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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

November 7, 2023

\$1

SLV Today

SLV airport board to meet

ALAMOSA — San Luis Valley Regional Airport Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 9, 8:15 a.m. — 9:15 a.m. This meeting will be held at the airport, upstairs, in the Operations Training Office above Centric Aviation. The public is invited to attend.

Board of County Commissioners to meet Wednesday

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Board of County Commissioners will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 8, at 8:30 a.m. in their chambers located at 8900 Independence Way in Alamosa.

The meeting will also be available on Zoom with the ID 270-314-6874. On the consent agenda are items regarding a CDC Infrastructure Grant, Alamosa County/Costilla County Land Use IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement), and Alamosa County/Rio Grande County Land Use IGA.

On the agenda is a public hearing for the Alamosa County 2024 budget, Mosca Wastewater fees, and a proclamation for National Adoption Day. The public is invited to attend.

Paint and sip fundraiser for AHS After Prom is Nov. 16

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa High School After Prom Committee will host a paint and sip fundraiser beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 16 at the Wet Paintbrush.

The cost is \$40 and will benefit this year's After Prom event. The featured painting is a Christmas snow globe. To purchase a ticket or for more information, email AHSafterprom24@gmail.com.

Holiday Bake Sale and Bazaar set for Nov. 17

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Christian Reformed Church will be having its Holiday Bake Sale and Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 17, and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18.

Cinnamon rolls, coffee, and cider will be served on both days, and there will be many vendors with great gifts.

The event will be held at the Waverly Youth and Community Center, 1836 County Road 10 South in Alamosa County. For directions or information, call 717-589-2072 or 719-589-2001.

SLV WEATHER

Sunny, Breezy 66/27

Wed: Sunny 55/21

Thurs: Snow Showers Likely 43/17

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Rep. Martinez brings Latino Caucus, Speaker of the House to Valley

First time many remember seeing such a delegation in SLV

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — In two separate events, first-term Rep. Matt Martinez (D-D62) brought seven members of Colorado state legislature's Latino Caucus and Colorado's Speaker of the House Rep. Julie McCluskie to Alamosa last week where substantive conversations were held with community members about issues facing residents

■ See CAUCUS page 3

Some of the participants at Sunday's Town Hall at Shooting Stars Cultural and Leadership Center. Rep. Matt Martinez (foreground, far right) and Speaker of the House Julie McCluskie (to Martinez's left) met with community members for more than two hours.

Photo by Priscilla Waggoner



Courier photo by John Waters

The ASU Chamber Choir in a spectacular performance under the direction of Beth Robison at Sacred Heart Church in Alamosa on Nov. 3.

Review: Bravo — ASU Chamber Choir resonates in Alamosa

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — Before a large audience on Nov. 3 at Sacred Heart Church in Alamosa, the Adams State University Department of Music and the School of Visual Performing Arts — ASU Chamber Choir presented a stunning vocal concert.

Under the direction of Beth Robison, the group performed a repertoire

spanning several centuries beginning with the "Magnificat anima mea" from the five-piece Magnificat in B flat major by Italian composer Francesco Durante (1684-1755).

The excellent performance of Durante's worked well in the superb acoustics that the church offers.

Durante was a composer in the Baroque period who specialized in

sacred music. The work is a prime example of this genre and the composition, sung in Latin, begins with, "Magnificat anima mea Dominum, My soul proclaims the greatness of the lord."

In a shift to contemporary composers, the "Gift to Sing" with music composed by Thomas LaVoy (b.1990), and lyrics by African American poet and civil rights

■ See CHOIR page 3

Adams State's Ramirez shares her enthusiasm for learning

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — Adams State University Meliza Ramirez, Ph.D., assistant professor of Spanish, always wanted to teach. While earning her bachelor's degrees in English and Spanish, she became particularly interested in teaching adult learners at the university level. So Ramirez, who was a first-generation college student, pursued a master's degree and, ultimately, earned her Ph.D. "As someone who learned English as a second language as an adult, I knew it was possible to acquire a second or third language in spite of one's age. I also knew how challenging it was for adult learners to learn another language," said Ramirez, who joined the faculty in August.

Many of those challenges are rooted in misconceptions about whether adults can learn another language once they pass



Meliza Ramirez

a certain age — some say 6-years-old, others say 12-years-old.

"I know for a fact that what we think about that critical age is not true, and research has shown that it is not true," said Ramirez. "You can acquire and master another language as an adult learner. Maybe your pronunciation won't be perfect, and it doesn't have to be perfect, as long as you're understood by people who speak the target language."

■ See RAMIREZ page 3

Wood stove suspected in blaze that destroyed home

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — While still under investigation, a wood stove is suspected to be the possible cause of a late-night fire Saturday, Nov. 4, that destroyed a double-wide manufactured home about 12 miles southwest of here.

Capt. Zach Cerny of the Alamosa Fire Department said firefighters were paged about 11:30 p.m. Saturday to 251 County Road 12 South where they found the home fully involved in fire. While the single resident escaped unharmed, four cats and a dog perished in the blaze that also destroyed a sport

utility vehicle parked near the home.

The male resident was checked by medical personnel on scene but was not transported for further evaluation, Cerny said.

Due to the advanced stage of the blaze, firefighters were only able to fight it "defensively" and were unable to enter the structure.

Cerny said Alamosa, Carmel and Monte Vista firefighters were on scene for about three hours. Alamosa responded with five trucks and 11 personnel while Carmel provided two trucks and six personnel and Monte Vista had two trucks and seven personnel.



Courtesy photo

Water from a deck gun on one of Alamosa Fire Department's fire trucks is shown being applied to the blaze that destroyed a home late Saturday night about 12 miles south of Alamosa. The single male resident escaped, but four cats and a dog perished in the fire.



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Record

OBITUARIES

Dixie Belle Pierce



Dixie was born in Cache, Okla., on Dec. 28, 1938, to Cecil and Jewel Blunt. She passed away on Oct. 14, 2023, at her home in Montrose, Colo. She was a graduate of Center High School and excelled in Creative Writing and Poetry. After graduation she met a young Naval Aviator named Larry Pierce and they were married in 1958. She raised two sons.

Dixie enjoyed playing cribbage, bridge, her dog Frito and spending time with family and friends.

She is survived by her two sons, Bill (Stephanie) Pierce of Shasta Lake, Calif., Jeff Pierce of Montrose, Colo., and granddaughter Ayla of Montrose, Colo. She is survived by her brother Tom Blunt of Alamosa,

Tim Biggs of Alamosa, Colo., Jay Biggs of Denver, Colo., and Steve (Susie) Townsend of Cheyenne, Wyo., as well as great-great-nieces, Rorie Tillman, Syrie Tillman, Saida Eskew, Riley Brown, Lacey Brown and Maura Townsend-White and great-great-nephews Zaine Eskew, Hunter Tillman, Eli Brown and Jack Townsend-White.

