their summer thing, but I was able to get ahold of like five or six that I knew would be participating because some kids, sometimes don't do it every year. I got the kids on Zoom and Whitney just loved them. She stated to me that we were just awesome, and she asked if she could send her crew down, and would we be willing to be part of the series, once she got the green light from other schools. I said absolutely."

Harvey was excited to be featuring the students and the program, but also to be spotlighting the Valley.

"You know in my mind I'm thinking not only about

showcasing our kids and our program, which we're very proud of but, also the Valley, like we have so many great kids here the San Luis Valley," she said. "It is such an amazing place to live, and we have a really great science fair, with schools that are really dedicated. That was the beginning, super exciting and we said yes."

Twelve students — Urianna Acosta, Marissa Martinez, Maria Sears, Angelina Vargas, Carlos Ochoa, Gus Miller, Jack Noonan, Grace Goodland, Claire Seger, Joseph Benavides, and Chloe Hindes — were part of the filming process for the series along with Harvey.

Valley Publishing contacted all students for comments on the documentary. Not everyone chose to participate.

Acosta is in college working on a degree in cellular molecular biology at Adams State University. She was a senior when the series was being filmed. She said that in the beginning she was nervous. They filmed her while she was creating a science project that developed a robotic arm to assist physically challenged people. She is excited about the series and hopes that people who watch it will see that people who are physically challenged are capable of great things.

Martinez, who was selected as a finalist in ISEF, and is currently attending Colorado State University studying biological sciences, said that being a part of the series was a surreal experience. She said her favorite part was sharing such a special time in her life with her friends. Martinez was working on a project that would help save the endangered bird, the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Martinez hopes that younger students who watch the series will be inspired to explore science.

Seger is currently a junior at Monte Vista High School, and she is also at-

tending Adams State University. Seger attended ISEF and when she was being filmed was working on a project where she statistically analyzed students' GPAs before and after COVID, regarding ethnicity, age, and family income level. Her favorite part was having a once-in-a-lifetime experience being documented. Seger hopes that when people watch, they will gain insight into how competitive science really is, and the dedication that it takes.

Miller is currently a senior at Monte Vista High School. The project he was working on was how to develop a more accessible mouse, by using 3-D printing and coding programs. He made it to state with his project. His favorite part was having the film crew film in such a small town and being able to see the talent in a small-town school. He is hoping that people will watch and see that you don't have to come from a big town to do big things.

Ochoa is currently a college freshman on a full-ride scholarship studying botany at the University of Hawaii. During the filming, Ochoa was a junior working on a project that dealt with freezing temperatures, drought, and over warming, using a fungus that helps plants. Ochoa wanted to look at how the fungus could help different types of plants, during the three climate change scenarios. Ochoa hopes people will see that research on plants is important.

Noonan is currently a senior at Monte Vista High School. The project he was working on at the time was on a water filtration system that would help draw heavy metals out of water. He was excited about the series coming out but was a little nervous during filming. He hopes people will watch and be inspired to try something new and see how they can use science to solve a problem.



Courtesy photos  
**Former and current Monte Vista High School science students, from left to right, Urianna Acosta, Marissa Martinez, Maria Sears, Angelina Vargas, Carlos Ochoa, Gus Miller, Jack Noonan, Grace Goodland, Claire Seger, Joseph Benavides, and teacher Loree Harvey were featured in a National Geographic documentary series titled 'Science Fair: The Series.' The filming took place in 2021 and the series was just released.**



**Monte Vista High School Science Teacher Loree Harvey is proud that her students and the Valley are showcased in a National Geographic documentary series.**



**Monte Vista High School student Carlos Ochoa is being filmed by a National Geographic crew in 2021 for a documentary series.**



**Monte Vista High School student Marissa was featured in National Geographic's 'Science Fair: The Series.'**

Sears is currently a junior at Monte Vista High School and a student at Adams State University. As a freshman, her project was on phobias and PTSD, and how to see if meditation could help with these. She said her favorite part was working with her friend Seger as she could trade ideas back and forth with her. Sears is hoping that people who watch will see how much work goes into a science fair project.

The students thanked their parents, families, friends, the crew from National Geographic and especially Harvey.

Harvey hopes people will watch and then un-

derstand how smart and talented these students are coming from such a small town.

"I am truly proud of how much dedication and time these kids spent working on these projects and how great they held it together for this series," Harvey said. "None of this was easy,

from the interviewing, the projects, the filming, these students are hardworking and dedicated. Science is this huge field, and it takes a lot of dedication and hard work. I look forward to seeing where all of this goes for these students. I am very proud of their hard work and effort in all of this."

## Geminid

Continued from Page 1

night sky events. With the combination of little light pollution and high elevation, the park allows easy access to visitors to have a great view of the night sky. Great Sand Dunes has been designated one of the 120 International Dark Sky Parks across the world.

Here are some viewing tips to have the best experience:

- Come prepared for winter temperatures with

a sleeping bag, blanket, or lawn chair.

- Make sure you find an area well away from city or streetlights.
- Lay flat on your back with your feet facing south and look up, taking in as much of the sky as possible.
- After about 30 minutes in the dark, your eyes will adapt, and you will begin to see meteors. The meteor shower will start around 9 p.m. with the peak predicted between 12:30 a.m.-2 a.m. the morning of Dec. 14.

## Closure

Continued from Page 1

State is pantone green 341, and black.

"We just think it will be a really cool addition to downtown to have those kinds of Edison lights above San Juan, which is kind of the gathering place

and party place in downtown Alamosa," said Tandberg."

The street is indeed a gathering place and is closed off to vehicular traffic for special events so pedestrians can enjoy events such as First Fridays and community fundraisers.

Alamosa Mayor Coleman told the Valley Cou-

rier, "I'm excited about the festive decorative lighting in our downtown on San Juan Avenue. This beautification project implements the community vision for this 'festival street,' described in the Downtown Plan. We appreciate Adams State University for making this project possible by

providing funding. ASU is a valued community partner. I encourage everyone to come to the ribbon cutting and enjoy the festivities."

According to Tandberg the cost of the lighting is a 50-50 split between the Adams State University Foundation and the City of Alamosa.

## Theatre

Continued from Page 1

and iterations," said director Kate Berry, interim artistic director and longtime actress at CRT. "In 2023, I am overjoyed to bring the show back with a single actor, the incomparable Lavour Addison."

Addison, who most recently performed in "The Royale" this year and as Robin Hood in "Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood," displayed his one-person show abilities in

Creede's Seime Park in 2021 in "An Iliad."

He masterfully transfers from character to character in "Marley's", aided by brilliant sound and lighting technique from lighting designer Jake Harbour, with sound design by Robert Neuhaus and original music by Larry Schanker. Addison uses various dialects and voice inflection to differentiate the parts.

As Berry wrote in the play's program, "Like Dickens' A Christmas Carol, this piece is part ghost story. But it's also a tale

about redemption, change, friendship and, finally, your greater joy.

"We're familiar with the salvation of Ebenezer Scrooge, but I think Marley's transformation is more remarkable."

