



Gov. Polis opens trail to summit of Fishers Peak State Park

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Grizzly women finish second, men sixth; ASU garners 7 All-Americans

— Page 6

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# Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS November 21, 2023 \$1

## SLV Today

### Thanksgiving Day trash schedule for Alamosa

**ALAMOSA** — Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the city's schedule for picking up trash is changed for this week.

- Yard waste: Last day for collection will be Monday, Nov. 27.
- Commercial Routes: Thursday, Nov. 23, will be collected Wednesday, Nov. 22.
- Residential Routes: Thursday, Nov. 23, will be collected Friday, Nov. 24. Friday routes will be collected Monday, Nov. 27.
- Recycling Center: Will be closed Thursday, Nov. 23, and will reopen Friday, Nov. 24.
- City facilities will be closed both Thursday, Nov. 23, and Friday, Nov. 24.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 719-589-6631.

### MV City Hall closed for Thanksgiving

**MONTE VISTA** — The Monte Vista City Hall will be closed Nov. 23 for Thanksgiving.

### Free ice cream social in MV on Dec. 1

**MONTE VISTA** — The community is invited to a free ice cream social hosted by the Monte Vista Police Department from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, at the Ski Hi Complex. It is being sponsored by the LOR Foundation.

### Tree lighting, parade set for Dec. 2 in MV

**MONTE VISTA** — The annual Christmas tree lighting and parade are set for Dec. 2 in Monte Vista. The theme for this year is "So Much Christmas." Tree lighting and caroling will be at 5:15 p.m. in Fullenwider Park, where Santa and the Grinch are expected to make appearances. The Parade of Lights will be on Adams Street at 6 p.m. Activities and North Pole will beat Scrumpy Moo's restaurant downtown. Forms to enter the parade and for the business window decorating contest are available by contacting Jennifer Becker at 719-850-2709 or mvcoevents@gmail.com.

### SLV WEATHER

Sunny 48/8  
**Wed:** Sunny 53/10  
**Thurs:** Partly Sunny 52/16

**INSIDE**

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# Alamosa School District board race comes down to four votes

Results not yet official

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER  
Courier Reporter  
**ALAMOSA** — More than two weeks after the Nov. 7 election, unofficial results posted on the Secretary of State's website show the race between Andria Gay and Kaylee Gomez Romero to represent District One on the Alamosa School District's Board of Education has come down to a difference of four votes with Gay

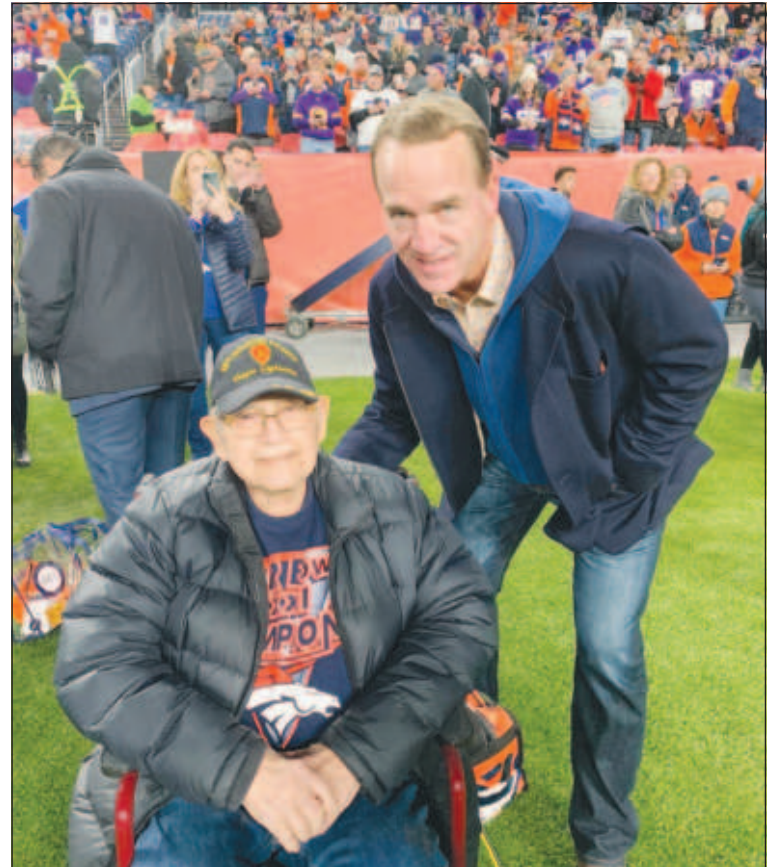
coming in at 1,522 and Kaylee Gomez Romero 1,518. But the race can't be called until the results are official, and that involves additional steps. According to Terri Carver, Alamosa County's Chief Deputy Clerk and Election Director, state statutes governing the election process require two more verifying procedures. "The Risk Limiting Audit has to be completed," Carver says, "and the canvass has to be done. Once those are completed and the abstract is submitted to the



Candidates for BOE District 1 race Andria Gay and Kaylee Gomez Romero

■ See BOE page 3

## Saguache WWII Veteran with the Sheriff



**Ricardo 'Rick' Quintana**, a World War II Veteran, and **Peyton Manning**, who was known as the Sheriff during his playing days, at the Denver Broncos Salute to Service military appreciation game on Nov. 19. Quintana was with the Army 25th Infantry Division in WWII in the Pacific campaign, according to his son, **Andrew Quintana**. After his junior year at Saguache High School, he turned 18 and was draft-

ed into WWII in 1944. At the end of the war in 1945, he was on the first wave of ships headed for a land invasion of Japan, when the US dropped the two atom bombs. There was a slim survival rate predicted for the first wave of soldiers, and he probably would not have survived. Instead, he was among the first troops to occupy Japan. When the war was over, he enlisted for another three-plus years. He returned to his hometown, Saguache, in 1949 and finished his senior year in high school. Using the GI Bill, he was the first in his family line to attend college and received an engineering degree. He then moved to Denver and worked for the City and County of Denver as a civil engineer for 38 years, building and maintaining many of the roads and bridges that are still used today. He retired in 1988, had seven children, and now lives on his own in Loveland. The Broncos 'Salute to Service' game was 'a special experience for both of us, and winning the game was the icing on the cake,' Andrew said.

Courtesy photo



The Rio Grande flows through the San Luis Valley.

## Bennet, Hickenlooper help secure nearly \$1.3 million for SLV water project

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER  
Courier Reporter  
**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — The Department of Interior recently announced that the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation was awarded nearly \$1.3 million for the Farmers Union Multi-Benefit Diversion Infrastructure Improvement Project. The project, one of eight projects funded in Colorado for a total award of \$10.2 million, was made possible by President Joe Biden's Investing in America agenda which represents the largest investment in climate resilience in the nation's history and is providing much-needed resources to enhance Western communities' resilience to drought and climate change. Last March, Senators Michael Bennet (D) and John Hickenlooper (D) sent a strong letter of support for the project that was ultimately funded through the WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Project (EWRP) grant program. A brief description of the project proposal states that the Colorado

■ See WATER page 3

## Waverly Road gives free post-Thanksgiving performance at Society Hall

Concert is free but donations always welcomed

**STAFF REPORTS**  
**ALAMOSA** — In a "show of gratitude" from Society Hall to the community, the band Waverly Road is performing a concert on Saturday, Nov. 25, for those interested in launching the holiday season with some fine music performed by locally well-known artists. "We have so much to be thankful for," reads a

collective statement from the Society Hall folks, "and that's why we're recreating this special event that we hosted in the past. This is a free event. No tickets, no door charge." Unique and community minded as always, the statement goes on to read, "We do encourage folks to bring a crockpot of soup to share for supper and/or a dessert for intermission. The sharing of the soups will be at 5:30 p.m. with the music beginning at 6:30. Intermission and desserts will

■ See WAVERLY page 3



Photo courtesy of Society Hall.

