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Alamosa sweeps Centauri cross country meet

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VOLUME 97, NO. 160

# Valley Courier

TUESDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

October 10, 2023

\$1

## SLV Today

### Candidate forum for Alamosa City Council is tonight

**ALAMOSA** — In advance of the November election, the City of Alamosa, the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce, and the Valley Courier are co-sponsoring a candidate forum for those running for Alamosa's City Council.

The forum is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. tonight, Oct. 10, in council chambers at Alamosa City Hall, 300 Hunt Ave. It will also be accessible via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86422782893> or by listening live to KSPK FM at 100.3.

Candidates will be allowed to make brief opening statements followed by answering written questions from those in attendance both virtually and in person. The forum will conclude with closing comments from the candidates. Publisher Keith Cerny with the Valley Courier will be moderating.

Those who attend in person will be allowed to submit questions to the candidates in writing the night of the forum. Those wishing to submit questions in advance can do so by going to <https://cityofalamosa.org/council-meetings/> and submitting them online via the candidate forum information page on the city's website.

Four of seven seats are up for election this year. Incumbent Liz Hensley is running uncontested in Ward 1. Incumbent/appointee Dawn Krebs is running in Ward 2. The seat in Ward 3 is vacant with two on the ballot to take his place: John Adams and Jacqueline Vigil. Michael Carson, who currently represents Ward 4, is running, unopposed, for the at-large seat.

Carson is not vacating his seat to run, which means that, upon his election, the Ward 4 seat will be up for appointment by city council members.

Ballots will be mailed out to registered voters in advance of the election with a need to return by the end of election day, Nov. 7, in order to be counted. Those wishing to drop off their ballot will be able to do so at the county's ballot dropbox located at 8999 Independence Way or, inside, in Suite 101.

## SLV WEATHER

Sunny 68/32

Wed: Mostly Sunny, Windy 65/33

Thurs: Mostly Sunny, Windy 54/24

## INSIDE

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## Walsh demolition begins Friday, Oct. 13

### Parking lot and road closures expected, city says

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER  
*Courier Reporter*

**ALAMOSA** — Demolition of the Walsh Hotel, located at 617 Sixth St., begins Friday, Oct. 13, with Sixth Street between San Juan and State avenues sched-

uled to be closed all day. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is managing the project.

According to a press release from the city, the demolition is expected to last 3-4 weeks, prompting the closure of the parking lot adjacent to the Walsh for the duration of the project. When asked for alternative parking locations, the city suggested that drivers accustomed to parking in that lot consider parking in the large unpaved lot across State Avenue to the east

or one of the city's parking lots in the area, including a recently paved parking lot between Fourth Street and San Juan or, one block south, the paved parking lot that runs adjacent to the south side of Sixth Street.

Rachel James, director of Development Services, also said there are additional private lots in the downtown area that allow public parking.

The city is further advising that there may be periodic closure of the alley that runs be-

tween where the Walsh currently stands and the back doors of businesses on Main Street. The EPA is aware that deliveries and residential apartments need access to that alley and will work with businesses and residents.

At different times during the project, there may also be "lane reductions or full road closure" but the city provided no specific details about when those reductions or closures may take place. The Valley Courier pre-

■ See WALSH page 3



Courtesy photo

**A late Sunday afternoon collision at the intersection of State Avenue and Fourth Street sent a car into the Colorado Work Force Center at that corner, causing major damage to the exterior and interior of the building. Damage to the building was estimated at \$40,000 by the Alamosa Police Department.**

## Collision sends car into building

**STAFF REPORT**  
**ALAMOSA** — Two people were injured and one ticketed for careless driving causing bodily injury and suspicion of driving under the influence after a collision at the intersection of State Avenue and Fourth Street sent one of the vehicles careening into the Colorado Work Force Center building at that corner about 5:30 p.m.

Sunday. According to an Alamosa Police Department accident report, Nakia Pettis, 22, of Alamosa, was westbound on Fourth Street and failed to yield to a red light colliding with a southbound vehicle driven by Alexander Urrutia, 23, of Jupiter, Fla. on State Avenue. Pettis' Chevrolet Tahoe knocked Urrutia's Honda Civic into

the nearby building, causing an estimated \$40,000 in damage.

Urrutia was transported by EMS to San Luis Valley Health Regional Medical Center for undisclosed injuries while Pettis was transported by private vehicle. Three passengers in the Pettis vehicle reportedly left the scene. Both vehicles sustained serious damage.

## Jury finds Ferguson guilty of murdering Brian Taylor

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER  
*Courier Reporter*

**ALAMOSA** — Last week, the jury in the case of Dustin Ferguson, 36, accused of the February 2022 murder of Brian Taylor, 41, found Ferguson guilty of committing second-degree murder, a class 2 felony. In the state of Colorado, second-degree murder carries a minimum sentence of 8 years and a maximum sentence of 24 years in a Colorado State Prison with a mandatory parole of three years.

The prosecution also proved that Ferguson committed a crime of violence, which includes a sentence enhancer that increases the number of years Ferguson could spend in prison.

In Colorado, the sentence enhancer increases the minimum sentence for a class 2 felony to the midpoint of the presumptive sentencing range and allows for the maximum sentence to be twice the presumptive sentencing range. In other words, Ferguson is looking at a sentence ranging from 12 to 48 years. Also, mandatory parole is increased to five years.

District Judge Amanda Hopkins is presiding in



Dustin Ferguson

the case and, following her review of a background report prepared by the probation department, will hand down Ferguson's sentence at a hearing scheduled for December 8.

During that hearing, Hopkins will presumably also hear statements made on behalf of the victim, Taylor, and on behalf of Ferguson.

According to the arresting documents obtained by the Valley Courier from the clerk of the court, at 10:30 p.m. on Feb. 23, 2022, Saguache County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to a residence on County Road LL57 in Villa Grove in response to a reported stabbing.

The person who called the office was a neighbor calling on behalf of David ■ See GUILTY page 3

## Gomez-Romero is set to challenge Gay for board of education seat

By JOHN WATERS  
*Courier News Editor*

**ALAMOSA** — The Valley Courier has invited candidates for the Alamosa School District Board of Education for interviews. In this segment, challenger Kaylee Gomez-Romero discussed her plans if elected to the board. The election is Nov. 7.

**Waters:** Please introduce yourself to our readers.

**Gomez-Romero:** I'm the project director for the College Assistance Migrant Program at Adams State University. I've been an Alamosa resident almost all of my life, I went to Alamosa High School, I've been working

in higher education for about 10 years.

The reason I want to run for the school board is that I feel the Alamosa Community has given a lot to me. I try to be active in community activities, being a community partner with different agencies. This is the perfect opportunity to give back.

**Waters:** How do you think your experience working in higher education will benefit you if you are elected to the board?

**Gomez-Romero:** I think that [working in higher education] is an asset because I've worked in the migrant education program and now I'm the director of the

College Assistance Migrant Program so I've worked with some of the most vulnerable populations in the nation and tried to help give students a voice that they may not feel like they have one or have had the opportunity to have a voice.

**Waters:** If elected to the board, what plans do you have?

**Gomez-Romero:** Number one, I feel like I can be an advocate for the students or parents who have needs. In our program, we are very family-oriented and include them in events, including them in discussions about our program. I think I can be ■ See BOE page 3



Kaylee Gomez-Romero



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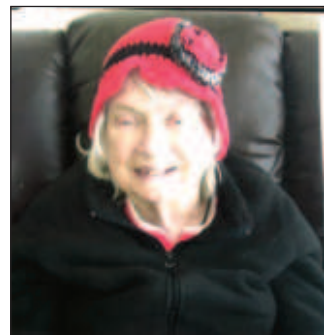




# Record

## OBITUARY

### Evelyn Lemen



On Oct. 3, 2023, Evelyn Lemen at the age of 88 was called home to walk with Jesus.

Evelyn was a woman with fierce determination. The eldest of nine children was born a true coal miner's daughter in Durango, Colo. She was a kind, gentle, and loving wife, mother, sister and friend.

She had many talents; seamstress, homemaker, and a crochet queen. Evelyn married a military man (Larry) and supported his Air Force career during challenging times such as the Vietnam War. She was often left to be the sole parent to their three children and successfully raised them with love and devotion.

In 1974, they moved to Alamosa, Colo. Evelyn worked hard to help support her family including the Gerry factory until they closed, the Alamosa Mushroom Farm and after working for Adams State

City, Fla., Myrna Mobley of Grand Junction, Colo., and three grandchildren by her son David R. Lemen, who precedes her in death; Evelyn was also preceded in death by her loving husband of 64 years Larry Paul Lemen.

Evelyn was a friend to all who met her and will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

College with a perfect attendance, never missing a day of work in 10 years she worked as a provider for several homebound women over the years in addition to working with her husband in their wood working business.

She is survived by her son Larry "Lars" Paul Lemen Jr. of Alamosa, Colo., her daughter Ramona L. Miranda who is married to Julian Miranda of San Antonio, Texas, her brothers Dan (Julie) Hunt of Grand Junction, Colo., Lawrence (Susan) Hunt of Palm Coast, Fla.; her sisters Lois Crook of Panama

A visitation for Evelyn will be held Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023, at Rogers Family Mortuary in Alamosa from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. A memorial service will be held Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023, at Calvary Bible Chapel at 7160 Brush Lane in Alamosa at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers please consider donations to Disabled American Veterans, D.A.V.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes, and words of comfort for Evelyn's family, please visit [www.RogersFunerals.com](http://www.RogersFunerals.com).



