

happy halloween



Alamosa girls cross country team denied state title repeat

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San Luis Valley Colorado Genuine

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

October 31, 2023

\$1

SLV Today

End of Irrigation Season for all areas of Valley

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The Division Engineer for Division 3 of the Colorado Division of Water Resources announced that the Irrigation Season will end on Nov. 1 for irrigation structures within all Water Districts in Division 3, except for District 20.

The Irrigation Season will end on Nov. 8 for irrigation structures in Water District 20, which is the Rio Grande mainstem.

For more information, contact the Division of Water Resources at 719-589-6683.

Adams State Choir Concert performs in Sacred Heart Church

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Chamber Choir's first concert of the season begins at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 3, in the Alamosa Sacred Heart Church, 7154th St.

Performances will include a wide variety of repertoire from the Baroque period to the modern age, on diverse subjects including the sacred; the bonds of friendship; reaching out to comfort; the panic when we don't have enough time; words by early civil rights poet and activist, James Weldon Johnson; and words of hope and self-empowerment by social awareness and activist composer, Michael Bussewitz-Quarm.

Admission is free for AS&F and Friends of Music, \$5 for adults, and \$1 for K-12 students and seniors.

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ALAMOSA — Innovation Propane Solutions is a premier gas supplier with a dedicated team that provides exceptional customer service. They offer propane delivery, tank sales and rentals, and appliance installations. They can also help find the best propane appliances for their customers' needs. IPS is a LEAP vendor and offers finance options.

For more information, call 804-4GASGUY.

SLV WEATHER

Sunny 48/6

Wed: Mostly Sunny 52/11

Thurs: Sunny 57/11

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City Manager responds to APD Chief's comments in resigning

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — On Tuesday, Oct. 24, Alamosa's Chief of Police submitted his letter of resignation to City Manager Heather Sanchez, bringing to close a career with APD spanning 23 years, the last five as Alamosa's top cop.

The following day,

Chief Anderson sat down for an interview with the Valley Courier to share his reasons for resigning, some of which included interactions with City Manager Sanchez and his belief that his professional opinion was neither heard nor respected. See the Oct. 27 edition of the Valley Courier.

The Valley Courier

reached out to Sanchez for her response to Anderson's comments.

What follows is a transcript of that conversation. Due to the conversation's length, Sanchez's comments were edited for length and clarity, which she was informed would happen before the story was published.

Interview with Heather

Sanchez

VC: Did Chief Anderson have the opportunity to provide input into city projects addressing homelessness before the projects were presented to and approved by council?

HS: Yes. 100%. I meet with the chief every other week. The chief is also

See **SANCHEZ** page 3



Heather Sanchez
Alamosa City Manager

Día de los Muertos



Photos courtesy of Yula Cisneros Montoya with El Llamado Hispano.

Día de los Muertos, a day to gather, remember, and celebrate loved ones who went before us. According to Yula Cisneros Montoya with El Llamado Hispano, last Saturday, the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce Hispano/Latino Committee, El Llamado Hispano, invited the public to their annual celebration of Día de los Muertos, which was held at the Visitor's Center. This year, they had a two-level altar display with an ofrenda (offering) with food delicacies and exquisite beverages for our difuntos (deceased). For the living, they offered café (coffee), infusión de canela (cinnamon infusion), xocolatl caliente (hot chocolate) and pan de muerto (Mexican bread of the dead). There was also Mexican candy and healthy tangerine "Halloween pumpkins" for the little ones. For activities, they offered edible calaveras de azúcar (sugar skulls) to decorate and a coloring calavera area to enter for a contest. They also had a contest of calaveras literarias (literary skull), a satirical writing in verse composed for the Day of the Dead. And, to honor our dead, they had a Photo Collage Wall. More than 75 people were in attendance throughout the event, all of whom had a wonderful time.

Internationally recognized artist will exhibit in the Cloyde Snook Gallery

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY
ALAMOSA

Two contemporary art exhibitions at Adams State University bring an entirely new look at explorations with light, glass and photo-upcycled materials. Artist Robin Stanaway's exhibition, "Light and Glass" — in the spirit of Taos Alchemy," and Mary Hoffman's exhibition, "Upcycle: A Play on Light," will open November 10 in the Adams State Galleries.

Stanaway's work will be installed in the Cloyde Snook Gallery and Hoffman's work will be in the adjacent Hatfield Gallery.

See **ARTIST** page 3



Courtesy photo

The Adams State Visual Art Galleries, in Alamosa, will exhibit Taos, N.M., artists Robin Stanaway 'Light and Glass,' and Mary Hoffman 'Upcycle: A Play on Light' from Nov. 10 through Dec. 15.



Courtesy photo

The South Fork Friends Foundation announced last week that the new Rickel Park ice rink and basketball court will be finished soon. The project was made possible due to generous donations from the community and Rio Grande County, and a grant from the Robert Hoag Rawlings Foundation in Pueblo.

Rickel Park ice rink and basketball court nears completion

By LYNDSIE FERRELL
SOUTH FORK — Just in time for the colder months, the South Fork Friends Foundation (SFFF) announced last week that the Rickel Park ice rink and basketball court will be finished soon.

"We are really excited to have this done in time for winter and

we want to thank everyone who helped make this happen. The community of South Fork is so supportive, and we will all benefit from having this wonderful addition to our town," said South Fork Friends Foundation President Luke Brennen.

Funding for the project was due

See **RICKEL** page 3



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Record

Lights on Afterschool



Courtesy photo

Last week, the Boys and Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley and numerous businesses and community members in Alamosa participated in the nationwide event 'Lights on Afterschool.' Lanterns were hung in business windows throughout downtown and community members were asked to 'keep a light on' during afterschool hours. 'Lights on Afterschool' is an annual event held in October and organized by the Colorado Afterschool Partnership through the Afterschool Alliance. Each year, thousands of communities across the United States come together to promote much needed afterschool programs and the support they provide for families, communities, and most importantly youth. Boys and Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley provide after-school programs for over 1,000 youth across the Valley. They are proud to keep the 'Lights on Afterschool' in numerous locations including Alamosa, Blanca-Fort Garland, Antonito, Center, Saguache, and Moffat. After-school programs have been shown to improve youth social and emotional competencies, prosocial behavior, self-motivation, concentration, sense of self-worth, and reduction in crime and juvenile delinquency.

OBITUARY

Cipriano 'Sepe' Jose Pacheco

It is with immense sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather, Great-Grandfather and friend to many. Cipriano "Sepe" Jose Pacheco, 85, passed away peacefully at his home on Oct. 24, 2023, surrounded by his loving family.



Sepe was born to Lucas and Delfina (Abachichia) Pacheco on March 7, 1938, in Saguache, Colo., where he resided until he married the love of his life Nadine Archuleta on July 11, 1960, at the St. Francis Jerome Catholic Church. They shared 63 beautiful years together and raised a beautiful family. He always stayed very strong in his faith.

Sepe loved his family ferociously and enjoyed spending time with them. He loved to go fishing with his wife. You could always count on him to make you laugh with a funny joke or story, he also liked card tricks. Sepe loved to eat sweets, especially Ginger Snaps.

Sepe worked in Agriculture in the Valley for over 50 years, the last 15 of those he was a Tractor Foreman. Sepe belonged to the Knights of Columbus in Center. He was a Boy Scout Master in earlier years. Sepe was involved in his church and community, he sat on many boards throughout the years. He enjoyed watching the Denver Broncos, enjoyed wood burning, loved to make rosaries for his friends and family.

Those left behind to cherish his memory and carry on his legacy are his wife Nadine, his children Beatrice (Bea) (Joey) Gallegos of Monte Vista, Colo., Paul Pacheco of Mesa, Ariz., Barbara Pacheco of Alamosa, Colo.;

his grandchildren Jennifer Pacheco, Jason (Letty Romero) Pacheco, Brandon Gallegos, Christina (Ron Lopez) Sisneros, Michael (Layla Anzelc-Tolian) Sisneros; great-

grandchildren Maya Pacheco, Makayla Johnson, Lucas Pacheco, and Andres Lopez; extended family; the Consaul's, and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Sepe was preceded in death by both his parents Lucas Pacheco and Delfina Abachichia-Pacheco, and his brothers Ramos Pacheco, Tio Pacheco, Didio Pacheco, and Elovio Pacheco.

Cremation was chosen and a recitation of the Rosary will be at 9:30 a.m., Funeral Mass at 10 a.m. on Nov. 4, 2023, at St. Francis Jerome Catholic Church. Interment will be at a later date.

In Lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Hospice Del Valle, 514 Main St., Alamosa CO 81101.

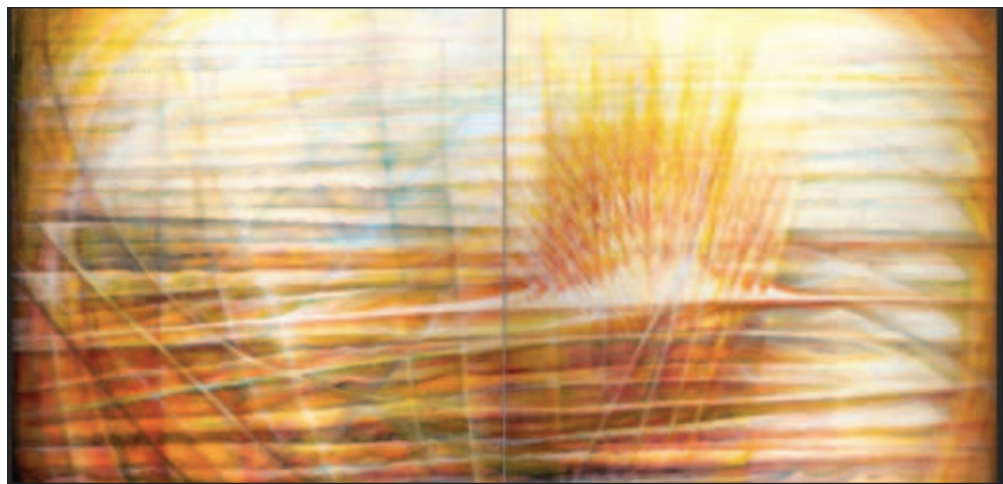
With sincere thanks and gratitude, the family thanks Hospice Del Valle for the care and kindness they gave to our dear father and our entire family.