She is well loved and will be greatly missed!

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jewel and Cecil, husband Larry, infant son Robert Dean, brother Bill Blunt, grandson Pfc Ryan Eugene Reed, sister-in-laws Maxine Blunt and Sue Blunt and niece Susan Harris.

A memorial will be held at a later date in Montrose, Colo.

Colo., niece Lisa (Mark) Brown of Mosca, Colo. and nephew Steve (Susie) Townsend of Cheyenne Wyo., great-nieces Stacey (Rick) Eskew of Mosca, Colo., Heather (Jason) Tillman of Mosca, Colo. and Heather Townsend of Cheyenne, Wyo., great-nephews Clay (Holley) Brown of Mosca, Colo.,

Clinton 'C.G.' Betenbough



LA JARA — Distinguished and longtime La Jara resident Mr. Clinton "C.G." Betenbough, 101, passed away on Nov. 3, 2023, in La Jara.

Mr. Betenbough was born May 9, 1922, in New Mexico to Cnignrouss and Maudie (Johnson) Betenbough. Mr. Betenbough married Bernice Waldrop who preceded him in death. He was also preceded in death by grandson Lee Harrison, and sons-in-law Gary Lofton, and David Winsauer.

Mr. Betenbough is sur-

vived by Trudy (Bill) Silverman, Monte Vista, Colo., Karen (Gary) Lofton, Monte Vista, Colo., Vicki (Dave) Winsauer, Monte Vista, Colo., Edna Jo (Mike) Jordan, Center, Colo., Glen (Kathy) Betenbough, Phoenix, Ariz., special friends Fred Gutierrez, La Jara, Colo., Alice Martinez, La Jara, Colo., and Steve Espinoza, La Jara, Colo.

Mr. Betenbough was full of love in everything that he touched. From serving his country proudly in the United States Army and becoming the last WWII veteran in Conejos County Colorado, to also taking care of his family including his own family of cows on the ranch. Mr. Betenbough lived life to the fullest.

Per Mr. Betenbough and his family's wishes, fu-

neral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, at Rogers Family Mortuary, 205 State Ave., Alamosa CO, 81101.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at Rogers Family Mortuary. Burial will follow services at San Luis Valley Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

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



James 'Jimmy' Harold Workman

Former Alamosa resident, who was currently living in Rye, Colorado James "Jimmy" Harold Workman, 42 passed away Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023, at his home.

Jimmy was born Sept. 15, 1981, to Carl and Hilda (Shawcroft) Workman in Alamosa, Colo. He worked as a mechanic for most of his life, most recently for Swift. He was married to Jennifer Crowther of Manassa, Colo., and then to Julie Felthager of Colorado City, Colo.

Jimmy enjoyed spending time in the mountains, hunting and fishing. He also enjoyed shooting. Jimmy served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in San Jose,

Calif.

Jimmy is survived by his parents Carl and Hilda, his children Elijah and Melina Workman, and Trinity; his brothers and sisters Andrew (Teresa) Workman of Alamosa, Elizabeth Touchy of Alamosa, Daniel (Desire) Workman of Alamosa, and Mary (Jonathan) of Ogden, Utah; as well as numerous nieces and nephews and aunt and uncles.

Jimmy was preceded in death by his daughter Olivia Workman; his grandparents Joseph and Barbara Shawcroft and Harold and Betty Workman; and several aunts and uncles.

Cremation was chosen and a Memorial service will be held on Satur-



day, Nov. 11, at 10 a.m., at the Rock Creek Ward Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 300 Richardson Ave., Alamosa.

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

Adams State RMACSM Faculty Lecture Series begins Nov. 9

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University School of Kinesiology will host the first lecture, "The Birds and the Bees of Vascular Adaptations to Exercise in Older Adults," by Kerrie Moreau, Ph.D., CU professor of geriatric medicine, of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of The American College of Sports Medicine (RMACSM) Faculty Lecture Series at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 9, in Richardson Hall Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

Vascular aging, featuring stiffening and thickening of the large elastic arteries and endothelial dysfunction, is dramatically different between women and men, related in part to sex differences in age-related changes in the sex hormone environment. Historically, habitual exercise attenuates or ameliorates age-related vascular dysfunction in older men, however, surprisingly, this is not consistently observed in older women, suggesting sex-specific adaptive responses to exercise training in older adults.

Dr. Moreau's presentation will focus on sex differences in vascular aging and how changes in sex hormone (estrogen and testosterone) levels contribute to vascular aging in women and men. She will also discuss sex-specific adaptive responses to exercise training on vascular function in older adults, and the potential modulatory role of gonadal hormones on vascular adaptations to exercise.

Dr. Moreau is a professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of



Courtesy photo

Dr. Kerrie Moreau will speak on vascular adaptations to exercise in older adults at Adams State on Nov. 9.

Geriatric Medicine at the University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus and a research health scientist in the Geriatric Research Education Clinical Center (GRECC), Denver Veterans Administration Medical Center, Denver, Colo. She also is the director of the Cardiovascular BioImaging Core at the medical campus. Dr. Moreau received a Bachelor of Arts in exercise science from College of St. Scholastica; a Master of Science in clinical exercise science from Ball State University; and a Ph.D. in applied exercise physiology from the University of Tennessee. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in integrative cardiovascular physiology under Dr. Douglas Seals at the University of Colorado Boulder. Her research evaluates the intersection of chronological and gonadal aging on cardiovascular function, specifically on mechanisms by which changes in gonadal function and sex hormones in women (menopause) and men (andropause) alter cardiovascular and brain aging. Recently, Dr. Moreau has expanded her work to evaluate the effects of trauma exposure and PTSD on cardiovascular and brain aging.

Submissions deadline is Dec. 1 for Messages from the Hidden Lake

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA— Local writers and photographers have a few more weeks to submit work to the Friends of the Alamosa Public Library's Messages from the Hidden Lake, literary and art collection. Submissions will continue to be accepted until Dec.

1. Creative writers and photographers of all ages may submit pieces for the anthology.

Genre categories include poetry, short creative fiction and non-fiction, and black and white photography. There is a special category for full-color cover photography. Cash prizes will

be awarded. Submission guidelines and entry forms are available online at: alamosalibrary.org/fotl_main. For more info, call 719-589-6592.



