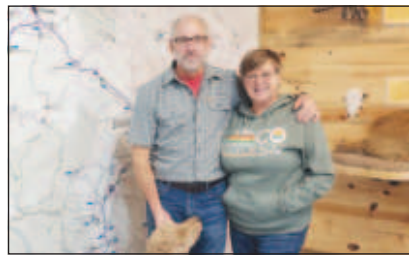




Splashland reverse sprint triathlon results



South Fork welcomes new visitor center director



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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

October 18, 2023

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SLV Today

Adams State Board of Trustees meets Friday

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Board of Trustees will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 20, in the Richardson Hall Board Room, located on the third floor.

Members of the public who desire to address the Board must sign the "Public Comments" sheet prior to the meeting convening.

RGNF's next Forest Specialist Series Oct. 25

The Rio Grande National Forest will be presenting this month's Forest Specialist Series at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 25. Marcy Reiser, Rio Grande National Forest archeologist, will be explaining Culturally Modified Trees.

These are trees that have been altered by ancient people in the course of traditional tree utilization. Learn why they were modified, how to distinguish these scars from other types of scars such as lightning, and how we can use them to learn about the people who have gone before us.

This online event is part of the Rio Grande National Forest's Forest Specialist Series, a once monthly online presentation in partnership with the San Juan Mountains Association to share information with our community. Visit the Rio Grande National Forest website or Facebook page for event information.

SLV WEATHER



Sunny 71/28

Thurs: Sunny 71/28

Fri: Sunny 72/32

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Turning hurt into healing

Alamosa's Community Unity Mural Project sends a message of strength

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter
ALAMOSA — On Sept. 28, a disturbing photo of the wall that marks

the Cole Park entrance to the pedestrian bridge was posted on Facebook, prompting an immediate outcry from members of the community.

One comment read "disgusting!". The photo, taken by a woman of

■ See HEALTING page 3
Photo of entrance to pedestrian bridge with signs of vandalism removed and now ready and waiting to be reimaged.

Photo by Lisa Lucero



Walsh Building coming down



Work crews began demolishing the derelict Walsh Building on 6th Street in Alamosa on Tuesday. The demolition of the building owned by the City of Alamosa is expected to take several days.

Courier photo by John Waters

Smithsonian Exhibition on rural America opening reception is Oct. 20

CONTRIBUTED ALAMOSA — The Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street, in cooperation with Colorado Humanities presents "Crossroads: Change in Rural America." The exhibition examining the evolving landscape of rural American will host its grand opening reception at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 20, at the San Luis Valley Museum. This event features Keynote Speaker

Ed Crowther, Emeritus Professor of History at Adams State University. "Crossroads" will be on view through Nov. 25.

The San Luis Valley Museum and the surrounding community was expressly chosen by Colorado Humanities to host "Crossroads" as part of the Museum on Main Street project — a national-state-local partnership to bring exhibitions and programs to rural cul-

tural organizations. After it leaves Alamosa at the end of November, the exhibition will travel to eight more communities in Colorado before it returns to the Smithsonian; an itinerary is available online at <https://colorado-humanities.org/programs/museum-on-main-street/>.

"Crossroads" takes a broad look at the characteristics of rural America. It explores how an attraction to and interaction

with the land formed the basis of our rural culture, and how rural communities and small towns evolve and change. It also highlights how change transformed rural America, especially during the 1900s, and how rural Americans are evolving for the future.

Upcoming program events at the San Luis Valley Museum highlighting the exhibit include Eric Carpio, Guest Speaker from the Fort

Garland Museum at 7 p.m. on Nov. 3. The closing ceremony is on Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. and will feature guest speaker-author Pete Anderson. For a complete listing of related programs, visit www.museumtrail.org/san-luis-valley-museum or call 719-587-0667.

To learn more visit www.museumonmain-street.org, www.sites.si.edu, or <https://coloradohumanities.org/>.

Navarro performing at Society Hall Thursday night

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter
ALAMOSA — Of all the quiet treasures in Alamosa, Society Hall is among the best as the small but committed crew of volunteers succeed time after time in bringing amazing talent to that unique, historic stage. And the performer coming to the Society Hall stage on Thursday night is a shining example...and more.

For those who are already familiar with Dan Navarro, nothing further needs to be said. For those who don't

know him yet, let this be an introduction.

Navarro's list of credits is more than impressive and too long to list in detail. As part of the acoustic duo Lowen and Navarro, he had a prolific, successful recording history with the release of 12 albums.

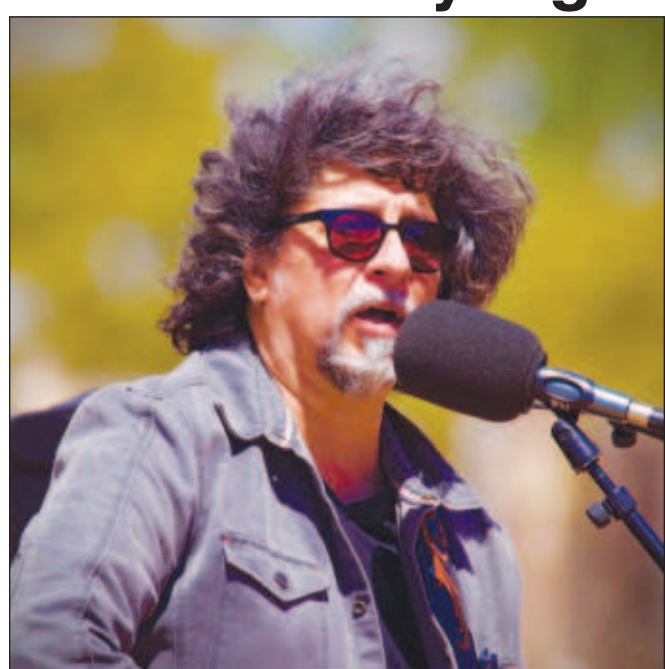
When Eric Lowen passed away from ALS, Navarro continued as a solo artist, releasing the highly praised "Shed My Skin," "On the Horizon Line," and "All Wood and Led," a new duo album with James Lee Stanley that re-imagines Led Zeppelin songs

in organic "Laurel Canyon" settings.

Navarro has written or co-written songs for Pat Benatar (the Grammy-nominated "We Belong"), The Bangles, Dave Edmunds, The Temptations, Dionne Warwick, and Austin outlaw country legend Rusty Weir. He has sung on albums by Andrea Bocelli and Neil Young.

■ See NAVARRO page 3
Singer, songwriter and recording artist Dan Navarro is to appear Thursday night at Society Hall.

Photo courtesy of Society Hall



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Record



Courtesy photos

A giant ceremonial check was presented to the Monte Vista Kids Connection by AT&T. Kids Connection has received more than \$35,000 in grants over the past two years from AT&T.

AT&T donates to DELTA Center, Kids Connection

By Marie Mccolm
MONTE VISTA — AT&T donated 50 laptops to Byron Syring DELTA Center and delivered a ceremonial check for \$35,500 to the Kids Connection on Oct. 11.

Guillermo Lambarri, director of External and Legislative Affairs for AT&T, visited the Byron Syring DELTA Center and personally issued the laptops to the center.

Lambarri also visited Kids Connection and presented the oversized check to the Kids Connection, signifying the amount of grant money that had been given over time to the center to help support an after-school learning lab with technology.

"I was so excited for this opportunity for the kids. I really was. This is just wonderful for the kids. For them to be provided with this money and us to supply them with technology. This is just great," said Kids Connection Director Anika Velasquez.

Lambarri spoke about the grant.

