



Holiday Greetings Miss Merry Christmas

— In today's Valley Courier



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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

November 22, 2023

\$1

Griego stepping down from city council after 40 years

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — After four decades, Charlie Griego — the Alamosa city councilor that people often refer to as just “Charlie,” is stepping down from his seat representing Ward 3.

As that day grows closer, Charlie, always an impassioned speaker, says he is grateful to his constituents “for giving him the opportunity to work on their behalf, to be their voice, and to make Alamosa a better place to live.”

‘I went into office with an agenda. Youth. Senior citizens. And to make Alamosa one Alamosa.’

— Charlie Griego

Sitting in his office in his house on Tremont Street, Charlie’s surrounded by certificates and plaques honoring his contributions over the years. As the twelfth of fifteen children, it’s the only house he’s really lived in since the day he was born, and it’s come a long way from the two-room structure with dirt floors and a pump for water

he knew as a child. The house is in “The Bow Wow”, an area named for the stray dogs that used to be dumped there by their owners.

He describes having a “good childhood” where there was always food, even if it was just tortillas and beans. And his family was close. “We had to be,” he laughs. “We were fifteen in two rooms.”

“My parents only spoke Spanish so that’s all I spoke. When I was six years old, my sister-in-law — she spoke English — took me and my younger brother to the elementary school and left us there,” he says. “Somebody’d come to the house

■ See GRIEGO page 3



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

After four decades of public service, Charlie Griego is stepping down from his seat on Alamosa City Council.

SLV Today

Christmas tree permit sales options

DEL NORTE — Christmas tree permits for the Rio Grande National Forest are now available to purchase in person or online and will remain on sale through the coming holiday season.

How to obtain Christmas tree permits:

- Permits can be purchased at www.recreation.gov by searching “Rio Grande Christmas Tree.”

- Rio Grande National Forest district offices in Saguache, Del Norte and La Jara have the permits for sale from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Visit one of our valuable Christmas tree permit vendors. Navigate to our Rio Grande National Forest Christmas Tree page or interactive map, to get the most up to date vendor locations.

Below are current vendors that have permits:

- Kristi Mountain Sports – 3223 Main St., Alamosa
- Green Spot Garden Center – 711 State Ave., Alamosa
- South Fork Visitor Center – 28 Silver Thread Ln., South Fork
- Monte Vista COOP – 1901 US Highway 160, Monte Vista
- San Juan Sports – 102 S. Main St., Creede
- Creede/Mineral County Chamber of Commerce – 904 S. Main St., Creede

Costs and rules associated with the permits: Permits cost \$8 per tree. If bought online, there will be a processing fee added. Users must have a permit with them to harvest a Christmas tree. Several rules apply to this activity and can be found at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/Rio_Grande_Christmas_Tree.

For information on the Rio Grande National Forest, call 719-850-2374.

SLV WEATHER

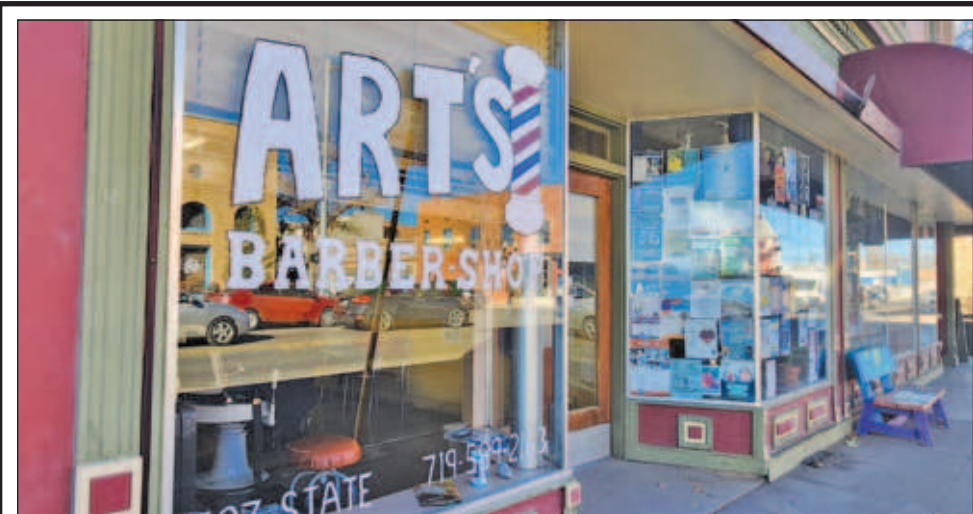
Sunny 51/11

Thurs: Mostly Sunny 52/16

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Photos by Priscilla Waggoner

Art's Barber Shop is closing in mid-December after being on State Avenue for more than half a century.

‘We’re sure going to miss you’

Art's Barber shop closing in mid-December

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — On a cold but sunny November afternoon just a few days before Thanksgiving, more cars than usual

■ See ART page 3



Art the Barber with long-time customer Ron David.

Del Norte Parade of Lights set for mid-December

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — Mark the calendar and be ready to be whisked away to a childhood favorite this year for the Del Norte Parade of Lights. This year’s theme is an ode to a classic Christmas movie that has been shared through living rooms since 1964 and will now grace the streets of Del Norte on Dec. 15.

Parade participants can let their imaginations fly as they decorate floats, businesses, and homes throughout town as the “Island of Misfit Toys.” This theme is a wonderful opportunity to make use of old toys and to get creative with displays for the holiday season. Join in on the fun and bring a touch of Christmas to town for this wonderful time of year. Residents and businesses are invited to participate this year in lighting up Del Norte.

Those wishing to participate in the parade need only to decorate their vehicles, trailers, ATVs, vintage vehicles or even themselves to join in

on the fun. The night is packed full of opportunities for some Christmas shopping at local businesses and a chance to meet Santa at the High Valley Community Center, and local merchants will be hosting sales and holiday fun throughout the month of December so be sure to come and support local businesses this season. An additional Merchant Open House will kick off the fun on Dec. 1.

The Del Norte Chamber of Commerce and the 1% For Del Norte Committee has set up a Merchant Passport that is available at participating businesses where shopper can fill out the card while they shop and receive a local business discount, rewards or free gifts depending on how the card is filled out. Shoppers can use their creativity to show their support for the local businesses and community by participating.

Along with the Merchant Open House on the evening of the parade, the Rio Grande County Chamber of Commerce will host a Christmas tree lighting on Dec. 17. ■ See LIGHTS page 3

Colorado Department of Agriculture funds SLV Local Food Coalition and others

By COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

COLORADO — The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) is committed to expanding access to learning and leadership opportunities for future generations in agriculture. In the fall of 2022, CDA announced the brand new NextGen Ag Leadership Program offering small grants to organizations advancing youth education and leadership in agriculture. Through that new program, CDA awarded \$186,820 to 13 organizations across the state as part of the NextGen Ag Leadership Program.

“The organizations that received funding will help lead new

■ See FUNDS page 3



Courtesy photo

Pictured are Colorado Potato Administrative Committee members in Washington D.C. at the National Potato Council meeting.



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Record

Reliability v. sustainability: Inside the debate over the EPA's proposed carbon rules

By ROBERT ZULLO
Colorado Newswire

Electric reliability has been a hot topic lately — from congressional hearings to regulatory agencies and at the regional transmission organizations that run the electric grid in much of the country.

The American electric grid is undergoing a major change, prodded by state and federal decarbonization policies, market forces pushing cheaper and cleaner forms of electricity and aging power infrastructure.

That's run up against electric transmission constraints, big delays in getting new wires built and massive backlogs in getting new, mostly renewable projects connected to the grid. Grid operators, in particular, are worried about the pace of the change, arguing fossil plant retirements are accelerating too quickly to ensure there are enough new resources to replace them.

Into that tumult the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency earlier this year dropped a proposal to again attempt to regulate carbon from power plants, which are responsible for about a quarter of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Since they were rolled out in May, the proposed rules have been a lightning rod for congressional Republicans and drawn fire from competitive electric generators as well as concern from federal and state energy regulators and grid operators that the regulations go too far, too fast.

But the EPA and clean energy proponents say the time frames are workable and crucial to cutting carbon emissions while allowing time for compliance and the flexibility needed to keep the lights on during the transition.

What is the EPA proposing?

EPA's draft rule creates different emissions targets for gas and coal plants depending on their planned retirement date and capacity factors, a measure of how much power a plant produces over time rela-

tive to how much it could have produced at full operation.

"We have committed ourselves to designing and implementing regulations to serve the public's dual needs of healthful air quality and reliable and affordable electricity," said Joseph Goffman, a principal deputy administrator at EPA, at a Nov. 9 FERC technical conference on electric reliability. "These emissions are helping fuel an escalating climate crisis that is already having devastating impacts on Americans across the country."

The general approach, according to Carrie Jenks, executive director of Harvard Law School's environmental and energy law program, is to require coal and gas units that don't plan to retire in the near term and are operating at higher capacity factors to undertake more rigorous carbon reductions.

"If you're operating a lot, and a lot throughout the year and really frequently, then you have to do more to reduce your emissions from those plants. But if you're operating either as a peaker or intermediate, meaning not all the time, then there's different options that are available for those plants," Jenks said at a media briefing organized by Energy Innovation, a non-partisan energy and climate policy think tank.

