



Three Lady Moose named to All-League softball team

— Page 6



Proud Military Parents and Supporters host Coffee with a Veteran

— Page 12



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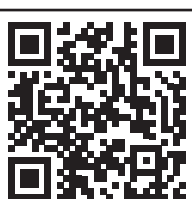
Valley Courier

WEDNESDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

November 15, 2023

\$1



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SLV Today

'Little Mister, Miss Christmas' submissions sought

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

A recent photo must be submitted as well as parental permission to use the photo and contact information.

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

National Adoption Day is Nov. 17

ALAMOSA — On Friday, Nov. 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., please join the 12th Judicial District in recognizing recent families in our communities who have welcomed new additions to their homes through the adoption process.

A short ceremony will be followed by food and fun for all who come. This event is open to all communities and partners in the Valley. The event is at the Alamosa Combined Courts located at 8955 Independence Way in Alamosa.

DN Food Bank distribution is Nov. 18

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Food Bank will be open for its November distribution on Saturday, Nov. 18. It will serve its regular clients from 10 to 11 a.m. New clients will not be served until after 11 a.m. Anyone in need of food assistance is welcome.

If you are unable to attend during distribution hours and need food assistance, call 719-850-2643.

SLV WEATHER

Mostly Sunny 58/15

Thurs: Mostly Cloudy, Sunny Afternoon 60/19

Fri: Sunny 54/18

INSIDE

Record Page 2

Valley News Page 3

Opinion Page 4

Lifestyle..... Pages 5, 7, and 12

Sports Page 6

Public Notice Page 8

Classifieds..... Pages 9 and 10

Comics Page 11

Award-winning author of 'The Fireballer' joins in-person panel at the Alamosa Public Library

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — When Mancos resident and award-winning author Mark Stevens sat down to write his latest novel, "The Fireballer," all he had was a premise for the book, no more than a two or three sentence idea first shared over a burrito in a park in Denver with one of his closest friends and mentors. Stevens, al-

ready hooked by what he felt was possible in the story, then mentioned it to his agent, and the strength of the idea alone was enough for his agent to say, "Drop everything else you're working on and write that story."

On Friday, Stephens will be at the Local Author Celebration at the Alamosa Public Library that begins at 5:30 p.m.

Stevens took the advice, and, over the next

year and a half, a powerful tale emerged on the screen of his computer. "The characters just started speaking to me," he told the Valley Courier. "It sounds like a cliché, but I just couldn't write fast enough. That was happening more often than not with this book, where, other times, it can feel like you're pushing a rock up a hill."

The six-time published author was apparently

on the right track as "The Fireballer" has already garnered over 3,500 reviews on Amazon from readers around the world with an average 4.5-star rating. It was also selected for the American Library Association's "One Book, One Community"—a resource for librarians

■ See AUTHOR page 3

Mark Stevens, author of 'The Fireballer'

Photo courtesy of Mark Stevens



ASU photo

The Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship Program at Adams State offers a free exercise program to individuals who have experienced cancer. ASU Photo

Exercise and camaraderie at ASU cancer survivor group

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — The Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship Program offered by Adams State University provides cancer survivors in the San Luis Valley the opportunity to participate in an individualized exercise program conducted in a group setting that meets three times a week for one hour at the Alamosa Family Recreation Center. The free program is open to anyone with cancer, regardless of their current or past cancer status.

The program is a celebration of life. When this reporter first met with the group, it was quickly made

clear by several of the participants that the group was for "cancer survivors."

Mary (who requested that only her first name be used) said, "This group is a good socializing thing because we all have cancer, I have spleen cancer. Every person here has their own life challenge. We all understand that we have good days and bad days, and we can't always participate fully. But coming here, we are not just friends, we are all family."

Now in its fifth year, the program continues to offer a place where participants can work towards their personal fitness goals in a non-judgmental setting while

enjoying the support network of fellow cancer survivors as mentioned by Mary.

Many of the participants have been in the group since its inception. Coy Stocking, 90, who has been in the group for five years said this, "The main reason I started and I'm continuing to do this is, I believe it is a good program, if there is anything they [researchers] can find out about me to help someone else down the line, that's what I'm hoping for. If they can help someone else, great." As part of his exercise regimen, Stocking vigorously uses a rowing machine three times a week for 25

■ See SURVIVORS page 3

Annual Veterans Memorial Park Walk/Run a 'great event'

By HELEN SIGMOND

ALAMOSA — Saturday, Nov. 4, was a beautiful day for the Second Annual Alamosa Veterans Memorial Park Walk/Run.

In the 5K Men's Division, Cody Williams took first place, John Naranjo took second place, and Dario Valdez took third place.

In the 5K Women's Division, Madeline Castillo took first place, Abigail Adams took second place, and Ella Guymon took third place.

■ See WALK/RUN page 3



Courtesy photo

The Second Annual Alamosa Veterans Memorial Park Walk/Run took place on Nov. 4.



4.31% APY*

Certificate of Deposit- 11 Month

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

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



Record

OBITUARIES

Gilbert Daniel Ortega

Gilbert Daniel Ortega, 80, of Alamosa, Colo., went to be with the Lord on Nov. 10, 2023, after his long battle with cancer.

Gilbert was born in Monte Vista, Colo., on March 3, 1943.

Upon high school graduation, Gilbert joined the Army (and National Guard) where he served 6 years during the Vietnam War — he was very proud of his military service. He expanded his education at Adams State College. Gilbert went on to work for the U.S. (Rio Grande) Forest Service where he designed mountain roads, eventually retiring after 30-plus years. During retirement Gilbert was not ready to settle down and began his entrepreneurial career as a videographer for the next 11 years.

Gilbert spent most of his life in the San Luis Valley where he thoroughly enjoyed the outdoors — fishing, hunting, and camping. He was so fond of fishing, on weekends he would wake up and head up to the mountains (Road Canyon, Creed, Rock Creek, Shaw Lake, many other places) where they enjoyed the entire day (or weekend) fishing, eating potato chip sandwiches, and appreciating nature.

Gilbert was extremely knowledgeable about car

mechanics. He had many hobbies, but one of his favorites was playing pool with friends or competing in pool tournaments. He was also a gifted artist who took pride in drawing, painting, crafting, and taking photographs.

Gilbert had a deep love and respect for animals. As children, his daughters can remember stopping on the side of the road to cut alfalfa to take home to his rabbits.

The most important aspect of Gilbert's life was his spirituality and his relationship with the Lord. He spent many days studying the bible and or having conversations with his family and friends; and in his final days was grateful for the VA Chaplin who would stop by and read scriptures to him — this gave him peace.

Gilbert was preceded in death by his parents Louie and Eva (Valdez) Ortega, his brother Anthony Ortega, his beloved Audrey Worker, and his son-in-law Jose Cordova.

Gilbert is survived by his brother Joseph Ortega, daughters Felicia Cordova, Sherrie Ortega (Antonio Rivota), Cristie Ortega, Loretta Conaway (Brent Conaway), his grandchildren Ashley Southard (Jj Southard),



Michaela Aoyama, Anastasia Manzanares (Joshua De Santiago), John "RJ" Manzanares (Angie Romero), Davin Ortega; his great-grandchildren Alyssa Aoyama, Jaylynn Aoyama, Jesslyn Molina, Erica Molina, Alyanah De Santiago, Hoshea De Santiago, Charlett De Santiago, Mykah Manzanares, John Michael Manzanares; his stepsons Gary Coffey (Crystal), Brandon Coffey, his step-grandsons BJ Coffey, Isiah Coffey, Koby Coffey.

Gilbert's last days were spent in San Antonio, Texas, with his daughter. Arrangements for an intimate viewing will take place at the Schertz Funeral home at 12 p.m. on Nov. 15, 2023; afterwards he will be cremated. In the spring Gilbert will be taken home to Alamosa for family and friends to pay their last respects and come together to celebrate his life. Afterwards, he will be placed next to his parents at the San Luis Valley cemetery.



