



American Education Week

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Lady Grizzlies defeated in home opener

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

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\$1



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SLV Today

Care and Share Turkey drive is today

ALAMOSA — Volunteers from the Care and Share Food Bank will be at the City Market in Alamosa today from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., collecting donations of frozen turkeys. Last year, the drive collected over 12,000 turkeys from King Soopers and City Markets for Colorado families.

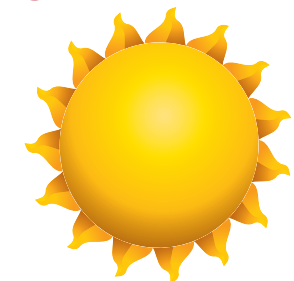
Monetary donations can be made by visiting careandshare.org/turkey. A \$20 donation can provide one turkey to those in need.

Grey wolf reintroduction topic of Forest Special Series

DEL NORTE — The Rio Grande National Forest will be presenting this month's online Forest Specialist Series at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 29. Rio Grande National Forest Fisheries and Wildlife Program Manager, Jason Remshardt, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife Southwest Region Senior Wildlife Biologist, Jamin Grigg, will be presenting information about grey wolves and their reintroduction. They'll talk about wolves' biology and identification as well as the reintroduction program managed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

This online event is part of the Rio Grande National Forest's Forest Specialist Series, a once monthly online presentation in partnership with the San Juan Mountains Association to share information with our community. Visit the Rio Grande National Forest website or Facebook page, for event information.

SLV WEATHER



Sunny 53/12

Sat: Mostly sunny 56/18

Sun: Mostly Sunny 51/18

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7 Brew Coffee and a 'very, very fun vibe' coming to Alamosa



By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — 7 Brew, a drive-thru coffee chain, is moving forward to opening its third location in Colorado — in Alamosa. As previously reported in the Valley Courier, the location will be where the defunct Locavores casual restaurant was on Highway 160 in Alamosa.

Over the past week, demolition crews from Cooley and Sons Excavating wrecked the former restaurant to make way for the new coffee drive-thru.

The coffee chain describes itself on its website, "7 Brew was born from a desire to change drive-thru coffee into a mind-blowing experience for every-

■ See VIBE page 3

Construction crews from Cooley and Sons Excavating finish removing debris from the site of the former Locavores on Highway 160 in Alamosa. The venue will be the home of a 7 Brew drive-thru coffee that is expected to open in April.

Courier photo by John Waters

City mishap inundates three Alamosa homes with raw sewage

Damage estimates in the tens of thousands

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Homeowners living in three houses on a cul-de-sac in south Alamosa went before city council Wednesday night to plead with the city to take immediate action in rectifying a hazardous and disgusting situation when work on a sewer line caused water and raw sewage to flood their homes, causing tens of thousands of dollars in damage.

The incident happened

■ See MISHAP page 3



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Three homes on Princess Ann Court were flooded on Oct. 24 with water and raw sewage gushing from the bathroom fixtures in the bottom floor of their houses. City crews were working on the sewer lines in their neighborhood.

Museum reports Smithsonian 'Crossroads' exhibition resounding success

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The San Luis Valley Museum in cooperation with Colorado Humanities, continues its exploration of the evolving landscape of rural America as it hosts the local showing of "Crossroads: Change in Rural America," a Smithsonian traveling exhibition. "Crossroads" will be on view through Nov. 25.

San Luis Valley Museum and the surrounding community was expressly chosen by the Colorado Humanities to host "Crossroads" as part of the Museum on Main Street project — a national/state/local partnership to bring exhibitions and programs to rural cultural organizations. After it leaves Alamosa in November, the exhibition will travel to eight more communities in Colorado

before it returns to the Smithsonian; an itinerary is available at <https://coloradohumanities.org/programs/museum-on-main-street/>.

"Crossroads" takes a broad look at the characteristics of rural America. It explores how an attraction to and interaction with the land formed the basis of our rural culture, and how rural communities and small towns

evolve and change. It also highlights how change transformed rural America, especially during the 1900s, and how rural Americans are evolving for the future.

"We are very pleased with the community's reaction thus far to 'Crossroads,'" said Jeff Myers, San Luis Valley Museum director. "Over 40 people attended our opening event and our visi-

■ See MUSEUM page 3

SLV Great Outdoors receives \$10K grant from Outdoor Recreation Roundtable



File photo

San Luis Valley Great Outdoors receives a \$10,000 grant from the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable to build increased community resilience through outdoor recreation.

STAFF REPORT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

—The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) announced on Thursday, Nov. 16, that San Luis Valley Great Outdoors will receive a \$10,000 award to build increased community resilience through outdoor recreation.

SLV Great Outdoors will use the award to further access the outdoors for all members of the community.

"Recreation Economy

for Rural Communities allows our community to come together around common goals. This grant comes at a serendipitous time and gives us the ability and opportunity to hear from the community about what they would like to see for their community," said Mick Daniel, Executive Director of San Luis Valley Great Outdoors. "We can talk about tourism, we can talk about outdoor recreation, but in the end, it's going to be the commu-

nity that is going to be using this resource. What do they want? What are they going to do? How are they going to treat it? Now we've got a story, we have momentum, the passion behind this project is astounding, and we are ready."

This will include the building of a bilingual marketing toolkit, reviving their website and creating a social media timeline to share work and upcoming events, and de-

■ See GRANT page 3

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Record

Keep a DUI off the table: Thanksgiving DUI enforcement underway

By COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATEWIDE — From Nov. 16-30, the Colorado Department of Transportation will support Colorado State Patrol (CSP) and 77 local law enforcement agencies for the Thanksgiving Week DUI enforcement period. This heightened enforcement will increase safety patrols across the state and reduce the number of impaired driving fatal crashes.

Statistics show impaired driving increases during the Thanksgiving holiday. Preliminary data shows that one-third of the roadway fatalities during Thanksgiving involved suspected impaired drivers between 2020 and 2022. A total of 30 people were killed on Colorado roads during that time.

Nationally, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 190 people lost their lives

during the 2021 Thanksgiving holiday due to impaired driving.

“Holiday celebrations often include alcohol and cannabis as friends and families gather; this should never be an excuse to drive intoxicated,” said Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “Thanksgiving is a time to remember what you are most grateful for and those things are the exact same reasons why you need to drive sober.”

Last year, there were 366 DUI arrests over the Thanksgiving Week DUI enforcement period. So far this year, 192 people have been killed in crashes involving an impaired driver in Colorado. That represents almost a third of all fatal crashes in the state this year.

“With so many safe-ride options available, there is no reason to ever drive under the influence,” said CDOT’s Office of Transportation Safety Director Darrell Lingk.

“If you’ve been drinking, don’t get behind the wheel. Always plan to have a designated driver, use a rideshare program, a taxi or public transit to get home safely.”

During enforcement periods, motorists may see:

- Sobriety checkpoints
- Saturation patrols
- Additional law enforcement on roadways

The recent Halloween Weekend enforcement period concluded with 170 arrests across 80 participating agencies. The agencies with the highest arrests were Colorado Springs Police Department (28), Fort Collins Police Department (16) and Lakewood Police Department (9). CSP reported 22 arrests.

Thanksgiving Week is the first of three year-end holiday enforcement periods. The last two holiday enforcement periods of 2023 are Holiday Parties from Dec. 7-20 and New Year’s Eve Weekend from Dec. 28-Jan. 3.

Local performers shine



Courtesy photos
Students of Sharon Meyer performed at a recital on Oct. 17 at the Living Water Bible Fellowship Church. Front row from left are Reagan Curtis, Sydney Curtis, Sharon Meyer, Edynn Jackson Faryn Jackson, and Brandon Gay. Back row from left are Ryan Shuldberg, Kyan Mason, Addison Roepke, Caden Jackson, Lindsey Robins, Alexis Gay and Emmalyn Shuldberg. Given special recognition at their recent piano recital for their outstanding performances at this year’s Solo/Ensemble are Caden Jackson and Emmalyn Shuldberg.