Courtesy Photo

School Menu Tuesday November 7, 2023

BREAKFAST
Super Donut Sticks Fruit & Milk
ELEMENTARY
Tamales/Salsa Steamed Broccoli/Corn Muffin Fresh Veggie Bar Fruit & Milk
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Tamales/Salsa Steamed Broccoli/Corn Muffin Fresh Veggie Bar Fruit & Milk
HIGH SCHOOL
Tamales/Salsa Steamed Broccoli/Corn Muffin Fresh Veggie Bar Fruit & Milk
Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students Alamosa School District To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553

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Valley News

Mechanical engineering bachelor's degree in Alamosa



Courier photo by John Waters

ALAMOSA — Adams State University and Colorado State University celebrate the mechanical engineering bachelor's degree from CSU at the Adams State University campus in Alamosa. Cutting the ribbon on Nov. 6 to herald this partnership are Christian Puttlitz, Department Head of Mechanical Engineering at CSU (left), and Margaret Doell, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Adams State University. Far left is Erin Minks, a representative from U.S. Senator Michael Bennett's office.



Courtesy photo

Firefighters continue to work the Trail Springs Fire on the San Juan National Forest in this Nov. 4 photo from the US Forest Service.

Trail Springs Fire update

Fire activity is low, danger level remains high

STAFF REPORT

SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST

— According to the US Forest Service, “The fire danger level is currently high, so it is important that forest users completely drown campfires to prevent unintended escape. Use the ‘drown, stir, feel’ method to be sure it’s dead out.”

Trail Springs Fire | Size: 1251 Acres | Containment: 37% | Cause: Lightning

Fire activity has been minimal over the past few days. Large fuels, such as stumps and logs, continue to smolder and just a few areas have shown active backing to the northeast within the existing footprint. There was a small spot fire to the north of the main perimeter yesterday that firefighters were able to extinguish. Crews finished repairing the handlines located where fire growth is no longer a threat. There remains several days of chipping, cutting, and brush removal along East Monument Road and Cor-

ral Mountain Road. A NIROPS flight is scheduled for Saturday night to measure the heat remaining within the area’s fires. NIROPS is the National Infrared Operations program that flies thermal infrared detection and mapping missions. Their equipment can detect heat sources as small as 6 inches from 10,000 feet above ground. An interpreter works with the incident’s GIS mapping specialists to turn the infrared data they collect into meaningful maps that are a critical tool for fire management.

Mill Creek 2 Fire | Size: 122 Acres | Containment: 0% | Cause: Under Investigation

This fire is located in rugged, remote terrain near the border of the South San Juan Wilderness Area. On their last recon flight, firefighters spotted only a few isolated locations still smoldering. Firefighters will continue to observe fire activity via aircraft until heat is no longer detected.

Weather: There is still no sign of precipitation in the five-day forecast. Temperatures will increase slightly this weekend with highs in the mid-60’s. Winds remain light out of the west tomorrow but may get gusty on Sunday.

Ramírez

■ Continued from Page 1

As an instructor at Adams State, Ramírez is aware that her students come to class with various backgrounds and experiences with the language.

“In the Valley, we have a diverse group of heritage learners. We have those who are bilingual or trilingual. They have learned Spanish at home, talking to their parents, grandparents or aunts and uncles. Then there are those who understand the language but don’t speak it or don’t feel comfortable speaking it because they think they don’t know enough,” said Ramírez. “I make sure my students know that it’s okay to make mistakes. I want them to feel comfortable sharing what they know about the Spanish language and Hispanic culture with their peers.”

Tying her lessons to the Valley and its community is one of Ramírez’s strategies.

“We talk about how in South America we use this word. If you go to Mexico, you will hear this other word. In the Valley, you will hear that word, which may be the same as the word we use in South America or Mexico or totally different,” she said.

Though Ramírez is relatively new to Adams State, it was the sense of community that drew her to the Valley in the first place.

“There is so much culture in the Valley, and people are so proud of it. The university has done a great job connecting the campus community to the local community, not just through the classes we offer, but also through all the different events in which students, faculty, staff, and community members can participate,” she said.

Ramírez points to the university’s “Day of the Dead” celebration as one example, where students and community members learn about the holiday and how death is perceived in Spanish-speaking cultures. Similarly, Ramírez is teaching an evening Spanish Conversation class that is open to faculty, staff, and community members.

In the spring semester, Ramírez plans to teach another evening class, this one on short stories from the Spanish-speaking world, which will include stories written by authors from the Valley.

“We’ll read each short story, analyze it, and learn from it. I think we’ll have a great group of students, faculty, staff, and community members join,” she said. “I’m a lifelong learner myself, and I would like to invite people in the community who also love to learn to attend our Spanish classes.”

Choir

■ Continued from Page 1

activist James Weldon Johnson was performed. According to the composer, “In this piece, harmony and modality are used as a means of conveying the ability of the human spirit to endure through times of adversity via the simple act of singing.”

The performance of the “Gift to Sing” was an amazing gift to hear, and a gift to enjoy.

“All the Way Home,” by Canadian composer Sarah Quartel, afforded the audience this, “The lilt-

ing vocal lines are subtly underpinned by a delicate piano accompaniment, and the opening performance direction, ‘contentedly rocking’, describes the overall nature of the piece: peaceful, content, and easy-going,” according to a description on Quartel’s website.

The concert also included the works of Michael John Trotta (b.1978), a southern harmony composed in 1835, and arranged by Shawn Kirchner, Jennifer Lucy Cook, Don Macdonald b.1966, and Michael Bussewitz-Quarm (b.1971.)

The evening with the

ASU Chamber Choir was sublimely executed and a glorious earful to experience.

The ASU Department of Music has this lineup of concerts including:

On Thursday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m., the ASU Percussion Ensemble will perform at Richardson Hall Auditorium.

The ASU Holiday Concert is Wednesday, Nov. 29, at 7 p.m. at Richardson Hall, and on Tuesday, Dec. 5., Brooke Miller will have a Clarinet Recital in Leon Memorial Hall.

The ASU Music Department can be reached at 719-587-7621.



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Members of the Colorado Democratic Latino Caucus in a roundtable discussion at The Barn in Alamosa. Pictured left to right Rep. Elizabeth Velasco, Rep. Mandy Lindsay, Rep. Javier Mabry, Rep. Tim Hernandez, Sen. Julie Gonzales (Majority Whip), Sen. Robert Rodriguez (Senate Majority Leader) and Rep. David Ortiz. Rep. Matt Martinez, who organized the tour, not pictured.

Caucus

■ Continued from Page 1

of the San Luis Valley.

It was the first time many residents who attended the events could remember a delegation of legislators from the state making the four-hour trek from Denver, solely to learn more about the area. Martinez told the Valley Courier he arranged the tour to familiarize fellow lawmakers with relevant rural, local issues to consider when voting on future legislation.

Following Friday morning meetings with Adams State University’s Vice President of Academic Affairs, Margaret Doell and the university’s executive team plus a sit-down with ASU’s LatinX Caucus, the legislators headed to The Barn in Alamosa where they had a two-hour roundtable discussion with local Latino elected officials and prominent community members.

The conversation began with general comments about the importance of equitable Latino representation in state government and to recognize that districts allow for less representation from rural communities. With potential opportunities for new policies, the caucus was asking what the community needs.

