



CPW utilizing helicopters across Western Slope for critical wildlife research work

— Page 5



Sangre girls remain undefeated with win over Sargent

— Page 6



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VOLUME 97, NO. 195

Valley Courier

TUESDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

December 12, 2023

\$1

SLV Today

Winter Coat Drive underway

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Housing Authority is having a winter coat drive. If you have a new or almost new coat you can donate, contact the authority at 719-589-6694.

Ski and gear swap Dec. 20

CRESTONE — The Crestone Charter School is having a ski and gear swap from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 20. The school is located at 330 East Lime Ave. in Crestone. For information, call 719-256-1907.

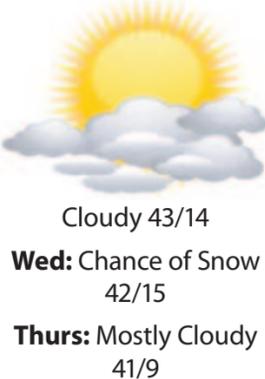
San Luis Parade of Lights Dec. 16

SAN LUIS — American Legion Post No. 142 in San Luis will have a Parade of Lights on Dec. 16 thanks to the support and assistance from the Sangre de Cristo Ranch owners group. Staging starts at 4:30 p.m. The parade starts at 6 p.m. After about a mile parade route, it ends at the American Legion Post No. 142, where there will be warm drinks and snacks. To be part of the parade, contact Post Commander Wade Eppler at wadeeppler@yahoo.com.

CORRECTION

The cutline of a photo for a front-page story on Saturday, Dec. 9, should have read: Pictured left to right, Conejos County Sheriff's Office Undersheriff Blake Crowther, Sgt. Servando Moreno and Conejos County Sheriff Garth Crowther at presentation where Moreno was honored with a Lifesaving Award for hiking miles in a snowstorm to rescue a hunter suffering from altitude sickness and hypothermia. The Courier apologizes for the error.

SLV WEATHER



Cloudy 43/14

Wed: Chance of Snow 42/15

Thurs: Mostly Cloudy 41/9

INSIDE

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Say good-bye to plastic bags and polystyrene containers for take-out



Courier photo by John Waters

Starting Jan. 1, 2024, major stores and restaurants in Colorado can no longer provide customers with single-use plastic bags. The ban does not apply to the inventory of single-use bags stores and restaurants already have in stock from 2023, but even those will be banned after June 1, 2024.

Second phase of law kicks in Jan. 1, 2024

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — The second phase of the "Management of Plastic Products" law passed in Colorado in 2021 kicks in on Jan. 1, 2024, with a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags and polystyrene containers often used for takeout food in restaurants.

Starting Jan. 1, 2024, major stores and restaurants in Colorado can no longer provide customers with single-use plastic bags. The ban does not apply to the inventory of single-use bags stores and restaurants already have in

stock from 2023, but even those will be banned after June 1, 2024.

Instead of single-use bags, stores and restaurants can provide customers with recycled paper bags but at a cost of 10 cents each at the point of sale.

Also, effective Jan. 1, 2024, restaurants can no longer provide customers with polystyrene containers, most commonly used for take-out food. The same rule applies — those polystyrene container restaurants have in inventory can be used, but even those will be prohibited after June 1, 2024. Restaurants can use non-polystyrene containers instead.

According to the law, 60 percent of the bag fee collected will go to local jurisdictions.

■ See PLASTIC page 3

'Hey Rudolph, don't fly and text at the same time'

Mule buck seen tangled with lights

STAFF REPORT
ALAMOSA — An almost annual scene repeated itself here in the past several days as a mule deer buck was found with a wound-up collection of Christmas lights entangled in what remains of its antlers.

When deer enter their "rut" or breeding season, bucks are known to thrash around in bushes and other things in an attempt to ward off competing males and to impress the "ladies", according to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). The buck in question appears to have had his antlers cut off at some point earlier this year.

CPW District Wildlife Manager Tyler Cerny said residents are encouraged to contact the CPW office in Monte Vista



Courier photo by Keith R. Cerny

A mule deer buck has been seen in recent days in the vicinity of Adams State University with its antlers tangled in Christmas lights. Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials don't plan to intervene unless the animal can't function as normal because that could further stress the animal, and ungulates drop their antlers in the spring.

When wildlife appears to have been entangled in something and need help. He said officers will not engage an animal if they don't show signs of stress or cannot function normally.

According to a report from CPW, over the years, the agency has seen deer, elk and moose tangled with a variety of items, including tricycles, tires, garbage.

■ See DEER page 3



Courier photo by John Waters

The Alamosa Combustion Turbine, which consists of two gas/oil-powered units and is owned by Xcel Energy, will be replaced by new more efficient turbines if a plan submitted to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission is approved.

Xcel to replace aging Alamosa plant

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor
ALAMOSA — Xcel Energy will replace the two aging natural gas and oil turbines in Alamosa as part of a Colorado Clean Energy plan it has submitted to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

The Alamosa 1 turbine was built in 1973 and can produce 13 MW of

electricity, and the Alamosa 2 unit, completed in 1977, produces 14 MW of electricity. Both gas/oil units are scheduled to retire in 2026. In the plan, Xcel deemed that continuing to have a plant in the San Luis Valley is an "essential" component of electricity reliability, and after an analysis determined the two turbines

■ See XCEL page 3

Local Pearl Harbor survivor Blake attends ceremony virtually

Monte Vista theater operator made it possible

By MARIE MCCOLM

MONTE VISTA — Veteran and Pearl Harbor survivor George Blake took part in a Pearl Harbor Memorial ceremony on Dec. 7 via Zoom thanks to the effort of local businessman Bob Richards.

Richards allowed Blake, 102, the use of the Vali 3 Theatre to attend the ceremony in Ha-

waii virtually on the big screen. Movie theater operator, Richards, opened it up to the public so people could show their support for Blake, who lives at the Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake.

For many years Blake has traveled to Hawaii to attend a ceremony that the Pearl Harbor Memorial Foundation holds every year on Dec. 7, but was not able to make it this year.

At least 75 people attended the ceremony for Blake and sat in the theater with

■ See BLAKE page 3



Photo by Marie Mccolm

Veteran and Pearl Harbor survivor George Blake stands along with Pam Self, who is the director of the Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake, during the playing of the National Anthem at Vali 3 Theater on Dec. 7 in Monte Vista.



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

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Record

OBITUARIES

James Jesse Griego



Longtime Alamosa resident James Jesse Griego, 97, passed away Dec. 8, 2023, at the San Luis Valley Regional Hospital in Alamosa, Colo.

James was born on the 21st of March, 1926 in Salt Lake City, Utah. He married the love of his life Mary Lucero in 1975 in Taos, N.M. They enjoyed 48 wonderful years together.