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

PENDING OBITUARY

Alfred Walter Romero

San Luis resident Alfred Walter Romero, 57, passed away Oct. 29, 2023. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.



Courtesy photo

Shumei hosts painter Marika Popovits through November and December in the Shumei Gallery.

Marika Popovits featured artist for November and December at Shumei International

By SHUMEI GALLERY

CRESTONE — Marika Popovits, a long-time Crestone resident and painter, will be showing her work at the Shumei Gallery in Crestone in November and December. A symposium with Popovits will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 19. A reception will follow.

Popovits was trained early in art by her architect father and later by a portrait painter. She continued her education at the Universities of Den-

ver, Syracuse, and Southern California. She has exhibited in European galleries, Sedona, Ariz., and Taos, N.M. After a rich and busy career, she no longer wished to work publicly, which prompted her seclusion in Crestone for the past 20-plus years.

"My vision as a painter working in the medium of the early Renaissance is to reveal the hidden and diaphanous nature of Reality, painted in a contemplative immersion and translating it to the

viewer in a similar state. They appear abstract but are not, since what they depict is immaterial and beyond form or even symbols. Translating the formless is the creative transmission of an artist who is equally free of identity," said Popovits.

Visit Popovits and learn more about her work from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 19. This event is free to the public. Visit www.shumeicrestone.org or call 256-5284 for more information.

Friends of the Library needs volunteers and members

By FRIENDS OF THE ALAMOSA LIBRARY

ALAMOSA — After another year of successful book sales and Little Free Library circulation, Friends of the Alamosa Library will be able to donate a hefty sum to the library for new programming and special projects.

Friends of the Library is a small group of active volunteers who could use some help. If you are a book lover, consider becoming a volunteer. From collecting and sorting book donations to mailing out member notices, there are many tasks necessary to keep this group running. Work can be done independently or as part of a team. For more information, call 719-588-9410.

Membership in the Friends is also a way to help out. November is the month for renewing or starting your member-



ALAMOSA, COLORADO

ship. Members get 20% off purchases at Spines and forgiveness of late fees from the library. Visit the Colorado Gives website at www.coloradogives.org or to the circulation desk at the library to sign up. Individual membership is only \$10 per year.

The Alamosa Library is a great resource for our

community that is worthy of your investment of time and money.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

VALLEY — The San Luis Valley offers many Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous groups.

A.A. and N.A members primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics/addicts to achieve sobriety.

There are AA and

NA 12-Step Meetings throughout the valley. The 6th Tradition states that we are not affiliated with any outside organizations, but in the spirit of cooperation, we list these meeting schedules for friends and family. For information, call 719-937-5083 or see our website: slvaa.org

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ELEMENTARY
Chicken & Waffles Steamed Broccoli/Veggie Bar Fruit Sidekicks Fruit & Milk
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Chicken & Waffles Steamed Broccoli/Veggie Bar Fruit Sidekicks Fruit & Milk
HIGH SCHOOL
Chicken & Waffles Steamed Broccoli/Veggie Bar Fruit Sidekicks Fruit & Milk

Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students

Alamosa School District

To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553

Valley News



Courtesy photo

Rise Above Booster Club members presented Coach Dan Roach with a scale for the wrestling and football teams at the Upper Rio Grande School District. The club worked for six weeks to raise the money for the scale and will be working to raise more funding for equipment.

Rise Above Booster Club donates equipment to wrestling, football programs

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

DEL NORTE — During the Del Norte High School football game on Saturday, Oct. 21, the Rise Above Booster Club presented Coach Dan Roach with a scale that will be used by the wrestling and football teams of the Upper Rio Grande School District.

Booster club President Yolanda Martinez and Nicole Martinez presented the scale to Coach Roach after weeks of running the concession stands with other members of the club.

“We have worked for about six weeks to raise enough money to buy the scale. We know how hard these students and coaches work and it is something we are really happy to do,” said Martinez.

In addition to running the concession stands, the youth booster club also held a 50/50 raffle that helped provide funds for the scale. “Most of the people who participated in the raffle donated their winnings back to the club which was just amazing. We have good people in this community, and they show their support when-

ever they can,” continued Martinez.

The Rise Above Booster Club is an active part of the district, bringing parents, coaches and students together for several different activities and fundraisers. The club typically raises funding for the Rise Above Tackle Club in years past but has since branched out to help the high school teams as well.

The club consists of President Yolanda Martinez, Vice President Janet Ortiz, Secretary Nicole Martinez, Treasurer Michele Velasquez, and members at large Crystal Martinez, Geraldine Trujillo, Steven Martinez, Brooke Calkin, Terry Phillips, Tiffany Cardova and Blare Britt.

The club will be raising money this winter through concessions and other activities like the 50/50 raffle to buy baseball bat and helmet holders for Voss Field so be sure to look for them in future sporting events! For more information, please visit www.dncsd.org or follow the district on Facebook under Del Norte School District. Go Tigers!



Courtesy photo

Rickel

■ Continued from Page 1

to generous donations and grants awarded over the last two years. The court-

ice rink is a 108-foot-by-115-foot concrete pad that will be a multi-functional platform for basketball and skateboarding in the summer and an ice rink in the winter.

The foundation has had a successful year and announced earlier this spring that they were awarded two grants to help fund the project in Rickel Park. The ice skating rink is one of the main attractions in South Fork during the winter months and though it has been available for public use for several years, having it placed on a permanent foundation will help with the quality of the ice.

According to the foundation, other uses can be pickleball, roller blading, roller skating, ice hockey, and bicycling, for starters. The foundation has been working with the Town of South Fork and True Grit Excavation on this project. One grant for \$20,000 came

from the Robert Hoag Rawlings Foundation in Pueblo and the other for \$30,000 came from Rio Grande County. The cost of the project is \$98,560 for phase one.

Three years ago, a new shed was built near the rink and thanks to the generous donations of local businesses like 8200 Sports and others, the warming hut was filled with ice skates that can be used by the public for free. SFFF accepts donations which help fund the project as it moves forward.

The organization in partnership with the South Fork Visitor Center will be hosting several events this winter including Saturday Night Skate Night, bonfires, curling competitions and more. The new addition to the town will only add to the ever-growing community and economic stability of the area during the winter months.

For more information or to stay informed of coming events, follow the South Fork Friends Foundation on Facebook or visit www.southfork.org.

Sanchez

■ Continued from Page 1

part of the leadership team that meets every single week, and we talk about the issues. We talk about these projects. We debate about these issues. And we debate about these projects.

VC: Chief Anderson is saying that he was not informed of the Airport Road project from the beginning but only after the grant was already in progress. Are you saying he's incorrect?

HS: Yes. I had pictures that I showed in a presentation to the chamber of commerce. I gave the presentation to city council. He was at city council. We also discussed it in staff meetings. That was before we applied for the housing grant. That was all wrapped up in that presentation that he has seen multiple times.

We talked about it as staff and he could bring up any concerns, which he did, and I listened, and we discussed them. And he said, “That makes sense, can you come and make that presentation to my department.” Then he set up a meeting for me to come and make that homeless presentation to his department prior to the awarding of the grant.

VC: Has Chief Anderson ever expressed to you concerns with Airport Road?

HS: We had like an hour-long conversation on it. I asked him who he thought was going to be in the housing and he thought it was people from St. Benedict's. I told him it was going to be people who were couch surfing or who might be exiting the foster system and yes, there will probably be some people who won't work out, so it won't be the easiest group, but it won't be the St. Benedict's group. So, I explained the whole strategy and he said that made sense and would I talk to his department.

But he is presenting a situation where I haven't listened to him and not listening to his concerns, and that's not accurate. He never expressed again the level of frustration he's expressing now.

VC: Do you challenge his statement that the police department is being impacted by homelessness?

HS: No, I've never disagreed with that. They're on the front lines for a portion of what you experience from homelessness. I think it's important to

realize there's a spectrum of homeless (sic) that don't interact with the police. Police have the unfortunate role of interacting with probably the most challenging homeless that we have.

VC: It's one thing to listen to someone's concerns or complaints. It's another thing to act on them. Can you recall any adjustments to city homelessness projects made in direct response to what Chief Anderson has expressed as a concern?

HS: I've always taken his input, and everything he's asked for from a budget perspective I've given him, and council has given him.

VC: So, he has never requested more patrol officers?

HS: He has said “I think we need more patrol officers.” What I've always told the chief is that I need to see the call volume. Maybe a call that used to take an hour is now taking four hours. Whatever details will help me understand what they're facing, I need to know.

But I also need to know have you streamlined your operations so we're using the officers at the highest level. For example, do we still do funeral escorts? How much time does that take? And council should maybe discuss do we still do that versus should we pay \$60,000 for a new officer.

We need the data in order to evaluate do we need new officers, and have we maybe streamlined everything before we do that? It's the same thing I make every department go through before we approve a full-time employee.

I was very clear saying to his department I don't have an opinion but give me the numbers and we will go from there.

VC: When Chief Anderson released numbers on Iron Horse that were second only to Walmart, he said in an interview he needed more resources to meet that need. When I repeated that to you and asked if APD was going to get more resources, you wrote, “That's ridiculous. All of the calls he's getting are calls he would be getting anyway, they just happen to be in one location.”

HS: This is an area where I've changed my opinion slightly. My point was yes, there was a large call volume but just saying there's more calls at Iron Horse doesn't tell me if there have been less calls or more calls anywhere

else.

