



South Fork prepares for Christmas cheer

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Trinidad State men's cross country wins national title

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San Luis Valley
Colorado Genuine
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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

November 14, 2023

\$1

SLV Today

Water resources at Great Sand Dunes — noon talk

ALAMOSA — Adams State University lunchtime talk on the importance of water resources at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve with Andrew Valdez, NPS, is at noon on Nov. 15 at Porter Hall room 130.

Backcountry Film Festival in Monte Vista

MONTE VISTA — The San Juan Nordic Club is hosting the Backcountry Film Festival at the Vali 3 Theater in Monte Vista at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Doors for this "Collage of human-powered stories and backcountry-inspired experiences," open at 6 p.m. Admission is \$15 for San Juan Nordic Club members and \$20 for non-members.

ASU concert this Thursday

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Percussion Ensemble will perform in concert at 7 p.m. on Nov. 16 at Richardson Hall Auditorium.

Crossroads event on Nov. 17 at SLV Museum

ALAMOSA — Noted local author and former ASU English professor Pete Anderson will be the guest speaker at the final "Crossroads" event from the Smithsonian Institution. The program will be held at the San Luis Valley Museum at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 17. The event is free and open to the public.

Chapter DP, PEO selling pecans, cashews Nov. 18

ALAMOSA — Chapter DP, PEO is selling pecans and cashews from 9 to 11 a.m. on Nov. 18 at the First United Methodist Church in Alamosa. Sales help raise money for the chapter's PEO scholarships and grants. For more information, call Helen Sigmond at 719-589-6626.

Annual Bake Sale is Nov. 18

ALAMOSA — On Saturday, Nov. 18, the First Christian Church in Alamosa will hold its 23rd annual Craft and Bake Sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The church is located at State Avenue and First Street in Alamosa.

SLV WEATHER

Mostly Sunny 57/12
Wed: Mostly Sunny 57/20
Thurs: Mostly Sunny 60/20

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Alamosa City Council to hold executive session with dept. heads

'To discuss management concerns related to city manager'

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

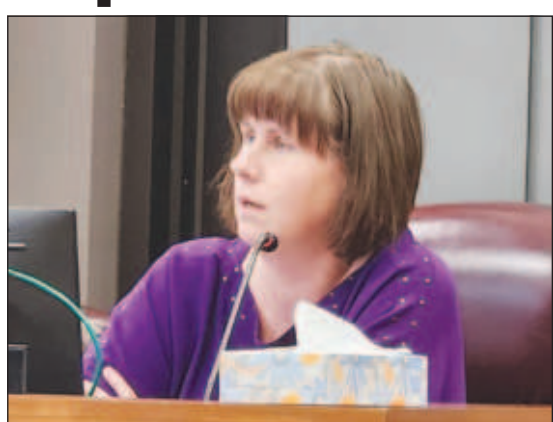
ALAMOSA — Alamosa City Council is scheduled for its regular meeting Wednesday night, Nov. 15, and, while the agenda looks much lighter than usual, a significant topic will be addressed in an executive session.

According to the Nov. 15 agenda, pursuant

to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f), council members will meet with individual department heads and direct reports to discuss management concerns related to City Manager Heather Sanchez.

Those concerns were raised by Alamosa Police Department's (APD) former Police Chief Ken Anderson in his resignation from the department on Oct. 24. In an Oct. 25 interview with the Valley Courier, Anderson said his professional opinion "wasn't asked for or even heard" on major city initiatives despite having served with the APD for close to 24 years, the last five as Chief of Police.

■ See CITY page 3



City of Alamosa City Manager Heather Sanchez



The Alamosa Mean Moose Music Machine serenaded the several hundred people lined up on Main Street in Alamosa for the Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11.

Courier photos by John Waters



Mosca resident and Coast Guard Veteran Calvin Berry served during World War II.

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Veterans Day Parade on Main Street with Valley resident and Grand Marshal Gilbert Martinez was a display of respect, honor, and thanks to Veterans.

Martinez was named Grand Marshal by the Dickie Springer Post 113 of the American Legion where he is a 40-year member and is active as part of the Legion's Honor Team.

Martinez was born in Del Norte and served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968, mostly in Germany.

The parade included marchers from the SLV

■ See VETERANS page 3

ASD 2023 attendance defies what's happening elsewhere

AHS shows increase of more than 10% over 2022

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — In a recent meeting of the Alamosa School District Board of Education, Assistant Superintendent Luis Murillo shared some exciting news about student attendance in 2023 compared with the same period in 2022.

While, according to a recent analysis from the Colorado Department of Education, many schools continue to struggle with chronic absenteeism reflecting persistent fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, all schools in the Alamosa School District are reporting an attendance rate higher than 90% with Ortega Middle School and Alamosa High School showing a gain of almost 10% in attendance from last year to this.

Comparing a period of three weeks in late October 2022 — Oct. 14 to Nov. 2 — to a similar three-week period in late October 2023 — Oct. 16 to Nov. 3 — the following results were reported.



Photo by Luis Murillo

Alamosa School District's student chess club.

In 2022, AES K-2's average attendance rate was already relatively high at 88.5% and in 2023 was even better at 92.7% an average increase of more than 4%.

In 2022, AES 3-5's average attendance rate was 85.3, but shot up to 92.1% in 2023, a gain of 6.8%.

Ortega Middle School average attendance during those three weeks in 2022 was 84.3% but, in 2023, that skyrocketed to 93%, an average increase of 8%. Alamosa High School's 82.7% attendance in 2022 soared to 93.8% in 2023, an increase of 11.1%.

"We have been hard at work in improving our attendance numbers because we know that we can only love, nurture, develop, and teach students when we can get them here," Murillo told the Valley Courier. "This year we are very intentional."

■ See AHS page 3

77th Spud Bowl Queen is Ashley Dominguez-Gonzalez

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — Ashley Dominguez-Gonzalez, a senior at Sanford High School, was crowned the 77th Spud Bowl Queen during halftime of the Adams State University Spud Bowl Football Game on Nov. 11.

The Spud Bowl tradition began in 1946, when the potato farmers in the Valley were asked to contribute sacks

■ See SPUD BOWN page 3

The 2023 Adams State Spud Bowl candidates include Destiny LeBlanc, Del Norte High School; Kacey Hillis, Alamosa High School; Ashley Dominguez-Gonzalez, Sanford High School; Kimberly Muro-Ornelas, Center High School; Isis Delgado-Cervantes, Monte Vista High School; Palma Enriquez, Sangre de Cristo High School; Alexia Gonzalez, Sierra Grande High School; Nova McConaughay, Mountain Valley High School; Annabelle Heineman, Sargent High School; Leona Hastey, Mofat High School; Delainey Christensen, Centauri High School; and Rhylina Serna, Centennial High School.

Photo by Linda Relyea



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Record

OBITUARIES

Gilbert Jasper Atencio

Gilbert Jasper Atencio was born on Nov. 20, 1938, in Alamosa, Colo., to Jasper and Mary Atencio. Gilbert married Criselda Sanchez in 1984 and lived in San Luis, Colo.

He entered eternal life surrounded by loved ones on Nov. 5, 2023, at the age of 84.