Waverly Road to perform Saturday, Nov. 25, at Society Hall. Pictured left to right: Peter Taylor (guitar, harmonica, vocals), Eli Dokson (guitar, vocals), Dean Lloyd (bass), Dale Smith (cajon, percussion, vocals), and Scott Russell (guitar, mandolin, vocals).

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# Record

## 2024 ballot measure would make Colorado's primaries open, enact ranked-choice voting for general elections

By SANDRA FISH  
*Colorado Sun*

Colorado voters will likely be asked next year to radically overhaul the state's election system by adopting an "open" primary system and ranked-choice voting in general elections while also doing away with the caucus and assembly process of putting candidates on the ballot. The proposal would also replace vacancy committees with special elections when state lawmakers resign.

The changes would be made through a 2024 ballot measure amending the Colorado Constitution. If approved, the constitutional amendment would take effect in 2026.

Kent Thiry, the wealthy former CEO of the Denver-based dialysis provider DaVita, has funded a number of ballot initiatives in the state in recent years overhauling elections and democratic processes and is behind the proposal. He said it's a response to sharp partisan divisions in Colorado and across the nation that he sees as a threat to democracy.

"I think this is about bringing voice and choice back to the people," he told The Colorado Sun. "Whether they're Democrats, Republicans or independents, they need their voice and choice back."

Here are the details of what the ballot measure would do:

- Under the open primary system, all candidates for elective office from the state legislative level on up would run on a single ballot, regardless of their party affiliation. The top four vote-getters would advance to the general election.

- In the general election, voters would rank candidates in order of preference. If a candidate wins more than 50% of the first-preference votes, they would be declared the winner. If no candidate reaches that threshold, candidates with the fewest first-preference supporters would be eliminated. The eliminated candidate's second-choice votes would then go to remaining candidates.

- The process would continue until one candidate exceeds 50% of the total vote. (This video explains

the process in more detail.) Several Colorado cities, including Boulder, use ranked-choice voting for some of their municipal elections.

- Voters would also be asked to eliminate the caucus and assembly ballot-access process used by Democrats and Republicans. Instead, all candidates would have to collect signatures to make the ballot, which can be very expensive in statewide races. To run for governor, for instance, candidates must collect 1,500 voter signatures in each of Colorado's eight congressional districts. To run for a state Senate or House seat, candidates must collect just 1,000 total signatures.

- Unaffiliated voters would be able to sign candidate petitions, which now may only be signed by members of the candidate's party.

- Vacancy committees to replace state lawmakers would be eliminated and replaced by special elections when a lawmaker resigns.

The changes would first affect the 2026 election when the offices of governor, attorney general, secretary of state and treasurer and a U.S. Senate seat will be up for grabs.

Getting the measure on the 2024 ballot won't be easy. Thiry and other supporters of the proposal will have to collect roughly 125,000 voter signatures that represent a sample of at least 2% of voters in each of Colorado's 35 state Senate districts. To pass, the measure would then have to be approved by 55% of the electorate because it amends the constitution.

Additionally, Colorado's 2024 ballot is expected to be crowded with other ballot measures, including ones enshrining abortion access in the state constitution and overhauling the state's property tax system.

Thiry's measure is expected to be filed with the state's Title Board, which determines how measures appear on the ballot, in the next week.

Thiry said the changes would initially be submitted as a single initiative. However, if the Title Board board or courts rule all of the provisions

can't be in one measure, they would be divided into separate ballot questions.

A switch to an open primary with a four-candidate general election could significantly weaken the power of the state Democratic and Republican parties in Colorado. But Thiry said it would give voters in legislative or congressional districts dominated by a single party more choices in the general election.

In some of Colorado's legislative and congressional districts, primary elections are more competitive than the general elections because of the districts' political demographics.

The election changes are sure to be opposed by the Colorado GOP, which is currently suing to overturn the 2016 change approved by voters allowing unaffiliated voters to participate in partisan primaries. Thiry backed that ballot initiative.

But other elected officials are reacting favorably to the general idea of Thiry's proposal.

"I've always been supportive of the concept of ranked-choice voting," Democratic Gov. Jared Polis told The Sun. "We just completed our first mayor's race in Boulder using ranked-choice voting. In talking to my friends and neighbors, it went very smoothly, people understood what they were doing. They got their voice counted, regardless of who their first choice was."

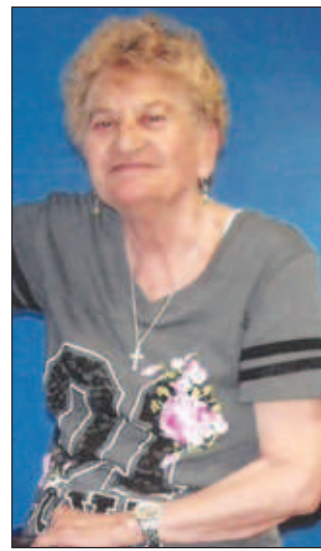
Polis said he'd wait to see the initiative before taking a formal position on the proposal.

Thiry told The Sun he's been making the rounds in Colorado's political circles to try to build support for his measure. But it's sure to face opposition, including from Assistant House Minority Leader Rose Pugliese, R-Colorado Springs. She led the unsuccessful 2020 campaign to stop Colorado from signing onto the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

"I've never been a fan of ranked-choice voting. I prefer this system that we have in place," Pugliese said. "Are there tweaks in the system we could make to make the system more efficient?"

### OBITUARY

#### Emily Gallegos



Emily Gallegos, 90, of Delta, Colo., went to be with the Lord on Oct. 22, 2023, in Capulin Colo., after her battle with cancer.

She was born in Los Sauces, Colo., on Aug. 1, 1933, to Eutimio and Sofia (Naranjo) Ruybal. Emily was raised the first few years of her life attending school in Los Sauces till the 3rd grade when her family moved to Sanford, Colo. She attended school in Sanford till the 8th grade and then had to quit school to assist at home. She met and married Frank Vigil from Conejos, Colo., in 1950 at the young age of 17. Emily was unable to have children so her and Frank adopted their son Michael.

Frank passed away in 1965, Emily then met and married Elisardo Gallegos and raised their families together in Center Colo. In the early 1980's, Emily and Elisardo relocated to Delta Colorado where they spent the next 40 years.

Emily had a great love for God and would love to have bible study, pray or just speak to her family or friends about God. She was a member of El Buen Pastor Spanish Assembly of God in Delta Colorado for close to 40 years. She recently enjoyed going to the Cowboy Church in Delta, Colo.

husband's Frank Vigil and Elisardo Gallegos, special niece Diana Pettis, as well as numerous cousins and friends.

She is survived by her son Michael Vigil of Capulin, Colo., Daughter in Law Rose Vigil of Pueblo West, Colo., Granddaughter Es-marelda Suazo of Honolulu, Hawaii, Great-Granddaughters Alysia Ruybal of Colorado Springs, Colo., Victoria Ruybal (Dominic Martinez) of Pueblo West, Colo., and Great-Great-Granddaughter Heaven Rose Martinez of Pueblo West, Colo. She also is survived by her nephews, nieces, God Children and special friend Paul Ash.

Special Thanks goes to Hospice Del Valle and their amazing nursing staff for the care provided to Emily and to Romero's Funeral Home for their assistance during her death.

Funeral services have been arranged for April 27, 2024, at 2 p.m. in Delta, Colo., at El Buen Pastor Spanish Assembly of God with her ashes being placed next to her siblings at Mesa View Cemetery following funeral services.

To leave online condolences, please visit [romero-funeralhomes.com](http://romero-funeralhomes.com). The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

## Colorado could be among first states in federal childhood hunger reduction program

By SARA WILSON  
*Colorado Newsline*

While the headline issue of the ongoing special legislative session is working out property tax relief for next year, Colorado Democrats also want to use the unexpected time in the Capitol building to opt in to a new federal program that provides summer nutrition assistance for students in low-income households.

Senate Bill 23B-2 would let Colorado join the federal Summer Electronic Transfer program, which is set to begin next year. States need to sign up for the program by Jan. 1 in order to access benefits next summer, so this special legislative session is the only opportunity lawmakers have before they reconvene for the regular session early next year.