For example, for a coal plant that intends to operate beyond 2040, EPA is proposing that the facility will need to capture 90% of its carbon emissions by 2030.

For a plant that will retire by 2040, its emissions rate is based on co-firing with natural gas at a rate of 40%. A coal unit that plans to retire by 2035 could agree to operate at 20% capacity and not be bound by any new carbon restrictions, Jenks said. If it's retiring before 2032, it can operate as is.

"2030 is really the decision point for units for how they plan to operate going forward," Jenks said, noting the exact thresholds and parameters could change in response to com-

ments EPA receives. There are similar requirements for gas plants (though they differ slightly for new and existing plants) to either blend with hydrogen to reduce emissions or capture emissions depending on whether they are baseload (above 50% capacity factor) or so-called "peaker plants," which fire on during periods of high demand.

However, EPA's reliance on carbon capture and storage as well as hydrogen blending have drawn lots of criticism, mainly because both sets of technologies are relatively in their infancy and have yet to be deployed at any kind of scale.

Anthony Campbell, president and CEO at East Kentucky Power Cooperative, speaking on behalf of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, said EPA's rule "is unlawful and unworkable" at the FERC technical conference. Campbell said that under the proposed rule, plans are due to EPA by 2026, making it impossible for plant operators to make compliance decisions given the uncertainty surrounding carbon capture and hydrogen production.

"They will be forced into either retirement of essential, dispatchable coal units or curtailment of those units to capacity factors below 20% by 2032 and complete retirement by 2035," Campbell said. "The disorderly retirement and elimination of baseload generation will leave the electricity grid with a significant deficit of dispatchable generation that cannot be replaced by intermittent resources, especially during a time of economic growth."

The arithmetic doesn't work

Electric reliability debates can get complex. But FERC Commissioner Mark Christie, a former Virginia utility regulator, said at the Nov. 9 technical conference on reliability that the fundamental problem facing the U.S. electric grid is as simple as two lines on a chart. One is the demand for power.

"That line's going up,"

Christie said. "It may go up astronomically if 'electrify everything' takes place — you electrify the transportation sector, you electrify the home heating sector."

The other line is supply of power.

"And that line ain't going up, or it's certainly not going up nearly as rapidly," he said. "The arithmetic doesn't work. And that's the fundamental issue."

According to the Clean Energy States Alliance, a coalition of state energy agencies, 23 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have 100% clean energy goals. Along with federal policy like the landmark Inflation Reduction Act, and market conditions, utilities, many of which have their own decarbonization goals, are being prodded into retiring older coal and gas plants.

(At a FERC meeting Thursday, Christie warned that two of the nation's largest regional transmission operators, MISO and PJM, are "basically hemorrhaging dispatchable resources.")

Jim Robb, president and CEO of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation — which, for the first time, has started listing "energy policy" as a reliability risk — told the commissioners at the reliability conference that the expansion of so-called inverter-based resources like wind, solar and batteries introduce new variability into grid management, especially as they become bigger parts of the power mix.

"This is a country that hasn't proven its ability to develop infrastructure to support that," Robb said. "We're going to need to figure out how to get transmission built, we're going to have to figure out how



Photo by Scott Olson/Getty Images

New rules proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency earlier this year in its latest attempt to regulate the carbon from power plants have drawn fire from some congressional Republicans, grid operators and other regulators.

to speed the development of new resources onto the grid and importantly we need to figure out how to retain the stuff that we have to meet any of these policy objectives."

Goffman, the EPA official, said the agency is committed to continuing engagement with regulators and grid operators "over the coming weeks and months so that we can ensure we arrive at a final rule for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants that is effective, workable, and fully compatible with maintaining reliable and affordable electricity."

'The grid can absolutely be reliable'

Ric O'Connell, executive director of GridLab, which he called a public interest organization that provides technical expertise on the electric grid to policy makers, told the FERC conference that the EPA rules and ensuring reliability are compatible.

"The grid can absolutely be reliable under the proposed EPA rules but we'll need to plan and take action," he said, adding that the rules codify "what's already happening due to economic and policy forces." He noted that 2 terawatts (2 million megawatts) of power resources,

mostly wind, solar and battery resources, are stuck in interconnection queues across the country.

In a media briefing hosted by Energy Innovation, O'Connell said there's "an enormous wealth of academic and industry literature" that shows the path to cutting carbon from the power sector drastically over the next decade.

"We do that through a very simple playbook. It's deploy wind, solar and batteries over the next decade," he said. Couple that with keeping carbon-free sources like hydropower and nuclear plants online and use existing gas fleets at low levels to provide the crucial balancing services large amounts of renewables will require, O'Connell added.

He noted that the United Kingdom has gone from 71% coal power in 1990 to less than 1% this year and that California and New England's electric grids are already largely coal free. Even Texas, he noted, "is well on its way to looking like this as well." He noted that MISO's projections envision a similar grid, with natural gas plants running at very low capacity factors by 2040.

"Can we run our grid without coal? The simple answer is yes," he said.

OBITUARY

William (Bill) Alan Pearsall

The family of William (Bill) Alan Pearsall of Monte Vista, Colo., is saddened to announce his passing on Oct. 3, 2023, at the age of 64. Bill was born Dec. 1, 1958, in Monte Vista, Colo., and baptized in Rock Creek.



Bill graduated from Monte Vista High School and went on to study psychology at Adams State College. He was phenomenally well read, fond of the classics and had an encyclopedic knowledge of many topics and would argue with the best.

Bill was a trained machinist and worked in construction.

Music was a big part of his life. He grew up listening to his mother play piano and organ. He picked up keyboards and then later guitar and liked playing his stereo for friends, usually loud. He liked the Beatles and Star Trek. He was an avid fan of any Colorado sports team and a tried-and-true Bronco's fanatic. Bill and his mother often said, "If God isn't a Bronco fan, then why are sunrises and sunsets orange and blue?"

His best friend was his mother. One might say he spent years taking care of her, her house and yard; the reality is that they took care of each other until her passing in June of 2019. Bill was never

the same and missed his mother deeply. That is likely why his battle with cancer was short. He was ready to be with his mother again. I can only imagine the conversations they are catching up on.

Bill was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Alvah (Al) Leroy Pearsall and Cecilia Sophia Humpert; maternal grandparents, John Corydon Streeter and Blanche Evalyn Wartman; parents, William (Bill) Eugene Pearsall and Dorothy Lee Streeter; brothers-in-law, Kerry Lee Gilmore and Rick Batista; nephew, Brian Lee Hartzell and three grandnephews, Kathan Tyler Bridge, Jordan Shon Conrad Pearsall and Mason James Madone.

Bill will be lovingly remembered by his brother James (Sharon) Pearsall, Geneseo, Kan.; sisters, Fawn Batista, Florissant, Colo., Sandra (Jack) Maertens, Monte

Vista, Colo.; nieces, Marci Heath, Geneseo, KS, Jodi Madone and Jamie Pearsall, Canon City, CO; nephews Kevin and Jared (De Anna) Hartzell, Florissant, Colo.; our matriarch and his aunt Marjie Taylor and her family, Monte Vista, Colo., and several grand and great-grandnieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at the Monte Vista Community Methodist Church on Wednesday, Nov. 29, at 1 p.m. At a later time, Bill will join his father as he's at Bishop Rock up Rock Creek, Monte Vista, Colo.

School Menu
Wednesday
November 22, 2023

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Valley News

Art

Continued from Page 1

are rolling down State Avenue, one after another past number 503, a business that is nothing less than an institution in Alamosa.

Inside the historic building with “Art’s Barber-Shop” stenciled on the window in big white letters and a barber’s pole on the side, Art Velasquez, an institution on his own and known everywhere as simply “Art the barber”, is doing what he has been doing five days a week from 7:30 in the morning to 5 at night for more than 55 years. Art Velasquez is giving, what is generally agreed to by just about everyone, the best men’s haircut in town.

In less than three weeks, all that comes to an end.

The shop where Art has been barbering for more than half a century has been sold to make way for a hotel going in on the second floor overhead. The barber shop, lined with three old porcelain sinks and three barber chairs of the kind just not seen anymore, an old shoeshine stand up

against the wall and a cash register in the corner where the highest denomination on the keys is \$1 will soon be replaced by furniture used in an office fitting for a boutique hotel.

“Everything in the shop has been sold,” he tells a customer who’s waiting for a haircut, a statement that, if that afternoon is any indication, he must make multiple times a day.

Art was born in Antonito and, after spending middle school years outside the Valley, graduated from Alamosa High School. When he returned after serving in the military, he “didn’t have an occupation suited for civilian life,” so he decided to be a barber. “I wanted to be my own boss,” he says.

Back then, an apprenticeship was required and, with none available in the small town of Alamosa, he headed to Colorado Springs to complete the two-year requirement. He came back home as soon as he was finished, barbering first for Delmar Jeffers for a year followed by buying the shop from Red Burton in what was the Victoria

Hotel. When that burned up, in 1970, he bought a barber shop from Dave Miller, across the street from where he is now, ultimately moving to his location in 503 in 1980, where he’s been ever since.