OBITUARY

Ignacio (Nick) ‘Junior’ Ortega

Ignacio (Nick) “Junior” Ortega passed away peacefully on Nov. 8, 2023, at the age of 84 in Wheat Ridge, Colo. He was born Feb. 6, 1939, in Capulin, Colo., to Ignacio Ortega and Porfiria (Archuleta) Ortega.

Ignacio was a proud Veteran of the US Navy where he served as a sonarman on the submarine USS Tench from 1961 to 1965. During his time in the Navy, Ignacio traveled through Europe and other countries. This fueled his love for travel and once discharged from the Navy, traveling became one of his hobbies.

Ignacio also enjoyed hunting, fly fishing, walking, swimming and being outdoors. In addition to his hobbies, Ignacio loved watching football and was a dedicated Denver Broncos fan. Later in life, Ig-



nacio loved spending time with his beloved granddaughter, Lilliana.

Ignacio worked for Union Pacific Railroad as a switchman from the time he was discharged from the Navy until he retired in 1997.

Ignacio was united in marriage to Rose Torres on July 25, 2003, in Denver, Colo.

Uncle Junior, as he was known by all his nephews and nieces, was more than just an uncle. To some, he was a second father, to others he was more like an older brother. To all he was a great and kind man who had a profound impact.

Ignacio was preceded in death by his parents, Ignacio and Porifia Ortega.

Ignacio is survived by his wife of 20 years, Rose Ortega, his stepchildren, Mary Ellen Torres and Gilbert (Mari) Torres, granddaughter, Lilliana Torres; siblings — Jelena (William-deceased) Anderson, Arthur (Oralia-deceased) Ortega, Cecelia (Martin-deceased) Roberts, Victor (Darlene) Ortega, Helen (Johnny) Oakes, Lawrence Ortega, Jerry (Isabell) Ortega and Edwin Ortega. In addition, Ignacio leaves behind several nieces, nephews, cousins, God children and dear friends.

Recitation of the Rosary to be held Nov. 20, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Church in Capulin, Colo. A Mass of the Resurrection will be held immediately after at 10 a.m. with interment following at Capulin Cemetery.

The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Funeral Home in Lakewood and Alamosa.

Gift of Giving annual toy drive is underway

By HANNAH SHELTON
CONEJOS COUNTY

— It is that time of year again. This special organization called “Gifts of Giving” is ready to serve Conejos County.

Gifts of Giving does its absolute best to help families give their precious children a memorable Christmas gift. Without this organization, Christmas would not be possible for these families. Last year the organization touched the lives of more than 800 children.

Gifts of Giving is now accepting both toys and monetary donations to help fund its 6th annual toy drive. Toy drop-off sites are located at the Antonito Schools and Catholic Church, Capulin Catholic Church, Conejos County Court House, Kim’s Fitness, Baros Auto, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (La Jara and Manassa), Standard Service, and Sanford Schools.

All donations and gifts must be in by Dec. 14 so there is time for them to

be wrapped. All checks need to be made out to “Concepts,” and mailed to, Conejos County Gift of Giving c/o Suzan Robins, P.O. Box 401 La Jara, CO 81140.

For more information, contact Suzan Robins at 719-588-1791.

School Menu
Friday
November 17, 2023

No School

Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students
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PENDING OBITUARY

Linda Medina

Alamosa resident Linda Medina passed away on Nov. 13, 2023. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

BIRTH

Delainey Aspen Avila

Delainey Aspen Avila was born on Nov. 8 and was 7 pounds 7 ounces at birth. Parents are Selena and Virgil Avila of Alamosa. Siblings are Aubriella and Aden. Maternal grandparents are Albert and Lorietta Griego of Alamosa. Paternal grandparents are Alan and Rosemary Avila of Sanford.

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.

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Valley News

Sweetgrass Therapeutics offering Mindfulness Retreat

CONTRIBUTED ALAMOSA — Sweetgrass Therapeutics and friends are offering the gift of a day-long Mindfulness Retreat on Jan. 20 to community members.

“We have designed this day specifically for those who are new/new(er) to mindfulness practices and/or those who have never had the opportunity to attend a retreat. We are aiming to help our neighbors experience and develop a practice that can support greater resilience as they move through daily challenges and triumphs. We understand that retreats are often expensive and not accessible to all, and because of this, we hope to provide these services to those who may feel the burden of financial restraint,” organizers stated.



ment to help participants be present and ready for the day. They will move into an introduction to mindfulness, and then practice some writing exercises that can help people be more present. They will break for lunch (provided as part of the day) and return to walking meditation and Qi-gong. Finally, they will end the day with relaxation and an offering of acudetox.

Childcare will be arranged for the day. Lunch will be provided. The retreat is on Jan. 20 from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Rio Grande Farm Park Education Center in Alamosa.

If you are interested in attending this retreat, access and fill out the application by Dec. 15 at <https://forms.gle/RWTApNWy2sGZ-kuDL8>.

For more information, email jessica@sweetgrasstherapeutics.com, or through the Sweetgrass Therapeutics Facebook or Instagram pages.

Rainbow's End Alamosa — Volunteer Day



Courier photo by John Waters

ALAMOSA — Join us for a fun day of renovation at Rainbow's End Alamosa. It's time for a makeover of the Main Street community store on Sunday, Nov. 19, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers are needed for painting, shifting around shelving, and more. Come hang out and put your mark on a beloved community space. The main building will not be open. If you're coming to volunteer, use the Boutique entrance on Hunt Avenue. The team at Rainbow's End looks forward to hanging out and working on a cool project together.

Mishap

Continued from Page 1

more than three weeks ago. The companies insuring all three homeowners' properties have denied their claims, stating the city was at fault. According to city attorney Erich Schwiesow, due to a delay in the city's insurance company sending — or even scheduling — an adjuster to go to the homes, the city has yet to admit liability, or provide a date when the owners can expect to see the situation be rectified.

There is also the possibility, Schwiesow says, that the city's insurance company may deny the claim as it's not the city's responsibility. Although crews were working on the line, a problem happened on private property.

Meanwhile, the homeowners are residing in conditions that are hazardous to their health with potential long-term impact.

Frustrated with the response they were getting, the homeowners — Marlys Hersey, Jennifer Martinez, and Gretchen Bianca — appealed to city council during the public comment portion of Wednesday night's meeting to take prompt and necessary action to restore their homes to a safe and livable condition.

Judging from council members' responses, they were unaware of the situation and would have continued to be had the homeowners not addressed

them in the three-minute segments allowed the public as part of the council agenda.

On the morning of Oct. 24, three homes located on Princess Ann Court in south Alamosa were flooded with water and raw sewage gushing from the bathroom fixtures in the bottom floor of their houses, flooding across floors and into hallways and other rooms. The amount of water and sewage ranged from two to six inches deep.

City crews were working on the sewer lines in their neighborhood and immediately stopped when Martinez ran over and told them what was happening.

When she returned home, she found water and sewage had inundated her bathroom, her bedroom, her laundry room and living room “causing thousands of dollars in damage” in all four rooms.

“If this happened to you, what would you do,” she asked the council.

Harry Reynolds, director of Public Works, quickly showed up on site to survey the situation and city crews removed the sewage-soaked carpet from the homes that same morning.

But when Hersey hired a professional cleaning crew out of Durango familiar with cleaning up after a house has been flooded with “Category 3 water,” otherwise known as “blackwater,” she learned the full scope of what she and the others were facing.