"This bill — big picture — is about making sure that kids have food. During the school year, sometimes for some kids, the only meals they get are the ones they get at school. And during the summer, the amount they get goes way, way down," bill sponsor Sen. Jeff Bridges, an Arapahoe County Democrat, said during the bill's Senate committee hearing on Friday.

"It does not solve childhood hunger, but it does bring money from the federal government here into Colorado to help feed kids," he said.

In total, the bill would clear the way for an estimated \$35 million benefit for about 300,000 children in the state. Families would receive \$40 per month per eligible child on a pre-loaded card to

use on groceries. It is similar to an expired program that provided assistance to families with children during the height of the pandemic.

Summer EBT is intended to serve children who use the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program during the school year but lose access to those free and reduced meals during the summer months. It is meant to work alongside other nutrition programs, such as SNAP, WIC and summer meal sites.

Previous research from the U.S. Department of Agriculture shows that Summer EBT can decrease the number of children with very low food insecurity by one-third. Food insecurity refers to eating habits that are disrupted due to financial constraints.

The Colorado bill specifically gives the Colorado Department of Education — the board of which publicly supports the bill — and the Colorado Department of Human Services the legal authority to operate the program. It would require a \$6.6 million appropriation for the current fiscal year and \$4.5 million for the next fiscal year, according to the bill's fiscal note.

Colorado would be one of the first states to take part in Summer EBT, which Congress established last year as part of the consolidated appropriations act, if the bill passes both chambers and is signed by Gov. Jared Polis. Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia have also indicated to the U.S. Department of Ag-

riculture that they intend to participate.

The Senate passed the bill on a 32-2 vote Friday. It was introduced in the House on Saturday and is set to be considered by its House committee Sunday.

The bill's prime sponsors are Bridges, Sen. Rachel Zenzinger of Arvada, Rep. Shannon Bird of Westminster and Rep. Lorena Garcia of Adams County, all Democrats.

It is the only bill so far that has made it to the floor and received bipartisan support during the special session. Republican Sens. Barbara Kirkmeyer of Weld County and Janice Rich of Grand Junction signed on as sponsors and Republican Sen. Byron Pelton of Sterling added his name as a co-sponsor.

### PENDING OBITUARIES

#### Michael Amos

Alamosa resident Michael Amos, 71, was called home on Nov. 17, 2023. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

#### Jerome 'Jerry' Salazar

Monte Vista resident Jerome "Jerry" Salazar, 69, passed away at UC Health Central in Colorado Springs on November 13, 2023. Rogers Family is in care of arrangements, visit [www.RogersFunerals.com](http://www.RogersFunerals.com) to leave tributes and online condolences for Jerry's family.

#### Robert 'Bob' Kirkham

Longtime Alamosa resident Robert "Bob" Kirkham, 72, passed away peacefully at his home on Nov. 17, 2023. Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of arrangements, visit [www.RogersFunerals.com](http://www.RogersFunerals.com) to leave online condolences for Bob's family.

School Menu  
Tuesday  
November 21, 2023

Thanksgiving Break!

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

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San Luis Valley Federal Bank's Spirit of Giving is here! \$35,000 will be donated to SLV local non-profits. Every Bank member may vote for their favorite non-profit! Each vote a non-profit receives, the larger their donation will be. Learn more or cast your vote by visiting our website!  
Voting begins November 13th and ends December 15th

# Valley News

## Wellness Center at Rio Grande Hospital taking shape

By RIO GRANDE HOSPITAL

**DEL NORTE** — Rio Grande Hospital is creating a place with unique new services and education for our communities. Its Wellness Center will be a training and learning center offering ways to focus on wellness and prevention.

According to architect, Lisa Carpenter, “This project has truly been a dream. My favorite projects are anytime I get to design a building or space that will function to improve people’s lives, and I believe this building will impact a lot of lives.”

How will the Wellness Center serve people; how will they use it? Here are some highlights:

Visitors will be able to learn how to eat a healthier diet through cooking classes. The Teaching Kitchen will provide demonstrations of tasty and cost-effective recipes. Classes will further impart the health benefits of cooking and eating a plant-slant diet, such as boosting immunity and gut health, helping with blood pressure, or strengthening bones.

Those who have chronic kidney disease or diabetes, can receive training in preparing home meals that will not aggravate their condition; or be coached on

ways to substitute ingredients and ways to blend in herbs and spices.

The Center will have a Community Lounge to connect with others. This welcoming space is large and roomy, yet intimate and comfortable enough to have a conversation over coffee with a friend, watch the bison herd, read a book, use a computer, or just relax in a peaceful atmosphere.

In addition, the lounge will create a safe place where families can talk, share, and enjoy time together during convalescence.

A large Community Hall with up-Valley views, will provide a barrier-free meeting space during the day for the hospital staff to come together, and at night for large community groups, local businesses, and service organization events.

The hall will accommodate activities such as catered events, seminars, health conferences, prevention workshops, annual meetings, retreats for local organizations, or employee wellness programs for local businesses.

The Wellness Center’s Fitness Studio will allow the public and hospital staff to attend Yoga, Cross-Fit Movement, or Tai Chi classes. People can use a variety of exercise equip-



Courtesy photo

In the photo on left are the first foundations for the extended-care cottages located on the south side of the new Rio Grande Wellness Center at the Rio Grande Hospital.

ment while learning ways to exercise at home for stress reduction or toning the body.

The studio will be a place to practice good health after medical treatment or diagnosis. For patients who graduated from cardio/pulmonary rehab, it provides transitional wellness programs.

The inviting outdoor walkways are safe walking paths benefiting mobil-

ity and social networking.

In the Garden Meeting Room patients, staff, and community members can meet in private while enjoying the benefits of a “living herb wall.” This is an indoor vertical herbal plant garden with information showing how to grow and cook with herbs.

The room functions as a place to host workshops and training sessions. Learn how to deal with

illness through lifestyle changes, better cope with serious anxiety, or experience and practice the multiple elements of mindfulness within a support group.

Two private quiet rooms will allow people to sit back, unwind, and reflect. The rooms will be beneficial to those needing to calm from crisis incident stress or to those who are experiencing job stress.

Plans for the Wellness Center include facilitating computer training and providing computers for patients to catch up on missed work, for upskilling the staff, and for the public.

The facility will be focused on sharing holistic health practices with staff and the community through hands-on experiences to form healthier lifestyle habits.

## Pair of special session bills heads to governor’s desk as property tax relief nears finish line

By SARA WILSON

Colorado Newsline

Two bills from the Colorado Legislature’s special session on property taxes are headed to the desk of Gov. Jared Polis after weekend work, and lawmakers could wrap up work on the rest of the legislation as soon as Monday.

While Polis called the special session to focus on softening the impact of rising property taxes in the state, his call also made room for work on other topics.

They included adjustments to the state’s earned income tax credit for the 2023 tax year. That’s a tax credit for low-income working families that affects over 400,000 Coloradans and ranges in amount depending on income.

“People aren’t getting paid enough. They aren’t making enough to live. And the earned income tax credit is a direct target to our working class and our working poor,” bill prime sponsor Chris Kolker, a Centennial Democrat, told the Senate Finance

Committee on Saturday. “The people who would benefit from a boost of the EITC refund are predominantly renters, disproportionately people of color and people living with disabilities — the people who might not feel the direct impact of property taxes.”

Currently, the state’s refundable EITC equals 25% of the federal credit amount a household receives. House Bill 23B-1002 would double that.

For a family with two children that makes \$52,918, the maximum federal EITC for next year is \$6,604, according to the IRS. Under current law, the state would provide an additional \$1,651, but with HB23B-1002, that amount would increase to \$3,716.

For next year, the federal EITC benefit ranges from \$600 to \$7,430 and is determined by household size and income amount. Higher earners get a higher benefit.

“Expanding our EITC is likely to boost first-time claimancy,

drawing down more federal money to be spent in every part of the state,” bill prime sponsor Rep. Mary Young, a Greeley Democrat, said on the House floor.