James was in the military for 24 years, serving in the Air Force, and Army. He was awarded the Air Force Longevity Service Award, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, The National Defense Medal, the WWII Victory Medal and the Army of Occupa-

tion Medal to name a few.

James enjoyed going fishing and camping. He loved going to the BX stores on the Military bases. James loved to spend time with his family and especially enjoyed his grandchildren and great-granddaughters.

James is survived by his wife Mary Griego of Alamosa, his daughter Amy (Darryl) Leon of Alamosa, his granddaughter Amanda (Ryan) Lindner of Sparta Wisconsin, his

grandson Darryl (Maria) Leon of New Jersey, his great-granddaughters Maddilyn and Isabella; and his siblings Tony Griego of New Mexico and Carmen Lee of Alamosa., as well as numerous other relatives.

James was preceded in death by his parents, and his son Jimmy Griego in 2014.

Cremation has been chosen. A Recitation of the Rosary will be Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. A funeral mass will follow at 10 a.m. also at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

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

Ruth Higel Wagner



Ruth Higel Wagner entered her eternal home in heaven on Dec. 7, 2023, after living a long and fulfilling life.

Ruth was born on Dec. 8, 1926, in Alamosa, Colo., to Herman and Elsie Higel. Ruth was the second oldest of nine children. Her siblings and spouses are: Patty (Neal+), Harold+ (Jackie+), Richard+ (Mary Lee), Shirley (Joe), Helen (Harold+), Gerry+ (Darrel+), Margaret (John), and Tom (Sandy).

Friends and family were the backbone of her life. Ruth cherished her time at Mt. Pleasant Schoolhouse. She often shared stories of her school days and stayed in touch with Ms. Saxton, her teacher, and her classmates. Ruth graduated from Alamosa High in 1944. She took classes while working at Adams State, then worked for American National Bank and the law firm of Moses, DeSouchet and Whit Myers.

In 1956, Ruth moved to Denver and married Dave Wagner+ in 1957. Ruth and Dave had six children: David (Ruth), Gwen (Ben),

plan that takes advantage of readily available Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding for water conservation and drought mitigation.

"Amidst aridification and ongoing drought, communities throughout the Rio Grande Basin are grappling with decreasing quantities and predictability of water supplies," wrote the senators. "Despite a relatively wet water year, the Rio Grande still needs substantial investment in long-term drought adaptation."

at this year's Range Beef Cow Symposium. Online registration is available at <https://blueprintmedia.regfox.com/range-beef-cow-symposium-xxviii>.

For a full schedule of events, speakers and additional information, visit www.rangebeefcowsymposium.com or contact Ryan D. Rhoades at 970-217-0239 or ryan.rhoades@colostate.edu.

Diana, Mary (Mike), Julia+ (Jon) and Nancy. They settled in Broomfield where Ruth lived for the past 51 years. Ruth worked at United Bank of Broomfield and then downtown with United Banks of Colorado.

Ruth prioritized spending time with her family her entire life, cherishing memories and time spent with her brothers and sisters along with Dave's brothers, their spouses, her parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. Her legacy lives on through the Wagner and Higel clans, her children, grandchildren (16), great-grandchildren (22), and great-great-grandchild.

Ruth was an amazing person loved by many; she was a wonderful wife, sister, mom, grandmother, friend and an outstanding role model. She definitely taught her children perseverance and the value of love, family, and friendship.

Ruth loved the mountains and spent time in Vail every summer. Donations in memory of Ruth may be made to the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens, where she enjoyed the beautiful gardens and attended summer performances nearby.

Ruth's family and friends are invited to celebrate her life in a Mass of Christian Burial at Nativity of Our Lord on Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 11 a.m. with a Rosary at 10:30 a.m. To see a livestream of the Mass go to: www.nool.us. Interment will be at Fort Logan National Cemetery on Dec. 14.

Ruth will be dearly missed by all her family, extended family and friends. Please view the full obituary at Darrell Howe (www.darrellhowemortuary.com).

Ruth always enjoyed receiving clippings from the Courier, we hope you will clip this one and share it with a friend!

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Hickenlooper, Bennet advocate for federal resources to address drought in Rio Grande Basin

STAFF REPORT WASHINGTON — U.S. Senators John Hickenlooper and Michael Bennet recently joined Senators Martin Heinrich and Ben Ray Lujan in urging the Biden Administration to address extreme drought in the Rio Grande Basin.

In their letter, the senators encourage the Department of the Interior (DOI) to collaborate with local governments, tribes and pueblos, traditional use communities, farmers, and ranchers within the Basin to develop a robust funding

plan that takes advantage of readily available Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding for water conservation and drought mitigation.

"Amidst aridification and ongoing drought, communities throughout the Rio Grande Basin are grappling with decreasing quantities and predictability of water supplies," wrote the senators. "Despite a relatively wet water year, the Rio Grande still needs substantial investment in long-term drought adaptation."

Range Beef Cow Symposium brings educational opportunities to Colorado

Biennial event set for Dec. 13-14 in Loveland

By LARRY BROWN
CSU Extension
FORT COLLINS – The Colorado State University Department of Animal Sciences is hosting the 28th Range Beef Cow Symposium, Dec. 13-14, at The Ranch in Loveland. The biennial symposium, sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service and Animal Science Departments of Colorado State University, South Dakota State University, University of Nebraska and University of Wyoming, offers an exclusive program of practical production management information specific to the region's cattle producers.

This year's program will highlight a variety of industry speakers delivering valuable, cutting-edge information on beef cattle management strategies ranging from consumer drivers of sustainability to feeder calf marketing. Additionally, sessions will incorporate up-to-date information and data from nationally and internationally known speakers,

including several producer panels focusing on hot topic issues and opportunities in the beef cattle industry.

An always-popular feature of the Range Beef Cow Symposium is the evening "Bull Pen" sessions. Speakers will be present for questions and discussion of their topics, offering attendees an opportunity to acquire more in-depth and applied knowledge from presentations earlier in the program.

The symposium also boasts a top-notch trade show showcasing a variety of commercial displays from more than 50 allied industry vendors. Individuals and businesses interested in participating in the trade show are encouraged to register online at <https://blueprintmedia.regfox.com/range-beef-cow-symposium-xxviii-trade-show>.

A pre-symposium Beef Quality Assurance training will also be provided on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

Cattle producers across the Great Plains are encouraged to join the Colorado State University Department of Animal Sciences in Loveland to take advantage of the educational and profit-building seminars

at this year's Range Beef Cow Symposium. Online registration is available at <https://blueprintmedia.regfox.com/range-beef-cow-symposium-xxviii>.

For a full schedule of events, speakers and additional information, visit www.rangebeefcowsymposium.com or contact Ryan D. Rhoades at 970-217-0239 or ryan.rhoades@colostate.edu.

Becky Jean Owsley



Well-known and longtime Alamosa resident Becky Jean Owsley, 77, died Dec. 7, 2023, at Evergreen Nursing Home in Alamosa.