"This is actually 2 years in the making," Lambarri said. "We have been working with (Monte Vista City Manager) Gigi Dennis and Anika Velasquez of Monte Vista Kids Connection. We provided them with a grant last year and this year which culminated in a total of \$35,500, that we contributed to the Kids Connection Center. The reason for the grant is all centered around AT&T's commitment to bridging the digital divide. We realize that there are many kids in Colorado that don't have digital basics at home, to be able to connect to the internet and access education resources that we know that they need to thrive. This also includes their families. We know that is such a necessity in our everyday lives."

Lambarri said AT&T was excited to help the San



AT&T representative Guillermo Lambarri personally hands a laptop to a student at the Byron Syring DELTA Center. AT&T donated 50 laptops to the center.

Luis Valley and grateful for Monte Vista Kids Connection.

"We were happy to be able to provide some resources down in the Valley. We are grateful to Monte Vista Kids Connection; they are such an amazing part of the community," Lambarri said. "They bring so much needed help with taking care of kids after school. They help them do their homework and help them learn. This was just a perfect fit for us to be able to provide this grant for them and help them purchase some much-needed equipment to add to their technology learning center."

Velasquez said they applied for the grant after a phone call from Lambarri.

"I received a call from Guillermo from AT&T, and he stated that the company wanted to support our center technology wise and asked what we needed," she said. "It was literally a phone call and quick discussion about things. The next thing I know we were able to write a grant and we were able to purchase tables and chairs for our homework room, which we are now calling the MVKC Tech Connection Learning Lab."

Velasquez said they purchased a laptop charging station, 3-D Printer and printing supplies, and a big workstation for the 3-D printer.

The initial grant was about \$15,000 and then in

March or April of this year, Dennis sent Velasquez an email stating AT&T was interested in doing more. Another phone call led to a second round of funding.

"We received a second round of grant funding," Velasquez said. "We were able to purchase STEM kits. Those are somewhere in the shipping process. We were able to purchase an overheard interactive projecting unit. I got it because they are learning-based games. I wanted something in the tech room that felt like the little kids belonged in there. I understand the importance of technology, but for our smaller kids I think it's better to develop their imagination and learn how to play without technology at that age, so that was why I purchased this."

Velasquez said it nice to have Lambarri come down and see how the funding was being used at the center.

Velasquez said the technology center is having an impact on the children.

"It's exciting to see how excited the kids are," she said. "I never dreamt we would have any of this. To see the kids browse and brainstorm through things on that 3-D printer. Just having one there and available to the kids. This is hopefully giving our kiddos the opportunity to dream about something this big. This is just the best. We are happy and so grateful to AT&T."

Free faculty lecture on 'Wildness and Imagination' is Oct. 19

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY
ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Faculty Lecture "On Wildness and Imagination: The Importance of Coyotes," by Mary Wilhelm, assistant professor of drawing and painting, begins at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 19, in McDaniel Hall 101. The lecture is free and open to the public.

In this captivating lecture, we will delve into the intriguing world of coyotes, exploring not only their biological significance but also their profound influence on our culture and their relationship to humans as a whole. As we journey through the coyote's complex role in the ecosystem, we'll uncover the inspiration behind artist and storyteller Mary Wilhelm's narrative oil paintings and how these creatures serve as nuanced and complex characters within her work. Coyotes, often misunderstood and underappreciated animals, play a pivotal role in maintaining ecological balance, and fill in ecological niches often left open by the expatriation of larger apex predators. As we unravel their ecological importance, we'll connect the



Courtesy photo

Adams State's Mary Wilhelm will present on 'Wildness and Imagination' at the Oct. 19 free faculty lecture.

dots between their resilience in the wild and the profound lessons they impart on our own narratives.

For more information on the Faculty Lecture Series, contact Jess Gagliardi at 719-587-8921 or jgagliardi@adams.edu.

NPS Superintendent to speak at Rotary meeting

By ALAMOSA ROTARY CLUB

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Rotary Club would like to invite all interested individuals to our regular meeting at 12 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 23. The meeting will be held at Juanito's Mexican Kitchen, 2069 First St., Alamosa.

Andrea Compton, Superintendent at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, will be the speaker. The park protects a diverse landscape of grasslands, wetlands, forests, alpine lakes, and tundra along with the tallest dunes in North America. Compton will provide updates on this past summer season at the park, and upcoming activities and visitor service improvements planned for



Andrea Compton

the park in the future. Alamosa Rotary Club members will also meet at 5 p.m. on Oct. 23, for a litter clean-up project along Maroon Drive bordering Alamosa High School. Interested community members are welcome to join the club in this service project. The mission of Ro-

tary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. For more information about Alamosa Rotary, visit www.rotary.org/en.

USDA Rural Development staff in Alamosa on Oct. 25

Farmers Forum will cover what grants are available

By USDA

ALAMOSA — Join representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Colorado Alamosa Field Office on Oct. 25 at a Farmers Forum to discuss grant opportunities available through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) and Value Added Producer Grants programs. These informative sessions will allow for an interactive dialogue for interested parties on programs available and how they can impact their op-

erations.

Stop by the USDA Rural Development in Alamosa, 101 S. Craft Dr., from 10 a.m. to noon to see how you could save costs through renewable energy and efficiency. Talk about solar panels for pivot irrigation, pumps. Or consider wind, hydropower and geothermal. Interested in diversifying revenue and entering new markets then come learn about our Value-Added Producer program.

USDA Rural Development provides grants and loans to help rural residents buy or build homes, support low-income homeowners repair and improve their homes, expand economic opportunities, create jobs, and improve the quality of life in rural Colorado.

"Our programs help to support and promote ru-

ral American prosperity. I encourage farmers, ranchers, and ag producers in the San Luis Valley area to stop by our office in Alamosa and hear how our programs can assist them with their operations," said USDA Rural Development State Director Armando Valdez.

USDA Rural Development is the lead federal agency helping rural communities grow and prosper and has over 70 programs to support rural Colorado. Find more information at www.rd.usda.gov/co. For questions on the event, contact amy.mund@usda.gov.

OBITUARY

Merolyn Kay Wyley

The Creede community has lost a true local icon with the passing of Merolyn Kay Wyley. She passed away at her home in Creede on Sept. 1, 2023. She was born in Monte Vista on Jan. 26, 1945, to W W "Bibs" and Nell Wyley.

Kay had a wonderful childhood growing up at Cottonwood Cove Lodge with her sister, her brother and more tourist kids than we can count. She was always a hoot to be around and full of one-liners and endless stories.

Kay graduated from Creede High School in 1963 and from Adams State College in 1969. She left home to work for the Dallas Morning News but soon returned home to Creede.

She worked as a secretary at both the Creede School and Homestake Mines before accepting the Development Officer position at the Creede Repertory Theatre, which she held for 20 years.



The theatre was her true calling and her passion. She loved all the company members and was a true supporter to all of them. We can be sure that wherever she calls home now, she has the tutu on and is leading the Kazoo Band in style.

After retirement, Kay pursued her love for painting. She was an accomplished artist and was known for her paintings on aspen leaves and the Christmas cards she made for the family for years. She enjoyed traveling

with Nell and often made trips to the casino and abroad.

Kay served on the Creede Board of Trustees for eight years. She was proud of the accomplishments the board made for the City during her term. She was a dedicated member of the Creede Ladies Aid Society for many years and served as the treasurer for nine years.

Kay was preceded in death by her parents Bibs and Nell Wyley, grandparents Clinton and Ether Wyley, Luther Humberton and Margaret Kramer.

She is survived by her sister Gea Wyley; brother Ken (Cindy) Wyley; nephew R (Kristen) Means; nieces Lauri Jordan (Nancy Leggett) and Teresa Wyley; great-niece Aryonna Means (Chris Brewer) and great-great-niece Giavonna Brewer.

A memorial service was held on Sept. 15, 2023.

COURIER OBITUARY POLICY

The Courier charges \$75 for each obituary per day. Pending arrangements or death notices are free. This charge affects funeral homes, family or other representatives that place obituaries. All paid obituaries are published on www.alamosanews.com, for no additional fee.