Erin Minks, community outreach for U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, discussed the need for transmission lines, including redundant transmission lines.

Arnold Salazar, who preface his comments by saying he has 40 years of experience in community mental health, feels the current mental health and behavioral health system is in disarray and proposed legislation involving implementation of the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) will create deficiencies in services. He urged legislators to back off on the implementation of the BHA.

Senate Majority Leader Robert Rodriguez agreed that communities need more support for behavioral health access and the quality of those services needs to be better.

Victoria Romero (CEO of SLV Behavioral Health Group) weighed in, stating behavioral health workers are sparse in rural areas

due to salaries and workforce challenges. Not everything can be done through telehealth, she says, and they are seeing more need for in-person services.

Azarel Madrigal, outreach for U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper, emphasized the need to “have a balance of housing,” citing Chaffee County where businesses can’t hire a workforce because there is no housing available.

As a Veteran, Alamosa City Councilor Griego discussed the challenges when the federal and state governments have different definitions of a disability.

Proposition HH was discussed with Rep. Martinez stating his reasons for opposing the bill and Sen. Rodriguez acknowledging it’s a different conversation in cities versus rural areas. He also highlighted that, with budget stabilization, more money for public education translates into less money for higher education.

Sen. Julie Gonzales added, “We’ll know if this will pass in four days, but this won’t solve everything either way. We welcome more conversation on this.”

After the roundtable discussion, members of the caucus went to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) where Amber Pacheco, Deputy Manager of the district, gave an overview of the complex topic of water.

Comments and questions from caucus members made it clear that significant education in water issues is needed in the state legislature. Minks interjected two comments — one, reminding legislators that water does impact their constituents as Front Range communities, like Greeley, draw their water from the Western Slope.

She also advised them to familiarize themselves with potential legislation being proposed by proponents of RWR, who have not abandoned their intention to export water.

Late Sunday morning, Rep. Martinez and Speaker of the House McCluskie held a town hall at Shooting Stars Cultural and Leadership Center that opened with McCluskie stating that, between her district and Martinez’s, they represent all the mountain counties from New Mexico to Wyoming.

McCluskie had high

praise for Martinez, highlighting his passage of 10 bills — which she described as “almost unheard of” — and her choice to appoint him to the commission looking into the high cost of utilities. She chose him over much more tenured members, she said, due to his thoughtful approach to legislation and his ability to quickly grasp complex subjects.

Martinez brought up an area he’s addressing this session related to simplifying recidivism data in prison systems so that it is more easily read and interpreted than the current system.

He also spoke about the outcome of the utility commission, stating that the goal was to address rising utility rates, how to fix rate hikes and hold utility companies more accountable.

“We added a lot of teeth in regulating the utility companies,” he said, “and stopped the practice of utility companies recouping lobbying expenses by passing on that cost to customers.”

He also discussed the \$25 million he got allocated for scholarships to graduating high school students to help students overcome financial barriers to higher education.

Martinez and McCluskie then engaged in a discussion on a number of topics, including public education in rural areas. McCluskie spoke of her belief that rural school districts, with limited resources and wealth available in the community, should receive state funding at a greater level than districts in, for example, Summit County, which she represents.

Water was also raised as an issue with McCluskie saying, “Water is our lifeblood.” She added that there are some discussions in the legislature around the use of graywater. Salazar spoke of the frustration in depleting water in the Valley and then seeing “truckloads of alfalfa leaving the Valley for New Mexico”, a point John Kretzinger expanded upon by advocating for state help in building and strengthening value added in agriculture.

Both opportunities for conversations with state legislators were well attended, with Martinez viewing the experience as a success for all involved.

Lifestyles



Courtesy photo

Members of the Snow Country Explorers pose for a photo with the Club's grooming machine.

Snow Country Explorers kick off season

CONTRIBUTED CREEDE — The Creede snowmobile club, known as the Snow Country Explorers, kicked off the 2023-2024 season with a barbecue at Bob and Janelle Kukuk's home at Santa Maria Reservoir in late September. The feast was held in the barn alongside the Bombardier groomer Bob Kukuk uses to groom the 85 miles of trails the club maintains in the Divide District of the Rio Grande National Forest.

There are four major trailheads located around Creede — Bristol Head, Black Mountain, Love Lake, and Snow Mesa — which provide access to the trails for riders of all experience levels. The Creede trail system connects with trails groomed by Lake City to the north and groomed trails by South Fork to the south.

The elevations of the trails range from 8,500

to 12,760 feet. Many of the trails give riders a chance to feel like they are on "top of the world." The trails offer groomed riding, plenty of meadows for playing and steep mountain areas for climbing. The area has an average yearly snowfall of 250-300 inches so there is always snow to ride somewhere on the system.

The club tries to ride at least once a week on weekends and sometimes has mid-week rides, usually on Wednesdays. Rides are designed for all skill levels. Meetings are held periodically during the winter months. Club members clean up one mile of Highway 149 twice a year — once in the spring and once in the fall. Other events such as barbecues and avalanche awareness classes may also be scheduled.

Club membership is open to anyone.

"We have members

from all over Colorado as well as members from other states, and we have members of all different skill levels. If you are interested in snowmobiling and want to find a great place to ride with some pretty great people, consider joining the club," the club stated.

People can join the Snow Country Explorers snowmobile club through the Colorado Snowmobile Association (CSA) website — snowmobile-colo.com and "adding" the club, District 7 Snow Country Explorers of the Upper Rio Grande.

All club information is passed through the CSA website via email to club members and is posted on the CSA website calendar. This includes scheduled rides, meetings, and trail-grooming information.

For more information, contact Leslie or Don Dustin at 719-658-0184 or dondustin1@aol.com.

South Fork Kiwanis seeks volunteers for Thanksgiving Dinner

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**
SOUTH FORK — The South Fork Kiwanis organization is continuing to seek volunteers from the community for their annual Thanksgiving Dinner. South Fork Kiwanis President Karen Miller has been doing this event for 30 years and says it is all thanks to the many hours of help they receive from the community.

"We always show up on the day of the event to find people available to help and we are always so grateful. Our club numbers are down, and we are asking the community to step up to be a volunteer prior to the event so we have a better idea of what we will be doing that day," said Miller.

The dinner annually hosts over 300 people and South Fork Kiwanis could use all the help they can

get.

"We do have our regulars and each year we meet more and more wonderful people. It's a great social event and watching everybody mingle while enjoying the dinner makes everything worth it. It is great having the support that we do! We also can't thank our sponsors enough that contribute to the cost of holding this event. Businesses and individuals generously donate each year to help us," said Miller.

Miller said that due to the changes that are occurring each year and with more and more communities throughout the San Luis Valley offering Thanksgiving Day dinners, they have opted to reduce the number of turkeys they cook for the event but are still anticipating the same number of people to come and eat.