Darrell Joseph Meis

Darrell's Celebration of life will be streamed at time of service at <https://zoom.us/j/99846129423>.

In lieu of flowers, a Scholarship has been set up in Darrell's memory, to the Adams State University Foundation, 208 Edgemont Blvd., Alamosa, CO 81101. Donations may also be made online at www.adams.edu/foundation/online-donation/ or by calling 719-587-7609. Please indicate that the gift is made in memory of Darrell Meis.

Longtime and well-known Alamosa resident Darrell Joseph Meis, 64, died Oct. 24, 2023, at his home in Alamosa after a 2-year battle with cancer. Upon his diagnosis, Darrell attacked his challenge with positivity, humor, and courageousness.

Darrell's life began in Denver, Colo., on Dec. 1, 1958; the son of Eldon Meis and Agnes (Grande) Meis. He married Kim Buron on June 6, 1981, in Denver, Colo., and their marriage was sealed in the Denver Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Feb. 26, 1994.

Darrell is survived by his wife Kim of the family home; his father Eldon Meis of Federal Heights, Colo.; his children DJ (Meghan) Meis of St. George, Utah, (children) Trey, Pace, Sawyer, Bronx, Sway; Brandon (Brittney) Meis of Albuquerque, N.M., (children) Reese, Zander, Tatum, Hattie Mae; Ashlee (Michael) Meis-Trujillo of Alamosa, Colo., (children), Ilexya (Eddie), RJ, Damian, Zaryah; Jesse (Eva) Meis of Plano, Texas; (child) Cio Meis, and great-granddaughter, Leah.

He is also survived by his brother Norman (Stephanie) Meis of Parker, Colo.; sister Ginny (Ron) Seyfer of Arvada, Colo.; his mother-in-law Pamela Buron of Alamosa; brother-in-law Otto (Cammie) Buron of Albuquerque, N.M.; sister-in-law Tracy (Werner)



Hahnlein of Albuquerque, N.M.; Kelly (John) Francis of Redondo Beach, Calif.; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends.

Darrell was preceded in death by his mother Agnes, and several aunts and uncles.

As a kid, Darrell loved all sports; especially football. As a teen at Pomona High School, he participated in football, basketball, and track. He was a standout athlete, but his passion was football. Darrell was recruited to play football at Adams State College, where he was a four-year starter. His senior year his team won the RMAC League Championship and played in a post season bowl game. They finished their season ranked No. 10 in the nation. His 1980 team was inducted into the ASU Hall of Fame in 2016. When at Adams State, he met his wife, Kim; they shared 42 years of marriage. Upon graduation from Adams State, he started a 41-year football coaching career at Alamosa High School and Ortega Middle School where he had the opportunity to coach his sons and grandson.

Darrell was never shy of hard work, starting his first job at 16 with Purina Dog Food Company. Next, he worked for Rocky Mountain Fireworks for 5 years. With the knowledge he gained, Darrell became a licensed pyrotechnician. He coordinated and helped



shoot off the Alamosa Fireworks Show for 40 years. Once married, Darrell started working for SLV Federal Bank as a loan officer. He then went on to be the Bookstore Director at Adams State College for 30 years. Upon retirement, he returned to SLV Federal Bank as a loan officer. Darrell was involved in the Alamosa Noon Lion's Club, Alamosa City Park and Recreation Board, and served in various church positions.

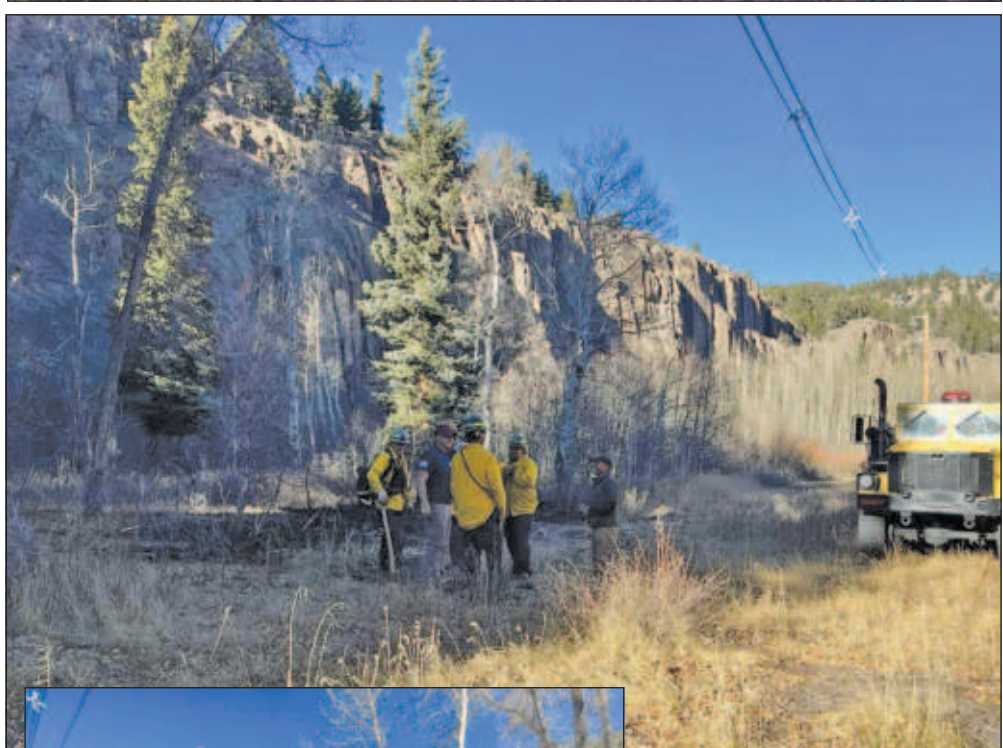
Darrell was always involved in his children's lives and supported all of their activities. Darrell's passion for his grandchildren was evident in all that he did.

The family would like to thank Dr. Allen Cohn and his team at Rocky Mountain Cancer Center-Midtown, pulmonologist Dr. Majd Kobitay of PSL Hospital, and Hospice Del Valle of Alamosa.

Cremation was chosen and a Celebration of Life will be held on Nov. 20, 2023, at 1 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 927 Weber Dr., Alamosa, CO. If you would like to attend Darrell's Celebration of Life, the family asks that you wear Denver Broncos colors or attire.

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

SFFR douses brush fire



Courtesy photos

On Nov. 13, at approximately 1:51 p.m., South Fork Fire Rescue responded to brush fire at approximately Mile Marker 180 on US Highway 160. Upon arrival, approximately a tenth-of-an-acre was found burning in low brush and heavy downed timber. Crews extinguished it, and the cause was determined to be a compromised low voltage line.

ALAMOSA POLICE REPORT

Alamosa Police Department Report — Oct. 20 to Nov. 10, 2023

Since Oct. 20, 2023, officers with the Alamosa Police Department have taken the following actions.

Seven citations were written for failing to stop at a stop sign and three were written for failing to yield at a stop sign.

Two citations were written for failing to obey traffic signals.

One citation was written for failing to yield Right of Way when entering a highway.

Sixteen citations were written for driving without insurance.

Two citations were written for driving without a valid driver's license.

Eight citations were written for driving under restraint.

Two citations were written for careless driving.

Three citations were written for displaying expired plates and three citations were written for displaying fictitious plates.

One citation was written for changing lanes when it was unsafe and one for unsafe backing.

Eleven citations were written for driving 10-19 mph over the speed limit. An additional three citations were written for driving 10-19 mph over the speed limit in a pedestrian safety zone.

Two citations were written for driving 20-39 mph over the speed limit and an additional citation was written for driving 20-39 mph over the speed limit in a pedestrian safety zone.

Additional citations

were written for the following people.

Sydney Arellano, 47, of Alamosa was cited for theft under \$300 and trespassing.

Lance Salazar, 34, of Alamosa was cited for obstruction and unlawful possession of a controlled substance.

