



SLV community shows support for Rio Grande County Museum

— Page 5



Sargent wins Class 2A SPL championship

— Page 6



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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

October 24, 2023

\$1

SLV Today

Alamosa County online tax lien sale Nov. 6-8

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa County Treasurer's Office is hosting the annual online tax lien sale on Nov. 6-8. The APY for investors this year is 15%. Registration is open until 4 p.m. on Oct. 31. More information is available online at alamosacounty.org, departments, treasurer, tax lien sale, or by calling 719-589-3626.

Alamosa commissioners to meet Wednesday

ALAMOSA — The Board of County Commissioners will meet Wednesday at 8:30 a.m., for a regular meeting. The meeting will be at the Commissioners Chambers located at 8900 Independence Way, Alamosa. The public is invited to attend. The meeting is also available on Zoom with meeting ID# 270-314-6847.

The meeting will include the Employee of the Quarter award for Sonia Salinas.

On the agenda are reports from Alamosa Weed Control, Alamosa County Semi-Annual Fund, Public Trustee, Lease Policy, Employment Agreement for Computer Services, and Land Use and Building Department Fee Increase.

The meeting will also include a discussion regarding the proposed levee from Erin Minksa representative for U.S. Senator Michael Bennett.

SLV Trout Unlimited meeting Oct. 24

San Luis Valley Trout Unlimited is having an opening meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 24, at the Alamosa Senior Center, 92 Colorado Ave, Alamosa, or join via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87846310124?pwd=YlFGZG8zMU10MjVNSGc1MDcyNko1QT09>, meeting ID is 878 4631 0124 with passcode 238512.

This month's program will be Entomology for Fly Anglers by Ben McGee. McGee is a career scientist in the fields of monitoring aquatic ecosystem health and trout habitat characterization. He has also been one of

SLV WEATHER

Mostly Sunny, Breezy 65/30
Wed: Mostly Sunny 65/27
Thurs: Sunny, Breezy 64/27

INSIDE

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

Rep. Martinez seeking re-election in 2024



By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

DENVER — In a press release sent to the Valley Courier, Representative Matt Martinez (D) has announced his intention to run for re-election in November 2024. He represents District 62, which includes all six counties in the San Luis Valley as well as Huerfano and Pueblo.

Martinez is a 7th generation Colorado native, a Veteran of the United States Marine Corps where he served during Operation Iraqi Freedom and an alumnus of Adams State University.

■ See **MARTINEZ** page 3

Rep. Matt Martinez with group of constituents. He is in the center of the front row.

Photo courtesy of Matt Martinez campaign

A Day of Kindness

Group of people gather to paint mural at Cole Park

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — "Good will among people, deeper connections and cooperation in our community, and the healing of broken relationships." Those are the first words in the city council's proclamation

■ See **MURAL** page 3



The Community Unity Mural Project was held on Kindness Day in Alamosa, Oct. 21.

Courier photo by Priscilla Waggoner



Nursing and Therapy Services of Colorado has a new office in Alamosa at 609 Main St.

Nursing group celebrates new office in Alamosa

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor
ALAMOSA — Nursing and Therapy Services of Colorado (NTSOC) celebrated the opening of their new Alamosa office on Monday with the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce for a grand opening ribbon cutting.

The Colorado Springs-based non-profit provides a variety of home health-care including adult and

pediatric services. NTSOC also has a CNA training program and according to Kim Ivy with NTSOC, In the state of Colorado there are wavers and Medicaid benefits for families with children of special needs that can apply to become a CNA, and they can be a CNA for their child and get paid through the state. The company now has a CNA program that takes four

weeks to complete. According to Ivy, "We provide physical, occupational, and speech therapy in the home and the clinic. In the last couple of years, we have branched out to adult services in the clinic." NTSOC accepts Medicaid and other insurance. Those interested in the services NTSOC provides or the CNA program, can visit www.ntsoc.com or call 719-574-5562.

Boys and Girls Clubs 'Be Great Gala' a grand celebration

CONTRIBUTED
MONTE VISTA — A new year, new location and new program brought a high level of energy and engagement to the Boys and Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley's annual "Be Great Gala." Over 100 people attended the event Saturday in Monte Vista at the Out-

calt Event and Conference at SLV Ski Hi Complex. Aaron Miltenberger, CEO of BGCSLV, thanked the crowd for attending and said, "this has been a year of trying new things for us."