It's not as if we went from no calls to 100. But Chief explained to me that sometimes when you have certain individuals with certain behaviors in the same place, it can build upon itself. And I said, that's a very good point. But it's still not like it's zero to 100.

VC: Is the only metric you're using the number of calls?

HS: No. Just number of calls won't reflect their workload. I've asked them to give me their call volume, what it looks like, what it is on a per officer basis and have they streamlined their department. They have not given me that information.

VC: When a department has only 26 patrol officers, gets around 30,000 calls per year in a city that has one of the highest crime rates in the state, do you think it's realistic to expect that depth of data — call volume, types of call, broken down per officer for an entire year?

HS: If you take a look at communities across the nation, a consistent message is police chiefs think they need more people. The call numbers, what they're like broken down by officer will tell you.

It's 100% reasonable and normal to have that information come from the department head. He has two secretaries, two captains and he could have helped. He is at a level where he can pull that together. I'll tell you, in other departments who have wanted more employees, they have done this. It was not an unreasonable ask.

VC: Is Chief Anderson prohibited from communicating directly with the city council without your permission?

HS: In this form of government, my role is to protect departments from political concerns, so if he has concerns, he should bring those to me, and I do take those concerns to council.

There has never been an issue that he brought up that I haven't shared with council. That happens at work sessions where issues are more complicated. Council is sitting around the table plus staff and they're talking with back-and-forth flow of information.

VC: Has Chief Anderson attended any work sessions where the council discussed homelessness with him?

HS: I'm trying to rack my brain — I don't know if

he's been there or if we've had a work session specific to homelessness. They've talked about it at retreats.

VC: You said that you wished you'd had the frank conversations with him before he resigned. In your opinion, do you think you've created the context where he can safely express his opinion?

HS: I told him I would rather he would have been talking to me like this before and it's not fair because he wasn't being direct in telling me how serious his concerns were. He admitted to not being direct with me, so it's not that I was not listening to him.

VC: In this conversation, there are very few things Chief Anderson has said that you acknowledged as being legitimate. Most of what you're saying is that Chief Anderson is not being truthful.

HS: I never thought I would be in this position, but I have no other way to describe it. When he says I was micromanaging, even including a simple promotion, he is leaving out a significant amount of the context and it's extremely important to include that.

[At this point, Sanchez goes into depth about two lawsuits filed against APD, both of which were settled and involved some remediation actions with the department.]

During this process there were some things Chief wanted to do that could have put us at risk of additional lawsuits, so I had to tell him to wait until we sought input from an employment attorney. Once we got that advice, I was able to say go ahead. Never before have I been part of any promotion.

It's not that I'm a micromanager. I'm almost the opposite. This concept of him not being heard is not accurate.

VC: So, is there no common ground between you and Chief Anderson?

HS: I believe we are struggling with homelessness and that impacts his department more than any other. I agree that there are going to be individuals in Airport Housing that will not be successful, but if they are creating some behaviors that are causing problems, they will be evicted. People will be paying rent. This isn't free housing. This isn't a no consequence type of situation. But I feel that Chief Anderson has dedicated his life to this community, and I believe that he wants what is best for this community.

Artist

■ Continued from Page 1

The opening reception is scheduled from 5 until 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 10.

Stanaway works with hand blown and fused glass, projected and reflected light to generate sculptural installations which immerse the viewer in a contemplative experience.

“This work is my response to our cluttered world,” Stanaway said.

The artwork presented in this upcoming exhibition has been created in and influenced by Stanaway's sixteen years of living in the light of Taos, N.M.

The artist's work is permanent collections such as the National Museum of Women in the Arts, as well as public art commissions.

Stanaway earned an M.F.A. in glass sculpture from Ohio State University. Stanaway exhibits extensively including shows in New York City, Los Angeles, Philadelphia,

Washington, D.C., Amsterdam, Paris and Germany, as well as Santa Fe and Taos, N.M.

The exhibition will continue through Dec. 15. For more information on Stanaway, visit STANAWAY.GLASS.

Concurrently at Adams State's Hatfield gallery the exhibit “Upcycle: A Play on Light,” by Mary Hoffman, is simpatico with Stanaway's “Light and Glass” show. Hoffman is also a long-time resident of Taos, N.M.

Hoffman's passion is to explore discarded material trends and re-purpose discarded material into utilitarian articles or art forms.

“Like many rural areas across America, recycling is optional and the pressure on landfills is overwhelming,” Hoffman said. “There is a need to draw attention to this challenge and art is an ideal way to get through to people.”

In this exhibit, Hoffman utilizes discarded, archival fine-art photo slides and other materi-



MARY HOFFMAN

Upcycle: a Play on Light

taosupcycle.com

Hatfield Gallery, Adams State University

Courtesy photo

als that reflect light to create functional works that result in tranquil atmospheres.

Hoffman has received

multiple awards and fellowships and has exhibited throughout Colorado and northern New Mexico.

Lifestyles

MV Emergency Food Bank to benefit from Colorado Grille event Nov. 9

By MARIE MCCOLM MONTE VISTA — Colorado Grille will be donating 10% of all their sales in Alamosa and Del Norte on Thursday, Nov. 9, to the Monte Vista Emergency Food Bank.

The Monte Vista Emergency Food Bank serves up to 600 people every year for its Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions. As the holidays draw near, the needs of the food bank grow bigger, food bank Executive Director Jennifer Becker said.

"Our food bank runs solely on the generous donations of the community. Individuals, businesses, churches, clubs, and schools make our job a lot easier in helping to provide for people's food needs. We are still in need of many donations to provide food for the holidays," she said. "I am so appreciative of the Colorado Grille doing this for the food bank. One thing that is so important to me is to help feed the community and never allow anyone to go hungry. I truly appreciate what the Colorado Grille is doing and

all the other generation donations and support that the food bank has been given. The donations help so much."

Becker said that she is also appreciative of the support from the community and the San Luis Valley Landfill as the weekend of Oct. 28 was, Make a Difference Day.

Make a Difference Day, is a day when people can clean up their yards, take their trash to the San Luis Valley Regional Landfill and donate nonperishable food items to pay the fee.

Costs will vary, a pick-up or a carload, or single axle trailer is 16 food items, a loaded pick up and a single axle trailer is 32 food items, a loaded pick up and a double-axle trailer is 48 food items, and a dump truck is 64 food items. All larger loads will be adjusted according to size. The hours for the Make a Difference Day will be from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28. All the food will be donated to the Monte Vista Emergency Food Bank.

The food bank does have specific needs for

the holidays and tries to provide everything a household would need to make a traditional holiday meal. Donations for the following items are also being accepted at the food bank — turkeys, ham loaves, dressing, sweet potatoes, cranberries, green beans, pumpkin, evaporated milk, crushed or chunked pineapple, chicken broth, cream of mushroom soup, cake and cookie mixes, boxed Jello, and canned olives. The food bank requests that all the items be unopened and not expired.

Becker wishes to thank the Colorado Grille, the San Luis Valley Regional Landfill, and everyone in the community who has donated and will donate to the Food Bank. Becker stated, "Together we can make a difference and make sure that nobody is hungry this holiday season and all year round."

For more information, contact the Monte Vista Emergency Food Bank at 719-852-4851. Monetary donations can be mailed to the food bank at PO Box 844, Monte Vista, CO 81144.

Farmers, ranchers continue to battle dry conditions

By DIANE DREKMANN COSTILLA AND CONEJOS COUNTY — Some farms and ranches in the southern San Luis Valley continue to struggle with dry conditions, despite some parts of Costilla and Conejos counties battling flooding earlier this year.

Costilla County cattle rancher Bob Johnson says, "It's been rough on everyone. Some people have had to sell their cattle to make ends meet. It's dry as a bone."

Conejos County sheep farmer Elena Miller Ter-Kuile of Cactus Hill Farm, shares Johnson's sentiment.

"It has been so dry. We struggled to keep things growing...We need the moisture," she said.

Both come from agricultural backgrounds with families that have been farming and ranching for generations.

Johnson worked on his grandfather's farm and his ex's dairy farm in Wisconsin. Ter-Kuile's grandfather was a sheepherder in northern New Mexico and settled in Capulin.

As a farmer or rancher,

one has to be optimistic. "Hopefully next year we pray will be better. We'll get rain again," Johnson remarked.

Ter-Kuile said, "The season was good minus the drought."

People who are not in agriculture may not understand the role the weather and more plays in the daily life of a rancher or farmer.

"We have to battle Mother Nature and nature, like worrying about coyotes getting our animals," said Johnson, who has seen a lot of changes since moving to San Luis Valley seven years ago to raise cattle.

"Not good changes... If things continue there won't be a San Luis Valley in 25 years," he said. "The population has grown, people coming with their ideas wanting to change things."

In addition to battling the elements, predators and more, cattle ranchers like Johnson are battling the court system as well. Colorado is a fence out state. State law allows open grazing. Cattle graze on the open land alongside wild horses. Shepherds herd their

sheep to their summer and winter pastures.

People can put up a fence on their property to keep out the grazing animals. Costilla County Commissioners are proposing something "opposite to state, that outlaws open grazing...and people are getting penalized for grazing," as Johnson what is being proposed.

Doing this Johnson says, "would hurt everyone. People would have to buy feed and find water... San Luis Valley needs to be left alone. They have had it the same way for centuries. We will be fine."

He has a word of advice for those who are moving from the city to San Luis Valley.

"Life is slower here. You need to go with the flow," he added.

Ter-Kuile grazes her sheep on private property and was not aware of the Costilla County proposal.

Cactus Hill Farm specializes in brightly colored handspun yarn from her many varieties of over 300 sheep she owns. For more information, visit online www.cactushillfarm.com.

****If your Veteran's Photo has appeared in this section since 2013 there is no need to bring your photo in as we have it on file and it will print again.****



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Lifestyles

Green Acres Hemp Farm recognized by Farm Bureau

Jim Strang says 2023 growing season was successful

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

SAN LUIS VALLEY

— Owners of Green Acres Hemp Farm located just outside of Alamosa, reported a successful growing season for this year and some new updates that will propel them into the future.