Please email obituaries if possible to squintana@alamosanews.com If the newspaper errors in publishing an obit, corrections will be made and the obit rerun. If the errors are on the part of the submitting party, an additional fee will be assessed.

School Menu
Wednesday
October 18, 2023

BREAKFAST
Yogurt/Granola
Juice & Milk
ELEMENTARY
Chicken Fajita Salad Bowl/Chipotle
Dressing
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Chicken Fajita Salad Bowl/Chipotle
Dressing
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk
HIGH SCHOOL
Chicken Fajita Salad Bowl/Chipotle
Dressing
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

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

Valley News

Town of Crestone accepts 2022 audit

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

CRESTONE— On Oct. 9, the Crestone Board of Trustees accepted a Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements for the year ending 2022 from the accounting firm of Lenny Merriam CPA, CFE, PLLC, during their regular meeting.

In 2022, the Town budgeted revenues were forecast to be \$1,443,311 and the actual amount was \$616,924. Total expenditures were budgeted to be \$1,679,863 and actual expenditures were \$904,139. The resulting deficit of \$287,215 came out of the fund balance that was \$692,984 and reduced to \$405,769.

“There wasn’t as much grant revenue, that was a major cause for that,” said Lenny Merriam of the reduced revenue at the meeting.

In the report, Merriam notes qualitative aspects of the accounting practices of the Town. This is a normal accounting protocol. “I encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing my audit,” and “The significant accounting policies used by the Town of Crestone, Colorado are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. I noted no transactions entered into by the Town of Crestone, Colorado during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.”

Earlier this year, the Town Trustees met to discuss a supplemental budget that slashes revenue projections for the 2023 Fiscal Year due to “staffing changes,” that have left the municipality short. According to the supplemental budget, the reduction in revenue is precipitated “Primarily [by] a decision not to apply for multiple grants was made due to staffing changes that imposed limits on the availability to manage the projects to be funded by grants.”

Currently, the website for the Town has six employment vacancies including a Clerk Administrator, a Deputy Clerk, and a Public Works Superintendent. According to the proposed supplemental budget, the General Fund Revenues for the town have been reduced from the previously approved amount of \$2,084,203 to \$585,055 a reduction of 71.9%.

It is not known when the trustees may consider the proposed supplemental budget for 2023 again.

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Courier photo by John Waters
The Town of Crestone Board of Trustees met on Oct. 9 and approved the financial audit for 2022. In this file photograph, residents attended a budget meeting in August.

RGC Social Service addition complete

By LYNDISIE FERRELL
DEL NORTE — After

six months of construction, Jody Kern, Director of the Rio Grande County Department of Social Services (RGCDSS), was announced that the new addition to the social service building is complete and is ready to welcome clients from the community.

“We did this for our community and the people we serve. Not only will this help us streamline services to the community, it also makes for a nicer, more secure work area for my staff,” explained Kern. “We have such wonderful support from the county and everyone who uses our office, so for that, we say thank you.”

Since 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit Rio Grande County, Kern and her staff realized quickly how much more space could mean to their clientele and staff.

“We learned a lot that year and with how busy we were. We knew then

that we needed to think about making a change,” she said.

Prior to the addition, clients going to Rio Grande County Social Services were greeted by a small waiting room with about six chairs, information pamphlets and a copy machine. Now, the room opens to improved and special seating, a conference room, desk, private bathroom, and other client comforts.

“We really wanted people to have room and resources to do what they needed to do while they were here. We added big screen TVs that can be used for our classes, open seating so people don’t feel so crowded, and the addition of a public bathroom was huge for us; we wanted to offer that comfort to our clients,” said Kern.

In the back of the waiting room is a large conference area where staff and clients can meet for various purposes, including hosting classes. While walking

back through the security door, the open-office plan offers more space to administrative staff and adds to the security for the entire building.

The back-office area was transformed into a resource area for staff that includes copiers, printers, and office supplies. It opened up valuable space for other uses including a coffee break area, which was something the staff really appreciated. The project also included heated sidewalks to help the western facing building with the ice that accumulates during the winter months.

“We work so many hours and we do so many things, all of this will benefit our clients as well as our staff and we are grateful that the funding and opportunity came along,” said Kern.

The project was made possible through the work done by contractor Bob Vanlwarden, the project builder, and Brad Ash, the project architect with Reynolds and Ash.

Healing

Continued from Page 1

color who was walking her dog on the bridge, showed the wall had been vandalized with an offensive racial slur scrawled in red paint.

Instead of focusing on anger, community activist, Sandy Ortega, produced an idea that embodied the challenge to “be the change you want to see.”

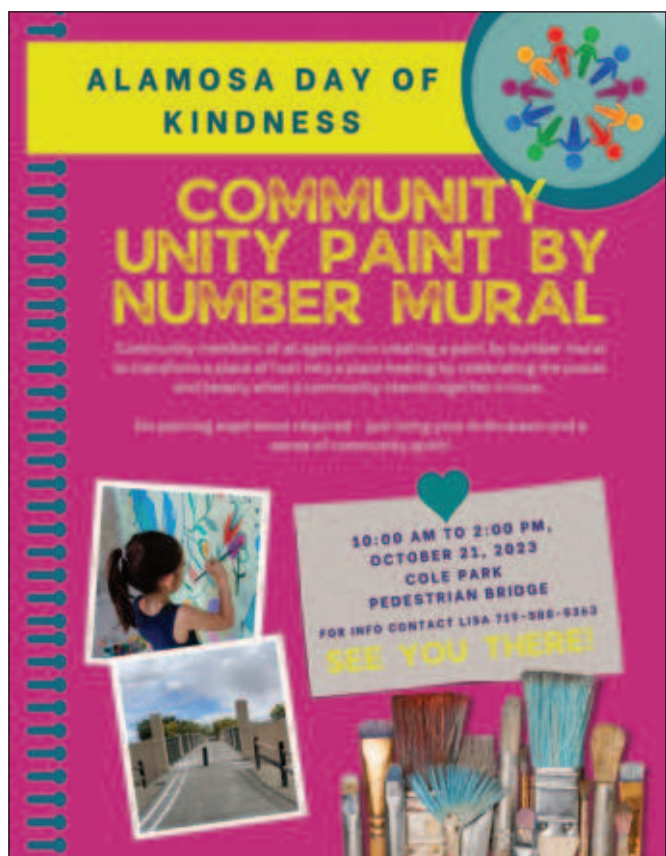
“Let’s paint a mural,” Ortega wrote in the comments, suggesting that the community not only remove the slur but replace it with a work of art.

The idea was immediately embraced by others, including Lisa Lucero, a community organizer known for pulling together a coalition of resources and people focused on outcomes and achieving a specific goal.

Within hours, Lucero had gotten permission from Andy Rice, director of Alamosa’s Parks and Recreation Department, to paint a mural and reached out to possible funders for the project.

And that is how the ad hoc “Alamosa Community Unity Mural Project” was born.

Within a few days, extraordinary muralists, artists and San Luis Valley natives Bianca



Maestas and Katie Dokson set to work on power washing the wall. Then, donating all their time to the project, the artists created the design for a stunning mural that communicates the beauty and unity found in Alamosa.

As it turns out, another group of community members were proposing a “Day of Kindness,” which will be proclaimed as such by Alamosa City Council during its Wednesday night meeting.

Against that backdrop, members of the community will gather

at the pedestrian bridge in Cole Park at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 21, where, until 2 p.m. Saturday afternoon, they will bring the mural to life as they “paint by number” the design Maestas and Dokson created.

Maestas and Dokson will put the finishing touches to the mural on Sunday, Oct. 22.

The mural created by Maestas, Dokson and the Community Unity Project on Alamosa’s Day of Kindness attempts to turn an area of hurt and pain into an area of healing.

