

Year End Giving
GIVE A GIFT THAT COUNTS
Colorado Gives Day
Dec. 5
Wednesday, November 29, 2023

Year End Giving

— Inside today's Valley Courier



Pre-season wrestling rankings announced

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

November 29, 2023

\$1

SLV Today
Holiday Art Fair set for Dec. 9

SAN LUIS — A Holiday Art Fair is set for Dec. 9 in San Luis. Local artisans from the surrounding area offer paintings on various media, painted items like T-shirts, hats, items like dreamcatchers and other unique art. The Art Fair goes from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 9, at the Sangre de Cristo Cultural Heritage Center Theater. There will also be food, and live music.

Santa coming to Antonito on Dec. 10

ANTONITO — Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus will be stopping at 1 p.m. on Dec. 10 at the Antonito Water Park in Antonito to bring toys, candy and a special gift.

National Conservation Area discussion set for Dec. 7

ANTONITO — The third meeting to discuss the possibility of creating a National Conservation Area in the San Luis Valley will be from 6-8 p.m. on Dec. 7 at the Chavez Southwest Market Conference Room in Antonito.

Spearheaded by Chris Canaly, of the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council, and Anna Vargas, of the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area, these meetings focus on the possibility of having a National Conservation Area in the San Luis Valley.

Colcha Embroidery Bazaar Dec. 1

SAN LUIS — The Colcha Embroidery Bazaar will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 1 in the newly opened Sangre de Cristo Cultural Heritage Center Theater in San Luis.

Colcha embroidery is a type of weaving found in northern New Mexico and San Luis Valley. It is a coarse fiber from the churro sheep and usually used to make rugs and wall hangings. Colcha uses a particular stitch and often depicts local landscapes and scenes. There are examples of colcha embroidery on the walls of San Luis Town Hall.

There will also be other arts and crafts and holiday goodies available.

On Dec. 2, San Luis will have its tree lighting.

SLV WEATHER
Mostly Sunny 44/8

Thurs: Slight Chance of Snow 40/12

Fri: Slight Chance of Snow 41/7

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Adams State holiday concert is tonight

Second performance is Friday at Alamosa's Celebration of Lights

By **JOHN WATERS**
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — Enjoy an evening of holiday music and fun tonight at 7 p.m. at Richardson Hall Auditorium on the Adams State University campus in Alamosa. Performances will include the Adams

■ See **CONCERT** page 3

Musicians from Adams State University will perform at 7 p.m. today at Richardson Hall for a holiday concert.

File photo courtesy ASU



The solar farm near Mosca that was constructed by Sun Edison and is now owned by Brookfield Renewables.

San Luis Valley Solar and Agriculture Forum

By **JOHN WATERS**
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — About 25 people attended the San Luis Valley Solar Energy and Agriculture Forum on Nov. 28, at the San Luis Valley Water Conservation District in Alamosa. The forum was focused on farmers and ranchers regarding the possibilities of combining agricultural and energy production,

a technique known as agrivoltaics. The forum was sponsored by Colorado Open Lands (COL), a non-profit land trust.

The forum began with Erin Minks from Senator Michael Bennet's office speaking about the history of solar development in the Valley. An early solar facility in Alamosa County is the Sun Edison facility that Monks described

as, "kind of the first big, large scale solar farm in the Valley." That facility changed ownership to TerraForm Power and is now owned by Brookfield Renewable, a global producer of hydro, solar, and wind energy with over 8,000 power-generating facilities.

Cleave Simpson with the Rio Grande Water Conservation District

■ See **FORUM** page 3

Two-vehicle crash near Center results in one fatality

By **PRISCILLA WAGGONER**
Courier Reporter

CENTER — A collision involving two vehicles just south of Center on Friday night claimed the life of one person with five others being transported to a local hospital. According to Capt. Nathan Lyons with the Colorado State Patrol, at 5:56 p.m. on Nov. 24, Colorado State Patrol responded to a report of a two-car collision at the intersection of Highway 285 and Rio Grande County Road 7, mile marker 57.9.

Lyons says that a 2018 Chevrolet Equinox with five occupants was traveling eastbound on RG County Road 7 North when it failed to stop at a stop sign.

The second vehicle, a 2013 Volvo XC60 with only the driver inside, was traveling southbound on Highway 285 when it struck the Chevrolet Equinox on the left side.

■ See **CRASH** page 3

the Chevrolet," Lyons said.

As a result of the collision, the Chevrolet Equinox traveled off the east side of Highway 285 and, after a half rotation, landed on its top, ejecting two passengers in the process.

Meanwhile, the Volvo skidded, rotated, and came to rest with its wheels still on the ground.

The five occupants of the Chevrolet included the driver, who has been identified as 28-year-old Kristain Cayaditto of Cuba, N.M., a 57-year-old woman, a 60-year-old male, a 12-year-old male, and a 6-year-old male.

The 57-year-old woman was ejected from the car and pronounced deceased at the scene. The 6-year-old boy was also ejected and sustained serious but non-life-threatening injuries. Lyons noted that, of the five people traveling in the Chevrolet, only two were wearing their seat-

Educator Highlight Award for October goes to Joe Guenther

Antonito's K-12 PE teacher has an enthusiastic fan club

ANTONITO — South Conejos School District is an Expeditionary Learning district, where project-based and hands-on instruction are emphasized. No teacher has embraced the innovative learning style more than physical ed instructor Joe Guenther, selected this week to receive the Educator Highlight Award from the Adams State School of Education.

"He's taken the PE program and turned it into an actual class. The kids are really engaged and involved in the sports, too," said Antonito Principal Maddie Mansheim. "He steps up to do

■ See **AWARD** page 3



Pictured, South Conejos School District PE Teacher Joe Guenther is the Adams State October Educator Highlight Award recipient.

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Record

OBITUARIES

Sharon Adams



anthropic Education Organization) Sisterhood.

Monte Vista resident Sharon Adams, 70, passed away peacefully at her home on Nov. 23, 2023.

Sharon was born to George and Lorene Franklin on Nov. 29, 1952, in Atwood, Kan. She grew up in Atwood and lived in Kansas until moving to Colorado in 1979. That Kansas heritage remained very important to her throughout her life. Soon after moving to the San Luis Valley, she married the love of her life Kerry Adams on June 4, 1983, they were married for 40 wonderful years and raised their two children together in Monte Vista.

Sharon was an active member of the community serving as a teacher at Sargent High School for nearly 40 years. During the summers, she would work as the office manager for SLV Crop Care. Teaching was her life's passion, and she was continually inspired by her students. She strove to help them however she could. She also acted as an advisor for one of the most successful and active FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) chapters, organized and coordinated indoor 4-H events, and was a valued member of the PEO (Phil-

After retiring from teaching, she enjoyed working at Summit Engineering through the remainder of her life. She enjoyed family visits, working in the yard, traveling around the US, and watching both Disney movies and crime drama television. She most valued family, tradition, and hard work.

Sharon is survived by her husband Kerry Adams, her children Katherine (Mark) Hardy of Bismarck, N.D., and Kenneth Adams of Milwaukee, Wis.; her grandchildren Everett and Jackson Hardy; her siblings Joyce Mai of Wakeeney, Kan., Marilyn Kastens of Atwood, Kan., Barbara Hendrickson of Wakee-

ney, Kan., and Dennis Franklin of Atwood, Kan. Sharon was preceded in death by her parents George and Lorene Franklin.

Cremation was chosen and a memorial service will be held on Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, at 2 p.m. at the Monte Vista Community Methodist Church. The Memorial Service will also be streamed live at www.gettogetheronline.org, no login ID or passwords will be necessary. Burial in the Atwood Cemetery will follow this service at a later date.

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

The family suggests in lieu of flowers that contributions be made to the Penrose St. Francis Foundation (please select the "Guest House Ministry John Zay and Ingram Guest House" where the family stayed for no charge during hospital visits); www.centura.org/penrose-st-francis-health-foundation, The March of Dimes; www.marchofdimes.org, or PEO Sisterhood; <https://coloradopeo.org>.

Sylvia Jean Lara



Denver Broncos play football.

Sylvia is survived by her husband Kenneth Lara of Blanca, Colo.; her children Gary (Sandy) Kennedy of

Oceanside, Calif., Yolanda Lara of Blanca, Kevin (Faithful) Lara of Alamosa, and Samantha Peterson of Blanca, Colo.; her grandson Chosen Lara; as well as numerous extended family and a host of friends.

Cremation was chosen and private services will be held.

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

Wolf Creek Ski Area benefits from two feet of new snow



Courtesy of Wolf Creek Ski Area

Skiers and boarders are stoked with the recent snowfall of two feet at Wolf Creek.

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA — Recent light, new snowfall at the Wolf Creek Ski Area opened additional lifts including Nova and Magic Carpet which were operational during weekends since Wolf Creek's inaugural opening day of Nov. 11.

The Lynx, Bonanza, Raven and Treasure lifts opened Saturday, Nov. 25; with hard-working crews harvesting snow to supplement the natural snowfall in efforts to open the remaining lifts.

The transition to 7-day a week operation will see Treasure Stoke, Raven, Bonanza, Lynx, Nova, and Magic Carpet open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for skiers and boarders to enjoy roughly 30 percent of the terrain.

Lift tickets are at Local Appreciation rates until the next significant snowfall. Appreciation rates are \$66 for adults, \$47 for seniors, and \$33 for children. Wolf Creek Ski School, Ski and Snowboard Rental, Pathfinder Bar and

the Wolf Creek Lodge (Upper Lodge) are open with full services.

Treasure and Noel Sports are also open. Treasure Sports at Wolf Creek Ski Area extended an a Black Friday Sale that offers up to 40 percent off on select hats, hoodies, gloves and other soft goods. Treasure Sports also has a holiday gift selection.

Lodging information can be found, along with the most up-to-date snow report, by visiting www.WolfCreekSki.com.

'Scott' Michael Scott Amos



Alamosa Resident Scott Amos, 71, went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus on Frida, Nov 17. Scott's life began Aug. 3, 1951, in Orlando, Fla., the son of Alfred Smith Amos and Olie Vae Nance.

Scott is survived by his wife Locadia "Loki" Amos, brother Lee Amos, sister Peggy Pretre, brothers-in-law: Frank (Stephanie) and Albert (Kathy) Trujillo, sisters-in-law Lucia Cordova, son Michael Amos, stepchildren:

Joseph Espinoza, Chris (Patricia) Espinoza, and Amanda (Dennis) DeHerrera, grandchildren: Skye, Sarah Rain, Julius, Marius, Jarrell, Dennis, Dominic, Destiny, nephews, nieces, cousins and numerous extended family and his best friend Dan.

Scott was preceded in death by his parents Alfred Amos and Olie Amos, brother David Amos, mother-in-law Evangelina Cordova, and brothers-in-law: Chris, Joe, John and Lino Trujillo.

Scott was a veteran of the United States Air force and was a helicopter mechanic. Scott was great carpenter and an avid fisherman and loved being outdoors. He enjoyed watching sports and westerns when he couldn't be outside. Scott

loved when his grandchildren would visit and cooking the fish he caught. Scott Loved taking his wife Loki to lunch at the Crazy Corner Cafe.