Mary Russell, Theresa Rudder, Jeff Owsley, Beth Kinney, and Nancy Harris, pictured at the Alamosa Visitor Center, the planned location of the monument.

## CHFA donates \$10,000 to Cranes in Flight Project

**STAFF REPORT**  
**ALAMOSA** — The Jocelyn Russell "Into Thin Air" Cranes in Flight monument has received a \$10,000 donation from the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA). Funds are still needed for the project as costs have

risen in the four years that the club has been working on the project.

The GFWC Woman's Citizenship Club thanks Jeff Owsley, CHFA, and all who have donated, according to Mary Russell.

The Woman's Citizenship Club is a non-profit

organization and member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs dedicated to enhancing communities through volunteer service.

For more information, call Mary Russell at 719-580-4029 or email [mrussellco@msn.com](mailto:mrussellco@msn.com).

## SLVH patient shares story about early breast cancer detection

**By SAN LUIS VALLEY HEALTH**  
**ALAMOSA** — October is Breast Cancer Awareness Week and what better way to bring attention to this issue than to hear it directly from Tricia Wilson, a recent patient who is enthusiastically encouraging her friends and neighbors to get their annual screening — and don't delay.

"I was very impressed by the technology and professional staff at SLV Health. I moved to South Fork last year and scheduled my annual screening at the Stephanie L Miner Imaging Center. I was pleased to find out they had a 3-D mammography machine. However, I was surprised to get a follow-up call from the team asking me to return for another mammo with the Radiologist," Wil-

son said. Dr. Allen showed Wilson the screen of a cluster of calcifications found on my breast.

"I've had one or two show up in the past, so I was not concerned until he strongly suggested that I get it biopsied. In hindsight, I know that he knew exactly what he was looking at. I scheduled a needle biopsy when the other Radiologist was on site later that month in Alamosa, and I couldn't believe how simple it was — a computer-assisted mammo in the same procedure room connected to a needle — and it was painless and quick, no scar, no surgery, and right there at the SLM Women's Imaging Center — which was extremely convenient," Wilson said.

The even bigger surprise, Wilson said, was

when Barbara Carlsen, the Registered Mammography Technologist, called and said, "It was positive, you have an early stage of breast cancer."

Wilson said Carlsen has been "extremely supportive and helped me with a referral to a breast specialist surgeon in Colorado Springs."

The lumpectomy was not difficult, and Wilson only needed five days of radiation since everything was caught at such an early stage. She interacted with Dr. Allen again in Colorado Springs because he works in both locations.

"I'm so impressed with the level of professional, caring, high-tech care that I received at SLV Health," Wilson said. "I'm telling all my friends to 'Be proactive with your health and get your screenings done.'"

## Del Norte sets the stage for 2023 Scarecrow Bash

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

**DEL NORTE** — The Del Norte Chamber of Commerce has started its annual Scarecrow Bash, and the town will soon turn into an autumn wonderland filled with fall-themed displays and spooky delights for people to view.

The annual event started several years ago and has brought a fun and interactive community event to the area. Local businesses and residents participate every year and the prize for the winners just gets better and better each year.

According to the Del Norte Chamber of Commerce, the annual event is looked forward to by several local businesses and travelers who come to the area to enjoy the event's fall flair.

"You help brighten up the streets and celebrate a beautiful time of year in Del Norte," chamber officials stated.

To participate, sign up at [www.delnortechamber.org](http://www.delnortechamber.org) and then decorate. Pretty much anything goes as



Courtesy photos

The annual Del Norte Scarecrow Bash is underway but there is still time for people to participate and possibly win prizes. Businesses and residents of Del Norte are invited to decorate for the fall and spooky season and enter the contest.

long as it is unique and fun for the community. After the decorating is complete, contestants enter a picture of their displays and send them in to be shared on social media.

Those wanting to vote for their favorite business or residential display can grab a map of the locations from the chamber and head out for a drive around town to see all the wonderful and creative displays and then head

on over to the website to vote.

There will be winners in both the residential and business categories, and they will be comprised of local donations from several businesses and organizations, in addition to the bragging rights the winners get.

For more information, contact the Del Norte Chamber of Commerce at [www.delnortechamber.org](http://www.delnortechamber.org) or call 719-657-9081

## RERC community kickoff meeting set for Oct. 18

City council approved the RERC action plan last month

By Marie Mccolm

**MONTE VISTA** — The Monte Vista City Council unanimously approved the Recreational Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) action plan at a recent meeting.

Now, the RERC steering committee is having a community kickoff meeting open to the public from 6 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 18 at the Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista.

The RERC action plan encourages economic development for the City of Monte Vista. According to City Manager Gigi Dennis, the plan came about when San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLVGO!) applied for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant at the end of 2021. In 2022, the City of Monte Vista received word that the grant had been awarded.

The purpose of the RERC plan is to create recreational opportunities to draw more people into rural areas of the city. The idea is to rebuild the economy by filling up local buildings and creating outdoor opportunities, such as the Ray and Colette Skeff Nature Trail for example.

Monte Vista is the second community to receive the grant in Colorado, with Glenwood Springs receiving a grant two years ago.

Federal partners, including the EPA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), and the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) are assisting 25 small rural communities across the country this year,

and Monte Vista is included in this.

In conjunction with the federal partners, San Luis Valley Great Outdoors will also work closely with the City of Monte Vista in engaging in the process. The RERC will lay the foundation of the plans, but SLVGO! and the community will be the ones to move forward with the process for the total development of the act. The plan is to utilize outdoor recreation for revitalization and this in turn will lead to improved environmental safety and overall good public health outcomes, by getting people outdoors, to become healthier and more active, and also by getting empty buildings filled to help the local economy thrive and in turn create more local job opportunities.

Dennis explained the process, "It started with us meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency on a variety of things. They came out here and brought with them federal partners including the Forest Service, BLM, and the Department of Transportation. Other agencies were also involved, the Department of Local Affairs, the Office of Economic Development and International Trade, and the Colorado Tourism Board. All these folks came last February, and we held community meetings that allowed the people in our community to come and state what they want their visions to be for our community. We developed five goals with action steps. Since then, we've been working with the EPA, they finalized and

gave us a plan. We now have a working document, and we are getting ready now to ask the community to come back and get on some of these committees and get this whole thing started again and see if we can't actually implement the plan itself."

Dennis said that the city also has an AmeriCorps servant named Xavier Campos. He is a graduate of Florida and will be here for a year.

"He is going to be the one to facilitate the meetings and be our city resource to pull this together. Our kickoff with be October the 18 for all of this. Xavier is a very smart, talented young man. We are excited to have him on our city team. We are excited for him to learn and to see what we can get done in the next year," Dennis said.

**School Menu**  
**Tuesday**  
**October 10, 2023**

**BREAKFAST**  
Banana Bread  
Fruit & Milk

**ELEMENTARY**  
Ravioli/Bread Stick  
Steamed Broccoli  
Veggie Bar  
Fruit & Milk

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Ravioli/Bread Stick  
Steamed Broccoli  
Veggie Bar  
Fruit & Milk

**HIGH SCHOOL**  
Ravioli/Bread Stick  
Steamed Broccoli  
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# Valley News

## SLV officials create regional board to vet water export projects

By SHANNON MULLANE  
Colorado Sun

Local governments in the San Luis Valley have a new tool to protect their water resources: a regional review process for projects that propose taking the Valley's water and exporting it for use elsewhere.

Like in many communities around Colorado, local officials want to keep a tight grip on their water. Groundwater aquifers, rain, snow and rivers provide drinking water, support wildlife and keep the region's primary economic engine, agriculture, running. But over the decades, several developers have proposed projects that would take water out of the valley and send it to places like water-short communities on the Front Range.

Communities in the Valley say they don't have water to spare. Local officials were left with a problem: They could review permit applications for water export projects within their jurisdiction — and they knew that what happens with one community's water resources impacts others in the Valley. Yet, they didn't have a way to weigh in when a water export project was proposed to their neighbors.

That is, until September when — after months of negotiations — local governments finally signed on to an agreement that sets the foundation for a joint review process.

"I think everybody's breathing a big sigh of relief that finally all the counties have signed," Saguache County Commissioner Tom McCracken said. "I'm getting feedback from the public that everybody's really happy about it."

The San Luis Valley is a high-elevation desert in southern Colorado that is home to 46,000 people. It's a flat expanse bordered by the San Juan and Sangre de Cristo mountain ranges to the east and west and by Poncha Pass to the north and the New Mexico border to the south.

Because of the dominance of agriculture in the region, local jobs and livelihoods are tied to the Rio Grande Basin's rivers and streams or the underground aquifers that feed crops each year.

That water supply is shrinking. The San Luis Valley aquifer is missing about 1 million acre-feet, which is about the size of Blue Mesa, Colorado's largest artificial reservoir, McCracken said. The depletion has impacted the flow of water through streams, irrigation ditches and from one farm to its neighbor. Acres of wetlands have dried, and wildlife has disappeared, he said.

"So, yes, we're facing serious issues with water," McCracken said.