The increase would cost the state about \$180 million from the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights surplus.

TABOR is a state constitutional amendment adopted in 1992 that limits the amount of revenue the state can retain and spend. The limit rises based on inflation and population growth, and revenue collected in excess of the limit must be refunded to taxpayers. There are a variety of refund mechanisms, such as different tax breaks and direct checks to taxpayers.

Republicans were opposed to HB23B-1002 because it uses the TABOR surplus and would affect how much the average taxpayer gets refunded next year. They contend that voters rejected Proposition HH — which would have raised the TABOR cap and used the surplus to pay for property tax cuts — on the basis that

it would have reduced TABOR refunds.

“There is a mandate from my district and from the people we represent that we leave TABOR refunds alone,” Rep. Richard Holtorf, an Akron Republican, said on the House floor.

If passed, HB23B-1002 would cost taxpayers about \$48 on their refund check, Kolker said.

The Legislature passed a bill in the spring to raise the EITC to 38% for the 2024 tax year, using \$150 million from TABOR surplus. That bill had bipartisan support. Historically, TABOR surplus has been used for the EITC state credit.

HB23B-1002 passed the House on a 39-20 vote Saturday. Rep. Bob Marshall of Highlands Ranch was the lone Democratic no vote. The bill then passed the Senate on Sunday morning on a party-line vote.

The Legislature also passed a bill to expand staffing in the state’s Treasury Department for the property tax deferral pro-

gram, which lets homeowners defer a portion of their property taxes if they increase by more than 4% over two years. That will cost about \$90,000 in general fund money. Democrats Sen. Dylan Roberts of Frisco and Sen. Rachel Zenzinger of Arvada voted with Republicans against it.

Lawmakers still need to give final approval on five other Democrat-led bills, including the priority short-term property tax relief bill. In the Senate, that relief bill was amended to increase a home valuation exemption to \$55,000 and alter the growth threshold for which local governments would be eligible for backfill funding to 15% from 13.5%.

The bill still needs final passage from the House, which debated and passed it on second reading Sunday night.

Lawmakers are also considering a bill to make TABOR refund checks equal to all taxpayers next year and another bill to establish a task force to study long-term property tax solutions.

## Water

Continued from Page 1

Rio Grande Restoration Foundation, in partnership with the San Luis Valley Irrigation District, will upgrade the diversion infrastructure for the Farmers Union Canal and Rio Grande No. 1 Ditch, in southwestern Colorado, to meet agricultural, ecological, recreational, and community needs.

The current diversion infrastructure creates a barrier to fish passage, is hazardous for boaters, and requires frequent maintenance. The partners will construct a new diversion structure, incor-

porating fish passage that will allow fish to access an additional 1.42 river miles of habitat.

The project also includes restoration of streambank through the installation of rock and root wad structures and streambed and aquatic habitat through improved sediment transport at the diversion structure.

The diversion upgrade will provide safe boat passage and more efficiently deliver water to the Farmers Union Canal and Rio Grande No. 1 Ditch.

“The Restoration Foundation has a successful track record of collaborating with diverse stakeholders to improve

the Rio Grande Basin in Colorado,” write Bennet and Hickenlooper in their letter of support. “The Farmers Union Canal is an important diversion structure that divides the Rio Grande into north and south channels and irrigates more than 43,000 acres of land downstream of Del Norte, Colorado.”

The senators go on to say, “With EWRP funds, automated headgates will improve operations, provide safe fish passage, and reduce maintenance, while streambank stabilization will reduce sedimentation in the river to improve water quality for downstream users and enhance surrounding wild-

life habitat.

“Through community engagement, restoration, and innovation, the Restoration Foundation will address agricultural, environmental, and water administration needs of the Rio Grande Basin in Colorado.”

As part of the Biden-Harris administration’s commemoration of the two-year anniversary of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Michael Brain announced the selections during a

visit to Grand Junction, Colorado.

“These locally led initiatives utilize the investments from President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to demonstrate quantifiable and sustained water savings, all while providing a direct benefit to the surrounding ecosystems,” said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Brain. “These types of projects and robust cooperation with stakeholders are helping to improve watershed health and increase water reliability and access for

families, farmers, and Tribes.”

Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Bureau of Reclamation is investing a total of \$8.3 billion over five years for water infrastructure projects, including rural water, water storage, conservation and conveyance, nature-based solutions, dam safety, water purification and reuse, and desalination. Over the first two years of its implementation, Reclamation selected 372 projects to receive almost \$2.8 billion.

## BOE

Continued from Page 1

office of the Secretary of State, the results become official.”

The Risk Limiting Audit is a post-election audit required by state law. Canvass, Carver says, refers to a mandated procedure where an election judge from each party verifies the quantity of returned ballots matches the quantity of processed ballots.

According to the election calendar on the Secretary of State’s website 2023ElectionCalendar.pdf (state.co.us) the deadline for the canvass to be completed and the abstract submitted to the Secretary of State is Nov. 29.

But, due to the closeness of the race, even after the results are certified, the election process is still not complete.

State statutes also require that a margin of votes between candidates

that is less than one half of one percent (.05%) triggers an automatic recount. Gay leading by only four votes out of a total 3,040 votes cast qualifies.

Those same statutes further state that the recount must be completed by the 31st day following the day of the election, which sets Dec. 8 as the final deadline and the last possible day when candidates and voters tracking the race will know the final outcome.

## Waverly

Continued from Page 1

be shared at 7:30 p.m. and music to top off the evening — ending about 8 p.m. Donations will be accepted and are always appreciated.”

Waverly Road — known for their tight harmony, “inventive instrumental interplay” and playlist of Americana, Rock and Roll, Blues, and Folks — has a long history in the San Luis Valley, but Saturday night is guaranteed to be special.

A note from band member Scoot — also known

as Scotter or Scott Russell — gives a glimpse of what’s awaiting those music lovers who come to the show.

“Waverly Road is so excited to be playing Society Hall on Saturday, Nov. 25,” Russell writes. “We’ll be performing an entire show of our very own originals. This will be a ‘first’ for me in my 55-plus years of playing on stage. Reckon it’s time to take off the training wheels! Please come join Dale, Eli, Peter, Dean, and myself for a special evening of fellowship and music.”

In homage to an ex-

traordinary music venue supported by a steadfast community of fine, music-loving people, the staff at Society Hall extends a warm invitation to all.

“This should be a beautiful community gathering — bring the family and come join us!”

Saturday, Nov. 25, doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with music beginning at 6:30 p.m. Society Hall is located at 400 Ross in Alamosa. No tickets needed, but donations for the musicians will be gratefully accepted. Questions about what to give? Call Ruthie Brown at 719-580-7838.

# Lifestyles



Courtesy photo

Left to right, CPW Director Jeff Davis, Governor Jared Polis and DNR Director Dan Gibbs at the opening of the Fishers Peak Summit Trail.

## Gov. Polis opens trail to summit of Fishers Peak State Park

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE TRINIDAD — On Sunday, Gov. Jared Polis opened the new, much anticipated eight-mile trail to the 9,633-foot summit of Fishers Peak State Park, inviting all who have long desired to hike up the flat-topped mountain.

"The hike and views are even better than I expected at Fishers Peak," Governor Polis said as he surveyed the panoramic views available from the rugged and steep trail that climbs from the Fishers Peak Trailhead up the east side to the mountain that was formed when horizontal lava flows more than one million years ago solidified into basalt and cut a ribbon at the summit to commemorate the official opening of the Fishers Peak Summit to the public.

"It's a challenging and beautiful trail and I encourage Coloradans to come to Trinidad and enjoy our new world-class state park," Gov. Polis said. "I applaud Colorado Parks and Wildlife for making this happen so soon. Expanding access to the outdoors through our amazing state parks was a promise I made when I became governor. Fishers Peak State Park is proof of our commitment. Just as Fishers Peak was a beacon for our ancestors, this world-class park and trail to the summit will attract recreationists, and visitors and provide

a fantastic experience for many Coloradans."