Sarah Arredondo, 43, of Alamosa was cited for theft under \$300.

Dustin Harvey, 31, of Alamosa was cited for domestic violence and third-degree assault.

Gary Sisneros, 43, of Alamosa was cited for theft \$300-\$999 and trespassing.

Lindsey Sisneros, 33, of Alamosa was cited for theft under \$300.

Florence Pynn, 44, of Alamosa was cited for violation of a restraining order.

Jesse Lewis, 29, of Mofat was cited for false reporting.

Marlon Vigil, 25, of Alamosa was cited for vicious animal, dog at large.

Three juvenile girls, aged 13, were cited for disorderly conduct with one girl also being cited for assault.

Taylor Estes of Alamosa was cited for second degree burglary, theft, obstructing phone, domestic violence and possession of a controlled substance.

Josiah Medina of Alamosa was cited for trespassing and theft under \$300.

Jeremiah Naranjo, 19, of Pueblo was cited for unlawful purchase of a firearm and theft.

Tisha Lucero, 42, of Alamosa was cited for felony menacing.

Jennifer Shinall, 35, of Alamosa was cited for

violation of a restraining order.

Patsy Garcia, 47, of Alamosa was cited for domestic violence and third-degree assault.

Jose Bernal-Bermudez of Monte Vista was cited for violation of a restraining order.

Danny Cruz, 30, of Del Norte was cited for theft under \$300.

Adres Rosendo, 30, of Alamosa was cited for theft under \$300 x2.

Cody Palmer, 29, of Monte Vista was cited for violation of a restraining order.

Joshua Morales of Monte Vista was cited for unlawful possession of a controlled substance.

Deyon Jaramillo, 29, of Denver was cited for trespassing.

Dale Vargo, 40, of Alamosa was cited for theft \$300-\$999.

Ysidro Longoria, 64, of Alamosa was cited for violation of a restraining order,

School Menu Wednesday November 15, 2023

BREAKFAST Mini Waffle/Turkey Sausage Patty Fruit & Milk
ELEMENTARY Breaded Chicken Patty Waffle Fries/Roll Fresh Veggie Bar Fruit & Milk
MIDDLE SCHOOL Breaded Chicken Patty Waffle Fries/Roll Fresh Veggie Bar Fruit & Milk
HIGH SCHOOL Breaded Chicken Patty Waffle Fries/Roll Fresh Veggie Bar Fruit & Milk

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

Valley News

minutes. The exercise classes have a close-knit camaraderie and Stocking brings cookies to the group every other Friday.

Program participant Jessie Salazar said, "I've been here since this started about five years ago. I've had breast cancer and right now I'm having a lot of side effects from my chemo. I have neuropathy, and this helps with that. I'm still going to a cancer doctor, I have osteoporosis. This is a good place to come because we have all been through some cancer."

According to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, "Studies have shown that exercise may help reduce the risk of recurrence in cancer patients. It has also been shown to help elevate mood, reduce anxiety, improve sleep, boost energy, and help reduce symptoms of treatment-related side effects, such as neuropathy." The American Cancer Society recommends survivors engage in moderate physical activity between 150-300 minutes weekly.

Peggy V. Johnson, Instructor (retired), Department of Kinesiology at ASU told the Valley

Courier the exercise program received funding from the Colorado Cancer Coalition, "After an initial graduate student thesis showed that there was improved fitness, and quality of life improvements. Our participants, said, 'You've got to keep this program going, please keep this going.'"

Johnson added, "Most of the program participants also showed an improvement in their self-reported overall quality of life pre- to post-testing, particularly in the areas of social and functional well-be-



Courier photo by John Waters
Coy Stocking, 90, enjoys the exercise group and does a 25-minute workout several times a week on this rowing machine.

ing." The program also provides ASU undergraduate and graduate kinesiology students with experience in fitness testing and guiding and supporting program participants throughout the exercise program. Nicolas Alvarez, who is working on his master's degree in Kinesiology, leads the exercise group and is assisted by ASU exercise science student Robert Adams.

ASU will continue to research the benefits of several types of exercise on the physical, mental, and social health

of cancer survivors. The program is funded through local support from the SLV Health Foundation, including the Larry Holder Memorial Golf Tournament, and received a two-year grant from the Colorado Cancer Coalition.

Recently, Stocking was presented with

a certificate from the group that reads, "In celebration of Coy Stocking for his DEFIANCE in continuing to exercise with the Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship Program at 90 years of age. May he continue his DEFIANCE in the years ahead and inspire

all of us to do the same!" For more information contact the Adams State Kinesiology Department program coordinator Nicolas Alvarez at 720-272-4635 or email alvarezna@adams.edu, Robert Adams at adamsmrr@adams.edu, or Peggy Johnson at pjohnson@adams.edu.

Author

■ Continued from Page 1

across the country wanting to build a community-wide reading program — and led to Stevens being honored with the Rocky Mountain Fiction Award for 2023 Writer of the Year.

"The Fireballer," set in the world of baseball, is described as "a poignant story about hopes, dreams, and how far one man's talents take him before he realizes it's about what you do and how you do it."

But Stevens says a person does not have to be a baseball fan to like the book, an opinion shared by multiple readers on Amazon.

"Baseball is a construct for looking at this incredible paradox in (the main character) Frank Ryder's life," he says. "The thing that is making him famous, the very thing that is focusing this heavy, heavy attention from the sports world on him — his ability to throw a ball — is the very thing that took a life. How does he grapple with that? He loves the sport. It's something he was born to do. But one of his pitches could also hurt someone and he has to work his way through that."

Those issues — a reckoning with oneself, one's past, and the search for redemption — are something that Stevens has found resonates with readers, whether they are interested in baseball or not.

"No matter what surrounds us and what the challenges are, we are all human. We all take in the world. We breathe it in. We react to our challenges. We react to our opportunities — or not. We react to pressure — or not. It's about redemption, about finding that

Local author celebration Nov. 17 at 5:30 p.m.

In-person panel with five local authors

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Public Library is hosting its second of two panels with local authors who will discuss their experiences in the journey from the idea for a book to the book's publication. For those who are aspiring writers or others who are simply curious, it's an opportunity to hear, first-hand, from writers who have managed to successfully navigate the world of publishing in 2023.

Featured authors

include J. Hoolihan Clayton, author of "Commendable Discretion"; Denise Gard, author of "Raven Woods"; Jerry Mitchell, author of "Public Trust"; "The Height of Secrecy" and "Killing Godiva's Horse"; Mark Stevens, author of "The Fireballer" and "Lake of Fire"; and Bill Tite, author of "X04" and "Blue."

The event will be held at the Alamosa Public Library at 300 Hunt Ave. on Friday, Nov. 17, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Books will be available for purchase and refreshments will be provided.

LOR

■ Continued from Page 1

therapy playground designed for children with autism in the community, fixing kennels at the Conour Animal Shelter, just to name a few.

"We focus on enhancing quality of life for the communities we serve, no matter what that looks like. My job is to work with people who have ideas that will benefit the communities and to gain grant approval through the foundation. We fund mostly projects that are \$10,000 or less, but we can also go up to \$30,000 when the need arises. I have a quarterly budget that I work with, and we fund projects that focus on youth, housing, economy, water issues and more," explained Atencio.

The foundation is funded through private donors

and when an idea is submitted it passes through Atencio to her manager and then to the director of this region who makes the final decision on what kind of funding is allocated for the proposed project. Though Atencio did not have specifics on exactly how the foundation determined which communities can be served by LOR, she did state that it was the Ski Hi Center that brought LOR to Monte Vista, among other factors.

"LOR looks at where the foundation can do the best and be an impact on the community. The foundation is currently serving in New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming and our Wyoming location will be the first to leave a community in the coming year. We strive to make all of the projects we fund sustainable and therefore are looking at what it will be

like to remove the foundation from a location and how that will impact a community. It's a learning process," she said.

