

Centauri opens state tournament against Lamar

— Page 6



Evan as bear activity slows, humans must continue to be bear aware

— Page 12



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VOLUME 97, NO. 177

# Valley Courier

WEDNESDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

November 8, 2023

\$1

## SLV Today

### 'Little Mister, Miss Christmas' submissions sought

**ALAMOSA** — Candidates are being sought for the Valley Courier's 2023 "Little Mister and Miss Merry Christmas." All entrants must be between the ages of 5 to 8.

An entry blank is on page 7 of today's edition. A recent photo must be submitted as well as parental permission to use the photo and contact information.

The youngsters will be featured along with this year's Miss Merry Christmas in a special holiday edition on Wednesday, Nov. 22.

### Veterans Day trash schedule for City of Alamosa

**ALAMOSA** — The City of Alamosa released its trash schedule for the Veterans Day holiday.

- Yard Waste: Will remain the same.
  - Commercial Routes: Friday, Nov. 10, will be collected Thursday, Nov. 9. Saturday, Nov. 11, collection will remain the same.
  - Residential Routes: Friday, Nov. 10, will be collected Monday, Nov. 13.
  - Recycling Center: Will be closed Friday, Nov. 10, and will reopen Saturday, Nov. 11.
- For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 719-589-6631.

### Creede Theatre to reveal 2024 season today

**CREEDE** — Creede Repertory Theatre will unveil its 2024 season in a public event Wednesday, Nov. 8, at the Sunnyside Bar downtown in an event beginning at 6:30 p.m. with the announcement at 7 p.m.

Snacks, prizes and a cash bar will be offered. The event may also be live streamed with a link at [www.creederep.org](http://www.creederep.org).

### SLV WEATHER

Sunny 56/23

**Thurs:** Chance of Snow 45/17

**Fri:** Mostly Sunny 46/15

### INSIDE

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## Veterans Day 2023 in the Valley

By JOHN WATERS  
Courier News Editor

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — In November of 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. In 1954, Congress passed legislation that President Eisenhower signed proclaiming Nov. 11 as Veterans Day.

At the time Wilson said, "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day (now Veterans Day) will be filled with lots of pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity

it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations."

On Veterans Day, we honor those fellow citizens who have served our country. Many events in the Valley celebrate the courage and valor of our Veterans, please partake in these honorable events:

- Thursday, Nov. 9 — Mountain Valley School at 615 Pitkin Ave.

■ See **VETERANS** page 3  
**The Veterans Day Parade in Alamosa will start at 11 a.m. on Main Street. In this file photo, members of the Alamosa High School Military Club march in the parade.**

Courier file photo



## Dineh' Tah Navajo Dancers celebrate heritage



Photo by Patrick Myers, NPS

**GREAT SAND DUNES** — November is National Native American Heritage Month and was celebrated at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve with affiliated tribes. This year's theme at the Department of the Interior is Celebrating Tribal Sovereignty and Identity. Tribal sovereignty ensures that any decisions about Tribes with regard to their property and citizens are made with their participation and consent. The federal trust responsibility is a legal obligation under which the United States "has charged itself with moral obligations of the highest responsibility and trust" toward Indian tribes. Two young Dineh' Tah Navajo Dancers, wearing red and black dresses and turquoise beadwork, stand in moccasins in front of the dunes.

## Voters say no to Prop HH

*Vigil leading in Alamosa City Council race*

**STAFF REPORTS**  
**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — The ballot for this year's election was limited with voters being presented with a smaller than typical number of decisions to be made.

Statewide, voters decided on Proposition HH.

A "yes" vote lowers property taxes owed, allows the state to keep additional money that would otherwise be refunded to taxpayers, temporarily changes how taxpayer TABOR refunds are distributed and creates a new property tax limit for most local governments.

A "no" vote maintains current law for property taxes, TABOR refunds and state and local government revenue limits.

As of 8 p.m., Proposition HH received 679,346 (60.76%) no votes and 406,621 (33.96%) yes votes

Statewide, voters also decided on Proposition II.

A "yes" vote allows states to keep and spend \$23,650,000 in tax revenue that has already been collected from the sale of

cigarettes, tobacco products and nicotine products and to maintain the current tax rates on cigarettes, tobacco products and nicotine products. The tax revenue will be spent on preschool programs.

A "no" vote means that \$23,65 million will be refunded to wholesalers and distributors of cigarettes, tobacco product and nicotine products and tax rates on those products will be reduced.

As of 8 p.m., Proposition II received 684,576 (66.04%) yes votes to 352,082 (33.96%) no votes.

In Alamosa, voters decided on one position in city council in Ward 3, vacated by retiring Councilor Charlie Griego. The two contenders for Ward 3 are John Adams and Jackie Vigil. In returns as of 8 p.m., Vigil had 185 (62.50%) votes to Adams' 111 (37.50%) votes.

The Alamosa Board of Education had one contested race between Andria Gay and Kaylee Gomez Romero. At 8 p.m., Gomez Romero had 1,353 (50.52%) votes and Gay, 1,325 (49.48%) votes.

Michael Carson also appeared on the ballot, running for the at large seat vacated by Councilor Kristina Daniel. ■ See **RESULTS** page 3

## 'Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol' returns to Creede Repertory Theatre

By CREEDE REPERTORY THEATRE

**CREEDE** — Creede Repertory Theatre (Creede Rep) announces the return of "Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol" by Tom Mula to the Ruth Humphreys Brown Theatre in Creede, playing Nov. 24 through Dec. 16. This production stars Creede Rep favorite Lavour Addison in a one-person version of the show.

Marley was dead, to begin with...but what happens to Ebenezer Scrooge's old busi-

■ See **CRT** page 3



# 4.31% APY\*

Certificate of Deposit - 11 Month

Minimum balance to open this CD Special is \$10,000.

\*Also available for an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). APY stands for Annual Percentage Yield. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. This 11-month CD or IRA special will automatically renew at the end of the term for 6 months. Fees incurred on the account may reduce earnings. Minimum balance to earn APY on a CD or IRA is \$1,000. Effective August 29, 2023. This CD Special is available for a limited time and will end without notice. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.





# Record

## OBITUARIES

### Peggy Doyle Luster

Peggy Doyle Luster passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on Nov. 5, 2023. Peggy was born on Nov. 11, 1946, at Alamosa Community Hospital to Jane (Schechter) Walstrom and Gene Walstrom.

Peggy was raised on the Schechter ranch, south of Alamosa. She attended school in La Jara and graduated in 1964. She was part of the last graduating class of La Jara High School. Peggy was a cheerleader and participated in band for all 4 years. During high school, she met and dated her soon-to-be husband Louie Luster.

After high school, Peggy moved in with her best friend. She attended college for one year at Adams State College while working part-time at Montgomery Ward. After college, she began a full-time position with Montgomery Ward as a catalog manager.

On June 19, 1965, Peggy and Louie were married at Sacred Heart Church in Alamosa. They were married for 58 years. Peggy and Louie were blessed with three daughters: Bridget, Shelly, and Natalie. During this time, she worked at Arapahoe Super Market as a bookkeeper. Then Peggy chose to stay at home and babysit neighborhood children while raising her three



daughters. She started working at Mt. Carmel Credit Union once her two younger daughters started school. Peggy completed her working career at City Market. She retired after 31 years.

Throughout her retirement, Peggy would always be found spending time with her loved ones. She was the greatest caretaker to her mother and mother-in-law in the last of their years and made it a priority to support her daughters and nine grandchildren in all of their life events. She was also very active in the Sacred Heart Parish and the community of Alamosa as a whole. She was a devout Catholic.

She found joy in the simplest pleasures in life. Peggy loved her flowers, and growing tomatoes in the spring and summer. She enjoyed canning green chili in the fall to

last through the cold winter season, and loved quiet evenings crocheting or curling up to a good book. She was well-known for her strong-will and courageous spirit, and will be remembered most for her generosity toward others.

Peggy was preceded in death by her parents Jane and Gene Walstrom.

She is survived by her husband Louie, her brother Tom (Diane) Walstrom, her children: Bridget (Joey) Romero, Shelly (Matt) Mendenhall, Natalie (Gary) Martin, her grandchildren: Josh (Micaela) Romero, Amanda Romero, Dylan Romero, Shaylynn (Noah) Jones, Madison Mendenhall, Kendall Mendenhall, Samantha Martin, Alexis Martin, Haley Martin, and one great-grandchild: Olivia Jones.

A visitation will be Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023, at Rogers Family Mortuary in Alamosa from 6-8 p.m. A Recitation of the Rosary will be held 9:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 13, 2023, followed by a Funeral service at 10 a.m., both at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Alamosa. Interment will follow services in the Alamosa Cemetery.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. Leave online condolences and words of comfort for Peggy's family at [www.RogersFunerals.com](http://www.RogersFunerals.com).

### 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, 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., 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.

## Veterans and active military get free entry at Colorado state parks on Nov. 11

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

**DENVER** — As a thank you to U.S. military members, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) offers Veterans, active-duty military and the National Guard free admission to all Colorado state parks on Nov. 11.

Veterans and military members, residents and nonresidents, can visit any Colorado state park for free by showing proof of military service. Vehicles displaying a Colorado Disabled Veteran or Purple Heart license plate receive free entry

to all state parks year-round.

Colorado is home to world-class state parks, more than 960 species of wildlife and 23 million acres of public lands, ranging from wetlands to forests, canyon landscapes to mountain lakes and beautiful eastern plains. The free daily parks pass provides a chance to experience Colorado's state parks and the diverse wildlife and landscapes they showcase.

All other state park fees remain in effect, including camping reservations, boat and off-high-

way vehicle registrations, and hunting and fishing licenses.