Miller, who sold Art all the equipment in his shop, told him the building where he’s located dates back to 1928. “Just a few years short of 100 years old,” he says.

Art got the news about the building sale earlier this fall.

“I was sad when I first heard about it,” he says in a friendly and calm voice. “I didn’t like it. I would like to have done it on my own schedule. But I think it’s time I retire. I’m 80 years old. And my wife’s about to convince me it’s OK.”

His customers, however, are not having such an easy time.

“We sure are going to miss you and miss coming here,” Carolyn David tells him, sitting in a chair while her husband, Ron, gets his hair cut. The Davids come to Art from Monte Vista. “We’re not sure where we’re going to go to get your

hair cut, are we?” she says in a voice loud enough for Ron to hear.

“I’m going to cut it myself,” Ron says, a little grumpily.

“That’s what I do,” Art says, with a laugh.

The back and forth is easy and names roll off people’s tongues as happens among those who have known each other a long time, something that can be said about most, if not close to all, of his customers.

“Over 55 years, you see a lot of people grow up and a new generation come in,” he says. “I’ve cut four generations of the Bervig’s hair. When I was doing my apprenticeship in Colorado Springs, Mike Porter — do you know him? He came to me. When he came here to go to college, he came to my shop. Of course, he’s in Arizona now but I cut Mike’s hair for almost probably 27 years.”

And then there are those who may be more recent customers but are willing to go to extreme lengths to get the best haircut around, including one man named Cliff who drives all the way from Matheson, just 14 miles outside of Limon, a total of more than 230 miles.

Mentioning the customer reminds Art of a recent story.

“Here, the other day, I



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Art Velasquez has been a barber for more than five decades.

had a new customer come in. His name is Chris and his wife is Rachel. They moved here and they’re from Trinidad, the isle of Trinidad off the Venezuela coast,” he says. “Anyway, so, I cut this younger black man’s hair and Cliff was sitting there waiting for his appointment. So, Cliff said, ‘Hey, young man. Take a good look at that haircut and tell me what you think.’”

Art looks at those in the shop and says, as a side note, “This really makes me feel good, guys,” before continuing.

“So, the young man got a mirror and looked over his haircut and said, ‘Well, mon, that’s probably the best haircut I’ve ever had.’ And Cliff said, ‘That’s what I’ve been telling you. And

this little S.O.B. is going to quit!” Art laughs. “Boy, that really buoyed me up.”

He looks out the window for a moment and says, “Things sure have changed over the years. This street used to be called ‘the jungle’ because there were five bars on this street alone.” He gets back to cutting Ron’s hair.

When asked if people are having a hard time saying goodbye, he just nods. “And I’m having a hard time saying goodbye to them, too.” And when asked what he plans to do when he retires, he smiles. “Fishing. I hope to go fishing on Wednesday instead of waiting until Saturday.”

There’s laughter among the customers in the shop. Meanwhile, Art smiles and just keeps working.

Lights

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Museum is hosting an adult-only presentation on the Christmas Camp, Fremont’s Fatal Fourth Expedition with keynote speakers — retired Archeologist Ken Frye and Rio Grande National Forest Fisheries and Wildlife Program Manager Jason

Remshardt. The museum will be open at 4:30 p.m. with the presentation beginning at 5:15 p.m. and will finish before the start of the parade.

This is a great opportunity to learn about one of the most infamous expeditions known throughout the western United States. Both Frye and Remshardt have researched and worked with archeo-

logical teams on the actual Christmas Camp site and have spent years learning about the fatal expedition that claimed the lives of several men and burros.

Fireworks will follow the parade from the top of Lookout Mountain (D Mountain) so be sure to stick around for additional holiday celebrations. For more information, visit www.delnortechamber.org.

Griego

Continued from Page 1

and said, ‘Your kids need to go to school or you’ll get in trouble.’ So, she took us.”

It was tough being in a classroom surrounded by language he didn’t understand and teachers assuming he was handicapped. “But kids adapt fine,” he adds, laughing. “And at least we got new clothes.”

Charlie did more than adapt. Despite being told by teachers that he and other Hispanics would either “end up in jail, collecting garbage or being drunks,” he discovered he had a talent for calculus.

Four days after he graduated from Alamosa High School, he enlisted in the military, spending six years as a medical field technician before returning home, enrolling at Adams State University and buying his first business. He was 25 years old.

“My sister ran the Mexico Café. Next to it was Greco’s Marlight Lounge. I’d saved a little bit of money, so I bought the bar. My brother, Val, was my partner. He was only 20. Everybody thought well, this guy’s not gonna make it, but we stayed in that business for 30 years and ran five successful businesses.” There’s not a hint of bragging or boasting in his voice.

Charlie and Val had a spinach farming and harvesting business in Blanca and Fort Garland with partners, Fred Ashida and his son, for 17 years and two restaurants — his sister’s Mexican Café plus Tacos and More on Main Street. They also bought property near the airport and built a liquor and convenience store. Meanwhile, Charlie also served on city council.

When asked what motivated him, he credits the way his parents, Elias and Valentina, raised their children.

“My dad and I were real close,” he says, crossing his fingers. After money was stolen that he had saved to start a business, Elias worked as a laborer, mainly in construction, for the rest of his life. Asked if the experience made Elias bitter, Charlie shrugs a bit as if the thought hadn’t crossed his mind. “Maybe. Probably. But you do what you have to do for your family.”

At age 25, the same year he bought the bar, Charlie was elected to his first term on city council. “I figured if I was going to be in business, I needed to have some kind of rapport with the city.”

He went into office with an agenda. Youth. Senior citizens. And to make Alamosa one Alamosa.

“This community was divided back then. The north side — south side was a big thing and they were putting the jail and detox in Wards 3 and 4. When I went on council, there was this older guy, Quentin Garcia. Big, tall guy. Kind of intimidating. I used to tell him, Quentin, we have to get involved and play the game. Once they let us in the door, they’re not kicking us out. We’re not doing nothing for nobody. We can’t just be token Hispanics.”

When asked about accomplishments while in office, he lists a few along with the people who helped to make them happen, such as Mayor Ferris Bervig, a “Christian



Photo courtesy of Charlie Griego

Official photo from City of Alamosa website of Councilor Charlie Griego in former years.

man who was color blind,” and worked for Community Resources and Housing Development Corporation, and a developer named Al Gold who built affordable housing in southern Alamosa.

A new building for the Boys and Girls Club of the San Luis Valley. “There were a lot of unsung heroes involved in that. The community really came together.”

The city built the Recreation Center in southern Alamosa when, initially, the plan was to build north. “We argued and argued and said we’ve got baseball fields and the rodeo out there. We’ve got room to grow.”

When asked about disappointments, Charlie brings up an area called Stockton Addition. After learning septic tanks were polluting groundwater so badly it was “killing people’s grass,” the city annexed the area and ran water and sewer lines right up to people’s houses, but he never paved the streets. “Those streets are still dirt and it’s my failure.”

Charlie speaks of those projects with something akin to pride, but the passion — and compassion — is most deeply heard in his stories about people. The kids harvesting spinach who he encouraged to go to school. Telling the Alamosa students he visited after first owning a business, “Look at me, you can do this, too.” Those he has helped get their papers. Connecting vulnerable people being exploited by their employer with the Attorney General’s Office.

And he also recalls some of the harsh descriptions he hears of people who are down on their luck and homeless. “I hear that and flashback to the past. The way we lived — fifteen kids in a two-room house with dirt floors? They would have called us homeless back then, too. They were talking about us.”

With Thanksgiving just days away, Charlie was asked what he’s most grateful for now, as he’s leaving office. He doesn’t hesitate.

“My wife. We’ve been married 42 years. She’s supported me all the way. People who say couples can’t work together are crazy. I’m most grateful for my wife.”

Funds

Continued from Page 1

people into careers in the food and agriculture industry and help prepare them to become the industry’s leaders of tomorrow and beyond,” said Tom Lipetzky, Director of the Markets Division at the Colorado Department of Agriculture. “CDA is committed to advancing our support of educational and leadership opportunities for future generations of agricultural producers, aspiring producers, and young people across the food and ag value chains.”

One of the projects receiving funding from the NextGen Leadership program used the funds to educate young agricultural leaders about federal policy.

“The NextGen Ag Leadership program grant allowed us to fly five young potato growers to Washington DC for the National Potato Council for a week,” said Jim Ehrlich, Executive Director of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee (CPAC). “This helped them meet potato industry leadership from across the nation, key federal government leaders like Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack, and the Colorado congressional delegation for personal meetings on critical issues for our industry. They learned

so much and are eager to learn more about future leadership roles they can fill.”

Agriculture is a critical industry providing food, fiber, and fuel for everyone. Agriculture employs not only farmers and ranchers, but also people trained in the biosciences, nutrition, meat science, veterinary science, agronomy, soil health, engineering, food safety, technology, product development, marketing, and logistics.

The Fall 2022 awardees include organizations that serve food and agricultural communities all across our state. Projects marked with an asterisk will benefit underserved communities (which includes people in agriculture-related fields who are: beginning; women; minorities; from socially disadvantaged communities; veterans; or have limited resources).