Once water leaves the basin, it doesn't come back. Local economies and the sustainability of water resources were top of mind for officials as they considered a regional approach to reviewing water projects that proposed exporting water out of the valley.

"If there's a dwindling supply of water in the region, it makes sense to want to keep it (water) in the re-



File photo

A field is watered by an irrigation system near Monte Vista in spring of this year.

gion," said Louis Fineberg, Creede's town manager. There, the economy is driven more by tourism than agriculture. Houses draw water from wells that tap into the aquifer, he said.

"If the aquifer diminishes or if the levels drop, then in theory, people could be out of a water supply," Fineberg said.

This summer, local officials held public hearings, debated and eventually approved the first step in that regional approach: an intergovernmental agreement that established a joint planning area and a joint planning board.

The geographic area covers six counties in the valley: Alamosa, Costilla, Conejos, Mineral, Saguache and Rio Grande. The planning board includes representatives from counties and local towns and cities.

When a town or county — one that is part of the intergovernmental agreement — receives a permit application for a project that proposes exporting water for use outside the Valley, that triggers a joint planning board review. The joint review process does not apply to projects in which the water is used in the valley.

The joint planning board scrutinizes whether the project meets permitting regulations then makes a recommendation to either approve, deny or approve the proposal as long as certain conditions are met.

This regional review occurs simultaneously with the local review by the county or municipality with permitting authority. Those officials make the ultimate decision, but they have to take the joint board's recommendation into consideration.

This level of regional collaboration on water issues is unique in Colorado, although communities in northwestern Colorado, near the headwaters of the Colorado River, have taken a similarly collaborative approach in managing their water resources.

It's also an idea that's gaining momentum. In fact, regional collaboration on water issues was one of the top recommendations in a 2022 analysis from the Common Sense Institute.

The joint agreement was designed to go into effect once all six counties officially agreed to join, although two towns, Creede and Hooper, also joined. Mineral County was the last of eight local governments to approve it, signing on in early September.

There are still several remaining steps in the process, including designating water export projects as "matters of state interest" under state statute and up-

dating related regulations at the local level. Once a local government officially makes the designation, a pause on reviewing new export proposals goes into effect until the regulations are finalized.

"Over the last several decades there have been attempts to divert this resource to areas outside the Rio Grande Basin, and there have been few if any regulations to adequately protect this vital resource," Alamosa County officials said in an emailed statement.

In the past, American Water Development Inc., the late Gary Boyce of Stockman's Water, and Sean Tonner of Renewable Water Resources have explored projects that would export water from the valley.

Alamosa officials wrote that having these regulations in place provides an additional layer of protection for water resources.

"Our goal is to make sure that any project that proposes to divert water out of the area is properly vetted by everyone who will be impacted. Without a regional agreement, this would not be possible," the county officials wrote.

Other local officials voiced similar sentiments. The underground aquifers are not divided by political lines, so it's important for the valley to be able to work together on issues that affect each other, McCracken said.

The hoped-for outcome would be to limit the economic impact of water scarcity and to create a tool for sustainability, said Costilla County Commissioner Steven Romero, who farms and ranches in the area.

"At what point do you make the growth sustainable? Do you just put pipelines everywhere because that's where the growth is happening?" he said. "Just from a sustainability standpoint, where do you draw the line? Do you just continue to pump until there's nothing left, and then what happens?"

He thought back to how his family arrived in the area six generations ago and planned to provide for future generations.

"We've largely been disconnected from our roots and the way our ancestors provided this world for us. I think a lot of them would be ashamed of how we look at the world and how selfishly we live," Romero said. "We need to think about things in a way that isn't just about the here and now. ... (The agreement) is just another tool in the toolbox to be able to maybe combat the shortsightedness and short-term thinking that our society is dominated by."

and forced entry into the house where they found Taylor on the floor, showing no signs of life. The deputies reported that Taylor had apparently been stabbed several times in his back, head and neck.

One of the deputies went in pursuit of Ferguson, who was still in the area, ultimately taking him into custody without incident. In his report, the deputy states he saw several cuts on Ferguson's hand that "were not actively bleeding." Ferguson was then transported to the sheriff's office in the custody of another deputy with SCSO.

The deputies then spoke to Jackman who said that Ferguson was his roommate. Taylor, who had reportedly worked with both Jackman and Ferguson in the past, had come to Jackman's house when his car had "broken down" nearby.

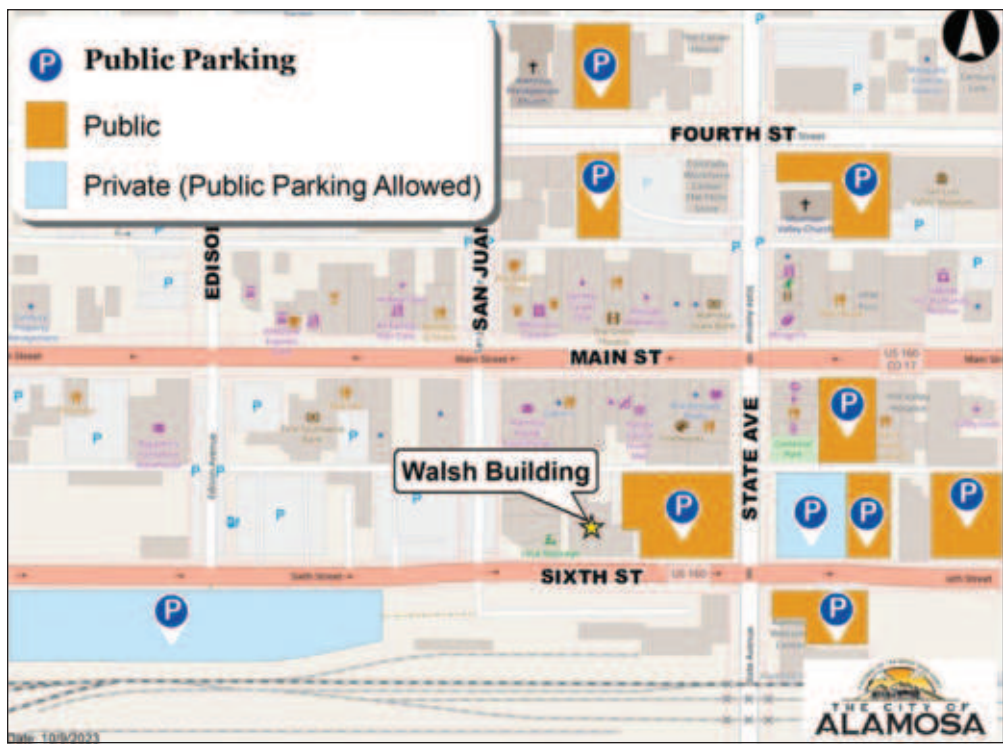
The three men were reportedly drinking beer when, according to Jackman, Ferguson made it apparent he did not like Taylor. Jackman then witnessed Ferguson stabbing Taylor, at which point Jackman fled from the house and ran to the neighbor's residence where the sheriff's office was called.

## Tough on crime



Courier photo by John Waters

Alamosa County Sheriff Robert Jackson (left) and Alamosa Police Department Chief Ken Anderson took a stand on crime on Friday, Oct. 6, by walking a beat in Downtown Alamosa during the First Fridays gathering.



Map courtesy of Alamosa's Development Services department

Map of available parking for the 3-4 weeks that the parking lot adjacent to the Walsh will be closed. Areas indicated in blue are private parking lots that are open to the public.

## Walsh

Continued from Page 1  
vously reported the demolition was scheduled for Oct. 9 and has asked the city to elaborate on the delay.

The demolition and removal of debris includes the clean-up and disposal of asbestos contaminated materials, which will be kept wet to prevent any asbestos fibers from being spilled or becoming airborne. The waste will be loaded

into boxes, covered with plastic liners, sealed and then delivered to a nearby landfill which is allowed to accept asbestos.

Demolition of the Walsh brings to an end to problems with the property that have plagued the City of Alamosa for several years. Thanks to strong advocacy from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Education, the EPA is funding the demolition using money from a special grant program created to address

properties that are of significant danger to a community.

No details are available at this point about what is planned for future use of the property.

Anyone with questions should contact the Development Services Department at 719-589-6631 or via email at [planning@ci.alamosa.co.us](mailto:planning@ci.alamosa.co.us). The EPA has also established a website for ongoing site updates which can be found at [response.epa.gov/AlamosaAsbestosWalshHotel](http://response.epa.gov/AlamosaAsbestosWalshHotel).

## BOE

Continued from Page 1  
an advocate for students, families, and the greater Alamosa community. Between the university and the high school, we are very central and prominent in the community. I feel like I can use this position [At Adams State] and being on the school board I can be that advocate for the vulnerable populations, our first-generation students and to create more pathways into higher education or career placement for students.

**Waters:** How would you create more pathways into higher education?

**Gomez-Romero:** I think really utilizing our communities with TSC

[Trinidad State College], and Adams State, and work with them to create that, whether it be programs or incentives for students or things like that.

**Waters:** Have you ever been on a school board or elected to public office?

**Gomez-Romero:** I've never been on a school board; I do serve on the La Puente Enterprise board. Here at Adams State, I'm part of various committees and part of our equity board. This is my first run for public office. I just turned 30 and I think I can bring a new voice to the board. Working with students every day, I have a direct line to them. I hear their needs, and what they want and need from the school. I can be that liaison, that advocate and support

them.