A special thank you to Joseph for helping to take care of him a thank you to hospice and everyone sending prayers.

A Celebration of Life will take place on Dec. 2, at 11 a.m. at the River of Life Church in Alamosa. Inurnment will be held at a later date.

Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa was entrusted with the care of the arrangements.

Vidal Garcia

It is with profound sadness that we share the news of the passing of our dear father, brother, son, uncle, and friend, Vidal Garcia. We were deeply saddened to learn of his sudden departure on Friday, Nov. 24, 2023, in Alamosa, Colo. He was only 39 years old.

Vidal was born on Dec. 14, 1983, in Fort Worth, Texas, to Delia and Tomas Garcia. Despite facing challenges in life, he always cherished the moments spent with his family during holidays and celebrations. His laughter was the most genuine kind that filled the room with joy, and his infectious spirit brought happiness to his family. He enjoyed spending time outdoors, watching his favorite team, the Dallas Cowboys, playing cards, and challenging his siblings to games of Jeopardy.

Vidal was known for his kind heart and willingness to help those in need. He was a great dad who loved nothing more than carrying his sons on

his back and was known for participating in water balloon fights with his nieces and nephews to the point of falling down laughing! He may no longer be with us, but his memory will live on forever in our hearts.

Vidal is survived by his sons, Isaiah and Damion Garcia, his mother Delia (Ismael) Rios, his siblings Belen (David) Garcia, Elizabeth Garcia, Thomas (Jessica) Garcia, Joel (Nina) Garcia, Roman Garcia, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Tomas Garcia.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Vidal's loved ones during this difficult time. May they find comfort in knowing that Vidal will always be remembered as a caring and loving soul who touched the lives of many. "Eternal rest grant unto him oh Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen. May almighty God bless us with His peace and



strength. The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

A Wake will be held on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023, from 5-9 p.m. at the Romero Funeral Chapel in Alamosa. Rosary will be held on Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., with Mass of the Resurrection to follow at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Alamosa. Interment will follow at the Alamosa Cemetery.

To leave online condolences, please visit romerofuneralhomes.com. The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

PENDING OBITUARY

Erwin Raines

San Luis resident Erwin Raines passed away on Nov. 27, 2023. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Gov. Polis proclaims Nov. 27-Dec. 1 Wastewater Utility Appreciation Week

Proclamation recognizes utilities' contributions to monitoring system and public health

CONTRIBUTED DENVER — Governor Jared Polis declared Nov. 27-Dec. 1, Colorado Wastewater Utility Appreciation Week to recognize the efforts of more than 50 wastewater utilities whose participation continues to help the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment monitor COVID-19 trends in wastewater.

Since August 2020, wastewater utilities have provided samples twice per week to the State Public Health Laboratory to help monitor COVID-19 transmission. When used with other public health data, wastewater data allows local public health part-

ners to respond effectively to COVID-19 disease trends and empowers communities throughout Colorado to make informed decisions based on local data. Wastewater monitoring allows public health officials to identify the presence of a virus in a community even when people with COVID-19 are asymptomatic or may not get tested.

"We could not do this work without our wastewater utility partners. The results from the samples the utilities provide allows for another level of virus tracking to help us understand the spread of disease in each of our communities served by the partici-

pating utilities. We are grateful for their partnership and dedication to public health," said Dr. Rachel Herlihy, Colorado State Epidemiologist.

In addition to this important work, wastewater utilities provide a critical service to Coloradans by treating our wastewater and protecting our waterways.

Continue to stay up to date by visiting cdphe.colorado.gov/covid-19.

COURIER OBITUARY POLICY

The Courier charges \$75 for each obituary per day. Pending arrangements or death notices are free. This charge affects funeral homes, family or other representatives that place obituaries. All paid obituaries are published on www.alamosanews.com, for no additional fee.

Please email obituaries if possible to squintana@alamosanews.com If the newspaper errors in publishing an obit, corrections will be made and the obit rerun. If the errors are on the part of the submitting party, an additional fee will be assessed.

School Menu
Wednesday
November 29, 2023

BREAKFAST

Breakfast Bites

Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY

Red Chili/Cinnamon Roll

Corn

Fresh Veggie Bar

Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Red Chili/Cinnamon Roll

Corn

Fresh Veggie Bar

Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL

Red Chili/Cinnamon Roll

Corn

Fresh Veggie Bar

Fruit & Milk

Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students

Alamosa School District

To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553

Valley News

Colorado land trusts want increased support for easement tax credits to help “double down on conservation”

By JASON BLEVINS
Colorado Sun

Keep It Colorado, the statewide coalition of land conservation groups, has a 10-year plan to conserve 3.3 million acres of private land by 2033.

That's twice the amount of private land in Colorado that has been protected with conservation easements since 1965.

To get to 6.6 million acres, conservation trusts need to double the resources available and double its outreach in what Keep It Colorado boss Amy Beatie calls “doubling down on conservation.”

“We have this sense that go-time is now,” said the new executive director of Keep It Colorado, citing growing pressure over the fragmentation of wildlife habitat, the increasing severity and frequency of wildfires and Colorado's growing population. “We are feeling a real urgency in terms of being able to protect land and do it in a really smart way.”

Keep It Colorado has new polling data showing widespread support for conservation. A New Bridge Strategy poll of 600 registered Colorado voters conducted from Sept. 29 through Oct. 4, found more than 83% of respondents were eager to protect water and wildlife habitat in the state. The poll showed 87% of respondents agree that protecting water and land in the state is important to the economy and 82% agreed investment in conservation supports



Provided by John Fielder/The Conservation Fund

Banded Peak Ranch in Colorado's southern San Juan Mountains has been protected with a conservation easement preventing any development.

jobs in Colorado's recreation, agriculture and ranching economies.

The 25-question poll, commissioned by Keep It Colorado, also found 86% of residents supporting state lawmakers continuing tax incentives for conservation easements and 73% supporting an increase on the cap for tax incentives. The poll had a 4-percentage point margin of error.

The Colorado Division of Conservation regularly

hits its \$45 million annual cap on tax credits and the waitlist for next year's credits is full.

Lori Weigel, whose New Bridge Strategy has conducted the State of the Rockies Poll with Colorado College for the last 13 years, said voters connect land conservation with the health of the Colorado economy, the strength of farms and the ability to have locally grown food.

“Even at a time when

people are really concerned about budgets and government spending overall,” Weigel said, “there is a sense that these tax incentives are so important that we ought to increase the incentives across the state.”

The state's conservation easement tax credit program was created in 2000, offering landowners \$100,000 per easement. The program was capped at \$22 million in 2011, \$34 million in 2013 and has remained capped at \$45 million since 2014. The tax credit limit per easement has grown from \$260,000 in 2003 to \$1.5 million.

Last year the Division of Conservation approved 53 applications for conservation easements in 27 counties on 56,550 acres valued at \$141 million. The value of the land is higher than the tax credits because all easements that earn

Colorado tax incentives must have a charitable component. Deals where the landowner gets full value in exchange for the easement do not qualify for the Colorado tax credits.

A 2017 analysis of the state's conservation easement tax incentive program by Colorado State University showed Colorado taxpayers realizing \$4 to \$12 in public benefit from conserved private land for every \$1 invested in protection. Those benefits — clunkily defined as “ecosystem services” — include water and wildlife protections, views, air pollution removal, strengthened agriculture and recreation and increased biodiversity.

Keep It Colorado is working with state lawmakers on legislation to renew and grow the state's tax incentive program. They are us-

ing the new poll results to help gather support. The group also is touting several case studies to trumpet the importance of the conservation easement program, highlighting owners who have used state tax breaks to protect acres near Rocky Mountain National Park, farmland in Montezuma County and the 18,000-acre May Ranch in Prowers County.

The group has not proposed a specific amount for an increased tax incentive cap and while it is “doubling down on conservation,” it is not planning to ask for a twofold increase in the existing cap to \$90 million, Beatie said.

“Conservation is universally appreciated by Coloradans,” Beatie said. “It is one of those things that is urban, rural, small town, large city and it is critically important for the health of the state.”

Forum

Continued from Page 1

Simpson spoke about current factors in the Valley water, agriculture, and energy landscape. Simpson announced that he recently became a board member of Colorado Open Lands. Simpson is also a Colorado State Senator.

Byron Kominek from Jack's Solar Garden and the non-profit Colorado Agrivoltaics Learning Center, spoke about his efforts to integrate agricultural production and solar energy production on his family farm in Boulder County.

Kominek has 3,200 solar panels on about 4-acres of land that produce 1.2 MW of electrici-

ty, enough to power about 300 homes.

Kominek's operation is described as, “part solar farm, part garden and a whole lot more,” incorporates solar energy, farming, education, beekeeping.

The Colorado Agrivoltaics Learning Center hosts high school groups, community members, and private groups to “showcase the future of solar plus agriculture.”

The forum also included presentations from Colorado State University faculty members Alan Knapp, Gene Kelley, and graduate student Matt Sturchio who discussed research needs and opportunities.

Colorado Open Lands is a land trust founded in 1981 to work with pri-

ivate landowners to conserve agriculture, wildlife habitat, and scenic vistas. The trust holds conservation easements on private lands. The land trust is a private non-profit organization with a mission to help landowners conserve properties with outstanding natural and agricultural values according to the trust.

As previously reported in the Valley Courier, Alamosa County recently applied for a U.S. Department of Energy grant to study the possibility of constructing a new transmission line in the Valley that could both provide a backup to the current one transmission line and facilitate the export of future solar-produced energy.

Crash

Continued from Page 1

belts — the driver and the 60-year-old man.

All the occupants in the Chevrolet were residents of Cuba, N.M., with the exception of the 12-year-old boy who was from Del

Norte. The driver of the Volvo, identified as Sherry Baker of Alamosa, sustained moderate injuries.

All individuals, with the exception of the 60-year-old man, were transported to SLV Regional Medical Center where they were treated for their injuries.

Capt. Lyons wants to remind people to always

drive carefully, especially during the holidays when it is easy to be distracted, and to always wear their seatbelts as “seatbelts save lives.”

On behalf of the Colorado State Patrol, Capt. Lyons also expressed his deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the woman who lost her life in the accident.

Award

Continued from Page 1

whatever we need. He has a strong relationship with the kids, but he has a firm relationship with the kids, too, so they know what his expectations are.”

Guenther, Adams State Class of 2015, holds a master's degree from Adams State. This week he is using his lacrosse background to instruct students. Originally from the city of Louisville located near Boulder, Guenther played lacrosse four years at Adams State and then

helped coach the team while he finished his studies.

He joined the South Conejos School District in 2019 and the Joe Guenther fan club has been forming ever since. Upon hearing the news of their teacher receiving the award, students lined up and formed a support system as Guenther has instructed them to do and easily lifted him horizontally to showcase both teamwork and their own pride in their PE teacher.

Pretty heady stuff from a teacher, who like many of his students, didn't

have a lot himself growing up but made the most of what he did have to find his way.