The Boys and Girls Clubs are now serving six com-

■ See **GALA** page 3



Mark and Lou-Anne Skinner were awarded the 2023 SLV Mirror Ball trophy for winning the 'Dancing with the SLV Stars' dance competition at the San Luis Valley Boys and Girls Clubs 'Be Great Gala' on Saturday night in Monte Vista.

Courier photo



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Record

Nevares receives 'Realtor of the Year' for Central Colorado

By MARIE MCCOLM
CRESTONE — In a ceremony that took place at the Realtors of Central Colorado's annual ordination meeting, Real Estate agent Nick Nevares, of Crestone Mountainside Realty, was named "Realtor of the Year" by the organization.

The award is given out annually and voted on by the realtor's peers within the same constituency. The requirements for the award include a realtor taking a good initiative and embracing their work, someone who goes beyond helping others.

Nevares is no stranger to helping others, over six years ago, Nevares left a large event production backdrop, to move to Crestone and help revitalize the town with aspiring ventures and festivities.

Nevares is currently the Event Producer for the Crestone Energy Fair, the longest running sustainability fair in the country. Nevares takes pride in engaging in everything that is a part of the fair including the speakers, the home tours that take place, and enjoys educating people about the fair year-round. Nevares has grown the event, and he takes pride in his fundraising endeavors that help to ensure that all participants in the organization are paid fairly for their contributions.

Nevares has also been serving on the Crestone

Music Festival board. He has ideas on how to reinstate the festival and incorporate new and fresh ideas into the event, to help revive it so that it thrives again. Recently Nevares was also able to raise funds through sponsorships to help pay for and construct a stage that will be placed in Crestone's Central Park. Through local volunteers and employees, the first level of the structure has been completed for the stage.

Nevares is also the event producer for the Fourth of July festival. Under his leadership, the festival has grown beyond what it was, bringing thousands of July Fourth participants into the town.

Another notable contribution to the town of Crestone is the scholarship Nevares started through his company Mountainside Realty. The scholarship is entitled "The Pay it Forward Scholarship." It will be given to students who put in 200 or more hours of community service and is designed to help teach charitable mentorship to students.

At the annual realtor meeting, Nevares was recognized with many words before he was given his award. He was said to strive to put the good of his community first in his business ventures and through humanitarianism.



Nick Nevares

His real estate business, Mountainside Realty, was also credited for giving back to the community, and setting the bar high for others in the business. He was also recognized for preparing a free meal for the community, three times a year, for an average of almost 200 attendants. Nevares was also recognized for hosting Crestone's annual Thanksgiving Potluck that fed more than 600 people. It was noted that Nevares also made 600 meals and served them "to go" during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nevares and associate Shirley Motz started Mountainside Realty in 2022. They specialize in providing resources for residents seeking alternative housing options and have continued to progressively grow. The brokerage currently has more than 40 listings and has made more than \$7 million in sales.

For more information, contact Mountainside Realty at 719-256-4444.

Lightning strike sparks Trail Springs Fire

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor
SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST — Fire investigators have determined that lightning caused the Trail Springs Fire located 12 miles northwest of Pagosa Springs that ignited on Saturday.

The Trail Springs Fire is burning on thickly forested, sloped terrain above West Devil Creek, about 3 miles northwest of Chris Mountain. Unseasonably warm temperatures and low humidity have contributed to aggressive fire behavior.

The cause of the Mill Creek Fire located 10 miles northeast of Pagosa Springs, is still under investigation.

According to the forest service and based on new overnight satellite mapping, the Trail Creek Fire is now 521 Acres. The Mill Creek Fire is 110 Acres.

Closure Notice: Forest Service Road 630 (The East Monument Road) has been closed due to increased fire activity and to provide access for firefighting



Photo courtesy U.S. Forest Service

The Trail Springs Fire as seen in this photo from Sunday.

apparatus. The closure is being set at the intersection of FS 630 and FS 629 (Turkey Springs Road).

A Temporary Flight Restriction order is in place over the Trail Springs Fire. Officials ask that drones not be

flown in the area of the fire. The forest service notes, "If you fly, our firefighting aircraft may not be able to.