He was preceded in death with his parents, Jasper and Mary Atencio; siblings, Rudy (Lina) Atencio, Joe (Connie) Atencio, Mae (Gordy) Valdez, Reggie Atencio, Nick Atencio, Joan (Danny) Fueston, Lewis "Arnold" Atencio; Urban Atencio, sister-in-law Sylvia Atencio, and brother-in-laws Jesse Martinez, Alex Marquez, Levi Sanchez, and Wilfred Sanchez.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Criselda Atencio and his fur baby Chuco; six daughters from Precilla Atencio who is deceased, Kathryn (Ken) Sandoval, Annette (Brent) Housley, Josephine Hernandez (Jeff Hard), Sandra (Steve) Atencio-Schlegel, Marsha (Arturo) DeLaRosa, Mary (Aaron) Ybarra; sibling, Eloy Atencio; sisters-in-law Celsa Atencio, Bernadette Atencio, Wilma Atencio; Delma Martinez, Veronica Marquez, Susie Martinez, Alva (George) Montano, Neomi San-



chez; brothers-in-law Leroy (Lorraine) Marquez, Larry Sanchez; 16 grandchildren; 38 great-grandchildren; six great-great grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews and primos.

Gilbert honorably served for 4 years in the U.S. Marines Corps and was proud of his service. He was also a member of the American Legion and VFW.

Gilbert and Criselda loved to dance and sing. Gilbert's favorite song was "Wasted Days and Wasted Nights" by Freddy Fender. Elvis was his favorite artist. He loved to play his harmonica and serenade his children and grandchildren. Gilbert loved Chuco. Chuco sure loved Gilbert and would not leave his side.

He was a crazy, funny man. Gilbert was very strong in his faith, he loved God, loved his fam-

ily and people. He wore his heart on his sleeve, prayed a rosary for anybody that needed it. He was the kindest, loving man you'll ever meet. If there was anything you needed, if he had it, he would give it right then and there. He was a man of integrity, encouraged others in their faith. He will be missed dearly.

Viewing, Rosary, Funeral Mass, reception will be held at Sangre De Cristo Parish in San Luis, Colo., on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023. Viewing, Rosary 9-10 a.m.; Funeral Mass 10 a.m.; reception to follow after the Funeral Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Gilbert's honor to Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

To leave online condolences, please visit romerofuneralhomes.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to Romero Valley Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Judith K Collins

Judith K Collins, 83, of Alamosa, passed away at her home surrounded by her loved ones on Nov. 5, 2023.

Judy was born Nov. 29, 1939, in Salida to Paul and Mamie Nelson. She had five brothers, Chuck, Roy, Paul Jr, Rex, and Jimmy and two sisters, Betty and Shirley.

On June 3, 1956, Judy married Don Collins. Together they had three children Russel Collins, Wade Collins and Colleen (Collins) Green.

Judy loved the Lord and dedicated her Sundays to teaching Sunday school and playing the piano for Church services. She was a dedicated wife, mother and homemaker who always put her family first, leaving smiles on everyone's faces. She loved her family deeply

and loved watching her family grow.

Judy is survived by her children Russel Collins and Colleen (Randy) Green, daughter in law Twyla Collins, grandchildren Susan Collins, Christa (Travis) Heikes, Warren (Sarah) Collins, Jason (Kassie) Collins, James Green and Crystal (Kevin) Gonzales, great-grandchildren Codie Heikes (Shawn Moore), Marissa Heikes (Braden Antes), Hailey, Lane and Gracie Collins, Kolt and Jett Collins, Hadley Livings, Kevin Jr., Raeicia, Phoenix, Gideon, Benjamin Gonzales and great-great-grandchildren Lane and Ethen Moore.

Judy was preceded in death by her husband Don Collins, siblings, son Wade Collins and Grandson Nicholas Collins.

Her memory will live on



through those who loved her and knew her. She touched the lives of so many and will be deeply missed by us all.

Services will be held Saturday, Nov. 18, at 10 a.m. at Fairview Cemetery in Salida, Colo.

Arrangements are with Lewis and Glenn Funeral Home. Online condolences may be offered at LewsiandGlenn.com.

Lucas Vicente Manzanaras

Lucas Vicente Manzanaras, 40, passed away unexpectedly on Oct. 26, in Alamosa, Colo. He was born on Dec. 10, 1982, in Alamosa, to Earl and Jackie Manzanaras.

Lucas was preceded in death by his parents, wife Jolene, maternal grandparents Isaac and Viola Martinez, paternal grandparents Earl and Anita Manzanaras, as well as cousins Glen Martinez and Justin Moore, among many other aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He is survived by his sister Melissa (Weylen) Vigil of Alamosa, brother Jamie (Deanna) Manzanaras of Littleton, nephews Alex (Victoria) Lovato of Albuquerque, N.M., Cameron Manzanaras of Littleton, nieces Tiffany (Brandon) Albert of Alamosa, Mackenzie (Matthew) Starkey of Littleton, and four great-nieces and nephews: Jordan, Isabel, Joel, and Harper. Also survived by uncles Ron



(Carol) Martinez of Monte Vista, Claude (Becky) Manzanaras of Salt Lake, Utah, Ben Maes of Lakewood, aunts Peggy Martinez of Monte Vista, Joyce Pacheco of Monte Vista, and Rosin Manzanaras of Lakewood, along with numerous cousins.

Lucas completed a year-long recovery program at Life Changers Ministry in Gallup, N.M.,

where he encountered Pastors Ryan and Lindsey, as well as supportive "Brothers" Billy, Josh, and Travis. Inspired by his experience, Lucas aspired to pursue a career in ministry, a dream unfulfilled due to his untimely passing.

A lover of the mountains, Lucas enjoyed cookouts, bonfires with family and friends, and was renowned for his heart of gold. Known for his selflessness, he would readily give the shirt off his back or his last dollar to those in need.

Services to celebrate Lucas's life will be held on Nov. 18, at 11 a.m., at River of Life Church (2602 Clark St.) in Alamosa, with burial at San Luis Valley Cemetery, followed by a meal at the Nazarene gymnasium in Monte Vista after the interment.

Arrangements entrusted to Chapel of Memories Funeral Home in Colorado Springs.

Mary A. Martinez

Longtime Monte Vista resident Mary A. Martinez, 100, passed away peacefully at her home on Friday, Nov. 10, 2023, surrounded by her loving family.

Mary was born in Antonito, Colo., on Oct. 24, 1923, to Gregorita (DeHerrera) Lobato and Martin Lobato. She married the love of her life Ben R. Martinez on Aug. 7, 1946, in Monte Vista at the St. Joseph Catholic Church, they were married 63 beautiful years until his passing in 2010.

Mary loved to pray the Rosary 2 or 3 times daily. She enjoyed baking, doing crossword puzzles and word searches. She liked to watch wrestling, she was an avid Broncos and Colorado Rockies fan. Mary collected ceramic sheep, her special collections of ceramic farm animals and sheep are a prized collection, that anyone who knew her enjoyed contributing to. Mary absolutely loved visiting with her many friends, whom she loved dearly. She retired from the Colorado State Veterans Center food service department after 26 years of dedicated service.

Mary is survived by her only child Antonio "Tony" Martin Martinez, he was her pride and joy. Her love for him was her safety and security. He was her happiness! Her daughter-in-law Virginia Z. Martinez was her calmness, her guide, her safety and security. Mary enjoyed sitting with Virginia and talking and praying, laughing and reminiscing, and looking at pictures (when she could still see well).

Her granddaughters; Melissa R. (Juan) Martinez Palomarez, they were her tenderness, her love, her joy, her friends, and her protectors. Angelica K. (Eli) Heredia, they were her sweetness, her dancing partner, her joy, her protectors. Mary's great-grandchildren; Eliana H. Heredia who was her one and only great-granddaughter. She was her beautiful and loving pride and joy. Antonio C. Martinez, was her grandson who shared the same name with her Antonio.