Berry went on to say, "The line that has stuck with me since my first reading of the play comes as Marley has transformed into the various spirits who eventually redeem Ebenezer: 'For Scrooge was changed by what he saw; but Marley changed by what he was.' The transformation of Marley is reflected

in Scrooge. Love and joy are contagious."

As the production comes to an end with Marley (Addison) speaking those famous closing words from "A Christmas Carol," "God bless us everyone," a few tears are shed from those in attendance.

Only three performances remain this coming weekend, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and a matinee Saturday at 2 p.m. The two-hour performance includes a 15-minute intermission. For ticket information, go to [www.creederep.org](http://www.creederep.org).

### Holiday Specials!

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

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# Opinion

## Ski bum culture hits reality

Nearly two decades ago, I moved to the mountains to be a ski bum, chasing snow. I was a stereotype — an East Coast kid pulled west by the promise of bigger adventures and higher mountain ranges. I was also part of a counterculture that rejected social norms in favor of 100-day ski seasons.

In ski towns in western Colorado in 2005, risk was everywhere, but in a way that felt exciting. I liked the brag of drinking too much, and I was too naive to notice harder drugs. Climate change seemed theoretical, and no one I knew had died in the mountains yet.

Corporate entities were just starting to binge-buy resorts while I somehow thought that living in my car was cool and I could exist like that forever.

But myths are complicated things to keep alive, and I eventually left ski towns to work as a writer, already seeing the ski-bum dream changing. I saw friends struggling to build careers, families and community while still chasing the fragile dream that a powder day topped almost everything.

So recently, I went back to see what was going on, to try to track the evolution of what had been my own obsession. I looped through mountain towns across the West, from Aspen to Victor, Idaho and Big Sky, Mont., to assess the current state of ski bums.

What I found was that everyone try-

Writers On  
The Range



Heather  
Hansman



ing to build a life in those towns was struggling, from my old colleagues who had stuck around and wished they'd bought real estate to "lifties" fresh out of school.

"A lot of people here are living a fantasy I can't obtain," said Malachi Artice, a 20-something skier working multiple jobs in Jackson, Wyo.

At the most basic level, the math just didn't work. In most mountain towns, it's now nearly impossible to work a single full-time service job, the kind that resort towns depend on, and afford rent. The pressure shows up in nearly everything, including abysmal mental health outcomes like anxiety and depression.

Ski towns have some of the highest suicide rates in the country, and social services haven't expanded to meet demand. Racial gaps are also widening in an industry that often depends on undocumented immigrants to fill the poorly paid, but necessary, jobs it takes to keep a tourist town running.

On top of all that, abundant snowfall, the basis of a ski resort's economy, is

getting cooked by climate change.

And sure, you can argue skiing is superficial and unimportant, but ski towns — some of the most elite and economically unequal places in the country — are microcosms for the way our social fabric is splitting.

Ski towns face crucial, complicated questions: Can they build affordable housing and also preserve open space? What happens when healthcare workers or teachers won't take jobs because they can't find a way to live in the community they serve? Will a town willingly curb growth when that's what supports the tax base?

There are no easy answers because the problems are entrenched in both that slow-moving nostalgia that stymies change, and in the downhill rush of capitalism, which gives power to whoever pays the most: The housing market always tilts toward high-end real estate instead of modestly priced homes for essential workers.

What we value shapes our lives, and so I think we must hold the ski indus-

To submit news, email:  
news@alamosanews.com

To submit sports, email:  
khamrick@alamosanews.com

### Letters policy

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

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

try to higher standards. If these rarefied places can find ways to support working as well as leisure-based communities, they could serve as lessons for change elsewhere.

During my tour, I saw necessary workers in the ski industry facing hard economic choices, but I also saw positive, community-scale change. In Alta, Utah, for instance, the arts nonprofit Alta Community Enrichment added mental health support when its employees reported an urgent need.

If ski-resort towns are going to survive, the lives of their workers need to matter, and that means caring about them — from affordable housing to accessible mental health support.

Heather Hansman is a contributor to Writers on the Range, [writersontherange.org](http://writersontherange.org), an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. She is the author of *Powder Days: Ski Bums, Ski Towns and the Future of Chasing Snow*, and lives in Durango.

## Liz Cheney for president?

By BYRON YORK

Why would former Rep. Liz Cheney run for president? Is she nuts? Is she trying to sell a book? Why would a Republican whose last election was losing a state primary by 37 points think she should now seek the highest office in the land? Why would a politician hated by most of her own party and used by the other party simply to attack her colleagues think she could bring 80 million Americans together behind a Cheney candidacy?

Who knows? Nevertheless, Cheney, in the preferred political style, is not "ruling out" a run in 2024. It would be a third-party effort, of course, because neither Republicans nor Democrats would have her as a candidate. And it would be focused entirely, 100%, on stopping former President Donald Trump. "Several years ago, I would not have contemplated a third-party run," Cheney told the Washington Post. But now, she continued, "I happen to think democracy is at risk at home, obviously, as a result of Donald Trump's continued grip on the Republican Party, and I think democracy is at risk internationally as well."

Cheney told the Post that she will de-

side whether or not to run "in the next few months." Whatever her answer, it will be all about Trump. "We face threats that could be existential to the United States and we need a candidate who is going to be able to deal with and address and confront all of those challenges. That will all be part of my calculation as we go into the early months of 2024."

Cheney, of course, is a politician without a party. She broke with Republicans when she agreed to become part of the House Jan. 6 committee's appallingly one-sided investigation of Trump. The committee was picked by then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Cheney and then-Rep. Adam Kinzinger agreed to march in lockstep with Democrats. Their presence allowed Pelosi and the media to call the committee "bipartisan" when all the members, in public, literally agreed with each other on everything. They all played their parts in the Democratic showrunner's production. The Capitol riot is an entirely fitting subject for investigation, but there should never be another committee structured and run like the J6 Committee.

Cheney had no future with the Repub-

lican Party after that. But Democrats don't want her, either. Remember that in the first two years of Trump's presidency, Cheney voted along with the Trump position 95.8% of the time, and in the last two years, she voted with Trump 92.8% of the time, according to analyses by FiveThirtyEight. No Democrat could ever accept such a record in a candidate for national office.

The fact is, Democrats used Cheney as a Republican who would attack Trump. In Cheney's new book, there is a story in which she learned that when she was being considered for the J6 committee, some Pelosi staff members showed Pelosi a list of the 10 worst things Cheney had ever said about Pelosi. The speaker just handed the paper back to her staff. "Why are you wasting my time with things that don't matter?" Pelosi said, according to the book.

Isn't that nice! Pelosi set aside her personal feelings to recruit a Republican willing to savage Trump precisely as Pelosi wished! It was a very Washington moment, but Cheney appears to have been touched.

Now Democrats are back to eyeing

Cheney warily, in no small part because they believe an independent run, even by someone as unpopular as Cheney, would take votes away from President Joe Biden in the general election. They're right. A Cheney candidacy would be exclusively anti-Trump, as will Biden's candidacy. Why give voters a choice in anti-Trump candidates? By siphoning off even a few anti-Trump votes, Cheney would probably help the former president.