Fire smoke has drifted into the Valley and can be seen from as far east as the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

CDOT Investing Record Federal Redistribution Funding to Restore Infrastructure

By COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Colorado Department of Transportation will be prioritizing state-of-good-repair essentials thanks to a \$140.9 million funding package approved that will allow for statewide maintenance and safety improvements.

The funding, approved by the Colorado Transportation Commission, builds on the Polis Administration's significant commitments to fixing the condition of Colorado's roads through measures such as the rural repaving program, an initiative to improve interstate paving condition and crucial measures to strengthen the highway maintenance program. These funds come through an annual Federal Highway Administration process that redistributes unspent federal funds to states at the end of each federal fiscal year.

"This funding package is overwhelmingly about reinvesting in the fundamentals and safety," said CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew. "We want to fix rough roads, make roads safer and make our roads more resistant to the challenges that nature inevitably

throws at them. Taking care of our existing infrastructure is every bit as important as building new infrastructure."

Of special note, the package includes \$65 million for replacement and repair of culverts, the tunnels beneath roads that allow water to drain properly near roadways, a challenge made worse in recent decades by climate change that has brought more and larger floods and mudslides to our highways, such as with CO 133 near Paonia last spring and in Glenwood Canyon in 2021.

The funding would be the largest investment in culverts in recent CDOT history.

"Culverts may be one of the least noticeable pieces of road infrastructure, but they're critical for resiliency," Lew said. "With good culverts, our roads have a much better chance of surviving floods and mudslides. When culverts fail, roads can experience major damage — which can cause serious disruption for travelers."

The funding package also includes \$10 million to install or upgrade guardrails and \$7 million for rockfall mitigation. And it includes \$13 million for fixing poor

interstate pavement, which will allow the acceleration of pavement rehabilitation on Interstate 70 from Bethune to Burlington and builds on other recent interstate repaving work.

The package also includes \$8 million for avalanche mitigation and \$10 million for rest areas, which includes \$8.5 million to repair and reopen the Pinon Rest Area on I-25 between Fountain and Pueblo. That rest area has serious plumbing and drainage problems and needed major upgrades.

OBITUARY

Marvin Lee Davis

Longtime resident Marvin Lee Davis, 89, passed away on Oct. 19, 2023, at the Parkview Hospital in Pueblo, Colo.

Marvin was born on Dec. 20, 1933, to PH "Bud" and Ethel (Coop) Davis in Monte Vista, Colo. Marvin married Helen Anderson on Aug. 29, 1954, at the St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Monte Vista, Colo. They were married for 69 years and were able to raise a family and travel.

Marvin enjoyed being a farm machinery salesman for most of his life throughout the San Luis Valley, and enjoyed all the people he came in contact with. He was an active board member of Tri-County Senior Citizen, a former Jaycee of Monte Vista, a member and President of the Kiwanis Club of Center, and his entire life an active member of the St. Peter's



Lutheran Church in Monte Vista. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing and was known for always having a full creel at Santa Maria Reservoir.

Marvin is survived by his wife Helen, his children; Janet Spruce of Mansfield, Texas, Daniel and (Barbara) Davis, of Monte Vista, Colo., and Cindy Davis of Brighton, Colo., eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and his brother Leo (Jane) Davis, and brother-in-law Ken (Dallas)

Anderson.

Marvin was preceded in death by both of his parents, his parents-in-law Harry and Ruth Anderson, his sister and brother-in-law Betty and Wayne Jefferson, his brother-in-law Wayne Anderson, his infant son Stephen, and his son-in-law Bill Spruce.

A Funeral Service will be held 1 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 27, 2023, at the St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Monte Vista, Colo. Interment to follow at Monte Vista Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to MV Ambulance or St. Peter's Lutheran Church toward youth activities.

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

PENDING OBITUARIES

Melissa Rae Arguello-Bennett

Alamosa resident Melissa Rae Arguello-Bennett, 43, passed away passed away on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023, at her home surrounded by her loving family.

Services are pending and a full obituary will follow. Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes and remarks for Melissa's family, visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

School Menu Tuesday, October 24, 2023

BREAKFAST

Super Donut Sticks
Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY

Chicken Enchiladas
Black Beans
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Chicken Enchiladas
Black Beans
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL

Chicken Enchiladas
Black Beans
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

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Alamosa School District

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Valley News



Courier photo by Priscilla Waggoner
The artists of the mural Bianca Maestas, Katie Dokson and Augustine Briones.