He was her handsome and tall great-grandson and loving pride and joy. Eryc Heredia, was her youngest great-grandson and her soft-spoken grandson that was so handsome and her loving pride and joy. Mary's pride in life was living long enough to be blessed with her 5th generation, great-great-grandson Aiden Heredia-Montoya. She loved him so much. She loved attending all of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren's activities and sports. She was their biggest fan! She always said her biggest accomplishments in life was living long enough and with good health to enjoy many happy moments and create many happy memories with her family. To have good energy to enjoy being included in everything. Mary is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews whom she was a mother figure for and they all loved her dearly.

Mary was preceded in death by both her parents, her husband, her brothers; Eluterio Lobato, Manuel Lobato, and



Joe Alfonso Lobato; her sisters in law; Jane Lobato and Adelina Lobato.

A visitation will be held Friday, Nov. 17, 2023, from 1-4 p.m. at Rogers Family Mortuary at 404 Morris St. in Monte Vista. A vigil and recitation of the Rosary will be Friday, Nov. 17, 2023, at 7 p.m. at the St Joseph Catholic Church in Monte Vista. A Funeral Mass will be Saturday, the 18th of November at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Monte Vista at 10 a.m.

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

PENDING OBITUARIES

Nicolas Martinez

Alamosa resident Nicolas Martinez, 88, passed away Nov. 10, 2023. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Nicholas Ortega

Capulin resident Ignacio Nicholas Ortega passed away Nov. 10, 2023. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Donald Armour

Alamosa resident Donald Armour passed away Nov. 8, 2023. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

COURIER OBITUARY POLICY

The Courier charges \$75 for each obituary per day. Pending arrangements or death notices are free. This charge affects funeral homes, family or other representatives that place obituaries. All paid obituaries are published on www.alamosanews.com, for no additional fee. Please email obituaries if possible to squintana@alamosanews.com If the newspaper errors in publishing an obit, corrections will be made and the obit rerun. If the errors are on the part of the submitting party, an additional fee will be assessed.

School Menu
Tuesday
November 14, 2023

BREAKFAST

Chocolate Donut
Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY

Sweet & Sour Pork/Rice
Egg Roll/Stir Fry Vegetables

Fresh Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sweet & Sour Pork/Rice
Egg Roll/Stir Fry Vegetables

Fresh Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL

Sweet & Sour Pork/Rice
Egg Roll/Stir Fry Vegetables

Fresh Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

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

San Luis Valley Federal Bank
Spirit of Giving
24TH Annual

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

VOTE TODAY

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Valley News



Alamosa firefighters battle a shed-trailer fire Saturday night in Deer Valley Meadows east of Alamosa. A pet rabbit in a cage perished in the fire, but other animals escaped. Courtesy photo

Structure destroyed; trailer seriously damaged in Saturday night blaze

STAFF REPORT
ALAMOSA — A building was destroyed and a travel trailer seriously damaged in a fire on Badger Lane in Deer Valley Meadows east of Alamosa about 9:30 p.m. Saturday.

Capt. Estevan Alonzo with the Alamosa Fire Department said the building was fully involved with flames when

firefighters arrived and then spread to the nearby trailer. The property owners were not there at the time and no injuries were reported, but it appeared they had been living in the trailer.

A pet rabbit in a cage was lost in the fire, but some sheep, chickens and dogs survived, Alonzo said. The cause of the fire was under in-

vestigation but appeared to have started in the structure which may have been a barn or storage building.

Alonzo said AFD responded with five trucks and 15 personnel with support by Alamosa EMS Services. Costilla County fire was initially called for mutual aid but were cancelled prior to responding.

AHS

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 tionally focused on belonging.”

That intentionality was driven not just by the desire for more students to come to school but by data.

“On the YouthTruth survey, which all students (with parent permission) take in grades 3-12, we had only 38% of students report that they feel a sense of belonging in our schools. This is simply not good enough,” Murillo said.

The YouthTruth survey is given to grades 3 through 12 every October.

As is becoming almost predictable, Murillo referenced their efforts be-

ing guided by the district’s Strategic Plan, a thoughtful, collaborative effort crafted over months of work by members of ASD administration, staff, teachers, students, parents and the community. In this case, Murillo referenced Focus Area Two of the Strategic Plan which includes the district’s safety efforts.

But the school also employed some very “concrete” steps to encourage attendance, which Murillo ticks off in an email to the Valley Courier.

“We are making phone calls home. We want to make sure students are okay. We also want to make sure parents and students know that we care, and we also want them to know the excellent work happening at

our schools,” he said.

Murillo also brought up the Family School Community Partnership (FSCP) unit which “is focused on making connections with families. We want them to be the bridge between home and school for families that need that.”

Lastly, he wrote, the district has been very intentional and vocal about the Every Day Matters Campaign. They write about it, speak about it on their podcast and at parent and teacher conferences and just about any and every chance they get. “We know everyday matters,” Murillo says, “and we want to make sure we are doing everything in our power to remove any barriers around attendance.”

OBITUARY

Querina Martinez

Querina Martinez was born to Edward and Clorinda (Mary) Martinez and raised in La Jara, Colo. Querina and Joseph (Tony) were high school sweethearts, homecoming Queen and King, they were married Aug. 8, 1957. Soon after marriage they moved to Spokane, Wash., where Tony served in the Air Force.

In the early 60’s, they returned to La Jara to raise their six children at their farm and ranch. Tony and Q enjoyed watching their children participate in sports, 4-H, and various other activities. Querina was a devoted member of the St. Joseph Catholic Parish in La Jara, she played the organ, piano, guitar and sang for many celebrations. She participated in the La Jara Rotary Club for over 20 years as the club’s musician.

After raising the children, she went to school and earned a degree in Education, and later a Master’s degree. She taught school in Espanola, N.M., for several years then accepted a position as elementary music teacher in Alamosa. Tony and Q enjoyed many ad-



husband Tony, children Marty (Melissa) Martinez, Mark (Scott) Martinez, Valerie (Chuck) Finnegan, Naomi (Randy) Keys, Tiffany Martinez, and Mario (Moria) Martinez, 11 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren, also her brother Orlando (Amanda) Martinez, Bonnie Martinez and Vickie Martinez.

She was preceded in death by her parents, son Anthony, and brother Nickie.

She will be greatly missed by all who loved her, especially her husband Tony.

There will be a viewing on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, at 3 p.m. at Our Lady of the Valley Church in La Jara, Colo., with a rosary following at 4 p.m. Also at Our Lady of the Valley Church in La Jara, Colo., mass of the resurrection will be held on Nov. 16, 2023, at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of the Valley Church in the La Jara, Colo., with interment to follow at the La Jara Cemetery.

To leave online condolences, please visit romerofuneralhomes.com. Romero Funeral Home is in care of the arrangements.

Spud Bowl

Continued from Page 1

of spuds to the University, which, in turn, were converted into cash to supplement the athletic program. The tradition and spirit have continued, and Spud Bowl remains a highlight of each football season.

Each year, San Luis Valley high schools are asked to nominate a senior candidate for Spud Bowl. The candidates are interviewed by a panel of judges, and the winner is selected and announced at halftime of the football game. The Colorado Potato Administrative Committee and Adams State University Foundation award scholarships of \$1,000 to each contestant to attend Adams State and \$2,000 to the Spud Bowl Queen.