But first, Cheney has a book to sell. That is why she is popping up on television these days. The book is "Oath and Honor: A Memoir and a Warning," her story of life opposing Trump. At the moment this is written (noon on Dec. 5), the book is No. 1 on Amazon. Good sales and lots of friendly interviews will surely nudge Cheney in the direction of running, at least until she realizes that all those Democrats and Never Trumpers who cheer her attacks on Trump don't necessarily want her to be president of the United States.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for *The Washington Examiner*.

### LETTER

## Fort Garland organic farmer concerned with EATS Act

Editor,  
As a proud Veteran of the United States Navy, I now find myself humbled by the opportunity to serve my country via sustainable and responsible agriculture. Post my honorable service in the Navy, I established the White Crow Ranch SLV, an organic farm nestled in the landscapes of Fort Garland. There, we produce vegetables, herbs, eggs, and honey, all nurtured in accordance with principles that prioritize sustainability, ethical farming practices, and the humane treatment of

animals. It is with great pride that I contribute to the well-being of fellow Coloradans by providing them with wholesome and conscientiously-cultivated food.

However, I am deeply troubled by a bill that threatens to unravel the very essence of American agriculture and jeopardize the livelihoods of countless families sustained by it. The Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Act, introduced by Senator Roger Marshall of Kansas and Representative Ashley Hinson of Iowa, seeks to negate over a thousand

state-level agricultural regulations.

As one example, in the summer of 2020, Colorado demonstrated bipartisan unity by passing a landmark law that mandates more humane conditions for egg-laying hens, guaranteeing them a bit more space, and enrichments crucial for their well-being. Farmers across Colorado were leaders in passing this law, and they invested considerable resources to meet these standards that promote food safety, public health and animal welfare. Multiple other states have enacted com-

parable cage-free laws in recent years, exemplifying the shared commitment to elevating agricultural practices. The EATS Act threatens to destroy this progress.

The EATS Act would not only prove economically disastrous for those farmers who have invested in these humane standards, but it's a radical assault and federal overreach that attempts to greatly expand the federal government's control over food and farming. This act could deprive states of their ability to protect their own citizens and to reflect the public will on a wide range of concerns, forcing them to authorize the sale of any agricultural product, no matter how hazardous the production process. The ramifications of this bill are dire, putting both family farmers and Colorado's rural communities in peril.

It is imperative that we rally our members of Congress to stand against this threat — both the EATS Act and anything like it. We should preserve our rural communities, agricultural legacy and the standards our farmers have fought to implement. I hope you'll join me in opposing the dangerous EATS Act and asking your Members of Congress to prohibit it — or any similar language — from being included in the Farm Bill.

Charity Ann Baker  
White Crow Ranch SLV  
Fort Garland

Keith R Cerny  
Publisher

# Valley Courier

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Brian Williams  
Managing Editor

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

# Lifestyles

## New poll shows that cost of living, crime and public safety, and housing affordability are what worry Coloradans the most

By **JESSE PAUL**  
*Colorado Sun*

Cost of living, crime and public safety, and housing affordability are the top issues for Colorado voters heading into the 2024 election year, according to the results of a statewide poll released Tuesday.

When asked to select their top two issues, 40% of those polled said the cost of living, 29% said crime and public safety, and 28% said housing affordability. Other top issues voters mentioned, in order, were homelessness, the economy, education, climate and the environment, and health care.

The poll was conducted on behalf of the Colorado Polling Institute, a non-partisan nonprofit that launched this year. The survey was conducted by Cygnal, a Republican political firm, and Aspect Strategic, a Democratic firm, on Nov. 26 and 27 among 652 likely 2024 general election voters in Colorado. It had a 3.83 percentage point margin of error.

A slight majority of those polled — 50.4% — said that Colorado is headed in the right direction, while 43% said it's on the wrong track. And 6.5% said they were unsure.

Looking closer at the survey's results, Coloradans who have lived in the state for 20 years or longer had a more nega-

tive outlook on the state's direction, according to Kevin Ingham, who leads Aspect Strategic. Those who think the state is headed in the wrong direction are most consumed by cost of living concerns.

"For those voters that we call settled transplants — those are people who've been here between five and 20 years — they see the direction of the state is (headed) in the right way by nearly a 20-point margin," he said. "And then newcomers who have been here less than five years, they are brimming with optimism, but 77% saying we're heading in the right direction."

Some other big takeaways from the poll:

- When asked about the future, 63% said they expected Colorado to become a worse place to purchase a home, while 41% said it was going to become a worse place to raise a family.

- When asked how they would vote on Initiative 50, the 2024 ballot measure from a conservative political nonprofit capping statewide property tax increases at 4% annually, 34% said they would vote "yes" on the question, while 35% said they would vote "no" and another 31% said they were undecided.

- A majority of those polled — 51% — said they hadn't heard enough

about what passed during the special legislative session on property tax and other financial relief to form an opinion. Of those who had an opinion, 23% said they approved of what was passed while 26% said they disapproved.

When it comes to Initiative 50, Ingham said it could go either way.

"It's still early," he said. "We're 11 months out from the election and with such a large number of undecided, it could obviously go either way."

Republicans tended to have more distrust of Colorado's institutions than Democrats, said Ingham and Brent Buchanan, who founded Cygnal.

"Clearly the distrust in our society has a distinctly partisan and ideological curve," Ingham said. "The more conservative you are, the higher you rank in the distrust index. And as you move left, we see more fall into the low distrust category."

Buchanan said the level of trust also broke down among educational and income levels, with those with higher educational and income levels more trusting of Colorado's institutions and groups and vice versa.

The Colorado Polling Institute's founder is investor David Carlson, who founded "A Denver For Us All," a similar group that polled during the city's mayoral race.

## More staff, training needed in Colorado to create more inclusive emergency alert system, report says

By **OLIVIA PRENTZEL**  
*Colorado Sun*

Almost two years after the Marshall fire erupted, and only a fraction of Boulder County residents were warned to flee their homes in the face of an inferno fueled by 100 mph wind gusts, a new report by the University of Colorado lists recommendations to improve the state's alert system to better warn Coloradans of imminent danger.

Researchers say the state needs to hire staff to directly address how to better alert residents who speak a language other than English and have disabilities in order to create a more inclusive state warning system, according to the draft report released Tuesday. Before the Marshall fire devastated parts of Boulder County in December 2021 and destroyed more than 1,000 homes and displaced thousands of residents, less than a quarter of the county's population had opted in to receive emergency alerts.

According to the report, about 900,000 people living in Colorado primarily speak a language other than English and more than a million people identify as having a disability. Many might not receive adequate emergency notifications because of the channels available to send them messages or system limitations.

"Our survey results showed that alert authorities rely heavily on services and channels that require users to opt-in — and less than 40% do," Mary Angelica Painter, a Natural Hazards Center research associate who worked on the report said in statement. "That indicates that opt-in messaging is likely a barrier for

everyone, but especially for those with limited English proficiency and disabilities."