CPW also offers additional military benefits for outdoor activities to active-duty military, veterans and disabled veterans. Programs include free admission to state parks in August, free small game and fishing licenses for qualified disabled veterans, and a Columbine Pass that reduces park entrance fees to disabled Colorado residents.

In honor of the state holiday, CPW offices and call centers will be closed on Nov. 10 to observe Veteran's Day.

## PENDING OBITUARIES

### Angela Benavidez

Alamosa resident Angela Benavidez, 93, was called home on Nov. 7, 2023. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

### Gilbert J. Atencio

San Luis resident Gilbert J. Atencio passed away Nov. 5, 2023. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

### Beverly Rose Miller

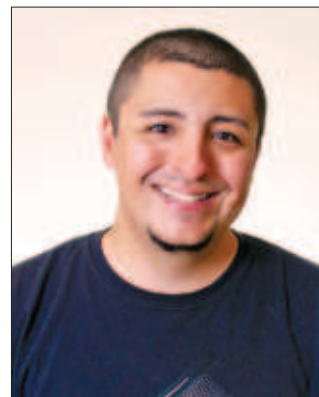
La Jara resident Beverly Rose Miller, 74, passed away Nov. 6, 2023. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Antonito.

## Adams State TED faculty speak on mentoring program

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

**ALAMOSA** — The Adams State University Faculty Lecture "The Mentoring Program with Lessons Learned," by School of Education Director Curtis Garcia, Ph.D., and Professor of Education Michele Mann, Ph.D., begins at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9, in McDaniel Hall 101. The lecture is free and open to the public.

The Adams State Mentoring Program has served teachers and pre-service teachers throughout the San Luis Valley. This is the third year of this grant supported pro-



Curtis Garcia



Michele Mann

Courtesy photos

**Adams State Drs. Mann and Garcia will present on 'The Mentoring Program with Lessons Learned' at the Nov. 9 free faculty lecture.**

gram. Mann and Garcia will talk about lessons they learned over this endorsement.

For more information

on the Faculty Lecture Series, contact Jess Gagliardi at 719-587-8921 or [jgagliardi@adams.edu](mailto:jgagliardi@adams.edu).



Photo courtesy Colorado State University

**Soil health is a central component of the Colorado Department of Agriculture STAR program.**

## Conservation District seeks 13 producers in Alamosa County to enroll in Star Plus

Applications available at Mosca-Hooper Conservation District

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

Courier Reporter

**ALAMOSA** — The Mosca-Hooper Conservation District (MHCD) is seeking to enroll 13 producers in Alamosa County in the Saving Tomorrow's Agricultural Resources — Star Plus program, which was first launched in the 2021 and is unique to the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

As described on the CDA website, STAR Plus provides financial and technical assistance to producers as they implement new practices on one field over three years and consider adopting them across their operation. Participants gain familiarity and expertise with new practices and an increased understanding of the environmental and economic outcomes associated with them.

STAR Plus also provides significant capacity support, equipment grants, training and other support to conservation districts and eligible entities so that they can provide technical assistance to landowners where and when they need it in a new way. These partners provide trusted local support and knowledge to ensure producer success.

The program also comes with some notable incentives, including 50% reimbursement — up to \$5,000

per year — for qualifying soil health practices.

A few of these practices may be already in use by producers not engaged in the program, such as planting cover crops, applications of compost/humates/manure, reduced till planting, soil building crop rotations, intercropping, rotational grazing and soil health education. This incentive creates the potential that, for 13 Alamosa County producers who enroll in Star Plus through the conservation district, they would receive 50% reimbursement for new soil health practices to support practices they are already engaged in as part of their operations.

An additional benefit of the program includes the installation of a free soil moisture sensor and additional learning opportunities at field days.

It's a generally acknowledged fact that agriculture is only going to face greater challenges going forward as water scarcity becomes more of an issue and, even when a "wetter" year may result in moisture being more abundant, higher than average temperatures reduce much of the benefit more moisture provides (as was the case last year).

With that in mind, for those who have yet to consider the benefits of good soil health, a few facts

may be especially relevant.

Healthy soil resists wind and water erosion, is drought resistant and retains water for plant growth. Healthy soil also increases productivity, is easier to work with and more versatile, produces nutritious crops and resists pests. And, with an eye on the bigger picture, healthy soil also stores carbon.

In 2022, Colorado enrolled 125 producers and 16 conservation districts in STAR Plus. This year, CDA is planning to increase to 450 producers and 40-plus conservation districts. It's an ambitious goal but applications are still competitive, including in Alamosa County. With that said, all applications must be submitted in the early part of November, 2023, so time is running out.

Anyone with questions should contact Marta Petermann at 719-992-3661 or via email at [moscahoopercd1@gmail.com](mailto:moscahoopercd1@gmail.com). A second contact person is Bill Brinton who can be reached at 719-588-2553.

**School Menu**  
**Wednesday**  
**November 8, 2023**

#### BREAKFAST

Turkey Sausage/Roll  
Fruit & Milk

#### ELEMENTARY

Turkey/Pumpkin Pie  
Mashed Potatoes/Gravy  
Green Beans/Roll  
Fruit & Milk

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL

Turkey/Pumpkin Pie  
Mashed Potatoes/Gravy  
Green Beans/Roll  
Fruit & Milk

#### HIGH SCHOOL

Turkey/Pumpkin Pie  
Mashed Potatoes/Gravy  
Green Beans/Roll  
Fruit & Milk

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

## 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](http://www.alamosanews.com), for no additional fee.

Please email obituaries if possible to [quintana@alamosanews.com](mailto:quintana@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.



# Valley News

## Watch for wildlife on roads during daylight saving time, avoid collisions

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

COLORADO — Changing your clocks with your driving habits during daylight saving time can help prevent wildlife-vehicle collisions. Wildlife experts advise drivers that wildlife is on the move, so be aware, drive with caution and slow down at night.

Sunday, Nov. 5, marked the end of daylight-saving time, which means people set their clocks back an hour, see dusk earlier and see more wild animals migrating to their wintering habitats during rush-hour traffic on highways.

As the sunlight fades during high-volume commutes, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) asks drivers to stay alert and share roads with wildlife. Autumn is the peak seasonal mating and migration time for many species, so drivers should watch for wildlife as they experience darker commutes.

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) also advises motorists to stay vigilant, drive cautiously and slow down as winter storms often push wildlife from the high country into lower elevations.

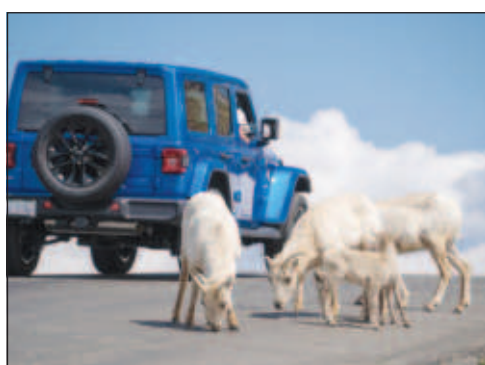
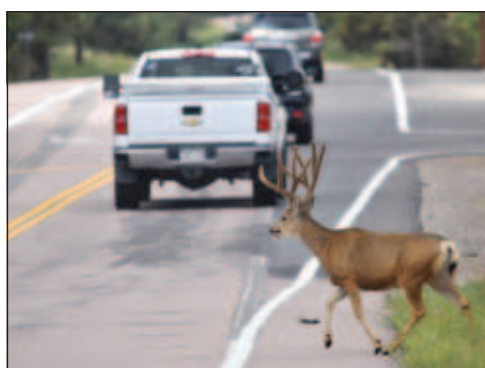
"This is the time of year when we start seeing more animals on the move at our state parks and on our roads," said CPW Fishers Peak State Park Manager Crystal Dreiling. "Drivers across the state can expect to find wildlife on or near the roadways as winter approaches and they can do their part in helping to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions with bear, elk and deer by traveling at slower speeds and staying vigilant."

To decrease the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions in Colorado, CDOT has collaborated with CPW to develop wildlife prioritization plans for the Western Slope, as well as the Eastern Slope and Plains.

"From these studies, wildlife mitigation features can be added to planned highway improvement projects," said Keith Stefanik, CDOT Chief Engineer. "The prioritization plans provide us with a proactive approach to pursue strategic wildlife-highway mitigation where it is needed most, to allow wildlife to safely cross busy highways and decrease the potential of high risk of wildlife-vehicle collisions."

Associated wildlife infrastructure includes wildlife overpasses, underpasses, and high fences with escape ramps and wildlife guards along highways.

CPW and CDOT actively monitor wildlife data to identify potential highway mitigation projects to protect our wildlife and keep Colorado motorists safe. To learn more about ongoing collaborative efforts,



visit the Colorado Wildlife Transportation Alliance webpage. See locations of completed crossings around Colorado on the statewide wildlife crossing web map.

Learn more about how the Colorado Wildlife and Transportation Alliance met with partners at the 2023 Wildlife & Transportation Summit to find solutions for wildlife-vehicle collisions.

Projects recently completed or under construction include:

- I-25 Gap Project Monument to Castle Rock (five underpasses, high fencing and one overpass currently in design)
- CO 13 Fortification Creek Project north of Craig (one underpass and a wildlife radar detection system, high fencing)
- U.S. 550 Connection South Project near Durango (two underpasses, several small mammal underpasses and high fencing)
- I-70 between Lookout Mountain and Genesee exits (one underpass and high fencing)
- CO 13 North Rifle Corridor Phase I (two underpasses and one box culvert, high fencing)

"It's exciting to see CPW, CDOT and our Wildlife Transportation Alliance partners working together to create safe passage for motorists and wildlife," said CPW's Wildlife Movement Coordinator Michelle Cowardin. "Our wildlife faces many challenges and barriers to movement throughout the year, and these projects reduce the risk of an accident while increasing connectivity across our busy highways."