LOR Foundation locations are set up to serve a community for a five-year period and the goal is to do as much work as possible within that timeframe within the guidelines of their specific grant budgets.

"My goal is to do as much as I can in the time we have here in Monte Vista so if a non-profit or organization has an idea for a project that will benefit the community, I encourage you to reach out to us and share your idea. We do what we can to fund projects but if we can't, we can offer resources that may be able to help," she said.

For more information or to propose an idea to the LOR Foundation, visit lorfoundation.org.

Walk/Run

■ Continued from Page 1

In the 10K Men's Division, Luke Smith took first place, Billy Salazar took second place, and Mario Valdez took third place.

In the 10K Women's Division, Stacy Davis took first place, Desiree Peterson took second place, and Joelle Boos took third place.

The Alamosa Veterans Memorial Park was started in 2016 by Frank Muniz along with several community members who wanted to recognize Veterans and give the community a place to reflect and honor Veteran men and women who have served in all branches of the military.

Muniz served as the Alamosa County Veterans Service Officer for many years and fought in Vietnam.

The Memorial will be located at the corner of Highway 285 and Airport Road and will provide a stopping place for tourists.

It was a great event, and we hope to see even more participants next year.

Construction on the Memorial Park is anticipated to begin before the



In the 10K Women's Division, Stacy Davis took first place, Desiree Peterson took second place, and Joelle Boos took third place.



Courtesy photos
In the 10K Men's Division, Luke Smith took first place, Billy Salazar took second place, and Mario Valdez took third place.



In the 5K Men's Division, Cody Williams took first place, John Naranjo took second place, and Dario Valdez took third place.



In the 5K Women's Division, Madeline Castillo took first place, Abigail Adams took second place, and Ella Guymon took third place.

end of this year.

We especially appreciate the generous sponsors of the Walk/Run: SLV Transportation, Arlan Van Ry, Visit Alamosa, SSG Fox Suicide Prevention, Century Property Management, SLV Health, Alamosa Building Supply, Domestic Irrigation, Rocky Mountain Memorabilia, Alamosa Parks and Recreation, Alamosa County, Alamosa

Chamber, ASU Veterans, Alamosa Citizen, and MV Coop.

We also received contributions from Safeway, Dickey's Springer Post 113 American Legion, SLV Museum, Skiballs, Frontier Bank, Lori Laske, and Duane and Lorey Bussey.

We had great volunteers helping with the event, including Girl Scout Troup 36252, 4-H

Club, AHS Cross Country, and National Honor Society. Eagle Air/Air Med helped with First Aid. Their helicopter was scheduled to land, but was called away for an emergency.

Anyone wishing to donate to the Memorial may send a check made payable to Alamosa Veterans Memorial Park, P.O. Box 1245, Alamosa, CO 81101.

humanity in yourself. And, as a writer, finding that humanity in the character and bringing it to life."

Far from a newcomer to writing, Stevens brings to his work a wealth of experiences with more than two decades spent in journalism. He has reported for the Christian Science Monitor, first in his hometown of Boston and, later, in Los Angeles, as well as the Rocky Mountain News and the Denver Post.

He also worked for six years as a reporter and news producer for Public Broadcasting System (PBS) on the McNeil-Lehrer News Hour where, although based in Denver, he covered stories across the country and parts of Latin America.

"I had a chance as a reporter — especially on general assignment beats — to cover a huge variety of stories, everything from the 1985 earthquake in Mexico City to the shuttle blowing up. A lot of disaster stories as well as environmental and economic stuff, too. A pretty wide-ranging career."

After "throwing grenades" as an aggressive reporter, he's spent the last twenty years "catching grenades" while working in public relations and communications, including eleven years running his own public relations firm.

Stevens has always loved novels and literature and grew up loving to read and write but was daunted by the idea

of writing a "meaningful" novel. He then discovered crime fiction and the format worked well. It took him "a long time to get good at it" and a long time to get published, but he was successful at both with a series of five crime fiction novels (the Allison Coil series) that have been published and a few other standalones that are sitting with his agent. "The Fireballer" is Stevens' venture into an entirely different genre, and the love of writing has only grown stronger.

"Once I started writing, I was hooked. And I've been hooked on it ever since."

Despite a career so far that many aspiring writers would envy, Stevens, who is a soft spoken and thoughtful man, does not hesitate to encourage others in the same pursuit and to share what he has learned that works best for him.

For those who are aspiring writers or others who are just curious about the whole process, Stevens will be joining four other local authors to discuss exactly that while participating in an in-person panel titled the "Local Author Celebration" and hosted by the Alamosa Public Library.

The Alamosa Public Library is at 300 Hunt and the panel starts on Friday, Nov. 17 at 5:30 p.m., with refreshments provided. Copies of "The Fireballer" and other published works by the local authors on the panel will be on sale, as well.

Holiday Open House & Brighton Holiday Event

Treasure Alley

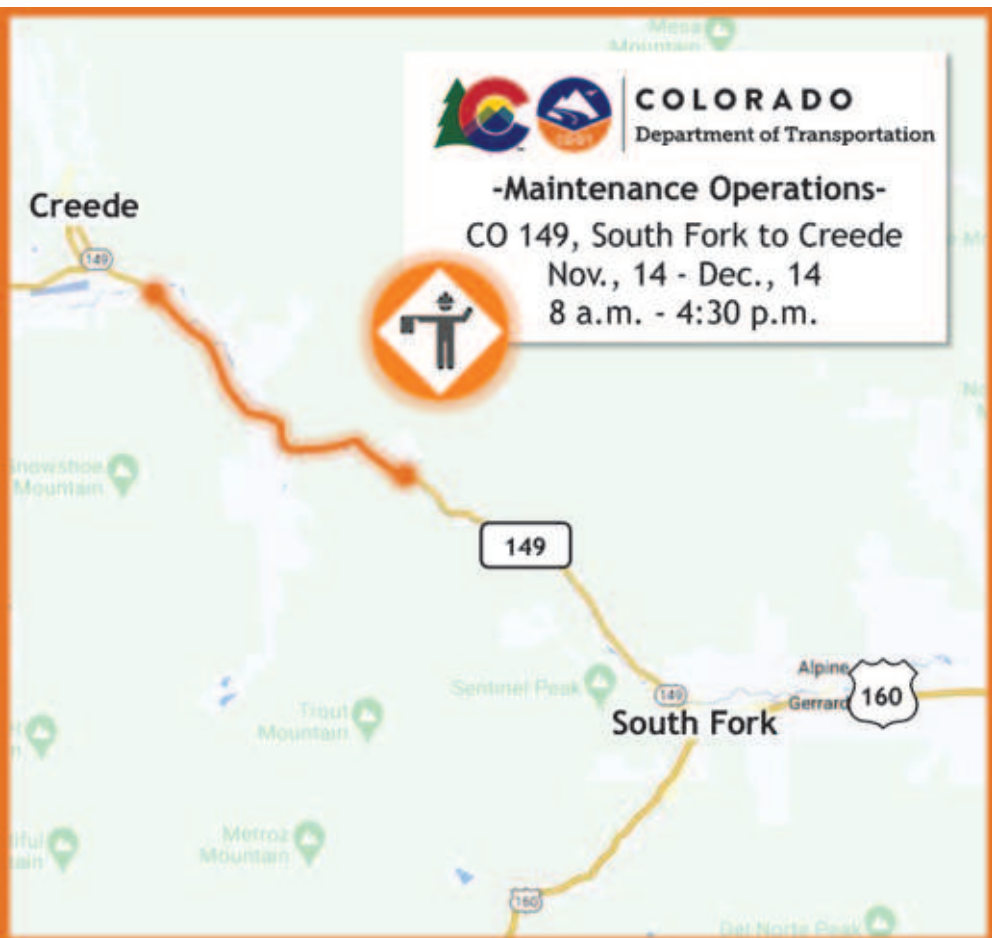
Sample our Gourmet Goodies
HOLIDAY SPECIALS:
Ornaments, Snowmen,
Gifts, Jewelry, and Candles



Happy Holidays!