“We have learned from

a third-party professional cleaning service we hired to sterilize and assess the damage (to the tune of \$3,128) that in order to safely inhabit the lower levels of our homes again, all the surfaces contaminated by this raw sewage — category 3 water — must be removed,” Hersey told council. “This means that the lower two feet of our walls need to be removed, as well as all of our flooring. And the surfaces behind the walls and under the flooring need to be treated properly to prevent black mold — which is already growing.”

But that wasn't all.

“Testing of the walls and flooring revealed that these materials contain asbestos,” she said, “meaning we can't just do the work ourselves. A professional asbestos abatement company needs to do this work, under a special permit.”

Bianca praised city crews for initially cleaning the impacted parts of her house and said everyone she had spoken to at the city “had been polite and made suggestions of other steps to take.”

“But, as a nurse for 40 years,” she told council, “I want you to understand that, in sewage, there are 100 billion parts of bacteria in a gram of sewage, not to mention salmonella, tuberculosis, other viruses and parasites. There's mold growing in those walls and my neighbors are breathing that. That's not good. We need to move

forward as fast as possible because this is going to cause illness. I'm asking as nicely as I can. Move this along.”

After comments had concluded, Schwiesow said the city originally assumed they could go in and repair the damage themselves but, after Hersey shared additional information, it became clear the city's insurance company had to be involved. The city is waiting for the insurance company to send an adjuster.

If the homeowners are concerned about the ongoing health problems before the insurance company acts, he added, “you can certainly take mitigation action on your own.”

City Manager Heather Sanchez said the city is also going to take steps to install the necessary equipment — including on private property — to make sure this doesn't happen again. She also recognized the urgency of the situation.

Councilor Vigil asked what the city planned to do if the insurance company denied liability.

Schwiesow said, “At that point, we're free to work with the property owners on our own and work out whatever we can do.”

Only three members of council made definitive statements, but they were strongly worded. Councilor Jan Vigil said, “We need to help these people. Right now.”

Councilor Charlie Griego agreed.

“We need to move on this fast. This could cause some serious health problems,” he said.

Councilor Michael Carson addressed the city attorney.

“We need to figure out a timeline. I deal with insurance adjusters all the time. You have to push them,” he said.

When asked to comment after the meeting, Martinez wrote, “I am deeply worried about the financial burdens that we are unable to bear and the impact on our health, given the severity of the health risks involved.”

Bianca stated, “I expect immediate fast action as weeks have passed and my health is in danger. The city did the damage, and they need to be responsible.”

Concerning Schwiesow's suggestion that, if concerned about the health

hazard, the homeowners take care of it themselves, Hersey described it as cal-

lous. “If we each had \$25,000 to \$30,000 to throw at this problem, we would have already done so. When our claims were rejected, we all reasonably expected the city to do the right thing to pay for its mistake,” she said.

Martinez and Hersey both expressed appreciation for support from the three councilors with Martinez adding, “I sincerely hope that they can promptly assist us in resolving this matter.”

In full disclosure, Marlys Hersey is the wife of Valley Courier News Editor John Waters, both of whom reside in the home. Waters has not been used as a source or involved in either the reporting or editing of this story.

Museum

Continued from Page 1

tor count so far has been wonderful. People are coming from as far away as New Mexico to see the exhibition and visit our community. It's great exposure for the museum and the town. And our public programs have been fascinating and well-received.”

Upcoming program events include guest author Pete Anderson at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 17, at the museum. For a complete listing of related pro-

grams, call 719-587-0667.

“Crossroads” is part of Museum on Main Street, a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils across the nation, and local host institutions. To learn more visit www.museumonmainstreet.org, www.sites.si.edu, or [https://coloradohumanities.org](http://coloradohumanities.org).

Support for MoMS has been provided by the U.S. Congress, Colorado Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Vibe

Continued from Page 1

one...7 Brew is so much more than just a coffee stand. It's the concept of cultivating kindness and joy with every drink.”

Zac Cockman with the coffee chain told the Valley Courier, “Our coffee is an art form, and we strive to make this one big experience for our baristas and customers.”

As part of that experience, customers who drive up to place their orders will be greeted by a barista who will come out of the building and talk with customers who will

be in their cars. Cockman said the company strives to cultivate the experience and offer a “very, very, fun vibe.” The chain has 155 locations across the U.S.

After the demolition is finished this week, 7 Brew expects to mobilize the initial construction phase in Alamosa next week, and “everyone is ready to rock.” The company intends to open the Alamosa location next April.

The company is expected to hire 50 baristas next spring and those interested should visit the chain's website at www.7brew.com.

Grant

Continued from Page 1

veloping an environmental education program for students to integrate into existing outdoor programs in Monte Vista.

“Having grown up in the San Luis Valley, I know the potential for Monte Vista to grow its outdoor recreation economy in a manner that is true to the community's history, values, and priorities while providing numerous health and economic benefits,” said Conor Hall, Director of Colorado's Outdoor Recreation Industry Office,

“This grant aligns nicely with investment our office has made in the region for trail planning and increased access to the outdoors. We are grateful to have close partners like ORR and The VF Foundation in these efforts.”

Through this grant, ORR continues its charge to provide support, information, and resources to rural communities seeking to create economic opportunities through outdoor recreation.

“ORR is thrilled to have the opportunity to partner with a community like Monte Vista to support their vision for a strong, local outdoor

recreation economy,” said Chris Perkins, Vice President of Outdoor Recreation Roundtable. “We look forward to seeing Monte Vista's project take shape over the next year and know that it will help even more Coloradans and visitors alike experience the benefits of time spent outside in the spectacular places surrounding Monte Vista.”

This grant is made possible by The VF Foundation, which seized on the opportunity to support another community that applied for ORR's 2023 rural economy grant program and is furthering its mission of “Outside Mat-

ters.” “The VF Foundation believes in the power of the outdoors to transform lives and communities,” said Gloria Schoch, Executive Director of The VF Foundation. “Thanks to this innovative partnership and locally-driven approach to economic development, more people than ever in the San Luis Valley will have the opportunity to experience the benefits of time outside.”

The foundation is funded by the Denver-based VF Corporation which includes outdoor brands, The North Face, JanSport, Smartwool, and others.

Opinion

Cash is king

According to Google, the phrase “cash is king” originated after the stock market crash of 1987. Just goes to show you that Google doesn't know everything because Ol' Dutch knew long ago that anyone with cash in any situation has a distinct advantage over others who do not.

During the Great Depression cash was almost non-existent in many places so if people did have it, they could buy a lot of things cheaply. A lot of land was purchased back then for \$1 an acre and people got rich as Croesus himself.

Now for those of you headed out to holiday dinners and gatherings of every sort, Croesus was an exceedingly wealthy King over in Persia way back when. Knowing such tidbits of interesting trivia will come in handy when Uncle Knothead tries to corner you in a conversation about politics. It's sure to drive even him away.

The house building down on the farm in Texas is coming along pretty good considering the crew that I have — my lonesome self and sometimes Miss Trixie.