**Waters:** Is there anything else you would like to communicate to our readers?

**Gomez-Romero:** Number one is safety, making sure our students feel safe in the schools and making sure parents feel safe in sending their kids to school and creating that space for everyone.

I'm a new voice, I am new to this scene, and I look forward to learning and growing with a term on the school board if elected. I'm excited to jump right into it get things started and be that voice for them.

## Guilty

Continued from Page 1  
Jackman, the owner and resident of the house who had fled the scene after witnessing the incident. Jackman named Ferguson as the suspect.

When the deputies arrived at the house, they reported seeing blood on the storm door to the residence. The door was locked.

They then looked through a window and saw the body of a man — later identified as Taylor — inside the house. Deputies announced their presence

The Valley Courier has invited current District 1 board member Andria Gay to an interview and has not yet received a response.



# Lifestyles

## States that send a mail ballot to every voter really do increase turnout, scholars find

By ZACHARY ROTH  
*Colorado Newswire*

Lately, a rough consensus has emerged among people who study the impact of voting policies: Though they often spark fierce partisan fighting, most changes to voting laws do little to affect overall turnout, much less election results.

But one fast-growing reform appears to stand out as an exception.

When every registered voter gets sent a ballot in the mail — a system known as universal vote-by-mail — voting rates tend to rise, numerous studies have found.

Advocates for mail voting say these findings haven't gotten the attention they deserve, and that they should lead more states that want to boost turnout to adopt UVM, as it's called.

"[T]o a remarkable degree, most of the nation's leading journalists, democracy reform organizations, and elected officials continue to largely ignore, downplay — or even dismiss outright — the potentially profound implications of these noticeably high turnout rates," said a research paper released last month by the National Vote at Home Institute, which advocates for increased use of mail voting.

Currently, eight states — California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, and Washington — use UVM.

Efforts in recent years by many states to make it easier to vote by mail prompted a furious backlash from former President Donald Trump and his backers, who have repeatedly claimed, without evidence, that mail voting is dangerously vulnerable to fraud.

Perhaps no state incurred Trump's wrath more than Nevada, which, along with California, introduced UVM in 2020 in response to the pandemic.

"The governor of Nevada should not be in charge of ballots. The ballots are going to be a disaster for our country," Trump said ahead of the 2020 election, referring to the state's then-governor, Democrat Steve Sisolak (In fact, Sisolak was not "in charge of ballots." Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske, a Republican, was). "You're going to have problems with the ballots like nobody has ever seen before."

Since replacing Sisolak this year, Nevada Gov. Joe Lombardo, a Republican, has pushed for eliminating UVM. ("Sending ballots to more than 1.9 million registered voters is inefficient

and unnecessary," Lombardo said in January.) But Democrats, who control the state legislature, have shown no interest in scrapping the system.

So great was the GOP's suspicion of the practice in 2022 that some voters were told by party activists to hold onto mail ballots and hand them in on Election Day at their polling place, rather than mailing them.

But Trump and Republicans have lately backtracked, telling supporters to take advantage of mail voting rather than handing an advantage to Democrats. In June, the Republican National Committee announced a new get-out-the-vote drive encouraging early and mail voting.

Still, over 20 states have sought to restrict mail voting since 2020. Ohio has shortened the timeframe to apply for mail ballots and imposed new signature requirements, while Arizona now removes people from its list to receive a mail ballot if they go for more than two years without voting.

Among states looking to expand mail voting, not all have gone as far as UVM. Both New York and Pennsylvania, among other states, have loosened their rules to allow anyone to cast an absentee ballot by mail, rather than requiring an excuse — a system known as no-excuse absentee. But the voter still must take the trouble to apply to receive their absentee ballot, rather than being mailed one automatically.

Experts say there isn't strong evidence that these more modest approaches to mail voting do much to boost turnout.

Other reforms that likewise have become core to the Democratic platform on voting policy, like adding early voting opportunities, also haven't consistently been shown to increase voting rates. Allowing people to register at the polls — often called same-day registration — has in some studies been associated with small turnout increases.

By contrast, the research on UVM finds a consistent and significant impact.

Advocates say that's hardly surprising. Under UVM, election officials simply mail ballots to directly everyone on the voter rolls, almost literally putting a ballot in voters' hands. Voters can return their ballot either through the mail or by leaving it in a secure ballot dropbox.

A 2022 paper by Eric McGhee and Jennifer Paluch of the Public Policy Institute of California

and Mindy Romero of the University of Southern California found that UVM increased turnout among registered voters by 5.6 percentage points in the 2020 election — what the authors called "a substantial and robust positive effect."

A 2018 paper by the data firm Pantheon Analytics, which works for Democrats and progressive groups, compared Utah counties that used UVM with those that didn't, and found that the system boosted turnout by 5-7 percentage points among registered voters.

And a forthcoming paper by Michael Ritter of Washington State University, to be published in the November 2023 edition of the Election Law Journal, looks at various mail voting systems over the last decade and finds that UVM led to an 8-point increase in registered voter turnout.

By and large, states that use UVM appear to see higher voting rates than those that don't. The National Vote at Home Institute research paper found that eight of the 11 states that used UVM in 2020 were in the top 15 states for turnout of active registered voters. And none of those eight were battleground states, which tend to see higher turnout.

Two other states using UVM for the first time in 2020 ranked first and second on improved turnout compared to 2016 — Hawaii, which saw a 14% jump, and Utah, which saw an 11% jump.

The paper also found that UVM has a particularly large impact on turnout rates for young voters, Black and Latino voters, who tend to vote at lower rates than average.

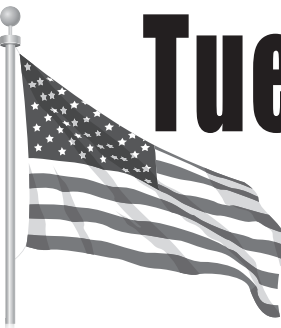
Advocates say there's another reason why policymakers should have no reluctance to embrace UVM: Despite its impact on turnout, it doesn't help one party more than the other, according to numerous studies.

"Universal VBM does not appear to tilt turnout toward the Democratic party, nor does it appear to affect election outcomes meaningfully," a representative 2020 paper by a group of Stanford University political scientists concluded.

McGhee said that finding could have the effect of turning down the political heat on the issue.

"Hopefully as the evidence gets out that it boosts turnout without impacting partisan outcomes, that part of it will fade a little bit," he said. "And it'll just be seen as a good-government reform."

## ALAMOSA CITY Candidate Forum Tuesday - Oct., 10<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm



## Alamosa City Hall Council Chambers

All local City Council candidates have been invited & the public is welcome to attend.

### 2023 CITY CANDIDATES

#### Council At Large:

• Michael Carason

#### Ward 1 Council:

• Liz Hensley

#### Ward 3 Council:

• Jacqueline (Jackie)

Vigil

• John Adams

#### Ward 2 Council:

• Dawn Krebs

Moderated by Keith R. Cerny, Publisher of the *Valley Courier*

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## Valley Courier

(ISSN 1047-1170)

The Valley Courier is published daily, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday by San Luis Valley Publishing, 2205 State Ave., Alamosa, Colo. 81101. Web site: www.alamosanews.com. Periodicals Postage: is paid at Alamosa, Colo., Monte Vista, Colo., La Jara, Colo., and Fort Garland, Colo. Phone (719) 589-2553. Postmaster send change of address to P.O. Box 1099.

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# Lifestyles

## CSD excited to have a Recruitment and Retention Team

By **MARIE MCCOLM CENTER** — Center School District Superintendent Carrie Zimmerman was excited to talk about the district's new Recruitment and Retention Team.

Carrie Zimmerman and Center Elementary teacher Christine Mikeljack talked with this reporter about the Recruitment and Retention Team.

"We have a Recruitment and Retention Team," Zimmerman said. "Our school is committed to helping to create the brightest students. We are also committed to hav-

ing the best and brightest teachers to teach our students. We want our teachers and students to both be successful. We get together about once a month and hold meetings. We want to make sure that our staff has support, our veteran staff, and our new staff."

Mikeljack added, "There are a lot of us involved in this. We do our best to support each other."

The team's goals include retaining highly qualified staff and increasing applicants for open positions by utilizing effective advertising strategies.

Steps that the team has taken to accomplish these things include attending recruiting events, promotion through district videos, social media and brochures and partnering with Adams State University teacher education programs. The team has also looked into advertising opportunities locally and throughout the state.

Retention work ensures that a support system is in place for all new and veteran staff. Support for staff includes mentoring programs, social networking, wellness events, staff appreciation opportunities and much more.



Courtesy photo

The Center School District Recruitment and Retention Team includes, back from left to right, Teddy Garcia, Carrie Zimmerman (superintendent), Linda Donaldson, Nicole Neufeld, John Noriega, Agnes Salazar, front from left to right, Maria Villagomez, Christy Mikeljack, JoAnn Lopez, and Sharon Valadez.

## Colorado rail safety bill would limit train lengths, require more trackside detectors

By **SARA WILSON**  
*Colorado Newsline*

Colorado lawmakers will likely consider a bill next year that would impose new railroad safety guidelines to reduce the risk of derailments and hazardous material spills.