Jim and Lisa Strang have owned and operated this business in the Valley for over 10 years and continue to be one of the top producing hemp growers in this region.

For the 2023 growing season, Jim Strang decided to grow three different strains of hemp that are then produced into several different types of products offered by the company.

“I wanted to grow a high-grade CBGA which we named La Crème and a CBDA that we named Frost. Both strains were

tested as part of our annual requirements and came back with excellent results,” said Jim Strang.

In addition to the La Crème and Frost strains, Jim Strang also produced a full-spectrum CBD strain that he called Orange Sunshine.

“These strains are used to treat all different types of ailments from some as simple as weight loss to others that are as serious as seizures, different types of cancers and even Autism in children,” Jim Strang said. “Over the last few years, research on the effects of CBD for these ailments has increased and we are so happy to see reputable researchers from places like Harvard and Yale that proves something we as hemp growers have known all along.”

Strang and his wife have clients all over the country who come to them specifically for their products not only because of the high quality of their hemp but also because unlike other retailers, Jim and Lisa believe in caring for their clients, learning their needs and

helping them in every way they can.

“I say it all the time, but I will never not say it. When it comes to hemp, know your growers,” Jim Strang said. “Know what is in your products. Know how they extract the CBDs from the plants, what parts of the plants they use. It matters when dealing with CBD just as much as it does with any other type of medicine. The market is saturated with low quality products that are mass produced. It’s a sad truth but truth non-the-less.”

Jim Strang also stated that this year, they went

down and were fingerprinted which was part of the process required to have their hemp crop recognized through the Colorado Farm Bureau.

“Our hemp is now listed just like any other crop in Colorado. It is right up there with corn or potatoes. We are held to those standards, and we are finally being recognized,” Jim Strang said.

Green Acre Hemp Farm still has all their same, trusted products ranging from lotions, MTC, RSO, Olive oil-based tinctures, gummies, and more.

“Next year, we plan to grow vegetables with the

hemp crop,” Jim Strang said. “We did a test year this season and the crops did really well together so as a means to provide more fresh produce to the San Luis Valley, we plan to expand on what we did this year and have it available for vendors and the public.”

For more information or to purchase products from Green Acres Hemp Farm, visit www.greenacreshempfarm.com.

For over 10 years, Green Acre Hemp Farm has produced and sold quality hemp products to people from all over the country.



credit union day



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

Several of the Green Acre Hemp Farm products have helped people suffering from a wide range of ailments or used to just enjoy the health benefits that the products bring to their lives, according to owners Jim and Lisa Strang.

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Sports

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD WEDNESDAY
Prep girls volleyball
Center def. Sierra Grande 25-22, 25-17, 25-16

THURSDAY
Prep girls volleyball
Alamosa def. Fowler in four sets - scores not reported
Ignacio def. Sargent 25-23, 14-25, 25-17, 28-26

FRIDAY
Prep football
Alamosa 43, Woodland Park 7
Centauri 45, Monte Vista 0
Center 49, Trinidad 0
Dove Creek 50, Sargent 8
Granada 52, Sierra Grande 22
Ignacio 14, Del Norte 6
Miami-Yoder 44, Sangre de Cristo 16
Sanford 58, Dolores 8

Prep girls volleyball
Cotopaxi def. Antonito 25-11, 23-25, 25-15, 25-19
Creede def. Cripple Creek-Victor 19-25, 25-17, 25-23, 25-21
Rye def. Sanford 25-11, 25-8, 25-12
Sanford def. Trinidad 25-23, 25-16, 25-16

SATURDAY
Prep football
Mountain Valley 55, Antonito 0
Prep girls volleyball
Centauri def. Clear Creek 25-13, 25-14

Centauri def. Gunnison 25-20, 20-25, 15-12
Centauri def. Meeker 27-25, 25-17
Center def. South Park in three sets - scores not reported
Del Norte def. Walsenburg 25-14, 25-13, 25-20
Manzanola def. Mountain Valley 23-25, 25-20, 25-13, 25-21

Monte Vista def. Atlas Prep 25-18, 25-16
Monte Vista def. Mitchell 25-21, 25-21
Monte Vista def. Pueblo Central 25-16, 25-18
Rifle def. Centauri 25-15, 17-25, 15-12
Sand Creek def. Monte Vista 25-19, 25-15

Sangre de Cristo def. Custer County 25-14, 25-18, 25-15
College football
South Dakota Mines 63, Adams State 9

College women's volleyball
Adams State def. Chadron State (Neb.) 23-25, 25-21, 21-25, 25-19, 15-9
College women's basketball
Colorado 81, Adams State 57 (exhibition)

SUNDAY
College men's soccer
Westminster (Utah) 2, Adams State 1
College women's soccer
Adams State at Colorado-Colorado Springs - postponed

College women's basketball
New Mexico 60, Adams State 45 (exhibition)

MONDAY
College women's soccer
Adams State at Colorado-Colorado Springs - late

SCHEDULE WEDNESDAY
College women's soccer
New Mexico Highlands at Adams State, 3 p.m.

Alamosa girls cross country team denied state title repeat

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor
COLORADO SPRINGS - The Alamosa High School girls cross country team was looking to repeat as state champions as it participated in the Class 3A State Meet Saturday at the Norris Penrose Event Center.

Unfortunately, the Lady Mean Moose's hopes were dashed as they finished in fourth place.

"We didn't repeat, but that's ok," said Alamosa coach Jen McQuitty. "They still ran their hearts out and I'm extremely proud of them."

Alamosa finished with 146 points, trailing The Classical Academy with 69, Peak to Peak with 133, and Holy Family with 134.

Leading the Lady Mean Moose was junior Elizabeth McQuitty, who took third place in a time of 18:37.0.

"It was a good race," Elizabeth McQuitty said. "The weather was perfect and absolutely amazing. I had a bunch of girls to push me. Everyone was incredibly fast, especially (Gunnison's) Madelyn Stice. Who really pushed it to the limit that last mile."

Sarah DeLaCerde was 13th in 19:32.0, Madeline Castillo was 20th in 19:48.9, Victoria Gifford was 46th in 20:48.8, Raecia Gonzales was 93rd in 22:04.0, Vanessa Villava was 96th in 22:08.9, and Kailynn King was 118th in 23:09.9.

The Alamosa boys finished in 10th place



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

Alamosa High School's Elizabeth McQuitty approaches the finish line to place third at the Class 3A State Meet Saturday in Colorado Springs. The Lady Mean Moose finished in fourth place as a team.

with 269 points. "They did what they could do today, which was very impressive," said coach McQuitty. "Considering we had a

and Frontier Academy with 88.

The Mean Moose were led by Mario Villaba who was 26th in 17:06.2. Jeremiah DeLaCerde was 49th in 17:36.7, Tyler Dokson was 61st in 17:46.8, Thaddeaeus Cody was 82nd in 18:15.0, Dylan Crowder was 96th in 18:27.2, Cody Williams was 120th in 19:03.9, and Emilio Martinez was 128th in 19:27.1.

The team is looking forward to next year even though there are several runners on both teams graduating.

"It's definitely going to be a rebuilding year, but we look forward to whoever comes out," coach McQuitty said.

"I hope I can win it next year," Elizabeth McQuitty said. "I'm just going to follow the coaches training plan, push my teammates and see if I can come back strong."

Unified race

One Alamosa competitor ran in the unified race which was a shorter race than the others.

Matthew Hollingsworth finished in fifth place in 12:33.5.

Class 2A

Both Centauri teams qualified for the Class 2A State Meet which also took place at the Norris Penrose Event Center on Saturday.

The Lady Falcons placed sixth with 139 points. Leading the Centauri girls were Erica Miller who was 30th in 21:30.2, Bailey Graber who was 37th in 21:59.5, McKenzie Torres

who was 53rd in 22:21.4, Hannah Guymon who was 61st in 22:40.5, Kaia Skadberg who was 66th in 22:55.0, and Brroklyn Shawcroft who was 95th in 24:18.0.

The Falcon boys team finished in 15th place with 254 points. They were led by Carson Bagwell who was 25th in 17:30.3, Tyrel Hostetter who was 61st in 18:22.4, Richardson Tuilleur who was 93rd in 19:10.6, Ammon Reed who was 127th in 21:13.2, Rhett Taylor who was 128th in 21:18.1, and Mason Fienhout who was 136th in 24:45.6.

Also running in the boys race was Sargent's Westen Burkhart who was 28th in 17:35.9.

Other local runners in the girls competition were Del Norte's Frannie Edelen who was 26th in 21:17.0, Sargent's Madeline Mitchell who was 55 in 22:24.5, and Sargent's KayleeAnn Martinez who was 70th in 23:00.4.

Heritage Christian Academy won the girls competition with 37 points, followed by Lake County with 47, Banning Lewis with 69 and Caprock Academy with 84.

Winning the boys team championship was Wiggins with 41 points, followed by Clear Creek with 73, Banning Lewis with 102, and Golden View Classical Academy with 104.

Lady Moose gymnasts fourth at regional

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA - The Alamosa High School gymnastics team finished in fourth place among teams at the Class 4A Arvada West Region Meet on Saturday, Oct. 28 in Arvada.

The Lady Mean Moose scored 159.7 points, trailing regional champion Niwot with 176.15, Roosevelt with 173.3, and Green Mountain with 161.9.

Holly McDaniel placed seventh in the all-around standings with 33.85 points. She was also fourth on the balance beam with 8.775, seventh on the vault with 8.9, ninth on the floor exercise with 8.825, and 21st on the uneven parallel bars with 7.35.

Haylie Martin was 10th in the all-around with 32.425. She placed 12th on the vault with 8.65, 19th on the bars with 7.55, 15th on the floor with 8.375, and 19th on the beam with 7.85.