- Guidestone, Chaffee County: Support for AgriSummit conference, FTE and scholarships
- Mountain Roots, Gunnison County: Beginning Farmer Training in Cold Climate Regenerative Agriculture

- San Luis Valley Local Food Coalition, Alamosa County: Expanding Youth Farmer Education in San Luis Valley

- Colorado Potato Administrative Committee, Rio Grande County: Federal Policy 101 for Young Potato Growers, trip to

Washington D.C.

- Corn Administrative Committee, Douglas County: Leadership Cultivation Initiative

- Douglas County High School, Douglas County: Hydroponics equipment

- Quivira Coalition, La Plata County: Leadership & Career Development for NextGen programs

- Living Earth Foundation, Boulder County: Advanced learning opportunities in regenerative agriculture for NextGen

- Fort Collins Conservation District, Larimer County: Agricultural Check-out kits for K-12 students

- Colorado Foundation for Agriculture, Statewide: NextGen issue of Colorado Reader

- Colorado FFA in Elbert, Delta and Washington Counties: Scholarships

- Fort Lewis College, La Plata County: Scholarships for Farmers in Training program

- Colorado State University, Denver County: 2 scholarships for Masters in Agribusiness at CSU Spur

Starting this year, the NextGen Ag Leadership program will accept applications annually. The next application period will start later this spring with a May deadline and awards set to distribute funds with the start of the state fiscal year, July 1. More detailed information will be forthcoming.



Valley Wide Welcomes
Elizabeth Agnew, DPT
to
Alamosa Physical Therapy
128 Market Street, Alamosa, CO
and
San Luis Physical Therapy
233 Main St. Suite B, San Luis, CO

Elizabeth Agnew, DPT believes it’s important to spend time formulating the most optimal plan of care for each individual patient. She has been practicing as a DPT since 2012 and is experienced in all realms of orthopedic physical therapy practices. She has a special interest in working with adolescent athletes and patients with chronic pain. Elizabeth is trained in Functional Dry Needling, joint mobilizations, kinesiotaping and other manual therapy techniques. She has also received specialized training for nervous system regulation. Elizabeth is originally from Westminster, CO but is familiar with the San Luis Valley and enjoys the small town feel! Outside of work, she loves spending time with her husband, two daughters and their Labrador retriever, Myssie. She enjoys traveling to see family and friends and loves the ocean. She’s big into Peloton workouts and loves the Colorado Avalanche!

Ask your Primary Care Provider about how you could benefit from Physical Therapy!



valley-widehealth.org

Opinion

What if Biden bows out?

By MARK HILLMAN
Capitol Review

For all the talk about President Biden's determination to seek a second term, the case against him doing so is building. Numerous polls now show him decisively trailing former President Trump, both nationwide and in key battleground states.

Overwhelmingly Americans realize Biden is too old and no longer competent to be President. By only slightly smaller margins they feel the same about Trump.

In a recent story which attempted to portray a viable strategy for Biden's re-election, Politico's Jonathan Martin acknowledged: "The oldest president in history when he first took the oath, Biden will not be able to govern in the manner of previous incumbents. He simply does not have the capacity to do it, and his staff doesn't trust him to even try, as they make clear by blocking him from the press."

Biden doesn't have a strong suit left to play. Americans' disapproval of his job performance is at an alltime high (56%), in the same dubious territory as Trump's rating during his third year in office. Disapproval of his economic policy (64%) and immigration policy (62%) are even worse.

His policy on Israel and Ukraine produce modestly better support but not within his own party where a small but highly-motivated pro-Palestinian faction makes 2024 resemble the 1968 infighting over Vietnam which drove Lyndon Johnson to abandon his re-election bid.

Biden's ineptitude in governing and in simply playing the role of President has caused some voters who preferred him in 2020 over Trump to reconsider. Others now look more favorably on Trump's term — by comparison to Biden's — than they did immediately after Trump's chaotic, ungracious, self-immolating final three months in office.

At 81, Biden's diminished stamina and cognitive abilities will only diminish further, so it's hard to imagine any strategy that could resuscitate his political fortunes, much less reassure Americans that he's capable or competent. Biden's only hope is that voters will choose frailty over Trump's relentless narcissism.

Will Biden and his handlers soldier on toward a rematch with Donald Trump which the public would rather avoid? Those around him surely want to keep their cushy jobs and others want to preserve the gravy-train of dubious payments from foreign influencers to members of the Biden family.

However, Democrat strategists want to win.

Whether Biden's inner-circle seeks to spare him the humiliation of losing to Trump, or party powerbrokers tell him to stand down (much as they cleared the field for him in 2020), or his frailty becomes too obvious for even the media to ignore, much can happen before the Democratic National Convention next August.

If Biden steps aside late in the process after Trump has outlasted his challengers, Democrats could pivot to a fresh face leaving Republicans flat-footed, stuck with a backward-looking vengeance campaign. By re-nominating Trump, Republicans leave themselves vulnerable to just such a maneuver and would suffer accordingly.

Voters want to avoid another Grumpy Old Men election as fiercely as they want to avoid a root canal. Neither Biden nor Trump compare well to others. Yet our political parties are slouching toward institutional failure, plunging us toward a third consecutive election in which voters must choose whom they hate less.

One of our tone-deaf parties backs the incumbent because they desperately want to hold on to power. The other tone-deaf party backs the former incumbent out of some misshapen sense of loyalty to a man who shows loyalty to no one else.

Winners of such elections are doomed to fail. To persuadable voters, Trump looked better than Hillary Clinton in 2016, and Biden looked better than Trump in 2020. But voters expect more from their President than simply being the lesser of evils. They expect a President to govern responsibly so America will be stronger and safer, not just in four years but also in forty.

Mark Hillman served as Senate Majority Leader and State Treasurer.



To submit news, email:
news@alamosanews.com

To submit sports, email:
khamrick@alamosanews.com

Letters policy

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

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

Winter in the Mountains

To set the scene, I've been working at the Ranger Station for about 6 to 8 months. I've been through spring's mud season, summer's recreation season, and am now experiencing the hunting and woodcutting season. I play a game when someone pulls up to the office, trying to guess why they've stopped by. Sometimes they make it easy when they stop by early in the day with an empty trailer or stake truck bed and a chainsaw.

The phone calls are usually more varied, although many times the underlying question is "How long until I can't get into the forest?" On this particular day, the first phone call was a little more unusual. "We're going to be visiting the Rio Grande National Forest in late December, what can we do?" I'll admit, the question stumped me for a moment. What could they do? Keep in mind, I've spent my summer telling people about hiking and OHV trails, all of which will be covered in snow by late December. And apparently, I spend most of my time in the forest doing summer things, because winter recreation ideas weren't occurring to me. "Ummm, I guess you could snowshoe or cross-country ski..." and then the ideas started flowing; there's a pretty good ski area in the forest, ice-fishing, sledding, maybe you could find someone who rents out snowmobiles or does tours. And an old mountain man taught me how to build snow caves when I was kid that I've heard make comfortable camping shelters, although I've never slept in one.

If that old timer were around today, he'd probably tell me that just because there's snow on the ground doesn't mean you can't get out and enjoy the outdoors. Like hiking? Throw on some snowshoes. OHV riding? Snowmobiles are a great option. Camping? There are some cold-weather options. Fishing? All you've got to do is cut a hole in the ice. Of course, that same old timer had a lot of experience with high mountain winters. He'd be the first to warn you of how dangerous winter in the mountains can be, and he had some harrowing stories to illustrate his point. Take all the hazards of mountains in the summertime — like altitude sickness, abrupt weather changes, exhaustion, and disorientation, and add in winter specialties like hypothermia, tree wells, and avalanche danger, and the mountains in the winter can be treacherous.

So, if we're going to enjoy the mountains in the winter, we're going to need to prepare ourselves. In addition to the necessary gear to be safe in the mountains in the summer, be sure to have warm layers, proper foot gear including snowshoes and crampons, and emergency equipment such as a shovel and avalanche gear, plus any specialized equipment you'll need for your particular activity. It's important to prepare in other ways too. Know where you're going and tell someone else. Have a map and compass and know how to use them; sometimes our beloved technology fails. Check the weather and the avalanche conditions before you go, and be aware that conditions can change quickly, so don't hesitate to turn around if the weather changes, or you come across some dangerous-looking snow conditions. Know what dangerous snow conditions look like. And know what to do when things go wrong. That old mountain man