“The biggest way I connect to kids from Antonito is I can say my life experiences from a bigger town and teach them there's more out there than what they see in their small town. They don't have the opportunities all the time to get up to the bigger towns, so we encourage them to explore more and I can teach them that through my life experiences that I've had growing up,” Guenther said.

The Educator Highlight Award was established

by Adams State School of Education to showcase the work of its alumni like Guenther as well as other prominent local teachers and staff working in K-12 public education.

“Being a teacher to me means impacting kids, changing my community and just overall teaching them how to live life to the fullest,” Guenther said.

Every day, educators in the Valley make a difference to our kids and families. To make a nomination for the Adams State Educator Highlight Award, please email teachered@adams.edu.

Concert

Continued from Page 1

State University Winds & Percussion Ensemble, Chamber Choir, Jazz and Percussion Ensembles, and 68 West; and an audience sing-along.

The event is free and open to the public, cash and non-perishable food donations will be accepted for the Food Bank Network of the San Luis Valley. The Adams State Music Educators Society, the student professional organization, will

have a bake sale afterward.

On Friday, The Adams State Chamber Winds and Chamber Brass will be performing holiday music from 5:30 to 6 p.m. for the Alamosa lighting ceremony at City Hall in downtown Alamosa.

Adams State Chamber Winds is directed by Dr. Brooke Miller and the Chamber Brass is directed by Dr. James Lind.

There will be other live music in downtown Alamosa on Friday during the Celebration of Lights — First Friday festivities.

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Opinion

What really affects hunting in the West

A disgruntled hunter wrote a Writers on the Range opinion recently about Westerners getting fed up with the many out-of-staters coming in and buying up draw licenses to shoot bull elk, deer, bear and other big game animals.

As a hunter myself, I understand their frustration.

But reducing non-resident tags, as Andrew Carpenter suggests, takes us in the wrong direction. The greatest threat to hunting now and in the future is the loss of habitat.

Private lands provide up to 80% of habitat for all wildlife species, including critical winter range that's the limiting factor for most big game populations. Yet these family farms and ranches are struggling for economic survival and in many places are under immense development pressure.

According to the American Farmland Trust, Colorado is on track to lose approximately a half-million acres of open land in the next two decades. Other states have similarly alarming projections. As these lands disappear, so does the wildlife they support.

Income generated by providing access and outfitting services to out-of-state hunters is one of the few economic lifelines keeping ranches and habitat intact.

As New Mexico rancher Jack Diamond explained, "Without non-resident hunters, we couldn't survive at this point in the ranching business. I don't want to see this place subdivided, but we'd have to consider that as a last resort."

David Olde, also a rancher from New Mexico, concurred: "We ended up with so many elk that we had to reduce our cattle. If I can't sell hunts, what can I do — turn it into ranchettes?"

For the fourth-generation Bramwell family ranch in Colorado, hunting income is an integral part of their operation.

Writers On The Range



Leslie Allison



"Our out-of-state clients have been coming here to hunt for generations," Darla Bramwell said. "These migratory animals do not care whose grass they are eating or whose fences they tear down as they come from forest lands to eat in our hay meadows at night. Without the income from the non-resident hunters, something would have to give."

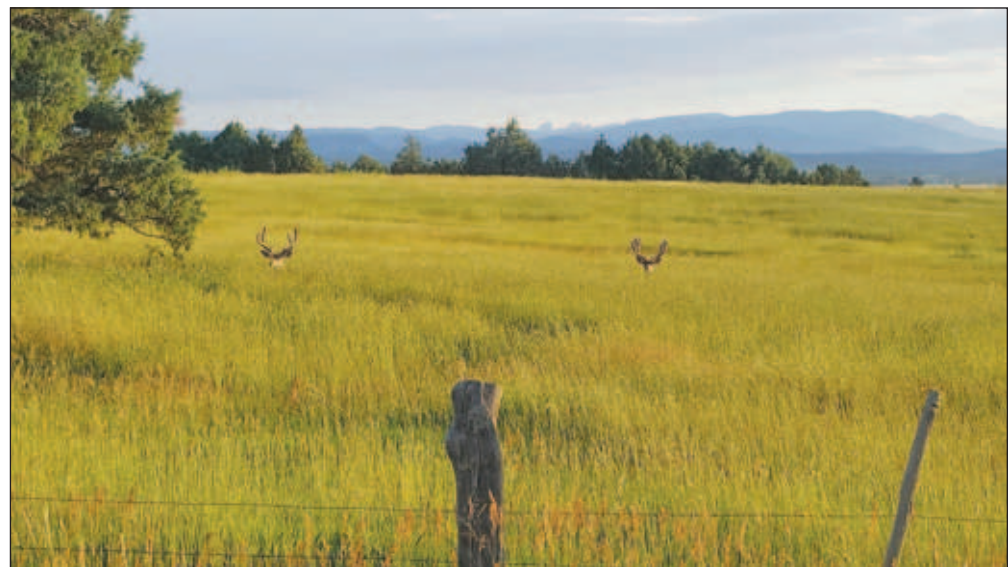
Most states already heavily favor resident hunters, both in draw quotas and license fees. In Colorado, for example, residents are now allocated 75% of licenses while non-residents receive only 25%. Further, non-residents typically pay hundreds of dollars more per license than residents. In Colorado a resident bull elk tag is \$61. A non-resident bull elk tag costs \$760.

Several things happen when non-resident licenses are further reduced. First, it squeezes the bottom line of family farms and ranches that support wildlife and depend on hunting for a portion of their income.

Second, it harms local livelihoods and rural economies. Visiting hunters outspend resident hunters by a large margin, supporting local restaurants, hotels, stores, outfitting services and the local tax base in rural communities.

As Bramwell said, "When our out-of-state hunters come here, they not only support our family but they support our community. They buy local gifts, food, fuel, lodging, meat processing and taxidermy work."

Diamond's operation supports between seven to 10 guides from August through December. "These are good-paying jobs and the money generated is all spent lo-



Courtesy Photo

cally in the two counties we live in," he said. "We buy gas, propane, groceries. We also pay state gross receipts tax on the entire hunt."

Third, state wildlife agencies depend on the high license fees they charge out-of-state hunters.

Fourth, the loss of visiting hunters would remove incentives for prospective ranch buyers to invest in conserving and managing land for wildlife.

Finally, it would also mean more hunters crowding public lands and forcing elk to seek refuge on private lands, reducing hunter opportunity and creating a lower-quality hunt experience.

Pulling the economic rug out from under private lands and wildlife isn't the answer. So, what is a better solution?

We need to increase, not decrease, incentives for landowners to conserve

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."

LETTERS

'We have made a difference in our community!'

Editor,
Our Oct. 28, Make A Difference Day event was a success thanks to San Luis Valley residents, business and community support. This day is about compassion. Once again individuals came together to support two worthy causes, love and respect for the planet and for people.

A grand total of 51 trucks, trailers and cars passed through the gates of the Regional Landfill. Deposited were 82 tires and 195 cubic yards of household, organic and construction debris.

These items will not be dumped on our roadsides, stacked up on beautiful scenic acreage or polluting our rivers and lakes. Items will be handled properly or recycled.

The donations collected for the Monte

Vista Food Bank were valued at \$1,236 in non-perishable food items. That amount will feed 65 people for 3 days. The \$362 in cash donated will be used to buy special holiday food.

Thank you, Regional Landfill Board and Employees, for your sponsorship of this event.

You opened your hearts, minds and gates to the community for the 24th year. Your donation of time, wages and uncollected revenue is greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Monte Vista Food Bank, for your continued service to those in need.

Thank you, local grocery stores for the donation of fresh foods. This made it possible for the Baer Family to prepare a meal to share with the Landfill

workers and Volunteers.

Thank you, local newspapers and radio stations for getting the word out for this event.

Thank you, San Luis Valley residents for cleaning up your yards and community. We appreciate you opening your pantry and wallets again this year and providing a meal for others; you gave generously.

Thank you to the many volunteers that gave hours of your time.

We are very proud to have celebrated 24 years of our event.

We have made a difference in our community!

This event benefits all who participate.

The Baer family



Courtesy Photo

Consider donating to Monte Vista Kids Connection

Editor,
It feels good to give, filling our hearts with indescribable joy, and giving has the amazing power to transform lives. This is how we feel about the City of Monte

Vista's Kids Connection at the Bryning House.

Kids Connection is the only state licensed after-school program for children 5 through 18 years of age in the entire San

Luis Valley. We are fortunate to have it located in Monte Vista.

It is a safe and affordable place to send your child or children after school while you are busy with work or other activities.

Currently, we have 122 children enrolled and have 65 to 75 students attending regularly after school.

These children receive a snack and get help with their homework. Many of these young children are happy-go-lucky and some are not as lucky. But our staff loves them all and are there to help, support, and/or provide a needed hug.

As you review your end of the year contributions, please consider donating to Kids Connection. To receive a tax-deductible donation and receive the CO Child Tax Credit, please make your check payable to Monte Vista Community Foundation, PO Box 751, Monte Vista, CO 81144 and note that this is for "Kids Connection."

Your kindness touches hearts and lifts spirits. Thank you for your generous consideration.

For more information on Kids Connection visit www.cityofmontevista.colorado.gov or call Anika Velasquez, Kid's Connection Director at 719-852-6966.

Gigi Dennis
Monte Vista City Manager

Keith R Cerny
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Valley Courier

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Editor's Note: The views expressed in individual columns on this page do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Valley Courier.

Lifestyles

Happy(er) holidays: How to keep your mental health in check this year

(NAPSI)—While the joy and busyness of the holiday season can take a toll on some people's mental health, that doesn't have to be. There are ways to avoid holiday-related challenges.

People may feel stressed, sad or anxious during the holiday season for a variety of reasons. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, extra stress, unrealistic expectations, sentimental memories and other factors during the season may set some people up for temporary

bouts of depression or anxiety.

Help Yourself to a More Jolly Season

However, mental health experts say there are things you can do to help avoid holiday-related challenges.

"Please remember, this is your holiday!" says Dr. Benjamin Yu, a psychiatrist in Roseville, California. "While there are many expectations and obligations from multiple sources (such as family, occupational, religious, social), this is still your time and you have the

right to say yes or no. Chances are, what you would like to do is likely what others really want to do, and most of the time when you relay your desires and dislikes, this will lead to a more cohesive celebration."

Many experts advise, among the holiday events and merry making, to try to keep up your normal daily routines as much as possible. That includes eating and drinking in moderation, avoiding alcohol if you're feeling down and getting enough sleep. If you find yourself

in a stressful situation at a family gathering, they say it's OK to take a break.

"I often tell [patients] that when I used paper prescriptions, I would write a prescription to 'have a migraine' so they could say 'my head hurts...I have to leave.' It allows the person to exit without having their self-image damaged or their PTSD triggered," says Dr. Nan Nelson, a psychiatrist in Beachwood, Ohio.

Taking part in other activities, such as breathing exercises, meditation and

moving your body physically — even if it's just off the couch — can also be helpful, according to the experts. Planning ahead may also be worthwhile.