Friday, Nov. 17th and Saturday, Nov. 18th
Now Open Sundays 12-4

Lifestyles



Crack sealing to begin on CO 149

Motorists should plan for delays between South Fork and Creede

By COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MINERAL AND RIO GRANDE COUNTIES

The Colorado Department of Transportation is performing month-long surface treatment repairs on a 9-mile segment of Colorado Highway 149, beginning Tuesday, Nov. 14. Operations will take place 10 miles north of South Fork, Mile Points 10-19. Daytime work hours will range from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Surface treatment operations help treat road damage caused by harsh winter conditions creating a smoother and safer road surface for motorists. Work is weather permitting.

Map of Colorado Highway 149 maintenance operations located between South Fork and Creede. Operations will take place Nov. 14 through Dec. 14.

Monday through Friday, motorists can expect brief delays on CO 149 between South Fork and Creede while CDOT performs crack sealing operations.

Traffic Impacts

Motorists should plan for 10-15 minute delays and should allow for extra travel time.

Expect one-lane alternating traffic guided by signs, cones and flagging personnel.

Drivers should slow down and use extreme caution when approaching and driving through the work zone.

A speed reduction of 40 mph will be enforced through the work zones.

Know Before You Go

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See scheduled construction lane closures: bit.ly/lane closures

Connect with @ColoradoDOT on social media: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

The following tips are to help you stay safe while traveling through maintenance and construction work zones.

- Do not speed in work zones. Obey the posted

speed limits.

- Stay Alert! Expect the unexpected.
- Watch for workers. Drive with caution.

• Don't change lanes unnecessarily.

- Avoid using mobile devices such as phones while driving in work zones.
- Turn on headlights so that workers and other drivers can see you.

• Be especially alert at night while driving in work zones.

- Expect delays, especially during peak travel times.
- Allow ample space between you and the car in front of you.

• Anticipate lane shifts and merge when directed to do so.

The Colorado Department of Transportation's mission is to provide the best multi-modal transportation system that most effectively and safely moves people, goods and information. CDOT maintains more than 23,000 lane miles of highway, more than 3,400 bridges and 35 mountain passes. Our team of employees works tirelessly to reduce the rate and severity of crashes and improve the safety of all modes of transportation. CDOT leverages partnerships with a range of private and public organizations and operates Bustang, an interregional express bus service. Find more details at codot.gov.

Outdoor Equity Grant Program is now accepting board member applications

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

COLORADO — Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is accepting board member applications for the Outdoor Equity Grant Program. Board members are responsible for the governance of the Outdoor Equity Grant Program created by bill HB21-1318. The deadline for the application is Dec. 11.

CPW is seeking to fill the following four board member seats:

- One member personally impacted by and with experience in racial justice issues
- One member with experience working on conservation issues
- Two youth members (age 25 and younger) who come from communities impacted by the grant program
- The Board Member Application and additional application materials are available on the CPW website.

The purpose of the Outdoor Equity Grant Program is to increase access and opportunity for underserved youth and their families to access meaningful experiences in Colorado's state parks and outdoor spaces. The board is responsible for overseeing the grant program and awarding grants to applicants that will utilize the grant to engage eligible youth and their families by reducing barriers to Colorado's outdoors, creating pathways for formal or informal conservation of Colorado outdoors, or offering environmental and Colorado outdoor-based educational opportunities.

Since 2022, the Outdoor Equity Grant Program has distributed nearly \$3.1 million to organizations that provide outdoor recreation, education, and conservation programs to youth and families across the state. The Outdoor Equity Grant Board is set to distribute an additional \$2 million in December. In 2024, the program will

distribute approximately \$2.75 million annually in Outdoor Equity Grants.

Individuals on the board may be associated with an organization that intends to apply for a future grant. Board members will be selected in collaboration with communities served by the grant program and begin their terms in January 2024. Program grants will be distributed based on how an organization will impactfully create pathways for Colorado's outdoors and offer environmental and outdoor-based educational opportunities for underserved communities.

The Outdoor Equity Grant Program Board has nine voting seats. Board members will serve for four years and may serve up to two terms. Youth board members serve one or two-year terms and may serve up to two terms.

For more information, visit cpw.state.co.us/Outdoor-Equity-Fund.aspx.

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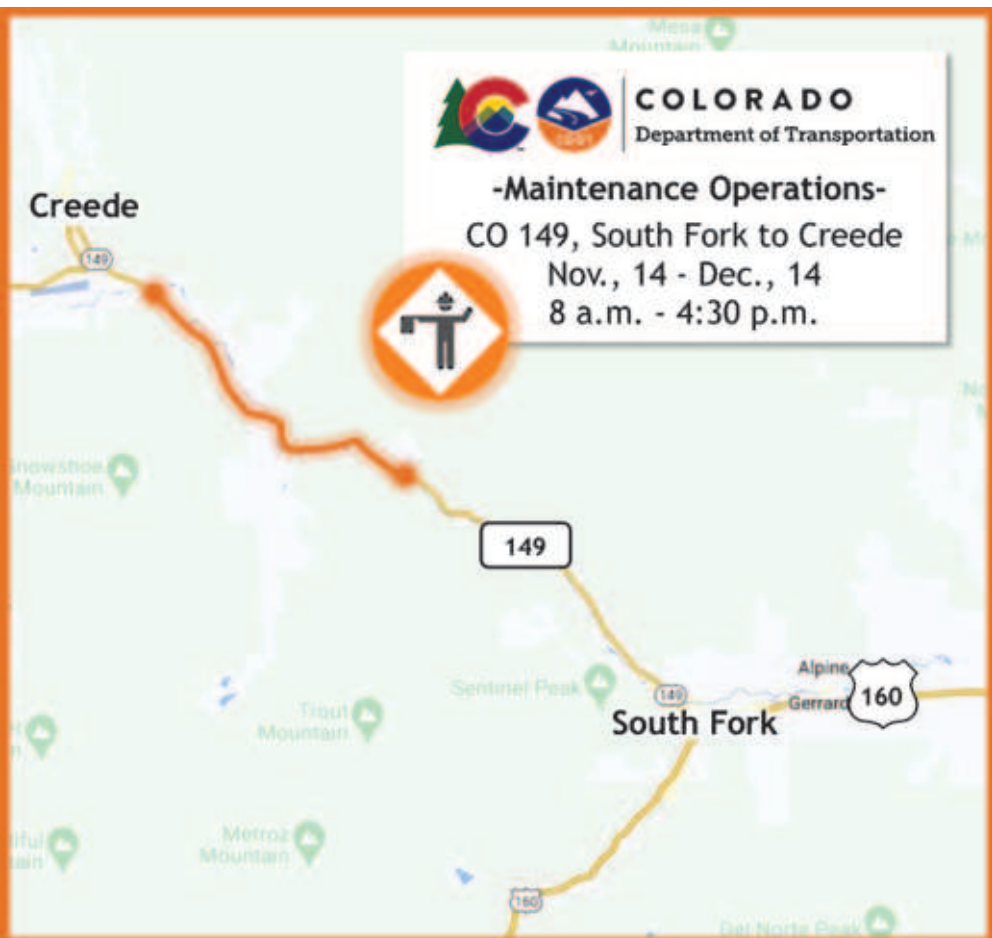
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WARMTH IN EVERY HOME

Lifestyles



Crack sealing to begin on CO 149

Motorists should plan for delays between South Fork and Creede

By COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MINERAL AND RIO GRANDE COUNTIES

The Colorado Department of Transportation is performing month-long surface treatment repairs on a 9-mile segment of Colorado Highway 149, beginning Tuesday, Nov. 14. Operations will take place 10 miles north of South Fork, Mile Points 10-19. Daytime work hours will range from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Surface treatment operations help treat road damage caused by harsh winter conditions creating a smoother and safer road surface for motorists. Work is weather permitting.

Map of Colorado Highway 149 maintenance operations located between South Fork and Creede. Operations will take place Nov. 14 through Dec. 14.

