



Four local football teams advance to state tournament

— Page 6



Spooky stories shared at Fort Garland Museum Fright Night

— Page 7



Today's Issue Sponsored By:

ALAMOSA STATE BANK

A Real Community BankSM

Local Ownership. Local Commitment.



Community Committed - Agriculturally Driven

VOLUME 97, NO. 173

Valley Courier

WEDNESDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

November 1, 2023

\$1

Lowe's Market burglary leads to multiple arrests



STAFF REPORT

ANTONITO — Multiple arrests were made Monday, Oct. 30, at the old Antonito high school building during an investigation of a burglary at the Lowe's Market here.

According to a press release from the Conejos County Sheriff's Office, the grocery store was broken into about 3:45 a.m. Monday and evidence led officers to the old high school. A search warrant was executed by multi-jurisdictional agencies and with the aid of the Alamosa and Chaffee County SWAT teams,

multiple arrests were made.

A possible suspect in the Lowe's Market burglary was identified and multiple people with active warrants were also arrested.

The Conejos sheriff's office thanked the Alamosa and Chaffee SWAT teams, Monte Vista Police Department, Costilla County Sheriff's office, Sanford Police Department and La Jara Police Department for their assistance in the ongoing investigation.

The investigation continues and no further information has been provided.

SWAT teams from Alamosa and Chaffee counties and multi-jurisdictional agencies from the Valley assisted in making multiple arrests Monday at the old Antonito high school, including a suspect in a burglary earlier that day at Lowe's Market in Antonito.

Courier photo by Adam Lopez

SLV Today

Veterans Day Appreciation Event Nov. 9

ALAMOSA — Staff at the Alamosa Justice Center are inviting the community to a Veterans' Day Appreciation Event to honor all those individuals who have served the nation as members of the United States military.

The event is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Nov. 9 at the Alamosa Justice Center located at 8955 Independence Way.

Hot dogs, chips and a drink will be provided.

Flu shots available in South Fork on Nov. 4

SOUTH FORK — Annual 2023-2024 flu shots will be available on Saturday, Nov. 4, between 9 and 11 a.m. at the South Fork Community Center, 254 Colorado Highway 149, South Fork.

Several insurances including Medicare and Medicaid will cover the shot.

Both high-dose flu and regular-dose flu will be available. No appointment is necessary. COVID-19 shots may be offered depending on availability.

For additional information, contact Rio Grande County Public Health at 719-657-3352.

SLV WEATHER

Mostly Sunny 53/15
Thurs: Sunny 56/16
Fri: Mostly Sunny 58/18

INSIDE

Record Page 2
Valley News Page 3
Opinion Page 4
Lifestyle Pages 5, 7, and 12
Sports Page 6
Public Notice Page 8
Classifieds Pages 9 and 10
Comics Page 11

Safe and fun Halloween at Armory

Nearly 20 different organizations and agencies gathered inside the National Guard Armory in Alamosa on Halloween to hand out candy to trick or treaters of all ages dressed in colorful, fun and scary costumes. The event began at 4 p.m. and by 4:30 the armory was packed.



Courier photos by Priscilla Waggoner



Courtesy photo

The Trinidad State College Campus in Alamosa.

Aspen Institute names Trinidad State College as a Top 150 U.S. Community College Eligible for the 2025 Aspen Prize

STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON D.C. — On Oct. 23, the Aspen Institute named Trinidad State College as one of the 150 institutions eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among two-year colleges.

The institutions selected for this honor stand out among more than 1,000 community colleges nationwide as having high and improving levels of student success as well as equitable outcomes for Black and Hispanic students and those from lower-income

■ See TSC page 3

Participants sought for the Alamosa Veterans Day parade

STAFF REPORT
SAN LUIS VALLEY — The Dickey-Springer Post 113 of the American Legion, and the Ladies Auxiliary invite the public to participate in the annual Veterans Day Parade on Main Street in Alamosa on Saturday, Nov. 11.

Those wanting to participate in the parade to recognize the Veterans, past and present, should contact Jack Rudder at 719-588-9838 or Monte Collins at 719-589-4142. The parade gathers beginning at 9 a.m., at 6th and LaDue, and will kick off at approximately 10:50 a.m. There will be a short ceremony at Main and State at exactly 11 a.m.

Originally called Armistice Day to celebrate the end of World War I, "The Great War," officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, Nov. 11, 1919, at 11 a.m., is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars."

Congress passed legislation proclaiming Nov. 11 as Veterans Day that was signed by President Eisenhower in 1954.



Courier photo

The Dickey-Springer Post 113 of the American Legion, and the Ladies Auxiliary are looking for participants for the Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11 in Alamosa.



4.31% APY*

Certificate of Deposit - 11 Month

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

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



Record

OBITUARIES

Darrell Joseph Meis

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

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

Darrell is survived by his wife Kim of the family home; his father Eldon Meis of Federal Heights, Colo.; his children DJ (Megan) Meis of St. George, Utah, (children) Trey, Pace, Sawyer, Bronx, Sway; Brandon (Brittney) Meis of Albuquerque, N.M., (children) Reese, Zander, Tatum, Hattie Mae; Ashlee (Michael) Meis-Trujillo of Alamosa, Colo., (children), Ilexia (Eddie), RJ, Damian, Zaryah; Jesse (Eva) Meis of Plano, Texas; (child) Ciao Meis, and great-granddaughter, Leah. He is also survived by his brother Norman (Stephanie) Meis of Parker, Colo.; sister Ginny (Ron) Seyfer of Arvada, Colo.; his mother-in-law Pamela Buron of Alamosa; brother-in-law Otto (Cammie) Buron of Albuquerque, N.M.; sister-in-law Tracy (Werner) Hahnlein of Albuquerque, N.M.; Kelly (John) Francis of Redondo Beach, Calif.; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends.

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

As a kid, Darrell loved all sports; especially foot-



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

nity to coach his sons and grandson.

Darrell was never shy of hard work, starting his first job at 16 with Purina Dog Food Company. Next, he worked for Rocky Mountain Fireworks for 5 years. With the knowledge he gained, Darrell became a licensed pyrotechnician. He coordinated and helped shoot off the Alamosa Fireworks Show for 40 years. Once married, Darrell started working for SLV Federal Bank as a loan officer. He then went on to be the Bookstore Director at Adams State College for 30 years. Upon retirement, he returned to SLV Federal Bank as a loan officer. Darrell was involved in the Alamosa Noon Lion's Club, Alamosa City Park and Recreation Board, and served in various church positions.

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

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

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

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

Ruben Pacheco

On Oct. 25, 2023, a loving, caring, and extremely strong heart stopped beating. This was a huge loss to a community who embraced him and were blessed with his total support.

Alfred was born on Nov. 6, 1955, to Ruben and Anna Maria Pacheco. Alfred married the love of his life, Nancy Chavez, on March 6, 1982. This beautiful union produced a family that has continued to bless our community and its families. Jennifer and Ed, Arthur and Christina, Ernest and Brittany were all part of this world. His love for his family was evident by the way he loved his granddaughter, Alexandra.

He was born in Alamosa and brought home to the Trinchera Ranch as a newborn. His heart never left the land that always had a Pacheco working on it since 1952. Collectively, his dad Ruben, Alfred and Ernest all gave over 70 years to the Trinchera Ranch. Al-



fred's greatest honor was to protect and support the employees he was responsible for. They were like family to him.

In memory of Alfred, please look at the mountains in which he lived and loved; and spread his love and willingness to always do better, give unconditionally and love from the bottom of your heart. That's who he was, and he will be greatly missed.

Alfred was preceded in death by his father Ruben Pacheco, sisters-in-law Marguerite Salazar and Marie Pacheco, nephew Lorenzo Pacheco and father-in-law Ernest Chavez.

He is survived by his mother Anna Maria Pacheco, siblings Elizabeth Betty Pacheco, Sarah and Charles Manzanares, Richard Pacheco, Arnold Salazar, Lillian and Pete Gomez, Lawrence and Tammy Pacheco, Isabelle and Carmel Cordova, Christina Pacheco, and nephews and nieces, too many to mention but were all very, very important to their uncle Alfred.

Alfred's wishes were to not have services. Please support his family as they take the time to heal. The family would like to thank everyone for the support and love shown during this most difficult time.