"The winter holidays can bring on positive and negative emotions and memories. Keeping your emotional equilibrium during this time requires a delicate balance between body, mind and

spirit. Before the holidays move into high gear, take a look at how you are feeling and make a plan that will keep you on an even keel this season," says Dr. Paul B. Hill, a psychiatrist in Memphis, Tennessee.

Dr. Hill says it's important to continue your current mental health therapies throughout the season.

Pointers for parents on handling screen time

(NAPSI)—The holiday season conjures images and feelings of warmth, comfort, and joy. In many families with children, however, parents worry about the amount of time their kids will spend online during time off from school—but there are ways to address those concerns.

The Problem

The same concerns occur to many parents as they look at their kids, eyes glued to their screens: "What exactly are they doing? Are they safe? Am I supervising them enough?"

"These are questions many parents ask, particularly during the holidays when the kids are home from school and have more time on their hands," said Tami Bhaumik, Vice President for Civility at Roblox. "Understandably, there are a lot of parents who just aren't as familiar with the online world as their children are. They want their kids to have fun online, but they also want them to be safe."

Some Answers

According to Bhaumik, there are simple things that parents can do to help keep their kids safe and to empower them by building digital literacy skills that will support them for the long term.

"Parents want to gain a better understanding about their children's online experience, but many aren't sure where to start or what information to trust," said Dr. Michael Rich, founder and director of Boston Children's Hospital's Digital Wellness Lab (who worked with Bhaumik and Roblox, along with 100 global safety experts, researchers, and clinicians to author the white paper "Creating a Positive Foundation for Greater Civility Online Spaces").

The good news, according to Bhaumik and Rich, is that parents are not alone and there are a number of things parents can do to create an enriching, healthy online experience for their kids.

What You Can Do

Open Communication: Foster an open and non-judgmental line of communication with your children from a young age. Encourage them to share their online experiences, friends, and concerns with you.

Stay Informed: Check out the latest online trends, apps, and games. Understanding the digital landscape will help you guide your children effectively.

Set Clear Boundaries: Involve your kids in setting the rules for screen time, appropriate content, and their online behavior. Partnering with your children to set the rules can reduce friction.

Use Parental Controls: Implement parental control settings on devices and apps to customize protections around access to age-appropriate content, privacy protections, and spending limits.

Explore Together: Engage in your children's on-

line activities. Play video games with them, explore educational apps, and understand their social media platforms. This shared experience can strengthen your bond and allow you to guide them effectively.

Balance Screen Time: Recognize that not all screen time is bad. Ask your children which online experiences make them feel happy or connected and make a plan together that encourages this meaningful screen time in balance with other activities.

Be A Good Role Model: Not using your devices at the dinner table, putting your phone down when speaking with your children, and not taking your phone to bed are great ways to demonstrate healthy use of tech.

In addition to these recommendations, Bhaumik counseled, "Helping your child navigate the online world is an ongoing process of positive reinforcement of healthy habits. By staying involved, informed, and supportive, you can help your kids develop a healthy relation-



Courtesy photo

For happier holidays, determine how to keep your kids amused while school is out.

ship with the digital world and set them up for a positive future."

"Digital experiences present a ripe opportunity to engage with your kids," said Rich. "Kids love to

share things and to teach adults. If it's something they can share with their parents, it makes the experience even more enriching, which would be an extra gift for everyone."

My Sister's Pantry

Tuesday — Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
210 North Broadway
Monte Vista, CO 81144
 mysisterspantryss.com
 mysisterspantry.ss@gmail.com
 /mysisterspantryssicesseasonings
 @mysisterspantryllc

UPCOMING GRIZZLY ATHLETIC EVENTS

Friday, December 1
Men & Women's Basketball at Western Colorado, University at Gunnison, Colo.
 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 2
Wrestling at Bob Smith Open at Hays, Kan.
 9:00 a.m.

Men & Women's Track at Sharon Colyear Danville Season Opener at Boston, Mass
 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 3
Women's Wrestling at Bob Smith Open at Hays, Kan.
 TBA

Tuesday, December 5
Men & Women's Basketball at Fort Lewis College at Durango, Colo.
 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

A John Denver Christmas



Featuring Chris Collins and Nigel Newton

December 2, 2023 • 7 p.m.

At Society Hall
 400 Ross Avenue • Alamosa

Tickets \$20
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San Luis Valley HEALTH

***Preventing STDs**
***Birth control**
***Effect of athletics on health**
***Men's and Women's health issues**

STDS can be scary! Keep the holidays merry!

Daniel Sours, NP

Amy Robertson, MD

Dec 5
ASU Student Union
6:30-7:30 pm
"Learn from the best"
Door prizes
All are welcome

Sports

Pre-season wrestling rankings announced

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor
ALAMOSA – Tim Yount released his pre-season On the Mat high school wrestling rankings for all classifications on Sunday.

Class 3A
 Both of the local Class 3A wrestling programs are in the team rankings. Centauri is ranked fifth, while Alamosa is ninth. Brush is ranked first, followed by Eaton, Mullen, Gunnison, Centauri, Fort Lupton, Pagosa Springs, Severance, Alamosa, Jefferson, Resurrection Christian, Holy Family, Pueblo Central, Moffat County, Delta, La Junta, Berthoud and Valley.

Alamosa
 The Mean Moose have five ranked wrestlers. They are led by James Sanchez who is ranked second at 285 pounds. Also in the rankings are Jeremiah DeLaCerde who is fourth at 106, Dyson Woodward who is fourth at 138, Uriah Martinez who is sixth at 120, and Anthony Griego who is eighth at 132.

Centauri
 Six Falcons are in the rankings and they are led by Josh Polkowske who is the top-ranked wrestler at 190 pounds. Two more Centauri wrestlers are ranked second including Matthew Salazar (106) and Riley Valdez (126). Also in the rankings are Aundre Chavez who is eighth at 113, Parker Buhr who is ninth at 157, and Caden Casias who is 13th at 120.

Class 2A
 In Class 2A, two local teams are in the Top 16. Center is the seventh-

ranked team, while Monte Vista is ranked 16th. Meeker is the top-ranked team, followed by Wray, Mancos, Cedaredge, Buena Vista, North Fork, Center, Dolores Huerta, Fowler, Dayspring Christian, Sedgwick County/Fleming, Trinidad, Hayden, Nucla, Highland and Monte Vista Center.

The Vikings have eight ranked individuals and they are led by Jordan Duran who is ranked second at 106 pounds. Three other Center wrestlers are fourth in their weight classes including Martin Palma (157), Aaron Valadez (144) and Jesus Valadez (175). Also ranked for the Vikings are Lorenzo Trujillo who is ninth at 138, Francisco Villa who is 10th at 126, Caden Ruggles who is 12th at 165, and Devin Thompson who is 12th at 190.

Del Norte
 The Tigers have one ranked wrestler in Paul Neal who is ranked fifth at 150.

Monte Vista
 The Pirates have six wrestlers in the rankings. The list includes Kevin Cisneros who is fifth at 138, Jacob Pacheco who is fifth at 157, Jeremiah Baumgardner who is sixth at 165, Noah Weyers who is 11th at 120, Elijah Baumgardner who is 12th at 138, and Matthew Wright who is 13th at 190.

Mountain Valley
 None of the Wolves are in the rankings this week.

Sargent
 Two Farmers are included in the rankings. Trenton Lovelace is fifth at 215 pounds, and Garret

Thomson is 10th at 150. **Sierra Grande/Centennial**

None of the Panthers are currently in the rankings. **This week's schedule**

Alamosa will open the season with a home dual meet against Brush on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. It will then compete in the Rocky Ford dual meet Invitational on Saturday.

Center and Sargent will be in a three-way meet at Del Norte on Thursday at 6 p.m.

Monte Vista will be in La Junta for a dual meet on Thursday.

Sierra Grande/Centennial will be at John Mall for a dual meet on Thursday.

Centauri will open its season at the Buena Vista Invitational on Saturday.

Center, Del Norte, Monte Vista, Sargent and Sierra Grande/Centennial will be at the Fowler Invitational on Saturday. Mountain Valley is idle this week.

Girls wrestling
 Tom Blair of Inside Colorado Wrestling release the pre-season girls wrestling rankings. None of the local teams are in the pre-season team rankings.

Alamosa's Sarah DeLaCerde is the only local female wrestler in the rankings as she is fourth at 115 pounds. Neither Monte Vista nor Mountain Valley have any ranked wrestlers.

This week's schedule
 Alamosa will be at the Pueblo Central Invitational on Friday at 9 a.m. Both Monte Vista and Mountain Valley are idle this week.



Courier file photo by Ken Hamrick

Centauri High School's Josh Polkowske (top) battles University's Paxton Daggett in last year's state championship match at Ball Arena. Polkowske is the top-ranked wrestler in the On the Mat wrestling pre-season rankings in the Class 3A 190-pound weight class.

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Sports bulletin

SCOREBOARD TUESDAY

Prep boys basketball
 Center at Salida - late
 Creede at La Veta - late
Prep girls basketball
 Center at Salida, 4:30 p.m.
 Creede at La Veta, 4:30 p.m.
Prep girls swimming
 Sargent, Pueblo Centennial at Pueblo South - late

SCHEDULE THURSDAY

Prep boys basketball
 Creede vs. Center (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 9:40 a.m.
 Sargent vs. Cheraw (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 1 p.m.
 Dolores vs. Soroco (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 4:20 p.m.
 Monte Vista vs. Rocky Ford (Rye Invitational), 6 p.m.
 Dove Creek at Centauri (Mountain Top Invitational), 7:30 p.m.
 Durango vs. Ignacio (Mountain Top Invitational), 7:30 p.m.
 Antonito at Sangre de Cristo (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 7:40 p.m.
Prep girls basketball
 Creede vs. Center (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 8 a.m.
 Dolores vs. Lake City (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 11:20 a.m.
 Sargent vs. Cheraw (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 2:40 p.m.
 Antonito at Sangre de Cristo (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 6 p.m.
 Dove Creek at Centauri (Mountain Top Invitational), 6 p.m.
 Durango vs. Ignacio (Mountain Top Invitational), 6 p.m.
 Monte Vista vs. Pueblo Centennial (Rye Invitational), 6 p.m.
Prep boys wrestling
 Brush at Alamosa, 4:30 p.m.
 Center, Sargent at Del Norte, 6 p.m.
 Sierra Grande/Centennial at John Mall, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY

Prep boys basketball
 Creede/Center loser vs. Sargent/Cheraw loser (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 9:40 a.m.
 Dolores/Soroco loser vs. Antonito/Sangre de Cristo loser (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 1 p.m.
 Durango vs. Olathe (Mountain Top Invitational), 3 p.m.
 Salida at Sanford, 3:30 p.m.
 Creede/Center winner vs. Sargent/Cheraw winner (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 4:20 p.m.
 Del Norte vs. Lamar (Erik Melgoza Shootout at Alamosa), 4:30 p.m.
 Moffat vs. South Park

(Cotopaxi Invitational), 4:30 p.m.
 Dove Creek vs. Ignacio (Mountain Top Invitational), 6 p.m.
 Monte Vista vs. Swallows Charter Academy (Rye Invitational), 6 p.m.
 Ellicott at Alamosa (Erik Melgoza Shootout), 7:30 p.m.
 Sierra Grande at Springfield (R.L. Ballard Invitational), 7:30 p.m.
 Dolores/Soroco winner vs. Antonito/Sangre de Cristo winner (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 7:40 p.m.
Prep girls basketball
 Creede/Center loser vs. Sargent/Cheraw loser (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 8 a.m.
 Dolores/Lake City loser vs. Antonito/Sangre de Cristo loser (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 11:20 a.m.
 Durango vs. Olathe (Mountain Top Invitational), 1:30 p.m.
 Creede/Center winner vs. Sargent/Cheraw winner (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 2:40 p.m.
 Moffat vs. South Park (Cotopaxi Invitational), 3 p.m.