Researchers recommended staff work with the Colorado Office of Emergency Management and focus on tracking the metrics of alerts, promoting inclusive practices across the state and seeking funds for training.

The report also said more could be done to build trust between emergency response agencies and community groups before emergencies.

There is also a need for more guidance, training and resources for county officials on cultural competency, community needs and technology op-

tions, researchers said.

The report was mandated under a bill signed into law in May, which appropriated funds to complete a study to identify areas of improvement for the state's warning systems and how to improve access for those who speak languages other than English and have disabilities.

The public is able to provide feedback on the draft until Dec. 20. Spanish and sign language interpreters will be available at two virtual meetings Dec. 14 hosted by the Natural Hazards Center to discuss the report.

A final report will be presented to legislators next year.

UPCOMING GRIZZLY ATHLETIC EVENTS

**Friday, December 15**

*Men & Women's Basketball vs Colorado Mesa University at Alamosa, Colo.*

3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Saturday, December 16**

*Wrestling at Midwest Classic at Indianapolis, Ind.*

10:00 a.m.

**Sunday, December 17**

*Wrestling at Midwest Classic at Indianapolis, Ind.*

10:00 a.m.

*Women's Wrestling Simon Fraser University (B.C.) Desert Duals at Las Vegas, Nev.*

TBA

**Monday, December 18**

*Men's Basketball at University of Denver at Denver, Colo.*

7:00 p.m.






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



# Sports

## Sanford girls come behind to down Centauri in overtime

By **KEN HAMRICK**  
*Courier sports editor*

**SANFORD** – It was a battle of undefeated teams on Tuesday as the Sanford High School girls basketball team hosted Centauri at the SHS gym.

The game lived up to its hype as the Lady Mustangs came from behind to defeat the Lady Falcons 42-39 in overtime.

Joselyn McCarroll gave Centauri the early lead, and Shasta Bond put Sanford on the board by making one of two free throws. Braelyn Tucker hit a 3-point basket, and Jaelyn Jackson split at the line to give the Lady Falcons a 6-1 lead.

Bond then made two straight baskets, but Hannah Curtis make one of two from the line. Bond then scored four more points to give the Lady Mustangs their first lead at 9-7.

Curtis made a three to give Centauri a 10-9 edge at the end of the first quarter.

Brooklyn Reynolds began the second quarter scoring by making one of two from the charity stripe. She later drained a trey to put the Lady Mustangs back into the lead at 13-10.

McCarroll made two consecutive baskets for a 14-13 Centauri lead. But Bond made four straight free tosses for a 16-14 lead.

Curtis scored five straight points, and Jackson buried a 3-pointer for a 24-17 Centauri advantage at halftime.

Erica Miller opened the third quarter with a layup to bring Sanford within 24-19. Lacey Johnson answered with a layup on the other side, Jackson split at the line, and McCarroll scored a layup to give the Lady Falcons their largest lead of the game at 29-19.

Miller made a three to bring the Lady Mustangs within 29-23 at the end of the third quarter.

Sanford got free throws from Bond and Brinlyn Smith to open the fourth quarter. Bond then drove for a layup and Claire Crowther made a three to tie the score at



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick  
**Sanford High School's Shasta Bond (23) puts a shot over Centauri's Lacey Johnson (22) to tie the score and send Tuesday's game at the SHS gym into overtime. The Lady Mustangs defeated the Lady Falcons 42-39.**

31-31 with 1:48 left in the period.

Tucker gave the lead back to Centauri, and after several missed chances by both teams, the Lady Falcons turned the ball over at half court to give the Lady Mustangs one last chance.

Sanford took advantage of the opportunity as Bond scored in the paint with less than a second remaining to deadlock the score at 33-33 and send the game into overtime.

Reynolds made four free throws to begin the extra session. Jocelyn Jarvies scored for the Lady Falcons, but Reynolds scored three points for a 40-35 Sanford lead with 1:11 left.

Rylie McCarroll split at the line, and Jarvies drove for a layup and added a free throw to narrow the deficit to 40-39 with 14 seconds remaining.

Reynolds made two free throws to seal the victory. Bond led Sanford in scoring with 18 points, and Reynolds was next with 14. Bond also made eight out of 10 free throws and Reynolds was nine of 14 from the line.

Curtis was Centauri's top scorer with 11 points. Sanford (3-0) will not play again until next weekend when it will compete in the Denver Christian Christmas Tournament.

Centauri (3-1) will play in the ASU Classic at Alamosa High School this weekend. The Lady Falcons' first game is against La Junta at 3 p.m. on Friday.

**Sanford 42, Centauri 39, OT**

Centauri – Jarvies 3 1-5 7, Tucker 2 0-0 5, R. McCarroll 0 1-2 1, Johnson 1 0-0 2, Curtis 4 1-2 11, Hostetter 0 0-0 0, Jackson 1 2-4 5, J. McCarroll 3 0-0 6, Tibbitts 1 0-0 2. Total 15 5-13 39.

3-point goals – Curtis 2, Jackson 1, Tucker 1. Total 4.

Sanford – Reynolds 2 9-14 14, Willett 0 0-0 0, Caldron 0 0-2 0, Bond 5 8-10 18, Miller 2 0-0 5, Smith 0 2-2 2, Crowther 1 0-0 3, Faucette 0 0-0 0. Total 10 19-28 42.

3-point goals – Crowther 1, Miller 1, Reynolds 1. Total 3.

Centauri	10	14	5	4	6 – 39
Sanford	9	8	5	11	9 – 42

Fouls – Centauri 25, Sanford 15. Fouled out – Tucker; Miller.

## Caldon scores 32 as Sanford boys defeat Centauri

By **KEN HAMRICK**  
*Courier sports editor*

**SANFORD** – Cash Caldon scored 32 points as the Sanford High School boys basketball team defeated Centauri 57-54 Tuesday at the SHS gym.

Jace Haslett scored the first points of the game for the Falcons, but Lincoln Reynolds scored to tie the score. Haslett scored again, but Reynolds scored back-to-back baskets to give the Mustangs a 6-4 lead.

Chaz Holman tied the score, but Caldron drained a 3-point basket. Holman scored two baskets in the final minute of the first quarter, but Alex Sittler scored once and Sanford led 11-10 at the end of the period.

Carson Bagwell put Centauri back in front to open the second quarter, and Kallon Russell also scored for a 14-11 Falcons lead.

Caldron buried another three, but Haslett scored to again give the Falcons the lead at 16-14.

Ben Sittler made a trey to put the Mustangs back on top, but Centauri ran off nine straight points to take its largest advantage at 27-17.

Caldron answered with five points, and Ben Sittler scored two to bring the Mustangs within 27-24 at halftime.

Colter Canty split at the free throw line to begin the third quarter, and Caldron scored again from behind the arc for a 28-27 Mustangs lead.

Bagwell hit a three to put Centauri back on top. The teams exchanged points until another Caldron trey made the score 35-34 in Sanford's favor.