## Alamosa Mayor wants you to call

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — Mayor Ty Coleman is encouraging dialogue and is asking residents to call him directly. Coleman issued this statement, "For those of you who use social media to post negative comments about our City Manager and our recently resigned Police Chief, call me on my cell 719-313-7241 and let's talk instead of you attacking them."

"I believe we make our society better by building people up instead of tearing them down. In life I've learned we will find ourselves going through three recurring phases. Either we are going through something, or we have just gone through something, or we are about to go through something."

"Our city is going through something and we are working to find



Mayor Ty Coleman

solutions. I want our community to know we will make it through this together. Our Alamosa community is too small to be divided."

## CDOT: Motorists can expect delays east of Alamosa

ALAMOSA AND COSTILLA COUNTIES

— Beginning Nov. 8, the Colorado Department of Transportation will perform erosion control work on US Highway 160, approximately 11 miles east of Alamosa. Motorists will encounter full stops and delays through Friday,

Nov. 17, as crews work to reinforce the shoulder of the highway.

An additional 3-week long crack sealing operation is scheduled to begin Monday, Nov. 13, along Colorado Highway 150. Motorists traveling toward Great Sand Dunes National Park and Pre-

serve should plan for up to 20-minute delays through the work zone, beginning at the US 160 and CO 150 junction and continuing 16-miles north to the park entrance.

Crews will work swiftly to complete operations, however work is weather permitting.

## Results

Continued from Page 1

Because he was running unopposed, his seat representing Ward 4 (vacated by him being elected at-large) will be appointed by city council.

### Monte Vista City Council

Two seats on the Monte Vista City Council were being decided by voters on Tuesday and based on initial unofficial results, incumbent Loren Howard (431 votes) had a sizeable lead while newcomer Bradley Watson (324) held a slim lead for the second seat over newcomer Sheila Sanders (316) and incumbent Martha Lock (297).

### Sanford School District BOE

Three four-year terms and one two-year term was up for grabs on the Sanford School District

Board of Education on Tuesday.

Initial unofficial results showed Brock Canty (248 votes), Austin Miller (196) and Ryan Keith Reynolds (188) leading in the four-year term races, followed by Joshua C. Jones (165) and Micah Lanar Larson (165).

In the two-year term contest, Dylan S. Mortenson had 271 votes and was well ahead of Thomas Dale Rodgers with 114 votes.

### Center Consolidated School District BOE

Two at-large seats on the Center Consolidated School District Board of Education were before voters on Tuesday. According to initial unofficial results, Lloyd M. Garcia (295 votes) and Richard J. Barela (138) were the top two, followed by Marisa Renee Aguilar (85) and Pablo M. Lopez (74).

Kimberlee Ann Duran

ran unopposed to represent District C on the Center BOE.

### Center Fire Protection District Issue 7A

Center voters were slightly in favor (56.77 percent) of increasing Center Fire Protection District Taxes \$86,752 annually beginning in collection year 2024 and by such amount as may be generated there after by the imposition of an additional two mill levy increase bringing the total mill levy to 6.924 mills to maintain and improve fire protection, emergency services, and ambulance services.

### Creede School District BOE

Incumbents Kara Jo Brittain (408) and Casey Adelman (341) based on initial unofficial results on Tuesday were on the way to retaining their seats on the Creede School District Board of Education over Lori Heinrich (251).

## Veterans

Continued from Page 1

in Saguache will feature a Veterans breakfast from 9 to 9:45 a.m., and a concert at 10. The event is free to Veterans and their families. Call 719-655-2578 to RSVP.

• Thursday, Nov. 9 — Alamosa County hosts a Veterans lunch at the Alamosa County Justice Center. The public is invited to participate. The luncheon is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• Friday, Nov. 10 — The Veterans Center at Adams State University invites the community to a Veterans dinner at Vistas Restaurant in Rex Stadium from 6 to 8 p.m. It is open to students, faculty, staff, and the community. The public is invited to enjoy camaraderie by talking with veterans and their

families regarding their experiences. There will be enough food to feed thirty people on a first-come basis.

• Saturday, Nov. 11 — American Legion — Dickey-Springer Post 113, and the Ladies Auxiliary will host the annual Veterans Day Parade on Main Street in Alamosa. The parade begins at 11 a.m. The parade recognizes veterans, past and present. To participate in the parade, reach out to Jack Rudder at 719-588-9838 or Monte Collins at 719-589-4142.

• Saturday, Nov. 11 — Civil War Veteran Captain Jose Maria Sanchez will be celebrated at the Sangre de Cristo Catholic Church in San Luis at 10 a.m. He will then be given a military service at the San Pedro Cemetery by an Honor Guard provided by American Legion Post 142

and VFW Post 6101 of San Luis. For more information, call 719 588-0512 or 719-672-4218.

• Saturday, Nov. 11 — Proud Military Parents group is hosting its first annual Coffee with a Veteran from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 11. This event will take place at the Colorado Veterans Community Center of Homelake in Monte Vista. The event will be open to the public

• Saturday, Nov. 11 — The San Luis Valley Theatre Company is presenting a comedy play called Breaking and Entering at our home base at Society Hall, 400 Ross Ave., Alamosa. Veterans are welcome to attend at no charge.

• Saturday, Nov. 11 — The SLV Big Band will host a Veterans Day concert at 7 p.m. at Ortega Middle School. Admission is free. Donations will be accepted.

## CRT

Continued from Page 1

ness partner after that? Chained and shackled, Marley is condemned to a hellish eternity, tormented by a malicious little hell-sprite. Desperate to escape his fate, he sets out on a fantastical mission to redeem Scrooge and thus free himself.

"I've always loved this take on the Dickens' classic, A Christmas Carol," says interim artistic director, Kate Berry. "Redemption takes many forms and Marley makes the choice to help Scrooge, at first selfishly, but then goes on to learn so much about himself in the process. And this time, we imagine the play with just one versatile actor, which is how playwright Tom Mula originally envisioned the show. We can't wait to share it with our audience."

The production takes

advantage of Creede Rep's multi-talented staff with direction by interim artistic director, Berry; scenic design by Morgan M. Manfredi (Managing Director); lighting design by Jake Harbour (Director of Production and Facilities); props design by Jenni Harbour (Education Director) and stars Addison ("An Iliad," "Ken Ludwig's Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood," "Clue: On Stage," "The Royale"). Addison will tackle nearly 20 characters in this delightful and heart-warming show.

"Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol" opens during Creede's annual Chocolate Festival over Thanksgiving weekend; and don't miss Creede's Holiday Market on Saturdays through mid-December.

Show times are 7 p.m. on Fridays and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturdays between Nov. 24 and Dec. 16. Tickets start at

\$25 for adults and \$10 for children.

For tickets, visit [www.creederep.org](http://www.creederep.org), call the box office at 719-658-2540, or email [boxoffice@creederep.com](mailto:boxoffice@creederep.com).

Founded in 1966, Creede Repertory Theatre is a professional theatre company located at 9,000 feet of elevation in the historic town of Creede, CO, which offers beautiful mountain views, hiking trails and stunning campsites in a county comprising 97 percent public land. From its Rocky Mountain roots, CRT serves as an artistic home to our rural community and beyond, through the creation of repertory seasons, dynamic educational programs and compelling new works. With deeply rooted values in equity, diversity and inclusion, CRT is committed to being a haven for artistic excellence, belonging, and intrinsic joy.



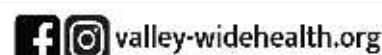
### Valley Wide Welcomes Chastidy Chacon, LPC

to Valley-Wide Counseling & Support Center  
128 Market Street, Alamosa, CO

Chastidy Chacon, LPC believes that each and every person deserves access to supportive, respectful, effective mental health care that is both person-centered and trauma-informed. She is focused on building strong, trusting relationships with her clients. Chastidy's expertise includes treating a wide array of mental health and substance use issues as well as working with clients who are mandated to treatment, or involved in the criminal justice system. She is especially interested in Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health and Forensic Psychology. Chastidy is a Colorado native. She enjoys spending time with family, traveling, playing softball, attending festivals or concerts and being in the mountains.

To schedule an appointment with Chastidy, please call, 719-587-5955

\*\*Chastidy also provides services at Centennial School District\*\*





# Opinion

## Creative builders get rural housing done

Here's a statistic to be unhappy about: Colorado and Utah host the fifth and sixth most expensive housing markets in the country, according to Bankrate.com. But here's the good news: two rural housing champions in those states have found creative ways to build affordable housing.

Moab, Utah, along the Colorado River, draws at least 5 million tourists annually for mountain biking, rafting, four-wheeling, and visiting two nearby national parks. But the town's real estate has long been pricey, and back in 2004, a Moab loan officer named Emily Niehaus realized that the only affordable housing in her hometown was mostly older trailer homes.

She also knew that national loan programs such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac excluded loans for trailers built before 1976.

Harnessing both frustration and ingenuity, she founded a nonprofit, Community Rebuilds, to tap into USDA's Section 502 Direct Loan Program. It pegs monthly payments for housing to residents' income. To cut costs she looked for "dirt cheap materials," coming up with strawbale construction that mixes dirt and straw.

Today, 72 new houses — and counting — have gone up. Niehaus, who also served as mayor of Moab, said that she liked getting things done fast, learning along the way.

In the beginning, Niehaus had little operating money and no workforce. Then she met 20-something Noah Aptekar, who was "couch-surfing" his way home from a cross-country bike trip.

Niehaus said she made him a deal:

### Writers On The Range



Dave Marston



"For every student you're able to recruit to build strawbale houses, I'll give you a hundred dollars. I need eight to start." Aptekar, who now works for SpaceX, delivered six women and two men.