Mural

Continued from Page 1
last week declaring Oct. 21, as “A Day of Kindness” in the City of Alamosa. The proclamation was largely written by local resident Elise Rudolph.

The idea to proclaim a day devoted to kindness began with a workshop offered last spring at Adams State University that Rudolph attended with colleague Beth Kinney. As Rudolph tells the story, the workshop was conducted by Rivera Sun, author of “Change the World Through Non-Violent Action.” With an audience of roughly 50 people from different churches and community organizations participating, it was the spark that ignited the formation of the Community Non-violence Coalition.

The Coalition was further inspired by Vivek Murthy’s book “Together, the Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World.” As Kinney described in background information provided to the council, Murthy tells the story of the mayor of Anaheim, Calif., who was elected to office by a substantial margin based on a platform that established kindness as a core value for the city.

Over the next 10 years, Mayor Tom Tait consistently encouraged kindness as a guiding principle in Anaheim when people interacted with each other. Tapping into the power of collective commitment to kindness, resulted in a community that was, as described in materials Kinney provided to the council, “safer, healthier, and more connected.”

The message soon spread to other cities, Kinney wrote, including the mayor being invited to Washington D.C. to discuss the role kindness can play in building societies that are more connected and resilient followed by a second invitation from the US State Department Bureau of Counter-terrorism to travel to Germany to talk about kindness how a culture of kindness could be used to counter extremism.

“Beth Kinney and I came up with the idea and then the Coalition really ran with it,” says Rudolph. When asked about the mission of the Community Non-Violence Coalition, Rudolph quoted the following, “As residents of the San Luis

Valley, we may have differences of opinion on things like culture, religion, or politics, but we share a LOT in common. In this age of division and polarization, we commit to listen to each other and work to understand each other with open minds and hearts. WE are the SLV.”

Although it wasn’t planned far in advance, the Community Unity Mural Project was timed to take place on Alamosa’s Day of Kindness, and Rudolph praised all that the mural stood for and the way it gathered members of the community together.

She also clarified that a Day of Kindness is not necessarily an event-oriented day. The idea is for acts of kindness to happen from one person to another.

During the city council meeting when councilors considered the proclamation, Councilor Jan Vigil suggested that a Day of Kindness become an annual proclamation. The idea, at least at the last meeting, was not taken up for discussion.

When asked about that possibility, Rudolph said she thought that would be a good thing. Better yet, she says, would be an emphasis on kindness every day of the year.
The beauty to be found in kindness
Last Saturday, a large group of people showed up at the pedestrian bridge at Cole Park over a four-hour period to take part in a “paint by number” mural celebrating unity in the community after the bridge had been vandalized with a racial slur.

The two artists responsible for the design — Bianca Maestas and Katie Dokson — along with fellow artist Augustina Briones spent the next days “cleaning up” some of the work that had been done by the volunteers.

“We started this literally a week ago,” says Maestas. “We started drawing on Monday. It went up on the wall on Tuesday and then we figured out the colors and what the numbers would be. It was a pretty fast-paced project. On Saturday, about 150 people showed up. Young adults. Older people. There were a lot of kids, too. It was amazing.”

When asked about the design, Lucero had told them to use their best judgment. Maestas then called Dokson because she had the idea of using quilts, based on another project she had been

working on.
“I had already been doing a drawing of a quilt,” Dokson says, laughing. “We both had the same idea. It was meant to be.”

Maestas explains that part of the design is based on a Star quilt, which has its own symbolism. The wall also incorporates a Windmill quilt, primarily farm quilts representing water and life. The wall also includes a Bear Claw quilt, which, Maestas and Dokson explain, was used during the Civil War when women hung quilts indicating to people using the Underground Railroad that they were on the right path.

“We thought that would be appropriate for the running path,” Maestas says. “And we’re all women. We’re doing this in honor of what those women did then.”

“The Bear Claw also fits with the mascot for Adams State,” Dokson says. Motioning to another segment of the wall, Dokson adds, “These blue and white symbols represent the acequias because we’re right on the Rio and the triangular figures in flight represent the birds. Another segment represents the rolling hills, like the vegas and other parts of the Valley. We just wanted to portray everything that is part of our community.”