An interim legislative committee approved the bill last week. It takes some provisions from the federal Railway Safety Act, which was introduced in Congress after a derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, that released hazardous materials into the area's air and groundwater. The bill stalled in the Senate.

Lawmakers worry about what a derailment could mean for Colorado's fragile ecosystems and infrastructure.

"In Colorado, we have some of the most dangerous and difficult terrain for trains carrying cargo to traverse, and it's difficult to imagine the impact that a derailment of a train with hazardous material could have if it were to derail in the high country," Rep. Javier Mabrey, a Denver Democrat, said in committee.

The bill, which was voted to be one of the Transportation Legislation Review Committee's five interim bills for next session, would regulate train length, safety technology along tracks, and how long a train can obstruct a public crossing.

It also comes as the Uinta Basin Railway project, which could see five fully-loaded, two-mile-long crude oil trains traveling daily through Colorado, is on pause but not completely canceled.

"There's so many potential risks, and we just feel that it's really reasonable to require some guardrails around this so that we can protect our communities," Sen. Lisa Cutter, a Littleton Democrat, said.

Train lengths would be limited to 8,500 feet, or a little over 1.6 miles. This would avoid excessive strain on tracks and equipment and reduce the number of critical points of failure on the train, according to draft bill text. The federal government does not currently regulate allowable train length.

"We heard testimony in this committee from rail workers about trains that are longer than 10,000 feet that have one staffer on them, and they're traversing some of the most dangerous territory through the mountains. Can you imagine being in charge of something that's three miles long, and you don't know what's happening 2.5 miles down the way?" Mabrey said.

Additionally, railroads would be in charge of maintaining and reporting trackside detectors along their routes. These devices would be able to check for overheated bearings and detect any dragging equip-

ment on the track. They would need to be placed at least every 10 miles, or every 15 miles if the terrain is too difficult for the lower distance. That's a sharp increase from federal guidelines, which recommend hot bearing detectors every 40 miles and dragging detectors every 25 miles.

Railroad operators would need to report the location of the detectors to the state's Public Utilities Commission.

Experts say the so-called hot box detectors can cost between \$25,000 and \$75,000 for the equipment and installation. Dragging equipment detectors are generally cheaper.

It is not the detectors alone, however, that could help prevent derailments, an expert told Colorado Newsline.

"(Rail companies) need to use the data smarter and use analytics," Matthew Dick, with the Transportation Technology Research Center in Pueblo, said. "Adding (hot box) detectors

isn't going to prevent 100% of these types of derailments. There are instances where a bearing will be normal, normal, normal and then all of a sudden it fails. There can be other conditions — vibration, noise — happening that aren't temperature related."

The bill would also prohibit stopped trains from blocking public crossings for longer than 10 minutes.

It would also require railroads to offer routine training to fire departments along tracks where hazardous materials are transported to help them better respond to spills and derailments.

Railroads would face daily fines between \$10,000 and \$25,000 for violating the safety guidelines. That money would get fed into a newly created Front Range passenger rail district maintenance and safety fund.

Carl Smith, the state legislative director for the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and

Transportation Workers — or SMART — Transportation Division, said that the proposals in the bill are about both worker and community safety. Smith presented to the transportation interim committee over the summer and spoke then about many of the proposals in the bill.

"We want rail to be successful in Colorado, but we want it to be done safely. Safe for us to go home at the end of the day, safe for the communities we live in and safe for the environment," he told Colorado Newsline.

"Most parts of this bill are major asks for our organizations. This is what our members are talking about," he said.

Mike Jaixen, a senior communications manager at Union Pacific, said in an emailed statement that federal law designates that only the Federal Railroad Administration and Surface Transportation Board have the authority to regulate railroad operations.

"Union Pacific, along with the entire rail industry, continues to work closely with federal policymakers on both sides of the aisle to ensure any potential legislation takes a data-driven approach to enhancing safety that does

not negatively impact our nation's supply chain," he wrote.

If the Legislative Council Committee signs off on the rail safety bill, it will be introduced in the 2024 lawmaking session, which starts in January.

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# Sports

## Alamosa sweeps Centauri cross country meet

**By KEN HAMRICK**  
*Courier sports editor*  
**ALAMOSA** – It may have been the Centauri High School cross country invitational, but it took place at Cole Park in Alamosa on Saturday.

The home surroundings benefitted Alamosa as it finished in first in both the girls and boys meet.

**Alamosa**  
 The Alamosa girls scored 11 points and they had the top three finishers in the race in Madeline Castillo in 19:40.3, Elizabeth McQuitty in 19:40.7, and Sarah DeLaCerde in 20:12.3. Vanessa Villalva wrapped up the Lady Mean Moose scorers as she was fifth in 21:47.3.

Also running for the Alamosa girls were Raecia Gonzales who was 10th in 23:00.9, Kailyn King who was 11th in 23:14.7, Abigail Adams who was 16th in 24:30.2, and Kaylee Gonzales Moore who was 20th in 24:55.1.

The Alamosa boys scored 15 points and they were led by Mario Villalba who was the individual champion in 17:11.3. Also scoring for the Mean Moose were Jeremiah DeLaCerde who was 3rd in 17:46.6, Tyler Dokson who was sixth in 18:33.4, and Dylan Crowther who was eighth in 18:43.9.

The rest of the Alamosa boys runners included Thaddaeus Cody who was 13th in 19:14.8, Cody Williams who was 16th in 19:32.3, Giovanni Fricke who was 22nd in 19:57.1, Emilio Martinez who was 23rd in 20:05.8, William Wilson who was 26th in 20:13.6, Juan Garcia who was 29th in 20:19.4, Cael



**Above: Alamosa High School's Elizabeth McQuitty (left) and Madeline Castillo approach the finish line at the Centauri Invitational Saturday at Cole Park. Right: Alamosa's Mario Villalba heads to the finish. Alamosa won both the boys and girls championships.**

Courier photos by Ken Hamrick

Canaan who was 33rd in 20:39.0, Kingston Wilcox who was 44th in 22:09.4, Andy Hernandez who was 58th in 23:42.3, and Matthew Hollingsworth who was 62nd in 24:26.8.

**Centauri**  
 The Centauri girls finished second with 26 points. Scoring for the Lady Falcons were McKenzie Torres who was fourth in 21:39.2, Bailey Graber who was sixth in 22:03.5, Erica Miller who was seventh in 22:20.3,

and Kaia Skadberg who was ninth in 22:53.7.

Also running for the Centauri girls were Hannah Guymon who was 14th in 23:34.2, Brooklyn Shawcroft who was 19th in 24:37.7, Lindsey Robins who was 25th in 25:28.7, Harper Russell who was 29th in 26:35.8, Lexis Jarvies who was 30th in 26:36.0, Pepper Larson who was 31st in 26:36.6, Sara Kelly who was 33rd in 26:51.7, and Beijah Sowards who was 42nd

in 29:04.3.

The Centauri boys finished in third place behind Rocky Ford with 35 points. The Falcon scorers were Carson Bagwell who was fourth in 17:59.5, Tyrel Hostetter who was 10th in 19:06.4, Richardson Tailleir who was 15th in 19:27.8, Ammon Reed who was 41st in 21:44.8, Rhett Taylor who was 42nd in 21:52.1, Liam Sowards who was 65th in 26:27.5, and Mason Fienhout who was 67th in 27:26.5.

**Centennial**

The Centennial boys placed seventh with 147 points. The Ram scorers were Jose Molina who was 43rd in 22:08.0, Martin Navarro-Pacheco who was 46th in 22:17.2, Diego Rodriguez who was 56th in 23:37.4, and Tyree Casias who was 69th in 28:45.0. Also running for Centennial were Amado Montoya who was 74th in 30:05.1, and Dilano Bosch who was 76th in 33:15.9. Centennial entered

nobody in the girls race.

**Antonito**  
 Antonito was eighth in the boys race with 149 points. Scoring for the Trojans were Dean Garcia who was 31st in 20:34.2, Kyle Sisneros who was 55th in 23:33.2, Steven Velasquez who was 71st in 28:56.6, and Austyn Lopez who was 72nd in 28:58.6.

The remaining Antonito runner was Joshua Vigil who was 75th in 32:06.2. Zariah Sisneros was the only Lady Trojan entered and she finished 49th in 35:12.8.

**Center**  
 Center entered two in the boys race. Dree Meraz was 47th in 22:18.6, and Raymond Guerrero was 73rd in 29:24.0.

Giselle Meraz was the only Lady Viking entered and she was 24th in 25:28.2.

**Monte Vista**  
 Monte Vista had only one male representative in Emilio Ortiz who was 59th in 23:54.7.

For the Lady Pirates, Veronica Kincannon was 39th in 28:30.9, and Kailah Stuckey was 47th in 34:38.2.

**Sargent**  
 Sargent had only two runners entered. For the Farmers, Josiah Yocom was 27th in 20:14.1, and for the Lady Farmers, Madeline Mitchell was 18th in 24:36.1.

Most of the San Luis Valley schools will be at the Erick Wolff Invitational in Monte Vista on Friday.

**Boys team scores**  
 Alamosa 15, Rocky Ford 35, Centauri 56, Bayfield 77, Montezuma-Cortez 86, Pagosa Springs 88, Centennial 147, Antonito 149.  
**Girls team scores**  
 Alamosa 11, Centauri 26, Pagosa Springs 56, Hoehne 87, Bayfield 94, Montezuma-Cortez 102.