The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

PENDING OBITUARY

Rudy Esquibel

San Luis resident Rudy Esquibel, 81, passed away Oct. 31, 2023. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Alberto Adelmo Quintana

Longtime Monte Vista resident Alberto Adelmo Quintana, 81, passed away peacefully at his home on Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023.

Albert was born on May 21, 1942, to Guadalupe and Maria (Vigil) Quintana in The Llama New Mexico "under a pinon tree". He married the love of his life Benina Maria Martinez on Dec. 29, 1961. Together they raised four children.

Albert worked as a farmer all of his life, and really enjoyed it. He loved to spend time with his family. He enjoyed the mountains, hunting and fishing. Albert enjoyed spending time in the garage tinkering with cars. He loved to watch Western movies; John Wayne was his favorite actor. Albert also enjoyed going to breakfast with his longtime friend Bobby Martinez.

Albert is survived by his wife Bennie; his children Johnathan Quintana of Monte Vista, Kenny (Kim) Quintana of Alamosa, Benjamin Quintana



of Monte Vista, and Felisha (James) Lopez of Alamosa; his grandchildren Jacob (Brittany Martin) Quintana of Alamosa, Melissa (Jeff) Frey of Pueblo, Mindy (Matt) Griego of Colorado Springs, Meagan (David) Duddleston of Alamosa, Morgan (Antonio) Edwards of Colorado Springs, Jackie (Carlos) Lopez of Monte Vista, Brandy (Josh) Quintana of Tucson Ariz., Brittany (Erminio Marquez) Quintana of Monte Vista, Jerica (Billy Martinez) Quintana of Monte Vista, Jessica Lopez of Alamosa, and Desirae Lopez of Alamosa; as well as 24 great-grandchildren; his brother Leroy (Sally) Quintana of Alamosa, sisters Ramona (Faustine) Archuleta of Albuquerque, N.M., and Bertha Trujillo of California.

Albert was preceded in death by both of his parents, his siblings Elvino Quintana, Eugene Quintana Martha Ortiz, and Ocledeus Albert; his grandchildren Candice Quintana and John Schmidt-Quintana; and great-grandson Aiden Marquez.

Cremation was chosen and a recitation of the Rosary will be Friday, Nov. 3, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church followed by a Funeral Mass at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider contributions to the family.

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

Victor F. Romero

Manassa resident Victor F. Romero, 80, went to his eternal rest on Oct. 28, 2023.

Victor was born on May 25, 1943, in San Antonio, Colo. He was the son of Felipe Romero and Faustina (Vigil) Romero.

He met his future wife, Desmarie, in the late 60's while working at the potato processing plant in La Jara. They were married in 1969 and enjoyed 50 years of marriage before her passing in 2020.

Victor was a heavy equipment operator for the Conejos County Road and Bridge Department in both La Jara and Antonito before transitioning to working in maintenance for St. Joseph's Parish in La Jara and Manassa. He learned to fix cars from his father and enjoyed spending countless hours working on his vehicles and keeping them well main-



tained.

Survivors include his sons Stacy (Michelle) Romero, Lakewood; Jamie (Susan) Romero, Lone Tree; daughter, Ilene (Luis) Agustin, Aurora; grandchildren, Samantha Romero, Mia Romero, Emma Romero, Celina Agustin and Ana Agustin; sisters Dorothy Valdez of La Jara, Colo.;

Gloria (Glenn) Brown of Calif.; Wilma (Ross) Duran of San Antonio, Colo.; brother Donald (Bernadette) Romero of Antonito, Colo.; and brother-in-law Solomon Lopez of San Antonio, Colo.

He was preceded in death by his parents, loving wife Desmarie Romero, his sister Della Lopez, brother Felipe Romero, Jr., and brother-in-law, Leonard Valdez.

A Vigil Service with Recitation of the Rosary will be held on Friday, Nov. 3, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in La Jara. A Mass of the Resurrection will be held immediately after at 10 a.m.

The care of arrangements have been entrusted to Romero Valley Funeral Home of Alamosa. To leave online condolences, please visit RomeroFuneralHomes.com.

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

School Menu
Wednesday
November 1, 2023

Menu
Unavailable

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



FILTER SALE!

THANK YOU FOR MAKING US



#1



October 30, 2023 to November 6, 2023

Valley News

BLM planning prescribed burns at Blanca Wetlands

By BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MONTE VISTA — The Bureau of Land Management is preparing a prescribed burn at the Blanca Wetlands, approximately 11 miles northeast of Alamosa. The burn is scheduled for between November of 2023 and mid-March of 2024, and will be conducted as weather and fuel moisture conditions permit.

Fire treatments may take multiple days — or, sets of days — to complete during this time. Specific timing of the operation will depend on favorable weather and fuel moisture conditions. Crews will be on site for the duration of the burn.

Prescribed fire projects help promote healthy ecosystems by removing materials that degrade habitats and contribute to the severity of wildfires. Pond shorelines are burned every 5 to 10 years to improve habitat for

wildlife, improve angler access, and manage vegetation. As many as 200 acres surrounding eight ponds will be treated to improve habitat for nesting and migratory waterfowl in the wetlands, as well as the more than 150 species of birds that use the area. An informational video about this ongoing project can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=16DT6tU8wUs&t=4s.

Smoke will be visible throughout the day of the burn, mostly during the warmest part of the day. With cooler temperatures in the evening, smoke may linger and accumulate in low-lying areas. Firefighters will be on site throughout the day of ignition and will periodically patrol the burns for several days afterward.

Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. For more information, visit the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division's website www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/



wood-smoke-and-health. For general information, contact Scott Nilson, Fire Management Specialist for BLM Rocky Mountain District

Fire, at 719-852-8150. Updates on the Blanca Wetlands prescribed burn will be available on the @BLMColoradoFire Facebook page.



Courtesy photos The Bureau of Land Management is preparing a prescribed burn at the Blanca Wetlands, approximately 11 miles northeast of Alamosa. The burn is scheduled for between November of 2023 and mid-March of 2024.

Trail Springs Fire continues

By JOHN WATERS News Editor
Size: 1251 Acres | Containment: 37% | Cause: Lightning

SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST— About 120 fire personnel continue to fight the Trail Springs Fire, a lightning-caused blaze. On Oct. 30, the forest service conducted a reconnaissance flight to determine how much impact the recent wet weather had on the fires. The flight observed that the fire continues to produce smoke from creeping and smoldering fire behavior. The infrared (IR) flight indicated minimal heat in the bottom of the West Fork of Devil Creek drainage along the creek itself and detected only one acre of growth since the last IR flight.

Areas of scattered heat remain within the fire perimeter and are anticipated to persist until a season-ending weather event occurs. According to the forest service, the continuation of active burning after two days of snow, rain, and cold temperatures is indicative of how dry the fuels got during the summer months.

Firefighters finished chipping the brush that had been piled along the containment line. On Oct. 31, crews were scheduled to continue cutting ladder fuels and chipping

along East Monument Road north towards Corral Mountain Road to complete an indirect fire line. Depending on soil moisture, crews may begin repairing hand lines, as well. Two engines and one fire module working on this fire have also been made available to assist local agencies if new fires ignite.

Fire danger remains moderate despite recent winter weather, it is important that forest users completely drown campfires to prevent unintended escape. Use the "drown, stir, feel," method to be sure it's dead out.

According to the official weather forecast for this fire issued on Oct. 31, "Nothing spooky in this forecast! High pressure kept skies clear across the region, with cold temperatures starting in the teens before recovering into the lower 40's. Winds remained light and variable through the day. These conditions will continue into Tuesday, starting cold again before reaching the mid 40's."

Mill Creek 2 Fire | Size: 122 Acres | Containment: 0% | Cause: Under Investigation

Some smoke was observed from the Mill Creek 2 Fire on the Oct. 30 IR reconnaissance flight, primarily on the



Photos by US Forest Service A firefighter works to remove brush along East Monument Road to strengthen a fireline on The Trail Springs Fire. The lightning-caused fire began on Oct. 19.