When asked, the artists — who each have work displayed all over the state — estimated that they had each put in much more than 60 hours on the mural, not counting the work they were doing on Sunday and Monday. But, as was clear in the conversations of all three, the effort was more than worth the time involved. Not only is the mural, itself, representative of the connection each part of the Valley has to another, but its creation and execution speaks of the connections between the people themselves.
“And who knows,” Dokson says, “maybe this will inspire even more art in the Valley.”

Martinez

Continued from Page 1
Martinez was first elected to represent Colorado House District 62 in 2022. He was appointed as the Vice Chair of the House Education Committee and sits on the House Agriculture, Water and Natural Resources Committee and the Joint Select Committee on Rising Rate Increases.
“It’s been an honor and privilege to represent the people of the district and rural Colorado, and I want to continue being the voice for Southern Colorado that is much needed in Denver,” Martinez says.

Although Martinez has been in the legislature less than a year, his first year in office led to passage of meaningful legislation

Dune Valley Distillery to host The Valley Roots Shindig Oct. 28

By MARIE MCCOLM MOSCA — On Oct. 28, the Dune Valley Distillery at 5301 Terry Street, in Mosca, will be hosting The Valley Roots Shindig. The Shindig will allow the public and other local farmers to meet their local farmers, and enjoy a dinner comprised entirely of local foods.

The Shindig will also include live music by the Gypsy Jazz Social Club. Doors will open at 5, and dinner will be served at 6. Tickets for the event are currently available online. The cost per ticket is \$25. Children 12 and under are free and costumes are optional in lieu of Halloween.

Nicholas Chambers of Valley Roots spoke about Valley Roots and the history of the Shindig. Valley Roots is a Colorado local food distributor that reaches outlets across the state.

“We have over a hundred producers in our network and that’s across produce, meat, dairy, and value added,” Chambers said. “We run online markets, where customers place orders. We have trucks out on the road. We have such huge geographical distances between producers and customers and all that type of stuff. We just really want to get everyone in the same room to break bread. This is a big-producer appreciation-type event. Our sponsorships and our sponsors help with some of the costs so we can treat all our producers. We invite everybody that puts food into our network to come at no cost to them. We want to treat them to dinner.”

Chambers explained that the event is also an opportunity for the public and their customers, including wholesalers, restaurants, grocers, and people to meet the farmers.

“We do all the food in-house. It’s all 100 percent Valley Roots, Colorado local foods,” Chambers said. “We have a band that’s coming in from Crested Butte, Gyp-



Courtesy photo

Locally produced food will be the centerpiece of the Valley Roots Shindig on Oct. 28 at the Dune Valley Distillery.

sy Jazz Social Club, which will be fun. This is going to be just a real authentic farm-at-the-table experience. A summit of Colorado agriculture, too. This is an event to get people together, and talking, have a little facetime, and that type of thing.”

Chambers said it is important for Valley Roots to get its name out there.

“We’re going on nine years. We are a project of the nonprofit in Alamosa called the San Luis Valley Local Food Coalition,” Chambers said. “We operate in Mosca, and we operate out of White Rock Specialties, which is a potato and quinoa plant. We are all about just small-, medium-, and large-scale Colorado local foods. We essentially aggregate all the products from those hundred producers that we have in our network. We put them all together for buyers to see. Buyers will get one invoice representing over 100 producers. This is again across, meat, dairy, produce, and value added, all those categories.”

Chambers said they operate on a produce model, so the idea is to sell the produce before it is harvested. Chambers said this gives farmers fresh numbers to know exactly what to harvest.

“When the food is harvested, it is picked up and aggregated in our warehouse in Mosca, and then it has a very quick turnaround time to our customers, since it’s already sold, of about 24 to 36 hours, from

warehouse to customer establishments,” Chambers said.

Chambers also said there is a CSA Market specifically for people who are just at home, and like shopping from home.

“We do home deliveries for them. We also have a bunch of pick-up locations in their communities where they can pick up their goods once per week,” Chambers said.

Chambers said that for as many stakeholders and moving parts as Valley Roots has, they are also mission driven as well.