The event features a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixings and dessert at the South Fork Community Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nov. 23. This year will be a buffet-style dinner instead of the regularly served meal that has occurred in the past.

One thing that has never changed is the dedication, preparation and work that goes into hosting this massive event — "almost like mom makes! There will also be an opportunity to provide gently used clothing including cold weather apparel and we will take non-perishable foods to distribute to the food banks around the Valley."

For more information or to volunteer for the event, contact Miller at mkmillermink@aol.com or by calling and or texting 720-313-4834.

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Lifestyles

RGH receives recognition throughout October

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

DEL NORTE — Several businesses throughout the San Luis Valley were notified through the Valley Courier that they had won this year's Best of San Luis Valley awards and Rio Grande Hospital was the recipients of two awards. This was one of many recognitions the hospital received during the month of October.

According to Rio Grande Hospital Development and Communication Officer Eva Timberlake, the hospital was honored to receive such awards from their communities.

"Rio Grande Hospital received recognition for the Best Hospital in the San Luis Valley (SLV) for three years in a row. Wound care and pulmonary rehabilitation were also bestowed Best of SLV. So many good things are happening at the hospital, and we are honored by the recognition," she said.

In addition to the Best of San Luis Valley awards, the Colorado Rural Health Center recently presented this year's Rural Health Excellence award to hospital CEO Arlene Harms.

Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) recently presented the 2023 Rural Health Excellence Award to Rio Grande Hospital's CEO, Arlene Harms. The award is presented annually to an exemplary member of CRHC, who has made a notable contribution to healthcare in rural Colorado.

Michelle Mills, CEO of CRHC presented the award at the an-



nual CRHC conference, describing Arlene as a champion for rural health care for many years and a trailblazer in health and wellness, most recently with her dream and ambition in bringing a wellness center to the community, based on the health concepts of the Blue Zones.

Timberlake also reported that construction on the new Wellness Center is well underway and on schedule for a spring opening. It is expected to be finished in 2024 and will be comprised of a community center where members of the community can come host meetings, meet for coffee or utilize resources offered by the center.

"It will be an intersection with our employees who can take their breaks there, there will be games, books and computers to use and also the other thing we want to do, is help our families that have members in the hospital. If they need the computer, they have access to one,"



The Rio Grande Hospital Wellness Center is taking shape as the hospital is recognized for the Best of San Luis Valley and for the Rural Health Excellence Award through the Colorado Rural Health Center. Hospital CEO Arlene Harms was honored by the CRHC.

Timberlake said.

The center will also house a teaching kitchen so that families can come to learn how to cook healthy meals, a greenhouse and herb garden, an educational room, meditation room, access to the nearby trails and hiking as well as so much more.

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Sports

Alamosa's volleyball season ended by University

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The season came to an end for the Alamosa High School volleyball team on Saturday as the Lady Mean Moose lost to University in the Class 3A Region 8 Tournament championship match at the AHS gym.

The match started well for Alamosa as it won the first set. But the Lady Bulldogs turned the tables and swept the final three sets.

"I don't think it's something they did, I think it's what we quit doing," said Alamosa coach Annie Mortensen. "We quit talking as much and we started making more errors."

Alamosa defeated Basalt

The Lady Mean Moose opened the tournament by defeating Basalt in three sets. The scores were 25-19, 25-17 and 25-10.

The Lady Longhorns took a 2-1 lead to open the first set, but the Lady Mean Moose rallied to take a 7-5 edge. Basalt tied the score at 9-9 before Alamosa scored five straight points for a 14-9 advantage.

The Lady Mean Moose built the lead to 17-10, but the Lady Longhorns went on a 6-1 run to close within 18-16. Alamosa scored six of the seven points for a 24-17 lead, but Basalt scored two in a row.

Arreli Felix's kill gave the Lady Mean Moose the 25-19 win.

Basalt again took a 2-1 lead to begin the second set, and it extended the lead 7-3. Alamosa scored three consecutive points to close within 7-6, and after a brief Lady Longhorn side out, the Lady Mean Moose scored 11 unanswered points to take a 17-8 advantage.

Basalt attempted a comeback and closed to within a 24-18 deficit. But Taybor Wiedeman recorded the set-winning kill and for a 25-18 win.

Alamosa led from start to finish in the third set as it staked an early 5-1 lead. Basalt narrowed the lead to 5-3, but the Lady Mean Moose dominated the rest of the way to record a 25-10 win.

Morgan Ortega led the offense with



Alamosa High School's Laci Christensen (6) hits the ball over the net against a pair of University defenders at the Class 3A Region 8 Tournament at the AHS gym. The Lady Mean Moose defeated Basalt in three sets, but lost to University in four.

Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

32 assists. Aubrey Rothermich was the hitting leader with 10 kills, followed by Laci Christensen and Wiedeman both with nine, and Lily Heersink and Felix both with five.

Rothermich also led in service aces with six, followed by Ortega, Christensen and Addison Rice each with two.

University defeated Basalt

In the second match of the tournament, University defeated Basalt in four sets. The Lady Bulldogs won the first set 25-18, but the Lady Longhorns won the second 26-24. University took the final two matches by scores of 25-17 and 25-21.

University defeated Alamosa

Alamosa got off to a hot start as it won the first set 25-13.

The Lady Mean Moose took a 10-3 lead, but the Lady Bulldogs came back to cut the deficit to 12-9.

The rest of the set belonged to Alamosa as it finished with a 13-4 run to take a 25-13 win.

University started strong in the second set by scoring the first five points. The Lady Mean Moose narrowed the margin to 6-4, but the Lady Bulldogs had a 10-1 rally to increase their lead to 16-5.

The University lead stood at 18-7 before Alamosa had a 10-5 run to close within 23-17. But the Lady Bulldogs scored the final two points for a 25-17 win.

University staked a 12-4 lead to open the third set, and it extended the lead to 16-7. The Lady Bulldogs finished the set on a 9-2 run for a 25-10 win.

University again started strong in the fourth set by scoring the first five points. Alamosa scored three points in a row, but the Lady Bulldogs went on a 9-1 run to increase the lead to 14-4.

The Lady Mean Moose scored 10 of the next 13 points to close to within a 16-14 deficit. University increased the lead to 18-14, but Alamosa had a 6-3 run to close within 21-20.

But the Lady Bulldogs finished by scoring four of the final five points to win the set, match and championship 25-21.

Ortega had 24 assists to lead the Lady Mean Moose offense. Christensen led in kills with 13, followed by Rothermich with eight, and Felix and Heersink both with five.

Ortega led in aces with five, followed by Rothermich with two and Christensen, Felix and Rice each with one.

Alamosa finished the season with 17 wins and eight losses. The Lady Mean Moose had no seniors this year, so the future looks bright.

"It was a learning experience, and it's nice to have no seniors," Mortensen said. "Hopefully we'll have another good run next year. We should have the same team."