Monday through Friday, motorists can expect brief delays on CO 149 between South Fork and Creede while CDOT performs crack sealing operations.

Traffic Impacts

Motorists should plan for 10-15 minute delays and should allow for extra travel time.

Expect one-lane alternating traffic guided by signs, cones and flagging personnel.

Drivers should slow down and use extreme caution when approaching and driving through the work zone.

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Sports



Courier file photo

Alamosa High School's Araceli Molina makes the catch in center field. Molina was a first team selection on the All-Tri-Peaks League team.

Three Lady Moose named to All-League softball team

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier Sports editor
ALAMOSA – The Tri-Peaks League released its All-League team late in October with three Alamosa High School players earning recognition. Sophomore center fielder Araceli Molina was a first team selection. Molina led the team in batting average at .448. She recorded 26 hits in 58 at-bats and she also had four doubles, one triple and one home run. She also scored 26 runs and stole 14 bases. She had

an .882 fielding average. Two more Lady Moose, junior first baseman Lexany Heredia and senior shortstop Alicia Rios, were both honorable mention. Heredia batted .436 with 24 hits in 55 at-bats. She had seven doubles, two triples and four home runs. She scored 28 runs and stole five bases. She had an .828 fielding average. Rios had a .385 batting average with 20 hits in 52 at-bats. She also had five doubles and one home run. Rios scored 19 runs and

stole 11 bases. She had an .881 fielding average. Wiley had the most All-League selections with seven, followed by Rocky Ford with six, La Junta with five, and Lamar with four. James Irwin had three selections, Dolores Huerta had three, Florence had three and Woodland Park had three. Wiley's DemiMagdaleno was the Coach of the Year. Alamosa won 13 games and lost 11 and advanced to the Class 3A State Tournament.



Courier file photos

From left: Alamosa's Alicia Rios and Lexany Heredia were both honorable mention selections on the All-Tri-Peaks League softball team

High school standings

FOOTBALL
CLASS 2A TRI-PEAKS LEAGUE

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

Last week's scores
No games
This week's schedule
No games

CLASS 1A SOUTH CENTRAL LEAGUE

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

Last week's scores
No games
This week's schedule
No games

8-MAN MOUNTAIN LEAGUE

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

Last week's scores
8-man State Playoffs Saturday
Lyons 62, Dove Creek 22
Mancos 38, Sedgwick County 0
This week's schedule Saturday
Lyons at Mancos, 1 p.m.

6-MAN SOUTHWEST LEAGUE

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

Last week's scores
6-man State Playoffs Saturday
Otis 61, Branson/Kim 18

Stratton 45, Sierra Grande 12
This week's schedule
No games

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
CLASS 3A INTERMOUNTAIN LEAGUE

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

CLASS 2A SOUTHERN PEAKS LEAGUE

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

CLASS 1A SOUTHERN PEAKS LEAGUE

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

BOYS SOCCER
CLASS 3A INTERMOUNTAIN LEAGUE

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

GIRLS SOFTBALL
CLASS 3A TRI-PEAKS LEAGUE

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



1 Shopping Local Creates Jobs: The jobs created allow spending in the local economy and helps create more jobs.

2 Local independent businesses invest more in our community: They support local charities, schools and community events which financially impacts our community.

3 Local businesses sell a wide range of great products at affordable prices and cater to the needs and wants of the community.

4 Shopping Local saves you money and time! Travel expenses and personal time make the overall cost of items higher.

5 Shopping Local retains our community: Without the support in the local community, restaurants, shops and services are forced to close.

6 Shopping Local retains our distinctiveness: Local businesses respond quicker to the needs of the customers and stock products to meet the core community's needs.

7 Shopping Local encourages community growth. By choosing to do business locally you help maintain Alamosa's diversity, charm & appeal. Which in turn, attracts new community members.

8 Shopping Local invests in community services and city economy. Your dollars spent in locally-owned businesses have three times the impact on your community as dollars spent outside of Alamosa.

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

Sports Bulletin

Follow sports editor Ken Hamrick on Twitter. His handle is @KenHamrick 1.

SCHEDULE WEDNESDAY
College swimming

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

THURSDAY
College women's basketball

Eastern New Mexico at Adams State, 7 p.m.

College swimming

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

FRIDAY
College men's basketball

Adams State vs. Eastern New Mexico (Skyhawks Hardwood Classic at Durango), 7 p.m.

College swimming

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

SATURDAY
College cross country

Adams State at NCAA Division II Championship (at Joplin, Mo.), TBA

College men's basketball

Adams State vs. Western New Mexico (Skyhawks Hardwood Classic at Durango), 5 p.m.

College women's basketball

Texas A&M-Kingsville at Adams State, 5:30 p.m.

College swimming

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

College men's wrestling

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

Lifestyle

Campfire Conversations held in Monte Vista

By MARIE MCCOLM MONTE VISTA — Monte Vista was the second stop of a trio of events called On the Road — San Luis Valley on Nov. 9 at the Church Project.

The series dubbed “Campfire Conversations” is a Colorado program of the Wright Collegiate Challenge. The program opened Nov. 2 in San Luis and concludes Nov. 16 at the 4th Street Diner and Bakery in Saguache.

“On The Road is a series of journeys into rural Colorado, meeting people where they are and experiencing firsthand the relationships, we hold with the places we call home. Through our shared stories, we are offered a window into the lived experiences of real people doing meaningful work and making their way in real communities across Colorado,” said On the Road organizer Chuck Sullivan in a press release.

Chris Lopez and Ivette Atencio, of the LOR Foundation, were a couple of the moderators of the Monte Vista event. Most of the moderators were also speakers.

Speakers for the evening included Charlie Burd, a Valley rancher and Ski-Hi Stampede Committee member for 40-plus years; Jenny Nehring, biologist, vice president of Friends of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refugees and volunteer of the Monte Vista Crane Festival; potato farmer Margie Martinez-Diaz, of Martinez Farms; Peg Schall, of the Monte Vista Historical Society and Transportation of the West Museum; Monte Vista City Council member Victor Sigala; MV community member Pablo Zamarripa, and Patrick Ortiz, of San Luis Valley Great Outdoors.

Moderators asked the speakers what they felt about their lives, the place they call home and certain subjects related to their areas of expertise.

Some of the speakers such as Burd and Nehring were grouped together by the moderators due to their affiliation with the same organizations, in this instance the Crane Festival and Stampede.

Burd and Nehring said the Crane Festival and Ski-Hi Stampede draw many people to the community. Nehring said the Crane Festival helps the economy because when people visit the community, they spend money.

“The Crane Festival predominantly attracts people from out of town, that don’t have a connection to our town to visit Monte Vista,” Nehring said.

Burd said the Stampede draws the community together and even if the community is out of town, such as relatives that may live in Denver and other places, they

come back for the Stampede.

“Stampede brings community together, look at the graduating classes, the reunions, there is so much that stampede does for the community, this is just part of it,” Burd said.

Nehring, who has lived here for 25 years, and Burd, who is the third generation to live here, also spoke about ranchers and farmers.

Ortiz and Madeleine Ahlborn, who is the director of the Church Project, spoke with farmer Margie Martinez-Diaz and Schall of the Monte Vista Historical Society.

Martinez-Diaz said her family has been growing potatoes and barley her for generations.

“I farm with my husband. Growing up I told my dad I would never be a farmer,” Martinez-Diaz said.

Schall said she came to the Valley when she was 4 or 5 years old to live with family who had been here for a number of years.

Martinez-Diaz and Schall spoke about what they hoped for the future of the San Luis Valley.

Martinez-Diaz said, “I would hope to continue with the same camaraderie, the same values, the same values that the Valley has. I would hope the people that come in could see all of that.”

Atencio, who is the officer for the LOR Foundation in Monte Vista, was the final moderator of the evening. She



Pablo Zamarripa participates in Campfire Conversations on Nov. 9 at the Church Project in Monte Vista.

spoke with Zamarripa MV Mayor Pro-Tem Sigala.