The trail will be open all winter until the upper 3-mile section closes on March 15 to protect a cliffside area where falcons nest and breed. This upper section of the trail will be closed until July 31 when the ½-mile buffer restriction is lifted. This will be an annual seasonal closure.

When the Governor opened the park, Polis made it a priority for CPW to expedite guest access to the 19,200-acre park. Immediately, the agency went to work building a parking lot with space for about 92 vehicles, two vault toilets, five picnic tables in a scenic spot and three short trails.

A year ago, CPW opened 11 miles of additional trails for hikers and mountain bikers, quadrupling the acreage accessible in the park. Those trails feature hiking-only options, a trail dedicated to mountain bike downhill riders only and trails shared by both users, called multi-use trails.

Some offer views of Fishers Peak and across the Purgatoire River valley to Trinidad Lake State Park and beyond. But customer surveys sent a clear message that a trail to the summit of Fishers Peak was a top priority.

CPW Director Jeff Davis said he was proud of the park and the new signature summit trail and agrees with the governor that it will be a

popular addition to the outdoor amenities available in Colorado.

"Fishers Peak is an icon to anyone traveling north over Raton Pass into Colorado or exploring the southeast region of the state," Director Davis said. "This trail is a major accomplishment, given the quick timeline and the challenging conditions faced by trailbuilders. I applaud CPW Park Manager Crystal Dreiling and the entire team that made this happen."

Dreiling predicted the trail will not disappoint guests to Fishers Peak State Park. But she cautioned it is not for beginner hikers.

"Guests will find this hike truly a breathtaking experience," Dreiling said. "The views at the top are fantastic in all directions. But it's a challenge and at a 16-mile roundtrip, it's a long day. Still I'm extremely excited to welcome guests to experience Fishers Peak in a way they've only imagined. It's a physical challenge and a moving experience when you consider this mountain was long a landmark for Native Americans and later guided pioneers along the historic Santa Fe trail."

It will take CPW years to fully transform the former private ranch into a modern state park with full amenities such as a Visitor Center, campgrounds, equestrian facilities, road, electricity and other infrastructure.



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Keith R Cerny  
Publisher

Brian Williams  
Managing Editor

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# Lifestyles

## These tips can help make turkey terrific

Sweet potatoes may be stars; cornbread dressing a contender. Dinner rolls are divine and green bean casserole a go-to. But Thanksgiving dinner isn't complete without turkey.

Even in households that don't eat meat, plant-based turkey alternatives find their way onto the dinner table in a nod to Thanksgiving tradition. Given the emphasis placed on the main course each Thanksgiving, cooking a turkey can be intimidating. These turkey-cooking tips can calm anyone's nerves and result in a mouth-watering main course.

• Allow ample time for thawing. Some people may not be able to buy a fresh turkey, and millions of individuals purchase frozen turkeys each year. The Food Network says it can take 24 hours per every five

pounds to thaw a turkey. Therefore, if you have a 15-pounder, allow for three days for thawing. Always thaw a turkey in a refrigerator.

• Get the right size bird. The general rule of thumb is 1 pound (uncooked) to 11-12 pounds of turkey per person if you're buying a whole turkey. Rather than purchasing the largest turkey you can find for a large crowd, consider two smaller turkeys or one turkey and one breast to make cooking more even. Smaller birds are more tender as well.

• Adjust the temperature. The food and cooking resource TheKitchn advises preheating an oven to 450 F, then dropping the temperature to 350 F after putting the turkey into the oven. Cook, on average, 13 minutes per each pound of turkey. The turkey is

done when it registers a minimum temperature of 165 F in the thickest part of the thigh.

• To brine or not to brine? Many food fanatics swear by brining turkey to achieve more moist and flavorful meat. However, a wet brine may not lead to the crispiest skin possible. Good Housekeeping suggests trying a dry brine instead. This involves rubbing salt all over the raw turkey, placing the bird into a large plastic bag, and refrigerating overnight or up to two days before cooking; otherwise, purchase a kosher turkey, which already has been salted from the inside out.

• Avoid stuffing the bird. Rather than stuffing the turkey and cooking everything en masse, prepare the stuffing mixture separate from the turkey. This reduces

the risk of contamination from the turkey's raw juices and helps to achieve a crispy coating on the stuffing guests will enjoy.

• Make an aromatic roasting rack. Turkeys typically are placed on a metal rack for cooking so the juices do not cause the turkey to stick to the pan. However, you also can cut onions and lay them with a bed of whole celery stalks and carrots to elevate the roast. This creates extra flavor in the bird and the vegetables also can be served or mixed into the stuffing.

Some turkey-roasting techniques can ensure a moist and flavorful main course this Thanksgiving.



## Crustless pie a treat for those with gluten intolerance

The holiday season is a popular time to entertain. Food is often a focal point of holiday season entertaining.

Individuals who navigate food allergies or intolerances may shy away from certain celebrations out of fear that a nibble of this or a bite of that may trigger an allergic response. In such instances, concern about ingredients can cast a pall over normally festive occasions.

Those with Celiac disease or gluten intolerances must be mindful of the foods they consume. Meals or desserts containing gluten, a protein found in grains like wheat, semolina, rye, barley, graham, spelt, farina, and more, can trigger intestinal distress and other symptoms. With delicious pies, cakes and cookies on the holiday serving table, gluten is likely to make an appearance. However, with careful planning, people who cannot stomach foods that contain gluten can still indulge in their favorite holiday flavors.

"Crustless Libby's® Famous Pumpkin Pie" is a variation on traditional pumpkin pie served at Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings. Without the crust, individuals who avoid gluten can still dive into that pumpkin-and-spice combination that's so popular around the holiday season. Enjoy this recipe, courtesy of Libby's® Pumpkin.

Crustless Libby's® Famous Pumpkin Pie  
Makes 8 servings

3/4 cup granulated sugar  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger  
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves  
2 large eggs  
1 can (15 ounces) Libby's® 100% Pure Pumpkin  
1 can (12 fluid ounces) Nestlé® Carnation Evaporated Milk  
Nonstick cooking spray  
Whipped cream (optional)

1. Preheat oven as directed below. Glass baking dishes without crust require a cooler oven.



and in most cases, a longer baking time.

2. Spray baking dish with nonstick cooking spray or lightly grease bottom of baking pan or baking dish.

3. Mix sugar, cinnamon, salt, ginger and cloves in a small bowl. Beat eggs in a large bowl. Stir in pumpkin and sugar-spice mixture. Gradually stir in evaporated milk.

4. Bake as directed below or until a knife inserted near center comes out clean.

5. Cool on wire rack for 2 hours. Serve immediately or refrigerate.

Cooking times  
9-inch-round glass pie dish: 325 F; bake for 55 to 60 minutes

10-inch-round glass pie dish: 325 F; bake for 45 to 50 minutes

8-inch-round cake pan: 350 F; bake for 45 to 50 minutes

9-inch-round cake pan: 350 F; bake for 35 to 40 minutes

8-inch-square baking pan: 350 F; bake for 45 to 50 minutes

8-inch-square glass baking dish: 325 F; 50 to 60 minutes

9-inch-square baking dish: 350 F; bake for 35 to 40 minutes

11x7-inch glass baking dish: 325 F; bake for 45 to 50 minutes

13x9-inch baking pan: 350 F; bake for 35 to 40 minutes

13x9-inch glass baking dish: 325 F; bake for 40 to 45 minutes

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# Sports

## Sports Bulletin

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

### SCOREBOARD FRIDAY

**College men's basketball**  
Eastern New Mexico 92, Adams State 82

### SATURDAY

**College men's basketball**  
Western New Mexico 93, Adams State 78

**College women's basketball**  
Texas A&M-Kingsville 69, Adams State 66

### SCHEDULE FRIDAY

**College men's basketball**  
Adams State at Alaska-Anchorage, 9:30 p.m.

**College women's basketball**  
Adams State at Alaska-Anchorage, 7:15 p.m.

### SATURDAY

**College men's basketball**  
Adams State at Alaska-Anchorage, 9:30 p.m.

**College women's basketball**  
Adams State at Alaska-Anchorage, 7:15 p.m.

### TUESDAY, NOV. 28

**Prep boys basketball**  
Center at Salida, 4:30 p.m.

Creede at La Veta, 4:30 p.m.