Braelyn Martinez



placed 15th in the all-around with 30.45 points. She took 18th on the vault with 8.3, 20th on the floor with 8.2, 25th on the bars with 7.1, and 28th on the beam with 6.85.

Emilee Cook was 18th in the all-around with 29 points. She placed 15th on the vault with 8.5, 28th on the bars with 6.8, 28th on the floor with 7.9, and 30th on the beam with 5.8.

McKenzie Jones took 24th in the all-around with 23.775 points. She was 13th on the vault with 8.6, 20th on the bars with 7.525, 25th on the beam with 7.65,

Kianna Morales was 34th in the all-around with 16.075 points. She placed 23rd on the floor with 8.075, and 24th on the vault with an even eight points.

Jenelle Hernandez placed 36th in the all-

around with 15.575 points. She was 26th on the beam with 7.6, and 26th on the floor with 7.975.

Next is the Class 4A State Meet at Thornton High School's gym. The Colorado High School

Activities Association will announce the state qualifiers later this week.

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WATER DIVISION 3.

Pursuant to C.R.S. 37-92-302(3), you are notified that the following is a resume in Water Division 3, containing notice of applications and certain amendments filed in the office of the Water Clerk during the month of September 2023 for each county affected.

2021 CW 3024 AMENDED APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF UNDERGROUND WATER RIGHTS AND APPLICATION FOR UNDERGROUND WATER RIGHTS

1. Name, Address and Telephone Number of Applicant: United States of America, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, San Luis Valley Field Office, 1313 Highway 160, Monte Vista, CO 81144. 2. Introduction and Background. Original Application: The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Blanca Wetlands Area (Blanca Wetlands) encompasses approximately 9,775 acres of public lands approximately 10 miles northeast of Alamosa. Blanca Wetlands is managed to provide nesting habitat for hundreds of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds species, including an endangered species and 12 sensitive species. Blanca Wetlands' playa lakes, ponds, and marshlands also provide habitat for a wide variety of plants, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals, and they provide recreation opportunities such as bird hunting and wildlife watching. BLM operates 44 confined aquifer wells at Blanca Wetlands. The wells are not pumped and produce water due to artesian flow. The confined aquifer wells operate under two different water court decrees. Twenty wells that BLM drilled before 1979, the year in which the United States was served under the McCarran Amendment, operate under the decree in case number 81 CW 177. Twenty-one wells that the BLM drilled after 1979, along with four water rights and two wells that BLM acquired from third parties, operate under a plan for augmentation decreed in case number 2002 CW 38B. The plan for augmentation in case number 2002 CW 38B also covers the wells that were previously decreed in case number 81 CW 177, so that all wells at Blanca Wetlands are in compliance with Rules Governing the Withdrawal of Groundwater in Water Division No. 3 and Establishing Criteria for the Beginning and End of the Irrigation Season in Water Division No. 3 for all Irrigation Water Rights. Each well within Blanca Wetlands also operates under a permit granted by the Colorado Division of Water Resources (CDWR) pursuant to the conditions found in the two decrees. In this application, BLM seeks to adjudicate all 44 wells within Blanca Wetlands as alternate points of diversion for each other. BLM seeks this authorization to maximize water use efficiency and biological production with a limited water supply. BLM's management practice is to rotate the limited water supply among shallow water and playa habitats, while drying and burning wetland basins that are not being irrigated. This practice allows BLM to control vegetation growth, control salinity levels, and maximize aquatic insect production, all of which benefit bird populations. BLM's well management practice is facilitated when BLM is authorized to move the diversion volume authorized by a decree for an individual wells to other wells within Blanca Wetlands. The movement of decreed diversion volumes among wells allows diversions to be reduced at selected wells while the wetland basins supplied by those wells are not irrigated, and it allows for increased water diversion at other wells where wetland basins are being irrigated. BLM has obtained administrative approval for this well management practice by applying for approval of annual Substitute Water Supply Plans (SWSPs). BLM crafted this application to avoid any new, increased, or additional supply of groundwater from the Confined Aquifer Systems, as defined in Section 4.A.2 Rules Governing New Withdrawals of Ground Water in Water Division 3 Affecting the Rate or Direction of Movement of Water in the Confined Aquifer System. To avoid injury to other water rights, BLM asked CDWR to conduct an analysis of potential injury of the requested well management approach. BLM subsequently consulted with CDWR in preparing this application. Amended Application: BLM's purpose in amending the original application is to address procedural issues raised in the Division 3 Engineer's Consultation Report. The Division 3 Engineer specified that the following procedural steps must be completed prior to entry of a decree authorizing the proposed alternate points of diversion: All wells that are to be used as alternate points of diversion for each other must have the same decreed beneficial use of water; Underground water rights must be decreed for the wells at Blanca Wetlands that currently operate exclusively under the Plan for Augmentation decreed in Case No. 2002 CW 38B; Four water rights were acquired from third parties by BLM for use within Blanca Wetlands; The authorized places of use in these decrees must be modified to allow for use anywhere within Blanca Wetlands. 3. Decrees and Well Permits for Blanca Wetlands Wells.

Table 1.

Well Name	Permit No.	WDID	1/4 1/4	Township & Range	GPS-NAD 83, Zone 13	Relevant Decrees	Annual Diversion Volume in AF
Blanca 1			SWSE	13 38N11E	436390E		46
Blanca 2R			SENE	13 38N11E	436075E		79
Blanca 3			7	38N12E	437411	E	86
					4156183	N	
Blanca 4R			SESE	13 38N11E	436823E		89
Blanca 5R			NENE	13 38N11E	436755E		201
Blanca 6			24	38N11E	436628E		297
Blanca 8			SESE	1 38N11E	436811E		133
Blanca 10			SWNE	1 38N11E	436612E		45
Blanca 12			SWSE	1 38N11E	436562E		110
Blanca 13			NENE	12 38N11E	436966E		215
Blanca 13R			NENE	6 38N12E	436950E		215
Blanca 14R			6	38N12E	437271E		90
Blanca 16			7	38N12E	437781E		131
Blanca 17			NESW	7 38N12E	437920E		326
Blanca 18			NESE	7 38N12E	438690E		285
Blanca 19			SENE	6 38N12E	437871E		51
Blanca 20			SWNE	6 38N12E	438176E		85
Blanca 22			2	38N11E	434959E		62
Blanca 23			SESE	12 38N11E	436989E		192
Blanca 25			SWNE	5 38N12E	439963E		295
Blanca 26R			17	38N12E	438863E		66
Blanca 27			NESE	5 38N12E	440179E		91
Blanca 28			13	38N11E	435794E		327
Blanca 29			SENE	8 38N12E	440033E		371
Blanca 30R			SENE	8 38N12E	440373E		220
Blanca 31R			9	38N12E	440718E		71
Blanca 32R			NWSE	8 38N12E	439835E		41
Blanca 36R			SENE	24 38N11E	436970E		199
Blanca 37R			SWNE	1 38N11E	436658E		62
Blanca 38			6	38N12E	437496E		64
Blanca 39			NESE	2 38N11E	435333E		161
Blanca 40			NWSE	1 38N11E	436720E		60
Blanca 43R			1	38N11E	436236E		223
Blanca 53R			SENE	13 38N11E	437046E		90
Blanca 54			2	38N11E	435005E		27
Blanca 55R			8	38N12E	438953E		119
Blanca 57R			NENE	8 38N12E	440379E		16
Blanca 58			SESE	13 38N11E	436791E		9
Blanca 59R			12	38N11E	435823E		17
Blanca 60R			NWSE	6 38N12E	438037E		9
Blanca 61			SWSE	1 38N11E	436377E		16
Blanca 62			SESW	1 38N11E	436197E		29
			1	38N11E	440718E		155
			NESW	4 38N11E	440994E		155