Navarro

Continued from Page 1

In addition to a professional music career in music that spans 40 years, Navarro’s had an equally successful film career that is just as long, having voiced (among other things) characters in “Pirates of the Caribbean 5,” “The Book Of Life,” and the “Playmobil Movie.”

But that resume is just a reflection of what Dan Navarro creates every time he gets on a stage. At its core, Navarro’s music is deeply authentic and as varied as the human experience.

“The urge to write stemmed from the urge to create something that was personal that I could sing,” he told the Valley Courier. “I started as a musician in

the fourth grade and the feeling of music coursing through my body as part of that ensemble was just the greatest feeling imaginable. It was as exhilarating and uplifting as anything I’ve ever experienced or have experienced since then.

“The idea was of creating something that expressed what I felt inside — usually issues of fear and disconnection and alienation or uncertainty with the hope of something better. As I kept doing and doing it, I got closer to why it was important to me.

“And now, 50 to 60 years later, it continues to inspire me to express those things. Playing and singing and writing and performing for an audience. I give to the audience, they give back to me and it’s like a circuit and feeds on itself.

With any luck, I’ll continue to do it for the rest of my life.”

Navarro’s voice is rich and strong with just enough fray on the edges to reflect how it has been seasoned over the years. One song, accompanied by gentle licks on his acoustic guitar, will feel intensely intimate and tell a story of painful reflection that can lead a person to think, at least once, has this guy been reading my mail? That song can be followed by another upbeat, alive, and full of the drive found in rock and roll.

Yet, across a huge, diverse playlist that comes after writing and performing for decades, there is an undercurrent of connection with the listener, also causing a person to think, at least once, how have I missed listening to this

guy all these years?

As it turns out, that feeling of a universal connection is just baked into how he writes.

“My writing isn’t canned... I don’t sit down to write something that I think people can relate to,” he says. “It’s more like trying to unravel the things that drove me to write, which was usually like some kind of emotional upheaval. Like I need to get this down to get these feelings out of me. It’s a visceral, explosive act in its own sense.”

After experiencing that feeling of “let me get this out,” Navarro came to realize the common ground that people share.

“People often have the same triggers, whether it’s the sense of lamenting a loss or a bad choice, which is usually driven by a

need to connect in a way that isn’t presenting itself easily,” he says. “Writing...it’s like throwing something out there that someone can catch. And when they do, when they catch it, that creates the connection. And I have to admit the thing that inspired me to do that was when I received what was thrown my way, from Frank Sinatra to Joni Mitchell to Prince. That’s when I knew that I wanted to be expressing it, too, for other people to catch.”

Music is a form of healing, he says.

“It’s like a massage. When I rub a muscle that aches, it starts to feel better. Music is like that. That pain is released. I’ve spent my whole career trying to heal myself in that way. Once I get there, maybe I’ll stop, but that hasn’t

happened yet,” he says.

Navarro is also clear that it is the pain that motivates him to create.

“Joy inspires me to live life, actively. Walk along a beach. Take a hike. Drive a convertible very, very fast. It’s the pain that causes me to sit down in a little tiny corner and focus in,” he says.

No matter how it is described, writing about Navarro’s music does not truly capture the depth and richness of what he creates on a nightly basis.

That must be experienced in person, which will happen at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday at Society Hall. Tickets cost \$20 before the performance and \$25 at the door. They are available at the Green Spot on State Avenue in Alamosa or by going to www.societyhall.com.

Opinion

When a skunk goes after your garden

Skunks love autumn as our backyard gardens fill up with ripe vegetables. But in my northern New Mexico corn patch, that meant a determined skunk chowing down on ears of corn every night. What followed next was a conundrum: I wanted it gone but didn't know how to make that happen.

My initial attempt, spreading coyote-urine crystals from the hardware store, failed to repel the raids. Then a Norteno gardener friend advised hanging mothballs in bags on the fence. Nope, no effect.

My plumber friend said he got rid of a big skunk family that took up residence under his mother's house by borrowing a trap from the county's agriculture extension agent. He used cat food as bait—but all he caught was cats. Switching to fresh eggshells, he said he caught the entire skunk family, one striped marauder at a time.

A farmer neighbor's advice was similar: "Get a Havahart trap." I got one and the skunk ended up inside, but then what?

I called Taos County Animal Control. The agent said they don't handle skunks and gave me two options: a private critter-control outfit or dropping it off myself "somewhere in the mountains." And oh yes, be sure to cover the trap with a tarp when you approach to block possible spray, and minimize alarming the animal because you know why.

Not wanting to release the skunk in the yard where it might spray my dogs, I recruited an agile friend to carry the cage about 400 yards away to a fallow field protected by a conservation easement. The corn-chomper was back the next night.

Then I read on the Havahart company website that skunks should be released at least 10 miles away. Somebody said that skunks had been dumped west of me across the Rio Grande Gorge, in an area colloquially known as otra banda, a mix of private and public land.

This turned out to be a terrible idea. When I floated that alternative with a Facebook Taos Farm and Garden group, I quickly learned that dumping

Writers On The Range



Richard Rubin



a skunk across the gorge was anything but welcome. "Not near my backyard!" was the reaction.

The idea of dumping the skunk also led to accusations of animal cruelty because I'd be removing the animal "from his family and home range." A few people had an easy solution, though not one I liked: "Just shoot it."

What seemed doable was that early suggestion to drop off the skunk "somewhere" in the mountains, and I knew of some Bureau of Land Management land that included a National Conservation Area for wildlife.

But first I called the Taos BLM office to check. The clerk commiserated with my garden losses, said they have no policy on this issue, and directed me to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. The main office in Santa Fe verified that trapping a skunk was legal on my own property and referred me to the local Taos game wardens.

They said because skunks aren't regulated as "non-game animals," they could be moved to public lands where the BLM and the Forest Service have no restrictions on freeing trapped skunks. A solution at last.

So, wrapping the cage in a tarp, I drove the skunk 10 miles away to its new home, gave it time to adjust, and then opened the trap door. Out it bolted, taking off at a fast waddle across the sagebrush field. I hoped to never see it—or any member of its family—again.

Out of an abundance of caution, though, I set the trap again, because skunks are often seen at night traveling along the dry acequias (irrigation ditches), in my neighborhood. I learned that skunks have competitors for sardine bait—this one a tabby housecat without a collar.

I let the cat go, and a week later, we're eating corn without competition. Our trap still sits in the corn patch, un-



Courtesy Photo

baited but ready, just in case, though I know what to do now: Que sera, sera.

Richard Rubin is a contributor to *Writers on the Range*, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit

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."

Understanding intimate partner power and control dynamics

By ANNE KELLY

12th Judicial District Attorney

I met with her early in the morning before court started that day. The bruises and cuts on her face were glaring. I was a prosecutor just starting my career and had only a superficial understanding of the dynamics of intimate partner violence. Police arrested her husband after repeatedly punching her in the face. After reading the police reports and seeing the physical results of that assault, I was highly motivated to prosecute this man. I was not prepared for what she was about to tell me. She told me she wanted to drop the charges. She did not want me to prosecute the man that caused so much obvious pain and humiliation. As a young, eager prosecutor, I could not understand her position. Today I do.

Over the course of my career as a prosecutor, this scenario has played out with many variations on the same theme. Prosecutors and law enforcement officers alike sometimes become discouraged and disheartened by these scenarios because

we want to keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable. The most effective and compassionate way to address these challenging cases is to develop an educated understanding of the complex dynamics that drive an offender's behavior and a victim's response.

What has become clear to me through my connections with victims is that intimate partner violence is often just a piece of a larger dynamic. The driving force in these relationships is one partner's goal of achieving power and control over the other. Offenders with the goal of power and control use violence as only one of the methods of achieving that goal. A controlling violent offender has a toolbox of methods designed to keep their partners scared, obedient, compliant and loyal. The effect? Victims may be unable to protect themselves, envision a way out or participate in the process of holding their offenders accountable.