**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, 5 p.m.

### THURSDAY, NOV. 30

**Prep boys basketball**  
Monte Vista at Rye Invitational, 4:30 p.m.

Antonito, Center, Creede, Sangre de Cristo, Sargent at Sangre de Cristo Shootout, TBA

Centauri hosts Mountain Top Tournament, TBA

**Prep girls basketball**  
Monte Vista at Rye Invitational, 6 p.m.

Antonito, Center, Creede, Sangre de Cristo, Sargent at Sangre de Cristo Shootout, TBA

Centauri hosts Mountain Top Tournament, TBA

**Prep boys wrestling**  
Center, Sargent at Del Norte, 6 p.m.

## Grizzly women finish second, men sixth; ASU garners 7 All-Americans

By ERIC R. FLORES  
ASU Asst. AD for Communications

**JOPLIN, Mo.** - The Adams State University women finished in second place while the men finished sixth at the NCAA Division II National Cross Country Championships here on Saturday morning at the Tom Rutledge Cross Country Course in Joplin, Missouri as Missouri Southern State University hosted the meet.

Grand Valley State won the women's title as they scored 59 points as they had four runners in front of Adams State's second runner to run away with the title. Adams State finished in second with 86 points.

Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Runner of the Year, senior Brianna Robles was the top Grizzly to cross the finish line as she crossed the finish line in 19:48.9.

Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year Tristian Spence was the second Grizzly across the line as she finished in 16th place to earn 13 team points. She crossed the finish line in 20:21.3 while Sophomore Ava O'Connor finished in 17th place for 14 team points and a time of 20:25.5.

Junior Morgan Hykes finished in 29th place earning 23 team points with a time of 20:34.4. Junior Emily Schoellkopf finished in 40th place to



The Adams State University women's cross country team finished in second place at the NCAA Division II Championship Meet Saturday in Joplin, Mo. The Grizzlies were sixth in the men's meet.

cap off the All-America honors and team scorers with a time of 20:44.7. She got 32 team points.

Junior Elena Carey finished in 21:03.9 and 60th place while junior Reina Paredes finished in 80th place with a time 21:24.8.

On the men's side, Wingate won their first ever title in the sport as they had their five scorers in the top 21. They scored 70 points compared to second-place Colorado

School of Mines, who finished with 79 points.

East Central scored 108 points for third, West Texas A&M, which had the individual winner, finished fourth with 142 points. Western Colorado finished fifth with 168 points and Adams State finished in sixth with 169 points.

The Grizzlies' first runner was senior Dayton Brown with 13 points as he crossed the finish line in 30:02.9 and 25th place.

Senior Awet Beraki earned 24 points by finishing in 32nd place with a time of 30:11.5. These were the only two to earn All-American honors.

Junior Yonas Haile finished in 42nd place earning 34 team points by finishing in 30:24.4. Sophomore Kidus Begashaw was the Grizzlies fourth runner as he earned 46 team points and junior Romain Legendre earned 47 team points to round

out the scorers. They finished in 54th and 55th, respectively, in 30:38.7 and 30:39.7.

Freshman Emil Bezeckny was Adams State's sixth runner as he finished in 108th place with a time of 31:15.9 and junior James Dunne rounding out the Grizzly representatives with a 115th place finish in 31:20.7.

## Lady Grizzlies relinquish second half lead, lose second straight

By KEN HAMRICK  
Courier sports editor

**ALAMOSA** - The Adams State University women's basketball team looked as though it had Saturday's game against Texas A&M-Kingsville in hand as it led 66-53 with 4:37 left in the game.

However, the Lady Grizzlies did not score after that. Meanwhile, the Lady Javelinas scored 16 unanswered points and went on to win 69-66 at Plachy Hall gym.

Harmanie Dominguez and Angeline Nageak staked Adams State to an early 6-0 lead on back-to-back 3-point baskets. Texas A&M-Kingsville then went on a 9-0 run to take a 9-6 lead.

Kayla Harris ended the run, and Nageak made her second trey of the game to give the Lady Grizzlies an 11-9 advantage.

The Lady Javs scored six straight points to regain the lead at 15-11. Riahana Davis sank a three, and Harris drove for a layup to put the Lady Grizzlies back in front at 16-15.

The Lady Javelinas scored the final four points of the first quarter and led 19-16. Harris opened the second quarter scoring with a jumper, and Dominguez made her second 3-pointer for a 21-19 Adams State lead.

Texas A&M-Kingsville tied the score on Shelby Ray's layup and took the lead on a three by Abby Bala. Nyenia John ended the run, but Ray scored another layup and Alyssa O'Malley made two free throws to give the Lady Javs a 28-23 lead.

Destinee Paulk ended the rally with a layup, and Nageak scored from behind the arc to tie the score at 28-28.

Bala put Texas A&M-Kingsville back in front, but Davis drilled another trey to put Adams State back into the lead. Dominguez hit her third 3-pointer and Bri Linnear drove for a layup to give the Lady Grizzlies a 36-32 advantage at halftime.

Elaina Watson and Nageak both scored to give Adams State a 40-32 lead early in the third quarter. Mia Rivers made two free tosses to end the run, but Linnear scored again for a 42-34 lead.

The Lady Javelinas scored seven unanswered points to cut their deficit to 42-21. Dominguez made a layup to increase the margin to three, but Texas A&M-Kingsville scored four in a row to regain the lead at 45-44.

Davis made another 3-pointer for the Lady Grizzlies, but Rivers scored to deadlock the score at 47-47.

Nageak made two straight baskets for a 51-47 lead. Bala pulled the Lady Javelinas within two, but Harris split at the free throw line, Dominguez made another three, and Watson made two free throws for a 57-49 Lady Grizzlies lead at halftime.

Davis opened the fourth quarter with a layup to give Adams State a double-digit lead at 59-49. Ray and Jayde Tschritter both scored to close the lead to 59-53.

The Lady Grizzlies got layups from Dominguez, Harris and Davis, and a free throw by Davis to take their largest lead at 66-53.

Rivers started the game-winning Texas A&M-Kingsville rally with a pair of layups and Ray drained a 3-point basket to reduce the deficit to 66-60.

Tschritter also made a trey and Rivers hit a jumper to reduce the Adams State lead to



Above: Adams State University Riahana Davis (24) looks for an open teammate against Texas A&M-Kingsville's Janessa Payne (35) in Saturday's game at Plachy Hall gym. Right: Harmanie Dominguez (1) drives to the basket. The Lady Grizzlies lost 69-66.

66-65. Bala gave the Lady Javelinas the lead with a pair of charity tosses, and Tschritter did the same for a three-point lead with 1.3 seconds remaining.

Harris attempted a 3-point basket at the buzzer, but it was unsuccessful.

Three Lady Grizzlies scored in double figures with Davis and Dominguez each scoring 16 points. Nageak scored 11.

For the Lady Javs, Tschritter led the way with 19 points, followed by Bala with 16, Ray with 13 and Rivers with 12.

Texas A&M-Kingsville outrebounded the Lady Grizzlies 38-30. Davis led Adams State with eight rebounds, and Rivers led the Lady Javelinas with nine.

Adams State (3-3) will be on the road this weekend as it will travel to Alaska for two games with Alaska-Anchorage on both Friday and Saturday. The ASU men's team will also make the trip for two games.