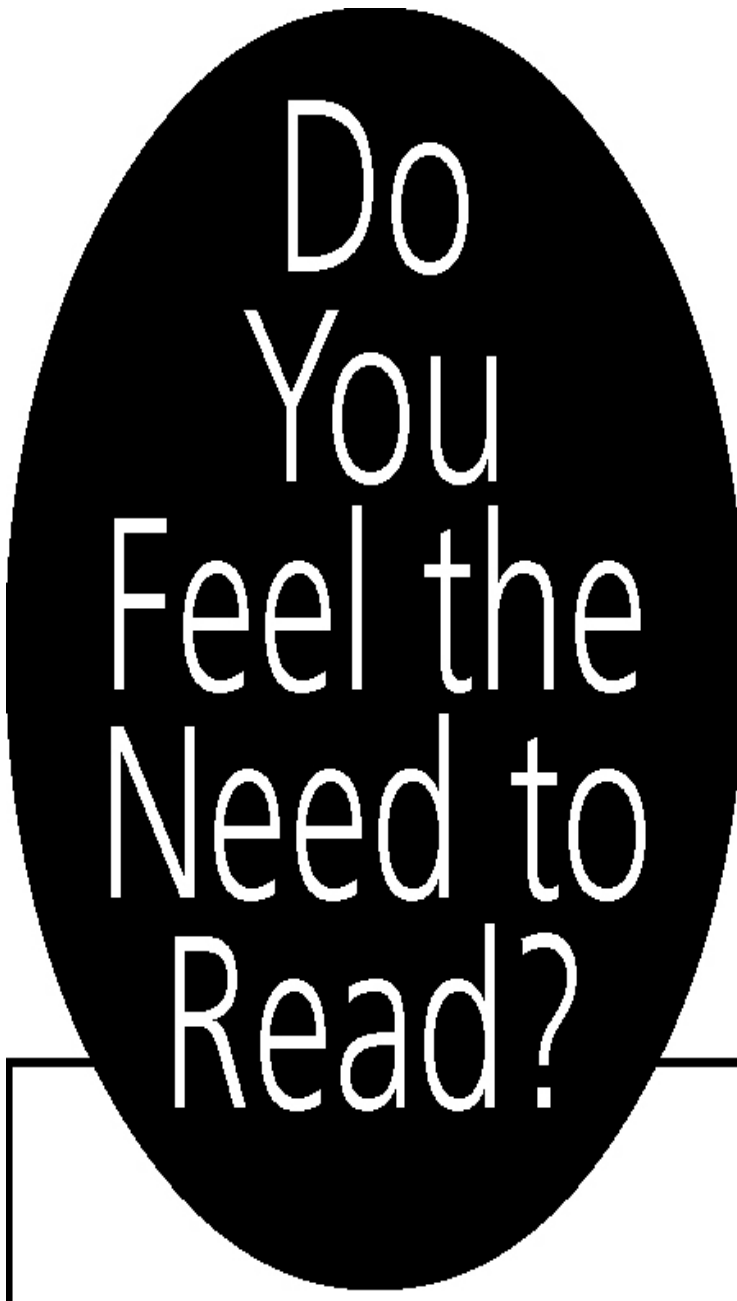
4. Alternate Points of Diversion. A. Summary. BLM seeks authorization to divert the aggregate water volume that is decreed and permitted to the set of 44 wells listed in Section 3, which totals 5,416 acre-feet annually, at any combination of the 44 wells listed in Table 1. BLM also requests authorization to divert the aggregate flow rate that is decreed and permitted to the set of the 44 wells listed in Section, which totals 3,697 gpm at any combination of the 44 wells listed in Section 3. B. Amendments to Previous Decrees. BLM requests that the following provisions from previous decrees, which are related to flow rate and volumetric limits for individual wells, be modified as follows to implement BLM's alternate point of diversion request in this application: Case No. 2002 CW 38B, District Court, Colorado Water Division 3, Section 14E, Control of Well Diversions. BLM requests that the following sentence: "The Applicant must monitor and control the production from the wells so that they will not flow at rates or volumes that exceed the flow rates and volumes specified in the individual permits for each well." be modified to read as follows: "The Applicant must monitor and control the production from the wells so that in aggregate, the total volume diverted annually from all 44 wells in this Decree does not exceed 5,416 acre feet and the total flow rate diverted from all 44 wells in the Decree does not exceed 3,697 gpm."; Case No. 2003 CW 08, District, Colorado Water Division, Section A.2 (Regarding Blanca Well 10P). BLM requests that the following sentence: "Amount: 56 gpm, with a maximum withdrawal volume of 45 acre-feet per year" be modified to read as follows:

"Amount: 45 acre-feet per year under this priority and appropriation date may be withdrawn from any of the 44 wells within the Blanca Wetlands Area, provided that the aggregate flow rate withdrawn from all 44 wells does not exceed 3,697 gpm." Case No. W-1418, District Court, Colorado Water Division 3 (Regarding Snook Well 2). BLM requests that the following sentence: "Amount and source and means of diversion: 95 gallons per minute, being 0.212 cubic feet of water per second of time, being 0.424 acre-feet of water in a period of 24 hours, from the confined aquifer." be modified to read as follows: "79.3 acre-feet per year under this priority and appropriation date may be withdrawn from any of the 44 wells within the Blanca Wetland Area, provided that the aggregate flow rate withdrawn from all 44 wells does not exceed 3,697 gpm. This volume reflects the average historical diversion volume from Well #2, Case No. W-1418."

Case No. W-1418, District Court, Colorado Water Division 3 (Regarding Snook Well 5). BLM requests that the following sentence: "Amount and source and means of diversion: 95 gallons per minute, being 0.212 cubic feet of water per second of time, being 0.424 acre-feet of water in a period of 24 hours, from confined aquifer." be modified to read as follows: "136.9 acre-feet per year under this priority and appropriation date may be withdrawn from any of the 44 wells within the Blanca Wetland Area, provided that the aggregate flow rate withdrawn from all 44 wells does not exceed 3,697 gpm. This volume reflects the average historical diversion volume from Well #2, Case No. W-1418." Case No. 2002 CW 47, District Court, Colorado Water Division 3 (Regarding Blanca Well 43R). BLM requests that the following sentence be stricken: "C.2. The total rate of withdrawal at Well P43 (i.e., the rate of withdrawal pursuant to the transferred water right combined with the rate of withdrawal currently authorized pursuant to Well Permit No. 36296-F-R) shall not exceed 250 gpm." BLM requests that the following sentence: "C.5. Total withdrawals at Well P43 shall not exceed 223 acre-feet per year." be modified to read as follows:

"223 acre-feet per year under the priority dates and appropriation dates currently reflected in Well Permit No. 65159-F may be withdrawn from any of the 44 wells within the Blanca Wetlands Area, provided that the aggregate flow rate withdrawn from all 44 wells does not exceed 3,697 gpm." C. Amendments to Well Permits. BLM requests that the well permit for each of the 44 wells listed in Table 1 be modified to specify that the aggregate volume of water authorized to be diverted at all 44 wells within Blanca Wetlands is 5,416 acre feet per year, and that the aggregate flow rate that may be diverted from all 44 wells shall not exceed 3,697 gpm, subject to the terms and conditions in this decree. 5. Changes to Place of Use. A. Decreed Places of Use. The decrees for four water rights in Table 1 above, which were acquired by BLM from third parties for use within Blanca Wetlands, specify places of use where the diverted water may be applied, as follows: 1. Blanca Well 10. The decree in Case No. 2003 CW 08 specifies that the place of use is limited to: Within the NE 1/4 and the SE 1/4 of Section 1, T38N R11E, N.M.P.M., and the NW 1/4 SW 1/4 of Section 6, T38N R12E, N.M.P.M. 2. Blanca Well 43R. The decree in Case No. 2002 CW 47 specifies that the place of use is limited to: Section 1, and the NE 1/4 and the NE 1/4 SE 1/4 of Section 2, T38N R11E, N.M.P.M., and the SW 1/4 of Section 36, T39N R11E, N.M.P.M. The decrees for certain water rights in Table 1, above, do not contain acreage location limits on where diverted water may be applied, but the historical place of use of the water rights is described below: 3. Snook Well 2 and Snook Well 5, Case No. W-1418:

The decree and well permits contain inconsistencies and an erroneous description of where water from the wells have been historically applied, based on a review of aerial imagery and water use records. The wells have been used to provide water for approximately 67.8 acres in the W1/2 of the Section 4 and the E1/2 of Section 5, all in T38N R12E N.M.P.M. B. Proposed Place of Use. BLM requests authorization to apply water diverted from any of the wells listed in Table 1 above, including the four acquired water rights describe in Table 1 above, at any location within the Blanca Wetlands. BLM also requests authorization for the short-term storage of water necessary to create various wetland habitat types in the wetland management basins within Blanca Wetlands. The location of the proposed place of use and short-term water storage is described below: Township 38 North, Range 11 East N.M.P.M. Section 1, NW 1/4, NE 1/4, SE 1/4 of Section 2, Section 12, NW 1/4, NE 1/4, SE 1/4, N 1/2 of the SW 1/4, of Section 13, and NE 1/4 of Section 24; Township 38 North, Range 12 East, N.M.P.M. W 1/2 of Section 4, Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17 W 1/2 Section 9, and N 1/2 of Section 18; Township 39 North, Range 12 East, N.M.P.M. SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 and SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 30, E 1/2 of the W 1/2 and the E 1/2 of Section 31, and NW 1/4, SW 1/4, and SE 1/4 of Section 32. 6. Changes to Type of Use: A. Wells addressed in Case No. 81 CW 177: The decree specifies the following types of use: Fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, irrigation, domestic, and storage in the ponds located within the Blanca Wetlands Area. The area is located on a series of old dry lake beds and consists of ponds and wetland sites, including freshwater marsh and meadows, alkali marsh and meadows, and playa lakes. Water from the confined aquifer wells flows into wetland, pond, and playa areas by operation of a system of dikes built on the dry lake beds. B. Water Rights Acquired from Third Parties: The decrees for four water rights in Table 3 above, which were acquired by BLM from third parties for use within Blanca Wetlands, specify the following types of use: Blanca Well 10: Fish and wildlife habitat creation and maintenance, recreation, irrigation (including irrigation of wetlands), domestic and storage in the ponds located within the designated place of use for these purposes, with the right to use, reuse, successively use, and otherwise dispose of water withdrawn pursuant to this ruling to extinction. Blanca Well 43R: Irrigation, wildlife, recreation and storage for those purposes; water will be used to irrigate wildlife habitat within the Blanca Wildlife Habitat



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Area; water will be introduced to a series of ponds and historic wetland depressions with the objective of restoring a diversity of wetland habitat with different vegetative and aquatic characteristics; these depression will provide resting, nesting, feeding, and breeding areas for waterfowl and migratory birds and habitat for other wildlife, and will provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Snook Well 2 and Snook Well 5, Case No. W-1418: Domestic and irrigation use. C. Proposed Type of Use: To establish consistent decree language describing the beneficial use of all wells within Blanca Wetlands so that alternate points of diversion can operated, BLM requests that the court authorize the following beneficial uses for all wells in Table 1: Irrigation of wetlands, marshes, meadows, and playas areas; creation and support of fish and wildlife habitat in ponds, diked areas, and natural basins via direct application of water and storage; wildlife watering; recreation; non-potable domestic use; piscatorial and fish propagation; replacement of evaporative losses necessary to effectuate the aforementioned uses. 7. Documentation of Historic Diversions for Well No. 2 and Well No. 5, Case No. W-1418. The historic diversion of two water rights that BLM acquired from third parties for inclusion and use within Blanca Wetlands had not been previously quantified, which is a prerequisite for seeking authorization to divert those water rights at any of the wells within Blanca Wetlands. BLM seeks quantification of the historic diversion volumes associated with Snook Well 2 as 79.3 acre feet per year and Snook Well 5 as 136.9 acre feet per year. See Exhibit A for a quantification of historic diversions from the two wells. 8. Underground Water Rights for Post-McCarran Amendment Wells. Certain wells listed in Table 1 were drilled after the United States was served in 1979 under the McCarran Amendment (43 U.S.C. § 6660) for Water Division 3. These wells operate exclusively under the Plan for Augmentation decreed in Case No. 2002 CW 38B and they do not currently have decreed underground water rights. BLM requests underground water rights for these wells, including language describing the beneficial uses of these wells, that is identical to the beneficial uses described for other wells that operate within Blanca Wetlands. A. Post-McCarran Amendment Well Characteristics

Table 2.