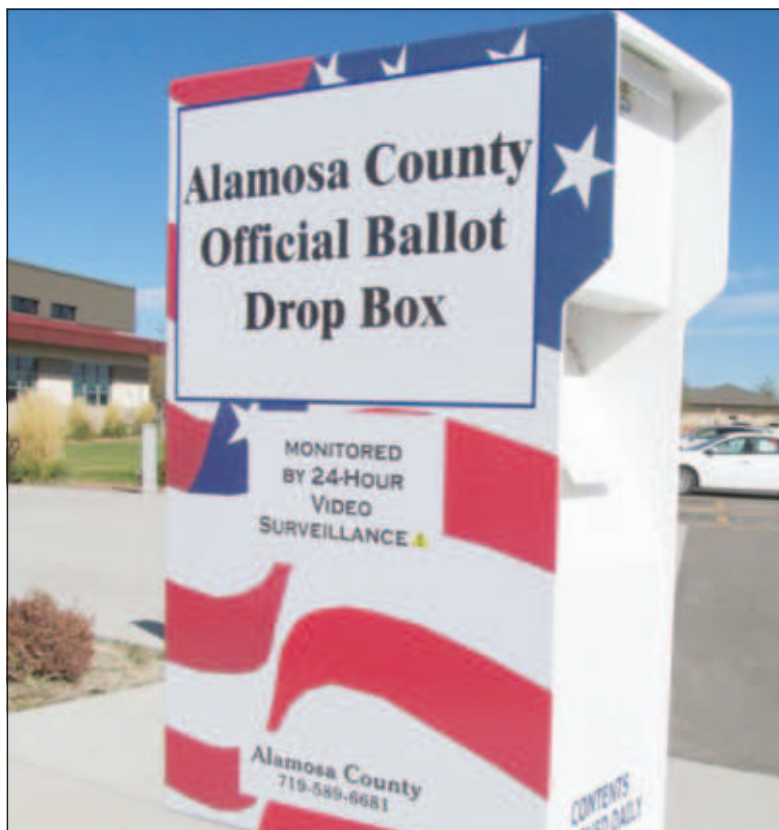
northern portion of the fire area. The flight confirmed heat within the fire perimeter and one acre of growth. No structures or other values are threatened. A fire engine is positioned nearby and ready to respond if required.



This crew is working on the Trail Springs Fire located on the San Juan National Forest and is about 12 miles northwest of Pagosa Springs.

It is time to vote!

If you have not yet returned your election ballot by mail, you can swing by the election ballot at your county drop box by 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 7. In Alamosa County, this drop box is in front of the county office building at 8999 Independence Way in Alamosa.



Courier file photo

TSC

Continued from Page 1

backgrounds. "We are thrilled to once again be chosen by the Aspen Institute as one of the top community colleges in the country," said Trinidad State President Dr. Rhonda M. Epper. "This proves the dedication of our staff and faculty and our commitment to our students. It's nice to be recognized nationally for all our hard work."

The Aspen Prize spotlights exemplary community colleges in order to drive attention to colleges achieving post-graduate success for all students, and is a central way Aspen researches

highly effective student success strategies that are shared with the field. The 150 eligible colleges have been invited to submit student success data and narratives about strategies to achieve better and more equitable student outcomes as the next step in an intensive review process that culminates in the naming of the Aspen Prize winner in spring 2025.

The eligible colleges represent the diversity and depth of the community college sector. Located in urban, rural, and suburban areas across 30 states, these colleges serve as few as 169 students and as many as 49,619.

"The Aspen Prize is rooted first and fore-

most in an assessment of whether colleges are walking the walk," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. "As community colleges face enrollment variations, enroll students with pandemic-related learning loss, and graduate students into a rapidly changing labor market, it is easy to lose track of what matters most. The best community colleges are continuing to focus on advancing the core mission: making sure as many students as possible graduate with credentials that lead to fulfilling careers and reflect the development of diverse talent that communities, states, and our nation need."

Opinion

Creative builders get rural housing done

Here's a statistic to be unhappy about: Colorado and Utah host the fifth and sixth most expensive housing markets in the country, according to Bankrate.com.

But here's the good news: two rural housing champions in those states have found creative ways to build affordable housing.

Moab, Utah, along the Colorado River, draws at least 5 million tourists annually for mountain biking, rafting, four-wheeling, and visiting two nearby national parks. But the town's real estate has long been pricey, and back in 2004, a Moab loan officer named Emily Niehaus realized that the only affordable housing in her hometown was mostly older trailer homes.

She also knew that national loan programs such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac excluded loans for trailers built before 1976.

Harnessing both frustration and ingenuity, she founded a nonprofit, Community Rebuilds, to tap into USDA's Section 502 Direct Loan Program. It pegs monthly payments for housing to residents' income. To cut costs she looked for "dirt cheap materials," coming up with strawbale construction that mixes dirt and straw.

Today, 72 new houses — and counting — have gone up. Niehaus, who also served as mayor of Moab, said that she liked getting things done fast, learning along the way.

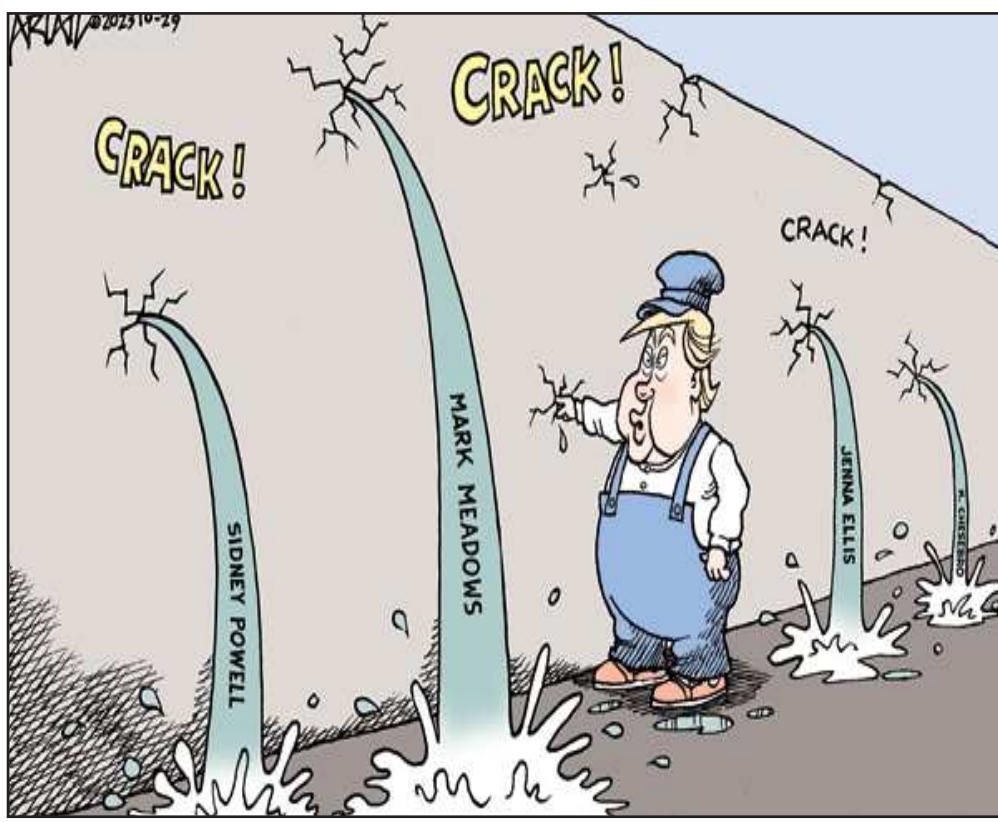
In the beginning, Niehaus had little operating money and no workforce. Then she met 20-something Noah Aptekar, who was "couch-surfing" his way home from a cross-country bike trip.

Niehaus said she made him a deal: "For

Writers On The Range



Dave Marston



every student you're able to recruit to build strawbale houses, I'll give you a hundred dollars. I need eight to start." Aptekar, who now works for SpaceX, delivered six women and two men.

Niehaus quickly points out that Moab is known as "a cool place" to hang out. Offering young people a place to sleep, a stipend for food, and an education in handmade housing won't work everywhere in the West, but in Moab it was magic.

When Community Rebuilds sells a home to qualified residents, the cost is about \$220,000, though the houses are worth \$500,000 on the open market. To block flipping, the \$280,000 in equity is transferred to the owners over a period of 20 years.

Niehaus said that USDA's Direct Loan Program for rural areas restricts buyers to those who make 80% of an area's median income. Typically, that's \$37,000 for a household of two.