Texas A&M-Kingsville 69, Adams State 66  
Texas A&M-Kingsville - Ohiaeri 0-4-0-2, Payne 0-2-0-0, Lake 1-2-0-2, Rivers 5-12-2-2, Tschritter 5-9-5-6-19, Ray 6-11-0-0-13, Bala 5-7-4-6-16, Williams 0-0-0-0-0, O'Malley 0-1-6-6-6, Maynou 0-2-1-2-1, Total 22-50-18-24-69.  
3-point goals - Ohiaeri 0-3, Payne 0-2, Rivers 0-3, Tschritter 4-7, Ray 1-4, Bala 2-2, Maynou 0-1, Total 7-22.  
Adams State - Harris 3-7-1-2-7, Dominguez 6-17-0-0-16, Nageak 4-15-0-0-11, Watson 3-5-2-3-8, Davis 6-8-1-2-16, Anitielu 0-2-0-0-0.



Longe 0-3-0-0-0, John 1-2-0-0-2, Caldon 0-0-0-0-0, Linnear 2-2-0-0-4, Paulk 1-1-0-0-2, Total 26-62-4-7-66.  
3-point goals - Harris 0-3, Dominguez 4-9, Nageak 3-9, Davis 3-4, Anitielu 0-1, Total 10-26.  
TAMUK 19 13 17 20 - 69  
Adams St. 16 20 21 9 - 66  
Rebounds - Texas A&M-Kingsville 38 (Rivers 9), Adams State 30 (Davis 8), Assists - Texas A&M-Kingsville 14 (Rivers 6), Adams State 18 (Harris 6), Steals - Texas A&M-Kingsville 9 (Payne, Tschritter, Bala 2), Adams State 14 (Nageak 5), Fouls - Texas A&M-Kingsville 18, Adams State 24, Turnovers - Texas A&M-Kingsville 22, Adams State 19.

Courtesy photo



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# Classifieds

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**CITY OF ALAMOSA** is seeking a full-time **POLICE OFFICER** or **POLICE APPRENTICE** to protect the lives, safety, health, welfare, and property of individuals within the corporate limits of Alamosa by enforcing municipal, state and federal statutes, ordinances and laws. Incumbents may be assigned to the Patrol Division, Investigations Division and/or special assignments necessary to protect and serve the needs of individuals relating to law enforcement. Hiring annual salary is \$49,400 - \$59,383 DOQ, FLSA Non-Exempt. Fringe benefits include a 401K retirement with a 10% employer and employee match, 11.5 holidays per year, 2 personal days, 80 hours of sick leave, 80 hours of vacation leave per year. Employer paid life insurance, STD, LTD & AD&D, 75% of medical, vision, and dental premiums paid by the employer, Wellness Program, and discounted recreational memberships. For a full job description and to apply, visit [cityofalamosa.org](http://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)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**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.** (AS)

**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. (12/19/23AS)

**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. (AS)

**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](http://www.rgwcd.org/subdistrict-no-1-bid). For more information, call the District office at (719) 589-6301 or by emailing [taylor@rgwcd.org](mailto: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. (AS)

**LIKE NEW ELECTRIC HOSPITAL BED** with remote, bed is mobile, mattress & rails included. Call 719-480-1210. (1/16/24AS)

**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

**401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES**

**Century Property Management & Sales, LLC**  
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**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE**  
For all your rental needs please call 719-589-5744 or stop by 823 Main St. Alamosa, CO 81101  
[www.alamosarentals.com](http://www.alamosarentals.com)

**420 - LOTS & ACREAGES**

**MULTIPLE 35+ ACRE TRACTS** For Sale. The Rio Grande Water Conservation District is accepting sealed bids for tracts of land LOCATED AT 14355 G.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](http://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](mailto: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)

**368 - PETS & SUPPLIES**

**Cont.** had puppies contact us. We will take the puppies into our rescue and spay the mama dog for free after the puppies are weaned. If needed, we will also provide dog food & gas money to get the dogs to us to help in this situation. Spay/neuter is one of the greatest gifts you can provide your pet, your family, and your community. We have found good responsible homes for over 8,000 animals. Contact 719-587-9663 (WOOF); email: [woof@slvaws.org](mailto:woof@slvaws.org). (TFN-AS)

**713 - PICKUP TRUCKS**

**2002 FORD SUPER DUTY DIESEL** pickup 4X4 with 6 speed manual trans., 7.3 motor, after market exhaust brake, trailer brake, new batteries, extra fuel tank, load lifter air lift, 115,000 miles, tires are very good and included are 2 spares. Clean inside and out, has always been garaged and maintained regularly. There is a dent in the front bumper and a small dent in the tailgate. There is an extra homemade tailgate included if wanted. \$25,000 OBO. Sorry, cannot take payments. 719-852-2285 or email [grettjoyce6@gmail.com](mailto:grettjoyce6@gmail.com). (12/8/23E-AS)

**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)

**401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES**

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**426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE**

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

**525 - GUNS**

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

**611 - HOUSES FOR RENT**

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

**701 - AUTOS FOR SALE**

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

**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)



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# Comics

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Not quite right
  - 4 White wine from Italy
  - 8 Lawless groups
  - 12 Actor — Kilmer
  - 13 Apple tablet
  - 14 Fairy tale heavy
  - 15 Nest egg option
  - 16 — avis
  - 17 Means of control
  - 18 Feast finale
  - 20 Horse
  - 21 Flexible tube
  - 22 Health resort
  - 23 Red gem
  - 25 Trust fund girl
  - 29 Old coin of France
  - 30 Javelin
  - 32 Once around a track
  - 33 Totality
  - 34 Speechify
  - 35 " — were king of the forest ..."
- DOWN**
- 1 Roman poet
  - 2 Ride charge
  - 3 Camera accessory
  - 4 Buenos —
  - 5 Tire in the trunk
  - 6 Sour

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 7 Actress — Lupino
- 8 Material used in masonry
- 9 Gothic arch
- 10 Cheese type
- 11 Direct
- 19 Versatile bean
- 20 Steeple
- 22 Do an usher's job
- 23 True
- 24 USC rival
- 25 Leader
- 26 Wipe out
- 27 Ump's cry
- 28 Rotate
- 30 Regrettable
- 31 Victim
- 37 Tenders
- 38 Light brown
- 40 "To — own self be true ..."
- 41 Underworld god
- 42 Like some excuses
- 43 Lab compound part
- 45 Rowing team
- 46 Black
- 47 Back muscles, for short
- 49 Past

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13				14				
15			16				17				
18			19				20				
		21				22					
23	24					25			26	27	28
29				30	31				32		
33				34					35		
36				37					38		
				39				40	41		
42	43	44				45				46	47
48						49				50	
51						52				53	
54						55				56	