Niehaus quickly points out that Moab is known as "a cool place" to hang out. Offering young people a place to sleep, a stipend for food, and an education in handmade housing won't work everywhere in the West, but in Moab it was magic.

When Community Rebuilds sells a home to qualified residents, the cost is about \$220,000, though the houses are worth \$500,000 on the open market. To block flipping, the \$280,000 in equity is transferred to the owners over a period of 20 years.

Niehaus said that USDA's Direct Loan Program for rural areas restricts buyers to those who make 80% of an area's median income. Typically, that's \$37,000 for a household of two.

There's a long waiting list for houses, but Niehaus, who has been succeeded as boss by Rikki Epperson, said applicants usually spend those years cleaning up their credit to qualify for a mortgage. Niehaus added that financial counsel-

ing is a key component to spurring home ownership.

Over in the western Colorado town of Montrose, Carlton Mason has also developed a novel way to build houses for the rural unhoused. The ex-builder constructs communities for young adults aging out of foster care, and recently he included senior citizens needing housing as well.

He got into housing because of his job as director of CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates, for the 7th Judicial District in western Colorado, covering six counties.

Mason said he found that 18-year-olds newly on their own needed lots of help. But what they especially needed was somewhere to live. His first project, called 1st Place on 2nd Street, was completed in 2018 by tapping into state, federal and foundation grants, providing housing in Montrose for up to 12 residents.

The suicide of one of those residents shook Mason. In response, he beefed up residential support: "Residents needed to build relationships with trusted adults who could also give advice about saving money and staying employed or in

To submit news, email:  
news@alamosanews.com

To submit sports, email:  
khamrick@alamosanews.com

### Letters policy

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

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

school. They needed to know adults actually cared about them."

"We've thrown money at housing for decades," he added, "and often we end up with blighted communities. Providing adequate and safe housing is just the first step in helping the most disadvantaged people."

Both Mason and Niehaus agree that their method of harnessing a variety of funding isn't for everyone.

"I've been asked to advise other communities on how to build houses for middle-income residents," Niehaus said. "But I only know how to build houses for low-income residents using volunteer labor and USDA funding."

As for Mason, who's on a roll to build more needed housing on non-agricultural land, he said, "I've had to learn as I went, but as support got bigger, I saw we can get things done I never thought possible."

*Dave Marston is the publisher of Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring conversation about Western Issues. He lives in Durango.*

## LETTERS

## SLV Health sends letter to patients regarding Medicare Advantage plans

In response to escalating issues with Medicare Advantage plans not reimbursing for even critical medical procedures and treatment, the following letter is being sent out to patients of San Luis Valley Health. The letter was submitted to the Valley Courier as a way of informing the community about SLV Health's response to this situation.

Dear Patient:

You might be seeing ads about Medicare Advantage plans and thinking about joining one. It's your choice, but San Luis Valley Health wants you to know there could be downsides to picking a Medicare Advantage plan.

Medicare Advantage is when you get your Medicare benefits from a private health insurance company, not directly

from the government. These plans are meant to cover what regular Medicare covers, and some even offer extra things like limited dental and vision care.

The government has found that some Medicare Advantage plans can make it harder for Medicare patients to get necessary medical care. For example, some plans may require their approval before you can get a doctor-recommended service, or they might try to refuse coverage for something that regular Medicare would cover, which is against the law. You can learn more from a recent NBC news story available at <https://tinyurl.com/yqc7bxpg>.

Medicare Advantage plans may also reject paying your doctor or hospital for services you received, often because of

their own strict rules. San Luis Valley Health has seen these problems in our area. We've had trouble getting approval for services ordered by our patients' doctors, and we've had claims denied or delayed. Even when we appeal, we don't often succeed. In general, we think these services would have been covered more easily under regular Medicare.

You can choose regular Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan during "open enrollment" each fall (Oct. 15-Dec. 7 in 2023). Medicare Advantage plans advertise a lot during this time and might look really appealing, but we want you to know there can be drawbacks. We're sending this letter to help you make an informed choice and avoid delays or denials in your care.

Every Medicare member should decide what coverage works best for them. For unbiased information about your Medicare options, you can call the Colorado Division of Insurance, State Health Insurance Assistance Program, at 1-888-696-7213 or visit the official Medicare website at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

As always, we remain committed to the health of our patients and our community. To reach San Luis Valley Health about this issue, contact, Tom Masterson, Director of Revenue Cycle at 719-587-5711.

Sincerely,  
Konnie Martin  
SLV Health Chief Executive Officer

## Shocked to lose Anderson; statements of city manager inexcusable

Editor,

Are you as shocked as I am? Has it even sunk in yet? The loss of our Chief of Police, Kenny Anderson, (effective immediately) at Wednesday night's City Council meeting was unbelievable. I knew it was coming, and I was still shocked!

The show of support from all officers in uniform was amazing. The Alamosa County Sheriff's Office being represented, Kenny's office staff — it was all amazing! And no, Kenny did not ask for the support. When I asked him if he wanted folks to come, he said no. Tell no one.

How can the City of Alamosa even begin to justify...anything? Allowing the

City Manager, Heather Sanchez, to call out the Chief, and tell him he was untruthful is inexcusable — in my opinion! How many different ways can you accuse a person of lying? Kenny is not, nor has he ever been, a liar — ever.

I can't say that I have never been mad at Kenny — that's life. He's probably been mad at me too. But I do know him to be honorable, and true to his career. He loved being an officer and would have stayed as Chief for...maybe another 10 years. Oh...that we could have been so lucky!

I believe it will be difficult, if not impossible, to rebuild the trust that our past police department had just a few days ago. They worked as a team, a ma-

chine. When the head of that team is called out as a liar, how can you believe anything else that is said?

As Liz Hensley, Councilor, said — maybe it is time to look at other forms of governance for Alamosa. What are our options? Does anyone know?

In closing, Charlie Griego, Councilor, mentioned how he is tired of hearing complaints about our downtown. I'm tired of that too! And so...I am starting a 'statement' petition from folks who still hate the downtown (and would maybe like our old street back). How many signatures can we get? Come by the Green Spot to sign. If you want to gather signatures on your own, that would be awesome. I'll print up some forms for you.

Ruthie Brown  
Alamosa

## Write them

### GOVERNOR

**Governor Jared Polis (D)**, State Capitol Building Room 136, 200 East Colfax, Denver CO 80203; (303) 866-2471; Fax: (303) 866-2003.

### STATE HOUSE

**Matthew Martinez (D)**, Colorado State Representative, District 62, 200 E Colfax, Room 307, Denver, CO 80203; phone: 303-866-2916; email:matthew.martinez.house@coleg.gov

### STATE SENATE

**Cleave Simpson (R)**, Colorado State Senator, District 35, 200 E Colfax RM 346 Denver, CO 80203 Phone: 303-866-4875 cleave.simpson.senate@coleg.gov

### U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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# Valley Courier

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## Your FIRST Source for Local News



# Lifestyles

## Sargent FFA Advisor, local FFA member awarded National American FFA Degree

**CONTRIBUTED INDIANAPOLIS** — Each year, the National FFA Organization honors FFA members who show the utmost dedication to the organization through their desire to develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

Ashlyn Rockey, a member of the Sargent FFA chapter, was awarded the American FFA Degree at the 96th National FFA Convention and Expo on Nov. 4. She is the second recipient from Sargent FFA to ever receive this prestigious degree.

Rockey has served as a chapter, District 4, and Colorado FFA officer. She is now attending Texas Tech and is continuing her education and commitment to agriculture while majoring in Agricultural Economics.

Sponsored by Cargill, Case IH, Elanco Animal Health, and Syngenta, the award recognizes demonstrated ability and outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production, processing, or service programs.

To be eligible, FFA members must have earned at least \$10,000 or earned at least \$2,000 and worked at least 2,250 hours outside of class time



Courtesy photo  
**Ashlyn Rockey, a member of the Sargent FFA chapter, was awarded the American FFA Degree at the 96th National FFA Convention and Expo on Nov. 4.**

through a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program in which they own their own business, hold a professional position as an employee, or conduct research.

Recipients must also complete 50 hours of community service and demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities and civic involvement through completion of a long list of FFA and community activities. Less than one percent of FFA members achieve the

American FFA Degree.

Each recipient of the American FFA Degree receives a gold American FFA Degree key and certificate after being recognized at the national convention.

The National FFA Organization is a school-based national youth leadership development organization of more than 945,000 student members as part of 9,163 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

## Local historians continue to seek help from local families

**CONTRIBUTED DEL NORTE** — The Town of Del Norte was established in 1872 but prior to that time, Hispanic families settled in the area and a cemetery was established to bury the dead.

In 1883, Candelario DeJesus Martinez, who lived in Del Norte from 1849 to 1895 donated 40 acres of land to the Town of Del Norte to be used as a cemetery. Five more acres were donated by Jean McFadzean Bond, Dr. Witt, and the Bureau of Land Management adjacent to the new cemetery site. When Martinez donated the land for the new cemetery, bodies from an earlier burial ground, about a mile from the current cemetery, were exhumed and moved to the new site.

By law, the clerk was to keep records of the births and deaths within his or her area. Since there were no hospitals in the early days of Del Norte, most of the births and deaths occurred at home. Citizens had to report these events to the clerk for them to be recorded. Doctors or mid-wives who may have attended a death or birth were often the reporting party regarding these events.

It is unknown whether these records were kept regularly by the clerks, and if so, what may have happened to them as the years passed. The Rio Grande County Clerk's Office has two books showing births and deaths that occurred in the late 1800's and early 1900's. However, these records do not have any

information regarding the burial place within a cemetery where the decedents bodies may have been buried.