There's a long waiting list for houses, but Niehaus, who has been succeeded as boss by Rikki Epperson, said applicants usually spend those years cleaning up their credit to qualify for a mortgage. Nie-

haus added that financial counseling is a key component to spurring home ownership.

Over in the western Colorado town of Montrose, Carlton Mason has also developed a novel way to build houses for the rural unhoused. The ex-builder constructs communities for young adults aging out of foster care, and recently he included senior citizens needing housing as well.

He got into housing because of his job as director of CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates, for the 7th Judicial District in western Colorado, covering six counties.

Mason said he found that 18-year-olds newly on their own needed lots of help. But what they especially needed was somewhere to live. His first project, called 1st Place on 2nd Street, was completed in 2018 by tapping into state, federal and foundation grants, providing housing in Montrose for up to 12 residents.

The suicide of one of those residents shook Mason. In response, he beefed up residential support: "Residents needed to build relationships with trusted adults who could also give advice about saving money and staying employed or in school.

To submit news, email:
news@alamosanews.com

To submit sports, email:
khamrick@alamosanews.com

Letters policy

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

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

They needed to know adults actually cared about them."

"We've thrown money at housing for decades," he added, "and often we end up with blighted communities. Providing adequate and safe housing is just the first step in helping the most disadvantaged people."

Both Mason and Niehaus agree that their method of harnessing a variety of funding isn't for everyone.

"I've been asked to advise other communities on how to build houses for middle-income residents," Niehaus said. "But I only know how to build houses for low-income residents using volunteer labor and USDA funding."

As for Mason, who's on a roll to build more needed housing on non-agricultural land, he said. "I've had to learn as I went, but as support got bigger, I saw we can get things done I never thought possible."

Dave Marston is the publisher of Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring conversation about Western Issues. He lives in Durango.

Wrapping up Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By JANINE JIRON
Victim Advocate

October is a special month for Tu Casa, Inc., as it provides the time and space to remember and honor victims and survivors of domestic violence, as it's nationally recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). During this month, the Tu Casa Program encouraged the community to wear purple every Thursday so that as a whole, our community can stand and support survivors. The color purple is nationally recognized to be a symbol of peace, courage, survival, honor and dedication to ending domestic violence. The Tu Casa Program encourages everyone to let their purple shine next October. Tu Casa, Inc. staff was also seen at the Alamosa County Commissioners meeting, Mineral County Commissioners meeting, and the Alamosa City Council meeting to have proclamations declared for the month of October, formally recognizing it as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Tu Casa, Inc. appreciates the solidarity and support from our community leaders in this effort.

For DVAM, Tu Casa, Inc. joined with partners and the community throughout the San Luis Valley to raise awareness about domestic violence. Tu Casa, Inc. started the month with a "Kick-off" article in local Newspapers written by the Tu Casa Program Director, Megan Lang; each week different community partners wrote an article throughout the month to highlight DVAM. The articles that were included were written by 12th Judicial

District Attorney, Anne Kelly, and the SLV Immigrant Resource Center's Maricela Lucas. The month wrapped up again with Tu Casa Program Director, Megan Lang and Janine Jiron writing articles. These articles were found in all the newspapers that are distributed through Valley Publishing. The Tu Casa Program staff posted empowering messages and events on their social media sites, which can be found at the bottom of this article.

On Oct. 6, Tu Casa, Inc. staff set up a booth at Spare Keg in downtown Alamosa for our Purple Light Campaign. During this time, staff gave out purple light bulbs. The campaign was created to promote domestic violence awareness and remind survivors that our community supports them. The Tu Casa Program encourages everyone to take these purple light bulbs for their porch to light up the night purple.

On Oct. 18, Tu Casa, Inc. Outreach Coordinator, Tiffany Martinez-Aponte, hosted a special Lunch and Learn at SLVBHG, where community members were able to learn more about DVAM from our Victim Advocates, Mari Avila and Janine Jiron. Attendees also joined in our community outreach project: Painted Rocks. These rocks are placed throughout the community for survivors to find, so they can contact the Tu Casa Program for support when they are ready. This is one of Tu Casa's biggest outreach projects; these rocks provide discrete messages throughout the San Luis Valley for survivors or individuals that are still facing domestic

violence to see Tu Casa, Inc. is here, they are not alone, and there is help available to them.

Tu Casa, Inc. ended the month with our annual "Light Up the Night" event. This bilingual event was held on Friday, Oct. 27, under the West Pavilion in Cole Park, Alamosa. The event was to honor those who have been impacted by domestic violence, whether through survivorship or knowing a loved one who's been victimized. The ceremony started with Tu Casa, Inc. Executive Director, Theresa Ortega, delivering a heart warming welcome. Mayor Ty Coleman came out in support of DVAM and survivors to read aloud the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation. Janine Jiron, Victim Advocate and Juana P. Francisco, Trilingual Family Advocate led community members down a path of luminarias to the Rio Grande, candles in hand lit in honor of victims and survivors. Victims were honored in English and Spanish leading up to a moment of silence after which carnations were dropped into the river to honor how people are impacted by domestic violence.

The night continued with guest speakers Angelica Raya-Trejo, Maricela Lucas, and Cassandra Arreola of the San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center, sharing a poem written by a collaborative group of clients they have served. District Attorney, Anne Kelly, spoke about her experience working with survivors of domestic violence and the importance of community based agencies like Tu Casa,

Inc, the Immigrant Resource Center, and La Puente. The floor was open for any individuals to share their stories or, why this event is important to them. Tu Casa Program Director, Megan Lang, closed out the event showing gratitude for the support of the community. Attendees were welcomed to stay, ask questions about services and how to support survivors while they enjoyed hot cocoa graciously provided by the Alamosa Starbucks and homemade cookies made by staff.

Though the month of October is over, Tu Casa, Inc. continues their mission to empower children and adults to live healthy, violence free lives throughout the San Luis Valley. The Tu Casa Program continues to host Domestic Violence 101 support groups every Tuesday through December 5th. Services are free, bilingual, voluntary, and confidential. If you have experienced or are experiencing domestic violence and would like to engage in services, please reach out to our 24-hour hotline at 719-589-2465. Learn more, or make a donation, on our website at www.slvtucasa.net. If you'd like to volunteer and work directly with survivors, contact Lang and ask about volunteering with our 24-hour hotline. Hotline volunteers are paid a small stipend for their time and services. Background checks are required.

For more information and to stay up to date with events, follow our social media accounts — Facebook: Tu Casa, Inc. And Instagram: slvtucasa.

LETTER

MVFD's annual Chili Supper set for Nov. 11

Editor,

Once again, it is that time of year to come have a delicious bowl of chili with your community's firefighters, neighbors, and friends.

There will also be potatoes, broccoli and cheese, ice cream, cake, and refreshments. Many door prizes will be given away.

Most importantly while attending the

Chili Supper, you can browse the station and all the tools and equipment your donations have provided the fire department throughout the years will be on display. Previous

donations have helped us in purchasing battery-powered chainsaws, battery-powered fans, and thermal cameras. This year with your help, we hope to reach our goal of purchasing more specialized equipment for our various fire apparatus.

In 2023, our department has responded to over 200 calls and is on pace to meet or exceed the call volume from previous years. These calls range from structure fires, fire alarms, car accidents, grass fires, and gas leaks. The department also works together with other Valley departments when called on for mutual aid. In addition to responding to the many calls, the firefighters have participated in hundreds of combined training hours to be better prepared when a particular emergency arises.

In closing, please join us for our annual Chili Supper. Every firefighter looks forward to seeing our friends, families, and community there. The date, place and time again is Nov. 11, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Monte Vista Fire Department, 401 S. Broadway.

The Monte Vista Fire Department would like to thank you for your continued support. MVFD Fundraising Committee

Keith R Cerny
Publisher

Brian Williams
Managing Editor

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.

coloradopress
ASSOCIATION

Debbie Sowards
Adam Lopez
John Waters
Priscilla Waggoner

Advertising Manager
Advertising & Digital Sales
News Editor
Staff Writer

Ryker Alonzo
Ken Hamrick
Shasta Quintana
Richard R. Quintana

Editorial Assistant
Sports Editor
Circulation
Mailroom Supervisor/Press

Your FIRST Source for Local News

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

Lifestyles

Trick or Treat



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

Halloween kicked off at Rio Grande County Social Services on Tuesday morning, Oct. 31, as students from Del Norte Head Start gathered for some trick or treating fun. Staff at the county pass out candy and enjoy celebrating Halloween with students dressed in costumes.