The 2023 Adams State Spud Bowl candidates included, Kacey Hillis, Alamosa High School; Delainey Christensen, Centauri High School; Rhylina Serna, Centennial High School; Kimberly Muro-Ornelas, Center High School; Destiny LeBlanc, Del Norte High School; Leona Haste, Moffat HS; Isis Delgado-Cervantes, Monte Vista HS; Nova McConnaughay, Mountain Valley HS; Dominguez-Gonzalez; Palma Enriquez, Sangre de Cristo High School; Annabelle Heine-man; Sargent High School; and Alexia Gonzalez, Sierra Grande High School.

Judges for this year’s contest were Helen Smith and Cliff Shaw, Colorado Potato Administrative Committee, and Maria Valdez, Adams State accounting technician II.



Adams State Spud Bowl Judge Maria Valdez places the sash on the 2023 Queen Ashley Dominguez-Gonzalez during the Spud Bowl halftime show.

Veterans

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Republicans, the SLV Democrats, Alamosa Police, Alamosa County Fire, City of Alamosa Fire, Veterans Crisis Line, Alamosa Veterans Memorial Park, Alamosa Mean Moose Music Ma-

City

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“APD Chief Anderson resigns from position” www.alamosanews.com.)

Anderson further stated that when he did voice disagreement with some of the city’s decisions that impacted his department, the city manager “either disagreed or didn’t listen.”

In an Oct. 27 interview City Manager Sanchez gave to the Valley Courier where she responded to Anderson’s statements, Sanchez said that Chief Anderson was “not being truthful” in his depiction of their interactions. (“City Manager responds to APD Chief’s comments in resigning” www.alamosanews.com.)

“He is presenting a situation where I haven’t listened to him and not listening to his concerns, and that’s not accurate. He never expressed...the level of frustration he’s expressing now,” she said.

The city council held their regular meeting the following Wednesday,



Photos by Linda Relyea
 Ashley Dominguez-Gonzalez, Sanford High School, is the 2023 Spud Bowl Queen.



President David Tandberg and his wife, Darin Tandberg, congratulate the 2023 Adams State Spud Bowl Queen Ashley Dominguez-Gonzalez.



Colorado Potato Administrative Committee Helen Smith (far left) and Cliff Shaw and Adams State Maria Valdez (far right) judged the 77th Annual Spud Bowl on Saturday, Nov. 11. The judges selected Ashley Dominguez-Gonzalez as the 2023 Queen, which was announced during the Spud Bowl football game halftime show.

chine, San Luis Valley Disabled American Veterans — Chapter 3, La Jara, and others.

The parade included Veterans from many conflicts, including Calvin Berry of Mosca, who served during World War II. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, of the 16 million

Americans who served in World War II, there are about 119,000 alive today with 1,910 residing in Colorado.

Jack Rudder from the American Legion said the parade went well and the participants were excellent. Rudder noted the parade had fewer bands than in previous years.

Nov. 1, in which Mayor Ty Coleman said Chief Anderson not coming to the meeting “was not an option.”

During that public meeting, while Anderson stood at the podium, Sanchez said that, in telling the Valley Courier that Anderson was not being truthful, she was not implying that Anderson was “a liar.” She further described the concerns that led to Anderson’s resignation as a “breakdown in communication” and proposed to the council a timeline for corrective actions that would include members of the city council meeting with department heads to solicit feedback on her management style.

When Sanchez was finished addressing the council, Anderson, still standing at the podium, read a statement, saying, “I am not a liar” and reiterating his reasons for resigning. Despite what appears to have been a direct instruction from the mayor that he remain and answer questions from council members,

Anderson handed the mayor his badge, saluted him, and walked out of the room. (“APD Chief hands mayor his badge” www.alamosanews.com.)

Presumably, the executive session is being called to solicit the feedback Sanchez had suggested in her timeline. Due to the confidential nature of executive sessions, it is unlikely that the public will ever know what is said behind those closed doors.

On Nov. 1, the council voted unanimously as part of a consent calendar — meaning one collective vote addresses all items — to renew the city manager’s contract.

The meeting, which includes other agenda items before the council goes into executive session and the public is excluded, is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. in City Hall at 300 Hunt Ave. People can attend in person or via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85753492744> or by calling 1-719-359-4580 US | Webinar ID: 85753492744.

Lifestyles



Photo by Marie Mccolm

The Monte Vista Fire Department station was packed for the department's annual Chili Supper fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 11.

Monte Vista Fire Department hosts annual Chili Supper

By MARIE MCCOLM
MONTE VISTA — The Monte Vista Fire Department held its annual Chili Supper fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 11.

In-person seating, with the option to also take the meal to go, was available at the fire station. Firefighters served dinner to all who attended. There were door prizes.

Red or Green Chili was served at the event along with the option for a full or half of a baked potato. Melted cheddar cheese was served along with sprinkled cheese, and a cheese sauce with broccoli. Butter, sour cream, corn bread and tortillas were also available. Punch and coffee were the drink choices.

MVFD Fire Chief Patrick Sullivan was at the dinner, working hard in the kitchen and out front, helping firefighters bring out new dishes of food, and taking empty dishes to the back.

Chief Sullivan was pleased with the turnout at the dinner.

"It's our 32nd annual

Chili Supper. This is our appreciation to our community, for all the support. Tonight is beyond overwhelming. This is one of the largest crowds we have ever seen. I am just so overwhelmed by the support. I would like to thank everyone who is here working their tails off. We have great team members who help support us. We have great businesses that support us."

The local radio station was there doing a spot; Rendall and Cyndi Wright donated some of their First Responders Coffee; Metz Potato helped with potatoes; Monte Vista Coop helped with tables and chairs; and Waste Management provided trash service, just to name a few of the many supporters.

"I am sure I might be forgetting someone along the line here, but I just want to say thank you to everyone. The community support is just overwhelming. We couldn't do anything without the community's support," Sullivan said.

The Monte Vista Fire Department provides emergency response and fire protection services to the community. The department covers a total of 202 miles in Rio Grande County, including Chapman, Homelake, the Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge, Rimrock Ranch, and Fulcher Gulch.

The Monte Vista Fire Department provides many services to the community including replacement of smoke alarms, hazardous material inspections, and home fire plan training. The department also responds to calls for help, including medical emergencies, motor vehicle accidents, rescues, and carbon monoxide gas detector calls.

Earlier in the year, the Monte Vista Fire Department purchased Grain Rescue Equipment with grant money and some of the funds from the supper.

Mary Jo Atencio was at the Chili Supper and said, "There's a lot of people here. It's nice to see so many people supporting our firefighters."

SLV Theater Company celebrates new home



Photo courtesy Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce

ALAMOSA — Society Hall in Alamosa is the new home of the San Luis Valley Theater Company. At a ribbon cutting sponsored by the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce on Nov. 10, are (left to right) Mayor Ty Colman, Jenene Holcomb, Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske, Greg Howard, Joel Garcia, Courtney Espinoza, Company Founder Roscoe iii, Savannah Kitchel, Leo Ryan, Emma Rae Martinez, Lea Chavez.

Art and land acknowledgements are subject of next faculty lecture

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Faculty Lecture "Art and Land Acknowledgements," by Bill Tite, assistant professor of art, begins at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16, in McDaniel Hall 101. The lecture is free and open to the public.

"November is Native American Heritage Month, which provides a platform for Native people, in the so-called

United States of America, to share their culture and their lives, opening opportunity to express concerns and solutions for creating understanding and friendship," Tite said. "It is my hope this lecture will explore and expand even just a little through the art of land acknowledgements, my support of Native Americans, and really all of us living here in this amazing place we call home."