Becky's life began in Denver, Colo., where her family lived for a year before moving to Alamosa. She was born on Oct. 29, 1946, to Theodore (Ted) M. Curtis and Kathryn (Kay) C. (Michael) Curtis.

She married the love of her life, Chuck Owsley in Denver, Colo., on Feb. 2, 1964. They have enjoyed over 59 years together. In her early years, Becky was a varsity cheerleader in high school. She also volunteered as a storyteller at the public library and loved reading stories to all the children.

Becky was a Den Mother for both Cub Scouts and Brownies. She enjoyed playing cards and belonged to various

bridge clubs. Some of her favorite memories and greatest joy were spending time with her family playing games at the dining room table.

Becky owned and operated the family business Dairy Queen in Alamosa for a time, then worked with her husband and son David at Curtis Brothers for more than 15 years. She also was a longtime camp counselor with Mary Hennessey's Camp, which she did with her daughter and son.

Becky is a member of PEO Chapter DP, Order of the Eastern Star in Alamosa, and was an active supporter of athletics at Adams State University. She and her husband Chuck received the Grizzly Club Member of the Year in 2014.

Becky and Chuck traveled extensively throughout Europe, Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean Islands. She enjoyed geocaching all throughout the United States.

Becky was loved by many and was one of the sweetest people most would ever meet.

She is survived by her husband Charles Franklin Owsley of Alamosa; her children C. Jeff Owsley of Alamosa, David (Tonya) Owsley of Alamosa, and Kathy (Jer-

emy) Soden of Rocky Ford, Colo., her grandchildren Charles (Kerry) Owsley, Laura Owsley, John (Matt) Owsley, Bowen (Liz) Soden, and Sawyer Soden; his great-grandchildren Warren, and Clementine Soden; her grand dog Duke; her sister Marjory (Chuck) Asay of Colorado Springs, Colo.; as well as numerous extended family and friends.

Becky was preceded in death by her parents, an infant brother Michael Curtis, and her daughter-in-law Halcyon "Hallie" Owsley.

Cremation was chosen and all are invited to a visitation to greet family Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023, from 5-7 p.m. at the Rogers Family Mortuary in Alamosa. A Celebration of Life will be held 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023, at the First United Methodist Church in Alamosa. Contributions in her memory are suggested to the Adams State Foundation and may be made here: www.adams.edu/foundation/online-donation/

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

arts and crafts. He loved his little dog Festy.

Tony is survived by his son Benito "Tony" A. Quintana Jr., his daughters Sally, Teri, Tina, Alicia, Amanda, Sandra and Laura; his brother Raymond; his dog Festy; and his best friend Sylvia Montaño.

Tony was preceded in death by both his parents Elias and Juanita Quintana, his siblings Charlie, Helen, and Cecelia.

Cremation has been chosen.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the ar-

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Benito 'Tony' Quintana Sr.

La Jara resident Benito "Tony" Quintana Sr., 85, passed away at San Luis Valley Health Conejos County Hospital on Dec. 7, 2023.

Tony was born in Capulin, Colo., to Elias and Juanita (Martinez) Quintana on the 12th of June, 1938. He worked most of his life as a Self-Employed Farmer, and he enjoyed farming very much. Tony was very talented with his hands and was very artistic. He enjoyed making little log cabins. He was a talented painter, very artistic, and enjoyed

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San Luis Valley Federal Bank

Spirit of Giving

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San Luis Valley Federal Bank's Spirit of Giving is here! \$35,000 will be donated to SLV local non-profits. Every Bank member may vote for their favorite non-profit! Each vote a non-profit receives, the larger their donation will be. Learn more or cast your vote by visiting our website!

Voting begins November 13th and ends December 15th



School Menu

Tuesday

December 12, 2023

BREAKFAST
Pancake On A Stick
Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY
Spaghetti/Meat Sauce
Steamed Broccoli/Breadstick
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL
Spaghetti/Meat Sauce
Steamed Broccoli/Breadstick
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL
Spaghetti/Meat Sauce
Steamed Broccoli/Breadstick
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

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

Valley News

RG Bank provides remote financial literacy learning resources to local schools

STAFF REPORT
RIO GRANDE COUNTY – Rio Grande Bank is bringing financial literacy education to over 1,680 students in several Colorado counties. Students at

10 schools have free access to Banzai, an award-winning online program and content library that allows users to practice real-world finance from the safety of their home or classroom

using any internet-enabled device. At a time when a solid foundation of practical financial knowledge is critical, these resources will make a huge impact on users. All of these resources are available to students at home or in the classroom via any device that can access the internet.

“Banzai is a web-based financial literacy program. Kids get their own accounts, and they work through assignments that are based on real life,” says Morgan Vandagriff, co-founder of Banzai. “But because RG Bank is sponsoring it, local schools get it for free. More than ever, it’s important that kids develop sound financial skills to prepare them for the real world, and RG Bank realizes that and they’re doing something about it.”

Banzai content builds a foundation of practical knowledge and gives students the tools to create a sound financial future. While students learn, teachers can easily monitor and grade their progress remotely. After finish-



Courtesy photo

Rio Grande Bank is bringing financial literacy education to over 1,680 students in several Colorado counties, including eight schools in the San Luis Valley.

ing Banzai, students will know how to track where their money is and what it’s for, recognize financial trade-offs, build a budget, and more. At a time when many are facing unprecedented financial challenges, these lessons are invaluable. The Banzai resources are available at rgbank.teachbanzai.com.

RG Bank is working with Banzai to build financial literacy in the community by investing time, money, industry experience, and a variety of bank resources.

Beyond the Banzai library, RG Bank also offers virtual or in-classroom presentations from local experts on timely topics.

Banzai resources are used by over 100,000 teachers across the U.S. The courses align with Colorado’s state curriculum requirements, making the program a fun way for students to gain vital financial literacy skills.

According to the RG Bank website, eight schools in the Valley are currently being sponsored including

Alamosa High School, Antonito High School, Centauri High School, Creede High School, Monte Vista High School, Ortega Middle School, Sargent Junior High School and Sargent High School.

Teachers interested in using the Banzai program with their class can visit rgbank.teachbanzai.com or call 888-8-BANZAI. For more information about Banzai visit banzai.org. For more information about RG Bank visit rgbank.bank.



Photo by Marie McColm

James Pacheco, of the Polished Edge, presents Pearl Harbor survivor George Blake with a piece of granite with a poem Blake wrote about the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor during a ceremony on Dec. 7 at Vali 3 Theater in Monte Vista.

Blake

Continued from Page 1

him. The foundation could see Blake and everyone sitting with him. The foundation spoke about Blake and mentioned what an honor it was to still have him. There was a salute given on the big screen from Hawaii.

The entire theater clapped and cheered when they heard the mention of Blake.