Research shows that various organizations were responsible for keeping the burial records for the Del Norte Cemetery. There were sextons hired and paid to keep the cemetery in good order, but it is unclear as to whether it was also their duty to record the burials that took place. At various times, there were committees comprised of volunteers from the area who served on a board overseeing the cemetery's operation. The Knights of Pythias organization had this duty for many years, then, when the Knights disbanded, the records were turned over to the Town of Del Norte.

The lack of formal and consistent record keeping of burials at the Del Norte Cemetery resulted in incomplete records, and the names and burial places of many persons who are buried in the cemetery are unknown or are not shown on the current records available.

Through the work done to create [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) Pauline Weaver Cox and Rosalind Weaver decided to research the burials in the Del Norte Cemetery and see if the unknown shown on the current records could be identified. The research, which included obtaining obituaries and church records of deaths, researching county records, and records through the Town of Del Norte while veri-

fying information has identified approximately 500 persons who are buried in the Del Norte Cemetery but whose actual burial locations are unknown.

In May of 2022, Weaver decided to make crosses and hand them out to people at the cemetery on Memorial Day weekend with the hopes of identifying some of the unknown graves. During that weekend, Paul "Butch" Weaver handed out 15 crosses and it was at this stage that Deborah Romero began helping with the project.

Romero rented a machine to chop down brush throughout the cemetery and crosses were placed near Potter's Field based on what the current map of the cemetery showed. With the help of Val Alto, Aaron Woodke and his shop class, Paul Weaver, and Romero, 132 crosses were made and installed in May of 2023.

Weaver continues to contrast crosses to represent the other 362 unknown burials at the cemetery and Cynthia Wojciechowicz has been photographing the crosses to include on the Find A Grave website.

Now, Weaver is asking family, friends or anyone who may have more information to contact her and help her place the crosses on unknown burial locations. If you would like to help provide information or knowledge about any of the unknown sites, please contact Weaver at 719-657-3730 or Polly Cox by email at [polly@decieve.us](mailto:polly@decieve.us).

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# Sports



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

**Centauri High School's Jocelyn McCarroll (2) hits the ball over the net against a pair of Salida defenders last Friday at CHS. The Lady Falcons open the Class 3A State Tournament Friday at 8 a.m. against Lamar at the Denver Coliseum.**

## Centauri opens state tournament against Lamar

**By KEN HAMRICK**  
*Courier sports editor*  
**ALAMOSA** – The Centauri High School volleyball team opens the Class 3A State Tournament by facing Lamar on Thursday at the Denver Coliseum. The match begins at 8 a.m. The Lady Falcons are the eighth seed and the

Lady Thunder are the ninth seed. This will be the second meeting this season between the two teams as they faced off on Aug. 26 at CHS. The Lady Falcons won that meeting in five sets. The scores were 20-25, 25-14, 25-23, 10-25 and 16-14. Should Centauri win

its first game it will face top-seeded and defending state champion Platte Valley at approximately 2 p.m. on Thursday. If the Lady Falcons lose they will play on Friday at 11 a.m. against either Jefferson Academy, Resurrection Christian or Colorado Springs Christian.

## Schrader records hole-in-one on Monday

**By KEN HAMRICK**  
*Courier sports editor*  
**ALAMOSA** – Phil Schrader recorded a hole-in-one Monday at Cattails Golf Course.

Schrader's ace came on the sixth hole and he covered the 165-yard distance with a 5 hybrid.

This was Schrader's second ever hole-in-one.

Witnesses were Robbie Lopez, Frank Martinez and Tharin Mortensen.

Courtesy photo

**Phil Schrader recorded a hole-in-one Monday at Cattails Golf Course.**



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

**Holly McDaniel of the Alamosa High School gymnastics team finished 19th in the all-around competition at the Class 4A State Tournament last weekend in Thornton. She also finished 15th on the balance beam.**

## Alamosa gymnasts finish 10th at state

**By KEN HAMRICK**  
*Courier sports editor*  
**ALAMOSA** – The Alamosa High School gymnastics team finished the season last weekend at the Class 4A State Tournament at Thornton High School. The Lady Mean Moose finished in 10th place with 150.1 points on Friday.

Two Alamosa gymnasts turned in scores in the all-around. Holly McDaniel finished in 19th place with 34.525 points, and Haylie Martin was 29th with 32.075.

The breakdown for the all-around are as follows:

On the vault, McDaniel tied for 27th with 8.825 points, Martin tied for 39th with 8.550, Emilee Cook was 49th with 8.400,

McKenzie Jones tied for 61st with 8.200, and Braelyn Martinez tied for 70th with 7.950.

On the uneven bars, McDaniel was 48th with 7.675, Martin tied for 59th with 6.975, Kai Tandberg was 66th with 6.700, and Martinez was 69th with 6.600.

On the balance beam, McDaniel tied for 14th with 8.850, Martin tied for 47th with 7.850, Jones was 61st with 7.200, and Jenelle Hernandez was 71st with 6.675.

On the floor exercise, McDaniel tied for 19th with 9.175, Martin was 43rd with 8.700, Martinez tied for 52nd with 8.450, Kianna Morales was 62nd with 8.200, Cook tied for 63rd with 8.150, and

Hernandez was 71st with 7.450.

Palmer Ridge won the team championship with 183.850 points, followed by Standley Lake with 179.225 and Evergreen with 179.150.

The individual events took place on Saturday.

McDaniel was the only Alamosa gymnast to finish in the Top 10 in her event as she was 15th on the beam with 7.475 points.

The individual state champions were Evergreen's Sydney Burns on the vault with 9.825 points, Standley Lake's Tessa Grudle on the bars with 9.625, Northfield's Ashley Savell on the beam with 9.500, and Palmer Ridge's Christa Snyder on the floor with 9.650.

## High school standings

**FOOTBALL**  
**CLASS 2A TRI-PEAKS LEAGUE**

Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
La Junta	4-1	8-2
Florence	4-1	6-4
Alamosa	4-1	4-6
Woodland Park	2-3	3-6
Manitou Springs	1-4	4-5
Lamar	0-5	3-6

**Last week's scores**  
**Class 2A State Playoffs**  
Saturday

Delta 49, Alamosa 14  
Pagosa Springs 14, La Junta 7  
University 40, Florence 15

**This week's schedule**  
No games

**CLASS 1A SOUTH CENTRAL LEAGUE**

Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Centauri	5-0	7-3
Monte Vista	4-1	6-3
Ignacio	3-2	4-5
Del Norte	2-3	3-6
Center	1-4	1-8
Trinidad	0-5	0-9

**Last week's scores**  
**Class 1A State playoffs**  
Saturday

Wray 59, Centauri 27  
**This week's schedule**  
No games

**8-MAN MOUNTAIN LEAGUE**

Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Mancos	4-0	9-1
Dove Creek	3-1	8-2
Sanford	2-2	6-4
Sargent	1-3	4-5
Dolores	0-4	2-7

**Last week's scores**  
**8-man State Playoffs**  
Friday

Mancos 52, Fowler 0  
**Byers 28, Sanford 16**  
Dove Creek 54, Vail Christian 34

**This week's schedule**  
Saturday

Dove Creek at Lyons, 1 p.m.  
Sedgwick County at Mancos, 1 p.m.

**6-MAN SOUTHWEST LEAGUE**

Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Branson/Kim	5-0	8-2
Sierra Grande	3-2	7-3
Primero	3-2	6-4
La Veta	3-2	6-5
Mountain Valley	1-4	4-5
Sangre de Cristo	0-5	3-7

**Last week's scores**

**6-man State Playoffs**  
Saturday

Branson/Kim 39, Peetz 37  
Cheyenne Wells 64, La Veta 18  
Otis 56, Primero 14

**Sierra Grande 66, Arickaree 20**  
**This week's schedule**  
Saturday

Branson/Kim at Otis, 1 p.m.  
Sierra Grande at Stratton, 1 p.m.

**GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**  
**CLASS 3A INTERMOUNTAIN LEAGUE**

Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Centauri	7-1	18-6
Alamosa	7-1	17-8
Pagosa Springs	3-5	10-15
Bayfield	3-5	6-17
Montezuma-Cortez	0-8	3-20

**CLASS 2A SOUTHERN PEAKS LEAGUE**

Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Sargent	6-1	17-8
Buena Vista	5-2	15-10
Del Norte	5-2	11-13
Trinidad	4-3	14-9
Sanford	4-3	12-12
Center	2-5	10-12
Crested Butte	1-6	10-13
Monte Vista	1-6	8-15

**CLASS 1A SOUTHERN PEAKS LEAGUE**

Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Sangre de Cristo	5-0	14-10
Antonito	4-1	7-14
Creede	2-3	7-11
Sierra Grande	2-3	4-16
Mountain Valley	1-4	3-17
Centennial	1-4	1-14

**BOYS SOCCER**  
**CLASS 3A INTERMOUNTAIN LEAGUE**

Team	League W-L-T	Overall W-L-T
Bayfield	5-0-1	9-5-1
Pagosa Springs	4-1-1	6-7-2
Alamosa	2-4-0	2-12-0
Montezuma-Cortez	0-6-0	2-11-1

**GIRLS SOFTBALL**  
**CLASS 3A TRI-PEAKS LEAGUE**

Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Wiley	7-1	18-4
Rocky Ford	7-1	16-10
Lamar	6-2	18-9
La Junta	6-2	15-11
Alamosa	4-4	13-10
Woodland Park	3-5	7-16
Dolores Huerta	2-6	7-7
James Irwin	2-6	4-13
Florence	0-8	0-23

## Sports Bulletin

**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.

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# Lifestyle

## Dune Valley Distillery hosts Valley Roots Food Hub Shindig

**By MARIE MCCOLM MOSCA** — Approximately 150 people attended the Valley Roots Shindig on Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Dune Valley Distillery. The event began at 5 p.m. with dinner served at 6 p.m.