For more information on the Faculty Lecture



Bill Tite

Series contact Jess Gagliardi at 719-587-8921 or jgagliardi@adams.edu.

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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.

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9 Local shops value you more: Local businesses survive by their reputation & repeat business which means you get a higher standard of service.

Lifestyles



South Fork prepares for Christmas cheer

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — With the Thanksgiving holiday only weeks away, towns throughout the San Luis Valley are setting their sights on the coming season and South Fork is getting ready to host its annual Yuletide Celebration and Winterfest.

The annual event began several years ago during the very first days that the South Fork Friends Foundation was formed. During that time, it was initially called the Friends of South Fork until they combined their efforts with those by the Greater South Fork Community Foundation and thus the South Fork Friends Foundation was formed.

The group works with several different organizations in and beyond the South Fork Community to bring opportunity to the area and to support different events like the Yuletide Celebration and Winterfest. Funds raised during these events are then given to community projects such as the new ice-skating rink/basketball court.

One of the first events held by the organization was the South Fork Parade of Lights and Yuletide Celebration and in the years since its inception, the event has grown into something the community looks forward to each year.



The weekend starts with the annual South Fork Kiwanis Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23. The event runs from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and includes a full-course meal, to-go orders, and a chance to give back to the community with a coat and food drive.

The following night visitors are invited to come and participate in the Yuletide Celebration. The park surrounding the South Fork Visitor Center is adorned with lights and is transformed into a winter wonderland on the evening of Friday, Nov. 24. The event features the lighting ceremony at dusk, refreshments, entertainment, and a visit from the jolly old man himself! Santa will be adding to his Christmas

wish list throughout the evening.

The next morning on Nov. 25, visitors are encouraged to head over to the Rio Grande Club and Resort for the annual Winterfest, which is a wonderful opportunity to get out and do some holiday shopping without having to worry about the crowds in larger communities. The Winterfest features local artists and vendors with unique wares and a great place to find that perfect gift for family and friends.

These annual events are a great way to get the holiday spirit rolling so come on out and join in the fun! For more information or a full schedule of events, visit www.southfork.org or by visiting the South Fork Friends Foundation on its Facebook page.

New arrivals at the Alamosa Public Library

From the Librarian's Desk

By MARIA KRAMER

New books are always coming in at the Alamosa Public Library! Here are 10 of our most intriguing arrivals. For more information, or to have a book reserved for you, check alamosalibrary.org or call 719-589-6592.

Fantasy

Dreambound by Dan Frey

Hard-nosed reporter Byron Kidd attempts to unravel the mystery of his twelve-year-old daughter's disappearance. The only clue is a note saying she's gone to explore the Hidden World — but the Hidden World is only make believe, a setting from a series of novels.

Fiction

• *A Haunting in Hialeah Gardens* by Raul Palma

Hugo Contreras is drowning in grief after the death of his wife, when a debt collector calls. He will forgive Hugo's debt, if Hugo clears up a haunting in his house.

• *We Have Always Been Who We Are* by Sofia T. Romero

A couple on vacation begins to hear voices. A boy is kidnapped by the Seal Queen. A herd of elephants makes their way across the United States. The stories in this collection blur the lines between life and death, reality and fantasy.

• *Blackouts* by Justin Torres

A young man tends to a dying man who has a story to pass along. In 1941, a groundbreaking queer researcher wrote a book which was co-opted and buried. That book, though changed and redacted, forms the core of the stories the men, both queer themselves, tell to each other.

Horror

Red Rabbit by Alex Grecian

In a version of the Old West where demons and ghosts abound, witch hunter Tom and his mute ward Rabbit travel to Burden County to collect a bounty. On the way, they will meet both companions and monsters, but the crew is determined - get the bounty, or die trying.

Nonfiction

• *The Witching Year* by Diana Helmuth

Skeptical of religions - both organized and disorganized - Helmuth decided to try wicca. This book charts her 366-day journey to study, practice and define the "craft" of witchcraft for herself.

• *Waiting to be Arrested at Night* by Tahir Hamut Izgil

Tahir, a prominent poet and member of China's Uyghur minority, is no stranger to persecution. After an attempt to travel abroad, he was forced to spend three years in a government "re-education" camp. In 2017 the harassment of Tahir's people took on a horrifying new scale, as his friends and neighbors began to disappear one by



one. Fleeing the country would become his family's only hope.

• *Hell If We Don't Change Our Ways* by Brittany Means

This is a memoir of the author's traumatic childhood in New Mexico, where she was dragged from place to place by her mother fleeing a succession of abusive relationships.

• *Alfie and Me* by Carl Safina

When Safina and his wife took in an orphaned screech owl, they did not expect to form a long lasting relationship. But as the owl - named Alfie - embarked on a prolonged healing journey in Safina's home, it led the author to reflect on humanity's changing but enduring relationship with nature.

• *Activate Your Greatness* by Alex Toussaint

Celebrity Peloton instructor Toussaint brings his motivational energy to this self-help book, while also sharing how he became the man he is today.



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Sports

Trinidad State men's cross country wins national title

By TRINIDAD STATE ATHLETICS

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. - In an exhilarating display of grit and determination, the Trinidad State College Men's Cross Country team emerged victorious at the 2023 NJCAA National Championship held in Huntsville, Alabama, this Saturday morning. The Trojans' stellar performance marked a historic achievement for the team, securing their first-ever NJCAA Championship in Cross Country.

The race kicked off on the picturesque grass fields of John Hunt Park, with the Trinidad State Trojans positioning themselves at the forefront of the large pack of runners. Coach Lauren Masterson's strategy was evident as the Trojans asserted themselves as the aggressors from the starting gun. Masterson explained, "Our plan was to be at the front of the race from the beginning, pushing the pace and forcing everyone else to get out of their comfort zone and off their own race plans. Our guys are the type who want to run hard all day every day, so we took that personality to our racing style all season,



and especially here in the biggest race of the season."

Key runners Kidus Misgina and Hanibal Haile, who consistently led the Trojans in nearly every meet this season, played pivotal roles as the team's "low-sticks," contributing significantly to the team's success. The duo's communication and encouragement to their teammates were palpable in the early miles, setting the tone for the Trojans' dominance. Kameron Eustace sat only seconds behind his teammates in a second pack of runners between places fifteen and twenty. Vincent Kipchirchir stalked

Eustace with Ayub Sayid, the final scoring Trojan, a little farther back around 30th place. Kyle Awelagte and Daniel Recio provided insurance for Trinidad State in the top 40 places.

As the race progressed, a race that looked to be a four team race coming into the Championship event shaped up to be a two team race. Trinidad State found itself engaged in a fierce battle with Salt Lake Community College for the national title. Despite signs of fatigue in the later miles, the Trojans persevered and fought on, maintaining their lead despite Salt Lake athletes moving up through the

field. Misgina recorded Trinidad State's highest finish ever in the event. He took the lead several times, trying to drop the runners behind him before two runners got past him in the final mile. Haile's performance was no less impressive as he bounced between fifth to eighth place, taking turns with his competitors pushing the pace and attempting to pull away from each other. In the final 400 meters Haile escaped two of them to record sixth place and give the team vital low scoring points.

Kameron Eustace came through for the team in 17th place. He was

challenged by multiple runners in the final miles as they tried to overtake the sophomore from Zuni, New Mexico but Eustace would not relent and sprinted to a 17th place finish. Vincent Kipchirchir proved himself a clutch competitor as he sprinted from 23rd place to 20th place in the final 100 meters, a six-point swing for the team that gave them a much needed boost in scoring. It wasn't long before Ayub Sayid finished in 29th place and capped off the Trojan's scoring runners. Kyle Awelagte ran a sensational race and his fastest time ever as the sixth runner for the Champions. Daniel Recio came across the finish line in 48th place, a huge improvement from his finish last year.