It is critical to look deeper into the violence to understand and recognize the other "tools" at play. One of the most

effective methods of controlling an intimate partner is using psychological or emotional manipulation. I have seen offenders beat down their partners with words designed to ensure the destruction of a victim's sense of self-worth and dignity. Offenders may manipulate their partners by threatening suicide or other self-harm if victims talk about ending the relationship. This creates an impossible burden of guilt that keeps victims trapped. Offenders will often attempt to disconnect their partners from their support systems like family or friends who may notice the offender's behavior and intervene. Victim blaming apologies and threats keep victims in a state of hypervigilance and fear. "I'm sorry for that, but if you would just stop doing (fill in the blank), I wouldn't react that way." "If you don't call the police and recant your statement, we will lose the house, the kids, etc."

Another common method offenders use to control their partners is to gain access to their partner's electronic devices to monitor communication and track their partner's location. I have seen a dramatic increase in violent offenders' use of hidden or not so hidden apps that track who a victim is talking to and whether they took a detour on their way home from work.

For our community members who are fearful of immigration status, offenders may threaten to "call the authorities" and "have you deported" if victims report the violence to the police. This particular barrier to safety for our immigrant community is especially powerful and devastating for victims of intimate partner violence who may not have access to contrary information. Threatening a crime victim with deportation or other immigration consequences is a class four felony. Because of the gravity and impact of such a threat, I am committed to aggressively prosecuting that behavior.

The methods offenders use to control their partners makes it challenging for victims of intimate partner violence to participate in the prosecution of their offenders or to protect themselves from future violence. We live in a community that takes care of one another. It is incumbent upon us to recognize the signs of a controlling violent relationships and support victims caught in this trap of power and control. The District Attorney's Office is committed to holding these violent offenders accountable, but our community can do its part by recognizing these dangerous signs of abuse and supporting our friends and neighbors where they are at. The District Attorney's Office works closely with community groups like Tu Casa to increase awareness of the challenging dynamics of intimate partner violence and provide support to victims.

If you are in an abusive relationship or have concerns about someone's safety, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 or Tu Casa in Alamosa at 719-589-2465.

Keith R Cerny
Publisher

Brian Williams
Managing Editor

Valley Courier

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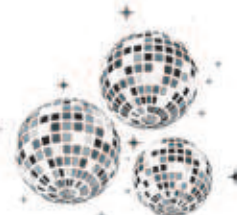
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Sports

Splashland reverse sprint triathlon results

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor
ALAMOSA — Splashland hosted a reverse sprint triathlon on Saturday. The race was sponsored by the USA Triathlon Association, a member of the US Olympic/Paralympic Committee, as well as Gatorade Endurance. The triathlon started with a 3 1/2-mile run, followed by a 10-mile bike race and then a 400-yard swim in Splashland's geothermal hot springs pool. There were 65 registered participants from Colorado and New Mexico. Aaron Blondeau of Salida was the overall winner in 55:20. Piper Buck of Parker was the top female finisher in 1:06:03. The triathlon took place Saturday at Splashland.



Left: Aaron Blondeau of Salida was the overall winner of the Splashland Reverse Sprint Triathlon in 55:20. Right: Piper Buck of Parker was the top female finisher in 1:06:03. The triathlon took place Saturday at Splashland.

Courtesy photos

Name	Bracket	Hometown	Time
Aaron Blondeau	M 40-44	Salida	0:55.20
Kelley McCann	M 35-39	Colorado Springs	1:02.01
Ben Maxwell	M 45-49	Montrose	1:03.42
Jason Lee Jones	M 45-49	Buena Vista	1:05.22
Piper Buck	F 16-19	Parker	1:06.03
Kevin McCarroll	M 40-44	La Jara	1:06.11
Mike Trujillo	M 50-54	Antonito	1:07.55
Ryan Dickerson	M 40-44	Delta	1:08.48
Gretchen Chamberlain	F 40-44	Salida	1:08.55
Ryan Goodman	M 35-39	Santa Fe, N.M.	1:08.57
Chad Mortensen	M 50-54	Alamosa	1:09.40
Randy Robinson	M 45-49	Mosca	1:09.50
Evan Bowden	M 25-29	Longmont	1:10.05
Keith Laube	M 55-59	Montrose	1:10.54
Julian Maendel	M 40-44	Alamosa	1:12.41
Jason Kelly	M 45-49	Alamosa	1:12.48
Emily Maxwell	F 40-44	Montrose	1:12.59
David Jackson	M 60-64	La Jara	1:13.23
Beth Wehe	F 35-39	Alamosa	1:13.25
Lisa Greer	F 30-34	Colorado Springs	1:15.29
Jeremy Koselak	M 45-49	Colorado Springs	1:15.46
Vincent Capelle	M 25-29	Colorado	1:15.47
C.J. Koselak	M 0-15	Colorado Springs	1:17.20
Gustavo Goler	M 60-64	Taos, N.M.	1:17.52
Dave Mamich	M 65-69	Greeley	1:20.03
Jerry Tafoya	M 20-24	Albuquerque, N.M.	1:20.12
Amy Maendel	F 35-39	Alamosa	1:20.32
Vanessa Zwegers	F 35-39	Alamosa	1:20.33
Sanji Gaudi	M 30-34	Denver	1:20.56
Forrest McCleary	M 35-39	Alamosa	1:21.11
Stephanie Archuleta	F 35-39	La Jara	1:22.01
Marta Pap	F 45-49	Denver	1:22.12
Jody Mortensen	F 55-59	Alamosa	1:22.21
Marco Granados	M 25-29	Colorado Springs	1:24.44
Alexander Bair	M 25-29	Albuquerque, N.M.	1:25.21
Alice Fitzgerald	F 60-64	Trinidad	1:28.46
James Greer	M 60-64	Colorado Springs	1:33.47
Julie Laube	F 55-59	Montrose	1:35.11
Robert Montoya	M 55-59	Westminster	1:36.55
Natalie Weiss	F 25-29	Albuquerque, N.M.	1:37.29
Randy Canney	M 60-64	Salida	1:38.13
Joe Day	M 55-59	Gunnison	1:40.30
Christel Gesterling	F 35-39	Rio Rancho, N.M.	1:43.01
Chuck Harper	M 70+	Littleton	1:43.16
Paul Fyfe	M 65-69	Albuquerque, N.M.	1:43.40
Kaden Koselak	M 0-15	Colorado Springs	1:44.23
Randi Dotter	F 60-64	Howard	1:45.19
Ruth Archuleta	F 65-69	Alamosa	1:52.07
James Divine	M 55-59	Colorado Springs	1:59.21
Chad Pompa	M 30-34	Pueblo	1:59.36
Marcus Hernandez	M 35-39	Pueblo	2:00.12
Jeffrey Crawley	M 45-49	Gunnison	2:05.29

Name	Division	Hometown	Time
Wannabees	Open	La Jara	1:03.59
Tri Amigos	Open	Westminster	1:19.31
Dash Flash Splash	Open	Sanford	1:22.55

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Team	League	Overall
La Junta	3-0	7-0
Florence	3-0	5-2
Alamosa	2-1	2-5
Woodland Park	1-2	2-5
Lamar	0-3	3-4
Manitou Springs	0-3	3-4

Team	League	Overall
Centauri	3-0	5-2
Monte Vista	3-0	5-2
Ignacio	2-1	3-4
Del Norte	1-2	2-5
Center	0-3	0-7
Trinidad	0-3	0-7

Team	League	Overall
Mancos	3-0	6-1
Dove Creek	1-1	5-2
Sanford	1-1	5-2
Sargent	1-2	4-3
Dolores	0-2	2-5