Zamarripa said he worked at a correctional facility for about 10 years. He went back to school recently and recently earned his bachelor’s.

Sigala said he was born and raised in Monte Vista.

“I was born here in City Hall so it’s kind of wild for me to be in there during meetings,” he said, referring to the days when City Hall was the hospital.

Zamarripa and Sigala were asked if they had any cultural traditions that tied them to the community.

Zamarripa pointed to the Cinco De Mayo Celebration. He said there was a lot of community there, with a good turnout, and a sense of pride even in the shirts that were sold to help the school.

“The Cinco De Mayo Tradition. It was nice to have that. It was chilly, but there were so many people that came to the celebration. It’s nice to see the tradition here,”

Zamarripa said.

Sigala said that the culture didn’t matter as much as the people mattered. Sigala said the people are what tie everyone to the Valley.

“It’s not about the culture, it’s about the people. People change culture. It’s really about the people and the community,” Sigala said.

Both also spoke about growing up in Monte Vista and how they became the people that they are today.

The Wright Collegiate Challenge is a partner program of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office. Its goal is to prepare Colorado higher-ed students to enter the state’s workforce by providing first-hand experience working alongside outdoor-sector businesses and non-profits to develop actionable solutions to current-day challenges within their respective organizations.



Monte Vista City Council member Victor Sigala participates in Campfire Conversations on Nov. 9 at the Church Project in Monte Vista.

UPCOMING GRIZZLY ATHLETIC EVENTS

Wednesday, November 15
Men & Women’s Swim at TYR/CMU Invitational at Grand Junction, Colo.
(Four Days, Through Saturday the 18th)

Friday, November 17
Men’s Basketball vs Eastern New Mexico University at Durango, Colo.
7:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 18
Wrestling at UNK Open at Kearney, Neb.
9:00 a.m.

Men & Women’s Cross Country vs NCAA Division II National Championship at Joplin, Mo.
10:00 - 11:15 a.m.

Men’s Basketball vs Western New Mexico University at Durango, Colo.
5:00 p.m.

Women’s Basketball vs Texas A&M University - Kingsville at Alamosa, Colo.
5:30 p.m.

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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

NOW HIRING: THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF ALAMOSA is seeking a full-time ASSISTANT DIRECTOR. Preferred qualifications include a bachelor's degree in business administration or a minimum of 3 to 5 years of business and supervisor experience. Qualified candidates must have a background in computer data base skills, grant writing experience, bilingual skills desirable and must work well with the public. Background check will be required upon offering the position. We offer a competitive salary and a great benefit package. Please call for more information 719-589-6694. Please submit a letter of intent and resume no later than November 27, 2023 to 213 Murphy Dr. Alamosa, Co. 81101. (11/25/23AS)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

DELOSS INDUSTRIES IN ALAMOSA is Hiring Full-Time, 40 Hours Per Week, Wages 24 to 40 Dollars Per Hour. Looking to hire: **EQUIPMENT MECHANICS, MECHANICS HELPER, WELDERS and MACHINIST.** The mechanics helper will be paired with a mechanic in the shop. Primary equipment serviced and maintained are forklifts and materials handling related equipment. This is a full-time position, 40 hours per week. Paid vacation and sick leave. Health insurance may be provided. Pay rate is 24 to 40 dollars per hour, depending on experience. Tools are provided. Must have clean driving record, CDL is a plus. Must pass drug test and background check. Must have stable work history. This is a career opportunity with a stable company that has been in the Valley for 36 years. Shop is located in Alamosa, CO. Call 719-589-3213 for interview or send resume to DelossJohn@aol.com. (1/13/23AS)

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26th is paying years of service and single health insurance benefits. Apply now to become part of our dynamic district as we are now accepting applications for the position of **SECONDARY SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER**, for the remaining 2023-2024 School Year. Qualifications: Special Education Certification as required by the State of Colorado or such alternative to the above qualifications as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. Applications can be found on the District Website <https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities> or contact the District Office at (719)754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (12/6/23AS)

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)

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

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

BOOKKEEPER: LOCAL, WELL-RESPECTED non-profit agency hiring a bookkeeper for a 6-MONTH TERM. Responsibilities include assistance with accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, and special projects. We're looking for a motivated, values-driven individual with experience in QuickBooks and Excel. Initiative essential; training and support provided. Join our staff of dedicated professionals and learn the joys and satisfaction of serving others. \$15.00/hr; \$20.00/hr; \$1,000 completion bonus after 6 months. Inquire about benefits. Send cover letter, resume/request job description to hr@lapuente.net, 719 589-5909, ext238. www.lapuente.net. (11/17/23AS)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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)

304 - LAWN & GARDEN

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

307 - APPLIANCES

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

314 - CLOTHING

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

324 - SEED & FEED

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

NATIVE GRASS HAY for sale. Small bales, HORSE HAY QUALITY. USDA certified. Call or text (719)657-1876. (12/19/23)

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

345 - WOOD

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

353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

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

ACCEPTING BIDS FOR IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT on Sub-district #1 Property. Detailed information regarding the irrigation equipment is available for review by appointment at the RGWCD office or by visiting the District's website at www.rgwcd.org/subdistrict-no-1-bid. For more information, call the District office at (719) 589-6301 or by emailing taylor@rgwcd.org. Bids must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on December 1st, 2023. Late bids will not be accepted. (12/1/23AS)

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

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

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

368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

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

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

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

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420 - LOTS & ACREAGES

MULTIPLE 35+ ACRE TRACTS For Sale. The Rio Grande Water Conservation District is accepting sealed bids for tracts of land LOCATED AT 14355 G.5, ANTONITO. The minimum acceptable bid is \$2,000/acre. Bids must be received by U.S. mail or hand delivered to the RGWCD's office at 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101. Detailed information regarding the tracts is available for review by appointment at the RGWCD office or by visiting the District's website at www.rgwcd.org/subdistrict-no-3/publicbid. The land may be inspected with District personnel by appointment only. Appointments can be made by calling the District office at (719) 589-6301 or by emailing angelo@rgwcd.org. Bids must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on January 31st, 2024. Late bids will not be accepted. The District reserves the right to reject any bid in its sole discretion. (1/27/2024AS)

426 - MOBILE HOMES FORSALE

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

525 - GUNS

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

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Accepting applications for 1 bedroom apartments. Must be 62 or older or disabled **Cielo Vista**

Apartments 166 S. Wills Center, Colo **754-3664**

TTY 1-800-659-2656 This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Accepting Applications for 2 & 3 bedroom family units **Valley Grande Apts.** 2256 E. Drive Monte Vista, CO **852-4302**

TTY 1-800-659-2656 This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Accepting Applications for waiting list for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Family units available **West View**

Villas 510 Dunham Monte Vista, Colo **852-3949**

TTY 1-800-659-2656 This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

611 - HOUSES FOR RENT

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

630 - ROOMS FOR RENT

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

630 - ROOMS FOR RENT

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

701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

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

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

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

713 - PICKUP TRUCKS

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

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

720 - HEAVY EQUIPMENT

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

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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Non-sense!"
 - 4 Hack
 - 7 Mineral spring
 - 10 Look in on
 - 12 Regret
 - 13 "2001" computer
 - 14 Numbers game
 - 15 Eccentric fellow
 - 17 Operatic song
 - 18 Luau fare
 - 19 Des Moines neighbor
 - 20 Brit's raincoat
 - 21 Chartered
 - 23 American essayist
 - 25 Shoe part
 - 28 Queen — Lace
 - 30 Waterways
 - 32 Winning side
 - 34 Fellows
 - 35 Cakes and —
 - 36 Started up again
 - 39 Layers of rock
 - 40 Sprite
- DOWN**
- 1 Unwillingness to speak
 - 2 Number prefix
 - 3 Ring event
 - 4 Warbles
 - 5 Books examiner
 - 6 Where to plant bulbs
 - 7 Faker
 - 8 Wan
 - 9 "— fair in love and war"