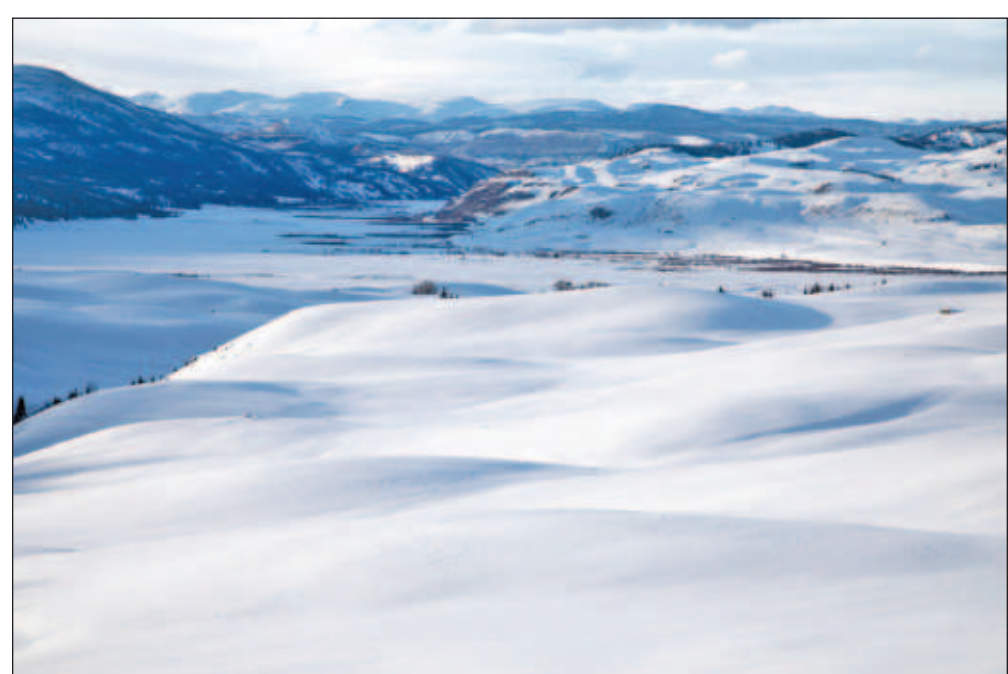
wasn't teaching me how to build a snow cave just because it was fun, he was teaching me survival skills that may have saved his life at some point in the past and may save mine sometime in the future.

My old friend loved the mountains, and because he was careful and used his knowledge and experience, he enjoyed being out in the mountains all his considerably long lifetime. I hope we all take a page from his lengthy book and enjoy the beautiful Rio Grande National Forest all year round.

Kelly Defaye is the San Juan Mountains Association's Visitor Information Coordinator for the Rio Grande National Forest. Having grown up in the San Luis Valley, she has always considered the surrounding mountains her happy place.

Land, Water and People

Kelly Defaye



addition to the necessary gear to be safe in the mountains in the summer, be sure to have warm layers, proper foot gear including snowshoes and crampons, and emergency equipment such as a shovel and avalanche gear, plus any specialized equipment you'll need for your particular activity. It's important to prepare in other ways too. Know where you're going and tell someone else. Have a map and compass and know how to use them; sometimes our beloved technology fails. Check the weather and the avalanche conditions before you go, and be aware that conditions can change quickly, so don't hesitate to turn around if the weather changes, or you come across some dangerous-looking snow conditions. Know what dangerous snow conditions look like. And know what to do when things go wrong. That old mountain man

Write them

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

STATE HOUSE

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

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Your FIRST Source for Local News

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

Lifestyles

Crestone Food Bank has a new location

STAFF REPORT
CRESTONE — The Food Bank in Crestone is moving to a new location. The food bank will be moving to 67487 County Road T.

Recently 11 volunteers held a painting party to repair and give the walls of the new building a fresh coat of paint and fresh look.

The new space for the food bank will be next to the Baca Grande Library on County Road T. Along with the painting there are a few more repairs before the Bank can open completely.

After painting the new space, a new floor will have to be laid before any refrigerator or freezer units can be brought in for food storage. The community is seeking vinyl planks but does have some vinyl planks to be-

gin the process of the flooring and finish the project. Lead Volunteer Joe Eskew hopes to finish the entire job before the end of the month.

For people who are registered, as registration cut off on Oct. 18, the food bank will be hosting the Thanksgiving box giveaway. This will take place in the parking lot between the new location and Baca Grande Library on Nov. 18 at 1 p.m.

The food bank requests volunteers for the day they open their doors, details and the time and date when they will open will be announced soon. For more information on the opening of the new food bank, contact Courtney Carag at 720-663-7194 or stop by the library and speak with Eden Elderberry.



Courtesy photo

The Food Bank in Crestone is moving to a new location. The food bank will be moving to 67487 County Road T. Recently 11 volunteers held a painting party to repair and give the walls of the new building a fresh coat of paint and fresh look.

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HVCC thankful for support from community

By **HIGH VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER DEL NORTE** — Thanksgiving week is here! We will miss seeing the kiddos here at HVCC,

but we hope they're having a lot of fun with their families this Thanksgiving.

Considering Thanksgiving, we want to say how grateful

we are for the community around us! The annual Spirit of Giving is upon us, and we would love for you to support us by voting for HVCC. You can visit the San Luis Valley Federal bank website and put your vote in for HVCC to receive a portion of their funding they are gifting to the community.

Last week, we celebrated an amazing season for our girls' basketball teams! Parents and kiddos faced off against each other on the court and the girls showed everyone all the skills they learned this year. We had so much fun getting to play on the court in a friendly pickup game that involved everyone in the family.

Don't forget to register for the Boys' Basketball team! **The last day to register is Dec. 1 — visit our website to register for the team.**

The kids created beautiful masterpieces during activity time after school last week! They painted kindness rocks to remind them to be kind to each other and make valuable friendships. To kick off the Thanksgiving week, they also made Thanksgiving turkeys to show what they are grateful for by way of the cutest turkey coloring this side of the Rio Grande.

We will resume programming on Tuesday, Nov. 28. We will be visiting the Rio Grande County Museum for our Fabulous Friday on Dec. 1!

For members of our Encore program, don't forget about our field trip to the Monte Vista Holiday Bazaar on Friday, Dec. 1! We will be picking up those coming at 11:30 a.m. at the River Valley Care Center. Lunch will be provided! Happy Thanksgiving!



UPCOMING GRIZZLY ATHLETIC EVENTS

Friday, November 24
Men & Women's Basketball at University of Alaska Anchorage at Anchorage, Alaska
 7:15 - 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 25
Men & Women's Basketball at University of Alaska Anchorage at Anchorage, Alaska
 7:15 - 9:30 p.m.



CYBER SALE

Flights from Alamosa

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Cyber Sale! For a limited time, book a Denver Air Connection flight from Alamosa and get a second ticket on the same flight for just the taxes and fees.*

Travel between January 4, 2024, and February 29, 2024. Hurry, offer ends midnight November 28, 2023. Seats are limited and other restrictions apply. See full terms below:

Here's how it works:

1. In the booking form on this page, enter your departure and arrival cities, dates, and 2 travelers.
2. Enter **BOGOBF23** into the Promo Code field, and then click "Continue" to start your search.
3. The discount will be reflected in the shopping basket when you check out.
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SCAN ME

*Fare Rules: Advance Purchase: None Blackout Dates: None Book by: 11/28/23. Travel between: 01/04/24 and 02/29/24.

Terms and Conditions: Buy one ticket at the regular price and get a second ticket on the same flight for just the taxes and fees. Discount code is valid for 50% off base fare levels published on www.denverairconnection.com. Valid for itineraries with exactly two people, traveling together and booked and ticketed at the same time in the same reservation and the same fare: valid for one-way or round-trip travel. Seats are limited and may not be available on all flights. Not valid in conjunction with interline travel on American Airlines or United Air Lines. Discount does not apply to government-imposed taxes and airport fees. Cannot be combined with other promotions. Travel is valid January 4, 2024, through February 29, 2023. Valid for new ticket purchases only. If the itinerary is canceled or changed, any refund or credit issued will be for the discounted price for each ticket.



Sports

Sports Bulletin

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

All-Valley football team to be announced this weekend

ALAMOSA - The 45th Annual All-San Luis Valley football team will be published by The Valley Courier this weekend.

The second team offense and defense will be published in Friday's edition, while the first team offense and defense will be on Saturday.

The All-SLV football banquet will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista. The Player of the Year, 11-man Player of the Year, 6/8-man Player of the Year, Comeback Player of the Year, and the Coach of the Year will be announced at the banquet.

Tickets are on a first-come, first-served basis.

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

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.
Sierra Grande/Centennial at John Mall, 6 p.m.

CHSAA releases preseason hoops rankings

ALAMOSA - The Colorado High School Activities Association released its preseason basketball polls for both boys and girls hoops on Tuesday.

The polls are listed on the CHSAA Now.com web site.

Four local boys teams are listed in their respective Top 10s. Alamosa is the ninth-ranked team in Class 4A, Centauri is ranked fifth in Class 3A, Sanford is fourth in Class 2A, and Sierra Grande is ninth in Class 1A.

Antonito, Centennial, Creede, and Sangre de Cristo are listed as "others receiving votes" in Class 1A.

Centauri is the only girls team to be in a Top 10 as it is the fourth-ranked team in Class 4A.

Alamosa is listed as "others receiving votes" in Class 4A. Center, Del Norte and Sanford are listed in Class 2A, and Sangre de Cristo has the same listing in Class 1A.

The preseason polls will be the only coaches polls released for the 2023-24 winter season. As it did in the fall, CHSAA will focus its efforts on publicizing its seeding index as rankings beginning in mid-December.