“We come out of the pioneers for organic food, are some of the founders of our board. We really want to promote soil health and growing food. We really wanted to bring that to the forefront of consumers’ buying choices,” Chambers said. “We really try to encourage the development of the economy and community. It really starts with the buying choices that all our community members have. We really want to be the ones that people buy from. We also know that if we keep the buying local, that’s how we create wealth and abundance in our community.”

Chambers said that there is more than just food and customers and consumers involved.

For more information on the Valley Roots Shindig at the Dune Valley Distillery in Mosca, or to purchase tickets, visit their Facebook page.

Gala

Continued from Page 1
munities across the SLV with eight locations. They have just opened the Hub, a non-profit Collaboration and Workforce Innovation Center in Alamosa and have plans to add other sites in the coming year.

“We have to do more to support the youth and families of the San Luis Valley,” Miltenberger said. “This past year there were several incidents of youth violence and most of those happened between 3 and 6 p.m. This is why we have to support the work of the Boys and Girls Clubs.”

There were plenty of

auction items available from local stores and 10 experience packages ranging from guided fly-fishing trips and weekend excursions to Denver to a stay at the 4UR ranch or Wolf Creek. The event was supported by several corporate sponsors including SLV Federal Bank, RG Bank, First Southwest Bank, Alamosa State Bank, Husmann Plumbing and SLV Behavioral Health Group.

This year featured a Dancing with the SLV Stars competition featuring David and daughter Kai Tandberg, Mark and Lou-Anne Skinner, and Ralph Symbleme and Angela Meyer. The three couples were followed by a performance by Los Vecinos

Bailadores. The 2023 SLV Mirror Ball trophy was awarded to the Skinners with second place going to the Tandbergs.

It is the single largest fundraising event for the Boys and Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley. The proceeds from this year total over \$65,000 and will be used for the general operations of the growing clubs.

Miltenberger concluded, “without the support of this community and all of you we would not be able to serve as many young people, as often, with as much impact.” The clubs will focus their work in 2024 on prevention programs, workforce development, and behavioral health support.

isolation with significant bi-partisan support.

He was the lead sponsor on HB-1037, which grants early release from the Department of Corrections for non-violent offenders for certificates and degrees that they earn while incarcerated.

He also sponsored SB-205, establishing a \$25 million dollar scholarship fund for high school seniors seeking a degree for in-demand job fields.

SB-291, another bill Martinez sponsored, added accountability for utility companies in response to the high natural gas rates citizens experienced in the winter of 2022.

Martinez also passed HB-1088 which provides Veterans in state nursing homes mental health resources at no cost to the Veteran.

HB-1093 allows for

higher educational staff members to take sabbaticals without using their leave time.

Martinez also passed two bills that will provide enhanced, more easily understood data related to recidivism rates and re-entry programs currently being provided by the Colorado Department of Corrections and probation departments.

“I am proud of the legislation that I have passed that will directly impact Southern Colorado,” Martinez says. “From ensuring that Veterans have improved mental health care that won’t cost them a dime to additional support for our rural higher education institutions and holding the utility companies accountable when it comes to rate increases, I’ve rolled up my sleeves and gotten

to work for the people of Southern Colorado.

“The work is far from over, and the San Luis Valley, Huerfano and Pueblo still need a strong voice in Denver. I want to continue to fight to ensure that Southern Colorado always has a voice and a seat at the table,” he said.

Out of Martinez’s 10 bills that passed, 80% were bi-partisan. He also had two bills that were passed unanimously out of both chambers, a rare feat for any legislator.

“I have dedicated my entire life to public service, to being the voice for the underserved, advocating and influencing change, and above all, listening to the needs of the people. I will continue to be your champion, your fighter and above all else, your voice in Denver,” he said.

Trout

Continued from Page 1
Colorado’s top euro-style fly fishing instructors and an innovative fly tier for over a decade.

McGee’s program will quickly cover the basics of order, family, genus, and species. More specifically, dive into details about different life stages, bug

behavior at these stages, and the most common misrepresentations and or misconceptions of the fly-angling community. This entomology demonstration is suitable for all anglers, novice to professional.

Light refreshments will be provided. Trout Unlimited’s mission is to conserve, protect and restore North America’s cold water fisheries and their watersheds.

Lifestyles

Baca Grande Library to host the Unexplained in Saguache County

By MARIE MCCOLM
CRESTONE — The Northern Saguache County Library District will be hosting the Unexplained in Saguache County event at 5 p.m. on Oct. 25, at the Baca Grande Library, at 67581 County Road T.