“Also, a special welcome to Mr. George Blake, who is watching virtually with many of his friends and fellow Veterans, from the Veterans Community Living Center. Mr. Blake served with the 41st Post Artillery Regiment. The last known living post artillery soldier who served at the Hawaii post artillery command here at Fort Kamehameha, during the attack on Pearl Harbor,” the emcee of the ceremony said.

There were various speakers throughout the ceremony in Hawaii. Some of the speakers spoke specifically about certain fallen soldiers who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor. Blake was mentioned many times as a survivor.

John Hanson, son of Private Henry Hanson, was one of the guest speakers. He spoke about his father and about Blake.

“It really is a humbling privilege to be here with the venerable George Blake once again, who was also here defending the nation that fateful day (Dec. 7, 1941), and who has remained dedicated to remembering for 82 years, remembering those who fought and died here especially. You may not agree but you are a hero sir. Thank you for your service and for profoundly inspiring all of us,” Hanson said.

Years ago, on a trip back to Hawaii Blake wrote a poem entitled “Why you not me.” In it, Blake asks why so many other people died at Pearl Harbor, yet his life was spared. The poem was also read in Hawaii.

At the end of the ceremony, Blake was helped to the front of the theater for a question-and-answer period and a special presentation.

Richards was touched by the poem and worked with James Pacheco of the Polished Edge to de-

sign a small version of it on a piece of granite that was presented to Blake.

Richards asked Blake to explain why he wrote the poem. Blake said he was at Pearl Harbor visiting like he often did, and that there was a room with names of everyone who had died at Pearl Harbor. He explained that he couldn’t sleep that night thinking about how many people had died.

“I got to thinking about it and they were just kids, the average age of the ones that died were 17-19 years old. I thought about it, and I thought if the Lord decides who lives and who dies, how come he took all those people, and I am still here. When I got up in the morning, I took those thoughts and put them into a rhyme. It’s been shown in several places around the country,” Blake said.

A larger version of the poem on stone is planned and placed either at Faith Hinkley Memorial Park, or at Homelake.

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

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

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

Blake survived the Pearl Harbor attack and stayed in Pearl Harbor, in Harbor defense. He returned to the mainland and worked as a Radar Instructor in Fort Monroe, Va., until he was discharged on July 15, 1945. He lived in Salida for 40 years before moving to Homelake. He turned 102 in January.

“It’s an honor to be here, and have people interested in this history. It’s humbling for me to get all this attention. I was just a 19-year-old kid who happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time making history. I appreciate your interest, remembering Pearl Harbor 82 years ago.”

Xcel

Continued from Page 1

that comprise the Alamosa plant need replacement.

Xcel conducted a detailed evaluation of the units and analyzed rebuilding them based upon whether the unit, “has the flexibility necessary to assist in the integration of the increasing levels of variable generation that the Company expects... and assists in maintaining a reliable system.” Based on this evaluation, the company chose not to rebuild these gas/oil units. The determination was based principally on the age and condition of

the units and the lack of replacement parts.

Xcel also consulted with General Electric, the builder of the original units, and concluded that any rebuild would be a “long [18 months], complex, and costly, process.”

Xcel plans the retirement of the existing Company-owned Alamosa plant at the end of 2026 without replacement it would leave no firm production [excluding solar] resources located in the San Luis Valley. The Company believes it is essential from a reliability perspective to continue to have firm generation in the region. Xcel is proposing a 28 MW aero-derivative gas-fired unit

with fuel oil as a secondary backup. This choice provides reliable generation to serve the San Luis Valley load at all hours in the event of transmission and/or natural gas supply issues, according to Xcel.

As reported in the Valley Courier last week, Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske sent a letter in support of the plan to the PUC in support of Xcel Energy’s Colorado Clean Energy Plan 120-Day Report and Xcel Energy’s Preferred Plan. The plan includes 22 projects statewide, and would double the amount of renewable energy and include an investment by the utility of \$14-\$15 billion. According to the

letter from Laske, “With the retirement of Xcel Energy’s existing Alamosa Combustion turbine in 2025, Xcel Energy is proposing a new 28 MW combustion turbine to ensure reliable electric service in the San Luis Valley by backing up existing energy generation in the area. Furthermore, investments in transmission infrastructure will enhance reliability in the San Luis Valley and throughout the state.”

The plan also contains San Luis Valley Transmission Network upgrades of \$176 million. The Valley Courier has reached out to Xcel for details on these network improvements.

Deer

Continued from Page 1

den cages, clothes lines, plastic fencing, lawn chairs, playground equipment, soccer nets, Christmas lights and more. During the fall season, ungulates such as deer and elk will begin their migrations and will be looking for mates during the

rut, which is the breeding season. Wildlife entering neighborhoods or visiting homes in rural areas are prone to getting tangled in summer gear left in backyards, or holiday decorations that get put up in the fall and winter. As people begin to hang outdoor decorations, CPW recommends that lights and other decorations be placed above six

feet or attached tightly to trees and buildings. Lights that hang low or that are draped insecurely over vegetation can get tangled easily in antlers. Wildlife officers can often help tangled deer when promptly notified. But every year, CPW gets reports of deer and elk that have died after becoming stuck in fences or in items that prevent them from

eating. CPW recommends residents report any wildlife that become entangled in their yard immediately and do not try to intervene themselves. That could result in injury to the person or make the situation worse for the animal that is entangled. The CPW office in Monte Vista can be reached at 719-587-6900.

Plastic

Continued from Page 1

jurisdiction for composting or recycling and related administrative costs. The remaining 40 percent is kept by the businesses.

However, there are some exceptions to the law, including smaller stores with three or fewer locations, farmers and roadside markets, laundry or dry-cleaning services, pharmacies, bulk stores and for use with frozen food, meat, seafood, plants and other items that could otherwise be contaminated.

Aside from those exceptions, the following businesses are subject to the law, including restaurants, major grocery stores and supermarkets, major convenience stores, major liquor stores, major retailers and other major stores providing plastic shopping bags.

For the purpose of this law, “major” is defined as a business with three or more locations.

HB21-1162 “Management of Plastic Products” does not allow municipi-

ties to opt out of the bill but does empower local governments to enact stricter laws, if so desired.

When asked if the City of Alamosa planned to make local laws more stringent, Alamosa City Manager Heather Sanchez told the Valley Courier, “When the state passed the law, city council discussed it and decided that it was not going to impose anything further than what the state was imposing. Since council fully discussed the issues at the end of 2022 and first part of 2023, nothing has changed to warrant further discussion.”

Sanchez then referenced an ordinance passed by the city council and signed by Mayor Ty Coleman on Jan. 4, 2023, that “considers it in the best interests of the citizens of Alamosa to have a local enforcement mechanism in place to ensure that large retailers in Alamosa are complying with the requirements of HB 21- 1162,” which included adding a section to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Alamosa using language that largely

echoes the state law.