BOYS BASKETBALL

CLASS 4A

- 1 Resurrection Christian
- 2 Lutheran
- 3 Holy Family
- 4 Colorado Academy
- 5 Kent Denver
- 6 Riverdale Ridge
- 7 Pueblo Central
- 8 Severance
- 9 Alamosa
- 10 The Classical Academy

Others receiving votes: DSST: Green Valley Ranch, Denver West, Eagle Ridge Academy, DSST: Montview, Peak to Peak, DSST: College View, Delta, Eaton, Steamboat Springs, Fort Morgan, Aspen, D'Evelyn, Sierra, University, Aurora West College Prep Academy, Sterling, Fort Lupton, Weld Central.

CLASS 3A

- 1 Highland
- 2 Forge Christian
- 3 Yuma
- 4 Salida
- 5 Centauri
- 6 The Vanguard School
- 7 Windsor Charter Academy
- 8 Manual
- 9 Strasburg
- 10 Prospect Ridge Academy

Others receiving votes: SkyView Academy, Banning Lewis Academy, Platte Valley, Lake County, Bishop Machebeuf, St. Mary's, Stargate School, The Pinnacle, Bayfield, Cedaredge, Grand Valley, Meeker, Peyton.

CLASS 2A

- 1 Wray
- 2 Limon
- 3 Crowley County
- 4 Sanford
- 5 Simla
- 6 Merino
- 7 Plateau Valley
- 8 Denver Christian
- 9 Vail Christian
- 10 Golden View Classical Academy

Others receiving votes: Heritage Christian, Holyoke, Haxtun, Evangel Christian Academy, Wiggins, Holly, Custer County, Byers, Burlington, Akron, Dayspring Christian Academy.

Mancos, Fowler.

CLASS 1A

- 1 Stratton
- 2 Belleview Christian
- 3 Genoa-Hugo/Karval
- 4 Denver Jewish Day
- 5 McClave
- 6 Otis
- 7 Granada
- 8 De Beque
- 9 Sierra Grande
- 10 Eads

Others receiving votes: Idalia, Briggsdale, Cheyenne Wells, Front Range Baptist, Pikes Peak Christian, Fleming, Ouray, Antonito, Beth Eden Baptist, Cheraw, Nucla, Flatirons Academy, Arickarre, Bethune, Creede, Denver Academy of Torah, Weldon Valley, Caprock Academy, Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind, Cripple Creek-Victor, Deer Trail, Rocky Mountain Lutheran, Wiley, Peetz, Prairie, Primero, Sangre de Cristo, Hi-Plains, Centennial, Denver Waldorf, Flagler, Mile High Academy, North Park, Springfield, Walsh, Hanover, Kiowa, Kit Carson, La Veta, Lone Star, Miami-Yoder, Dove Creek, Kim/Branson.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CLASS 4A

- 1 Holy Family
- 2 D'Evelyn
- 3 Riverdale Ridge
- 4 University
- 5 Eaton
- 6 Lutheran
- 7 Colorado Academy
- 8 Peak to Peak
- 9 Resurrection Christian
- 10 The Classical Academy

Others receiving votes: Delta, Berthoud, Sterling, Summit, Kent Denver, Moffat County, Alameda, Alamosa, Coal Ridge, Severance, Arrupe Jesuit, Denver West, DSST: Cedar, Weld Central, Arvada, Aurora West College Prep Academy, Conifer, DSST: Conservatory Green, DSST: Green Valley Ranch, Jefferson Academy, Pagosa Springs, Basalt, DSST: College View, DSST: Montview, Elizabeth, Englewood, Fort Lupton, Fort Morgan, Manitou Springs, Middle Park, Eagle Ridge Academy, Lincoln, Rifle, Rocky Mountain Prep SMART, Steamboat Springs, The Academy, Lamar, Kennedy, La Junta, Gateway, Pueblo Central, Sierra.

CLASS 3A

- 1 Colorado Springs Christian
- 2 St. Mary's
- 3 Peyton
- 4 Centauri
- 5 The Vanguard School
- 6 Yuma
- 7 Grand Valley
- 8 Platte Valley
- 9 Highland
- 10 Ellicott

Others receiving votes: Strasburg, Olathe, Buena Vista, St. Mary's Academy, Estes Park, SkyView Academy, North Fork, Prospect Ridge Academy, Cedaredge, Florence.

CLASS 2A

- 1 Merino
- 2 Sedgwick County
- 3 Burlington
- 4 Wiggins
- 5 Limon
- 6 Simla
- 7 Akron
- 8 Dayspring Christian Academy
- 9 Hoehne
- 10 Fowler

Others receiving votes: Mancos, Wray, Del Norte, Heritage Christian, Sanford, Center, Gilpin County, Soreco.

CLASS 1A

- 1 Briggsdale
- 2 McClave
- 3 Stratton
- 4 Flatirons Academy
- 5 Dove Creek
- 6 Eads
- 7 Fleming
- 8 Idalia
- 9 Kit Carson
- 10 Kiowa

Others receiving votes: Granada, De Beque, Hi-Plains, Cheyenne Wells, Cheraw, Springfield, Sangre de Cristo.

Sangre MS wins Sierra Grande Tourney



Courtesy photo

The Sangre de Cristo Middle School boys basketball team won the Sierra Grande Tournament last weekend. The Thunderbirds defeated Monte Vista in overtime.

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

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

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

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26Jt 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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

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

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

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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 or stop by City Hall at 300 Hunt Ave. The City of Alamosa provides Equal Opportunity Employment accommodations please submit them in writing with the application. Application deadline - open until filled. (12/2/23AS)

DELOSS INDUSTRIES IN ALAMOSA is Hiring Full-Time, 40 Hours Per Week, Wages 24 to 40 Dollars Per Hour. Looking to hire: **EQUIPMENT MECHANICS, MECHANIC 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)

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 accommodations please submit them in writing with the application. Application deadline - open until filled. (12/2/23AS)

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

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.rgxcd.org/subdistrict-no-1-bid. For more information, call the District office at (719) 589-6301 or by emailing taylor@rgxcd.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

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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304- LAWN & GARDEN

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401- BUSINESS PROPERTIES

COMMERCIAL GREENHOUSE/ WAREHOUSE: 7,000 square feet, less than 10 years old, and built well. Has living space, full bathroom, and a commercial kitchen, Cannabis Licenses available. \$375,000 (owner willing to carry financing) or may rent it. ANTONITO, CO 719-298-8908. (12/1/23)

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.rgxcd.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 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)

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

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Valley Grande Apts. 2256 E. Drive Monte Vista, CO 852-4302

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

West View Villas 510 Dunham Monte Vista, Colo 852-3949

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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)

701- AUTOS FOR SALE

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)

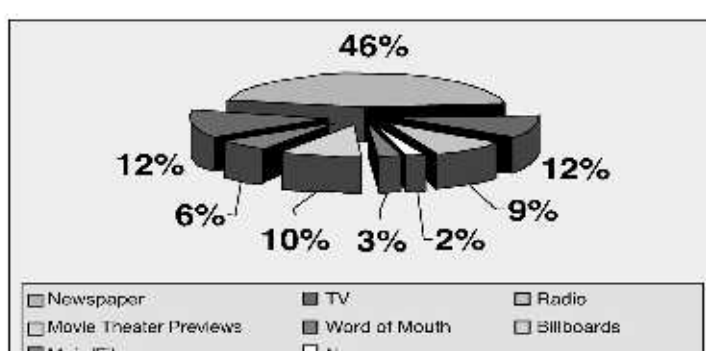
713- PICKUP TRUCKS

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. (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)

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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 "— not, want not"
 - 6 Trattoria fare
 - 11 Put to rest
 - 12 Indigenous Alaskan
 - 13 Pale yellow, said of hair
 - 15 Malleable
 - 16 Not very exciting
 - 17 Actor — Vigoda
 - 19 Negative vote
 - 20 Many and different
 - 24 Oklahoma city
 - 27 Soak
 - 32 Drive
 - 32 Handgun
 - 34 French novelist — Zola
 - 35 Bottled water brand
 - 36 Chatters
 - 37 Great Italian poet
 - 38 Roofing material
- DOWN**
- 1 Float
 - 2 Spaghetti — carbonara
 - 3 Shut
 - 4 Assessed a levy
 - 5 Calm in a storm
 - 6 Buddy
 - 7 Boxing great
 - 8 Actor — Penn
 - 9 Fish for salads