Sierra Grande the only local football team to win in first round

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The first round of the Colorado High School Activities Association football playoffs began last weekend with four local teams in action.

Of all of the SLV teams, only one – Sierra Grande – was able to win its first round game.

Sierra Grande 66, Arickaree 20

The Sierra Grande High School football team defeated Arickaree 66-20 Saturday at Jon Roybal Jr. Field.

The Bison scored first, but the Panthers led 14-6 at the end of the first quarter. Sierra Grande increased the lead to 36-12 at halftime.

Arickaree closed to within 36-20 after the third quarter, but Sierra Grande scored 30 points in the fourth to blow the game open.

Individual statistics for Sierra Grande were unavailable.

Sierra Grande (7-3) will travel to face top-seeded Stratton this coming Saturday.

Delta 49, Alamosa 14

Alamosa saw its season come to an end on Saturday as it lost to top-seeded Delta 49-14 at Delta on Saturday.



Courtesy photo by Vibrant Valley Photography

Sierra Grande High School's Brian Ontiveros (10) escapes from an Arickaree defender in Saturday's game in Blanca. The Panthers defeated the Bison 66-20 and will play at top-ranked Stratton this Saturday.

Leading the Mean Moose offense was Dyson Woodward who completed 14 out of 28 passes for 167 yards and one touchdown. His top target was Brant Jackson with seven catches for 118 yards and one touchdown. Karter Tolsma had two receptions for nine yards.

Woodward also led in rushing with 83 yards on five carries and one touchdown.

Alamosa's final record was four wins and six losses.

Wray 59, Centauri 27

Centauri's season came to an end on Saturday as it lost at Wray by a score of 59-27.

Statistics for Centauri

were unavailable.

The Falcons had a final record of seven wins and three losses.

Byers 28, Sanford 16

Sanford's season came to a conclusion on Saturday as it lost to Byers 28-16 in Byers.

The Mustangs had a 16-14 lead after the first quarter. However, they would not score again as the Bulldogs took a 22-16 lead at halftime. Byers scored six more points in the third.

Statistics for the Mustangs were unavailable.

Sanford's final record was six wins and four losses.

Volleyball regional tournament recap

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The season ended for three San Luis Valley teams playing in Class 2A regional tournament on Saturday.

Class 2A Region 4

Sanford participated in the Class 2A Region 4 Tournament which took place at Front Range Christian School in Littleton.

The Lady Mustangs opened with St. Mary's and were swept by the Lady Pirates. The scores were 25-16, 25-20 and 25-22.

The Lady Mustangs then played host Front Range Christian in the final match. The match was reduced to three sets as the Falcons had already clinched a berth in the state tournament.

Front Range Christian won the first set 25-16, but Sanford won the second 25-23. The Falcons won the third 25-20.

Statistics for Sanford were unavailable in both matches.

Sanford's final record was 12 wins and 12 losses.

Class 2A Region 5

Sargent traveled to Mancos for the Class 2A Region 5 tournament.

The Lady Farmers opened by defeating Olathe in three sets. The scores were 25-21, 25-22 and 25-17.

Sargent faced tournament host Mancos for the championship and lost in four sets. The Lady Bluejays won the first two

sets 25-17 and 25-11, but the Lady Farmers won the third set 25-21. Mancos finished the match by winning the fourth set 25-17.

Statistics were unavailable.

Sargent finished the season with 17 wins and eight losses.

Class 2A Region 6

Del Norte traveled to Collbran to compete in the Class 2A Region 6 Tournament.

The Lady Tigers took on Loveland Classical Academy in their first match and won in four sets. Del Norte won the first two sets by scores of 26-24 and 26-24. The Lions took the third set 25-18, but Del Norte won the fourth 25-21.

The Lady Tigers then faced tournament host Plateau Valley and lost in three sets. The Lady Cowboys won 25-12, 25-15 and 25-18.

Statistics for Del Norte were unavailable.

Del Norte finished with a record of 11 wins and 13 losses.



Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD

FRIDAY

Prep girls volleyball
Centauri def. Salida 25-14, 25-15, 25-14
Centauri def. Sterling 25-17, 25-21, 25-23
McClave def. Sangre de Cristo 25-7, 25-8, 25-17

College women's volleyball

Fort Lewis def. Adams State 25-15, 21-25, 25-17, 18-25, 15-10

SATURDAY

Prep football

Byers 28, Sanford 16
Delta 49, Alamosa 14
Sierra Grande 66, Arickaree 20
Wray 59, Centauri 27

Prep volleyball

Alamosa def. Basalt 25-19, 25-18, 25-10
Del Norte def. Loveland Classical Academy 26-24, 26-24, 18-25, 25-21

Front Range Christian def. Sanford 25-16, 23-25, 25-20

Mancos def. Sargent 25-17, 25-11, 21-25, 25-17

Plateau Valley def. Del Norte 25-12, 25-15, 25-18

St. Mary's def. Sanford 25-16, 25-20, 25-22
Sargent def. Olathe 25-21, 25-22, 25-17

University def. Alamosa 13-25, 25-17, 25-10, 25-21

College football

Black Hills State (S.D.) 35, Adams State 28

College women's volleyball

Adams State def. Western Colorado 22-25, 25-15, 25-21, 25-21

College women's basketball

Adams State 77, West Texas A&M 64

SUNDAY

College women's basketball

Lubbock Christian 69, Adams State 65

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

Prep girls volleyball

Centauri vs. Lamar (Class 3A State Tournament at Denver Coliseum), 8 a.m.

FRIDAY

Prep girls volleyball

Centauri at Class 3A State Tournament (at Denver Coliseum), TBA

College women's volleyball

Regis at Adams State, 7 p.m.

College men's basketball

Adams State vs. Texas-Permian Basin (South Central Region crossover at Salt Lake City), 11 a.m.

College women's basketball

Adams State at Cameron (Okla.) (Ashbrook Comfort Inn Suites Classic), 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Prep football

Sierra Grande at Stratton (six-man state playoffs quarterfinals), 1 p.m.

Prep girls volleyball

Centauri at Class 3A State Tournament (at

Denver Coliseum), TBA

College football

Western Colorado at Adams State, 1 p.m.

College women's volleyball

Colorado-Colorado Springs at Adams State, 5 p.m.

College men's basketball

Adams State vs. Western New Mexico (South Central Region crossover at Salt Lake City), 10 a.m.

College women's basketball

Adams State at Midwestern State (Texas) (Ashbrook Comfort Inn Suites Classic), 5 p.m.