“The act also authorizes a local government to enforce against a violation of the act and expressly authorizes a county to impose a civil penalty against a store or retail food establishment of up to \$500 for a second violation or up to \$1,000 for a third or subsequent violation; except that a local government cannot enforce a violation committed by a retail food establishment located within a school.”

Sanchez further said that the city was going to handle enforcement on a complaint basis, similar to other nuisance ordinances. The city’s “primary role is to provide community education and inform stores and restaurants how to pay the bag fees” they have collected. That process will, by law, begin April 1, 2024, and continue quarterly thereafter.

When asked if she expected the new rule to cause any difficulties, Kris Staaf, Safeway Director of Public Affairs for Denver and surrounding areas, told the Valley Courier, “There’s the ‘sold through’ provision in the

law that allows us to continue to use the plastic bags we have in inventory with a fee charged of 10 cents each.

“Once the inventory is depleted or it’s June 1 — whichever is first — we will only have recycled paper bags available for a fee of 10 cents. But we also have a wide range of reusable bags that we have on sale at our stores and those sell for anywhere from 99 cents to \$1.99. We also have box totes where people can carry a large amount of food that are on sale for a slightly higher price.”

HB21-1162 was passed after years of consideration in the state legislature. The purpose of the bill is to reduce the widespread use of plastic bags and plastic foam food containers that are harmful to the environment, difficult or impossible to recycle, non-biodegradable and often end up in landfills where they will continue to remain forever, either intact or broken down by weather and degraded into microplastics that pollute the land, water and air.

Lifestyles

Forging a path: Women welders

(NAPSI) — “It is not for the faint of heart,” Erica Bridges said.

Bridges is a Welding Technology student at Texas State Technical College (TSTC). She was referring to her field of study and to welding in general.

“I encourage it, though,” she added. “This is a really good money-making (career). The people that you will meet, they’re just one-of-a-kind people.”

In the heavily male-dominated industry of welding, only 5.1% of the workers are female, according to a 2022 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics report. In the fall 2023 semester, TSTC had a total of 94 women and 970 men enrolled in Welding Technology.

What To Know
To help others understand, some female welding students, instructors and alumni from TSTC recently spoke of their experiences in welding and their love for it. They also talked about some of its challenges.

TSTC welding instructor Samara Flener has seen positive changes in her 20-plus years of working in the industry, but said preconceived notions about female welders still remain.

“That climate has improved, (but) some days you have to put on your Teflon suit, go out there, get the job done, and let it slide off,” she said.

TSTC Welding Technology alumna Tatum McFarland echoed Flener’s mentality about being among the few females in the industry.

“It hasn’t been easy,” McFarland said. “And you just kind of got to grow a backbone, more or less, to be able to work with (men).”

Haylee Phillips, a first-semester TSTC Welding Technology student, said that before beginning the welding program, she was worried about how she would be perceived by the



Photo courtesy of TSTC

Six of the 94 female welding students at Texas State Technical College who are about to enter the primarily male-dominated industry of welding.

male students.

“I was intimidated at first,” she said. “Especially a few weeks before school, I was like, ‘They’re going to treat me all weird because I’m a girl.’ But if you shut it off and go to learn, you’ll succeed.”

Another TSTC Welding Technology student, Alondra Ramos, is pursuing welding despite a lack of encouragement from her parents.

“I didn’t have a lot of support coming into the welding industry and doing this,” she said. “I’m here to prove them wrong in a lot of stuff. I always got pushed down, but I’ve always tried my hardest to come out on top and to prove everybody wrong.”

What It’s Like

Flener acknowledged the fact that being a welder can be grueling.

“Welding is not for everybody,” she said. “Some aspects of welding can be extremely physically demanding, and you have to be able to work in that environment.”

Phillips feels the same way but said the effort is worth it.

“It’s hard,” she said. “I mean, it’s hot all the time. I’m sweating from the minute I walk into the shop in the morning until I leave in the evening. You’re lifting heavy stuff, your arms get super tired, and you’re in uncomfortable positions.

I think there are a lot of women who just aren’t interested in that type of lifestyle for a career path. But me, I mean, I know the money that comes with it, so I’m willing to suffer a little bit.”

Why They Do It

Despite the challenges, each woman spoke to a love of welding that outweighs any obstacles.

“It’s like an escape from the world; it’s like you’re at peace,” Ramos said. “Most of my stress goes away when I’m under the (welding) hood. I love it.”

Phillips said, for her, it is the satisfaction of being able to look at something that she has had a hand in building.

“It’d be cool to see a rocket that I welded something on go up into space and be like, ‘I was a part of that,’” she said. “I get to look at my work and see what it’s for, and see that I helped. That’s pretty cool.”

Flener encouraged those with a love for welding to pursue it despite any roadblocks that may come their way.

“Regardless of who you are, if you love it, seek out those opportunities that will allow you to be in an environment that works for you,” she said. “Don’t be afraid to try out a job, and if it doesn’t work out, move on to the next thing. Don’t call it failing. It’s figuring out where you fit.”

Experts urge investigation of ‘coordinated plan’ to compromise election software

By **LINDSEY TOOMER**
Colorado Newsline

A new letter from election security experts calls on federal officials to investigate the connection between the voting system breaches in Georgia to breaches in other states, including Colorado, and warns of similar threats to 2024 election security.

Free Speech For People, a legal advocacy organization, joined the group Black Voters Matter and a coalition of election and computer security experts in signing the letter sent to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland, Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Chris Wray and Special Counsel Jack Smith on Monday.

The letter says the 2020 Coffee County, Georgia breach that prosecutors have tied to former President Donald Trump’s legal team is “just one element of a much broader, coordinated plan that involved many of the same actors engaging in the same unlawful activities in the pursuit of unauthorized copies of voting system software from multiple states.”

In Colorado, former Mesa County Clerk Tina Peters will go on trial in February on a variety of charges related to a security breach during an election systems software update in 2021,

when sensitive data was copied and system passwords were photographed and posted online.

“People that actively tried to overturn the 2020 presidential election have crossed legal lines to obtain copies of voting system software, and they have had it now for nearly three years,” Susan Greenhalgh, senior advisor for election security at Free Speech For People, said in a statement. “Our federal law enforcement agencies cannot ignore the threat this poses to future elections, and must initiate an investigation immediately.”

Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold reiterated that Colorado’s elections are safe and secure.

“As part of the attack on democracy, bad actors have tried to steal and copy election system information across the nation to use to further spread their conspiracies,” Griswold said about the letter in an email. “Bad actors who break the law should be held accountable.”

Separately on Friday, the Colorado County Clerks Association executive board sent a letter to officials across the state encouraging them to stand up for Colorado’s election security as many continue to undermine the integrity of voting systems.

“Unfortunately, it is clear that those who spread lies and distrust of our institutions aren’t going away and, in some cases, are better resourced and louder than ever,” the letter from the CCCA read. “We need you now to come forward and help us correct the record and regain trust taken from our elections by bullies and bad actors through a concerted national and statewide effort to deceive, not through any problems with our actual voting systems.”