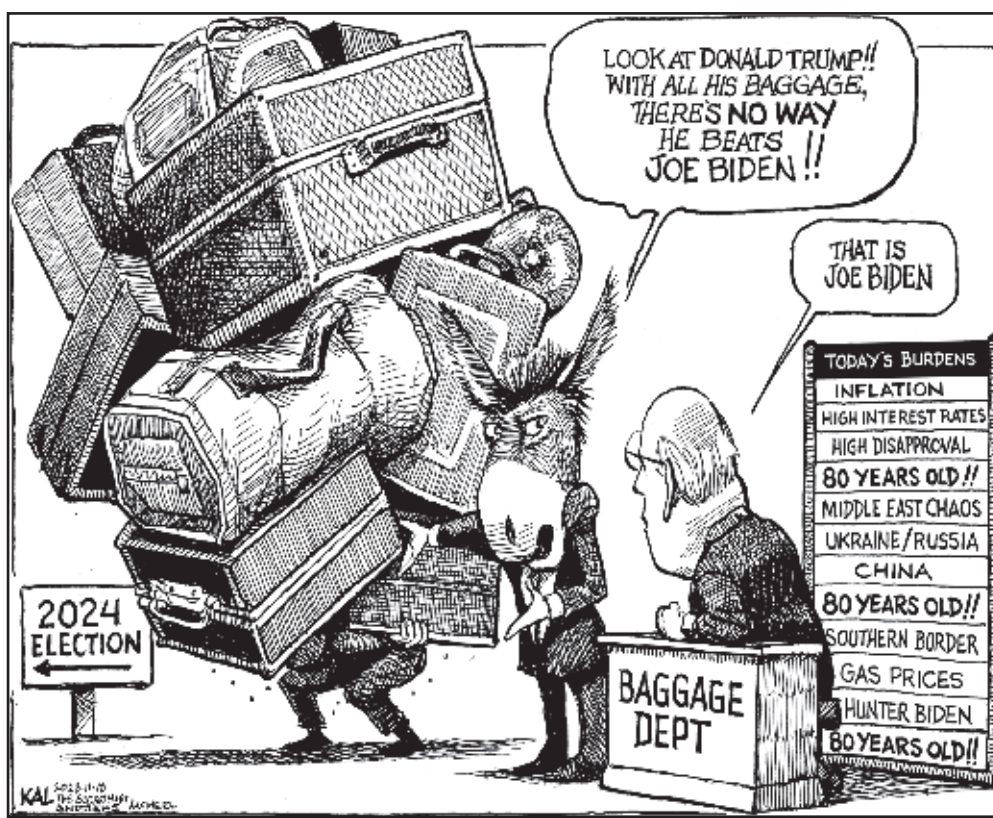
There was a crew on the original foundation pouring during Covid. My son, Bubs, and two of the littlest girls you can imagine. But we got it done. Now three years later, Ol' Dutch is ready to build the house. I've been laying concrete blocks around the perimeter getting ready for the floor which I hope is next week depending on my “crew.”

Last Sunday Bubs and Grand #2, now 9 years old, showed up late in

Trout Republic



by Kevin Kirkpatrick



the afternoon. Trixie and I had already been working on the house when they arrived, but they pitched in and helped out. Number Two grabbed a shovel and rake to chip up concrete dribbles and level the dirt. She wore us all out in the end.

Things have changed somewhat since pouring the foundation three years ago when I paid them each \$10 for a full day's work. Since then, her sister, Grand #1, has been working at a local horse barn and getting paid real money. Now, Grand #2 wants some mammon herself. She negotiated a steep \$10 per hour.

Now far be it from Grandpa to not pay her for working no matter the result but she was worth every dime and in the end, I tried to get her to skip school this week and come back out to work. Trixie found some cash laying around and true to her Momma's influence stiffed that poor child ten dollars. Instead of paying the negotiated \$10/hour, Trixie only paid

\$8. Ever her mother's daughter.

Now while that may seem like a lot to pay a 9-year-old, let me tell you, my reasoning. First, she worked harder than most people you can hire today. Second, she is my Grand #2 and Ol' Dutch knows that nothing feels better than some jingle in your jeans.

Her mom, Tinkerbelle, called later and said that when Grand #2 got home she was beaming and bounced off to shower with a song in the air. I'm not sure if that was because of the jingle in her jeans or that she realized that she earned more than her older sister for the day, or maybe both.

You don't have to have grands to know that cash is a valuable commodity when trying to do anything as people like to avoid the dreaded IRS. Just last year they went so far as to want to tax even garage sales as they need every dime they can beg, borrow, and steal to fund their

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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.”

phony-baloney government spending. Now before you turn me in for paying her in cash, the same highway robbers do let you give away \$17,000 a year tax free to some lucky recipient so we are gonna come in way below that threshold — I hope.

I am sure she went off to school with a smile on her face and plans to be out here bright and early during Thanksgiving week to help. Her sister will want to cash in also and poor Ol' Dutch will have to feed a monster of his own creation.

If you, too, can drive a nail, scoop a shovel, carry a board or are just cute as the dickens, come on out and get some jingle in your own jeans. Watch Miss Trixie at payout, though, she'll stiff you.

Kevin Kirkpatrick and his Yorkie, Cooper, fish, hunt, ATV, or hike daily. His email is Kevin@TroutRepublic.com. Additional news can be found at www.troutrepublic.com.

Bidenomics 2023: Inflation down, prices up

The government announced Tuesday that the Consumer Price Index rose 3.2% in October from the same time last year. That is less than the 3.7% prices rose in September, leading to a lot of commentary about “good news” on inflation.

“Today we saw more progress bringing down inflation while maintaining one of the strongest job markets in history,” President Joe Biden said in a statement. “At 3.2%, annual inflation is now down by 65% from the peak.” Democrats will certainly hope that Biden, whose job approval for handling the economy has been in the 30s and shows no sign of improving, will benefit at least a little for trying to solve a problem that developed on his watch.

Don't bet on it. This is the most important thing to remember about inflation and politics right now: Inflation is going down, but prices are still going up. “Yes, inflation has fallen sharply this year, but most prices have not fallen,” the New York Times' David Leonhardt wrote recently. “Only their rate of increase has.” When prices shot up to insane levels at the grocery store back in 2021 and 2022 — well, they're still at insane levels today and they're still going up. They're just going up more slowly than back then.

Look at the new Commerce Department report. At the grocery store, cereals and bakery products were up 4.2% in October, while soft drinks were up 3.3%. Meat, poultry, fish and eggs were up less, at 0.4%, while fruits and vegetables were up 1.1%.

Only dairy products fell, 0.4%, from last year, but remember that all these measurements are comparisons to the high prices of 2022.

If you eat out, a meal in a full-service restaurant increased in price by 4.3% in October, and a meal in a limited-service restaurant went up 6.2%. Services of all sorts went up 5.5%. Shelter went up 6.7 percent. Transportation, 9.2%. And this is the “good news” inflation report. The only really good news was a 5.3% drop in the price of gasoline and a much bigger drop, 21.4%, in fuel oil. Put it all together, and it amounts to an increase in prices of 3.2% overall in October.

What does that mean politically? Well, it's not a great rallying cry for Democrats to say that prices at the grocery store rose to painful levels after Biden became president, but don't worry — they're still rising but at a slower pace than before. What voter will get fired up by that?

Indeed, lots of Democrats have been trying to convince the president that the label “Bidenomics” is not working the way he hoped. Biden believed that “Bidenomics” would communicate to voters all the wonderful things he has done for them. They don't see it that way.

This is from Politico: “Earlier this fall, President Joe Biden's top aides met a pair of progressives who had arrived in the West Wing with reams of data and a private warning: ‘Bidenomics’ wasn't breaking through. The White House had spent the past

three months trying to build enthusiasm for Biden's economic record, spotlighting major policy accomplishments and celebrating a surging economy that it planned to make central to his reelection bid. But voters, discouraged by rising prices and baffled by the ‘Bidenomics’ brand, weren't buying it.”

Biden's economic failures have touched off a growing crisis inside the Democratic Party. This week, Politico's Jonathan Martin talked with dozens of Democrats to get their advice on how Biden can improve his 2024 prospects. “Perhaps the most overwhelming economic messaging advice I picked up from Democrats was for him to heave ‘Bidenomics’ into the dumpster,” Martin wrote. “Attempting to make voters believe something they don't is folly. Attaching your name to that strategy borders on the masochistic.”