The scores were nail-bitingly close, with Trinidad State claiming victory with 71 points, just ahead of Salt Lake's 78. Colby Community College secured third place with 102 points, while New Mexico Junior College, the pre-meet favorites, finished in fourth place. Coach Lauren Masterson, recognized as the Men's Coach of the Meet, celebrated her second NJCAA triumph, the first

being in 2020 when the Women's Half Marathon team clinched the school's inaugural title.

"This is a special group of athletes," Coach Masterson remarked. "They set a goal at the beginning of the season to win a title. They faced adversity in many ways and had plenty of reasons to give up on that goal but they never wavered in their belief that they could accomplish this. We are so very proud of them."

Misgina, Haile, Eustace, Kipchirchir and Sayid each earned All-American honors.

The Trojans' journey doesn't end here, as they face a quick turnaround with another challenge on the horizon. The team will be back in action on Tuesday morning in the NJCAA Half Marathon National Championships, eager to build on their recent success and continue their impressive run on the national stage. The Trinidad State College Men's Cross Country team has not only secured a championship but has set the stage for a promising future in collegiate cross country

Grizzlies fall to Mountaineers in season finale

By KEN HAMRICK

Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA - The Adams State University football team concluded the 2023 season on Saturday as it lost to Western Colorado 45-24 in the annual Spud Bowl at Rex Field.

The Grizzlies trailed by as much as 24 points but made a comeback effort in the second half. But the Mountaineers finished strong for the 21-point win.

Western Colorado got on the scoreboard first as Deyvon Butler scored on a 1-yard touchdown run. Adam Tasei made the point-after for a 7-0 lead.

Butler scored again later in the first this time on a 31-yard run. Tasei again converted the extra point and Western led 14-0 at the end of the first quarter.

Adams State got into the scoring column midway through the second quarter as Jamarri Wright caught an 18-yard touchdown pass from Montana Neustadter. Zachary Survillas' kick was partially blocked but had enough to get through the uprights and the Grizzlies trailed 14-7.

Butler scored his third touchdown of the game this time on a 4-yard run. Tasei made the extra point and the Mountaineers led 21-7.

Western scored one more time before as Andrew Montez caught a 23-yard touchdown pass from Drew Nash. Tasei again made the point-after and the Mountaineers had a 28-7 lead at halftime.

Western increased the lead to 31-7 early in the third quarter on a 26-yard field goal by Tasei.

The Grizzlies' second half comeback started with Neustadter scoring on a 5-yard quarterback keeper. Survillas made the extra point to bring the Grizz within 31-14.

The Mountaineers went three-and-out and Adams State took advantage as Ellis Santana broke through the line and ran 73 yards for a touchdown. Survillas' point-after made the score 31-21.

After an interception, the Grizzlies looked to draw even closer. However, the drive stalled on the Western 19 and Adams State settled for a 36-yard field goal by Survillas.

The momentum quickly changed in the Mountaineers' favor as they scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter.

First Butler scored his fourth touchdown of the game on a 2-yard run. Tasei made the point-after for a 38-24 advantage.

After Western recovered a fumble on the ensuing



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

Adams State University's Montana Neustadter (14) looks for an open receiver in the Grizzlies' season-ending game against Western Colorado Saturday at Rex Field. Neustadter ran for a touchdown and threw a touchdown pass but the Grizzlies lost to the Mountaineers 45-24.

kickoff, Braeden Hogan capped off the scoring with a 2-yard run. Tasei's extra point gave the Mountaineers the final 45-24 victory.

Neustadter completed 13 out of 17 passes for 122 yards. Kentrelle Petite was the top receiver with six catches for 63 yards, followed by Wright with two receptions for 22 yards, and Santana with two receptions for eight yards.

Santana was the Grizzlies' rushing leader with 153 yards on 15 carries. Neustadter was next with 66 yqrd on 14 carries.

For Western Colorado, Nash completed 14 of 21 passes for 177 yards. Montez was the receiving leader with three catches for 78 yards, followed by Sage Yazzie with three receptions for 37 yards, and Daniel Parsek with three receptions for 28 yards.

Butler led the Mountaineers' ground game with 169

yards on 24 carries, followed by Hogan with 91 yards on 16 carries.

Adams State finished the season with an overall record of three wins and eight losses, and it was 2-7 in the RMAC.

Western Colorado 45, Adams State 24				
Western Colorado	14	14	3	14 - 45
Adams State	0	7	14	3 - 24
First quarter				
WCU - Butler 1 run (Tasei kick), 9:26				
WCU - Butler 31 run (Tasei kick), 3:15				
Second quarter				
ASU - Wright 18 pass from Neustadter (Survillas kick), 3:11				
WCU - Butler 4 run (Tasei kick), 2:10				
WCU - Montez 23 pass from Nash (Tasei kick), 0:23				
Third quarter				
WCU - Tasei 26 FG, 10:05				
ASU - Neustadter 5 run (Survillas kick), 7:17				
ASU - Santana 73 run (Survillas kick), 1:53				
Fourth quarter				
ASU - Survillas 36 FG, 14:08				
WCU - Butler 2 run (Tasei kick), 7:53				
WCU - Hogan 2 run (Tasei kick), 4:46				

Panthers' season ended by top-ranked Stratton

By KEN HAMRICK

Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA - The season came to an end for the eighth-ranked Sierra Grande football team as it lost to top-ranked Stratton 45-12 Saturday in Stratton.

The Eagles led 18-0 after

the first quarter and 45-0 at halftime. The Panthers scored a touchdown in both the third and fourth quarters.

Statistics for Sierra Grande were unavailable.

Sierra Grande finished the season with a record of seven wins and four losses.



Stratton 45, Sierra Grande 12
College football
 Western Colorado 45, Adams State 24
College women's volleyball
 Colorado-Colorado Springs def. Adams State 25-20, 25-27, 25-22, 20-25, 15-13
College men's basketball
 Adams State 78,

Western New Mexico 73
College women's basketball
 Adams State 102, Midwestern State (Texas) 84
SCHEDULE WEDNESDAY
College swimming
 Adams State at TYR/CMU Invitational (at Grand Junction), TBA

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD SATURDAY Prep football

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for an **INFANT/TODDLER CAREGIVER** at the MVSD Early Learning Center. This is a full-time position. A complete list of qualifications can be viewed on the district website. The district offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, HSA match, and life coverage. The salary for this position will be paid from the current MVSD Paraprofessional Salary Schedule, which can be viewed on the district website - Administrative Information page. Placement on the salary schedule will be determined by education and experience at time of hire. Applications may be submitted through our online employment application <https://www.pirates.monte.k12.co.us/employmentopportunities> by November 27, 2023 or until the position is filled. For application questions contact the District Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (11/29/23AS)

MONTE VISTA HEAD START is accepting applications for a **LEAD TEACHER**. This position is full-time 38 hours/week. Must have an AA or BA in ECE or related field. Starting Pay is 17.00 to 22.00 Depending on education and experience. Applications are available at Monte Vista Head Start, 2863 Sherman Avenue, MONTE VISTA Colorado. For more information, you may contact the Director by email, Director@MV-headstart.org or call 719-852-3215. An employment application must be complete. Position open until filled. (11/18/23AS)