## Centauri rolls to 42-6 win over Del Norte

**By KEN HAMRICK**  
*Courier sports editor*

**DEL NORTE** – The Centauri High School football team scored on the first play of the game and just kept going as it went on to take a 42-6 win over Del Norte Saturday at the Tigers' field.

"We've practiced that play and we got a little lucky with a couple of tips," said Centauri coach Kyle Forster. "But we'll take it. It set a good tone for the game. I was proud of our defense. They made some big stops when they needed them to. The offense is clicking now. We just have to keep improving every week."

The Falcons' first-play touchdown came on a flea-flicker. Sean Jarvies handed off to Parker Buhr who pitched the ball back to Jarvies. He then threw to Deven Brady who completed the 68-yard play for the touchdown.

Buhr then ran in the two-point conversion for an 8-0 Centauri lead.

After the Tigers punted, the Falcons went on a nine-play, 63-yard scoring drive. Buhr capped off the drive with a 7-yard run. The point-after was blocked and Centauri's lead stood at 14-0.

Del Norte looked to get into the end zone on its next possession as it drove all the way to the Centauri 18. The drive ended as Brady intercepted Jace Pacheco.

The Tigers had another opportunity early in the second quarter as they recovered a fumbled punt. However, they were forced to punt again.

Buhr returned the short punt to the Del Norte 26, and Brady scored again three plays later on a 4-yard run. Josh Polkowske made the point-after for a 21-0 lead.

Buhr returned another short punt to the Tigers' 37, and he scored five plays later on a 7-yard run. The kick was blocked and the Falcons led 27-0.

Del Norte had another good opportunity late in the second as it got within the Centauri 1. A penalty, however, pushed the Tigers back and they turned the ball over on downs.

There were 33 seconds left in the first



**Centauri High School's Parker Buhr (13) pressures Del Norte quarterback Jace Pacheco in Saturday's game in Del Norte. The Falcons defeated the Tigers 42-6.**

Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

half, but it was enough time for the Falcons to score another touchdown. Jarvies threw a hail Mary on the final play of the quarter which was caught by Carson Shawcroft in the end zone. Brady scored on the two-point conversion and the Falcons had a 35-0 lead at halftime.

Centauri scored again early in the third with Polkowske plunging in from one yard out. He also made the extra point for a 42-0 advantage.

The rest of the game was played under a running clock, but Del Norte scored on the final play of the game. Pacheco threw a 14-yard scoring strike to Colby Gandy, but the extra point was no good to end the game.

Centauri accumulated 356 yards of total offense with 214 coming in the running game. Brady led the ground attack with 114 yards on 10 carries, followed by Buhr with 75 yards on eight carries.

Jarvies completed four out of five passes for 142 yards. Brady was also the top receiver with two catches for 89 yards.

Del Norte had 177 total yards with 163 coming in the air. Pacheco completed 13 of 29 passes and his top receiver was Kelby Mondragon with seven receptions for 67 yards. Paul Neal had two catches for 58 yards, Gandy had two for 28 yards, and Cody Worz had two for 10 yards.

Mondragon was also the leading rusher



with 35 yards on nine carries. Centauri (4-2, 2-0) will host a Thursday night game with Trinidad. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

"It's a short week and it will be tough," Forster said. "We only have three days of preparation and we'll have to get it in and do our best. We can't overlook them. They're good. We just have to play our game. When we play our Falcon football, we tend to play our best. So we just need to keep it up."

Del Norte (1-5, 0-2) will host Center on Saturday at 7 p.m.

	Centauri	Del Norte	6	0	42
Centauri	14	21	7	0	42
Del Norte	0	0	0	6	6
<b>First quarter</b>					
C - Brady 68 pass from Jarvies (Buhr run), 11:42					
C - Buhr 7 run (kick blocked), 5:05					
<b>Second quarter</b>					
C - Brady 4 run (Polkowske kick), 8:25					
C - Buhr 7 run (kick blocked), 5:23					
C - Shawcroft 40 pass from Jarvies (Brady run), 0:00					
<b>Third quarter</b>					
C - Polkowske 1 run (Polkowske kick), 9:52					
<b>Fourth quarter</b>					
DN - Gandy 14 pass from Pacheco (kick failed), 1:12					

## Sports Bulletin

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

### SCOREBOARD

#### FRIDAY

**Prep football**  
 Alamosa 48, Lamar 8  
 Ignacio 53, Center 18  
 La Veta 36, Sierra Grande 31

Monte Vista 64, Trinidad 12  
 Sanford 54, Norwood 14  
 Sargent 42, Dolores 12

**Prep girls volleyball**  
 Centauri def. Montezuma-Cortez 25-16, 25-13, 25-16  
 Creede def. Centennial in three sets - scores not reported  
 Custer County def. Center 25-21, 14-25, 25-18, 15-25, 15-9  
 La Veta def. Sierra Grande 25-10, 25-14,

25-12  
 Sanford def. Escalante (N.M.) in five sets - scores not reported  
 South Park def. Mountain Valley 25-22, 25-18, 25-22

#### SATURDAY

**Prep football**  
 Centauri 42, Del Norte 6  
 Manzanola 52, Antonito 26  
 Mountain Valley 56, Sangre de Cristo 7  
**Prep girls volleyball**  
 Alamosa def. Mon-

tezuma-Cortez 25-8, 25-14, 25-18  
 Antonito at Manzanola - no report  
 Centauri def. Bayfield 25-15, 25-20, 25-19  
 Del Norte at Fountain Valley - no report  
 Dolores def. Creede 25-12, 25-14, 25-19  
 Dove Creek def. Monte Vista 25-21, 25-15, 25-17  
 Dove Creek def. Sangre de Cristo 25-8, 25-13, 25-17  
 Sangre de Cristo def. Monte Vista 25-15, 25-

20, 25-16  
 Sargent def. Cotopaxi 25-23, 25-11, 25-19  
**College football**  
 Colorado State Pueblo 43, Adams State 10  
**College women's volleyball**  
 Colorado Mesa def. Adams State 25-17, 21-25, 25-16, 25-23

#### SUNDAY

**College men's soccer**  
 South Dakota Mines 3, Adams State 1  
**College women's soccer**

Adams State 0, Black Hills State (S.D.), 0, tie

#### SCHEDULE

**TUESDAY**  
**Prep girls volleyball**  
 Sargent at Buena Vista, 5 p.m.  
**College women's golf**  
 Adams State at Colorado State Pueblo Invitational, TBA

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Prep boys soccer**  
 Alamosa at Bayfield, 6:30 p.m.







# Classifieds

**221 - HELP WANTED**

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**SANFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT IS** accepting applications for a SECONDARY PARAPROFESSIONAL. Applications can be downloaded at www.sanfordschools.org. Sanford School is an EOE&E. (10/18/23)

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**FIRST SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY FUND** is seeking an EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR who is a visionary leader with a passion for making a lasting impact in rural entrepreneurship and the financial system, and a track record of driving organizational growth and fostering positive change. For details and to apply, visit https://fswcf.org/careers/. (10/18/23)

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**LOCAL NONPROFIT ALPINE ACHIEVERS INITIATIVE** is hiring a DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR. Full-time/part-time TBD. Position can be mostly remote. Major responsibilities include creating a development strategy, writing grant applications, working with donors, and building a fundraising plan. Salary \$34,37-\$39,78/hr. Applications will be reviewed beginning 10/20/2023. Visit alpineachievers.org for position description and instructions. (10/31/23)

**FT RN POSITION OPEN** in WOUND CARE DEPARTMENT of RIO GRANDE HOSPITAL (RGH). Position requires experience in wound care. Will assist physicians in the wound care clinic and will be required to become certified to assist with hyperbaric oxygen therapy. If interested, please complete job application found on RGH website at www.riograndehospital.org or call Arlene at 719-657-2510. Benefits available. (10/13/23)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**CNA NEEDED FULL-TIME NIGHTS** at RIO GRANDE HOSPITAL. Amazing opportunity to join our incredible patient-centered and service-oriented team. Must be motivated and available to work flexible shifts. RGH is an EOE. Apply online at www.riograndehospital.org under Contact, Employment. Additional questions; email Khrystynnc@riograndehospital.net or call 719-657-4090. (10/13/23)

**ER WARD CLERK** needed at RIO GRANDE HOSPITAL. Amazing opportunity to join our incredible patient-centered and service-oriented team. Must be motivated and available to work flexible shifts. Full-Time Hours and Full Benefits. Apply at 310 County Road 14, DEL NORTE, CO 81132 or online at www.riograndehospital.org. Contact Khrystynn Cano 719-657-4090. EOE. (10/13/23)

**SUBSTITUTES TEACHERS NEEDED** at the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT in DEL NORTE! Call or email: Sophia at 719-657-4040, x4000 (scrutz@urtigers.co) for more information, go on-line: urtigers.co, or stop by the district office at: 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO to pick up an application. You do not have to hold a college degree or be a certified teacher to substitute; however, you must be a high school graduate and have a substitute license from CDE (Colorado Department of Education). (10/27/23)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT** has received a grant for a full-time JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR - for the next 3 years, starting in the 2033-2024 school year. Applicants must have a Master's Degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain an appropriate Colorado school counselor license. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, DEL NORTE Jr./Sr. High Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Mrs. Hardy at 719-657-4020. Applications for certified staff positions can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.urtigers.co. (10/27/23)