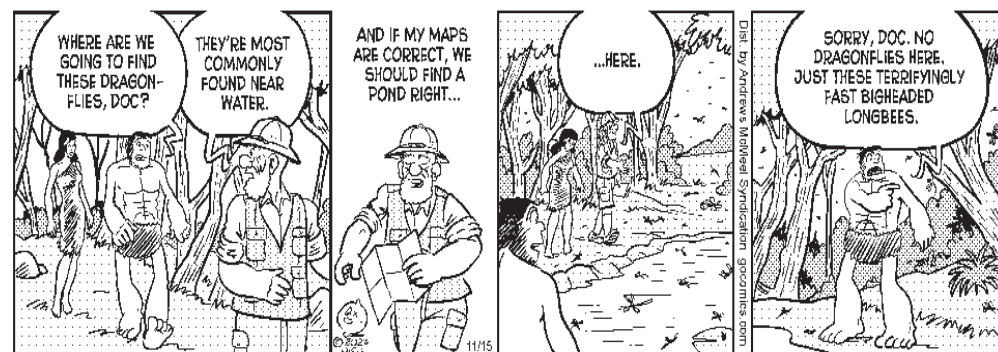
Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 10 Happy as a —**
- 11 Round dance**
- 16 Gone sour**
- 18 Miles — gallon**
- 21 Vacation venue**
- 22 Riddle**
- 24 Assembled**
- 25 Soften before cooking**
- 26 Kitchen scrap**
- 27 Letter for plurals**
- 28 Actress — Gardner**
- 29 Nothing**
- 31 Flight formation**
- 33 Send a different way**
- 37 Made smooth by rubbing**
- 38 Multipurpose truck**
- 39 "My Gal —"**
- 41 Stretched car**
- 42 Dread**
- 43 Black wood**
- 44 Comedian Jay**
- 45 "Get out!"**
- 47 Headless nail**
- 49 Clumsy guy**
- 50 Athlete in the big leagues**

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ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



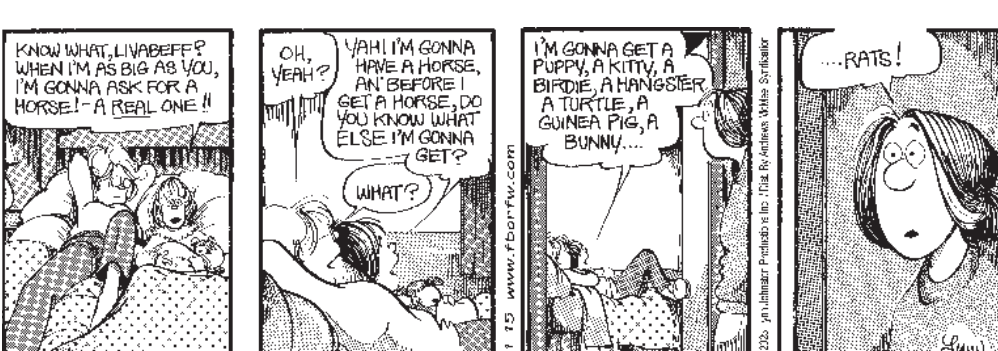
BIG NATE



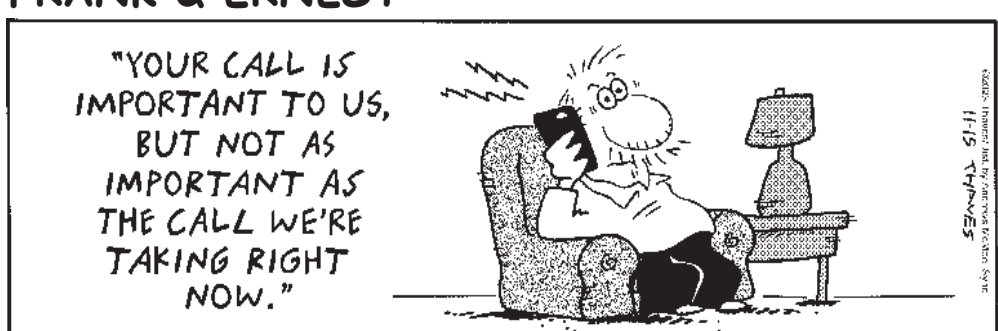
THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



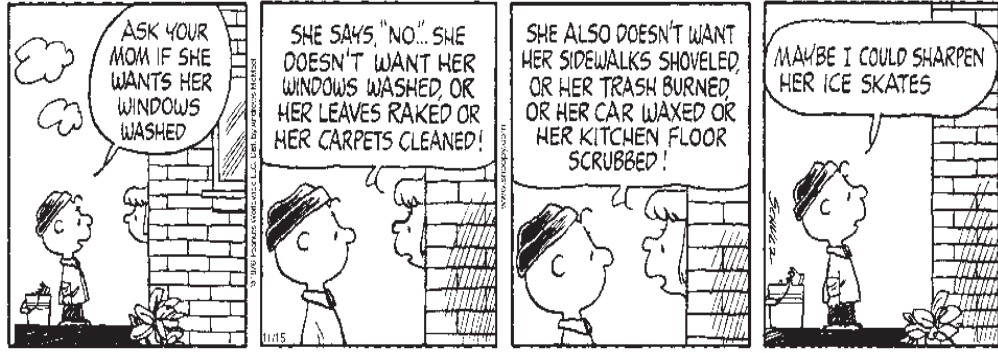
GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

HERMAN



PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

Boyfriend's behavior pushes woman's boundaries

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my live-in boyfriend for eight years. During the last five months, he has started staying out until daylight, choosing his friends over me, snapping at me when he talks at all and doesn't want to be around me. We have always gone everywhere together and shared our friendships with each other. There's an age gap of 16 years, but it has never been a problem.

I left for a month last year when I caught him talking to another woman through messaging (not platonic talk). That month I did a lot of soul-searching and set boundaries I will no longer allow to be broken. Because of past failed relationships, I have learned how to stand up and voice my opinion and care for myself emotionally. I guess my question is, should I be concerned, keep trying to communicate my feelings to him or move on with my life? I always put him ahead of anyone other than my children and God, but he doesn't give me the same respect. -- LOST FOR ANSWERS IN ARKANSAS

DEAR LOST: Is your boyfriend the person who is 16 years younger? I ask because his behavior is certainly immature. In light of what you have written, it should be clear to you that he is no longer as committed to your relationship as

you have been. You stated that you have established boundaries that you will no longer allow to be broken. GOOD FOR YOU. It is time to REESTABLISH them because the treatment you have been receiving is not only disrespectful, but also cruel. You may have devoted years to the relationship, but from my perspective, you have invested enough. Tell him you can see that he is not happy and ASK him if he wants to break up. I have a strong feeling that the answer will be yes.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 20-year-old gay man. I recently started a new job in which I thought I'd be replacing an aging co-worker who is supposed to be retiring "in a year." Every time I have mentioned anything to her about her retiring, she has corrected me, saying she's only going to cut back to a day or two a week. When I was hired, I was told she'd be gone in a month. I'm uncomfortable because she is politically conservative, deeply religious and sometimes moody, which makes her difficult to be around.

I have kept my mouth shut since I have been here only a month, whereas she has been here more than 20 years. I recently found out two other people had been hired for my role before I was, and both quit within six months. Should I stay and wait it out or follow



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

the possibility of happiness elsewhere? -- HOT AND BOTHERED IN INDIANA

DEAR HOT AND BOTHERED: Talk with your employer about the circumstances under which you were hired. You were told you would replace this woman and she'd be gone in one month. Exercise a little patience for another month or so and, if she's still there, ask your employer if something has changed because she's telling you she's not quitting. You deserve a straight answer if circumstances have changed. If that's the case and the job is no longer what you thought it was going to be, then "follow the possibility of happiness elsewhere" AFTER you have found a new job.