221 - HELP WANTED

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for a **GENERAL LABOR III** position in the Facilities Services Department. Starting salary for this position is \$3,484 per month. For application or more information, please see [\(11/17/23AS\)](https://www.adams.edu/hr/employment/AA/EOE)

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221 - HELP WANTED

CITY OF ALAMOSA is seeking a full-time **POLICE CHIEF** to provide administrative leadership, direction, planning, and organizing the activities of the Police Department in law enforcement and crime prevention. Hiring annual salary is \$103,869 - \$113,300 DOQ, FLSA Exempt. Fringe benefits include a 401K retirement with a 10% employer and employee match, 11.5 holidays per year, 2 personal days, 80 hours of sick leave, 80 hours of vacation leave per year, and 80 hours of exempt PTO a year. Employer paid life insurance, STD, LTD & AD&D, 75% of medical, vision, and dental premiums paid by the employer, Wellness Program, and discounted recreational memberships. For a full job description and to apply, visit cityofalamosa.org or stop by City Hall at 300 Hunt Ave. The City of Alamosa provides Equal Opportunity Employment for accommodations please submit them in writing with the application. Application deadline - open until filled. (12/2/23AS)

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

CITY OF ALAMOSA is seeking a full-time **POLICE OFFICER** or **POLICE APPRENTICE** to protect the lives, safety, health, welfare, and property of individuals within the corporate limits of Alamosa by enforcing municipal, state and federal statutes, ordinances and laws. Incumbents may be assigned to the Patrol Division, Investigations Division and/or special assignments necessary to protect and serve the needs of individuals relating to law enforcement. Hiring annual salary is \$49,400 - \$59,383 DOQ, FLSA Non- Exempt. Fringe benefits include a 401K retirement with a 10% employer and employee match, 11.5 holidays per year, 2 personal days, 80 hours of sick leave, 80 hours of vacation leave per year. Employer paid life insurance, STD, LTD & AD&D, 75% of medical, vision, and dental premiums paid by the employer, Wellness Program, and discounted recreational memberships. For a full job description and to apply, visit cityofalamosa.org or stop by City Hall at 300 Hunt Ave. The City of Alamosa provides Equal Opportunity Employment for accommodations please submit them in writing with the application. Application deadline - open until filled. (12/23AS)

ROBINS CONSTRUCTION is looking for an experienced (5+ years preferred) **CONCRETE FOREMAN** in residential, commercial, and heavy civil construction to join our team. Must have ability to perform strenuous tasks with hands, ability to kneel, bend and lift heavy materials, ability to measure accurately and read plans and specifications. Forman will be running a crew of 5-10 members. Must be a team player, keep crew motivated, complete jobs in a timely manner, and willing to work 40+ hours per week. Offer retirement, medical, dental, vision insurance, and paid vacation/ holidays. Pay based on experience. (11/18/23AS)

ROBINS CONSTRUCTION IS looking for EXPERIENCED OR TRAINABLE **CONCRETE LABORERS** to join our team. Responsibilities include forming, pouring, finishing concrete, and additional labor/equipment operation as needed. Must have ability to perform strenuous tasks with hands, ability to kneel, bend and lift heavy materials. Must be willing to work 40+ hours per week. Must be motivated and proactive. Offer retirement, medical, dental, vision insurance and paid vacation/ holidays. Pay based on experience. (11/18/23)

BOOKKEEPER: LOCAL, WELL-RESPECTED non-profit agency hiring a bookkeeper for a 6-MONTH TERM. Responsibilities include assistance with accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, and special projects. We're looking for a motivated, values-driven individual with experience in QuickBooks and Excel. Initiative essential; training and support provided. Join our staff of dedicated professionals and learn the joys and satisfaction of serving others. FT, \$20.00/ hr; \$1,000 completion bonus after 6 months. Inquire about benefits. Send cover letter, resume/request job description to hr@lapuente.net, 719-589-5909, ext238. www.lapuente.net. (11/17/23)

RIO GRANDE HOSPITAL CLINIC at DEL NORTE & MONTE VISTA have a Full-Time MA or LPN position available in our busy Primary Care Clinic's. Must be dependable, have the ability to multi-task, be a self-starter and pay close attention to detail. RGH is an EOE. Complete an application online at www.riograndehospital.org under Contact/Employment. Additional questions, contact Ted Andersen at teda@riograndehospital.net or call 719-657-2418. (11/15/23)

221 - HELP WANTED

RADIOGRAPHER, CT TECHNOLOGIST (Full-Time) Specific duties and responsibilities: All X-ray, CT, OP, IP, and ER trauma exams. Join our incredible patient centered and service-oriented team! Must be motivated and available to work flexible shifts. Apply at 310 County Road 14, DEL NORTE, CO 81132 or online at www.riograndehospital.org. Full Benefits. Please see hospital website for more information. Contact Jerilyn Hamlin 719-657-4150 for more information. RGH is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (11/15/23)

REGISTERED NURSE 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)

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)

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 receivable, accounts payable, 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)

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

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)

304 - LAWN & GARDEN

SPRINKLER WINTERIZATION, REPAIR & INSTALLATION. Quick Service! Call evenings & weekends: 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (12/1/23)

307 - APPLIANCES

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

314 - CLOTHING

WOLVERINE BOOTS, SIZE 9.5M, excellent hiking or work boot, waterproof, awesome condition. 719-256-4058. (11/22/23)

324 - SEED & FEED

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

HORSE HAY \$9/BALE; COW/GOAT HAY \$4.50 per bale. 719-274-0380. (11/24/23)

345 - WOOD

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. \$225 cord. 719-588-1183. (11/24/23)

353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

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

ACCEPTING BIDS FOR IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT on Sub-district #1 Property. Detailed information regarding the irrigation equipment is available for review by appointment at the RGWCD office or by visiting the District's website at www.rgwcd.org/subdistrict-no-1-bid. For more information, call the District office at (719) 589-6301 or by emailing taylor@rgwcd.org. Bids must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on December 1st, 2023. Late bids will not be accepted. (12/1/2023)

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

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

FREE KITTENS TO GOOD 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)

368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

713 - PICKUP TRUCKS

2015 RAM LONGHORN ECO DIESEL, 4-wheel drive, red over cream, 103,000 miles, \$27,000. 719-376-5639. (11/22/23)

FOR SALE: 2005 CHEVY SILVERADO, 2500HD, 6.0 Liter Engine, \$3,000. GOOD WORK TRUCK! 719-588-1183. (11/18/23)

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)

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

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PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE
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www.alamosarentals.com

420 - LOTS & ACREAGES

MULTIPLE 35+ ACRE TRACTS For Sale. The Rio Grande Water Conservation District is accepting sealed bids for tracts of land LOCATED AT 14355 G.S., ANTONITO. The minimum acceptable bid is \$2,000/acre. Bids must be received by U.S. mail or hand delivered to the RGWCD's office at 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101. Detailed information regarding the tracts is available for review by appointment at the RGWCD office or by visiting the District's website at www.rgwcd.org/subdistrict-no-3/publicbid. The land may be inspected with District personnel by appointment only. Appointments can be made by calling the District office at (719) 589-6301 or by emailing angelo@rgwcd.org. Bids must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on January 31st, 2024. Late bids will not be accepted. The District reserves the right to reject any bid in its sole discretion. (1/27/24)

426 - MOBILE HOMES FORSALE

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)

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

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

2002 FORD EXPLORER, \$1,250 or best offer. Has newer tires. Text or call 719-937-8382. (11/22/23)

'07 SUBARU WAGON needs motor: \$1,500. '02 SUZUKI DRZ400: \$750, needs motor. Old GOOSE NECK HORSE TRAILER: \$800. 719-293-0806. (11/25/23-CR)