The live music of The Gypsy Jazz Social Club played at the family-friendly Shindig. Costumes were optional in lieu of Halloween.

The purpose of the Shindig was to bring the public and local farmers together for a delicious dinner that featured food grown by local farmers.

Nicholas Chambers, of Valley Roots Food Hub, said they will be doing more annual events like this and that this was a great way for people to learn about where their food comes from and how Valley Roots fits into the equation.

“We had all our local producers, which is over 120, around the state,” Chambers said. “We invited them and treated them to dinner. We treated them to a good local food experience. We got them in the same room with a lot of our customers. It was a meet and greet. We were able to converse about the Colorado local food system and supply chain production. This chain includes produce, meat, dairy, and value added. We had a great band. We served awesome food, and it was all in the Dune Valley Distillery which is right next door to where we operate out of White Rock Specialties, which is the potato plant and quinoa.”

Chambers said the band was a perfect fit for the event.

“We brought in the Gypsy Jazz Social Club,” Chambers said. “It was a four-piece band that came out of the Gunnison, Crested Butte area. They were really good, kind of like Django Reinhardt stuff. It really fit well, and it wasn’t too loud. Everyone could have a conversation and still listen to the band. It wasn’t overpowering or anything like that.”

Chambers said the dinner included a quinoa salad and a traditional lettuce salad; a full charcuterie board with different meats, cheeses, pickled onions and beets; a chicken thigh platter, and a beef brisket, with onions and garlic and roasted fingerling potatoes.

“We also served one of our signature dishes which is a relleno casserole with Pueblo chiles,” he said.

For dessert they served pumpkin pie, and another signature dish, a flourless chocolate quinoa cake.

“It went over really well. We also served some Amish pecan fried pies, to round out the experience,” Chambers added.

Chambers considered the event a success and a learning experience. About 150 people were packed into the distillery.

“People seemed to have a really good time. It was just a good event,” Chambers said. “It was nice to get people together. It was a very cozy setting. It was the last night of fall more or less too. It was just warm enough. I think everyone really enjoyed each other’s hospitality and companionship. I think we set out to do what we did, and we accomplished it really good. We learned some things about how we are going to tweak everything for next time too.”

Chambers said this event used to be held at different places, but to have it at this type of venue was probably what they would do in the future.

“It was fun but so much work. We were bringing tables, chairs, just all this food service stuff and it was a lot,”

Chambers said. “So, just to have a venue where everything is set up and all, will make it much easier to have this as an annual thing. I think it just works well as like a harvest end-of-the-year type of thing too.”

Valley Roots operates year-round. Chambers said that Valley Roots is all about the Colorado local food system.

“We operate from Denver, Springs, Pueblo, and north south from Alamosa to Leadville. We serve

restaurants and grocers, and we also do direct deliveries to folks at home,” he said.

Chambers said that along with the Shindig, they also do farm tours during the summer which are popular.

To learn more about Valley Roots Food Hub, visit online Valleyroots-foodhub.com.

“If people plug into our website, we can keep them updated about all the neat stuff we are doing too,” he said.



Courtesy photos

The live music of The Gypsy Jazz Social Club played at the family-friendly Shindig at the Dune Valley Distillery in Mosca. Costumes were optional in lieu of Halloween.



The Valley Roots Shindig brought the public and local farmers together for a dinner that featured food grown by local farmers, two of whom are pictured here.



Approximately 150 people attended the Valley Roots Shindig on Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Dune Valley Distillery in Mosca.

*My Sister's Pantry*

**M**

**S**





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**UPCOMING GRIZZLY ATHLETIC EVENTS**

**Friday, November 10**

*Men's Basketball vs Texas Permian Basin at Salt Lake City, Utah*  
11:00 a.m.

*Women's Basketball at Cameron University at Lawton, Okla.*  
4:30 p.m.

*Women's Volleyball vs #19 Regis University at Alamosa, Colo.*  
7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, November 11**

*Football vs Western Colorado University at Alamosa, Colo.*  
1:00 p.m.

*Men's Basketball vs Western New Mexico University at Salt Lake City, Utah.*  
10:00 a.m.

*Women's Basketball at Midwestern State University Texas at Wichita Falls, Texas*  
5:00 p.m.

*Women's Volleyball vs University of Colorado at Colorado Springs at Alamosa, Colo.*  
5:00 p.m.




**ENTER NOW to Become**



Last year's Little Mister and Miss Christmas, Marques Martinez and Marci Ortiz, were featured with 2022 Miss Merry Christmas Whitney Thong.

## Valley Courier

### 2023 Little Mister & Miss MERRY CHRISTMAS!

“Little Mister & Little Miss Merry Christmases” will be featured in a very special holiday section published by the Valley Courier on Wednesday, November 22nd, 2023, making their choices for Christmas gifts from the San Luis Valley’s local businesses.

**DEADLINE IS TUESDAY, NOV. 14<sup>th</sup> AT 3 P.M.**

**ENTRY FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parents \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

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# Classifieds

**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 <https://www.adams.edu/hr/employment/> AA/EOE. (11/17/23)

**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](mailto:hr@lapuente.net), 719 589-5909, ext238. [www.lapuente.net](http://www.lapuente.net). (11/17/23)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**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](http://www.riograndehospital.org) under Contact/Employment. Additional questions, contact Ted Andersen at [teda@riograndehospital.net](mailto:teda@riograndehospital.net) or call 719-657-2418. (11/15/23)

**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](http://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)

**WARD CLERK, NEEDED** Full-Time 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](http://www.riograndehospital.org). (11/15/23)

**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](http://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](http://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)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**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](http://www.riograndehospital.org). (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](http://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)

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# Classifieds

## 221 - HELP WANTED

**EXPERIENCED PLUMBER NEEDED.** Pay range is \$25-\$35 per hour. Licensed preferred. Call DER-**REK'S PLUMBING** 719-588-0682. (11/28/23)

**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](mailto:lbrown@slvlandfill.com) (11/11/23)

**FRED 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)

**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](mailto:dtrujillo@urtigers.co). Applications can be retrieved online at: [www.urtigers.co](http://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](mailto: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)

## 304 - LAWN & GARDEN

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## 307 - APPLIANCES

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## 353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

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## 360 - MISC. FOR SALE

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**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 IN LINE 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

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

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## 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)

## 601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Accepting applications for 1 bedroom apartments. Must be 62 or older or disabled  
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## 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)

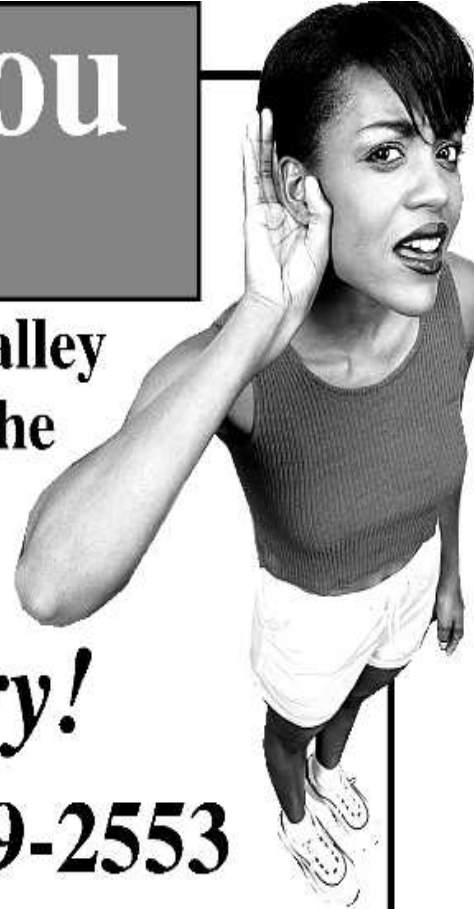
## 701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