Voter unhappiness with Biden's economic performance is at the heart of the recent New York Times poll that terrified Democrats — the poll showing former President Donald Trump beating Biden in five of six critical swing states. “Voters, by a 59% to 37% margin, said they better trusted Mr. Trump over Mr. Biden on the economy, the largest gap of any issue,” the Times reported. “The preference for Mr. Trump on economic matters spanned the electorate, among both men and women, those with college degrees and those without them, every age range and every income level.”

Could it be any clearer than that? You can't “make voters believe something they don't.” Americans are liv-



By Byron York

Keith R Cerny
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Brian Williams
Managing Editor

Valley Courier

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American Education Week

Brief history of American Education Week

American Education Week was first celebrated on December 4-10, 1921, after the alarming rate of illiteracy was recognized and a meeting was held in 1919 by the American Legion and representatives of the National Education Association (NEA). The aim of this special week was to create awareness about the need for

education and garner support to fund schooling systems. In the years that followed, American Education Week gained sponsors that impacted the American education system.

American Education Week continues annually in every U.S. community to present the achievements and needs of the local public schools and se-

cur support for meeting these needs. It is celebrated with a different theme each year and follows a structure set up by NEA, with an activity created specially for each day.

Monday is the Kick-off Day, celebrating the start of the week by familiarizing students with the theme, activities, and purpose of the event.

Tuesday is Family Day, where parents will be invited to actively experience how a school day goes for their children. This has been shown to improve student performance in school. Wednesday is Education Support Professionals Day, a day to celebrate a school's support staff. Thursday is Educator For A Day.

On this day, community leaders will be invited to work as an employee in the school, performing all the duties of a teacher for a full day. Friday is Substitute Educators Day. This day celebrates people who are always available to replace regular teachers when there is a sudden emergency or temporary leave.

Many reasons to support technology in the classroom

Technology has become an integral part of life, affecting how we communicate, how we view our homes, how we conduct business and nearly every other aspect of our daily lives. That includes how we learn, especially for today's youngsters. The classrooms of yesteryear are quickly becoming a thing

of the past, as teachers are increasingly turning to technology to help students learn.

Whereas technology in the classroom once meant teaching basic computer software and fundamental computer skills, nowadays technology is being integrated in ways that supplement lesson plans

regardless of the subject matter. Students are utilizing technology to tackle projects, which helps them get a more realistic grasp on how to handle projects outside of the classroom and in the professional arena. Utilizing programs that professionals use better prepares students for life after they have earned

their diplomas or degrees, making them more attractive to prospective employers and more capable once they are hired.

Another way technology in the classroom is benefitting today's students is the wealth of resources that technology can provide. Classes connected to the Internet, for instance, give students access to the latest information about topics they're studying. This can include up-to-date studies and theories from experts in the field or, for current events students, instant access to what is going on in their community and beyond. Such accessibility was unimaginable as recently as 15 years ago, but is quickly becoming commonplace, and benefitting students along the way.

Technology in the classroom can also help teachers. Students learn in their own ways, but teachers faced with growing class sizes and fewer resources often find it hard to connect with students who might not respond to the same teaching methods as their classmates. Technology can provide teachers with another avenue by which to reach their students, helping to engage those students who might otherwise have been turned off or lacked the necessary

initiative to excel in school.

Teachers may also find that technology in the classroom makes it easier to reach students. That's because kids tend to find technology fun, even if it's part of the learning process. In a study sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education that reported on the experiences of teachers and students in classrooms

where technology was incorporated, teachers responded that, in many instances, students chose to work on technology-based projects during recess or lunch.

As classrooms continue to change, the role of technology figures to expand. That expanded role can benefit students and teachers alike in a variety of ways.



Courtesy photo

Technology in the classroom is changing the ways students of all ages are learning.

Friday, Nov. 17 is Substitute Educators Day

Substitute educators play a vital role in the maintenance and continuity of daily education.

Substitute Educators Day is a result of the National Education Association Representative Assembly's New Business Item 2003-41, which called for an increase appreciation of school substitute employees. These professional educators provide a critical link in

the education of public schoolchildren by serving as a bridge to provide continued quality education to children in the temporary absence of regular classroom educators.

Substitute Educators Day seeks to:

Encourage increased respect for substitute education employees

Advocate for all school substitutes to receive wage and health benefits

for those who work most to all of a full school year

Receive genuine, continual professional development in the art of substitute teaching

Provide a reminder for school staff on effective practices to prepare for, welcome, and support substitute educators

Substitute Educators Day is observed on Friday during American Education Week.

ALAMOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-11J

Our Mission: provides safe, inclusive, challenging, and authentic learning experiences that prepare students to thrive in our community and beyond.

- Our core beliefs:**
 Alamosa School District...
 ...understands that students' basic needs must be met before they can be expected to think, learn, and create deeply.
 ...has high expectations for each and every student.
 ...identifies, recognizes, and builds on the strengths of our students to ensure they grow through their skills.
 ...creates inclusive environments and celebrates the different cultures and heritages of our community.



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MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT C-8 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
Inspiring Excellence One Student at a Time!

1	2	3
Ensure district wide Innovation through the development and delivery of differentiated and personalized learning for all students	Inspire students to explore their gifts and prepare them for the future	Engaging Families and community while capturing kids hearts and captivating their minds

ABOUT HALF THE COST OF 4-YEAR COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES!

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Happy Holidays!

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Sports



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

Adams State University's Angeline Nageak (10) looks to drive to the basket against Eastern New Mexico's Jaz Salon (0) in Thursday's game at Plachy Hall gym. Nageak scored 17 points and Salon scored 21, but the Lady Grizzlies lost to the Lady Greyhounds 70-58.

Lady Grizzlies defeated in home opener

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Adams State University women's basketball team played its first home game of the season on Thursday as it hosted Eastern New Mexico University at Plachy Hall gym.

It was not a good home opener for the Lady Grizzlies as they lost to the Lady Greyhounds 70-58.

Elaina Watson scored the first points of the game for ASU, but Jaz Salon hit a 3-point basket for Eastern New Mexico. Kiiyani Anitielu's jumper put the Lady Grizzlies back into the lead, but that would be the last time they would be in front.

Salon hit a short jumper to put the Lady Greyhounds back into the lead. That sparked a 10-0 run in which ENMU took a 13-4 advantage.

Christabel Longe ended the run with a jump shot, and she then made one of two from the free throw line to cut the deficit to 13-7.

Tatiana Hodges-Johnson made two straight baskets, but Angeline Nageak drained a trey to reduce the Eastern New Mexico lead to 17-10 at the end of the first quarter.

The teams traded 3-pointers to open the second quarter before Kayla Harris drove for a layup to cut the ENMU lead to 23-18.

The Lady Greyhounds then went on a 13-2 run to take their largest lead of the game at 36-20. But Anitielu scored two layups and Harmanie Domiguez drained a trey to bring the Lady Grizzlies within 36-27 at halftime.

Watson scored a layup to open the third quarter, but Vanessa Oduah drove for a layup for the Lady Greyhounds. Watson then split at the line, but so did Jamila Nansikombi-Gunter and ENMU led 39-30.

Nageak then drained two 3-pointers to bring the Lady Grizzlies within 39-36. But the Lady Greyhounds went on a 4-2 run to increase their lead to 43-38.

Nageak drove for a layup, but ENMU had a 6-2 tun for a 50-42 advantage.

Watson made two free throws with less than a second left in the period to close the margin to 50-44.

Domiguez made a layup and Riahana Davis made one of two free throws to reduce the deficit to 50-47. But Eastern New Mexico went on a 9-2 run to extend its lead to 59-49.

Harris made two free throws and Nageak drove for a layup to bring Adams State within 59-53. Deja Adrian scored in the paint for ENMU, but Nageak did the same. Salon's layup made the score 63-55, buy Watson made a layup and added a free throw to bring the Lady Grizzlies within 63-58.