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

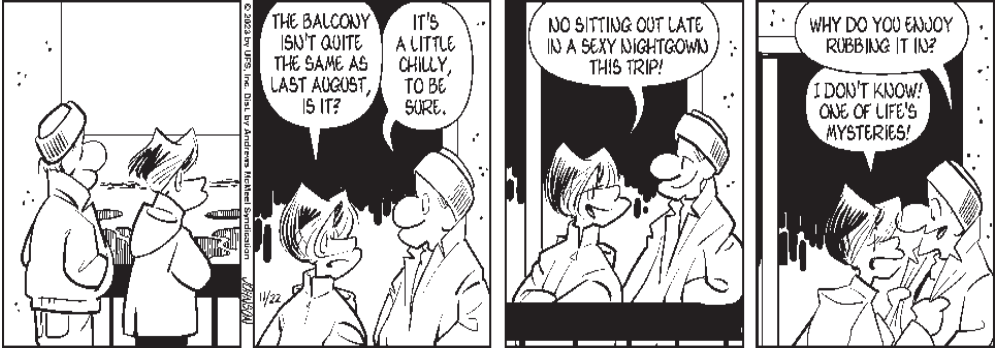
- 10 ABA member
- 14 Kind of orange
- 15 — capita
- 18 Play the ponies
- 21 Pressed
- 22 Rugged mountain range
- 23 Actress — Thompson
- 24 Mimicked
- 25 Opera star
- 26 Z — zebra
- 29 Something regrettable
- 30 Gen. Robert —
- 31 For fear that
- 33 Parting word (hyph.)
- 36 Surprise event
- 38 Gratuity
- 41 Spring month
- 42 Hawaiian porch
- 43 Racetrack shape
- 44 Tsunami
- 45 — vital
- 48 Outer layer
- 49 Superman, incognito
- 50 Hardens
- 52 Box top
- 53 Golfer Ernie
- 55 Snake

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11					12					
13			14		15					
16			17	18			19			
		20	21			22	23			
24	25	26		27		28	29	30	31	
32			33			34				
35					36					
37				38				39		
		40		41			42			
43	44	45		46			47	48	49	50
51			52	53		54	55			
56						57				
58						59				

ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



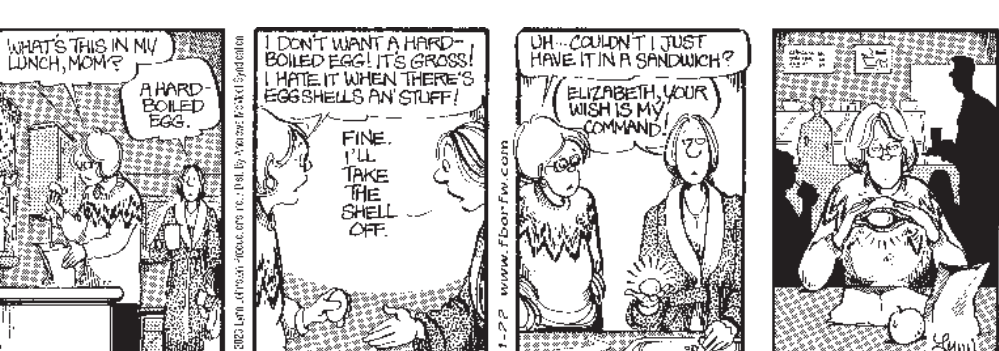
BIG NATE



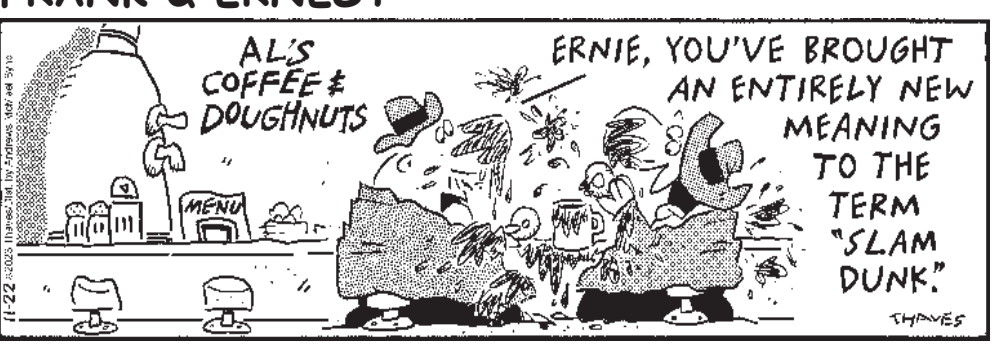
THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



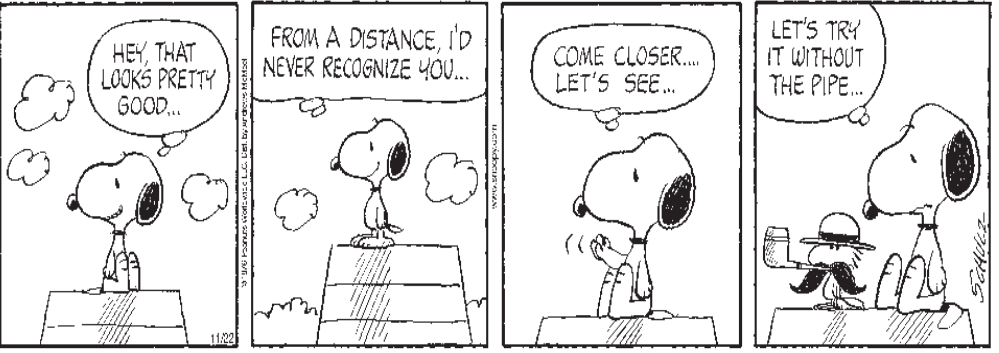
GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



"Three wishes for a dollar."

Teen's wardrobe choices are too much for one mom

DEARABBY: I am a fairly laid-back mom of a wonderful 13-year-old daughter. Her friends are nice kids, but some of them dress pretty provocatively. I have seen them wear super-short shorts that are very "cheeky" and tops that really expose their assets. We have been invited to a party at a friend's home, and my daughter is allowed to bring a friend. The friend she has chosen to invite regularly dresses in very provocative attire, and I would feel more comfortable if I knew she was going to dress "appropriately" by my standards. I don't know what to do. Should I talk to the parents? (Cringe!) Ask my daughter to tell her friend what the dress code is and to convey "Wear something that doesn't show your butt cheeks"? Or must I ignore it and hope for the best? --OVEREXPOSED IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR OVEREXPOSED: Many teenage girls let it all hang out in an effort to attract attention. I do not think you should talk to the girl's mother because I don't think your comments would be warmly welcomed. Instead, ask your daughter to talk to her friend and suggest that for THIS occasion, it would be better to cover up more than she usually does because the hosts are old-fashioned and can be judgmental -- just like you.

DEAR ABBY: I am a

45-year-old male who has been trying for a long time to change my attitude. I'm a really nice person when things are going well, but when things get tough, I turn nasty. I talk to myself some mornings about reacting better to situations, but then I react as I always do when things are hard. I found out four years ago that I'm bipolar, but I don't want to use this as an excuse. I also quit weed three years ago in the hope that things would stabilize in my life, which has helped a lot. I used to get panic attacks, which stopped when I quit weed. Still, I don't like the way I treat people when my mood is down. I don't have the means for therapy, so that is not an option. Do you have any advice for me? --MEANIE IN FLORIDA

DEAR MEANIE: Be glad you have pinpointed what your problem actually is. I hope you are receiving treatment for your bipolar disorder. However, if you are not, then your next step should be to find a nearby college or university that has a department of psychology and talk to a professor there about what low-cost mental health services they may be able to provide. If this is not an option, inquire at your county's department of mental health. You may be surprised to find that help is available on a sliding fee scale. I wish you



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

luck in your search. DEAR READERS: Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, and no Thanksgiving would be complete without sharing the traditional prayer penned by my dear, late mother: Oh, Heavenly Father, We thank Thee for food and remember the hungry. We thank Thee for health and remember the sick. We thank Thee for friends and remember the friendless. We thank Thee for freedom and remember the enslaved. May these remembrances stir us to service. That Thy gifts to us may be used for others. Amen. Have a happy and safe celebration, everyone! --LOVE, ABBY

Lifestyle

Case seeking to bar Trump from 2024 ballot appealed to Colorado Supreme Court

By CHASE WOODRUFF
Colorado Newswire

The widely anticipated next phase of a challenge to former President Donald Trump's constitutional eligibility to seek office again began on Monday with separate appeals filed by Trump and the plaintiffs who brought the case to the Colorado Supreme Court. A Denver District Court judge ruled last week that Trump should be placed on Colorado's March presidential primary ballot, rejecting a lawsuit filed by six Colorado voters who argue that the Republican front-runner is disqualified from office under a Civil War-era insurrection clause.

Although Judge Sarah B. Wallace ruled that Trump "engaged in insurrection" within the meaning of Section 3 of the 14th Amendment — which prohibits anyone who did so after taking an oath to support the Constitution from holding office again — she held that the clause does not apply to the presidency. Wallace's order instructed Secretary of State Jena Griswold, a Democrat, to place Trump on the ballot when certifying the list of primary candidates on Jan. 5.

The ruling drew an appeal first from Trump's attorneys, who wrote that while they were satisfied with the outcome, Wallace's opinion also contained "multiple grave jurisdictional and legal errors," including her finding that Trump "incited an insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021."

"President Trump seeks review to ensure that if this Court takes up this case on appeal, it will consider the full scope of the constitutional, interpretive, and evidentiary issues," Trump's attorneys wrote to the Colorado Supreme Court, listing eleven different legal issues they want the state's highest court to consider.

The list of issues revives many of the arguments Trump's team made during a five-day trial in district court earlier this month, including questioning the definitions of "insurrection" and "engaging" under Section 3, disputing the secretary of state's authority to disqualify candidates under the clause and attempts to discredit the investigation into the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol conducted by a select U.S. House of Representatives committee.