Well Name	Permit No.	WDID	1/4 1/4	Township & Range	GPS NAD 83, Zone 13	Well Depth	Permit GPM	Annual Div. Volume in AF
			7	E	437411	607	54	86
				N	4156183			
					436628E	480	185	297
SESE	1				436811E	580	83	133
	1				436562E	580	69	110
	6				436950E	600	133	215
	7				437781E	604	81	131
NESE	7				438690E	580	177	285
	6				437871E	420	32	51
	6				438176E	600	53	85
	2				434959E	560	39	62
SESE					436989E	600	120	192
	5				439963E	580	183	295
NESE	5				440179E	600	57	91
					435794E	640	203	327
SENE	8				440033E	580	230	371
	6				437496E	617	40	64
NESE	2				435333E	660	100	161
	1				436720E	610	38	60
	2				435005E	580	17	27
	1				436377E	560	10	16
	1				436197E	510	18	29

B. Source: Confined aquifer below the confining clay series. C. Date of Appropriation and Beneficial Use: December 23, 2016. D. How Appropriation Was Initiated: BLM operated the wells under the Plan for Augmentation decreed in Case No. 2002 CW 38B, which was entered by District Court, Colorado Water Division 3, on December 23, 2016. E. Place of Use: Within Blanca Wetlands, as follows: Township 38 North, Range 11 East N.M.P.M. Section 1, NW 1/4, NE 1/4, SE 1/4 of Section 2, Section 12, NW 1/4, NE 1/4, SE 1/4, N 1/2 of the SW 1/4, of Section 13, and NE 1/4 of Section 24; Township 38 North, Range 12 East, N.M.P.M. W 1/2 of Section 4, Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17 W 1/2 Section 9, and N 1/2 of Section 18. Township 39 North, Range 12 East, N.M.P.M. SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 and SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 30, E 1/2 of the W 1/2 and the E 1/2 of Section 31, and NW 1/4, SW 1/4, and SE 1/4 of Section 32. F. Type of Use: Irrigation of wetlands, marshes, meadows, and playas areas; creation and support of fish and wildlife habitat in ponds, diked areas, and natural basins; wildlife watering; recreation; non-potable domestic use; piscatorial and fish propagation; replacement of evaporative losses necessary to effectuate the aforementioned uses. 9. Proposed Terms and Conditions. BLM requests the following terms and conditions to prevent injury to other water rights: A. Provisions from Previous Decrees. All provisions and requirements from previous decrees governing the use of the 44 wells remains in effect, except for provisions and requirements from those decrees that are expressly modified by this decree. B. Appropriation Dates and Volumes. The appropriation dates and the water volumes associated with each of those priority dates confirmed in previous decrees governing use of water from the 44 wells remains in effect unless expressly modified in the decree. C. Sustainability. The sustainability provisions found in Section 14.1 of the decree in Case No. 02 CW 38B remain in effect. This provision limits average annual diversions from the 44 wells at Blanca Wetlands to 4,280 acre-feet per year, based upon a five-year rolling average that incorporates diversion totals from the previous four water years. D. Prevention of Injury to Unconfined Aquifer Wells. Diversions from any individual well may not be increased to the extent that well induces water from the unconfined aquifer to enter the confined aquifer and thereby allow the confined aquifer well to capture water from the unconfined aquifer. E. Control of Diversions from Aquifer Layers. Each of the 44 wells at Blanca Wetlands has been modeled in the Rio Grande Decision Support System Groundwater Model (RGDSS Model). The aquifer layer that each well diverts from has been specified in the RGDSS Model. BLM will not modify the overall volume of diversions that were historically made from aquifer Layer 2, Layer 3, or Layer 4. BLM will operate the 44 wells in a manner such that aggregate diversions from the wells do not exceed the total volume of appropriations from the wells that were perfected prior to the adoption of Rules Governing New Withdrawals of Ground Water in Water Division 3 Affecting the Rate or Direction of Movement of Water in the Confined Aquifer System (Rules) on November 9, 2006. Specifically, the 44 wells will not be operated in a manner that will result in a new, increased, or additional supply of groundwater from the Confined Aquifer Systems, as defined in Section 4.A.2 of the Rules. F. Well Meters. Each well must comply with the Rules Governing the Measurement of Groundwater Diversions Located in Water Division No. 3, The Rio Grande Basin, including installation and maintenance of well meters and annual reporting of well meter readings. G. Well Permits. BLM will request modification of the existing permits of the 44 wells to reflect the final provisions of the decree in this case. If BLM seeks to redrill any of the 44 wells within the Blanca Wetlands, BLM will still be required to file an application for a permit to redrill. H. Accounting. BLM will continue to submit the full accounting required in the decree in Case No. 02 CW 38B, District Court, Colorado Water Division 3, which includes a requirement to report diversion volumes from individual wells and total annual diversion for all 44 wells within Blanca Wetlands. In the accounting, BLM will continue to account for water volumes diverted from wells that were constructed prior to BLM being served by the State of Colorado under the McCarran Amendment in 1979, and from wells that were constructed after 1979. In the accounting, BLM will also specify the diversion volumes each year that have been diverted from aquifer Layers 2, 3, and 4. 10. Names and Addresses of Owners, Structures and of Land on which Structures Are Located: United States of America, Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, San Luis Valley Field Office 1313 Highway 160, Monte Vista, CO 81144.

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RED HILL LAVA PRODUCTS is looking for a **LABOR/MAINTENANCE PERSON**. Please call Jon Armenta at 719-480-9595. (11/10/23)

CDOT IS LOOKING FOR TEMPORARY HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE SPECIALISTS for Monarch Pass for the winter season. Positions would be 40 hours/week with the opportunity for overtime. Pay is \$24.44/hour. This position will receive per diem and CDOT will arrange for employee to stay in a hotel for their scheduled working days. If interested, apply at https://bit.ly/wolfcreekpass (11/10/23)

CITY OF MONTE VISTA is accepting applications for the position of **FINANCE DIRECTOR**. The Finance Director has direct responsibility and supervision of all aspects of the Finance Department which includes fund accounting, financial reporting, payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, pension and retirement accounting, revenue collections, purchasing, auditing, budgeting, preparation of the Annual Finance Report, and monitors the financial position of the municipality. Five (5) years progressively responsible experience in Accounting and Finance and a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Public or Business Administration with an emphasis in accounting, financial management or a related field is required. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. This is full time employment. The salary range is \$70,000-\$75,000 DOE, plus full benefits. To apply please visit: www.cityofmontevista.colorado.gov or applications can be picked up at City Hall, 95 W. 1st Ave Monte Vista, CO 81144. Please provide updated resume with application. Position will remain open until filled, first review November 9, 2023. EEO ADA. (11/14/23)

WANTED LOCAL DRIVER WITH CDL license to HAUL HAY. Driving experienced preferred. Must have clean MVR, drug testing required, off weekends & holidays. If interested, call 719-843-5446. (11/7/23)

SANFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT IS accepting applications for a **CUSTODIAN**. Applications can be downloaded at www.sanfordschools.org. Sanford School is an EOE&E. (11/4/23)

TOWN OF LA JARA is accepting applications for a full-time **MAINTENANCE WORKER**. Applicants must have experience operating heavy equipment such as backhoes and tractors and lawn equipment, as well as knowledge of general maintenance repairs, street repairs, weed control, mosquito spraying and understanding or willingness to gain knowledge of water and sewer operations. Applications may be picked up at La Jara Town Hall, 221 Broadway. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. For more information call 719-274-5363. (11/3/23)

TOWN OF LA JARA is accepting applications for **POLICE OFFICER**. Must be currently Colorado POST certified; willing to submit to background and criminal history checks as well as a psychological test. Salary ranges from \$43,000.00 to \$45,000 depending on experience. The Town of La Jara offers an excellent benefit package that includes vision, dental and medical insurance, PTO and paid holidays. Applications may be picked up at La Jara Town Hall, 221 Broadway. (11/3/23)

NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is currently accepting applications for (1) **MANASSA ELEMENTARY PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER**, start date of November 6, 2023. Applicants must hold a current Colorado Teaching License or the ability to obtain one. Applications are available at the Administration office, 17887 US Hwy 285, La Jara, CO 81140 or can be downloaded at www.northconejos.com. Application deadline is until position is filled. Submit application to Mr. Darren Edgar, Superintendent. EOE. (11/1/23)

UNABLE TO DRIVE. NEED TRANSPORTATION biweekly for shopping. Live 2 miles from Splashland. Text 719-480-1990, Robert will return call. Prefer senior citizen, retired individual. (11/1/23)

221 - HELP WANTED

WORKING TOGETHER FAMILY ADVOCATE-LA PUENTE seeks a motivated, qualified person to improve **PARENT/CHILD EDUCATION**, increase family self-sufficiency and build community partnerships. We will train the candidate with the best written and oral communication skills. Join our staff of dedicated professionals and learn the joys and satisfaction of serving others. Send resume/work references to hr@lapuente.net (10/31/23)

SANFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT IS accepting applications for a Junior High School **GIRLS BASKETBALL COACH**. Applications can be downloaded at www.sanfordschools.org. Sanford School is an EOE&E. (10/31/23)

FULL-TIME CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE POSITION open at the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. This is a 4-10 hour day (Monday-Thursday) with some weekends as needed. Applicant must pass a background check, be able to work independently, and be a forward-thinking individual with an overall team approach to all tasks at hand. Applicant must also be able to work in all weather conditions (snow removal/general landscaping). If interested, please contact Demo Trujillo, 719-657-4040 x4007, dtrujillo@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co. (11/10/23)