Del Norte vs. Lamar (Erik Melgoza Shootout at Alamosa), 3 p.m.
 Salida at Sanford, 3:30 p.m.
 Dove Creek vs. Ignacio (Mountain Top Invitational), 4:30 p.m.
 Monte Vista vs. Pueblo Central (Rye Invitational), 4:30 p.m.
 Dolores/Lake City winner vs. Antonito/Sangre de Cristo winner (Sangre de Cristo Shootout), 6 p.m.
 Ellicott at Alamosa (Erik Melgoza Shootout), 6 p.m.
 Sierra Grande at Springfield (R.L. Ballard Invitational), 6 p.m.
Prep girls swimming
 Salida at Sargent (at Plachy Hall pool), 11 a.m.
Prep boys wrestling
 Monte Vista at La Junta, 6 p.m.
Prep girls wrestling
 Alamosa at Pueblo Central Invitational, 9 a.m.
College men's basketball
 Adams State at Western Colorado, 7 p.m.
College women's basketball
 Adams State at Western Colorado, 5 p.m.

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Lifestyle



Courtesy photo

Easton, left, and Stetson Romero concluded another challenging and rewarding supercross racing season.

Romero boys continue to work hard at their craft

CONTRIBUTED
MONTE VISTA — Another Supercross Racing Season has ended for the Romero boys. They attended the year end RMRA Banquet in Denver, Colorado on Saturday, Nov. 18. This season proved to be another difficult one, as they only had three supercross races in the series.

To place high enough in the point standings, because of the few races available, a racer needed to race every single race in the series. Due to injuries and bike issues, both boys missed at least one or more races this season, which proved to be a huge obstacle to overcome in terms of points earned.

Easton worked hard and was consistent, aggressive and fast this race season! He looked good on most of his rounds in the series this year, running steadily in the top of the pack. He did find himself on the ground a few times but was able to get up and work back to a decent finish.

Easton was sitting in a nice position in the top 4 and then at one of the races his bike went down leaving him to push it across the finish line. Despite the bike issues and a few wrecks, he was able to make a good comeback this race season ending up placing fourth overall in his 65cc 10-11-year-old class and 12th in his 65cc Open 7-11-year-old class.

Easton always shows great perseverance and determination, skills he has needed over the years as a racer. He is always trying to get better, and he even tried jumping into the Jr. Mini 85cc 9-11-year-old class at the last round of races just for fun! He did great and ended up placing eighth in that round. Easton looks forward to moving to the 85cc bike for the next race season and is showing great potential on it!

Stetson started his first round of the series on fire. He had just come off a bad knee injury from last season, was hungry to race and looked awesome! He was pushing hard and running fast and ended the first round sitting in third place in both of his classes. The next round started off great as well,

with Stetson running top 3. He was battling to take second when he was hit from behind as he was starting into a jump. This sent him sideways into the air and he was not able to save the landing. Stetson ended up fracturing his foot. With his adrenaline pumping, he finished that race, but was physically unable to race after that.

This injury took him out for the rest of the second round. He tried hard to get healthy enough to at least try to get some points in the third and final round, but when he came out for practice, he suffered a concussion and was not able to race. This was devastating for Stetson because he was only able to compete in one round of the series this year and was not able to do what he loves.

Yet, with only 1 round of racing, Stetson still found himself in the top 10 overall. He ended up finishing ninth overall in his Sr. Mini 85cc 12-15-year-old class and 12th in his Supermini 12-16-year-old class. If he had been able to just ride and get some points, he would have ended up second overall this year!

Those statistics were hard for him to swallow because he is so competitive and his heart beats for this sport! In his 8 years of racing, this is the first time that Stetson did not win an overall trophy! Considering the injuries, he has sustained and the effects of those injuries on his ability to compete over the past two seasons, Stetson has come to understand that this is probably the most defining year for him as a person!

He has learned how to grow mentally, emotionally, and physically more now than ever before. Overcoming physical injury and understanding that some things are not in his control, has helped him mature and develop as a human being. These are some huge life skills that will help him in his overall life. Stetson knows that winning is not everything and he is really growing and becoming an amazing young man as well as a great racer!

The boys have appreciated and learned many life lessons from this race season! They both have been

able to remain very competitive and have always found something to learn at every race! Both these boys continue to amaze their family and friends with their talent, drive, determination, perseverance, hard work, great attitudes and unbeatable personalities! Everyone is so very proud of them, and we all love to see them live out their dreams!

Stetson and Easton thank their family, friends, and sponsors for their continued support. Their sponsors include Gibson Service Station, LC 70, Spy Optics, Dunlop Tires, ODI Grips, Acerbis USA, Slick Products, and Shamrock S Ranch.

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5:30 pm - Lighting Ceremony @ City Hall
6:00 pm - Featuring Adams State Chamber Ensembles

5:00 pm - First Fridays HQ @ Wild Roses, A Country Store & So Much More
8:00 pm - Featuring Open House at Wild Roses, Games & Giveaways

5:00 pm - Holiday Market @ Milagros Coffee House
8:00 pm - Holiday Market @ Sweetgrass Therapeutics
Featuring Live Music, Makers, Sweet Treats, Warm Beverages

6:30 PM **Santa @ Sweetgrass Therapeutics**

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Celebration of Lights Questions 719-589-2105 First Fridays Questions 719-937-1024

Public Notices

NOTICE OF BUDGET (Pursuant to 29-1-106, C.R.S.)

NOTICE is hereby given that a proposed budget for Alamosa County, Public Trustee for Alamosa County, and Alamosa County Weed District has been submitted to the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Alamosa for the ensuing year of 2024; a copy of such proposed budget has been filed in the Office of the County Finance Officer. Said document is available for public inspection at the front reception area. A final hearing on the proposed budget will be held at 9:00 AM, November 8, 2023 at a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Such a proposed budget will be considered for adoption at 9:00 a.m., December 6, 2023, in the Board's Chambers, Alamosa County Administrative Services Building, 8900 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101. Any interested parties may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto until the conclusion of the final budget hearing.

No. 3586.
Published in the Valley Courier on October 11, November 8, & 29, 2023.

NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Name Change has been filed. The nature of the proceeding is as follows: Petition of Name Change for: Cruzito Gonzalez; Zayra Gonzalez; and Jose-Armando Gonzalez. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that you must make your defense to such pleadings no later than 40 days following the _____ day of _____, 2023, the date of first publication of this Notice upon you, in order to participate in and receive further notice of the proceedings. If you fail to do so, the Petitioners will apply to the court for the relief sought. Respond to the Clerk of District Court of Burke County, located at 205 S. Green Street, Morganton, NC 28655. This the _____ day of _____, 2023.

No. 3674.
Published in the Valley Courier November 15, 22, & 29, 2023.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Board of Trustees of the Conejos Library District for the ensuing year of (2024); a copy of such proposed budget has been filed in the Office of Conejos Library District, where the same is open for public inspection; such proposed budget will be considered at the Regular meeting of the Conejos Library District to be held at 17703 HWY 285, La Jara on (December 5th, 2:30-4:30 PM) any interested elector of Conejos County may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget and such budget will be considered at the regular meeting of the Conejos Library District to be held at the La Jara Library.

No. 3684.
Published in the Valley Courier on November 28, 29, & December 1, 2023.

General Contractor RFQ for the Boyd School Redevelopment project

Opened November 29, 2023
Closes December 22, 2023
SELECTION SCHEDULE
November 29, 2023: Release Date
December 4, 2023: *Optional Site Walk @ 11:00am MST
Meet at the entry of the existing school located at 1107 Hunt Ave.
December 11, 2023: Question Deadline, 2:00pm MST
December 8, 2023: Question Deadline 2:00 pm MST
December 11, 2023: Question Response Deadline, 5:00pm MST
December 22, 2023: Qualification Package Due, 12:00pm MST
December 29, 2023: Interview List Released
January 5, 2023: Interviews, Virtual, (Tentative 8:00am - 12:00pm, 45 minutes each) December 19, 2023: Notice of Award
January 8, 2024: Project Commencement
Find full RFQ here <https://sites.google.com/slvhc.com/slvhc/open-rfps>

WRITTEN INQUIRIES

All inquiries regarding the RFQ can be submitted via email to Dawn Melgares at dawn@slvhc.com on or before 2:00pm MST on December 8, 2023. A response to all inquiries will be posted in an Addendum no later than 5:00pm MST on December 11, 2023.

No. 3685.
Published in the Valley Courier on November 29, December 1, & 2, 2023.

AUCTION LEGAL NOTICE WEST SIDE STORAGE, LLC / HEALDWORKS, INC. SELF-STORAGE PUBLIC NOTICE

West Side Storage, LLC / Healdworks, Inc. will sell at Public Auction Online via StorageTreasures.com, all personal property and the personal goods stored therein by the following, which may include, but are not limited to general household goods, furniture, boxes, clothes, and appliances stored in its facility by:

Lynn Brown- Unit # A10-044, Micah Bringman- Unit # A05HC-017, Kyla Green- Unit A20-111, Elisabeth Gudmundson- Unit #A20HC-037, Nancee Sims- Unit #A10-020, James Erickson SR- Unit # M10-049, Venus Strail-Huss- Unit # M10-021, Jon Allmer- Units # M40HC-007, M10-039, M10-041, Cody McEwen- H10HC-006, Socorro Cardenas- Unit # C10-006, Juanito Garcia- Unit # C20-143, Ashlee Green- Unit # C10-041, Mitch Oppy- Unit # C20-111, Angi Richardson- Unit # C20-035, Amy Rowe- Unit # C20-014, James Wolfe- Unit # C20-166 at 8:00 am, Friday morning December 15, 2023, online at StorageTreasures.com this auction will commence. Sale is subject to cancel in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.

No. 3690.
Published in the Valley Courier on November 29, December 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, & 12, 2023.