Team	League	Overall
Branson/Kim	4-0	6-1
La Veta	3-1	5-3
Sierra Grande	3-2	6-2
Primerio	2-2	4-3
Mountain Valley	1-3	3-4
Sangre de Cristo	0-5	2-6

Team	League	Overall
Alamosa	7-1	13-5
Centauri	7-1	13-5

Team	League	Overall
Wiley	7-1	18-3
Rocky Ford	7-1	16-9
Lamar	6-2	17-8
La Junta	6-2	15-10
Alamosa	4-4	13-9
Woodland Park	3-5	7-16
Dolores Huerta	2-6	7-7
James Irwin	2-6	4-13
Florence	0-8	0-23

Team	League	Overall
Wiley	7-1	18-3
Rocky Ford	7-1	16-9
Lamar	6-2	17-8
La Junta	6-2	15-10
Alamosa	4-4	13-9
Woodland Park	3-5	7-16
Dolores Huerta	2-6	7-7
James Irwin	2-6	4-13
Florence	0-8	0-23

Sports Bulletin

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

SCHEDULE THURSDAY

Prep girls volleyball
 Sargent at Monte Vista, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY

Prep football
 Mountain Valley at Primerio, 1 p.m.
 Monte Vista at Center, 6 p.m.
 Manzanola at Sangre de Cristo, 6 p.m.
 Sanford at Mancos,

6 p.m.
 Alamosa at Florence,
 7 p.m.
 Centauri at Ignacio,
 7 p.m.
Prep cross country
 Antonito, Centauri, Centennial, Center, Del Norte, Monte Vista, Sargent at Class 2A Region 3 Meet (at Buena Vista), 11 a.m.
 Alamosa at Class 3A Region 2 Meet (at Monument Valley Park, Colorado Springs), 2 p.m.
Prep boys soccer
 Lake County at Alamosa, 4 p.m.
Prep girls softball
 Alamosa vs. Strasburg (Class 3A State Tournament at Aurora), 12:15 p.m.
Prep girls volleyball
 Mountain Valley at

Primerio, 1:30 p.m.
 Sanford at Mancos, 2 p.m.
 Del Norte at Swink, 3 p.m.
 Monte Vista at South Park, 3 p.m.
 Antonito at Center, 4 p.m.
 Sierra Grande at Cotopaxi, 4 p.m.
College men's soccer
 Metropolitan State Denver at Adams State, 3 p.m.
College women's soccer
 Adams State at Metropolitan State Denver, 6 p.m.
College women's volleyball
 Metropolitan State Denver at Adams State, 6 p.m.

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- Shopping Local saves you money and time!** Travel expenses and personal time make the overall cost of items higher.
- Shopping Local retains our community:** Without the support in the local community, restaurants, shops and services are forced to close.
- Shopping Local retains our distinctiveness:** Local businesses respond quicker to the needs of the customers and stock products to meet the core community's needs.
- Shopping Local encourages community growth.** By choosing to do business locally you help maintain Alamosa's diversity, charm & appeal. Which in turn, attracts new community members.
- Shopping Local invests in community services and city economy.** Your dollars spent in locally-owned businesses have three times the impact on your community as dollars spent outside of Alamosa.
- Local shops value you more:** Local businesses survive by their reputation & repeat business which means you get a higher standard of service.



Nation

Ohio's Jim Jordan fails in bid for U.S. House speaker, leaving chamber paralyzed again

By COLORADO NEWSLINE

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House rejected Ohio's Jim Jordan as a candidate for speaker on Tuesday in the first round of voting, though the chamber was expected to potentially conduct additional votes on Jordan's bid later in the day.

Jordan, co-founder of the far-right Freedom Caucus and one of the lawmakers who bolstered former President Donald Trump's false claims about the 2020 election, was unable to clinch the votes needed to hold the gavel amid concerns about his agenda and frustrations with his history inside and outside of Congress. The House has now gone two weeks without a speaker.

Republican Reps. Don Bacon of Nebraska, Ken Buck of Colorado, Lori Chavez-DeRemer of Oregon, Anthony D'Esposito of New York, Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida, Jake Ellzey of Texas, Andrew Garbarino of New York, Carlos Gimenez of Florida, Tony Gonzales of Texas, Kay Granger of Texas, John James of Michigan, Mike Kelly of Pennsylvania, Jen Kiggans of Virginia, Nick LaLota of New York, Doug LaMalfa of California, Mike Lawler of New York, John Rutherford of Florida, Mike Simpson of Idaho, Victoria Spartz of Indiana and Steve Womack of Arkansas, as well as all Democrats, voted against Jordan on the first ballot.

Florida Rep. Gus Bilirakis was the only Republican that didn't vote.

House Republican Conference Chair Elise Stefanik, of New York, said in her nomination speech that Jordan is a "patriot" who would "go after corruption and deliver accountability."

"Jim is the voice of the American people who have felt voiceless for far too long," Stefanik said. "Whether as Judiciary chair, conservative leader, or representative for his constituents in west central Ohio, whether on the wrestling mat or in the committee room, Jim Jordan is strategic, scrappy, tough and principled."

House Democratic Caucus Chair Pete Aguilar, of California, nominated New York Rep. Hakeem Jeffries for speaker, saying he was the clear candidate for anyone who wanted a bipartisan path ahead.

"The choice before us is simple, come together on a bipartisan path forward, or take us over the cliff," Aguilar said. "Abandon the extremism that is preventing us from getting things done, or triple down on division and dysfunction."

A vote today to make the architect of a nationwide abortion ban, a vocal election denier and an insurrection insider to the speaker of this House would be a terrible message to the country and our allies," Aguilar said.

There was no majority of the vote needed to elect a speaker with Jeffries receiving 212 votes and Jordan receiving 200, while other lawmakers got some of the Republican votes.

The stalemate comes two weeks after eight House Republicans and Democrats voted to remove Kevin McCarthy as speaker about nine months into his tenure.

McCarthy had to hold 15 separate votes in January before he was able to become speaker and only after making several agreements behind closed doors with far-right members of the party.

After McCarthy announced he wouldn't try again to become speaker, Louisiana's Steve Scalise and Jordan announced their bids for the role.

Scalise, currently the ma-

majority leader, won the first secret ballot nomination vote within the House Republican Conference. But he never scheduled a floor vote and withdrew from the race after just one day.

Jordan had said after losing the first nomination vote that he would back Scalise on the floor, but several of his followers refused to back their party's speaker nominee.

House Republicans huddled again Friday to take a second nomination vote for speaker, choosing between Jordan and Georgia's Austin Scott.

Jordan won that nomination vote, but another secret ballot taken afterward showed that more than 50 House Republicans said they wouldn't support him during a floor vote.

That gap dwindled over the weekend and throughout Monday as several Republicans, who said they would never back Jordan during a floor vote, announced public support.

Several holdouts remained heading into Tuesday's floor vote, leaving Jordan short of the roughly 217 votes he would need to become speaker.

Those holdouts maintained their opposition throughout the first ballot on Tuesday afternoon.

"I'm voting for a good, solid, conservative Republican.

That's the only kind of person I'll vote for," Gimenez said immediately following the vote.

Rep. Dusty Johnson of South Dakota, said he anticipated that Jordan might not have all the votes on the first ballot, but he said he remained hopeful that those GOP holdouts would flip.

"A lot of the people who are holding out are very reasonable people," Johnson said. "It's my assessment that when people stay at the table that a deal is possible."

Chavez-DeRemer, who voted for McCarthy on the first ballot, said she did so because he was the closest Republican to secure the necessary 217 votes, but that she would "continue to reassess where things stand as this process plays out."

Pennsylvania GOP Rep. Mike Kelly introduced a resolution Monday night to elect Rep. Patrick McHenry as speaker pro tempore for up to 30 days. Approving that resolution would expand McHenry's powers beyond what they are as the speaker pro tempore by designation, Kelly said.