Kaleb Anderson scored four points and Carson Shawcroft three for a 41-35 Centauri advantage. But Travis Canty and Caldron both drained 3-pointers to tie the score at 41-41.

Troy Sowards put the Falcons back into the lead, but Caldron made two free tosses to knot the score at 43-43 at 5th end of the third quarter.

Alex Sittler's trey put Sanford back into the lead. The teams again exchanged points until another Caldron 3-pointer gave Sanford a 55-51 advantage with 2:02 left in the game.

Ben Sittler split at the line, but Russell made a trey to bring Centauri within 56-54 with 17 seconds remaining. Caldron split at the line to conclude the scoring.

Of Caldron's 32 points, he made seven 3-point baskets and he was also seven of eight from the line. Reynolds was next with eight points.

Bagwell led Centauri with 11 points, followed by Haslett with 10.

Sanford's (2-1) next action will be next weekend when it will compete in the Denver Christian Christmas Tournament.

Centauri (2-2) will play in the ASU Classic this weekend at Alamosa. The Falcons' first opponent will be La Junta on Friday at 4:30 p.m.

**Sanford 57, Centauri 54**

Centauri – Russell 3 0-0 7, Sowards 2 0-0 4, Bagwell 5 0-0 11, Haslett 5 0-0 10, Anderson 3 0-0 6, Holman 4 0-1 8, Garcia 1 0-0 2, Shawcroft 2 0-0 6. Total 25 0-1 54.

3-point baskets – Shawcroft 2, Bagwell 1, Russell 1. Total 4.



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick  
**Sanford High School's Cash Caldon (5) looks to fire up a shot while Centauri's Troy Sowards (2) plays defense in Tuesday's game at the SHS gym. The Mustangs defeated the Falcons 57-54.**

Sanford – A. Sittler 3 0-0 7, Caldron 9 7-8 32, B. Sittler 2 1-2 6, Reynolds 4 0-0 8, Gartrell 0 0-0 0, Larson 0 0-0 0, C. Canty 0 2-2 2, T. Canty 1 1-2 4, Larsen 0 0-0 0. Total 19 9-12 57.

3-point goals – Caldron 7, T. Canty 1, A. Sittler 1, B. Sittler 1. Total 10.

Centauri	10	17	16	11 – 54
Sanford	11	13	19	14 – 57

Fouls – Centauri 13, Sanford 9.

### Sports Bulletin

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

#### SCOREBOARD

##### TUESDAY

##### Prep boys basketball

Sanford 57, Centauri 54

##### Prep girls basketball

Sanford 42, Centauri 39, OT

#### SCHEDULE

##### WEDNESDAY

##### Prep boys basketball

Centennial at Questa (N.M.) Invitational, TBA

##### Prep girls basketball

Centennial at Questa (N.M.) Invitational, TBA

##### College indoor track and field

Adams State at Potts Invitational (at Boulder), TBA

#### THURSDAY

##### Prep boys basketball

Lake City at Antonito, 4:30 p.m.

Monte Vista at Florence Invitational, 5 p.m.

Centennial at Questa (N.M.) Invitational, TBA

##### Prep girls basketball

Lake City at Antonito, 4:30 p.m.

Monte Vista at Pueblo Centennial, 5 p.m.

Centennial at Questa (N.M.) Invitational, TBA

##### Prep boys wrestling

Antonito at Sierra Grande/Centennial, 6 p.m.

#### FRIDAY

##### Prep boys basketball

Monte Vista at Florence Invitational, 2 p.m.

Dolores at Creede, 3 p.m.

Centauri vs. La Junta (ASU Classic at Alamosa), 4:30 p.m.

Ignacio at Sargent, 4:30 p.m.

Gunnison at Alamosa (ASU Classic), 7:30 p.m.

Centennial at Questa (N.M.) Invitational, TBA

Center, Sierra Grande at Center Invitational, TBA

Sangre de Cristo at Simla Invitational, TBA

##### Prep girls basketball

Centauri vs. La Junta (ASU Classic at Alamosa), 3 p.m.

Ignacio at Sargent, 4:30 p.m.

Summit at Alamosa (ASU Classic), 6 p.m.

Monte Vista at Simla Invitational, 7 p.m.

Centennial at Questa (N.M.) Invitational, TBA

Center, Sierra Grande at Center Invitational, TBA

Sangre de Cristo at Simla Invitational, TBA

##### Prep boys wrestling

Alamosa at Reno Tournament of Champions, 9 a.m.

Center, Monte Vista at Grand Junction Central Invitational, 9 a.m.

Centauri at Northern Colorado Open, TBA

##### Prep girls wrestling

Alamosa at Reno Tournament of Champions, 9 a.m.

College men's basketball

Colorado Mesa at Adams State, 7:30 p.m.

College women's basketball

Colorado Mesa at Adams State, 5:30 p.m.

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**Sports Bulletin**

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**FRIDAY**

**Prep boys basketball**

Monte Vista at Florence Invitational, 2 p.m.

Dolores at Creede, 3 p.m.

Centauri vs. La Junta (ASU Classic at Alamosa), 4:30 p.m.

Ignacio at Sargent, 4:30 p.m.

Gunnison at Alamosa (ASU Classic), 7:30 p.m.

Centennial at Questa (N.M.) Invitational, TBA

Center, Sierra Grande at Center Invitational, TBA

**Sangre de Cristo at Simla Invitational, TBA**

**Prep girls basketball**

Centauri vs. La Junta (ASU Classic at Alamosa), 3 p.m.

Ignacio at Sargent, 4:30 p.m.

Summit at Alamosa (ASU Classic), 6 p.m.

Monte Vista at Simla Invitational, 7 p.m.

Centennial at Questa (N.M.) Invitational, TBA

Center, Sierra Grande at Center Invitational, TBA

Sangre de Cristo at Simla Invitational, TBA

**Prep boys wrestling**

Alamosa at Reno Tournament of Champions, 9 a.m.

Center, Monte Vista at Grand Junction Central Invitational, 9 a.m.

Centauri at Northern Colorado Open, TBA

**Prep girls wrestling**

Alamosa at Reno Tournament of Champions, 9 a.m.

**College men's basketball**

Colorado Mesa at Adams State, 7:30 p.m.

**College women's basketball**

Colorado Mesa at Adams State, 5:30 p.m.

# Lifestyle

## San Luis lights the Christmas tree



Photo by Diane Drekmann

San Luis started its holiday season on Dec. 9 with the lighting of the town's Christmas tree. Despite the cold, many turned out for the annual event. People then enjoyed hot apple cider and cupcakes at the visitor center. There was also a display of art by students from Centennial School. Mrs. Claus was there to give the children a present. The streets of San Luis are lined with Candelaria — a nod to the town's New Mexico neighbors. There was a holiday boutique earlier in the Sangre de Cristo Cultural Heritage Center with many unique gifts from local artists.

## Support for Front Range rail development high among state, federal leaders

By SARA WILSON  
*Colorado Newsline*

Colorado is well-positioned to receive federal dollars to make more widespread passenger rail a reality because of its rail-friendly leaders and completed preliminary planning work, a federal official said Monday afternoon.