221 - HELP WANTED

EMPOWER STUDENTS. JOIN our CENTENNIAL TEAM as a SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNSELOR. Guide academic & personal growth. Collaborate with teachers, offer support, and create a positive environment. Masters in School Counseling required. Application materials include a completed application, resume, cover letter, transcripts, and three letters of recommendation. Applications are printable from the district website (centennial.k12.co.us) or can be picked up from the front office. Submit application materials to kimba.rael@centennial.k12.co.us. EOE. (12/6/23)

221 - HELP WANTED

LOOKING FOR TRUCK DRIVER WITH CDL and clean driving record. Must be willing to work on farm/ranch when needed. Full-time position. Call John 719-937-1591. (12/30/23)

HELP WANTED: COOK & WAITRESS

(will train) at the Wagon Wheel in LA JARA. Contact Margie, 719-274-5965. (12/2/23AS)

DEL NORTE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

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

CAFETERIA STAFF NEEDED at UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

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

SALAZAR MEATS NEAR MANASSA

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

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)

MARKET & OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Join Us and Make a Difference! Market & Outreach Coordinator Opportunity at SAN LUIS VALLEY LOCAL FOODS COALITION. Elevate our programs through marketing, events, and community engagement. Bilingual English/Spanish preferred. 32-40 hrs/week, \$23/hr. Enjoy benefits like PTO, holidays, health/dental insurance, and more. Submit your Resume and Cover Letter to opportunity.slvlocalfoods@gmail.com. Act now to be part of positive change! (1/2/23)

CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

R-1 is accepting applications for a HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL HEAD COACH and ASSISTANT COACH. Applications are available online at www.centennial.k12.co.us For more information, email roxann.serna@centennial.k12.co.us. (12/6/23)

HEAD JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACH

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

DRIVER/LABOR: MUST HAVE

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

BOOKKEEPER: LOCAL, WELL-RESPECTED NON-PROFIT

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

221 - HELP WANTED

WE GOT THE HELP WE WERE LOOKING FOR WITH THE HELP OF THE VALLEY COURIER. Smokin Spuds. (AS)

CONSERVATION PROJECT COORDINATOR

Wanted. MOSCA-HOOPER CONSERVATION DISTRICT seeks an INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR as Project Coordinator for a crop water conservation planning project. Project duties are: training and co-hosting for six workgroup sessions, coordinating a field day of farm tours, and preparing a summary report of the project. Experience with small group collaborative learning is required. Experience with planning and coordination of field trips is preferred. Project duties will require 6-8 workdays in January-March and 3-4 workdays in August-September, 2024. Compensation is up to \$40 per hour, based on experience. Interested persons should respond by December 6 to email: moscahoopercd1@gmail.com. (12/6/23)

AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Wanted. MOSCA-HOOPER CONSERVATION DISTRICT seeks a CONSULTING AGRONOMIST to be the subject matter expert for a crop water conservation planning project consisting of six workgroup sessions and one field day of farm tours. Extensive work experience at improving soil water retention and irrigation efficiency is required. Experiences with small group collaborative learning and farm field trips are preferred. Project duties will require approximately 16 hours of work during January-March and 8 hours of work in August, 2024. Compensation is up to \$100 per hour, based on experience. Qualified persons please inquire by December 6 to email: moscahoopercd1@gmail.com. (12/6/23)

099 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

STROKE AND CARDIOVASCULAR disease are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149. Call 1-833-939-0353. (11/29/2023AS)

109 - HEALTH & WELLNESS

PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR for sale. Call 719-580-5745. (12/6/23)

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

EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR: JOIN us and make an impact! Executive Coordinator wanted at SAN LUIS VALLEY LOCAL FOODS COALITION. Manage budgets, fundraising, and projects for a dynamic nonprofit fostering local food equity. Bilingual English/Spanish preferred. 32 hrs/week, \$25/hr. Benefits include PTO, holidays, health/dental insurance, and more. Send your Resume and Cover Letter to opportunity.slvlocalfoods@gmail.com. For more information, visit our website at www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/ (1/2/24)



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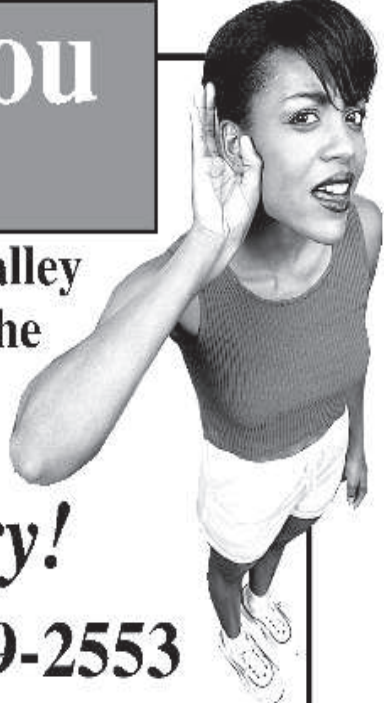
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Hey Kids!

Santa is waiting for your letters...

The Valley Courier will print your letters to Santa in our special holiday section and then send them on to the North Pole.

WRITE TO SANTA CLAUS IN CARE OF THE VALLEY COURIER AND LOOK FOR YOUR LETTER ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

Deadline is noon December 8th

Please send your letters to: Letters to Santa
c/o Valley Courier
PO Box 1099
Alamosa, CO 81101

Valley Courier

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.

Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

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-AS)

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



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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

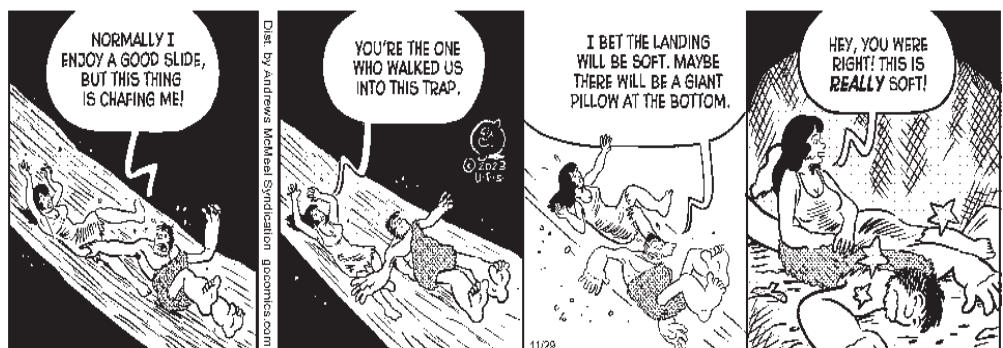
- ACROSS**
- 1 "Gotcha!"
 - 4 Upper limit
 - 7 Cudgel
 - 11 Clear
 - 12 Pedestrian walk
 - 13 Flexible tube
 - 14 Fuss
 - 15 "What's the big —?"
 - 16 Ripens
 - 17 Flat cap
 - 19 Coniferous tree
 - 21 Cakes and —
 - 22 Chicle
 - 23 To-do
 - 24 Do a household job
 - 25 — Beta Kappa
 - 28 Hold on
 - 29 Winged creature
 - 30 Wheel with teeth
 - 31 Succulent plant
 - 32 Place for a ring
 - 33 Formula One event
- DOWN**
- 1 United —
 - 2 Pelt
 - 3 Expression of great love
 - 4 Bounder
 - 5 Actor —
 - 6 Theater lover
 - 7 Fascinate
 - 8 Seating section
 - 9 Employs
 - 10 "Porgy and —"
 - 12 Papal crown
 - 18 The cream
 - 20 Young canine
 - 23 Going-out-of-business event
 - 24 Butcher's stock
 - 25 Averse to conflict
 - 26 Taxi driver
 - 27 Wrath
 - 28 Funny fellow
 - 29 Perplex
 - 30 Orchard
 - 35 From — — Z
 - 36 Perhaps
 - 37 Stopping mechanism
 - 39 Felines
 - 40 Kind of surgeon
 - 41 Puerto —
 - 42 Greek god
 - 44 Free space
 - 45 Seizes
 - 48 Legless creature

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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	
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39	40	41				42		43		44	45
46				47		48				49	
50				51						52	
53				54						55	

ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



BIG NATE



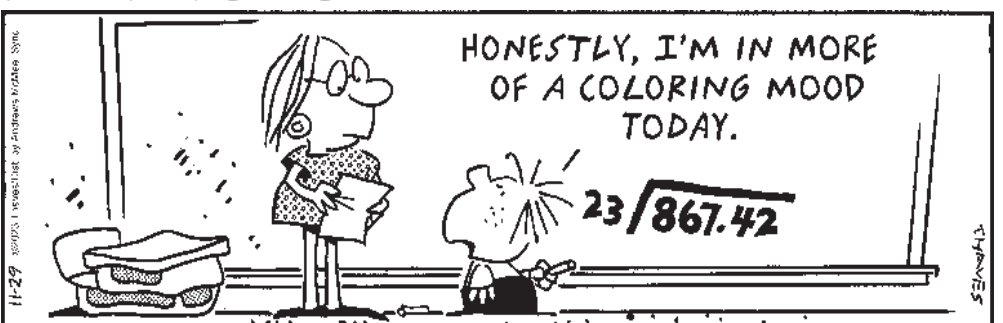
THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



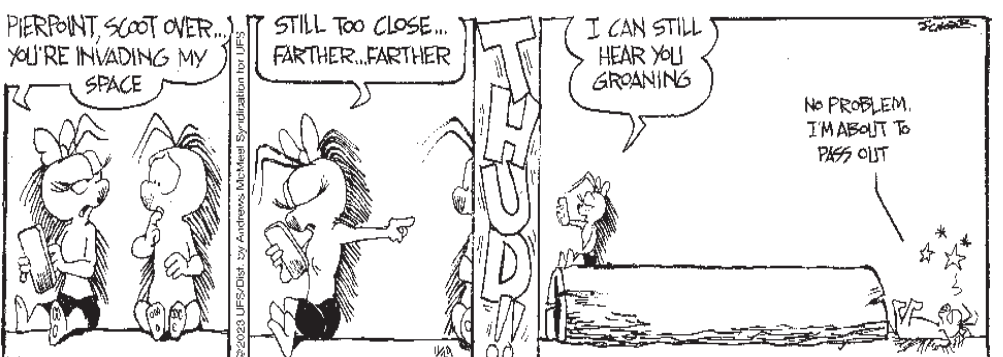
FRANK & ERNEST



GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

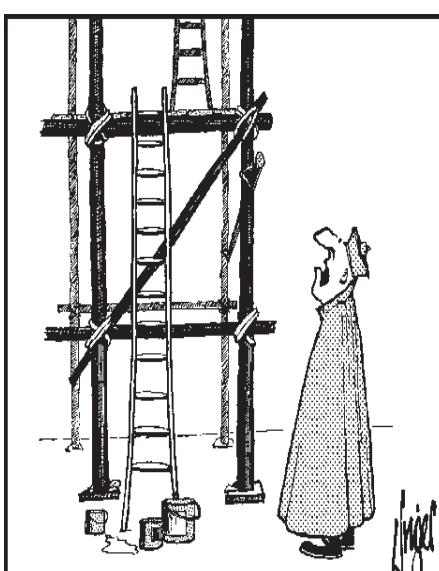
	9		6	5					1
				7	8			6	9
6			6		9			8	
		8			1		2		
5	2	9	4						6
8	3		1	6					
1				3	2			4	

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



Wife has a new kind of workout in mind

DEAR ABBY: I've been married to the most amazing woman for 30 years. She became a personal trainer and is in incredible shape. I'm not in her kind of shape, and I can't perform too well sexually, even with ED meds. She recently asked if she could have her (sexual) needs taken care of by a young client she trains. I'm OK with it, since I'm sympathetic to her desires, as long as she doesn't fall in love. Your thoughts? -- WANTS WHAT'S BEST FOR HER

I opened one by mistake and learned the extent of his debt. Now we are receiving two different letters each month for him, and I fear he may have even more debt than I have discovered. We don't know if Lily is aware of their financial situation. They have spoken about moving to the States, but I don't know if she would still be open to that if she knew about the debt collectors. They are already struggling financially and have a young child. How should we broach this subject with them? Should we speak to them together, individually or just hand over the mail and stay out of it? We don't like the idea of her being misled. This is casting a shadow over our upcoming vacation together. -- SHOCKED IN THE EAST



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR WANTS: The three of you are adults and capable of making your own decisions, but I am hesitant to bless this because it is so risky. She might fall in love with her client; he may fall in love with her. (Or not.) If he decides to move on, what will the effect be on her and you? Before you agree to this arrangement, think long and hard.