But Nansikombi-Gunter scored the final seven points, including five free throws, to wrap up the scoring.

Three Lady Grizzlies scored in double figures with Nageak leading the way with 17 points. Anitielu scored 14 and Watson added 12.

Salon led all scorers with 21 points. Oduah scored 16 and Nansikombi-Gunter scored 13.

Eastern New Mexico outrebounded Adams State 49-28. Davis led the Lady Grizzlies with five rebounds, and Nansikombi-Gunter led the Lady Greyhounds with 14.

Adams State (3-2) will continue its home stand on Saturday as it will host Texas A&M-Kingsville. The opening tip-off is at 5:30 p.m. at Plachy Hall.

Eastern New Mexico 70, Adams State 58

Eastern New Mexico – Adrian 2-9 1-2 5, Salon 8-12 2-3 21, Shipley 1-3 1-2 4, Oduah 5-11 5-6 16, Nansikombi-Gunter 6-13 1-2 13, Whyte 2-4 1-2 5, Waddell 0-0 0-0 0, Hodges Johnson 2-4 2-2 6, Laurie Calixte 0-0 0-0 0. Total 26-56 13-19 70.

3-point goals – Adrian 0-1, Salon 3-4, Shipley 1-3, Oduah 1-3, Nansikombi-Gunter 0-1. Total 5-12.

Adams State – Longe 1-5 1-2 3, Dominguez 2-8 0-0 5, Nageak 7-11 0-1 17, Watson 4-13 4-6 12, Davis 0-3 1-2 1, Paulk 0-1 0-0 0, Harris 1-4 2-2 4, John 1-5 0-0 2, Caldron 0-1 0-0 0, Anitielu 6-11 0-1 14. Total 22-62 8-14 58.

3-point goals – Longe 0-1, Dominguez 1-5, Nageak 3-3, Watson 0-3, Harris 0-1, Caldron 0-1, Anitielu 2-4. Total 6-18.

ENMU 17 19 14 20 – 70
Adams State 10 17 17 14 – 58

Rebounds – Eastern New Mexico 49 (Nansikombi-Gunter 14), Adams State 28 (Davis 5). Assists Eastern New Mexico 12 (three players with three), Adams State 14 (Nageak, Watson 4). Steals – Eastern New Mexico 5 (five players with one), Adams State 14 (Four players with two.). Fouls – Eastern New Mexico 18, Adams State 21. Fouled out – Harris. Technical fouls – Harris, Adams State bench 2. Turnovers – Eastern New Mexico 25, Adams State 12. Attendance – 645.

Four Mean Moose soccer players named All-League

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor
ALAMOSA – The Intermountain League released its All-League boys soccer team earlier this month with four Alamosa High School athletes being recognized. Two of the All-League

players were placed on the first team. The list includes senior center midfielder Johnathan Ramirez and sophomore striker/center midfielder Juan Gonzales-Ramirez. Named to the second team were junior center midfielder/goalkeeper

Marvin Rodas and junior center back/right midfielder Benjamin Tibbitts.

The Mean Moose had a record of two wins and 12 losses and they were 2-4 in league play.



Johnathan Ramirez



Juan Gonzalez-Ramirez



Benjamin Tibbitts



Marvin Rodas

SPIN AND WIN

Beginning at 12:30 pm on Mondays, for every 100 same day points earned, receive a Wheel Game on the kiosk. You can spin up to 4x. Once you earn 500 same day points, claim your voucher to Spin the Lucky Cash* Wheel and Win even more!

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Thursdays 12:30 pm-7:30 pm, 15 players are drawn to drop the puck and win up to \$500 Cash* and \$500 Bonus Cash*.

*Rules apply. Visit Ohkay Winners Club for complete details.

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Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD THURSDAY
College women's basketball
Eastern New Mexico at Adams State

SCHEDULE FRIDAY
College men's basketball
Adams State vs. Eastern New Mexico (Skyhawks Hardwood Classic at Durango), 7 p.m.
College swimming

Adams State at TYR/CMU Invitational (at Grand Junction), TBA

SATURDAY
College cross country
Adams State at NCAA Division II Championship (at Joplin, Mo.), TBA
College men's basketball
Adams State vs. Western New Mexico (Skyhawks Hardwood Classic at Durango), 5 p.m.
College women's basketball
Texas A&M-Kingsville at Adams State, 5:30 p.m.
College swimming
Adams State at TYR/CMU Invitational (at Grand Junction), TBA
College men's wrestling

Adams State at Bob Smith Open (at Hays, Kan.), 9 a.m.

FRIDAY, NOV. 24
College men's basketball
Adams State at Alaska-Anchorage, 9:30 p.m.
College women's basketball
Adams State at Alaska-Anchorage, 7:15 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 25
College men's basketball
Adams State at Alaska-Anchorage, 9:30 p.m.
College women's basketball
Adams State at Alaska-Anchorage, 7:15 p.m.

Public Notices

NOTICE

Rio Grande County is soliciting sealed bids from qualified contractors for 2023 AIRFIELD PROJECTS, to be constructed for RIO GRANDE COUNTY, COLORADO. Bids will be received at the County Office until 4:00 pm on Tuesday, November 28, 2023. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud on Tuesday, November 28, 1:00pm at the County Office, 925 6th Street, Room 207, Del Norte, CO 81132. An Optional Pre-Bid Conference will be held on November 07, 2023 at 1:00 pm at the Astronaut Kent Rominger Airport, 883 Co Rd 22, Del Norte, CO 81132.

The project consists of a 2-inch asphalt overlay to Runway 6-24, a new 450 feet Proposed Taxiway construction East of Taxiway B, and the rehabilitation of existing taxiways and apron pavements with a 608B Seal Coat treatment.

Bids will be received for a single prime contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum and unit price basis with additive alternate bid items as indicated in the Bid Form.

Digital copies of the bid documents are available from the county at www.riograndecounty.org. Those downloading the contract documents electronically are responsible for verifying the completeness of contract documents received view download. Failure to download a complete set of digital contract documents will not be a factor considered in the evaluation of bids or form the basis for any bid protest. In order to submit a responsive bid as a Prime Contractor and to receive all necessary addendum (s) for this project, you must be on the Planholder's List, which requires the plans being downloaded from www.riograndecounty.org.

Bids shall be accompanied by a bid security in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. The successful Bidder must furnish Performance and Payment Bonds in accordance with the Contract Documents.

Bidders must be licensed to perform work within the state of Colorado.

Bids must remain in effect for 60 days after the bid opening date. Within 60 days from the bid date, the Owner may award the contract to the lowest responsive, responsible Bidder or reject any or all Bids for the Project.

The RIO GRANDE COUNTY, COLORADO reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive irregularities in the Bids and bidding deemed to be in the best interests of the RIO GRANDE COUNTY, COLORADO, and to reject nonconforming, nonresponsive, or conditional bids.

No. 3642.
Published in the Valley Courier on October 27, 28, 31, November 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, & 21, 2023.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS
TOWN OF LA JARA, COLORADO**

The Town of La Jara is accepting statements of qualifications (SOQs) from qualified engineering firms (firm) which have five (5) years or more experience in providing drinking water system analysis and evaluation as outlined in the details section of this request.

DETAILS: Assist the Town of La Jara to meet requirements for System Master Plans similar to Preliminary Engineering reports, collect data, analyze data and provide capital improvements recommendations for infrastructure and funding for water system planning. Those requirements include:

- Document the existing conditions for the system including reliant pumps, tanks, and treatment and risks and liabilities associated with each process in the systems.
- Evaluate the existing water treatment process and provide recommendations for improvements.
- Recommend, prioritize, and provide costs for improvements identified in the analysis.
- Incorporate all data, recommendations, and cost estimates into an engineering report.