My Sister's Pantry

Tuesday — Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 210 North Broadway
 Monte Vista, CO 81144

mysisterspantryss.com
 mysisterspantry.ss@gmail.com
 /mysisterspantrypicesseasonings
 @mysisterspantryllc

UPCOMING GRIZZLY ATHLETIC EVENTS

Friday, November 3
 Men & Women's Swim at University of Nebraska at Kearney Invitational at Kearney, Neb. (Two Days)
 TBA
 Women's Volleyball at Fort Lewis College at Durango, Colo.
 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 4
 Women's Wrestling at Grand Junction, Colo.
 9:00 a.m.
 Men & Women's Cross Country vs NCAA South Central Regional Championship at Lubbock, Tex.
 9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
 Football at Black Hills State University at Spearfish, S.D.
 1:00 p.m.
 Women's Volleyball at Western Colorado University at Gunnison, Colo.
 6:00 p.m.
 Women's Basketball vs West Texas A&M University at Lubbock, Tex.
 11:00 a.m.

MONTE VISTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

VENDOR REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!
 VISIT MONTEVISTACHAMBER.ORG TO REGISTER BY NOV 17!

DECEMBER 1ST & 2ND
 DEC 1 - 10 AM - 7 PM
 DEC 2 - 9 AM - 4 PM

SKI HI COMPLEX, MONTE VISTA, COLORADO

VISIT SANTA & THE GRINCH AT WHOVILLE!

PHOTO PACKAGES AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND PETS!

COLORADO PACIFIC RIO GRANDE RAILROAD

CHRISTMAS TRAIN

DECEMBER 2 | 4 PM - 6 PM
 FULLENWIDER PARK, MONTE VISTA, COLORADO

OPERATION LIFESAVER COLORING BOOKS FOR ALL CHILDREN WHO COME TO SEE THE CHRISTMAS TRAIN! TAKE YOUR PHOTO WITH SANTA AND THE GRINCH!

5:15 COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY & CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT FULLENWIDER PARK, MONTE VISTA, CO. PARADE OF LIGHTS BEGINS AT 6 PM.

SCAN TO REGISTER

Sports

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD MONDAY
College women's soccer
Colorado-Col-Colorado Springs 5, Adams State 0

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

THURSDAY
College men's basketball
Adams State at Weber State (exhibition), 7 p.m.

FRIDAY
Prep girls gymnastics
Alamosa at Class 4A State Meet (at Thornton), 3 p.m.

Prep girls volleyball
Sangre de Cristo at McClave (Class 1A Region 3 Tournament), 1 p.m.

Salida at Centauri (Class 3A Region 10 Tournament), 2 p.m.
Salida vs. Sterling (Class 3A Region 10 Tournament at La Jara), TBA

Sterling at Centauri (Class 3A Region 10 Tournament), TBA
College women's volleyball
Adams State at Fort Lewis, 6 p.m.

College swimming
Adams State at Nebraska-Kearney Invitational, TBA

SATURDAY
Prep football
Alamosa at Delta (Class 2A State Playoffs first round), 1 p.m.

Arickaree at Sierra Grande at six-man state playoffs first round), 1 p.m.
Centauri at Wray (Class 1A State Playoffs first round), 1 p.m.

Sanford at Byers (eight-man state playoffs first round), 1 p.m.
Prep girls gymnastics
Alamosa at Class 4A State Meet (at Thornton), 1:30 p.m.

Prep volleyball
Basalt at Alamosa (Class 3A Region 9 Tournament), 10 a.m.

Del Norte at Plateau Valley (Class 2A Region 6 Tournament), 10 a.m.
Basalt vs. University (Class 3A Region 9 Tournament), TBA

Del Norte vs. Loveland Classical Academy (Class 2A Region 6 Tournament at Collbran), TBA

Sanford vs. St. Mary's (Class 2A Region 4 Tournament at Littleton), TBA
Sanford at Front Range Christian (Class 2A Region 4 Tournament), TBA

Sargent vs. Olathe (Class 2A Region 5 Tournament at Mancos), TBA
Sargent at Mancos (Class 2A Region 5 Tournament), TBA

University at Alamosa (Class 3A Region 9 Tournament), TBA
College football
Adams State at Black Hills State (S.D.), 1 p.m.

College cross country
Adams State at NCAA South Central Region Championship (at Lubbock, Texas), TBA

College women's volleyball
Adams State at Western Colorado, 6 p.m.

College women's basketball
Adams State vs. West Texas A&M (D2CCA Tipoff Classic at Lubbock, Texas), 11 a.m.

College swimming
Adams State at Nebraska-Kearney Invitational, TBA

College women's wrestling
Adams State at Colorado Mesa, 9 a.m.

Four local football teams advance to state tournament

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Colorado High School Activities Association released the brackets for the state football playoffs on Monday.

The brackets are posted on the CHSAANow.com web site.

In Class 2A, Alamosa is the 16th seed and it will travel to top-seeded Delta on Saturday for a 1 p.m. kickoff.

Other Tri-Peaks League teams to advance include seventh-seeded La Junta which will host Pagosa Springs, and 11th-seeded Florence which will travel to Greeley to take on University.

In Class 1A, Centauri is the 10th seed and it will travel to play seventh-seeded Wray Saturday at 1 p.m.

In eight-man football, Sanford is the 11th seed and it will travel to face sixth-seeded Byers Saturday at 1 p.m.

Two other Mountain League teams



advanced as top-ranked Mancos will host 16th-seeded Fowler on Friday at 6 p.m. Dove Creek is the fifth seed and it will host Vail Christian Saturday at 1 p.m.

In six-man football, eighth-seeded Sierra Grande is the only local team to host a first round game as it will play ninth-seeded Arickaree on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Three other teams from the Southwest League also advanced. Branson/Kim is the seventh seed and it will host 10th-seeded Peetz. La Veta is the 11th seed and it will travel to sixth-seeded Cheyenne Wells, and 15th-seeded Primero will travel to second-seeded Otis.

Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

Alamosa High School quarterback Dyson Woodward looks for an open receiver in last Friday's game against Woodland Park. The Mean Moose will travel to top-ranked Delta for the Class 2A State Playoffs this coming Saturday.

Six local volleyball teams to compete at regional tournaments

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Colorado High School Activities Association released the brackets for the volleyball regional tournaments on Monday.

The brackets are posted on the CHSAANow.com web site.

In Class 3A, both Alamosa and Centauri high schools will host regional tournaments.

The Lady Mean Moose will host the Class 3A Region 8 Tournament on Saturday. They are the eighth overall seed will begin the tournament against 29th-seeded Basalt at 10 a.m. Basalt will play 17th-seeded University in the second match, and Alamosa will play University in the third match.

The Lady Falcons are the 10th seed and will host the Class 3A Region 10 Tournament on Friday. Their first match is against 27th-seeded Salida at 2 p.m., and the second match is Salida versus 15th-seeded Sterling. Centauri will play Sterling in the final match.

In Class 2A, Sargent, Del Norte and Sanford all qualified for regional tournaments.

The Lady Mustangs will be at



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

Centauri High School's Saige Hostetter (6) hits the ball while Alamosa's Aubrey Rothermich (11) goes up for the block in a match played earlier this season. Both schools will host Class 3A Regional Tournaments this weekend with the Lady Falcons hosting the Region 10 Tournament on Friday, and the Lady Mean Moose hosting the Region 8 Tournament on Saturday.

the Class 2A Region 4 Tournament in Littleton on Saturday and they are the 21st seed. After 33rd-seeded St. Mary's plays Front fourth-seeded Range Christian at 10 a.m., Sanford will play St. Mary's in the second match and Front Range Christian in the third.

The Lady Farmers will play in the Class 2A Region 5 Tournament in Mancos on Saturday. They are the 20th seed and will face 32nd-seeded Olathe in the second match and fifth-seeded Mancos in the third. Mancos and Olathe will play at 11 a.m.

The Lady Tigers will play in the Class 2A Region 6 Tournament in Collbran on Saturday. They are the 31st seed will play in the opener against host and sixth-seeded Plateau Valley at 10 a.m., and then play 9th-seeded Loveland Classical Academy in the second match.