**INSTRUCTIONAL COACH NEEDED** at DEL NORTE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL. Candidate should be proficient in all areas of teaching and learning with an emphasis on professional practice and the teaching and learning cycle. The coach will be responsible for consulting with and supporting the instructional teaching staff in using resources that impact student learning. The coach will provide support and professional learning to instructional staff as needed. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to Annie Hardy, Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co. (10/27/23)

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# Classifieds

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**REGISTERED NURSE NEEDED FULL-TIME NIGHTS & DAYS** at RIO GRANDE HOSPITAL. Amazing opportunity to join our incredible patient-centered and service-oriented team. Must be motivated and available to work flexible shifts. RGH is an EOE. Apply online at [www.riograndehospital.org](http://www.riograndehospital.org) under Contact, Employment. Additional questions: email [Khrystynnc@riograndehospital.net](mailto:Khrystynnc@riograndehospital.net) or call 719-657-4090. (10/13/23)

**INTERVENTION-NEEDED AT DEL NORTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.** We are seeking a hard-working and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team. Applicants must have a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Amy Duda, Principal at [aduda@urtigers.co](mailto:aduda@urtigers.co) or contact Amy at 719-657-4050. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: [urtigers.co](http://urtigers.co). (10/27/23)

**EQUIPMENT MECHANIC OPENING. PERFORM** diagnostics, service repairs, and maintenance work on semis, paving and heavy construction equipment. Perform preventive maintenance tasks and ability to diagnose and troubleshoot mechanical issues. Looking for an individual who is excellent at problem solving and self-motivated. Moderate physical activity is required and must pass a pre-employment drug test. \$18-24 per hour DOE. 401k, paid time off and potential to earn an annual bonus. Application open until filled. Applications can be picked up at 7040 US HWY 160 W, ALAMOSA, CO 81101. Resumes can be emailed to [office@asphaltconstructors.com](mailto:office@asphaltconstructors.com). (10/11/23)

**ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY** seeks applicants for an ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, within the Upward Bound Programs. Starting salary for this position is \$48,000 per year. For application or more information, please see <https://www.adams.edu/hr/employment/> AA/EOE. (10/10/23)

**MAINTENANCE ASSOCIATE: LOCAL,** well-respected non-profit agency hiring a Part-Time MAINTENANCE ASSOCIATE. Responsibilities include: varied landscaping, grounds keeping and maintenance/repair projects, special projects, support for Maintenance Supervisor and maintenance team. We're looking for a motivated, values-driven individual with experience in maintenance and repair and excellent interpersonal skills. Initiative essential; training and support provided. Join our staff of dedicated professionals and learn the joys and satisfaction of serving others. \$18.00 hourly wage, 16-20 hours a week. Send resume/request job description to Ian: [hr@lapuente.net](mailto:hr@lapuente.net), 719 589-5909, ext 238. [www.lapuente.net](http://www.lapuente.net) (10/10/23)

**STABILITY NAVIGATOR: LA PUENTE** is seeking a self-starting individual for the position of STABILITY NAVIGATOR as the front-line worker in our EMPLOYMENT READINESS PROGRAM. This program engages clients experiencing barriers to employment or economic stability to support their journey from unemployed or underemployed to stability and independence. The Navigator will work with La Puente's Shelter, Outreach and Adelante program as well as local employers and employment programs to help clients become employable and to help them find employment. The Navigator also works to build trust, conducts assessments, makes referrals, identifies barriers and resources, and collects and inputs data. Ability to problem-solve and collaborate with other agencies is a must. Hourly \$15.50 - \$18.50 per hour DOE. Send resume/request job description to Ian: [hr@lapuente.net](mailto:hr@lapuente.net), 719 589-5909, ext238. [www.lapuente.net](http://www.lapuente.net) (10/10/23)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**SOUTH FORK PROPANE** is hiring a CLASS B CDL PROPANE DRIVER. Call 719-873-5857 for info. (10/20/23)

**OTERO COLLEGE CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES** is accepting applications for Migrant and Seasonal Head Start - MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST. Job descriptions and applications are available at the CDS website: [www.cdshdstart.com](http://www.cdshdstart.com). For more information contact Michelle Weaver, 719-384-3103 or [michelle.weaver@otero.edu](mailto:michelle.weaver@otero.edu). Otero College Child Development Services is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action/Title IX/Section 504 employer. (10/17/23)

**CITY OF ALAMOSA** is seeking a full-time WATER WASTE WATER TECHNICIAN III. Hiring pay is \$50,980.80 to \$66,476.80 per year DOE. Fringe benefits include CO PERA Retirement employer contribution 14.73% & employee contribution is 9.00%, 11.5 holidays per year, 2 personal days, 80 hours of sick leave, and 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. The ideal candidate should possess a Colorado Class D Wastewater Treatment, Class D Water Treatment, Class 2 Wastewater Collections, and Class 2 Water Distribution certificate or ability to obtain within twelve (12) months from date of hire. 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. (10/14/23)

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

**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)

**304 - LAWN & GARDEN**

**SPRINKLER REPAIR & INSTALLATION.** Quick Service! Call evenings & weekends: 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (10/27/23-monthly)

**324 - SEED & FEED**

**HORSE & COW HAY:** GRASS, GRASS/ALFALFA, ALFALFA. 3x3 and 4x4 bales, various quality and pricing. 719-850-8917. (11/1/23-monthly)

**HORSE HAY \$9/BALE; COW/GOAT HAY \$4.50** per bale. 719-274-0380. (10/13/23)

**350 - FARM EQUIPMENT**

**MILLER DISK 25 FT. WIDE.** \$20,000. Call 719-850-1143. (10/17/23)

**353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK**

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**LARGE SQUARE BALES STACKING SERVICE:** 3X3, 3X4, 4X4. Phone Tim 719-553-6327. (10/20/23)

**360 - MISC. FOR SALE**

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

**360 - MISC. FOR SALE**

**PORTABLE OXYGEN MACHINE,** used one month, \$500 firm. Call 719-849-6483. (10/18/23)

**BIG BOY'S TOYS:** 2 HARLEYS, 2-4 WHEELERS, 1 SIDE-BY-SIDE. Call Doug for details, 719-851-0812. (10/17/23)

**368 - PETS & SUPPLIES**

**FREE KITTENS TO GOOD INSIDE HOME(S).** Call or text 719-250-7597. (10/31/23)

**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](mailto:woof@slvaws.org). (TFN)

**387 - WANTED TO BUY**

**OLDER VEHICLE WANTED.** Car or truck that runs good! Call Bernie 719-580-9044. (10/14/23)

**401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES**

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**415 - HOMES FOR SALE**

**40 TO 80** acre parcels or more, HOUSE RECENTLY REMODELED, 2 miles of frontage on Hwy. 285. Excellent place for an RV Park. 719-850-1897. (10/25/23)

**420 - LOTS & ACREAGES**

**40 TO 80 ACRE PARCELS** or MORE, house recently remodeled, 2 miles of frontage on Hwy. 285. Excellent place for an RV Park. 719-850-1897. (10/25/23)

**426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE**

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

**525 - GUNS**

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

**601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT**

**HOUSE FOR RENT** in ALAMOSA. Small ONE BEDROOM, ONE BATH, fenced yard, pets negotiable. 719-588-5303. (10/14/23)

**1 BEDROOM DUPLEX,** 125 Morris, MONTE VISTA. Water/sewer/trash included. \$700/month. Available 10/10/23. 719-480-1856. No Pets/Smokers. (10/21/23)

**ALAMOSA: PARTIALLY FURNISHED BEDROOM** Apartment, newly remodeled. Great location, \$700/month, \$700/deposit, no pets. 719-580-5400. (10/18/23)

**606 - BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT**

**OFFICE FOR RENT,** 10'x10', 315 State Avenue, ALAMOSA. 719-580-3338. (11/8/23)

**611 - HOUSES FOR RENT**

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

**HOME FOR RENT:** DEL NOTE, available 1 October, 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 2 car garage. 719-850-2027. (10/10/23)

**630 - ROOMS FOR RENT**

**ROOM FOR RENT,** ALAMOSA; private bath. \$700 month, utilities included. Call 408-533-2701. (10/14/23)

**701 - AUTOS FOR SALE**

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

**736 - MOTORCYCLES**

**BIG BOY'S TOYS:** 2 HARLEYS, 2-4 WHEELERS, 1 SIDE-BY-SIDE. Call Doug for details, 719-851-0812. (10/17/23)



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# Comics

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Picnic pest
  - 4 Cain's victim
  - 8 Like a missing GI
  - 12 Charge
  - 13 Island near Java
  - 14 Went on camelback
  - 15 "— we there yet?"
  - 16 Foolish (hyph.)
  - 18 Tragic lover
  - 20 Bar bill
  - 21 Med. people
  - 23 Old stringed instrument
  - 26 Achy
  - 29 Shampoo ingredient
  - 32 "I — Camera"
  - 34 Golf club
  - 35 Ewe's mate
  - 36 Private place
  - 37 Throw high
  - 38 Black cuckoo
  - 39 "Huckleberry —"
  - 40 United
- DOWN**
- 1 At a distance
  - 2 Infamous emperor
  - 3 Abound
  - 4 Find repugnant
  - 5 Sheep's cry
  - 6 Building add-on
  - 7 English elevator
  - 8 "The Sheik of —"