Classifieds

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

CNA, NEEDED FULL-TIME NIGHTS at RIO GRANDE HOSPITAL. Amazing opportunity to join our incredible patient-centered and service-oriented team. Must be motivated and available to work flexible shifts. Apply at 0310 County Road 14, DEL NORTE, CO 81132 or online at www.riograndehospital.org. (11/15/23)

221 - HELP WANTED

WANTED LOCAL DRIVER WITH CDL license to HAUL HAY. Driving experienced preferred. Must have clean MVR, drug testing required, off weekends & holidays. If interested, call 719-843-5446. (11/7/23)

FULL-TIME CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE POSITION open at the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. This is a 4-10 hour day (Monday-Thursday) with some weekends as needed. Applicant must pass a background check, be able to work independently, and be a forward-thinking individual with an overall team approach to all tasks at hand. Applicant must also be able to work in all weather conditions (snow removal/general landscaping). If interested, please contact Demo Trujillo, 719-657-4040 x4007, dtrujillo@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co. (11/10/23)

CAFETERIA STAFF NEEDED at UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. Must have high school diploma 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. (11/8/23)

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

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

REGISTERED NURSE NEEDED

Full-Time ER Days at RIO GRANDE HOSPITAL. Amazing opportunity to join our incredible patient-centered and service-oriented team. Must be motivated and available to work flexible shifts. Apply at 0310 County Road 14, DEL NORTE, CO 81132 or online at www.riograndehospital.org. (11/15/23)

SAN LUIS VALLEY FARM WORKER HOUSING CORPORATION is seeking a qualified PART-TIME MAINTENANCE Position in ALAMOSA. Minimum of 3 years' experience. Must be knowledgeable in heating, small appliance repair, plumbing, and minor electrical work, landscaping, painting and cleaning apartments to make ready. Willing to be on call after normal working hours. Must have a valid driver's license. Must be able to pass background investigation and a drug test. Wage is determined upon experience. Job will close on November 15, 2023. Mail resume to 980 S. Broadway, Center, Co. 81125. Equal Housing Opportunity Employment. (11/15/23)

CITY OF MONTE VISTA is accepting applications for the position of FINANCE DIRECTOR. The Finance Director has direct responsibility and supervision of all aspects of the Finance Department which includes fund accounting, financial reporting, payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, pension and retirement accounting, revenue collections, purchasing, auditing, budgeting, preparation of the Annual Finance Report, and monitors the financial position of the municipality. Five (5) years progressively responsible experience in Accounting and Finance and a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Public or Business Administration with an emphasis in accounting, financial management or a related field is required. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. This is full time employment. The salary range is \$70,000-\$75,000 DOE, plus full benefits. To apply please visit: www.cityofmontevista.colorado.gov or applications can be picked up at City Hall, 95 W. 1st Ave Monte Vista, CO 81144. Please provide updated resume with application. Position will remain open until filled, first review November 9, 2023. EEO ADA. (11/14/23)

SLV REGIONAL LANDFILL is accepting applications for a full-time EQUIPMENT OPERATOR. Benefits include 100% Paid Employee Only Health, Dental & Vision Insurance, Sick/Vacation Leave, Retirement Match. Applications & Job Description can be picked up at the SLV Landfill office or visit our website <http://slvlandfill.com> for more information. Starting wage \$17.00 per hour depending on experience. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. For more information, contact Leonard Brown (719)-852-3810 or lbrown@slvlandfill.com (11/11/23)

RED HILL LAVA PRODUCTS is looking for a LABOR/MAINTENANCE PERSON. Please call Jon Armata at 719-480-9595. (11/10/23)

CDOT IS LOOKING for TEMPORARY HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE SPECIALISTS for Monarch Pass for the winter season. Positions would be 40 hours/week with the opportunity for overtime. Pay is \$24.44/hour. This position will receive per diem and CDOT will arrange for employee to stay in a hotel for their scheduled working days. If interested, apply at <https://bit.ly/wolfcreekpass> (11/10/23)

FOR SALE: MATRESS Topper w/ cover; Old Antique Irons; Antique Sewing Machine; Coke Bottle w/ caps; Super Twin Water-bed. Call before 1:00pm or after 6:30pm, 719-298-2355. (11/11/23)

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360 - MISC. FOR SALE

WILD WEST MAGAZINES: \$15 takes all. 719-852-8879. (11/8/23)

LARRS MINI - Therm JVH GAS FIRED BOILER, 160,000 BTU; \$450. 1/2 HP INLINE CAST IRON PUMP 1-inch inlet/outlet; \$150. 719-379-3921. (11/4+2cr/23)

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

368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

FREE KITTENS TO GOOD INSIDE HOME(S). Call or text 719-250-7597. (11/21/23)

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

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

Century Property Management & Sales, LLC
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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

426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

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

525 - GUNS

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

606 - BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT

OFFICE FOR RENT, 10'x10', 315 State Avenue, ALAMOSA. 719-580-3338. (11/8/23)

611 - HOUSES FOR RENT

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

4BR/2BA HOUSE FOR rent, NEAR ALAMOSA-HS, park, shopping, hospital. \$1,450/month+utilities+deposit, no smoking, application required. 719-588-8828. (11/17/23)

630 - ROOMS FOR RENT

ALAMOSA FURNISHED ROOM for Rent. Private bath, washer/dryer, shared kitchen/living room. \$700/month, all utilities included. Some storage available. Cat OK. Call/text 408-533-2701. 15 minutes from downtown Alamosa. (11/15/23)

701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

'07 SUBARU WAGON needs motor: \$1,500. '02 SUZUKI DRZ400: \$750, needs motor. Old GOOSE NECK HORSE TRAILER: \$800. (11/25/23-CR)

701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

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

720 - HEAVY EQUIPMENT

2015 NH L228 SKID LOADER. 815 Hrs. New Tires. Bucket and Forks. Enclosed cab with A/C. Very Clean. \$39,500 Call 719-850-1143. (11/28/23)



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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Take a break
 - 5 Murdered
 - 10 Painter or sculptor
 - 13 Batter's position
 - 14 Dance about
 - 15 Hearken
 - 16 Retired jet
 - 17 Genus of geese
 - 19 Compass pt.
 - 20 Suitable
 - 21 Singer Lady —
 - 24 Rant and —
 - 25 Scary yell
 - 28 Seed cover
 - 29 "— Scissors hands"
 - 31 Change for the better
 - 34 Not up
 - 35 Cudgel
 - 36 "— of Eden"
 - 39 Precious stones
 - 40 See-through plastic

- DOWN**
- 1 Knocks
 - 2 Gets it wrong
 - 3 "On the double!"
 - 4 "Cat on a Hot — Roof"
 - 5 Began moving
 - 6 — Palmas
 - 7 Tiny colonists
 - 8 Frosts
 - 9 Hawaiian goose
 - 11 Wound's result
 - 12 Singing voice