Statements of Qualifications will be accepted until Monday, November 20th, 2023, at 2:00 PM. SOQ must have a notation on the envelope of "TOWN OF LA JARA WATER SYSTEM STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS". SOQs can be mailed or delivered to Larry Zaragoza at 221 Broadway PO Box 273 LA JARA CO, 81140. Interested Firms should contact Sunrise Engineering 435-216-9197 to receive a detailed request for statement of qualifications. Questions can be directed to Kurtis Shawcroft (kshawcroft@sunrise-eng.com).

The Town of La Jara reserves the right to accept or deny any or all bids for and waive any information or technicality on any bid in the interest of the Town and their decision will be final.

No. 3644.
Published in the Valley Courier on November 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, & 18, 2023.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Colorado State Statute No. 83-21-1. Storage Units having given proper notice to the parties of the storage unit herein stated at their last known address, shall dispose of all property in said unit. Said disposal shall be any time after the November 18th, 2023. Contents of storage units Plaza Storages to be disposed is #4 Dominique Aragon #62, Mark Aragon, #81 Alfred Martinez, #10 Joe Miera

No. 3663.
Published in the Valley Courier on November 10 & 17, 2023.

ELECTION OF THE SAN LUIS VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on Tuesday, the 5th day of December, 2023 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The Board of Directors of the District has designated the following polling place within the District:
Office of the San Luis Valley Irrigation District
296 Miles Street
Town of Center, Saguache County, Colorado
At said election, the electors of the District shall vote for Director(s) to serve the following term(s) of office on the Board of Directors of the District:
One Director for Division III for a 3-Year Term
The name(s) of person(s) nominated and term(s) of office for which nominated are as follows:
Tuck Slane, Director for Division III for a 3-year term
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that an elector of said District for the purpose of said election is a person who (1) owns taxable real property within the District, and (2) is over the age of twenty-one years.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that applications for absent voter's ballots may be filed with the Secretary of the District, Amy S. Dean, at 296 Miles Street, Center, Colorado until 4:00 p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the election. Affidavits of intent to be a write-in candidate must be filed no later than 4:00 o'clock p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the election (Friday, the 1st of December, 2023).
San Luis Valley Irrigation District
By: /s/ Amy S. Dean
Secretary
No. 3664.
Published in the Valley Courier on November 10, 17, & 24, 2023.

County Court District Court Denver Juvenile Court
Costilla County, Colorado
Court Address:
304 Main St., San Luis, CO 81152
In the Matter of the Petition of:
X Adult: AUSTIN ALLEN MARTIN
or
Parent/Petitioner:
for Minor Child:
For a Change of Name to:
COURT USE ONLY
Date Filed:
Case Number: 2023C36
Division:
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Public Notice is given on 09/19/23 that a Petition for a Change of Name of a Minor Child or X-Adult has been filed with the COSTILLA COUNTY Court.
The Petition requests that the name of
Austin Allen Martin
First Name Middle Name Last Name
be changed to
AUSTIN ROCKY MONTOYA
First Name Middle Name Last Name
By Shelly Gallegos
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk
No. 3678.
Published in the Valley Courier on November 17, 18, & 21, 2023.

County Court District Court Denver Juvenile Court

099- ANNOUNCEMENTS
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 23rd ANNUAL CRAFT & BAKE SALE. 518 First St., ALAMOSA (corner of First & State). Saturday, November 18, 2023, 9:00-2:00. Baked goods (Thanksgiving meal?), hand crafted items (Christmas?), & lots more! (11/18/23)

163- LOST & FOUND
LOST CAT NEAR HARTSEL RD., WEST of BLANCA, south of US160. Answers to "SKINNY". Gray, 8 yo, fixed male. Please call 719-480-1013/719-298-1982. (11/29/23AS)

173- PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
LICENSED PLUMBER DOES all types of plumbing & plumbing repairs. Quick service! Call anytime, weekends & evenings: 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (12/1/23-monthlyAS)

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

163- LOST & FOUND

FOUND: COOLER 11/12/23 on Hwy. 17. Describe contents 719-740-0004. (11/25/23)

221 - HELP WANTED

TRINCHERA RANCH
Job Title: Line Cook
Dates of Employment: Starting ASAP
Employment Terms: Temporary to start with potential for full-time, year-round employment
Expected Hours: 40+ hours/week, weekends, holidays
Pay: from \$20.00 per hour, depending on experience; benefit eligibility after probationary period
Job Purpose: Trinchera Ranch is looking for an experienced and talented Line Cook for the Guest/Hunting Lodge.
Essential Duties/Responsibilities:
• Prepare breakfast, lunch, and dinner for large parties, small gatherings, and in private chef settings
• Ensure that food comes out simultaneously, in high quality, and in a timely fashion
• Work with a wide variety of cuisine including game and health-conscious fare
• Put away items from food order, stocking of all pantries, organizing and heavy lifting required
• Ability to work weekends, overtime, and holidays
• Adhere to and implement sanitation regulations and safety regulations.
• Ability to work independently and as part of a team
• Perform other Ranch duties as assigned
Job Qualifications:
Knowledge: Strong knowledge of cooking methods, kitchen equipment, and best practices.
Skill: Upscale food presentation, preparation of game and health-conscious fare
Ability: Teamwork-oriented, creative, strong attention to detail
Education: Professional culinary training is preferred
Experience: Minimum of three years' experience working in a similar setting. Prior guest ranch experience preferred
To apply for this position, please email your resume or work experience and salary requirements to Allison Reagan, Human Resources Manager at Allison.Reagan@TrincheraRanch.com. Please note "Sous Chef" in subject line of email.

221 - HELP WANTED

WE GOT THE HELP WE WERE LOOKING FOR WITH THE HELP OF THE VALLEY COURIER. Smokin Spuds.
MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST - (ALAMOSA and LA JARA, CO) Lutheran Hospital Association of the San Luis Valley d/b/a SAN LUIS VALLEY HEALTH: Understands and abides by the laboratory compliance plan and can effectively apply the plan requirements in relation to the Hospital's Compliance plan. Reqs: Bac's in Medical Technology, or rldt. + 5 yrs. exp. as a Medical Laboratory Technologist, or rldt. Salary: \$78,956.80 / year, standard benefits included. Email resumes to: Attn: Len Gross - Ref #5064, len.gross@slvrnc.org. (11/17/23)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

FULL-TIME: GUADALUPE PARISH CREDIT UNION has an opening for a full-time MEMBER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (TELLER). Banking experience (or working with money), excellent communication and computer skills required. Bilingual preferred but not required. Please submit a resume and three professional references to Guadalupe Parish Credit Union, Attention: Robert A. Chavez, President/CEO, P.O. Box 97, Antonito, CO 81120 or drop off in a sealed envelope at a branch office in Antonito, La Jara or San Luis. Application deadline is Friday, November 24, 2023 at 5pm. For more information, please contact Robert A. Chavez, President/CEO at 719-376-5413. (11/17/23AS)

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

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR MACHINIST: Working knowledge of manual lathe & mill required, horizontal boring mill, and/or CNC experience a plus. Equal Opportunity Employer & drug free workplace. Must have HS diploma/GED, vocational degree, or equivalent industry experience. For full details call 719-852-5070 or email to hr@brimhallindustrial.com. (11/29/23AS)

WOUND CARE RN/ CERTIFIED HYPERBARIC. RIO GRANDE HOSPITAL has an opening in our Wound Clinic and Hyperbaric Oxygen (HBO) therapy Center in DEL NORTE, COLORADO. Must be a RN Colorado license, CPR, Wound Care certified. Certified or eligible to test for Certified Hyperbaric Specialist. Experience in Wound Care, must understand wound care and practices; capable of dealing with people and working closely with patients and physicians; workable knowledge of safety procedures; must have patience and enthusiasm as well as the willingness and ability to handle difficult situations with good judgment; must be able to work as a team member; must be willing to learn. RGH is an EOE. If interested, please complete a job application found on RGH website at www.riograndehospital.org. (11/29/23AS)

ALAMOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT is now accepting applications for the following position: ORTEGA MIDDLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION/COUNSELING OFFICE SECRETARY. Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org/> For more information, contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600 or tvigil@alamosaschools.org. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (11/18/23AS)



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Classifieds



221 - HELP WANTED

221 - HELP WANTED

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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Satchel
 - 4 Easier — than done
 - 8 Retail establishment
 - 12 Honest —
 - 13 Refer to
 - 14 Norse god of mischief
 - 15 Emeril's exclamation
 - 16 Actor — Alda
 - 17 — Grey tea
 - 18 Thing of value
 - 20 Generous
 - 22 Catchall abbr.
 - 23 Reheat in a microwave
 - 24 Raw material
 - 26 Wide-body plane
 - 27 Part of TGIF
 - 30 Two-faced god
 - 32 Emmet
 - 33 Sound heard among grazers
 - 34 "— on a Grecian Urn"
 - 35 Snoop
 - 37 Garment part
 - 39 Ending for heir or host
 - 40 Legal matter
 - 41 Down Under bird
 - 42 That guy's
 - 43 Totality
 - 45 Pilot
 - 49 Commencement
 - 51 What remains
 - 52 King in Shakespeare's play
 - 54 — League
 - 55 Duration
 - 56 Colorado ski resort
 - 57 A-lister
 - 58 Luge
 - 59 Circular current
 - 60 Compass pt.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 2 Humiliate
- 3 Jewels
- 4 "Get lost!"
- 5 Trouble
- 6 Romance lang.
- 7 Inhabitant
- 8 Slumber
- 9 Icy deposit
- 10 Gumbo
- 11 Tablet
- 19 Neutral color
- 21 Fight
- 25 — de corps
- 26 Blue birds
- 27 Acting without forethought
- 28 Pirouette pivot
- 29 Costa del —
- 30 Coffee
- 31 TV spots
- 36 Determination
- 38 To — (unanimously)
- 42 Detested
- 44 Jeans brand
- 45 Cultural fields
- 46 Conceal
- 47 "Woe —!"
- 48 Peruse
- 49 Parisian airport city
- 50 Variety
- 53 First- — kit

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

I UNDERSTAND THE IDEA OF THE BUTTERFLY, ER, DRAGONFLY EFFECT. BUT WHAT ARE WE HOPING TO FIND?

I BELIEVE A NEW DRAGONFLY HAS EVOLVED. ONE THAT CAN AFFECT THE PAST.

THAT SOUNDS DANGEROUS. HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY CHANGES?

YES, MY QUANTUM TIME-TRACKER HAS NOTICED AN INCREASE IN TIME-LINE ALTERATIONS.

NOW THAT WE'RE CLOSER TO THE SOURCE, I'M GUESSING WE'LL SEE MORE.

WELL, IF ANYONE NOTICES ANY CHANGES, IT'LL BE ME.

ARLO & JANIS

GET THIS! MOM AND DAD WANT TO COME FOR THANKS-GIVING!

GREAT! THEY'RE TAKING MY ADVICE!

YOUR ADVICE?

YES! I TOLD YOUR MOM THEY SHOULD USE POP'S PLACE MORE OFTEN! GET USED TO BEING HERE!

NOW THEY'LL NEVER GET AROUND TO MOVING!

AU CONTRAIRE!

THINK OF IT AS SETTING THE HOOK!

BIG NATE

AFTER I REVIEWED YOUR STORY, LILY, DID YOU WANT TO MAKE ANY CHANGES?

NOPE, I DIDN'T CHANGE A WORD.

WHAT? BUT I GAVE YOU TWO PAGES OF SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE IT BETTER!

I KNOW.

I CONSIDERED THE SOURCE, AND I ACTED ACCORDINGLY.

SPEAKING AS THE SOURCE: OUCH.

SHE SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD WRITER TO ME!

THE BORN LOSER

MADGE AND I HAVE TROUBLE COMMUNICATING WITH EACH OTHER LATELY, HOW ABOUT YOU AND GLADYS?

WE HAVE NO PROBLEM COMMUNICATING WITH EACH OTHER...

WE JUST DON'T AGREE WITH EACH OTHER!

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

MOM, MOM! CAN I HAVE A CARROT? - I'M MAKIN' A NO-MAN!!

YOU CAN'T BUILD A SNOWMAN IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SNOW, APRIL!

YES YOU CAN!

... IF YOU MAKE HIM LYING DOWN!!!

FRANK & ERNEST

HARE EXTENSIONS

GARFIELD

THEY SAY WALKING...

GIVES YOU... ENERGY

Z

THE GRIZZWELLS

YUCK! STUPID BEAR! HOW CAN YOU EAT GARBAGE?!

HEY! THIS GARBAGE IS YOUR LEFT-OVERS

ARE YOU SAYING WE'RE EATING THE SAME THING?

BASICALLY...

BUT I DON'T HAVE TO PAY FOR MINE

MOVE OVER

PEANUTS

YOU KNOW WHAT?

WHAT?

PEOPLE WHO GO FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE HAVE TO GET USED TO HAVING DOORS SLAMMED IN THEIR FACES...

SLAM!

ARE YOU GETTING USED TO IT?

HERMAN

"Happy birthday ... I dropped your cake."

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

Emotionally abused friend has a network of support

DEAR ABBY: My best friend "Owen's" wife, "Shirley," is a narcissist, and she's driving everyone away from him. They have been married for 10 years. I've known Owen since high school. He has always been a quiet, easygoing guy. Shirley is a nightmare. She has berated him at work and has left him by himself on holidays, including birthdays. She orders him around, and she runs everything without hardly paying for anything. I am divorced and I've been through it.

I don't know how to tell Owen that there's a safety net for him. I know telling him his wife is a crazy narcissist and he should leave isn't the answer. She has berated me for "getting in their marriage." My friend is afraid he has no support if he leaves because Shirley has alienated him from all of his friends, and the only family he has are his parents and sister, who live many miles away. She has pushed me away from him as well. What can I say to Owen to make him understand that there are people here who are just waiting for him to ask for help without his feeling I am pressuring him? -- HAS HIS BACK IN FLORIDA

DEAR HAS HIS BACK: There is more than one kind of partner

abuse. Although most people associate the term with physical violence, another is emotional. It appears Owen is the victim of many years of emotional battery. Because he is scared, a group that might lend him emotional support is Stop Abuse for Everyone (stopabuseforeveryone.org). It's a nonprofit that provides services for domestic violence victims of all ages, genders and sexual orientations and helps those who typically fall between the cracks of domestic violence services. Please mention it to Owen and remind him that he may not be as isolated as he fears, because his friends are waiting to support him when he is ready.

DEAR ABBY: My family doesn't know I have cancer in my kidneys, and I don't want to tell them. I feel that when the time comes, it comes, but my boyfriend keeps pushing me to tell them. I don't want anybody to be worried about me or my health.

I've been the black sheep of the family since I was a child. Nobody was there for me except my grandmother, but she's no longer living. I just feel my family doesn't need to know anything. Am I being selfish about what I'm



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

going through, wanting to keep my illness to myself and, when the time comes, let my boyfriend tell them what happened? -- BLACK SHEEP IN NEW YORK

DEAR BLACKSHEEP: I'm sorry about your diagnosis. You are not being selfish. If your family hasn't been there for you in the past, I understand your reluctance to court further rejection. While it might be nice to give them an opportunity to atone for their past behavior, there are no guarantees they will. Your health status is YOUR business and no one else's, so don't allow your boyfriend (as well-meaning as he may be) to push you into anything you don't want at this point.