Under the resolution, McHenry, a North Carolina Republican, would stay in the role until Nov. 17 — the same day government funding is set to expire — or until a new speaker is elected,

whichever is first.

McHenry has been serving as the speaker pro tempore by McCarthy's designation under a process put in place to ensure continuity of government following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Chavez-DeRemer said she feared the chaos the last few weeks would only continue under a Jordan speakership. With the Republican conference still bitterly divided, she said the chamber should empower McHenry.

"Until we can find clear consensus among the Re-

publican Conference, it's time to give expanded authority to Speaker Pro Tempore McHenry so the House can resume governing," she wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

Kelly of Pennsylvania voted for Rep. Steve Scalise on the first ballot.

"We have elections for a reason," Kelly said shortly before the vote.

He said he would reassess his support on additional ballots.

Rep. Victoria Spartz of Indiana told reporters on her way into the chamber that she would vote present

if the vote count was not in Jordan's favor.

On Monday night she said she believed "intimidation techniques" were used to "push people on the floor before we find consensus."

LaMalfa, who voted for McCarthy in the first round, said the process to reach speaker nominee was "terrible" but that he'll pivot to Jordan.

"I'm voting for Jim Jordan because he's a good guy, and he's done good work on committee, and we need to move forward with this place today and get our work done."

UPCOMING GRIZZLY ATHLETIC EVENTS

Friday, October 20

Men & Women's Soccer vs Metropolitan State University Denver at Alamosa, Colo.

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Women's Volleyball vs #6 Metropolitan State University of Denver at Alamosa, Colo.

6:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 21

Men & Women's Cross Country vs Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Championship at Denver, Colo.

10:45 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.

Football at Colorado Mesa University at Grand Junction, Colo.

1:00 p.m.

Women's Volleyball vs RV Colorado School of Mines at Alamosa, Colo.

4:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 22

Men & Women's Soccer vs Colorado School of Mines at Alamosa, Colo.

1:00 p.m.



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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)

IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR CAREGIVER in MONTE VISTA. 30/hrs. week, no credentials necessary, will train, excellent pay, in my home. 719-849-0483. (10/25/23)

LOCAL NONPROFIT ALPINE ACHIEVERS INITIATIVE is hiring a part-time RECRUITMENT COORDINATOR. Position will be flexible 25 hours/week, mostly remote, busiest January-April. Primary functions will be recruiting AmeriCorps service members. See full job description and application instructions at alpineachievers.org. (10/25/23)

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COSTILLA COUNTY IS SEEKING a CASEWORKER for the DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES. Annual Salary DOQ. Duties include: Intake and/or ongoing social casework services to families/adults, performing assessments, counseling, and crisis intervention. Investigate abuse, neglect and other forms of maltreatment of children and adults. Bachelor's Degree required. Applications can be picked up at the Costilla County Department of Social Services and returned at Costilla DSS, Attention Jackie Vigil, 233 Main Street, San Luis Colorado, 81152. Inquires call (719) 672-3481. EOE. (10/25/23)

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)

SOUTHERN COLORADO FARMS (CENTER, CO) is hiring an OFFICE MANAGER/ACCOUNTING LIAISON. Full-time. Applicants must have accounting degree/experience or equivalent. Major responsibilities include preparation of financial reports for analysis, data management of crop costs, inventory management, and administrative duties. Annual salary is \$45k-\$50k DOE. Send resume to emartinez@southerncoloradofarms.com. (10/25/23)

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221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

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601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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Accepting Applications for 2 & 3 bedroom family units
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606 - BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT

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611 - HOUSES FOR RENT

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 DEA agent
 - 5 "— and Away"
 - 8 Sudden impulse
 - 12 Arab ruler
 - 13 Actress — Gardner
 - 14 Use a whetstone
 - 15 Walk in water
 - 16 Broadcasters
 - 18 "— All That"
 - 19 Tom, Dick and Harry
 - 20 Volcanic discharge
 - 21 Times of year
 - 24 Porter
 - 27 Compass dir.
 - 28 Loch — monster
 - 32 Fairgrounds area
 - 34 Broad comedy
 - 35 Word at parting
 - 36 Stew
- 37 Holiday song**
- 38 Plant pouch
 - 39 Paved rds.
 - 40 Frugal
 - 44 Glide over powder
 - 47 Kiln
 - 48 Flows back
 - 52 CD predecessor
 - 54 Blue dye
 - 55 Opposed to
 - 56 Poet's "always"
 - 57 Store event
 - 58 Day-Glo
 - 59 Med. professionals
 - 60 Bound

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 9 Circle dance**
- 10 Writing fluids
 - 11 Netting
 - 17 Came in first
 - 22 Jacob's twin
 - 23 Unexpected hiccup
 - 24 "... — or a mouse?"
 - 25 Barrier island in Venice
 - 26 Actress — Adams
 - 29 Love god
 - 30 Deer's tail
 - 31 Hardens
 - 33 Wheal
 - 34 Bit of info
 - 36 Supports for a roof
 - 38 Sibling
 - 41 Gardening tool
 - 42 Appraised
 - 43 Leavening agent
 - 44 Read in haste
 - 45 "Citizen —"
 - 46 Analogy words
 - 49 — B'rith
 - 50 Rancor
 - 51 Winter glider
 - 53 Misdeed

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18				19				20		
		21	22				23			
24	25	26		27			28	29	30	31
32			33				34			
35						36				
37						38			39	
		40	41	42			43			
44	45	46		47			48	49	50	51
52			53				54			
55						56			57	
58						59			60	

ALLEY OOP

I WONDER IF I COULD USE MY POWERS TO LIVE FOREVER!

THIS IS AMAZING! I CAN MAKE A HAMMOCK OUT OF MY OWN BEARD!

ARLO & JANIS

YOU CAN'T HAVE TOO MUCH STORAGE!

WE'RE BUSTING OUR HUMPS TO GET RID OF STUFF!

BUT YOU CAN'T HAVE TOO MUCH STORAGE!

IT'LL JUST FILL UP WITH MORE STUFF!

THAT'S WHY WE NEED LOTS OF STORAGE!

OK! LOTS OF STORAGE!

YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN YOU DO THAT!

BIG NATE

ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

WHATTA YA MEAN?

IF YOU USE A.I. TO WRITE YOUR PAPER, MS. CLARKE WILL BE ABLE TO TELL!

NO, SHE WON'T!

BEFORE I PASS IT IN, I'LL ADD ALL SORTS OF MISPELLINGS AND GRAMMATICAL ERRORS!

WHAT A GOOD PLAN THIS IS.

THEN SHE'LL KNOW IT'S MY STUFF!

THE BORN LOSER

THE DEALERSHIP CALLED AGAIN ABOUT THE RECALL ON OUR CAR.

THEY RECALLED ABOUT THE RECALL? DID THEY SAY IF THEY WERE GOING TO RECALL AGAIN?

I DON'T RECALL.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

MAN, I WAS ALWAYS THE EMPLOYEE. I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT HOW MUCH STUFF COSTS, HOW MUCH PAPERWORK HASTA BE DONE!

I NEVER MANAGED STAFF OR KNEW ABOUT INSURANCE OR INCOME TAX OR DEDUCTIONS, AN' HOW MUCH COMES IN VS. HOW MUCH GOES OUT!!

WHILE DAN'S AWAY, I'M DOING EVERYTHING! — AN' YOU KNOW WHAT, DR. P.?

— I'M THE TOUGHEST BOSS I'VE EVER HAD!

FRANK & ERNEST

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT COMPANY

YOU'RE HIRED! YOU START MONDAY!

ON THE SWING SHIFT!

GARFIELD

"DEAR ASK A DOG, HOW ARE YOU TODAY?"

BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE ANSWER

OKAY, THIS WAS A BAD IDEA

THE GRIZZWELLS

SERIOUSLY, JASMINE, WHY WON'T YOU EVEN CONSIDER ME AS A BOYFRIEND?

FOR ONE THING, I PREFER GUYS WHO ARE BUFF

HEY, CAN YOU START CALLING ME BUFF WHEN JASMINE'S AROUND?

HOW ABOUT "BUFF THE MAGIC DOOFUS"?

PEANUTS

HE'S NOT UP HERE.

I TOLD YOU HE WASN'T

WHO'S THAT OVER THERE? IT LOOKS LIKE A DOG IN A CAT SUIT...

THAT'S "WORLD WARRII," THE CAT WHO LIVES NEXT DOOR... DON'T TANGLE WITH HIM... HE'S MEAN!!

YOU CAN'T FOOL ME, CHUCK! THAT'S SNOOPY IN A CAT SUIT! I'M GONNA GET 'IM!!!

OH, GOOD GRIEF!

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

"What if everyone went around pouring ketchup over their mother-in-law?"

Wife's puzzling behavior is an obstacle for couple

DEAR ABBY: I'm a lesbian. My wife and I have been married for nine years, but since COVID and my mother's death, we have had problems. I met a man online; he's an actor. We grew close via the internet. When my wife found out, we fought, and this man and I haven't been as close.

Although we mended our relationship and I love her, I seem to always wonder. About a year ago, I got hit on by another actor on Instagram, and we also grew close until my wife found out. I stopped, but I still maintain contact with these men, and I'm not sure why.

I wonder if I'm happy with my wife or if it would be better with someone else. I wonder if I'm staying with her for love or for comfort. I'm not sure. I keep questioning my identity and my life. Any advice? -- LACKING CERTAINTY IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR LACKING CERTAINTY: If you were getting everything you need from your marriage, you wouldn't be "wondering" and reaching out to members of the opposite sex. It is important for you AND your wife that you find the answers to your very important questions.

Because you are unsure about the depth of your commitment to your wife

as well as your identity, your next step should be to discuss this with a licensed mental health professional. Your doctor or health insurance company can refer you to someone who is qualified. Your local LGBTQ community center may also be able to help. Please don't wait.

DEAR ABBY: A family friend, "Simone," makes the time we spend together unbearable. She's married to my husband's best friend, "Earl." We see them often and spend many holidays together. Before Earl married Simone, we thought she was a pretty normal person and a great match for him. Over time, we have come to realize that she's anything but.

Simone is loud and dramatic, and she loves to be the center of attention. One example: One day, she sat down in a chair and immediately started to panic that she could not get out of the chair due to her size (she's overweight). My husband and other friends were taken aback because it was visibly clear that she wasn't stuck. She demanded that someone help her get up, and it was embarrassing to watch.

Also, if she doesn't get her way, she resorts to talking like a baby or making a scene. She constantly complains about being sick. It happens every time



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

she isn't the center of attention. My husband and I and another couple are getting fed up being around her. My husband has been best friends with Earl since they were kids, so this is a tough situation. I'd love some advice. -- HARD TO BEAR IN THE SOUTH

DEAR HARD TO BEAR: Not all friendships last forever. The solution to your problem may be as simple as making yourself less available. Because your husband is on the same page as you and the other couple, it shouldn't be too hard to start seeing Earl and Simone less often. When the men want to get together, they can do it without you. Try it, and it may bring you some relief.

Lifestyle

South Fork welcomes new visitor center director

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**
SOUTH FORK

Larry and Sharon Tumbleson moved to the South Fork area a year ago and have made the small mountain town their home. While enjoying their new surroundings, the two found another piece to their journey when they took over leadership at the South Fork Visitor Center.

“We spent a good part of the last few years as hosts for various state parks that, in a way, prepared us for this position. We really enjoyed being able to travel the country and to be a part of such a wonderful opportunity. Once we came to South Fork, we knew this was going to be home,” said Larry Tumbleson.

Like many who venture to South Fork, Tumbleson and his wife found it to be exactly what they were looking for in a forever home, have settled into a routine and are looking forward to serving the community in their capacity at the visitor center.

“The visitor center is really the hub of town. It’s where everyone comes to learn about the area and what there is to do while they are here. We love helping them with that because we really do have such a wonderful place here and we want to share that with as many people as we can,” said Larry Tumbleson.

Coming from the United Kingdom and North Carolina, both Tumbleson and his wife fell in love with the area when they vacationed here several years ago. Now that they have made South Fork their home, they look forward to serving the community and working with local organizations like the South Fork Friends Foundation to bring events to the area, starting with the fall and winter months.

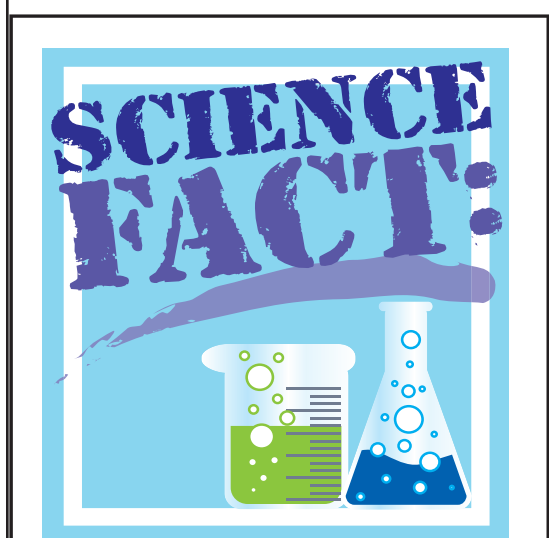
“We would like to see people come here to enjoy the winter so we are tossing around some ideas for events that might boost the economy during a time when the town is typically slow. We are also working to boost our social media presence and strengthening our partnerships with local groups like Kiwanis and the South Fork Friends Foundations,” Larry Tumbleson said.

For now, the visitor center is looking forward to the holiday season and their annual events such as the South Fork Winterfest and the annual Yuletide Celebration. More details on coming events will be reported as they become available. For more information, visit www.southfork.org.



Larry and Sharon Tumbleson are the new directors of the South Fork Visitor Center. The couple hopes to increase its social media presence and to bring new events to the town during winter months.

Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell



THIS POPULAR HALLOWEEN DECOR DEVICE USES A GLYCOL- OR GLYCERIN-BASED FLUID TO MAKE A THICK VAPOR. IT CAN MAKE HAUNTED HOUSES SEEM MORE SPOOKY.

ANSWER: FOG MACHINE

Crossword Puzzle

1		2		3		4
5						
		6				
7						

ACROSS

- Showing a lack of self-confidence
- Hold back
- Reading material
- Specters

DOWN

- Frightening
- _____ and flows
- Spills from vessel
- Ghost visiting a location
- What a ghost says

Answers:
Across
1. Sheepish 5. Restrain 6. Book 8. Ghost
Down
1. Scary 2. Ebbs 3. Pours out 4. Haunting 6. Boo

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1797: THE 44-GUN NAVY FRIGATE THE USS CONSTITUTION IS LAUNCHED IN BOSTON HARBOR.
- 1854: FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE IS AMONG A GROUP OF NURSES SENT TO THE CRIMEAN WAR.
- 1959: THE SOLOMON R. GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM OPENS TO THE PUBLIC IN NEW YORK CITY.



FRIGHT

a sudden and intense feeling of fear

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Scary
- SPANISH:** Escalofriante
- ITALIAN:** Pauroso
- FRENCH:** Effrayant
- GERMAN:** Angsteinflößend

Did you know?

MANY PEOPLE ONCE BELIEVED THE DOOR TO THE AFTERLIFE IS OPEN ON HALLOWEEN, ALLOWING SPIRITS TO PASS THROUGH.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SKULL

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