Sangre de Cristo will play in the Class 1A Region 3 Match at McClave Friday at 1 p.m. The Lady Thunderbirds are the 22nd seed will have a single match against the third-seeded Lady Cardinals which feature former Alamosa student-athlete Emily Melgoza.

Eight Lady Moose gymnasts to compete individually at state meet

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Colorado High School Activities Association released the list of qualifiers for the state gymnastics tournament on Monday.

The qualifiers are listed on the CHSAANow.com web site.

Even though Alamosa High School did not qualify as a team, eight

Lady Mean Moose will be competing individually.

Five will compete on the uneven bars. The list includes Hailey Martin, McKenzie Jones, Holly McDaniel, Braelyn Martinez and Kai Tandberg. McDaniel, Martin, Martinez, Kianna Morales and Janelle Hernandez will compete on the floor exercise. McDaniel, Martin, Jones, Martinez and Emilee

Cook will compete on the vault. McDaniel, Martin, Jones and Hernandez will compete on the balance beam.

Alamosa will compete in Group B.

The meet will begin Friday at 3:10 p.m. and will continue Saturday at 1:30 p.m. The meet will take place at Thornton High School.



It doesn't grow on trees. But it might with this rate!

4.25% APY*

For 13 month Certificate of Deposit

Member FDIC

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 8/15/23. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. CD will automatically renew at the end of the term for 12 months. Fees on account may reduce earnings. Minimum balance to open is \$500. Minimum balance required to earn the APY is \$500.

4.25% APY*

Lifestyle

Tri-County decorates for Halloween



Courtesy photo

Tri-County Senior Living Center in Monte Vista has its annual Halloween decorations up and ready for trick or treaters. The residents enjoy visits from local youth and look forward to seeing their costumes every year, center officials said.



Photo by Diane Drekman

The Fort Garland Museum had a Fright Night on Oct. 27.

Spooky stories shared at Fort Garland Museum Fright Night

By DIANE DREKMAN

FORT GARLAND

The Fort Garland Museum had a Fright Night on Oct. 27. Iava Williams, who is an intern at the museum, gave a tour of the fort, complete with ghostly tales.

People gathered in the privates' quarters to hear from Gus Miller what some have experienced over the years.

"There are many instances where re-enactors would hear something and nothing would be there," Miller said.

Josh Ortiz told the tale of the Espinoza brothers, who reportedly killed 25-30 people in response to their sibling being killed and not honoring the land grant.

Alec Bryant shared facts about the infamous Alferd Packer and the story of cannibalism at Donner Pass in California.

As the story goes, "Alferd Packer went to Sanguache after the event," Bryant said. "People be-

came suspicious because six people started the journey. Packer is the only one who survived, and he had more than when he started. Packer was eventually found guilty of murder and hanged."

Bryant also related the popular tale of Maria here in San Luis Valley. The story is about 500 years old and is about a woman, Maria, who drowned her children and then herself after seeing her husband with another woman.

The tour went through the barracks and jail cells where they had "skeletons" of the prisoners.

Fright Night had a bright side. In the brightly lit Mess Hall, families enjoyed baked potatoes with all the fixings, and games like cupcake toss and knockout.

The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area representatives were also on hand. They are a non-profit involved in preserving, protecting

culture, and historical buildings across Colorado

The Fort Garland Museum will continue festivities for the Day of the Dead from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Nov. 4. There is an ofrenda in the privates' quarters where the ghost stories were told. People can bake traditional bread "Pan de Muerto" or Bread of the Dead in the traditional outdoor oven called an horno that day. Children will be performing folklorico dances. There will also be crafts.

Antonia Ortiz, museum educator, also "invites the community to come the second Thursday of the month for "Vecinos" (neighbors) coffee from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be hot cocoa, tea, and coffee. A local couple plays music. Sometimes there is a potluck. It is a time for neighbors and the community to gather. Ortiz hopes to have monthly events like crafts or paint nights.

MVC
MONTE VISTA COOP
OIL SALE
719-852-5181
YOU CAN WIN!
VISIT MVCOOP.COM FOR DETAILS
OFFER VALID NOV 1 - DEC 31

PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST
Whether you are home or away, protect what matters most from unexpected power outages with a Generac Home Standby Generator.
\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS
Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions.
REQUEST A FREE QUOTE
CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE
(719) 895-6158
FREE 7-year Extended Warranty* - A \$735 Value!
*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.
GENERAC

Classifieds

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. Apply at 0310 County Road 14, DEL NORTE, CO 81132 or online at www.rgrandehospital.org (11/15/23)

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

MONTE VISTA HEAD START is accepting applications for a TEACHER AID. This position is full time, 38 hours/ week. Must have a Colorado Shines Level 2 or equivalent. Starting pay is \$15.50 to \$16.25 depends on experience. Applications are available at Monte Vista Head Start, 2863 Sherman Ave., MONTE VISTA, Colorado. For more information, you may contact the Director by email, Director@MVheadstart.org or call 719-852-3215. An employment application must be complete. Position open until filled. (11/4/23)

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS now hiring BREAKFAST MANAGER. Apply in person. (11/4/23)

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

AUTO TECHNICIAN: HIRING BONUS. Competitive wages. Health, dental, 401k, PTO and paid holidays. Monday-Friday. Pick up application at AUTOMOTIVE CONCEPTS in ALAMOSA or email resume to info@autoconcepts.us (11/3/23)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

MOUNTAIN VALLEY SERVICES is a rapidly growing construction company seeking an ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. This full-time position requires outstanding personal skills, organization, and general computer application skills focusing on MS Office and the Google work environment. Salary will be commensurate with experience and skills related to these requirements. Applications can be obtained by emailing tyler.mt.valley@gmail.com or calling 719-376-5365. Deadline for application is November 1st, 2023. (11/3/23)

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

221 - HELP WANTED

MOUNTAIN VALLEY SERVICES is a rapidly growing construction company wanting an additional team member to work as a full-time MECHANIC located in ANTONITO, Colorado. This position requires a working knowledge of repairing heavy equipment, trucks and most vehicles. Salary will be commensurate with experience and skills related to these requirements. Applications can be obtained by emailing tyler.mt.valley@gmail.com or calling 719-376-5365. Deadline for application is November 1st, 2023. (11/3/23)

LUBE TECH/GENERAL SERVICE: HIRING BONUS. Competitive wages. Health, dental, 401k, PTO and paid holidays. Monday-Friday. Pick up application at AUTOMOTIVE CONCEPTS in ALAMOSA or email resume to info@autoconcepts.us (11/3/23)

SLV REGIONAL LANDFILL is accepting applications for a full-time EQUIPMENT OPERATOR. Benefits include 100% Paid Employee Only Health, Dental & Vision Insurance, Sick/Vacation Leave, Retirement Match. Applications & Job Description can be picked up at the SLV Landfill office or visit our website http://slvlandfill.com for more information. Starting wage \$17.00 per hour depending on experience. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. For more information, contact Leonard Brown (719)-852-3810 or lbrown@slvlandfill.com (11/11/23)

Always the Last to Know?

If you keep finding out about local events after they happen, it's time to subscribe to the Valley Courier.

Subscribe today and stay connected to your world.