The CCCA’s letter comes after the Colorado Republican Party last month sent a message to supporters repeating baseless allegations of “systemic fraud” and advising county canvass boards to not certify results from the Nov. 7 statewide election.

Matt Crane, executive director of the CCCA, said the association sent the letter to all of Colorado’s federal and state elected officials and are working on sending it to county officials, too.

Griswold said she will always work to protect Colorado elections and make sure every voters’ voices are heard as secretary of state.

“I commend the Colorado County Clerks Association for calling on all elected officials to stand up against bad actors who seek to undermine confidence in our elections,” Griswold said.

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3 Local businesses sell a wide range of great products at affordable prices and cater to the needs and wants of the community.

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.

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Valley Courier

(ISSN 1047-1170)

The Valley Courier is published daily, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday by San Luis Valley Publishing, 2205 State Ave., Alamosa, Colo. 81101. Web site: www.alamosanews.com. Periodicals Postage is paid at Alamosa, Colo., Monte Vista, Colo., La Jara, Colo., and Fort Garland, Colo. Phone (719) 589-2553. Postmaster send change of address to P.O. Box 1099.

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Your FIRST Source for Local News

Lifestyles



CPW Photo by Evan Phillips

Helicopters are a key tool for CPW biologists to conduct winter survey and collaring work on big game animals across Colorado.

CPW utilizing helicopters across Western Slope for critical wildlife research work

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

MONTROSE — Early winter months are a crucial time for wildlife research projects and population surveys for Colorado Parks and Wildlife biologists. The public may notice helicopters flying at low altitudes to conduct this work across the Western Slope again this winter.

CPW will work to place GPS collars on 75 elk calves in December, and research crews will also collar 120 pregnant cow elk during the month of March. This work will be conducted across the Bear's Ears herd in northwest Colorado, the Avalanche Creek herd in the Roaring Fork Valley and the Uncompahgre herd west of Montrose.

Elk calves are captured using net guns and are quickly collared and released by the helicopter crew at the capture site. Pregnant elk involved in the study are transported by the helicopter crew a very short distance to a processing area where they are given a GPS collar and an implant that allows CPW researchers to track the pregnancy and calf survival. A veterinarian is also on site to assess the health of the animals.

Research work is conducted early in the gestation period when there will be no effect on the cow or calf. CPW aims to understand calf survival and cause-specific mortality across different study areas in the state.

"The data we collect from these efforts is critical to help us proactively manage elk populations in the state," said CPW Wildlife Researcher Nathaniel Rayl. "In general, it is beneficial to conduct capture work in winter because the lower temperatures and snowfall provide better conditions for this work. Elk, moose, deer and pronghorn prefer cooler temperatures and are actually less stressed than if we were to capture in the summer when

they may overheat and die. The deeper snow cushions the animal and helps prevent injuries, and they don't run as far, making capture easier and quicker. Conducting this work in the winter also allows us to gather critical information about pregnancy and body condition."

Classification flights for big-game species such as deer, elk and bighorn sheep will also begin in December and be carried out through the winter as flying conditions permit. This work is done across the entire state.

Classification flights allow CPW to accurately estimate populations, recruitment of young animals into the population and sex ratios. Survey flights have a minimal impact on the wildlife, causing a disturbance that lasts only a few minutes. These flights will begin in early December and could extend into February.

"The classification flights will be critical to help us understand how last winter's weather conditions may have affected birth rates and survival of elk calves and fawns last summer," said CPW Northwest Region Senior Wildlife Biologist Brad Banulis. "This is a critical data point to help us manage big game populations in the state, and we collect it in a manner that minimizes the

stress on animals. We collect this data to manage robust and healthy wildlife populations, so we are always looking out for animal welfare and would not be doing capture or classification flights if we thought it was detrimental to the animals."

In the Southwest Region, CPW will also radio collar 30 doe mule deer in Game Management Units 74 and 741 in La Plata County and parts of San Juan County. This work is scheduled to be conducted Dec. 20, depending on weather conditions.

Additionally, CPW is increasing its monitoring on the Western Slope and will place additional collars on deer and elk in the areas outside of Gunnison, Montrose, Meeker and Kremmling.

"Collecting survival rates and understanding cause-specific mortality is essential work for our wildlife biologists," said CPW Senior Wildlife Biologist Jamin Grigg. "This work benefits multiple ongoing studies. We appreciate the public's understanding of why they may be seeing helicopters throughout the state. If you see a low-level helicopter surveying wildlife, know that it's CPW biologists out surveying the herds and getting out these important radio collars or tracking changes to our wildlife populations."

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Sports

Sangre girls remain undefeated with win over Sargent

Sports Bulletin

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

- SCOREBOARD FRIDAY**
Prep boys basketball
 Cotopaxi 55, Anttonito 35
 Moffat 48, Custer County 43
 Platte Valley 44, Alamosa 37
 Primero 73, Creede 46
 Salida 50, Centauri 37
 Sanford 52, Ignacio 44
 Sierra Grande 57, Ellicott 35
- Prep girls basketball**
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 Centauri 45, Salida 27
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 Primero 39, Creede 36
 Sanford 52, Ignacio 44
 West Grand 57, Moffat 15
- College men's basketball**
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- College women's basketball**
 Adams State 69, Colorado State Pueblo 62

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- Prep girls basketball**
 Creede 42, Custer County 37
 Ignacio 37, Del Norte 31
 Kim/Branson 42, Sierra Grande 27
 Sangre de Cristo 55, Sargent 39
 South Park 58, Moffat 23
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- College men's basketball**
 Adams State 78, New Mexico Highlands 71
- College women's basketball**
 Adams State 91, New Mexico Highlands 60

- SUNDAY**
College women's wrestling
 Adams State 20, Minot State (N.D.) 16
 Chadron State (Neb.) 41, Adams State 8

- SCHEDULE TUESDAY**
Prep boys basketball
 Centauri at Sanford, 7 p.m.
- Prep girls basketball**
 Centauri at Sanford, 5:30 p.m.
- Prep boys wrestling**
 Sargent hosts home meet, 5 p.m.
- College indoor track and field**
 Adams State at Potts Invitational (at Boulder), TBA

- 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

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor
SARGENT SCHOOL – The Sangre de Cristo girls basketball team pulled away from Sargent late in the game to claim a 55-39 win Saturday at Sargent's gym.

Palma Enriquez gave the Lady Thunderbirds the early lead with a layup, but Kandace Pargin put the Lady Farmers on the board with a layup. Pargin's twin sister, Kimmy, knocked a jump shot to give Sargent a 3-2 lead.

Idahlia Garcia tied the score with a free throw and she put Sangre back into the lead with a layup. Bailey Asbell tied the score at 5-5, but Audrina Knorr and Jaydra Cordova both scored for a 9-5 Lady T-bird lead.