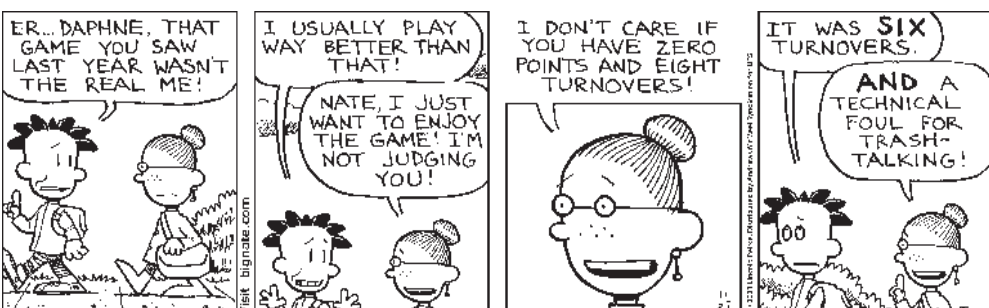
## ALLEY OOP



## ARLO & JANIS



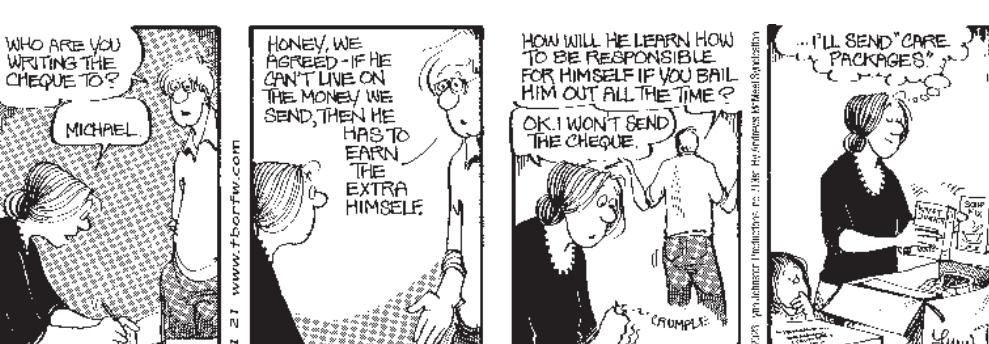
## BIG NATE



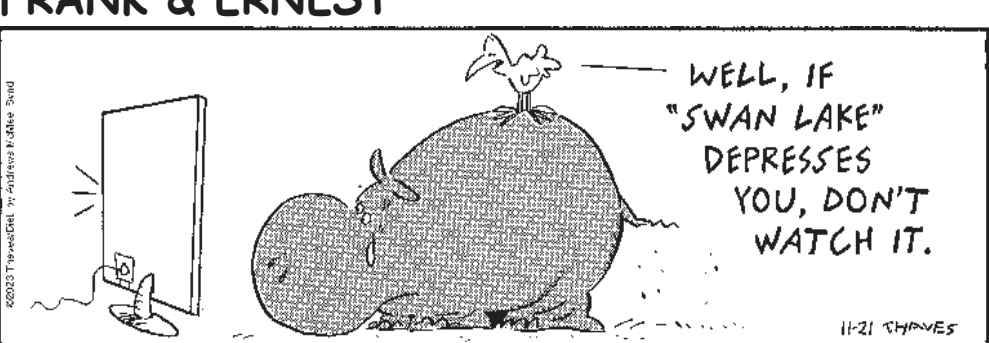
## THE BORN LOSER



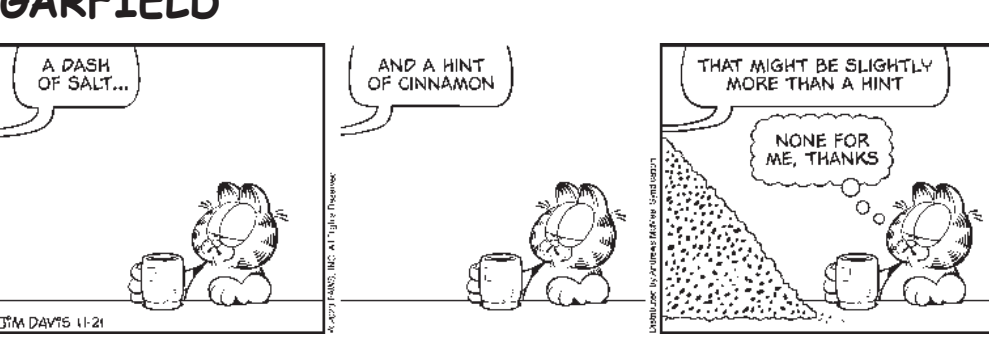
## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



## FRANK & ERNEST



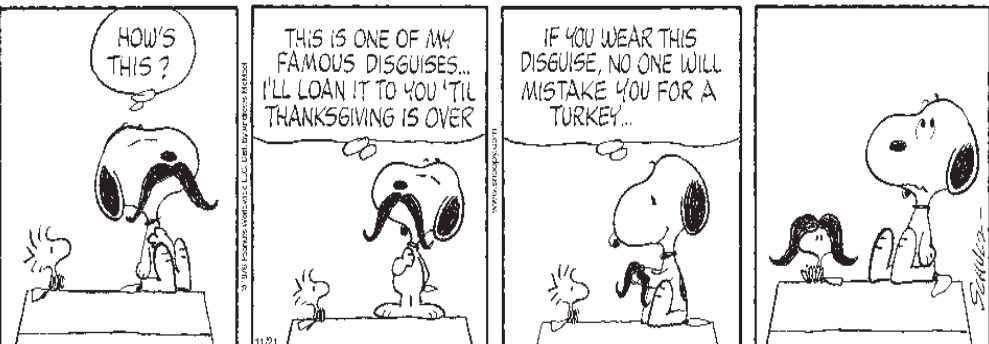
## GARFIELD



## THE GRIZZWELLS



## PEANUTS



## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

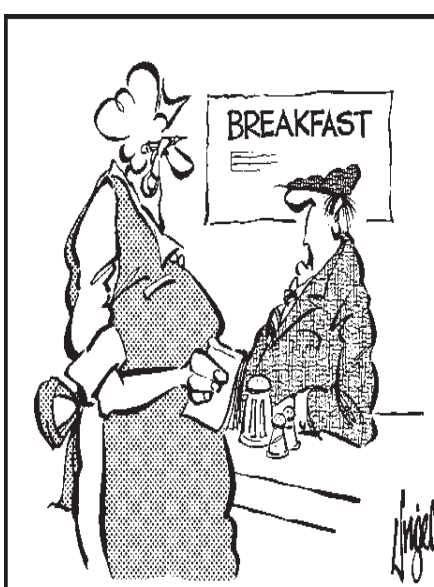
6	2		7	8	9		3	
7			4		1			8
		8		2	3	7	6	9
				5		3		6
	8			7			1	
9		6		1				
8	9	3	6	4		1		
5			8		7			4
	6		1	9	5		8	3

### PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

## HERMAN



# Boss has taken advantage of employee's kind offer

DEAR ABBY: My boss, who recently separated from her husband and is getting divorced, has moved within walking distance of work. The problem is, she can't drive, and her daughter needs to be taken to and from school. I offered to help her out with her daughter, but now she's asking me to take her everywhere she needs to go.

I have been accommodating and have done this for a couple of months, but she has never offered me any money toward gas in my car even though she's always bragging about all the things she has ordered off the internet. I never offered to be her chauffeur.

I work third shift, which is hard enough, and have my own child to take care of during the day. How can I tell her it's got to stop without hurting her feelings? I am getting close to losing control and telling her off. Everyone I know is advising me to stop, and she's just using me. -- USED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR USED: Explain to your boss (politely) that you were glad to help her out "temporarily" by making sure her child had transportation to and from school, but you have responsibilities outside of work that preclude your continuing to serve as her chauffeur.

Then tell her that if you are going to continue driving her CHILD, you will need to be reimbursed for the fuel you expend doing it -- something

she seems to have forgotten. Speaking up is not rude or hurtful; it's called being assertive.

DEAR ABBY: Should I be upset that my grandchildren have a step-grandfather who has no children of his own and is always giving money and other gifts to my grandchildren? I bought my 18-year-old grandson a used car with the understanding that he would repay me in installments when he started working. He did just that, and then he had a fender bender, so I helped him get it partially repaired. I made the same deal with him as before. I paid for the repairs; he again repaid me in installments.

Well, one of the doors has a large dent and won't open. Now he has sweet-talked his step-grandfather into shopping for another car! My grandson doesn't want to fix the door because it's easier to get his step-grandfather to buy him another car. Should I be upset about this? What should I tell his step-grandfather? -- FRUSTRATED GRANDFATHER

DEAR GRANDFATHER: I can see why you would be concerned. You have been trying to not only help your grandson but also to teach him responsibility. His well-meaning step-grandfather is interfering with that. By all means, have a discussion with him because Step-Grandpa is being manipulated. If he really wants to help your grandson,



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

he should consider treating him to driving lessons.

DEAR ABBY: Isn't it considered bad manners to comment about the length of time someone spends in the restroom? Several times when I've been out with people at a restaurant or bar, someone has commented "That was quick!" when I returned to the table. I want to tell them the comment is inappropriate. Any suggestions for an appropriate response that isn't too snarky would be appreciated. -- PRIVATE LADY IN GEORGIA

DEAR PRIVATE LADY: Try this: Smile at the person and say, "I didn't know you were clocking my action!" (It's better than saying, "That's because I didn't take the time to wash my hands. Would you like me to pass you the bread?")