Valley Courier
719-589-2553

You'll find it all in the ... Business & Service Directory
• Easy to Read Format • Affordable • Seen 4 Days a Week
To Place Your Ad Call (719) 589-2553

Advertising
Advertise Your Business in this SPACE
Only \$99 per month*
*3 month commitment

d dylan brown agency
Local Medicare Help
719-350-6941
2415 Mullins Avenue
Alamosa, CO 81101
Dbrown1@farmersagent.com
Katrina.dbrown1@farmersagency.com
Dylan Brown Katrina Brown
*Medicare Advantage *Supplements *Part D Prescription Plans

STORAGE
ALAMOSA STORAGE
5929 Road South 106
Alamosa, CO 81101
Call us today or visit our website
alamosastorage.com
(719) 992-3440

Advertising
Advertise Your Business in this SPACE
Only \$99 per month*
*3 month commitment

Attorney
ATENCIO LAW
719.589.6005
• Civil Litigation
• Real Estate • Water Law
• Business Law
• Wills & Probate
STEVE ATENCIO
Unbundled Legal Services steve@atenciolaw.net
www.atenciolaw.net
PROUDLY SERVING CLIENTS THROUGHOUT THE SAN LUIS VALLEY

Architecture
SPENCER ARCHITECTURE STUDIO
Your Local SLV Architecture Firm for Residential, Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural Projects
Don Spencer, A.I.A., Licensed Architect, 719-696-5783
Dan Naiman, Architect Senior Architect
spencerarchitecturestudio.com

Auctioneering
A&B AUCTION SERVICES LLC Brady Stagner (719)588-2573
Email: aandbauctions@gmail.com
For All Your Auction Needs
*Farm *Ranch *Benefit *Household *Fundraising
www.aandbauctions.com

Electrical
ALPINE ELECTRIC INC.
82 CONEJOS ALAMOSA
719-589-9144

Earth Moving
Earthworks of Southern Colorado LLC
Troy Geringer 719-480-1256
• Trenching • Dirt Work
• Ditch Cleaning • Grading
• Site Cleaning & Prep • Excavation
• Driveway Construction & Gravel • Snow Removal
• Landscaping • House Pads
• Stream Bank Restoration
• Ironwork Welding & Fabrication
• Tractor Mowing

Taxidermy
Ask about our 6 month guarantee!
JULY'S TAXIDERMY Est. 1995
719-480-9300

Real Estate
Greg & Jeni Goodwin
PORTER REALTY, INC.
503 Main Street, Alamosa, CO
719-589-5899
www.PorterRealty.com
greg@porterrealty.com (719) 580-5395
jeni@porterrealty.com (719) 580-2636
♦ Excellent Service ♦ Expert Advice ♦ Exceptional Results

Advertising
Advertise Your Business in this SPACE
Only \$99 per month*
*3 month commitment

FOOD TRUCK
SUAVECITO Follow us on Facebook
719-588-7485
Catering located in the parking lot in front of Little Caesars.

RESTAURANT
Flour and Pops Dinner Service coming soon!
Country Kitchen
Lunch and Breakfast
Thursday - Monday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Closed Tuesday & Wednesday
Outdoor Seating Available
111 Spruce Street • La Jara
Follow us on Facebook

LOCKSMITH
Locked Out? Lost Your keys? Just Need a spare? We've Got You Covered!
• Smart Keys • Transponders • Fobs
Serving The San Luis Valley And Surrounding Areas
Call or Text us Today 719-MrK-Lock (719-675-5625)
MrKLock.com
Mr. K Lock & Key
LOCKSMITH
719-MrK-LOCK - (719-675-5625)

AUCTIONS
Tailgate Consignment Auctions
at the Community Building next to Quality Timbers on S.R. 285 • Antonito
719.580.3339
Auction Dates
10-7-2023 11-4-2023
10-21-2023 11-18-23

Real Estate
Results that Move You!
Schulz Realty
Audrey Cowan Lisa Luero Marie Schulz Candice Hennigh Ray Johnson
(719) 589-6977 • www.slvproperties.com

Stucco
Sanchez Plastering & Masonry
Synthetic Traditional Patches Interior Exterior Paint
Fully Insured & Bonded Fully Licensed Work Guaranteed
(719) 486-6781

Tires
Jim's Tire Store
711 1/2 State Ave. • Alamosa
719-589-9690
NEW • USED • RECAPPED
Great Service!

Plumbing & Remodeling
DEREK'S Plumbing & Remodeling
Derek Marquez
Master Plumber, Plumbing Contractor
(719) 588-0682
dereksplumbing@outlook.com
1110 Alamosa Ave. • Alamosa, CO

We Buy Cars
FREE Estimates
We Welcome Insurance Claims
L&M Paint & Body Shop
8425 Rd. 8 South • Alamosa
589-9205

Construction
ZTEC Construction
5" & 6" SEAMLESS RAIN GUTTERS
Free Estimates
Mervin Fisher 719.992.1396
14972 CR 13 • La Jara, CO 81140

Get Your Service Out there! call the Valley Courier Today! 589-2553

Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED: COOK & WAITRESS (will train) at the Wagon Wheel in LA JARA. Contact Margie, 719-274-5965. (11/1/23)

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)

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)

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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 26 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

KENMORE 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)

BRAND NEW, 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@slvavs.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)

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

Apartments
166 S. Wills Center, Colo
754-3664

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

Accepting Applications for 2 & 3 bedroom family units

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

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

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

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

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

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)



Haven't You Heard?

Buying and Selling in the Valley Courier Classifieds can be the Best Way to get the most Bang for Your Buck!

Give Us a Try!



Valley Courier

589-2553



Subscribe Today!

Lunch Break. We're There.

Valley Courier 589-2553

Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Gift for dad
 - 4 Hula —
 - 8 Shut with force
 - 12 Cold and wet
 - 13 English queen
 - 14 Source of poi
 - 15 Grow older
 - 16 Employer
 - 17 In the company of
 - 18 Group spirit
 - 20 Try a little of
 - 22 Rain-soaked
 - 23 Game official
 - 24 Fine violin
 - 27 Carefree
 - 28 Pen brand
 - 31 Chef
 - 32 Soon-to-open flower
 - 33 Middling (hyph.)
 - 34 Orchestra member
 - 35 Cakes and —
 - 36 Corridor
- DOWN**
- 1 Streetcar
 - 2 Villain in Shakespeare
 - 3 Pitcher
 - 4 Transported
 - 5 Commencement
 - 6 "The loneliest number"
 - 7 Try to convince
 - 8 — of approval
 - 9 Light source
 - 10 Seed cover
 - 11 Fashion
 - 19 With eyes wide open
 - 21 Actress — Poehler
 - 24 Flat-bottom boat
 - 25 Soliloquy start (2 wds.)
 - 26 Crucifix
 - 27 Wide gap
 - 28 Wild swine
 - 29 — of Wight
 - 30 Unfeeling
 - 32 Place for a banquet
 - 33 Portion
 - 38 — de-vie
 - 39 Add water to
 - 40 Tough question
 - 41 Plant-sucking insect
 - 42 Pickle flavor
 - 43 Ohio's lake
 - 44 Climbing plant
 - 46 Rudiments
 - 47 Poet — Teasdale
 - 48 Sufficient, formerly
 - 51 Lawyers' org.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

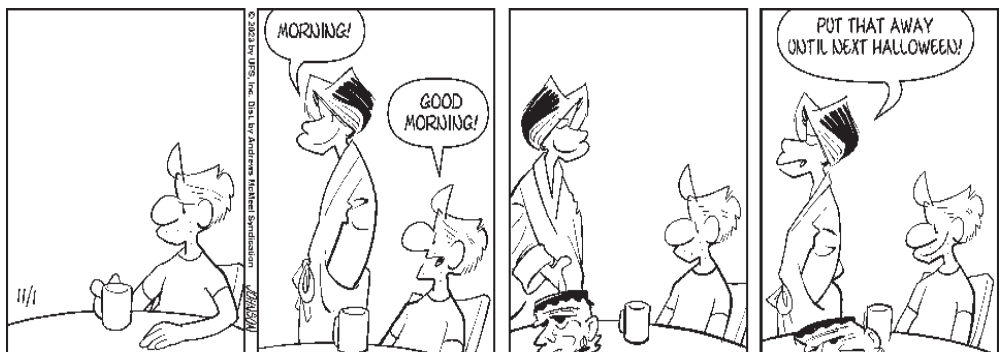
- ACROSS**
- 6 "The loneliest number"
 - 7 Try to convince
 - 8 — of approval
 - 9 Light source
 - 10 Seed cover
 - 11 Fashion
 - 19 With eyes wide open
 - 21 Actress — Poehler
 - 24 Flat-bottom boat
 - 25 Soliloquy start (2 wds.)
 - 26 Crucifix
 - 27 Wide gap
 - 28 Wild swine
 - 29 — of Wight
 - 30 Unfeeling
 - 32 Place for a banquet
 - 33 Portion
 - 38 — de-vie
 - 39 Add water to
 - 40 Tough question
 - 41 Plant-sucking insect
 - 42 Pickle flavor
 - 43 Ohio's lake
 - 44 Climbing plant
 - 46 Rudiments
 - 47 Poet — Teasdale
 - 48 Sufficient, formerly
 - 51 Lawyers' org.