Kandace Pargin split at the line, but Garcia scored again. Kimmy Pargin brought Sargent within 11-8, but Enriquez scored at the buzzer to give Sangre a 13-8 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

Asbell opened the second quarter by nailing a 3-point basket. Makenzie Consaul tied the score and Kandace Pargin gave Sargent a 15-13 lead.

Cordova deadlocked the score at 15-15, but Kimmy Pargin put the Lady Farmers back into the lead by splitting at the free throw line.

Garcia put Sangre back in front, but Kandace Pargin gave the lead right back to the Lady Farmers.

Cordova made two free throws to give the Lady T-birds a 19-18 edge at halftime.

Presley Wilson increased the lead to three with a layup, but Kandace Pargin scored to cut the lead to 21-20. Wilson scored



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick
Sangre de Cristo High School's Presley Wilson (4) drives to the basket against Sargent's Kandace Pargin in Saturday's game at Sargent. The Lady Thunderbirds defeated the Lady Farmers 55-39.

again, and Enriquez split at the line to give Sangre a 24-20 lead.

Kandace Pargin made a trey to reduce the deficit to 24-23. Haylee Freel pushed the lead to 26-23, but Kimmy Pargin drove

front, and Wilson made a three for a 31-27 advantage. Kandace Pargin hit a trey on the other side to bring the Lady Farmers within 31-30 at the third quarter.

Wilson made two out of five free throws, and Enriquez made one of two for a 34-30 Sangre lead. Catie Deacon scored a layup and added a free throw to bring Sargent within 34-33.

Enriquez made a 3-pointer, and Wilson split at the line for a 38-33 lead.

Kandace Pargin made two baskets to reduce the deficit to 40-37. Cordova drove for a layup, but Consaul hit a jumper to bring Sargent within 42-39.

The rest of the game was all Lady Thunderbirds as they scored the final 13 points of the game. That included making nine out of 15 free throws.

The Lady T-birds were led by Enriquez and Wilson who both scored 14 points, followed by Cordova with 12.

Kandace Pargin led Sargent with 19 points, followed by Kimmy Pargin with seven.

Sangre de Cristo (4-0) will play at the Simla Invitational this weekend and it will play Soroco on Friday at 4 p.m.

Sargent (2-2) will host Ignacio on Friday at 4:30 p.m.

Sangre de Cristo 55, Sargent 39
 Sangre de Cristo – Wilson 4 5-9 14, Freel 1 1-2 3, Enriquez 5 3-7 14, Cordova 3 6-6 12, Garcia 3 1-2 7, Knorr 1 3-6 5, Howard 0 0-0 0, Rodriguez 0 0-0 0, Henry 0 0-0 0. Total 17 19-32 55.
 3-point goals – Enriquez 1, Wilson 1. Total 2
 Sargent – Lister 0 1-4 1, Asbell 2 0-0 5, Ka. Pargin 7 3-8 19, Deacon 1 1-3 3, Consaul 2 0-2 4, Kimmy Pargin 3 1-2 7, Torgler 0 0-0 0. Total 15 6-19 39.
 3-point goals – Ka. Pargin 2, Asbell 1. Total 3.
 Sangre de Cristo 13 6 12 24 – 55
 Sargent 8 10 12 9 – 39
 Fouls – Sangre de Cristo 24, Sargent 19.

Sargent boys pound Sangre to remain undefeated

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor
SARGENT SCHOOL – The Sargent High School boys basketball team remained undefeated on the season as it defeated Sangre de Cristo 56-26 Saturday at Sargent's gym.

Corbyn Wright opened the scoring with a 3-point basket to give the Farmers a 3-0 lead. Kolby Shellabarger put the Thunderbirds on the scoreboard with a jump shot, but Hayden Lester's layup increased the lead to 5-2.

Deagon Rogers made one of two from the free throw line, but after that the first quarter belonged to the Farmers as they scored the final 15 points of the period. Lester, Wright and Fernando Venzor all scored three points in the run.

Kade Temple scored the first points of the second quarter for Sargent, but Braidon Cantu scored for Sangre. Trenton Paskett answered with three baskets, and Lester and Corbin Castillo both scored one basket to give the Farmers a 32-7 lead at halftime.

Lester scored the first two baskets of the third quarter, and Wright scored

for a 38-7 advantage. Rogers made two free throws for the T-birds for points of the second half.

Lester drove for a layup and Venzor drained the three for a 43-11 lead. Shellabarger scored on a layup to reduce the deficit to 43-13 at the end of the period.

Venzor drained two more treys, and Castillo did the same to give Sargent its largest lead of the game at 52-18.

Lester led the Farmers with 13 points, followed by Venzor with 12.

Shellabarger led the Thunderbirds with eight points, followed by Rogers with seven.

Sargent (4-0) will host Ignacio on Friday at 6 p.m.

Sangre de Cristo (2-2) will be at the Simla Invitational this weekend and its first opponent will be Soroco. Tip-off is at 5:30 p.m.

Sargent 56, Sangre de Cristo 26
 Sangre de Cristo – Rogers 2 3-6 7, Shellabarger 4 0-0 8, Garcia 0 0-0 0, Mason 1 0-2 2, Cantu 1 0-2 2, T. Baker 1 0-0 3, Lopez 1 0-0 2, J. Baker 1 0-0 2, Artachavarría 0 0-0 0. Total 11 3-10 26.
 3-point goal – T. Baker 1. Total 1.
 Sargent – Wright 3 1-1 8, Lester 6 1-2 13, Venzor 4 0-0 12, Garcia 1 0-0 2, Paskett 3 0-0 6, Capron 0 0-0 0, Aguilar 0 0-0 0, Beiriger 0 0-0 0, Peterson 1 2-4 4, Temple 2 0-0 4, Castillo 1 0-0 2. Total 23 4-7 56.
 3-point goals – Venzor 4, Castillo 1, Wright 1. Total 6.
 Sangre 3 4 6 13 – 26
 Sargent 20 12 11 13 – 56
 Fouls – Sangre de Cristo 9, Sargent 8.



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick
Sargent High School's Trenton Paskett (22) dribbles the ball as Sangre de Cristo's Aaron Mason (10) plays defense in Saturday's game at Sargent. The Farmers defeated the Thunderbirds 56-26.

ASU women wrestlers pick up first-ever dual meet win

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor
ALAMOSA - The Adams State University women's wrestling team gained its first-ever dual meet win as it defeated Minot State (N.D.) University Sunday in Chadron, Neb. 20-16.

Getting wins for the Lady Grizzlies were Julianna Candelaria by decision at 109 pounds, Austria Holland by technical fall at 116, Bella Devoto by decision at 123, and Trinity Perez by decision at 136. Another win was by forfeit.

ASU then wrestled the host team, Chadron State College, and lost 41-8. Holland won by decision, while the other win was by forfeit.