Amit Bose, the administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, sat down with Gov. Jared Polis and Colorado Department of Transportation Executive Director Shoshana Lew for a public conversation about the future of Front Range Rail and other passenger rail priorities.

"What the governor has laid out and the commitment that he's demonstrated to passenger rail are definitely a model for the country," Bose said. "We really want growing states like Colorado to embed passenger rail into the transportation system now, rather than after that growth happens."

This follows last week's announcement that the Front Range Passenger Rail District will get a \$500,000 planning grant as part of the federal Corridor ID program, which aims to help development of intercity passenger rail projects. The idea, Bose said, is to get projects into the pipeline for implementation, eventually connecting an entire corridor of cities to rail service.

The Front Range Passenger Rail District, which was created through 2021 legislation, is planning a rail line that would connect cities between Fort Collins and

Pueblo. "Colorado is very, very well positioned in the Corridor ID program," Bose said, partly because the district has already defined the scope of its service development program and can move forward to the second step of the program. There are "tens of millions of dollars" for project planning now that the scope is set.

The Colorado project is one of 70 that the Federal Railroad Administration selected to get money from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

"The fact that we have a federal administration that's committed to helping us dream up and execute a project like this is not an opportunity that we can take for granted. I think it shows us what kind of a moment we have," Lew said.

Polis is pushing a housing agenda that encourages development along

transit corridors, and he is likely to champion related legislation next year. Though the state is years away from putting Front Range residents onto passenger rail cars, the agenda represents a goal for people to live near their primary mode of transportation and commute more easily without adding traffic congestion.

"Coupled with bus rapid transit and transit oriented neighborhoods, passenger rail is a huge lynchpin in this vision we have for smarter growth, for improving affordability, livability and sustainability as Colorado grows," Polis said.

Polis, Bose, Lew and other officials plan to formally announce the Front Range Passenger Rail District's acceptance into the FRA's Corridor ID Program during an event Wednesday at History Colorado Center in Denver.



Tuesday — Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
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# Classifieds

**221 - HELP WANTED**

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**221 - HELP WANTED**

**HEAD FOOTBALL COACH** needed at DEL NORTE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL. The coach's responsibilities include: leading training sessions, providing motivation and advice during gameplay, developing game plans, and attending tryouts, as well as scheduling team meetings. The coach should be able to identify the individual abilities of each player and provide one-to-one coaching wherever required. The coach should demonstrate great love for the game of football, and be able to foster good sportsmanship in your players. Outstanding candidates are highly motivated, committed, disciplined, and patient. We are looking for the following abilities in our Coach: experience as a football coach or assistant coach at the high school or college level is preferred. Must possess: effective coaching techniques and skills; a thorough knowledge of the rules, regulations, strategies, and techniques of the sport; and have the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with school administrators, parents, and students. Please contact Gilbert "Gibbs" Sanchez, Athletic Director, at: [gsanchez@urtigers.co](mailto:gsanchez@urtigers.co), 719-657-4020; or Annie Hardy, Principal, at: [ahardy@urtigers.co](mailto:ahardy@urtigers.co), 719-657-4020. (1/16/24AS)

**ALAMOSA SCHOOL 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. (12/16/23AS)

**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-\$50,000 DOQ. Applications can be obtained on our website: [conejoscounty.colorado.gov](http://conejoscounty.colorado.gov) or you can email [cricc@co.conejos.co.us](mailto:cricc@co.conejos.co.us). Applications accepted until filled. Inquiries call 719-376-6799. (12/16/23AS)

**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)

**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](http://fswb.bank/about/careers). EOE. (12/22/23AS)

**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](mailto:kruggles@center.k12.co.us). (1/5/24AS)

**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](mailto:tvigil@alamosaschools.org). Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (12/15/23AS)

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

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# Classifieds

### 221 - HELP WANTED

**CENTER FOR RESTORATIVE PROGRAMS** has the following positions open: **INTENSIVE CASE MANAGER III (ICM III)** Responsible for providing specialized intensive case management/wraparound services to assigned case-load, provide support, mentoring, training to CM team around crisis plans, challenges, and effective implementation. At least 5 years experience providing wraparound services, intensive case management, advocating and working with adults with substance use and/or mental health disorders, homeless population, recovery support, and collaboration with community partners and families. Will work closely with community partners such as justice system, law enforcement, behavioral health, medical, housing, human services, schools and workforce development. Must be willing to travel, work some nights and weekends. Spanish speaking is a plus. **INTENSIVE CASE MANAGER (ICM II)** Responsible for providing intensive specialized case management/wraparound services; working closely with community partners such as criminal justice systems, law enforcement, behavioral health, medical, housing, human services, schools and workforce development. Ability to work independently, needs strong organizational/communication skills, ability to establish wraparound plans and help navigate systems. Successful candidates will have at least 3 years relevant experience providing wraparound services, intensive case management, advocating and working with adults with substance use and/or mental health disorders, homeless population, recovery support, and collaboration with community partners and families. Must be willing to travel, work some nights and weekends. Spanish speaking is a plus. **FOR BOTH POSITIONS:** See webpage for more details: [restorativeprogram.org](http://restorativeprogram.org) and Email resume & cover letter to [clarissa@restorativeprograms.org](mailto:clarissa@restorativeprograms.org). Positions open until filled. CRP is an EOE. (12/30/23AS)

**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)

**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)

### 221 - HELP WANTED

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

**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](mailto:opportunity.slvlocalfoods@gmail.com). Details at [www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/](http://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](mailto:gsanchez@urtigers.co) 719-657-4020; or Annie Hardy, Principal, at [ahardy@urtigers.co](mailto:ahardy@urtigers.co) 719-657-4020. Applications may be found on our website, [urtigers.co](http://urtigers.co). (12/30/23AS)

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

**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](mailto:hr@lapuente.net), 719-589-5909 ext238. [www.lapuente.net](http://www.lapuente.net) (12/20/23AS)

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

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

### 362 - HOME FURNISHINGS

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

### 221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

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### 307 - APPLIANCES

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### 324 - SEED & FEED

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### 345 - WOOD

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### 353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

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### 360 - MISC. FOR SALE

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### 362 - HOME FURNISHINGS

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### 368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

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

### 401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

**Century Property Management & Sales, LLC** Alamosa • 589-5744 **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE** For all your rental needs please call 719-589-5744 or stop by 823 Main St. Alamosa, CO 81101 [www.alamosarentals.com](http://www.alamosarentals.com)

### 420 - LOTS & ACREAGES

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

### 426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

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

### 525 - GUNS

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

### 601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Accepting applications for 1 bedroom apartments. Must be 62 or older or disabled **Cielo Vista Apartments** 166 S. Wills Center, Colo **754-3664**

TTY 1-800-659-2656 This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

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

TTY 1-800-659-2656 This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

### 601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Accepting Applications for waiting list for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Family units available