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

ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



BIG NATE



THE BORN LOSER



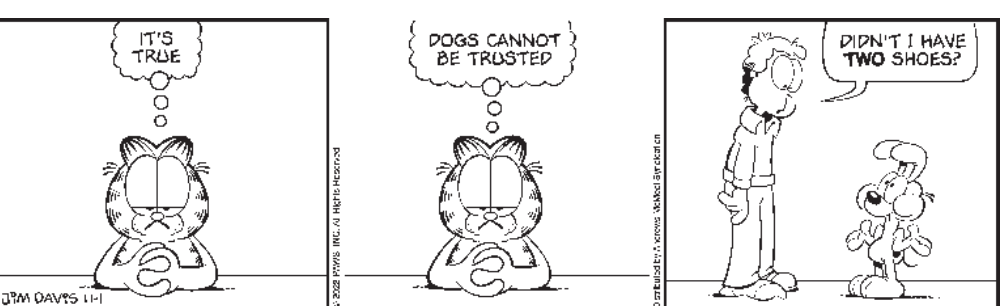
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



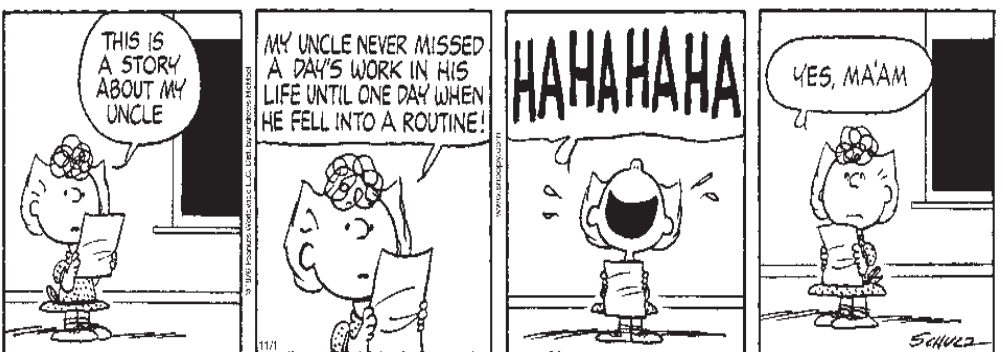
GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



Family wants friendship with gay man to end

DEAR ABBY: I live in a rural community in southern Indiana. It's an "everyone goes to church on Sunday, and everyone knows everyone" kind of place. I was employed at the local health care center here for almost four years before quitting to become a full-time caregiver and homemaker.

During my time at the health care facility, I became acquainted with an elderly gentleman. We became good friends, and remain good friends to this day. I visit with him several times a week, when time allows, and we talk on the telephone.

The problem is, his family doesn't like that I am a homosexual male and that I have such a close relationship with him. He does not want me to stop visiting, nor do I want to. What can I do to make everyone relax, so he and I can still remain good friends without someone disapproving? -- UNAPPRECIATED FRIEND

folks?

If you and that gentleman want to remain friends, you may have to grow a thicker skin. You cannot please everyone, and whether his family "approves" is beside the point. I hope you will keep doing what you have been doing because it is beneficial for that man to have a friend he can count on.

DEAR ABBY: My sister, who is quite a bit older than me, was married to a man for more than 20 years. He was a part of my family from the time I was 3. When I was a teenager, he made a "move" on me, which was disgusting because I trusted him. My family swept it under the rug and downplays it to this day. If that wasn't enough, I twice caught him cheating on my sister. They eventually divorced.

As an adult, I want nothing to do with him. However, my sister and mother insist on him being involved in our important gatherings. I feel they completely disregard my feelings, and I have since removed myself from those gatherings. I feel cheated, but they say it's "necessary" for him to be around their shared children, and they keep trying to make me feel like I am being unreasonable. Am I? -- LITTLE SISTER IN TENNES-



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

SEE

DEAR SISTER: You are not unreasonable; you are pragmatic. You come from a family that prefers to ignore misbehavior rather than confront and deal with it. I don't know if you have had psychotherapy, but from what you have written you might have -- and with a very competent therapist.

Enforcing boundaries is not unreasonable. While your sister and mother may prefer hiding their heads in the sand "for the sake of the children," who by now should be pretty close to adulthood, you have every right to keep your distance. From my perspective, what you are doing is healthy.

Lifestyle



Halloween Festival draws goblins and other little monsters

By MARIE MCCOLM
MONTE VISTA — Fullenweider Park came to life with tiny witches, little zombies, werewolves, wizards, skeletons, and other more to enjoy all the games, candy, and festivities on Friday, Oct. 27, for the Halloween Festival.

The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce along with the Mystic Valley Art Council and the San Luis Valley Heathens hosted and organized the event, that drew approximately 200 people to the park. In one corner of the park a large maze was set up with hay bales. Children wearing costumes walked and ran through the maze and laughed while enjoying candy and talking with friends. The scent of popcorn filled the air at the park.

Children had their faces painted with sparkly designs and fun temporary tattoos designed for Halloween by Get Inked of Monte Vista. A giant Bigfoot walked all over the park talking to all the children, making some of the kids scream with delight and laugh as he gave the kids handshakes, hugs, and growls.

There were approximately seven cars set up for trunk or treat and many children could be seen getting candy from the cars as they ran happily from car to car. All over the park adults were dressed up with their children. One family was dressed up like the Adams Family complete with Morticia, Gomez, Thing, and Wednesday. The family's golden retriever had a striped shirt on to represent Pugsley.

Irene Sandoval had her grandchildren with her who were dressed up as the twin girls from the movie "The Shining."

"Everyone looks so happy out here. It's so cold, but nobody is leaving. I think they are having too much fun. My granddaughters ran through the maze and keep wanting to go again. Whoever put this on, did a good job. We like it," Sandoval said.

One little girl who was dressed like Jessie the Cowgirl from "Toy Story" kept telling her little brother who was dressed like Buzz from "Toy Story," "To Infinity and Beyond," as she ran through the park.

Rebecca and Adrian Hurtado were part of the trunk or treat giving out candy at the event. Rebecca said, "We have had a great turn out tonight, lots of kids coming to get candy. This is a great event for the family and community."

Tony Ortega and his wife, DJ Ortega, were at the event with their two children. Tony said, "It's cold but this is just fun. The Bigfoot was pretty cool walking all over the park and that maze thing is a great idea. It helps to have stuff like this, the kids really love it. I wish they would have kept Moonlight Madness like they had it before though, with the businesses the same night too, but this is pretty fun. As a family we have had fun."



Photos by Marie Mccolm
About 200 people attended the Halloween Festival on Oct. 27 at Fullenweider Park in Monte Vista. The Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce along with the Mystic Valley Art Council and the San Luis Valley Heathens hosted and organized the event.



kids' corner

FOOD FACT!

DESPITE BEING CALLED A "NUT," THIS FOOD IS ACTUALLY A LEGUME, OR A MEMBER OF A BEAN/PEA FAMILY OF PLANTS.

ANSWER: PEANUT

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Lunch
SPANISH: Comida
ITALIAN: Pranzo
FRENCH: Déjeuner
GERMAN: Mittagessen

Math Blocks
 Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-10. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

0		8	11
	2		17
1		4	12
7	12	21	

Solution

4	7	1
6	2	9
8	3	0

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

O T H M S O N D A R C A E Y M

ANSWER: Smooth and creamy

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1924:** NELLIE TAYLOR ROSS BECOMES THE FIRST WOMAN ELECTED AS A GOVERNOR IN THE UNITED STATES.
- **1966:** THE ARNO RIVER FLOODS FLORENCE, ITALY. IT LEAVES THOUSANDS HOMELESS AND DESTROYS MILLIONS OF MASTERPIECES OF ART.
- **1980:** RONALD REAGAN IS ELECTED AS THE 40TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

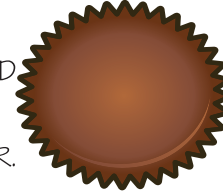
New word

BUTTER

creamy spread made from different ingredients

Did you know?

PEANUT BUTTER PAIRED WITH CHOCOLATE IS A COMMON FLAVOR PROFILE. CHOCOLATE-COVERED PEANUT BUTTER IS ESPECIALLY POPULAR.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY



Our Youth Are Our Future!



ALAMOSA STATE BANK
 A Real Community Bank
 Local Ownership. Local Commitment.

2225 Main Street
 Alamosa

CELEBRATING 116 YEARS!



www.alamosastatebank.com



Ph. 589-2564