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 9 Skillet of a kind
- 10 Poem
- 11 Conducted
- 17 Hay in a bundle
- 19 Perfect place
- 22 Actress — Jessica Parker
- 24 Wheel spokes
- 25 Correct a text
- 26 Storage tower
- 27 Town in Maine
- 28 Like a judge
- 30 Road division
- 31 Drops
- 33 — Domini
- 39 Take off
- 41 Small bird
- 44 Express a belief
- 46 Trapshooting
- 48 Parts of plays
- 50 Low-lying area
- 51 Russian for John
- 52 Tidings
- 53 — Jima
- 54 Seize
- 55 Marquee notice
- 56 Before
- 57 Jog

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				
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53	54	55				56	57		58		
59					60				61		
62					63				64		

## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

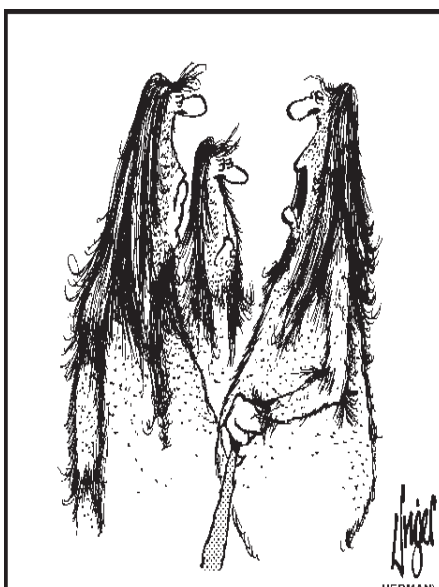
1	4	9	2	7			
	2	5					
9	7	3	4	6	2	1	8
	8		7		4		
	1	9	2	5	8		
	9	6		7			
4	1	5	3	9	6	8	2
			8		1		
2	9	7	3	4			

### PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

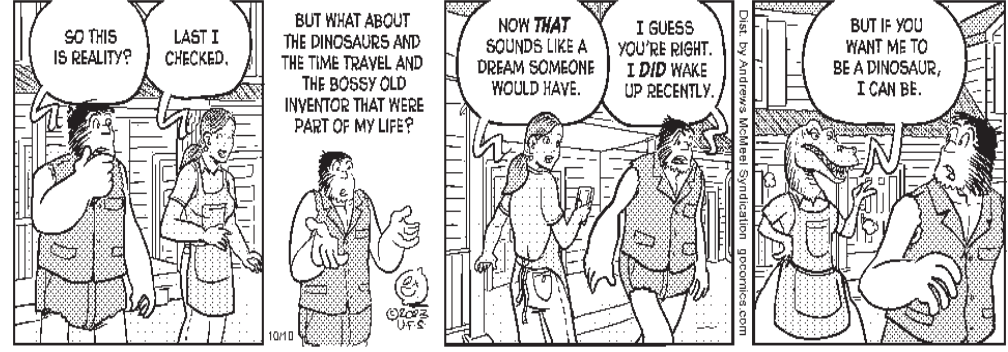
**HOW TO PLAY:**  
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

## HERMAN

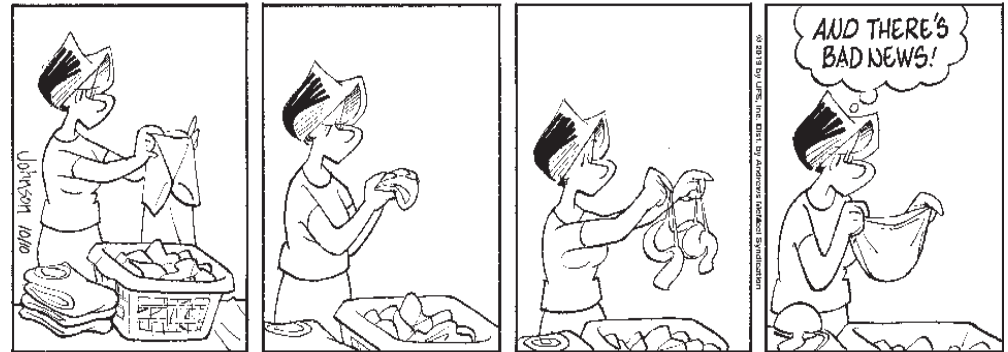


"Every summer we get another rash of 'Littlefoot' sightings."

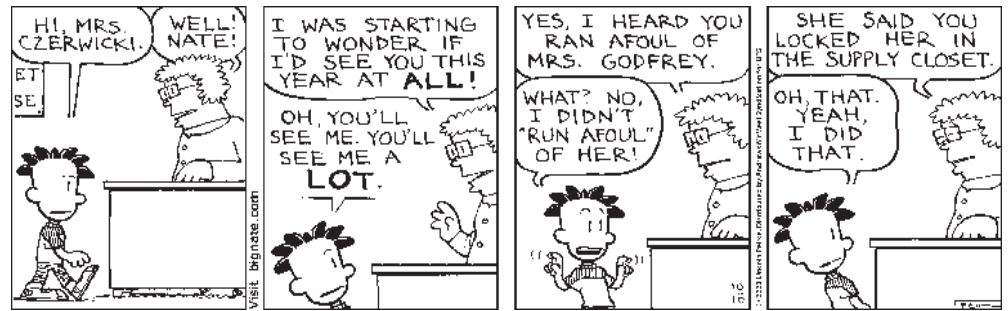
## ALLEY OOP



## ARLO & JANIS



## BIG NATE



## THE BORN LOSER



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



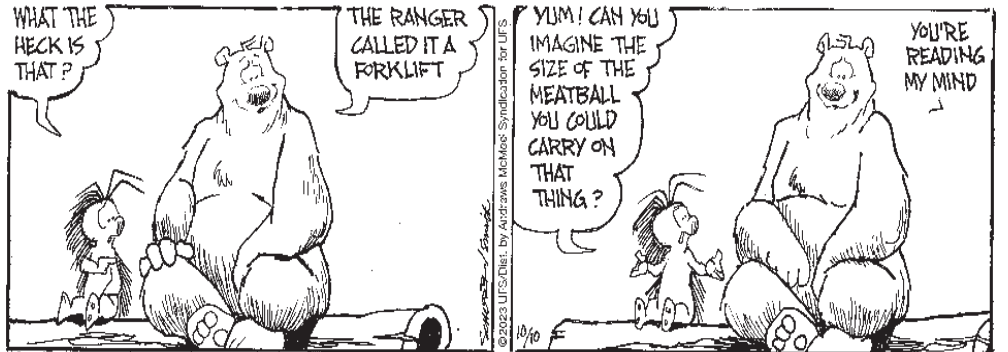
## FRANK & ERNEST



## GARFIELD



## THE GRIZZWELLS



## PEANUTS



# Husband's family largely absent from kids' lives

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have two children and live close to my family. We spend lots of quality time with them, and they are invested in our children's lives, as we are in theirs. The same is not true of my in-laws. The first few years I would FaceTime and call, trying to build a relationship. Eventually, I realized I was the only one making an effort, so I stopped calling, which means there are no more calls.

The first cousin on my husband's side is due to give birth, and my husband wants to skip my nephew's first birthday party for her gender reveal party. My argument is, they have put no effort into our lives or our kids, so why would we miss an event for people who do. His argument is that they don't ask for much and we see them only twice a year, so we should just go. Help! -- EASY DECISION IN MINNESOTA

DEAR ABBY: Not only do his relatives not ask for much, but they give absolutely nothing. Rather than argue about this, attend your nephew's first birthday party and tell your husband to go to the gender reveal. Problem solved.

DEAR ABBY: I am a young woman who was born with cerebral palsy.

As such, I struggle to run or walk at the same pace as others do, and I have an uneven sense of balance when carrying things. For my entire childhood, my parents insisted those around me treat me as if nothing was wrong.

I hope to become more independent (driving, college and the like), and sometimes I worry the physical strain will be too much for me. How do I swallow my pride and ask for some guidance? Who should I talk to? -- NOT READY TO REACH OUT

DEAR NOT READY: Asking for guidance should not involve swallowing your pride. Everyone has limitations in one area or another. One excellent place to look for guidance would be the student health center at the college you would be attending; another would be the Cerebral Palsy Foundation (yourcpf.org). Having the good sense to ask for help isn't a sign of weakness; it's a sign of strength and intelligence.

DEAR ABBY: My friend dresses like a slob. We were on a cruise and went to dine in one of the upscale restaurants on the ship. Because she was wearing jean shorts and an old, faded T-shirt, we were asked to leave. We will be going on another cruise soon, and



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

I'm concerned she will do this again. Any advice for our next cruise so this won't happen? -- EMBARRASSED IN ALABAMA

DEAR EMBARRASSED: Before the next cruise, ask your friend what she plans to bring with her. Remind her that you had to leave the upscale restaurant because she wasn't properly dressed, and suggest she bring a dress or skirt and blouse on the next trip "so neither of you will be embarrassed or inconvenienced." Most cruise lines have a dress code that spells out what attire is required. If your friend checks the website of the carrier, she can easily determine what to bring.