DEAR ABBY: My stepdaughter, "Lily," who lives in Canada, is married to an American, "Tom." Somehow, collection agencies have connected Tom to my husband and me, and we have been receiving letters addressed to him.

with my father because he is buying an \$8,500 used car for my sister's boyfriend. The boyfriend is almost 50 and divorced three times. He is currently without a job or transportation. Meanwhile, my father is unwilling to help me fix the vehicle I own. Your thoughts? -- DISAPPOINTED SON IN FLORIDA

DEAR SON: I can see why you might be upset, but it is your father's money, and he is entitled to do with it as he wishes. My thought is that you should not count on your father to bail you out -- for anything. Your father may have chosen to do this to get the financial pressure off your sister.

Lifestyle



CDOT photo

Backcountry users are urged to park in designated pullouts located off of the highway and away from known avalanche areas. This vehicle is parked in a hazardous zone.

CDOT warns winter backcountry users to watch where they park

By COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SOUTHWEST COLORADO — Backcountry users heading to Red Mountain Pass will see a change in parking this winter. The Colorado Department of Transportation advises recreators that the parking area and the snowplow turn around at the Red Mountain summit have been swapped. The new parking area will be on the southbound (west) side of US Highway 550. Drivers should park their vehicles “nose in,” and not parallel, to maximize the amount of parking spaces.

Know Before You Go Travelers are urged to “know before you go.” Gather information about weather forecasts and anticipated travel impacts and current road conditions prior to hitting the road. CDOT resources include:
• Road conditions and travel information: COtrip.

- Download the COtrip Planner app: bit.ly/COtripapp
- Sign up for project or travel alerts: bit.ly/CONewsalerts
- See scheduled construction lane closures: bit.ly/laneclosures
- Connect with @ColoradoDOT on social media: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

Holiday Gift Guide Local Edition

Hobbies, Games, Arts, Gifts and Crafts!

HobbyTown

Hours: 11 am - 7 pm • Mon. - Sat.
709 Main 937-2570 Alamosa

LA JARA HEALTH MART PHARMACY

20% Off

Entire Store Fri. November, 24

READY FOR HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING?

Open 10-6 Mon-Sat

ALTITUDE APPLIANCES

611 Main • Alamosa
(719) 206-2844

10% Off

When You Bring This Ad In The Store

412 Main St. • La Jara • (719) 274-5109
Store M-F 8am-6pm • Sat 9am-5pm
Pharmacy M-F 9am-6pm • Sat 10am-5pm

Price Slashed on this Unique Gift Idea

Alamosa History Book in Pictures!

NOW \$29.95

Limited Time Only

GIFT SUBSCRIPTION!

The Gift That Lasts All Year!

Valley Courier

2205 State Ave. • Alamosa
589-2553

kids' corner

PEOPLE FACT:

EVEN THOUGH 'BLACK FRIDAY' TENDS TO BE THE BUSIEST SHOPPING DAY OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON, THIS DAY ALSO ATTRACTS CROWDS OF SHOPPERS.

CHRISTMAS ANSWER: THE LAST SATURDAY BEFORE

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Purchase

SPANISH: Comprar

ITALIAN: Comprare

FRENCH: Acheter

GERMAN: Etwas kaufen

Maze Craze

Can you find your way through the maze?

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

NOV 28

- 1814: "THE TIMES" OF LONDON BECOMES THE FIRST NEWSPAPER TO BE PRINTED ON A STEAM-POWERED PRINTING PRESS.
- 1919: LADY ASTOR BECOMES THE FIRST WOMAN TO SIT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.
- 1991: SOUTH OSETIA DECLARES INDEPENDENCE FROM GEORGIA.

New Word

DEBIT

amount owed or removed from an account

Did you know?

CUSTOMERS WHO WANT TO AVOID THE CROWDS ON BLACK FRIDAY CAN SHOP LOCALLY ON SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SALE SIGN



Our Youth Are Our Future!

CELEBRATING 116 YEARS

ALAMOSA STATE BANK

A Real Community Bank

Local Ownership. Local Commitment.

2225 Main Street
Alamosa

MEMBER FDIC

CELEBRATING 116 YEARS!

www.alamosastatebank.com **Ph. 589-2564**



ColoradoGivesDay.org

Dec. 5

Considering giving a tax deductible donation? Take a look inside to support a local organization.

Year End Giving



GIVE A GIFT THAT COUNTS

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

Valley Publishing

719-852-3531

835 First Ave. • Monte Vista

Valley Courier

719-589-2553

2205 State Ave. • Alamosa

Help create a new generation of great stories.

Support the students of Adams State University on Colorado Gives Day.



To make a gift, please visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/coloradogives>

*La Puente's Annual Share the Magic
Private Reception & Holiday Party*



When: Saturday, December 2nd

Time: Gala starts at 6 PM, seats at 7 PM

At: Adams State University SLV Federal Main Stage Theatre

Featuring this year's play: The One Act Play That Goes Wrong



Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased at lapuentehome.org/sharethemagic

For more information call Wilson Hamilton at 719-589-5909 ext. 285 or email development@lapuente.net



**Support local child & adult
victims of domestic violence &
sexual violence with a one-time
or monthly recurring gift to
*Tu Casa, Inc.***



Tu Casa, Inc.

*Empowering children and adults to live
healthy, violence-free lives.*

24-Hour Hotline 719.589.2465

www.slvtucasa.net

**Your gift directly supports 24-hour,
free, confidential, bilingual,
trauma-informed victim advocacy &
child abuse response services
throughout the valley.**



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS!



GIVE TO HELP KIDS LEARN & EXPLORE!

GIVE SO TEENS CAN SUCCEED!

GIVE TO CREATE SAFE SPACES WHERE VALLEY YOUTH CAN THRIVE!



The Boys & Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley is proud to join our fellow non-profits as a participant of Colorado Gives Day on December 6th! You may donate on the 6th or schedule your donation in advance! Use the QRCode or Link from bgcslv.org Today!

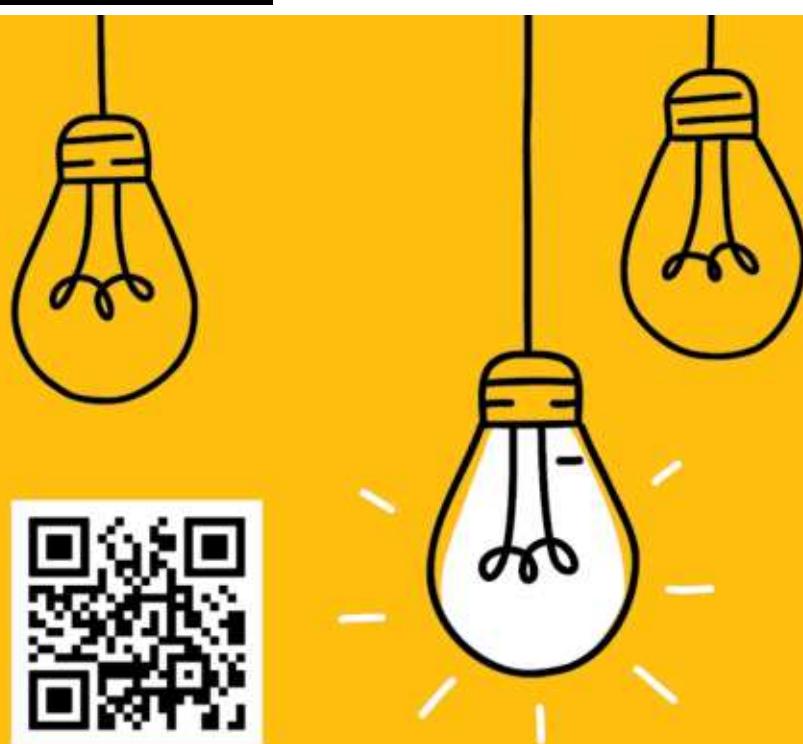


LOR IS PROUD TO SUPPORT COLORADO GIVES DAY '23.

We know that not everyone has the capacity to give cash this year. But everyone has an idea about how to make life in their community a little bit better. And we want to help turn your idea into a reality.

The LOR Foundation provides funding for community projects led by Monte Vista locals just like you. This year, LOR supported more than 50 projects—from expanding the Conour Animal Shelter to launching a student-run t-shirt printing shop. (Scan the code to see a full collection of solutions from 2023.)

If you or your community group need support to get an idea off the ground, contact Ivette Atencio at ivette@lorfoundation.org. With no deadlines or formal application, we make it easy to say YES to making life in Monte Vista even better.



Sabemos que no todos tiene la capacidad de dar dinero en efectivo este año. Pero todos tienen una idea de cómo mejorar la vida en su comunidad. Y queremos ayudarte a convertir tu idea en realidad.

La Fundación LOR proporciona fondos para proyectos comunitarios dirigidos por personas que viven en Monte Vista. Este año, LOR apoyó más de 50 proyectos, desde la expansión de un refugio de animales hasta la creación de una imprenta operada por estudiantes. (Escanee el código para ver soluciones de 2023.)

Si usted o su grupo comunitario necesitan apoyo para su idea o evento, comuníquese con Ivette Atencio en ivette@lorfoundation.org. Sin fechas límite ni solicitud formal, diciendo SÍ a mejorar la vida en Monte Vista es fácil.

Support what matters most to you, give where you live.

This Colorado Gives Day, support the San Luis Valley causes that matter most to you.