**West View Villas** 510 Dunham Monte Vista, Colo **852-3949**

TTY 1-800-659-2656 This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

### 606 - BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT

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

### 611 - HOUSES FOR RENT

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

### 701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

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

### 710 - CLASSIC AUTOS

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

### 713 - PICKUP TRUCKS

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



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**Valley Courier**

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# Comics

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 E.U. country
  - 4 Engage in self praise
  - 8 War god
  - 12 Caustic solution
  - 13 Puerto —
  - 14 Ignoble
  - 15 Supply with weaponry
  - 16 Big hair style
  - 17 Venue
  - 18 Fiasco
  - 20 Dry ink for printers
  - 21 — of passage
  - 22 Render imperfect
  - 23 Term in contract bridge
  - 25 Shortcomings
  - 29 Quite a while
  - 30 Beauty parlor
  - 32 Past
  - 33 "Spare the — ..."
  - 34 Motionless
  - 35 Thickness measure
- DOWN**
- 1 Cheerful
  - 2 Bronte's "Jane —"
  - 3 Great Dutch artist
  - 4 Leaflike plant part
  - 5 Gun

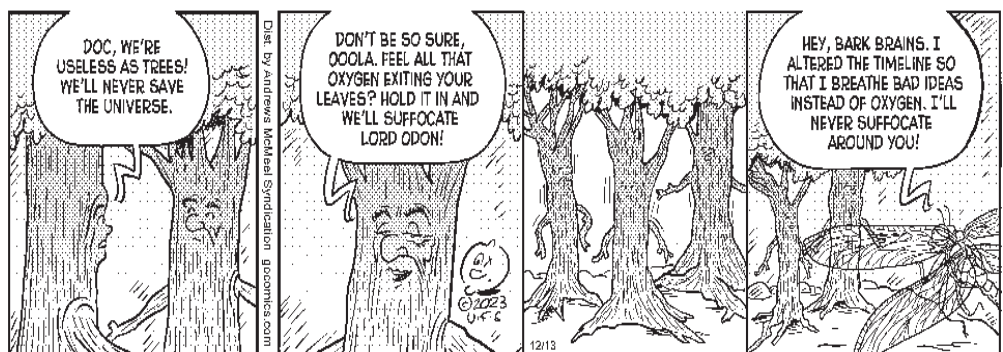
Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

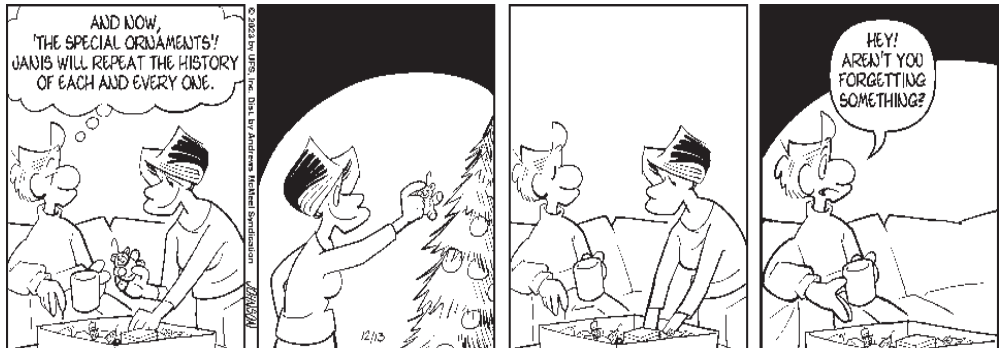
- 6 Field measure
- 7 Sticky stuff
- 8 Take in
- 9 Come down in buckets
- 10 Punta del —
- 11 Prophet
- 19 Prepare to fire
- 20 Pollute
- 22 Anchor
- 23 Watery fluids
- 24 Diving bird
- 25 Insect
- 26 Composed of layers
- 27 Sponsorship (var.)
- 28 Shoe part
- 30 Seeing that
- 31 English queen
- 37 Famed tower in Europe
- 38 Mass of bills
- 40 Old-fashioned
- 41 Speak
- 42 Deep cut
- 43 Sunscreen ingredient
- 44 Sack
- 45 Meat for stew
- 46 Star that flares
- 47 Deuce topper
- 49 Qt. fractions

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
18			19				20			
		21				22				
23	24				25			26	27	28
29			30	31				32		
33			34					35		
36			37					38		
			39			40	41			
42	43	44			45				46	47
48					49				50	
51					52				53	
54					55				56	