713 - PICKUP TRUCKS

2015 RAM LONGHORN ECO DIESEL, 4-wheel drive, red over cream, 103,000 miles, \$27,000. 719-376-5639. (11/22/23)

FOR SALE: 2005 CHEVY SILVERADO, 2500HD, 6.0 Liter Engine, \$3,000. GOOD WORK TRUCK! 719-588-1183. (11/18/23)

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 Fire remains good relations
 - 4 Break in late night
 - 8 Meyers of late night
 - 12 Also
 - 13 Sandwich cookie
 - 14 "I haven't got a —!"
 - 15 Buckeyes' sch.
 - 16 Obey
 - 17 Actress — Russo
 - 18 Flowers
 - 20 Senseless talk
 - 22 Swelled head
 - 23 Strike
 - 24 Terry garment
 - 26 Midmost
 - 30 Chew the scenery
 - 32 Assn.
 - 33 Unclose, poetically
 - 34 Ovine cry
 - 35 Damage
 - 37 Remove entirely
 - 39 Magazine feature
- DOWN**
- 1 On
 - 2 Middling (hyph.)
 - 3 Dwelling on water
 - 4 Tragic lover
 - 5 Eye part
 - 6 Swamp

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 7 Young child
- 8 Screenplay
- 9 Hgt.
- 10 Make adjustments
- 11 Command for a pooch
- 19 "— Around" (Beach Boys hit)
- 21 Extent
- 23 Made a point
- 24 Singer — McEntire
- 25 — Khayyam
- 27 Obstruction
- 28 Church area
- 29 Dregs
- 31 Person at the podium
- 36 Frightened
- 38 Laugh-a-minute
- 40 Antelope variety
- 43 Meaning
- 44 Information
- 45 Affirm
- 46 Large sum of money
- 47 — of Arc
- 48 "Mamma Mia!" group
- 49 Essence
- 52 "... — mouse?"

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				59		

ALLEY OOP

HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THE DRAGONFLY EFFECT, DOC?

I HAVE A COLLEAGUE WHO IS A THEORETICAL ENTOMOLOGIST. SHE GAVE A LECTURE AT THE RECENT WONDERBUG CONFERENCE.

OCH, "COLLEAGUE"? "THEORETICAL"? "LECTURE"? DO I HEAR WEDDING BELLS, DOC?

OF COURSE NOT, ALLEY! DON'T BE JUVENILE. TWO ADULTS CAN JUST BE FRIENDS.

BESIDES, WE WERE MARRIED ONCE IN THE '90S. NOW WE JUST KEEP IT CASUAL.

ARLO & JANIS

WHAT ABOUT THE YARD SALE? THE KIDS WERE GOING TO HELP US THAT WEEKEND!

I KNOW...

BUT THEY'RE WORKING TO GET THEIR TAKE-OUT DELI GOING. THIS IS A HUGE TIME OF YEAR FOR THAT SORT OF THING!

AND LET'S FACE IT. SATURDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING IS A LOUSY DAY FOR A YARD SALE.

I'VE SAID THAT ALL ALONG.

AND YOU WERE RIGHT!

MY SPIDGY-SENSE IS TINGLING!

BIG NATE

ALL RIGHT, PEER REVIEWERS! I'M PASSING OUT YOUR STORIES RANDOMLY! HAVE AT IT!

The Mysterious Cat
By Lily
Tessa wanted a cat. She had always wanted a cat, ever since she had been a little girl. Then, one day she happened to...

The Mysterious Dog
By Lily
Tessa wanted a dog. She had always wanted a dog, ever since she had been a little girl. Then, one day she happened to...

REMEMBER, YOUR JOB IS NOT TO REWRITE YOUR CLASSMATE'S STORY.

WHOOOPS

THE BORN LOSER

SIGH... YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLD WHEN THE ELEVATOR MUSIC...

IS YOUR GO-TO PARTY SONG FROM COLLEGE!

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

GIDDY-UP, DADDY! GIDDY-UP!

NEIGHHHH SNORT

WHINNY

THUMPITY SHUFFLE SLAP THUMP?

OW

HI-YO, SLIVER! AWAAAAAYYYY

VERY FUNNY.

FRANK & ERNEST

HEY, LOOK WHERE WE ENDED UP! IT'S LIKE THEY SAY-- "ALL ROAMS LEAD TO RHODES."

LOLOSSUS OF RHODES

GARFIELD

I CAN'T PLEASE EVERYONE

BUT I CAN ANNOY EVERYONE

THE GRIZZWELLS

SOMETIMES I WISH I WAS STRANDED ON AN ISLAND LOADED WITH TREES THAT GREW PEPPERONI PIZZAS

THAT'S NUTS...

YOU'D GO CRAZY TRYING TO HARVEST THOSE CROPS WITH THOSE TINY LITTLE LEGS OF YOURS

HMM... I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT

PEANUTS

ASK YOUR DAD IF HE WANTS ME TO RAKE HIS LEAVES

THEY'RE NOT HIS LEAVES... THEY BELONG TO THE TREES!

HAHAHAHAHA!

IF YOU THINK I'M GONNA ASK YOU YOU'RE CRAZY!

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



"Cavework?! Try chasing bloodthirsty animals all day with a homemade spear."

Mom's abrupt shift leaves kids scratching their heads

DEAR ABBY: One night about six months ago, my mom walked out on my dad. A week later, she admitted she had been having an affair for a whole year. My parents' divorce was final three months after she left. Mom has now announced to me and my siblings that she's engaged and plans to marry her fiance just six months after the divorce. We think it's a terrible idea. We really dislike her fiance and think he's a bad guy based on our interactions with him. Mom claims to be happy, but we don't believe her. Should we just let her live her life? How do we accept this new reality? -- THROWN IN WASHINGTON

DEAR THROWN: If you and your siblings plan to maintain a relationship with your mother, handle this like the hot potato it is. Recognize that things were not as rosy as you assumed in your parents' marriage, take things one step at a time, and make an extra effort to look out for your father. Then cross your fingers and hope that as painful as this disruption is, everything works out for the best.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married 33 years. We have no savings. We live paycheck to

paycheck. My husband keeps borrowing more and more, and our credit cards are out of hand. He still works. I am retired. He has a 28-foot enclosed trailer stuffed with mechanical items, hobbies, collectibles and who knows what else, as well as a double garage filled with so much you can't walk in. There is \$10,000 to \$15,000 worth of stuff. He refuses to sell anything even though he hasn't even been to the trailer in more than a year. We have terrible fights over this. I'm losing sleep over our future. Any ideas? -- GOING DOWN-HILL IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR GOING-DOWN-HILL: From what you have described, your husband is a hoarder. Some people do this because of anxiety or depression. Your husband needs to get to the root of why he spends compulsively on things he isn't using. His doctor could refer him for counseling and possibly medication that would help if he is willing. However, if he is unwilling, you may need to separate your finances from his before he encumbers you both further.

DEAR ABBY: How do you tell your adult children it's time for them to start planning family events? Neither of my



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

30-something kids has planned a thing. I thought I raised them better than this, but unless I plan birthdays, holidays, etc., nothing happens. I'm tired of being the social glue. How do I get them to step up? -- PASSING THE TORCH

DEAR PASSING: You can encourage your children to step forward and assume some responsibility for family events by telling them in plain English. As the next holiday draws near, approach them individually and as a group, and inform them if they want family celebrations, they should start planning some of them because, after all these years, you need a break.