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

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

## 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)

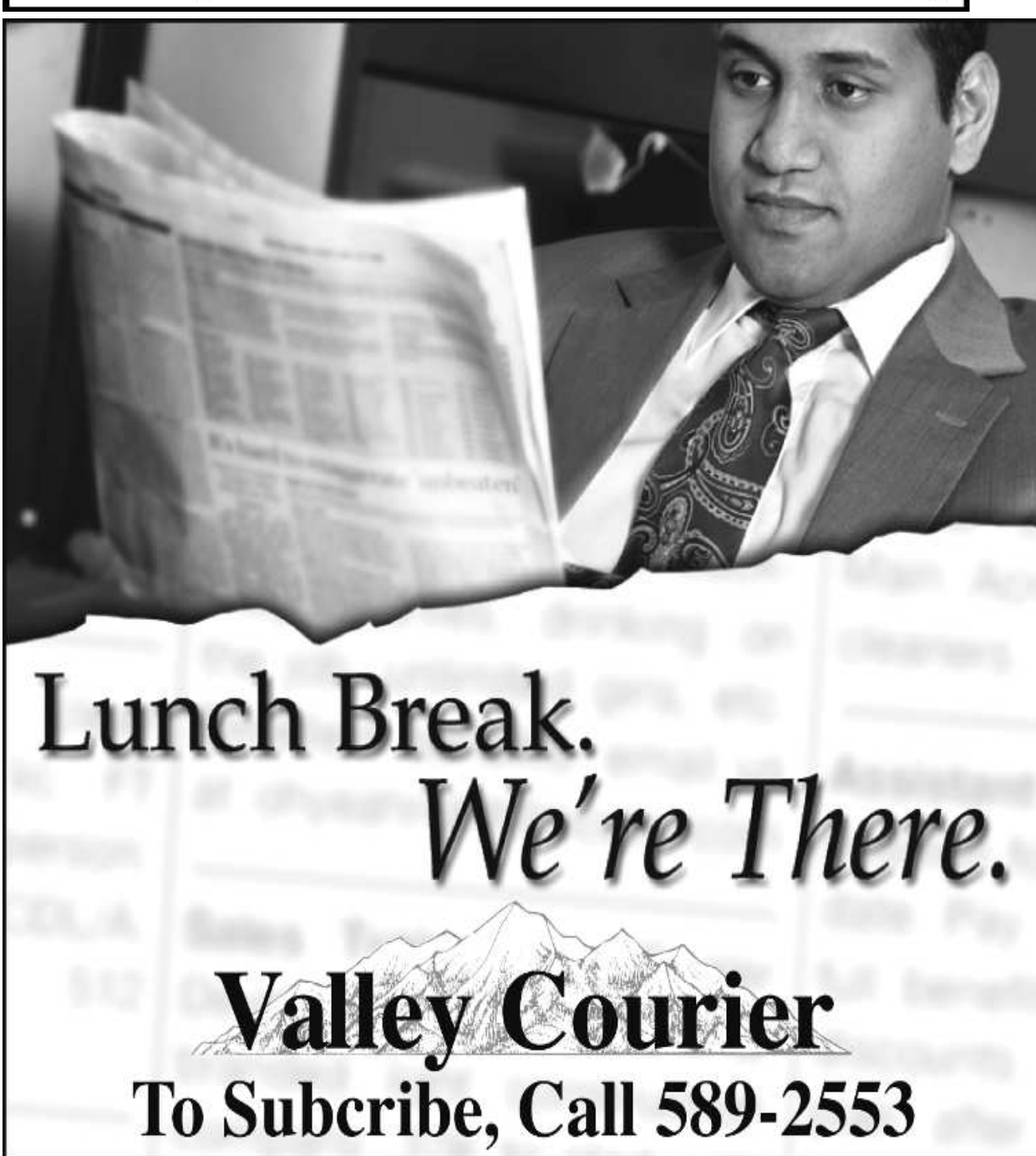


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# Comics

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Tie the knot
  - 4 Road ice melter
  - 8 Girl sib
  - 11 Finished
  - 13 Turn over — leaf
  - 14 "Much — About Nothing"
  - 15 Peru's capital
  - 16 '80s sitcom
  - 17 Neighbor of Ala.
  - 18 Easily broken
  - 20 Use a broom
  - 22 Coffee-house worker
  - 25 Actress — Blunt
  - 28 Sewing implement
  - 31 Ticket price
  - 32 Like hand-me-downs
  - 33 Celestial sphere
  - 35 Boxing event
  - 36 Fine and liberal
  - 37 Recipe direction
- DOWN**
- 1 Red Riding Hood's pursuer
  - 2 Malevolent
  - 3 Actress — Moore
  - 4 Mythical creature
  - 5 Literary collection
  - 6 Villain — Luthor
  - 7 Awry

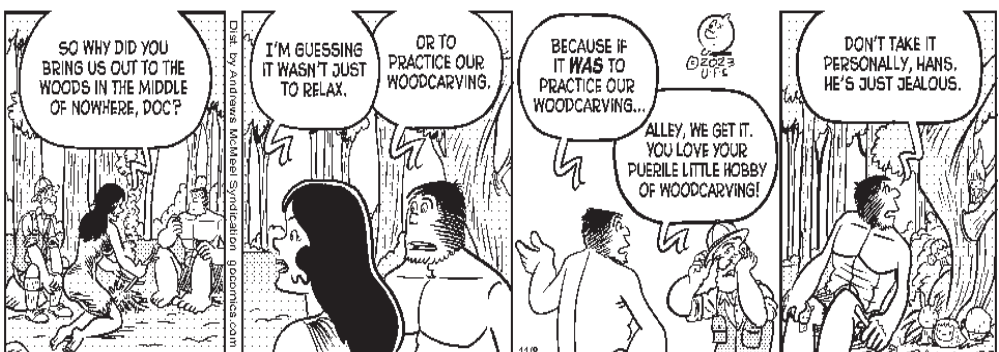
### Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

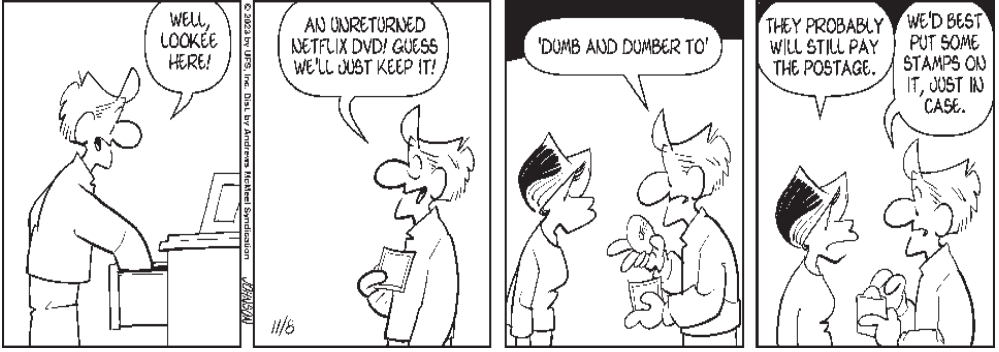
- 8 Yegg's target
- 9 Not working
- 10 Washday need
- 12 Aimless walk
- 19 Recite
- 21 Bunch of bills
- 23 Part of a foot
- 24 Witnesses
- 25 Amphibious creature
- 26 Mackerel shark
- 27 Smooth out
- 29 Crackpot
- 30 Pennsylvania port
- 32 Encourage
- 34 Deli order
- 36 With skill
- 37 Chaos
- 39 Wynn and Begley
- 40 Dynamite
- 42 Like some seals
- 43 Complain
- 44 Funny guy
- 45 "— La Douce"
- 47 Fit of shivering
- 48 Talk back to
- 49 "A — Grows in Brooklyn"
- 52 Snake
- 53 Flight status info

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					60		

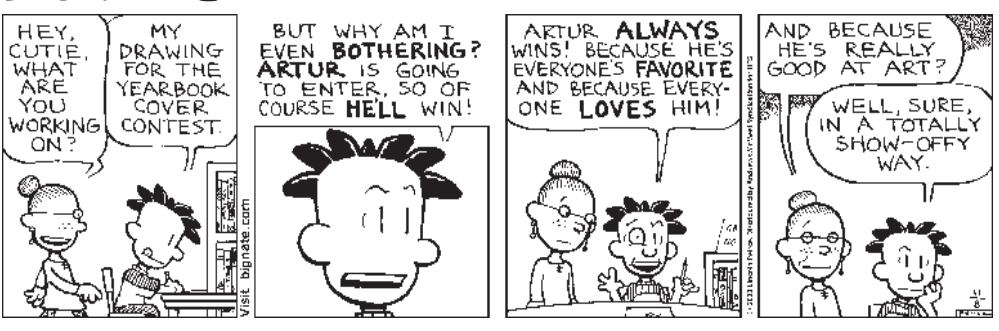
## ALLEY OOP



## ARLO & JANIS



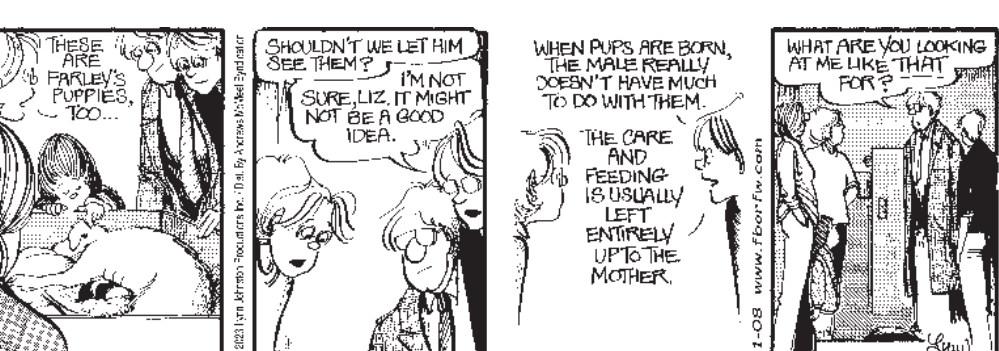
## BIG NATE



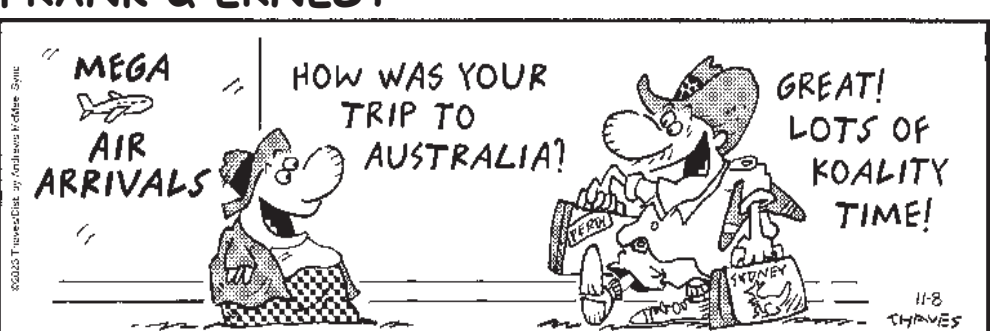
## THE BORN LOSER



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



## FRANK & ERNEST



## GARFIELD



## THE GRIZZWELLS



## PEANUTS



## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

### PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

## HERMAN



# Grandparents prepare final gift for thankless grandkids

DEAR ABBY: For years, we have given generous gifts to our six out-of-town grandchildren and received almost no thanks or acknowledgment. It hurts my feelings because I devote a lot of thought, in addition to money, to choosing something special for each of them.