GIVE TODAY!
coloradogives.org/community/slvgives
or scan the QR code below



Community Foundation of the San Luis Valley



SUPPORT THESE LOCAL NONPROFITS:

Adams State University Foundation
Alamosa Live Music Association
Alamosa Volunteer Search & Rescue, Inc.
Alamosa Senior Citizens, Inc.
Alpine Achievers Initiative
Blue Peaks Developmental Services, Inc.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley
Center for Contemplative Research
Center for Restorative Programs
Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation
Conejos Clean Water
Creede Arts Council
Creede Early Learning Center
Creede Repertory Theatre
Crestone Mountain Zen Center
Crestone Peak Community Housing
Del Norte Public Library
Energy Resource Center
Friends of the Alamosa Public Library

Friends of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuges
Headwaters Alliance
High Valley Community Center, Inc.
Hospice del Valle
KRZA
La Puente Home, Inc.
Monte Vista Education Foundation
Orient Land Trust
Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust
Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative
Saguache County Sustainable Environment & Economic Development
San Juan Mountains Association
San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society

San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council
San Luis Valley Great Outdoors
San Luis Valley Habitat for Humanity
San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center
San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition
Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area
The Small World USA
Tu Casa, Inc.
Upper Rio Grande Animal Society
Valley Citizens Foundation for Health Care
Valley Humane League
Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.



VALLEY HUMANE LEAGUE

6414 Co. Rd. 107 S • Alamosa • 719-589-3385 • Mon.-Sat. - 10am-5pm

VHL's shelter houses lost and abandoned dogs, provides emergency veterinary care, adopts out or transfers dogs to their forever homes, reunites lost dogs with their owners, educates the community, and provides a spay/neuter program.

Since operating an animal shelter is expensive, VHL depends primarily on monetary donations from community members and businesses far and wide. The shelter's Board of Directors and employees wholeheartedly thank all who have donated in the past. **We Welcome Holiday Donations and Remember to Give 2 Us on Colorado Gives Day!** If you are able, send financial donations to Valley Humane League, 6414 County Road 7 South, Alamosa, CO, 81101. We also accept donations at our Facebook page and our website (Valley Humane League and alamosavalleyhumaneleague.org, respectively). Happy Holidays!

Del Norte Public Library wants to wish our community a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Del Norte Public Library provides many great resources for the public including computers, scanners, printers and fax services. We have a cheery children's area and have added many new books to our collection. We also have a website with an online catalog which provides access to your account and allows you to place inter-library loans as well as access ebooks and audiobooks. Come in and get your library card!



Look for us on the Colorado Gives website and in the Amazon Smiles Program



Del Norte Public Library continues to update and make small renovations to our historic building.

Thanks for all the community support for the installation of our new AdventureWalk this summer, which is located in the park by the river. Your donations to the library help with these continuing efforts.

Donations are tax deductible! For more information, please visit our Del Norte Public Library at 790 Grand Ave., (719) 657-2633 or visit our WEBSITE dnpl.colibraries.org

SUPPORT CREEDE REP ON COLORADO GIVES DAY



TUESDAY DEC 5

EVERYTHING YOU GIVE
WILL BE MATCHED,
UP TO \$100,000

DOUBLE
YOUR
IMPACT!



Give online at coloradogives.org or mail a check with "Colorado Gives Day" in the memo.

SAN LUIS VALLEY IMMIGRANT RESOURCE CENTER

225 6th Street, Suite B, Alamosa CO 81101

(719) 587-3225 www.slvirc.org



Providing services to residents of the San Luis Valley since 2002

Our mission is to connect and empower immigrants with resources to achieve legal documentation, fulfill their economic needs, and integrate into the community.



Legal Assistance Program

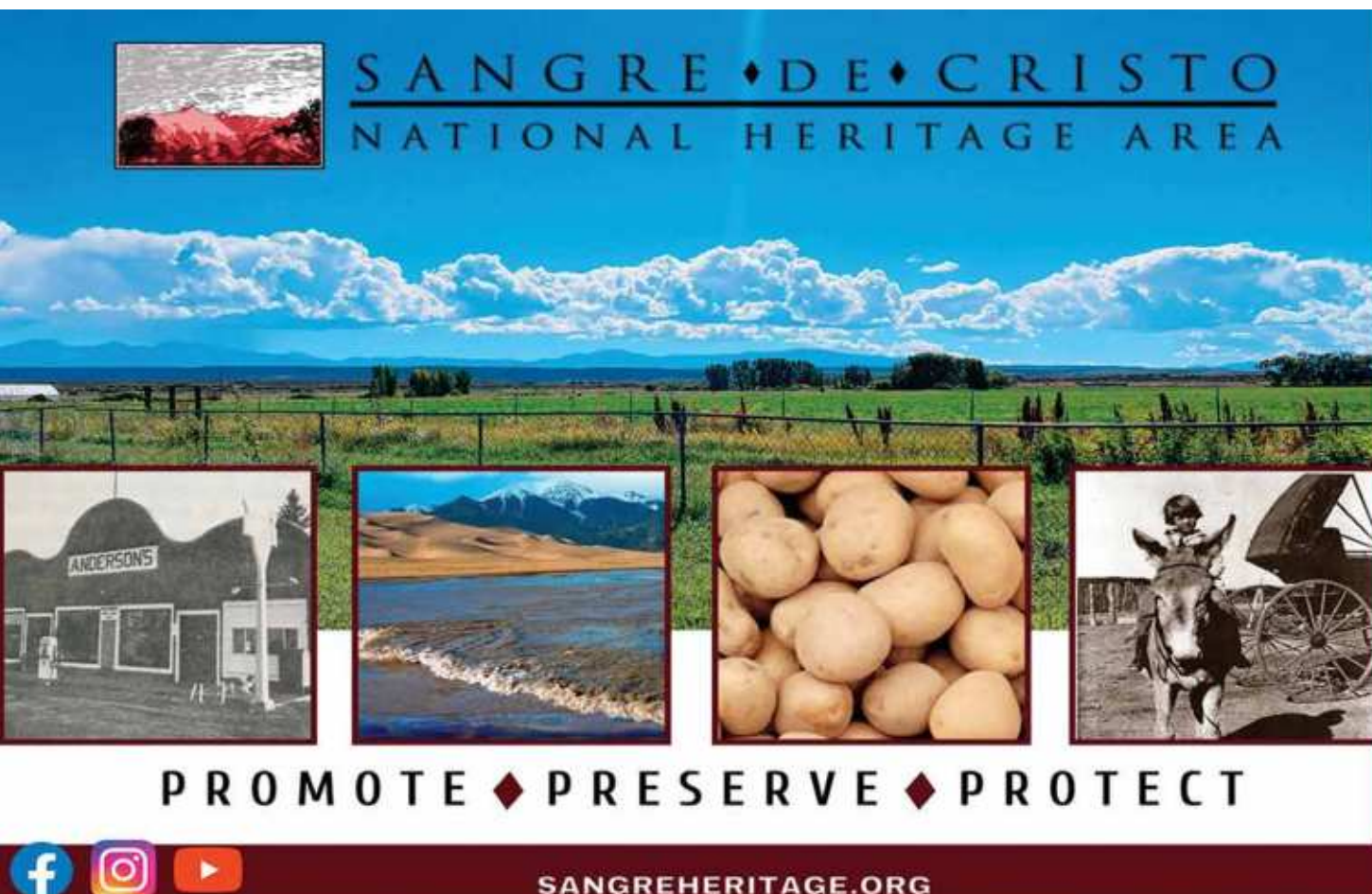
- Family petitions, naturalization, and more
- BIA Accredited; Minimum-fee basis

Por Ti Misma Program for Crime Victims


- Immigration legal assistance – U-Visa and VAWA Self-Petition
- Housing and Utility assistance

Punto de Vista Education Program


- English and Citizenship Prep classes

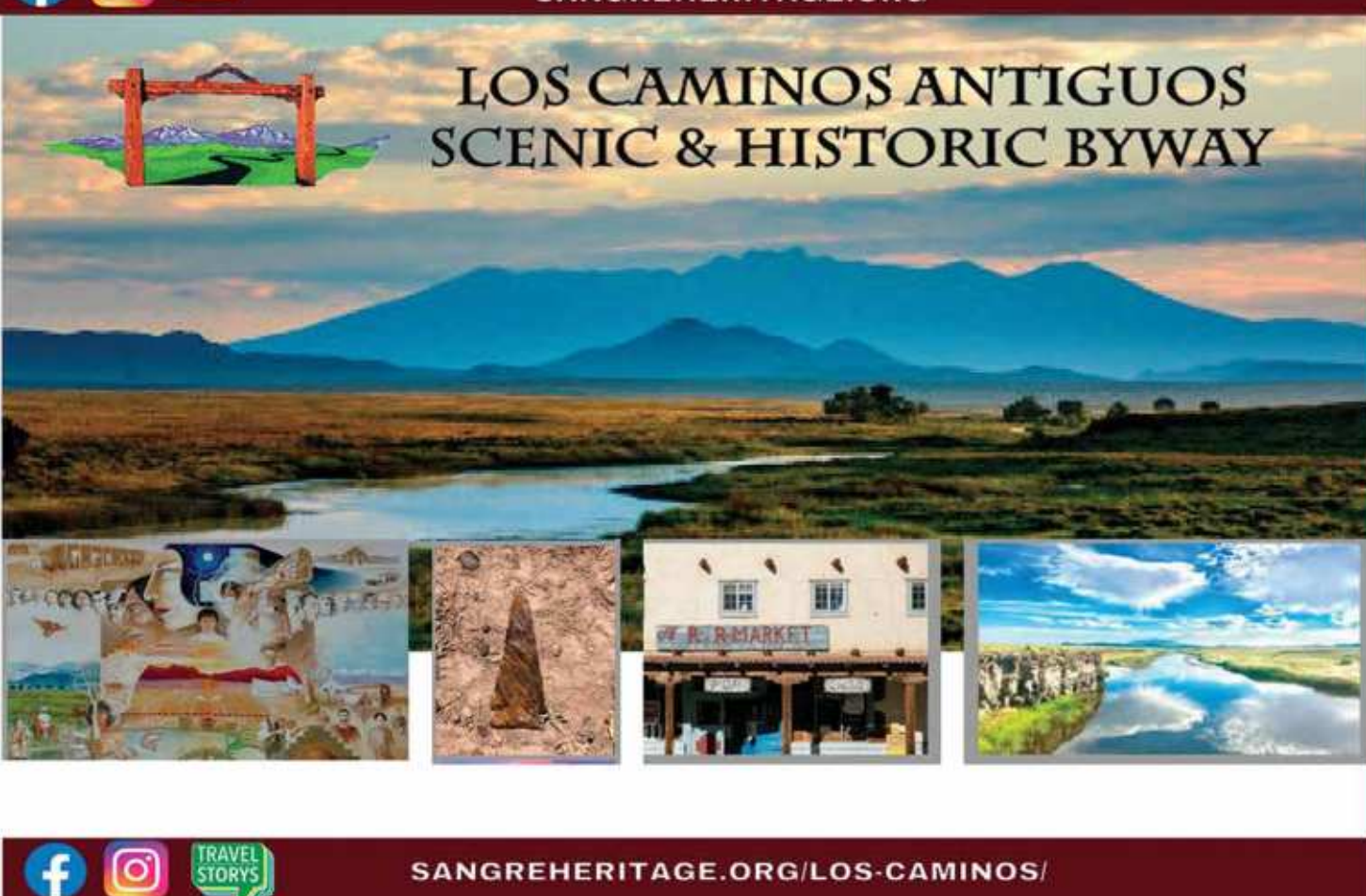


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NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA





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LOS CAMINOS ANTIGUOS
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