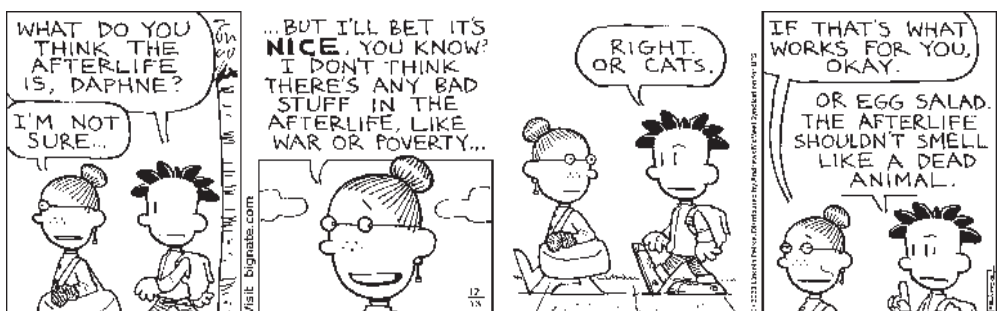
## ALLEY OOP



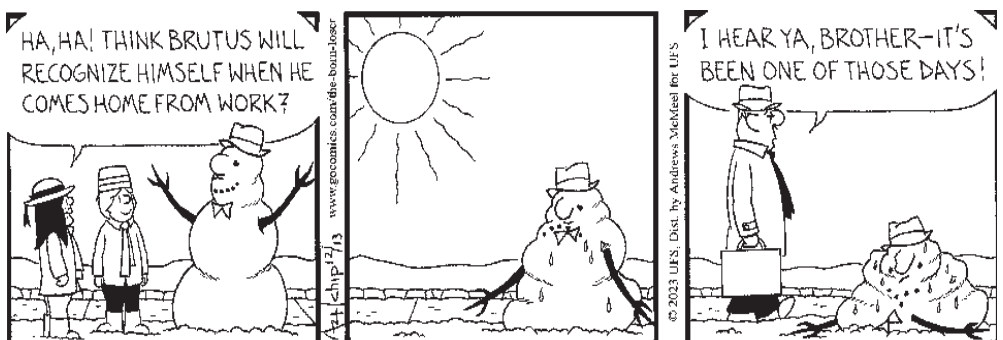
## ARLO & JANIS



## BIG NATE



## THE BORN LOSER



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



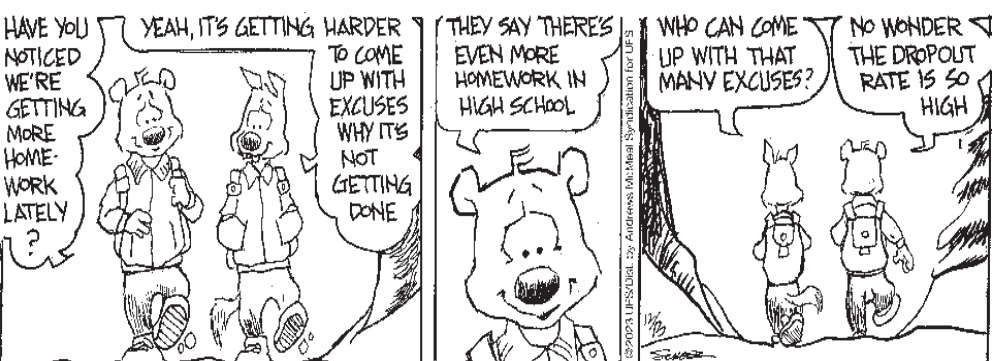
## FRANK & ERNEST



## GARFIELD



## THE GRIZZWELLS



## PEANUTS



## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

## HERMAN



# Romance blossoms within blended 'family'

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating my boyfriend, "George," for 17 years following our divorces. I have three grown children. He has four -- two of whom are still at home. We have never lived together.

My daughter and George's son (still at home) had a crush on each other when they were teenagers. Fast-forward 10 years -- they have reunited and expressed their love for one another. Although George cares deeply for all my children, I'm afraid he feels my daughter may not be the best choice for his son. She is unemployed and has health issues, and his family's opinions (they are VERY outspoken and value a strong work ethic) weigh heavily on his son.

George "parents" his adult children who are still living with him. (George stayed home until he got married at 30.) His parenting style includes hollering at his kids when they're not tending to their chores or his directives or they're staying out all night. This could possibly come between us. I should add, he's always been good to me in every way. What do you think of all this? -- LESS CERTAIN IN THE EAST

DEAR LESS CERTAIN: What I think should have no bearing on any of this. The "children"

are all adults. You can't orchestrate their lives for them. You and George need to calm down and let this scenario play out. Que sera, sera.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, a smart, lovely, professional young woman, was recently diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. She graduated summa cum laude from graduate school, and I am obviously very proud of her.

The problem is, she seems depressed and has gained a lot of weight (50-plus pounds) on her small frame. I know she's sensitive about her weight, but when I visit her, she does not watch what she's eating, and her sweet-aholic boyfriend either doesn't care or is unaware of the damage diabetes can have on an overweight person.

My father was diabetic and died at 55. By then, he was blind, and every part of his body had been affected by this terrible disease. I need to do something, but I don't know how to approach her about this. I don't want to alienate her, but I know she's headed down a very destructive path if she doesn't take better care of herself. Please give me some ideas on how to HELP. -- ALARMED DAD IN THE SOUTH

DEAR DAD: Have an in-person conversa-



**ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**

tion about this with your daughter and include her boyfriend. Explain to them that diabetes can run in families and can cause severe damage if ignored and left untreated, as you already know. Is your daughter aware that diabetes caused your father's disability and premature death? She needs to know.

It is crucial that she consult an endocrinologist and learn to manage her condition, which may involve medication, modification of her diet and a regular schedule of exercise. Tell her you love her and will help her if she would like. Then cross your fingers that she will listen and her boyfriend will stop being her enabler.

# Lifestyle



Courtesy photos

Thirteen children took part in the Shopping with a First Responder event organized by the Monte Vista Police Department, the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office, Monte Vista EMS, Colorado State Patrol and the LOR Foundation on Saturday, Dec. 9.

## MV children go Christmas 'Shopping with a First Responder'

By MARIE MCCOLM MONTE VISTA — Thirteen children took part in the Shopping with a First Responder event organized by the Monte Vista Police Department, the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office, Monte Vista EMS, Colorado State Patrol and the LOR Foundation on Saturday, Dec. 9.

The children were taken to Alamosa and shopped at Walmart for Christmas presents, with a first responder. The event was funded by the LOR Foundation's Monte Vista office.

were very gracious and very helpful to all of us. They were great partners in all of this. A special thank you also to the Rio Grande Sheriff's Office, all the deputies, and Monte Vista PD, Monte Vista EMS, the Colorado State Patrol, Ivette Atencio and the LOR Foundation, and Lorelyn Buss at the school."

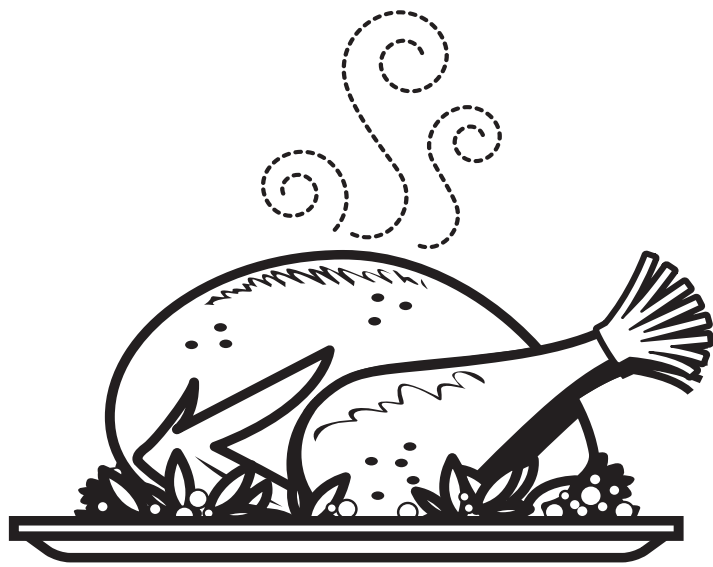


Children shopped with first responders at Walmart in Alamosa on Dec. 9. The Shopping with a First Responder event was organized by the Monte Vista Police Department, the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office, Monte Vista EMS, Colorado State Patrol and the LOR Foundation.



### Creative Coloring

Celebrate holiday cooking. Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



### THIS DAY IN...



### HISTORY

- 1901: GUGLIELMO MARCONI TRANSMITS THE FIRST TRANSATLANTIC RADIO SIGNAL.
- 1946: THE UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FUND (UNICEF) IS ESTABLISHED.
- 1972: APOLLO 17 BECOMES THE SIXTH AND FINAL APOLLO MISSION TO LAND ON THE MOON.



THIS FOOD IS OFTEN THE MAIN COURSE AT HOLIDAY MEALS.

ANSWER: TURKEY



### MENU

a list of dishes available in a restaurant

### How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Dinner
- SPANISH:** Cena
- ITALIAN:** Cena
- FRENCH:** Dîner
- GERMAN:** Abendessen

### Did you know?

EGGNOG IS A BEVERAGE SERVED DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON THAT IS MADE FROM EGG YOLKS, MILK AND AROMATIC SPICES.



### GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: LATKES

Chief Dingfelder said that the parents were appreciative and thanked all the responders for taking the kids.

Dingfelder thanked all of the partners for their help with the event.

"A big shout out to Walmart for all their help," he said. "They



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