CAFETERIA STAFF NEEDED at UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. Must have high school diploma 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. (11/8/23)

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 **ELEMENTARY PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER**, for the remaining 2023-2024 School Year. Qualifications: Must hold a valid State of Colorado Teacher's License or such alternative 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. (11/4/23)

WANTED RELIEF DRIVER hauling US Mail. 1-2 days a week, \$25 hour. 719-850-9866. (11/1/23)

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)

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

307 - APPLIANCES

K E N M O R E 4-BURNER ELECTRIC STOVE-very little use, like new, \$200. Call 719-588-4663. (12/26/23)

USED WASHER & DRYER, great condition, \$500/obo. Call 719-589-6254 or 719-589-3134. (11/1/23)

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. (11/24/23)

345 - WOOD

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

I NEED A supply of ASPEN LOGS to be DELIVERED TO GUFFEY, Colorado. Up to 500-1,000 cords, cut to 16-20' lengths, limbed, self-loader. Call Chuck Rinkor 719-689-0586 with price and any questions. (11/1/23)

353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

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

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

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

WILD WEST MAGAZINES: \$15 takes all. 719-852-8879. (11/8/23)

LARRS MINI - Therm JVH GAS FIRED BOILER, 160,000 BTU; \$450. 1/2 HP INLINE CAST IRON PUMP 1-inch inlet/outlet; \$150. 719-379-3921. (11/4/23)

BRANDNEW, STILL in box, **SPEED WALKER** and **WHEELCHAIR**. Sold only as pair. \$600, 719-849-0483. (10/31/23)

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

368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

LARGE DOG HOUSE made of fiber glass. Will accommodate any size dog; \$50. Must pick up. Call 719-379-3921. (11/4/23)

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. (TFN)

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

Century Property Management & Sales, LLC
Alamosa • 589-5744
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE
For all your rental needs please call 719-589-5744 or stop by 823 Main St. Alamosa, CO 81101
www.alamosarentals.com

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

1 BEDROOM & 2 BEDROOM apartment for rent in ALAMOSA. \$560. Call 720-202-9734. (11/3/23)

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.

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

701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

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

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

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. (11/28/23)



FEEL LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER?

New in town?
Get acquainted with and all it has to offer by ordering a subscription to the

Valley Courier

719-589-2553

Where To Shop!
Where To Dine!
Community Bulletin Board!
Professional Services!
....And more!

SAVE on FUEL Shop Locally

Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Big boat
- 4 Fall mo.
- 8 Liq. measure
- 11 Hard liquor
- 12 Arab ruler
- 13 Nonsense poet
- 15 Mil. address part
- 16 Attractive
- 17 Flow slowly
- 18 Happen again
- 20 Ached
- 22 Was acquainted with
- 24 — Lanka
- 25 Dropped in on
- 28 The — and the Papas
- 32 " — Rhythm"
- 33 Cultured woman
- 35 Fake diamonds
- 36 Old French coin
- 37 Like a Smurf, in a way
- 38 Did in

DOWN

- 1 Culture medium
- 2 Mellow
- 3 Renders unconscious (2 wds.)
- 4 Hidden
- 5 Earth-bound bird
- 6 Compassion
- 7 Kilmer poem
- 39 Comedian — Lange
- 41 Hits again and again
- 43 Snooze
- 45 Vietnam neighbor
- 46 Tremble
- 50 Snag
- 53 "Present!"
- 54 Something assigned
- 56 — pro nobis
- 57 Gaelic
- 58 Dye plant
- 59 Court divider
- 60 Terrible
- 61 Queue
- 62 Fleecy creature

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 8 Singer — Estefan
- 9 " — Flux" (Charlize Theron movie)
- 10 Be idle
- 14 Blushing
- 19 Module
- 21 Military force
- 23 Healthy
- 25 Travel requirement for some
- 26 Composer — Stravinsky
- 27 Paint crudely
- 29 Important event
- 30 Genus of maples
- 31 Bastes
- 34 Distribute cards
- 37 Droplet
- 38 Greek portico
- 40 "To be sure!"
- 42 Gridiron player
- 44 Orchid part
- 46 That girl
- 47 Basil or thyme
- 48 — Minor
- 49 Hindu queen
- 51 Rowers in a race
- 52 Loathe
- 55 Do wrong

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
32				33		34		35	
36				37				38	
39			40			41		42	
			43		44		45		
46	47	48			49		50		51
53				54		55		56	
57				58				59	
	60							62	

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN

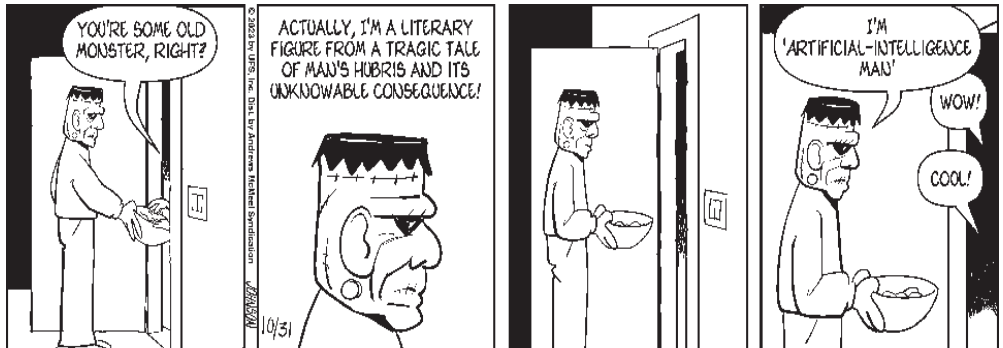


"You asked us to build a computer that could replace the government."

ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



BIG NATE



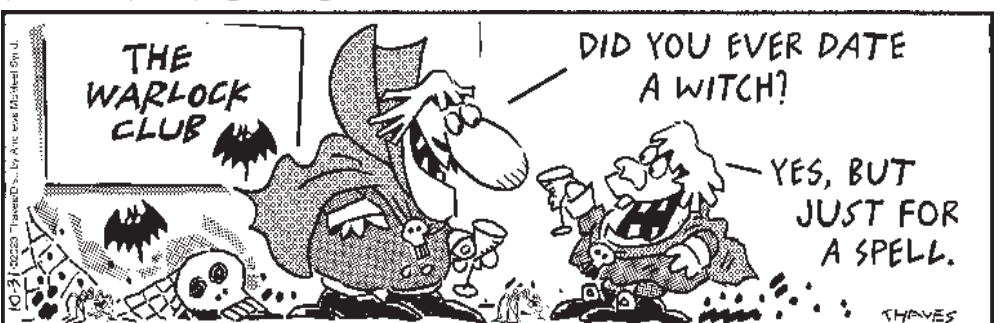
THE BORN LOSER



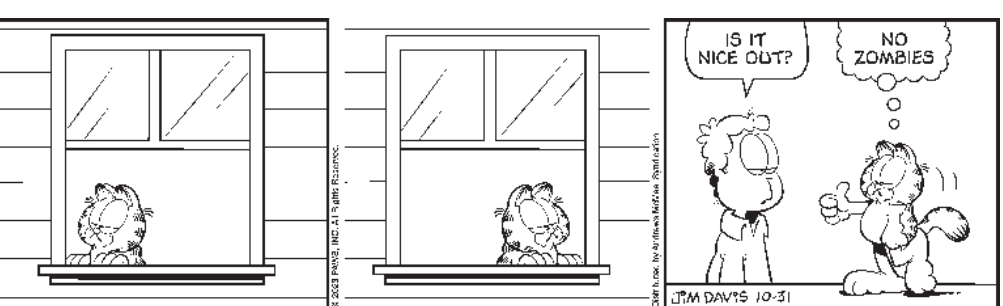
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



Family's 'black sheep' is on its own again

DEARABBY: I have been having a hard time dealing with my family. We have never been close. My mother played favorites and never showed me any affection. My siblings followed suit, and I always felt like an outsider. My father was wonderful and loved me very much, for which I am forever grateful. Both my parents died last year. I was walking on eggshells the entire time. My brothers and sisters seemed to think that I was now a member of the family. They included me in events and told me they loved me. I was so hopeful.

for friendship, but by being honest and befriending others. Look around, and you will see them everywhere. There's no shame in reaching out, so please do not feel embarrassed about being a member of a very large "club."

DEAR ABBY: I'm a Realtor and managing broker helping my fiancé's son, "Mark," buy a new home. We're set to close next month. Tonight, my fiancé, "Simon," told me I am not to keep any of my commission -- that Mark expects me to give it all to him. Granted, I was planning to give Mark a token of appreciation -- a few hundred dollars, perhaps -- but not my entire commission!

I told Simon he must have misunderstood, that this is my JOB, my work. No one gives someone their entire paycheck, do they? I don't think there's any way Mark would expect 100% of my commission, but Simon says if I don't agree, there will be "consequences."

Our relationship is already strained, and I feel this is not only over the top but also completely disrespectful. I'm trying not to rock the boat with the holidays coming up. Please help me. -- ON THE SPOT IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ON THE SPOT: Sometimes it's better to confront a problem than to ignore it for fear of what you might find out. This is one of



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

those times. Tell your fiancé to explain EXACTLY what he meant by "consequences" if you don't agree to his son's unreasonable demand. Listen carefully to what he has to say.

If you give in to emotional blackmail this time, it's only a taste of what you will receive from him and his son in the future. If there is a wedding planned anytime soon, I urge you to slam on the brakes until this matter is ironed out to your satisfaction.

AGENTLEREMINDER TO PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN: Tonight, wee witches and goblins will be out trick-or-treating. Please supervise them closely so they'll be safe. Happy Halloween, everyone! -- Love, ABBY