Plaintiffs in the case, backed by the nonprofit Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, filed their own appeal late on Monday, calling the finding that Section 3 does not apply to the presidency "nonsensical."

That theory was first put forward in 2021 by two conservative law professors, Josh Blackman and Seth Tillman, who argue that the section's reference to "an officer of the United States" does not include the president.

Gerard Magliocca, a scholar of 19th-century constitutional law, was called as an expert witness by the plaintiffs during this month's trial and testified that the position taken by Blackman and Tillman "so far is in the minority" among academics who have studied the question. Echoing Magliocca, the plaintiffs' appeal cited several pieces of historical evidence showing that Section 3, which was ratified in 1868 and aggressively enforced against ex-Confederates for a period of several years, was understood to apply to the president at the time.

"Excluding the President and the Presidency from Section 3 would make no sense," the plaintiffs wrote.

"There would be no reason to prohibit insurrectionists from serving as mere presidential electors, and from holding every other office in the land, while allowing them to hold most the powerful and hence most dangerous office. Nor would there be any reason to allow insurrectionist former Presidents to hold office again, while excluding former low-

level state officers." Attempts to bar Trump from the ballot under the 14th Amendment have been rejected by courts in several other states, including Michigan and Minnesota. But CREW and its supporters have sought to portray Wallace's ruling in Colorado as a victory as they continue to build their case against Trump's eligi-

bility across the country. "We always knew this case would end up before the Colorado Supreme Court, and have been preparing for that from the be-

ginning," Noah Bookbinder, CREW's president, said in a press release Tuesday. "We are planning to build on the trial judge's incredibly important ruling that

Donald Trump engaged in insurrection, and we are ready to take this case as far as necessary to ensure that Donald Trump is removed from the ballot."

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BODY FACT:

HIKING EXPOSES A PERSON TO PLENTY OF SUNSHINE, WHICH HELPS BOOST THE PRODUCTION OF THIS VITAMIN IN THE BODY.

ANSWER: VITAMIN D

What's the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A

B

Answers: 1. Clouds in sky 2. Mountain has a taller peak 3. Man's hat has pom-pom 4. Missing tree on right

THIS DAY IN...

NOV 25

HISTORY

- 1874: THE UNITED STATES GREENBACK PARTY IS ESTABLISHED AS A POLITICAL PARTY MADE UP OF MOSTLY FARMERS.
- 1915: ALBERT EINSTEIN PRESENTS THE FIELD EQUATIONS OF GENERAL RELATIVITY TO THE PRUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.
- 1984: MUSICIANS RECORD "DO THEY KNOW IT'S CHRISTMAS?" FOR FAMINE RELIEF.

New Word

BACKCOUNTRY

sparsely inhabited rural areas

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Hike

SPANISH: Caminata

ITALIAN: Escursione

FRENCH: Randonnée

GERMAN: Wanderung

Did You Know?

HIKING BECAME A LEISURE ACTIVITY IN EUROPE IN THE 1700S. BEFORE THEN, WALKING WAS ASSOCIATED WITH POVERTY.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: HIKING BACKPACK

future

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Holiday Greetings



Miss Merry Christmas Sarah DeLaCerde, Little Miss Isabella Avila and Little Mister Ezequiel Chavez

From... Miss Merry Christmas Sarah DeLaCerde,
Little Miss Isabella Avila and
Little Mister Ezequiel Chavez

A VERY SPECIAL EDITION

Valley Courier

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023

Holiday Greetings



Huge discounts offered now at Altitude Appliance

Now might be a great time to update your kitchen and laundry room with GE appliances offered now with discounts at Altitude Appliance in downtown Alamosa. Miss Merry Christmas Sarah DeLaCerde, Little Miss Isabella Avila, and Little Mister Ezequiel Chavez found beautiful kitchen displays. The store offers a variety of appliances to fit almost anyone's household budget.



Are you ready for holiday entertaining?

New laundry and kitchen appliances could be just what the doctor ordered going into the 2023 holiday season and Altitude Appliances in downtown Alamosa has a great selection on hand. Miss Merry Christmas Sarah DeLaCerde, Little Miss Isabella Avila, and Little Mister Ezequiel Chavez fell in love with the GE Profile all-in-one front load washer and heat pump dryer.

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Holiday Greetings

Nominees for Little Miss and Little Mister Merry



Aubriella Avila



Ava Arianna Avila



Camilla Mae Mckenzie



Chayce Sisneros



Dayanara Esquer



Diesel Moore



Elisandro Celestino Trujillo



Eva Hernandez



Hadley Moore



Jamiyah Romero



Janessa Cisneros



Javielynn Archuleta



Kaitlyn Garcia



Karsynn Noelle Torres



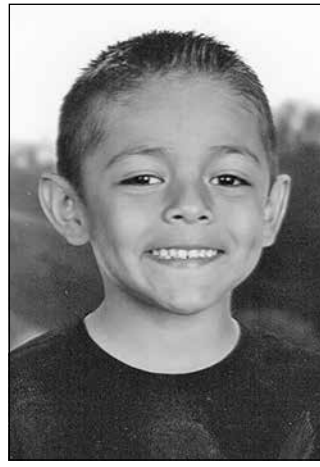
Laylana Quintana



Lily Vera Gutierrez



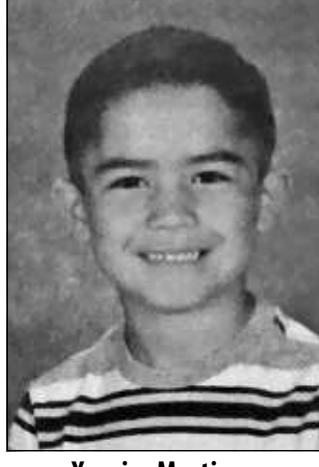
Myla Abeyta



Samuel Hernandez



Tatum DeHerrera



Xzavier Martinez



Zacchaeus Sanchez



L&M Auto for that new holiday "ride"
Miss Merry Christmas, Sarah DeLaCerde, Little Miss Merry Christmas, Isabella Avila and Little Mister Merry Christmas, Ezequiel Chavez are pictured with co-owner of L&M Auto in Alamosa, Jeff Martinez. Check out their selection of used cars, trucks and SUV's, just in time for a holiday trip.



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Holiday Greetings



Powering a vital Valley: electricity, internet & phone
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An SUV for the high country



Miss Merry Christmas Sarah DeLaCerde, Little Miss Isabella Avila, and Little Mister Ezequiel Chavez fell in love with this 2023 GMC Sierra 1500 AT4X at Town and Country Auto Mall in Alamosa. This sports utility vehicle offers all-wheel drive for winter driving and your back-road experiences.

Need a ride to your next medical appointment?



Look no further than the Valley's original non-emergent medical transport. We have been serving the Valley since 1999 and will get you where you need to go. We accept Medicare and Medicaid. Just contact us for more information. We wish you a safe and happy holiday Season! Pictured left to right: SLV Transportation, Red Willows Inc. welcomed Miss Merry Christmas Sarah DeLaCerde, Little Miss Merry Christmas Isabella Avila, Little Mister Ezequiel Chavez, Matt Fernandez, Carlin Martinez, Kendra Lambert, and Donna Martinez.



New trucks, SUVs are waiting

Whether it's a new or used car, truck, van or SUV, Town and Country Auto Mall in Alamosa is the place to shop and buy according to Miss Merry Christmas Sarah DeLaCerde, Little Miss Isabella Avila, and Little Mister Ezequiel Chavez. Town and Country offer the latest in 2023 and 2024 trucks and sport utility vehicles from GMC, Chevrolet, Ford and Jeep, not to mention a fleet of gently used cars, trucks and SUVs. Shown is a 2024 GMC Terrain Denali AWD truck.



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Holiday Greetings



SLV Federal Bank kicks off 'Spirit of Giving'

SLV Federal Bank's Spirit of Giving program enters its 23rd year, allowing the bank's members to decide where a portion of the bank's community support budget should go. Members can cast one vote per account and name their favorite SLV community non-profit organization to receive a portion of the \$35,000 set aside for the program. Members may vote online at "www.slvfb.com/spirit" or at any of the bank's three branches. Staff members shown with Miss Merry Christmas Sarah DeLaCerde, Little Miss Isabella Avila, and Little Mister Ezequiel Chavez are, from left, Joelle Boos, Chad Crowther, Jamilya Ruybal, Kyle Burnett, Dolene Rodman and Amanda Maez.

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

Scan to submit your vote!

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FSWB offers variety of banking services

Miss Merry Christmas Sarah DeLaCerde, Little Miss Isabella Avila, and Little Mister Ezequiel Chavez heard about the all of the banking services offered at First Southwest Bank in Alamosa, Center and Saguache when they visited with regional branch manager Yuri Candejas, and financial services representatives Samantha Saiz and Jessica Medina.

The Warmest Holiday Wishes to Family & Friends

— Congratulations —

<p>SARAH DELACERDA Miss Merry Christmas</p>	<p>ISABELLA AVILA Little Miss Merry Christmas</p>	<p>EZEQUIEL CHAVEZ Little Mister Merry Christmas</p>
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