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 13 Whole-arm tattoo
- 18 Hydro
- 20 — Alto
- 21 Duds
- 22 Length times width
- 23 Natural talent
- 25 Innocent one
- 26 Town in Utah
- 27 Concern of bettors
- 30 Conduct
- 32 Like father and son
- 33 Handled roughly
- 37 High school subj.
- 38 Colors
- 41 Duck
- 42 Strong wind
- 43 On an ocean liner
- 44 Pentacle
- 46 High-maintenance performer
- 47 Particular
- 48 Mud
- 50 Employment
- 52 Long-running show

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

A four-panel comic strip. In the first panel, a man says, "I BROUGHT AN EXTRA-LARGE TENT, IF YOU TWO WANT TO SHARE IT WITH ME." In the second panel, a woman replies, "NAH, I PREFER SLEEPING UNDER THE STARS AND PLANETS!" In the third panel, the man says, "GREAT, THEN YOU CAN ALSO PROTECT US FROM PREDATORS." In the fourth panel, the woman says, "NOTHING IN THE FOREST SCARES ME." A man in a hat says, "CAN'T SLEEP, ALLEY?" and another man replies, "WHAT IF THERE'S A HANDSOMER ME ON ONE OF THOSE OTHER PLANETS?"

ARLO & JANIS

A four-panel comic strip. In the first panel, Arlo says, "ARLO! WHY DIDN'T YOU SPREAD SOME NEWSPAPER?!" In the second panel, Janis replies, "SURELY YOU JEST." In the third panel, Arlo says, "I WILL BE SUPER PROUD IF MY DRAWING IS END UP ON COVER." In the fourth panel, Janis replies, "BUT WAIT IF MY DRAWING IS TO WIN CONTEST THEN YOUR DRAWING IS TO LOSE!"

BIG NATE

A four-panel comic strip. In the first panel, Nate says, "A YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST! IT WILL BE SO TOTAL FUN! RIGHT, NATE?" In the second panel, Nate replies, "RIGHT. FUN." In the third panel, Nate says, "I WILL BE SUPER PROUD IF MY DRAWING IS END UP ON COVER." In the fourth panel, Nate replies, "BUT WAIT IF MY DRAWING IS TO WIN CONTEST THEN YOUR DRAWING IS TO LOSE!"

THE BORN LOSER

A four-panel comic strip. In the first panel, a man says, "THEY SAY MONEY TALKS, DO YOU THINK THERE'S MUCH TRUTH TO THAT?" In the second panel, the man replies, "LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY..." In the third panel, the man says, "IF THERE IS, I MUST NEED A TRANSLATOR!"

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

A four-panel comic strip. In the first panel, a man says, "FOUR BRAND-NEW PUPPIES! CONGRATULATIONS, BERRA— YOU'RE A MOM!" In the second panel, the man replies, "SHE SEEMS TO KNOW WHAT SHE'S DOING, EL. IT'S AMAZING HOW QUICKLY SHE CAUGHT ON!" In the third panel, the man says, "IT'S THE UMBILICAL CORD, APRIL. THAT'S THE PUPPY'S BELLY-BUTTON!" In the fourth panel, the man replies, "DAD! DAD! GUESS WHAT! DOGS GOT BELLY BUTTONS!"

FRANK & ERNEST

A two-panel comic strip. In the first panel, Frank says, "IT'S NICE THAT YOU THINK, THEREFORE YOU ARE, MR. DESCARTES, BUT I STILL HAVE TO SEE SOME I.D." In the second panel, Ernest replies, "BANK"

GARFIELD

A three-panel comic strip. In the first panel, Garfield says, "POOR LITTLE LEAF..." In the second panel, Garfield says, "LEAVING ITS HOME TO FACE WHO KNOWS WHAT" In the third panel, Garfield says, "WHEEEE!"

THE GRIZZWELLS

A two-panel comic strip. In the first panel, a man says, "LOOK, I GOTTA GO... IT'S HAPPY HOUR AT HOME" In the second panel, a woman replies, "FLORA'S PROBABLY SHOPPING AT THE LANDFILL AND THE KIDS ARE STILL IN SCHOOL"

PEANUTS

A four-panel comic strip. In the first panel, a girl says, "MY GRANDMOTHER HELPED TO MAKE THIS COUNTRY! GREAT!" In the second panel, a boy replies, "DURING WORLD WAR II, SHE WORKED AS A RIVETER, AND WROTE LETTERS TO SEVENTEEN SERVICEMEN!" In the third panel, a girl says, "TALK ABOUT WOMEN IN HISTORY..." In the fourth panel, a boy replies, "LET'S HEAR IT FOR MY GRANDMOTHER!!"

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN

A two-panel comic strip. In the first panel, Herman says, "Two cheeseburgers to go."

Recording may be worth more than a thousand words

DEAR ABBY: I have some advice for your readers who write regarding problems with how others behave badly or are verbally abusive or inappropriate toward them. Hopefully, it will help someone.

I suggest recording video of the offending individual while it's happening, and then showing them the video later when they are calm/sober/reflective. If the behavior is drug- or alcohol-driven, this can show the person they're not fun and funny; they are obnoxious and offensive. I'm certain I would have quit drinking years earlier had I been able to see how I acted while intoxicated.

This advice could also work with a relative who are concerned about with regard to dementia or Alzheimer's. You could show the video to their doctor, rather than make generalizations about their behavior. Telling your husband to talk to his mom about how critical or rude she is to you puts your husband on the spot, and it's still a "she said/she said" situation. Maybe your mother-in-law has no idea how she sounds. But she should. If a picture is worth a thousand words, a video is worth even more. -- "GOTCHA" IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR "GOTCHA": I'm printing your letter because I think in some cases it has merit. However, videoing someone who is in the middle of a rant (or some other socially unacceptable activity) could cause some individuals to become violent. ("Stop videotaping me!!!") That's why I have to add that if one chooses to do this, they should be aware of the risk.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 35-year-old woman who is married to a 27-year-old man. We currently live in the same house as his mother. She lives downstairs; we live upstairs. Thanks to my husband's upbringing, he has a hair-trigger temper. His dad has an explosive temper, and his mother is a narcissist. He's never directed it at me, but his mother sets him off.

Sometimes, I think she does it on purpose because she has some kind of victim complex. I have tried everything to help him control his temper; nothing has worked. It has become normal for me to end the day with them fighting. I am exhausted by them. If they're home before I go to work, they'll get into some sort of yelling match. When I'm finishing my workday, he'll call me and I'll hear them arguing on the phone.



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

I'm tired of the fighting. It's creating so much anxiety and depression. I have told him this and asked him to at least try to stop, but it's still the same. What do I do? -- SURROUNDED BY WAR IN TEXAS

DEAR SURROUNDED: You are more mature than your husband, both emotionally and chronologically. He is still under his mother's thumb, which is why she's so good at pushing his buttons. It is time for you both to move as far away from his mother's dwelling as possible. If you do, he will have less exposure to his mother, and you may have peace under your roof (once you unplug the phone).