Obviously, they don't care, but when we have just sent checks, not knowing what they read, wear or want, our checks are always cashed. It's the same with gift cards. This year, we will send gifts to their parents -- our own children. PERIOD. The grandchildren will receive your Letters Booklet -- including the section on writing thank-you notes. Please send me six before the end of November. -- TICKED OFF GRANNY IN OREGON

DEAR TICKED OFF: The issue you have raised is one I hear about often from other "ticked off" readers each year. I'm sorry you didn't mention how old your grandchildren are, because the fault may lie with their parents, who should have taught their children this social skill from the time they were old enough to hold a writing implement. Some people procrastinate because they don't know how to express their feelings via the written word and fear they will say the wrong thing. They mistakenly think a thank-you note must

be long and flowery when, in fact, short and to the point is more effective.

This is why the "How to Write Letters" booklet was written. It contains samples of thank-you letters for birthday gifts, shower gifts and wedding gifts, as well as those that arrive around holiday time. (It also includes letters of congratulations and ones regarding difficult subjects, such as the loss of a parent, a spouse or a child.)

This booklet can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address plus a check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds), to: Dear Abby Letters Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

With the holiday season fast approaching, this is the perfect time to reply with a handwritten letter, note or well-written email. Although handwritten notes are the "gold standard," many folks these days opt to take a shortcut by using technology that didn't exist before the quill and inkwell.

While texts may seem cold or terse, they are better than no acknowledgment at all.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 63-year-old heterosexual male who has recently joined an adult dating site to enhance my social and sexual life. A therapist sug-



## ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

gested that it would help me to break out of my isolation and heal from the trauma of childhood sexual abuse. Could you please recommend some dating etiquette? What support organizations can assist with my recovery efforts? -- LOOKING IN THE WEST

DEAR LOOKING: Ask your therapist to suggest some sites you should visit. After you have looked them over, ask your therapist how to proceed. You are paying for emotional support from this person, and this is who should actually assist you with your recovery. If it works, stick with this therapist. If it does not, contact R.A.I.N.N. (Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network) at rainn.org to see if you are on the right track.



# Lifestyle

## Even as bear activity slows, humans must continue to be bear aware

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

**COLORADO** — Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) received 3,083 bear reports from April 1 through Oct. 1, a decrease from the 3,637 reports over the same timeframe the previous year. That number will continue to grow before bears slow their activity as the year comes to a close.

There are an estimated 17,000 to 20,000 bears in Colorado and every year the majority of incident reports involve bears trying to access human food sources. CPW continues calling on residents to remove attractants to reduce conflicts, keeping you and the bears safe.

“Bears are biologically driven to pack on calories in preparation for winter and spend increasing amounts of time looking for the most efficient way to get food,” said Area 11 Wildlife Manager Mike Brown, whose region covers south central Colorado. “We ask residents to secure their trash by utilizing a bear-resistant dumpster and ask residents and visitors to lock their cars, secure their homes, and remove all attractants to prevent any conflicts with bears.”

Bear reports are down statewide in 2023, though there are still some areas of concern. CPW’s bear report numbers since the start of hyperphagia indicate that CPW’s Area 11 (Pueblo, Huerfano, Las Animas and Custer counties) is seeing more bear calls this year than the last two.

“A large portion of human-bear interactions within the area have resulted from unnecessary conflict due to poor trash management, storage of pet food, and unprotected apiaries,” Brown said. “Additional conflicts have arisen from people leaving doors and windows open in addition to irresponsibly camping in bear country.”

Brown encouraged folks to reach out to their local wildlife office for additional tips and advice to help bear proof their residence.

Food availability is a major driver of bears slowing their activity during the winter months. If food remains available due to people not securing their trash, bird seed, pet food, etc., bears will remain active year-round.

That is why CPW promotes Bear Aware principles year-round, aiming to minimize interactions that put both humans and bears at risk. Being “Bear Aware” includes easy-to-execute behaviors such as:

- Securing trash cans and dumpsters
- Removing bird feeders
- Closing garages doors even when at home
- Cleaning and locking your car and house doors

Calling CPW when bears become a nuisance. When you call to report a bear coming near your home, CPW can give you tips tailored to your situation to prevent them from coming around in the future.

In an effort to help communities co-exist with bears, CPW provides local Colorado communities with financial resources to support efforts that reduce human-bear conflicts through its Human-Bear Conflict Reduction Community Grant Program. This spring, CPW offered up to \$1 million, distributed through a competitive grant process.

Drought conditions and other factors that may influence the availability of natural food crops for bears vary across the state, as

does people’s behavior when it relates to human-bear interactions.

Below is a localized perspective on bear activity across the state in 2023.

**Area 17 — San Luis Valley**

“Bear conflict reports were slightly below average in Area 17 this year. Trash is still the leading cause of human-bear conflict, but fruit is also a major attractant for bears across our area. We remind the public to be vigilant about picking up fallen fruit this fall to keep bears away from residential areas. Securing trash properly is the best way to prevent conflict and keep our bears wild.” ~ Rick Basagoitia, Area 17 Wildlife Manager.

**Become Bear Aware**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife offers a reminder that by taking some simple precautions, you can avoid human/wildlife conflicts and help to keep bears wild.

**Bearproofing your home:**

- Keep garbage in a well-secured location. Only put out garbage on the morning of pickup.
- Clean garbage cans

regularly to keep them free of food odors: ammonia is effective.

- Keep garage doors closed.
- Use a bear-resistant trash can or dumpster.
- Don’t leave pet food or stock feed outside.
- Bird feeders are a major source of bear/human conflicts. Attract birds naturally with flowers and water baths. Do not hang bird feeders from April 15 to Nov. 15.

• Don’t allow bears to become comfortable around your house. If you see one, haze it by yelling, throwing things at it and making loud noises to scare it off.

• Secure compost piles. Bears are attracted to the scent of rotting food.

• Clean the grill after each use and clean up thoroughly after cookouts.

• If you have fruit trees, don’t allow the fruit to rot on the ground.

• Talk to your neighbors and kids about being bear aware.

Cars, traveling and campsites:

- Lock your doors when you’re away from home and



at night.

• Keep the bottom floor windows of your house closed when you’re not at home.

• Do not keep food in your vehicle; roll up windows and lock the doors of your vehicles.

• When car-camping, secure all food and coolers in a locked vehicle.

• Keep a clean camp,

whether in a campground or in the backcountry.

• When camping in the backcountry, hang food 100 feet or more from the campsite; don’t bring any food into your tent.

• Cook food well away from your tent; wash dishes thoroughly.

• Protecting your chickens, bees and livestock:

• Keep chickens, bees

and livestock in a fully covered enclosure, especially at night.

• Construct electric fencing when possible.

• Don’t store livestock feed outside.

• Keep enclosures clean to minimize animal odors.

• As a scent deterrent, hang rags soaked in ammonia and or Pine-Sol around the enclosure.

**kids' corner**

**WORLD FACT:**

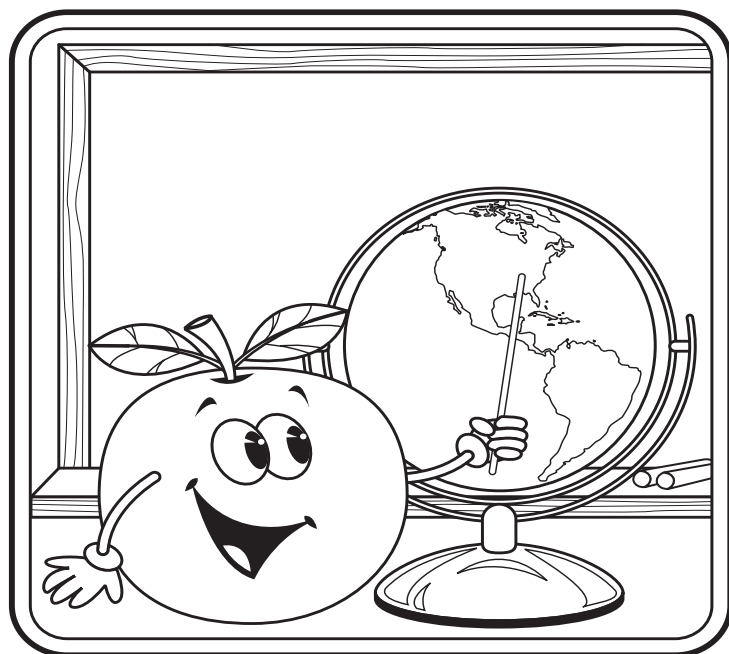
NINETY PERCENT OF THE EARTH'S POPULATION LIVES IN THIS HEMISPHERE.

ANSWER: NORTHERN

**Creative Coloring**

Celebrate geography.

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



**THIS DAY IN...**



**HISTORY**

• **1918:** THE WESTERN UNION CABLE OFFICE IN NORTH SYDNEY, NOVA SCOTIA, RECEIVES A TOP-SECRET CODED MESSAGE FROM EUROPE.

• **1946:** A MAGNITUDE 6.9 EARTHQUAKE HITS THE PERUVIAN ANDES.

• **1970:** LUNA 17, AN UNCREWED SPACE MISSION, IS LAUNCHED BY THE SOVIET UNION.

**New Word**

**LATITUDE**

coordinate that refers to a north or south position on Earth

*How they SAY that in...*

**ENGLISH:** Globe

**SPANISH:** Globo terráqueo

**ITALIAN:** Mappamondo

**FRENCH:** Globe

**GERMAN:** Globus

**Did you know?**

RUSSIA SPANS 11 DIFFERENT TIME ZONES.

**GET THE PICTURE?**

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: MAP



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