Adams State (1-3) will wrestle Simon Fraser (B.C.) University in the Desert Dual in Las Vegas, Nev. on Sunday.

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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-\$50,00 DOQ. Applications can be obtained on our website: conejoscounty.colorado.gov or you can email crizzi@co.conejos.co.us. Applications accepted until filled. Inquiries call 719-376-6799. (12/16/23AS)

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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)

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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 and Email resume & cover letter to clarissa@restorativeprograms.org. Positions open until filled. CRP is an EOE. (12/30/23)

221 - HELP WANTED

HEAD/JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACH needed at DEL NORTE JR. HIGH SCHOOL. Experience as a coach or assistant coach at the middle school and/or high school level is preferred. Must possess: effective coaching techniques and a thorough knowledge of the rules of the sport; and have the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with school administrators, parents, and students. Please contact Gibbs Sanchez, Athletic Director, at: gsanchez@urtigers.co 719-657-4020; or Annie Hardy, Principal, at: ahardy@urtigers.co , 719-657-4020. Applications may be found on our website, urtigers.co. (12/30/23AS)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

307 - APPLIANCES

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

324 - SEED & FEED

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

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345 - WOOD

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

353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

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

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

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

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

ANTIQU 3 FT. SANTA CLAUS; moves & plays 5 songs. \$50. 719-298-2175. (12/20/23)

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

362 - HOME FURNISHINGS

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

368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

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

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

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

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420 - LOTS & ACREAGES

MULTIPLE 35+ ACRE TRACTS For Sale. The Rio Grande Water Conservation District is accepting sealed bids for tracts of land LOCATED AT 14355 G.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. The land may be inspected with District personnel by appointment only. Appointments can be made by calling the District office at (719) 589-6301 or by emailing angelo@rgwcd.org. Bids must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on January 31st, 2024. Late bids will not be accepted. The District reserves the right to reject any bid in its sole discretion. (1/27/2024AS)

426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

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

525 - GUNS

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

606 - BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT

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

611 - HOUSES FOR RENT

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

701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

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

710 - CLASSIC AUTOS

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

713 - PICKUP TRUCKS

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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Male turkey or cat
 - 4 Days gone by
 - 8 Singer Tori —
 - 12 Ecol. watchdog
 - 13 Soothing plant
 - 14 Fibula
 - 15 Plant or animal pouch
 - 16 Blow over
 - 17 Spike
 - 18 Playhouse
 - 20 Used a whetstone
 - 21 According to
 - 22 Pair
 - 23 Carpenter's tool
 - 26 Edict
 - 30 TV personality — Melber
 - 31 Comic's offering
 - 32 Blue bird
 - 33 Thousand thou
 - 34 Naval abbr.
 - 35 St. crosser
 - 36 Touchy
- DOWN**
- 1 School event
 - 2 Colorful fish
 - 3 Self-defense spray
 - 4 Light color
 - 5 Modify
 - 6 Olivia Rodrigo album
 - 7 Half score

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 8 Producing flowers
- 9 Complain
- 10 Single time
- 11 Future flower
- 19 "The Naked —"
- 20 Sing a certain way
- 22 Feet, slangily
- 23 Source of light
- 24 Pennsylvania port
- 25 Loathsome
- 26 Legal tender
- 27 Not closed
- 28 Church part
- 29 Tinted
- 31 Blow hard
- 37 Silicon —
- 38 Sign with a pen
- 39 Abilities
- 40 Make hast
- 42 Layered rock
- 43 Fair exchange
- 44 Follow
- 45 Tragic opera
- 46 Abound
- 47 Expansive
- 48 Say the same thing
- 49 Ooze
- 51 Airport screening org.

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					57				58		

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



"Can you manage that lot in one night?"

ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



BIG NATE



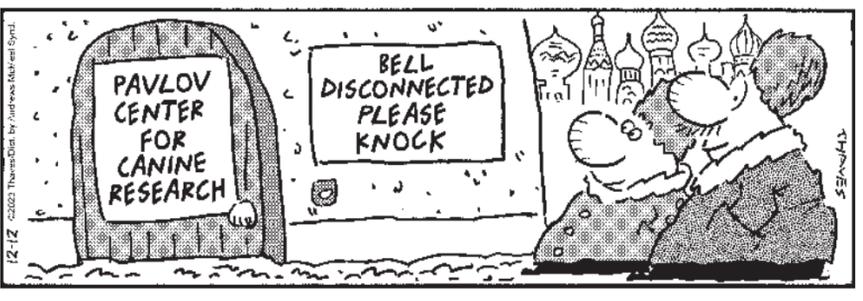
THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



Man cites safety concerns when wife looks to botox

DEAR ABBY: My wife is a very attractive 56. For years she has wanted Botox treatments. Recently, it has become more serious because she feels she looks like a grandmother. I (and others) continue to tell her how great she looks, especially when she dresses up.

I also tell her Botox is a short-term fix and will require subsequent treatments. Additionally, with each treatment, she will risk potential problems of infection, allergic reaction or medical mistakes. I remind her of the treatments that have gone wrong and that none of those women went to their doctors asking to look like a retired boxer.

At this point, I'm concerned she may be depressed about aging and wants to do something to improve her looks, but I'm standing in her way. I love her just as she is, and I don't want her to do anything that ultimately could do damage. To me, the ultimate "depression" would be doing something harmful that can't be corrected. Please advise me. --LOVES HER THE WAY SHE IS

DEAR LOVES: You clearly adore your wife and want what is best for her. That's why you should consider scheduling a consultation for BOTH of

you with a board-certified dermatologist who can explain the benefits and risks of using Botox. It may put some of your concerns to rest.

When administered by a medical professional, there is little risk of a bad outcome. While you are correct that the effects last only a few months, Botox is popular among women in her age group and those even younger. The only drawback is that it isn't cheap. (During your discussion, you may also want to ask about other products that are available and last longer, such as fillers.)

DEAR ABBY: I let a friend who was going through a hard time stay on my couch when he would get too drunk to drive. Eleven years later, he's still here. I told him from the beginning not to get hooked or fall in love with me, because I knew I would never feel the same.

He has taken over my home with his collections but won't sell anything. He also doesn't pay any bills. I do not like his drinking. I am sober. He yells and screams for sex, but I don't give in. I told him he needs to move on.

I'm on disability and a fixed income. Legal eviction? Restraining order? He has threatened to walk away and leave me



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

to deal with all his junk. Help! -- INVADERS IN MISSOURI

DEAR INVADERS: You have been too kind for far too long. Before doing anything, talk with an attorney because of the length of time you have allowed this person to live with you (rent-free). If you can't afford legal counsel, reach out to your local Legal Aid or Legal Services office.

If the freeloader agrees to go, leaving his "collections" behind, you may be able to sell or donate the items. Should he refuse to leave your home, you may have to formally evict him which, depending upon the laws in your state, could be complicated without legal guidance.