The public is welcome to attend the free event and share their personal unexplained stories of the San Luis Valley.

Eden Elderberry, of the Saguache County Library District, spoke about the event and its spooky fun.

"This is the second year that we are hosting this event," Elderberry said. "The event was a lot of fun last year. We actually had four of them last year, two in Saguache and two in the Baca Grande Library. This is a great event. Basically, the public is invited to tell their story of unexplained things that have happened to them.

There's a lot. Even just talking about it when I was passing out flyers. People would tell me oh well this happened to me, and that happened to me. I was like OK awesome, come and tell your stories, and yes, a lot of

people have some great stories to tell."

Elderberry said last year people talked about UFO's and more.

"We had ant people, people who had beetles rain down on their house, and cow mutilation," Elderberry said. "It was interesting last year too, people came with one story to tell, and then they would suddenly remember something when someone else would talk about something and they would bring up something else. We had one lady talking about beetles raining down on her house, and suddenly one of her neighbors remembered it happening, too. It was just really great."

Elderberry said that the event is lighthearted. She said people sat in a circle and introduced themselves, and then told their stories.

Event Producer of Crestone, Nick Nevares was recently featured on a podcast through Spotify with a story that he told last year, about an unexplained occurrence that happened to him, and his reason for moving from a big city to Crestone.

Nevares spoke about

how he used to be a big event producer in New Orleans, La. Nevares said that after doing that for a long time he wanted to change his life. He had been traveling to various places, living in an RV, and helping feed homeless people by cooking and then serving them in different places, such as Wal-Mart parking lots.

Nevares said after traveling extensively that he met up to a homeless man, and fed him, and was told by the homeless man, that he should move to Crestone. Nevares listened to him, and he moved to Crestone, finding nothing but success and a place to call home.

After moving to Crestone, he also happened upon the same homeless man who also never forgot him and asked him if he had moved to Crestone. Nevares said, "I picked up this homeless man and took him grocery shopping and he looked at me and said, 'Did you move to Crestone?' I stated yes, and he said OK now I know why I was born, and he walked away from me. That's a true story that is how I got to Crestone."

CDOT exploring mountain passenger rail line, expanded transit statewide

By COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Passenger rail service from Denver through Steamboat Springs and on to Craig could be re-established thanks to a \$5 million investment that will study the rail line as well as statewide transit connectivity, such as the Bustang system on I-70 and how it can grow in the future.

Local communities along the Yampa Valley have brought attention to the potential to re-establish passenger rail, specifically along the 191-mile Union Pacific Railroad route that runs from Denver through Winter Park and Steamboat Springs, ending in Craig. Passenger rail service along this route ended in 1968.

When communities move from high carbon-producing industries to more sustainable practices, policymakers often aim for what is called a "just transition" — a plan that takes into account the economic and environmental concerns of the affected communities. A just transition has been a top priority for Gov. Jared Polis's administration, and maintaining freight and passenger rail connectivity is a priority for the Yampa Valley as it transitions from coal. The service development plan, for which the Colorado Transportation Commission has approved funding, will provide data and suggest service options for this corridor.

"Convenient passenger rail would be amazing!"

Gov. Polis said. "A just transition for communities moving away from coal production, cutting traffic and reducing pollution are some of my administration's top priorities. Expanding passenger rail service to the Yampa Valley can help on all these objectives.

"Funding for a service development plan for northwest mountain rail is a critical step toward making this passenger rail expansion a reality. Passenger rail can create jobs and boost our mountain communities in the Yampa Valley."

The vision for mountain rail, which CDOT has been working on for months, became a real possibility because of recent developments that include dramatically decreased coal train traffic on Union Pacific rail lines, leading UP officials to be open to the possibility of hosting more passenger rail on its mountain lines. UP lines already serve the California Zephyr and Winter Park ski trains, but there is capacity for more passenger service, including from Denver to Steamboat Springs, Hayden and Craig.

"We have an unusual confluence of favorable conditions in place right now," said CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew. "This is a rare opportunity for us to get significant funding for a project that we know is very doable."

The passenger rail service would likely coordinate with and complement bus service in the

mountains, including CDOT's own Bustang system. And the train ride itself would be breathtaking, running through some of the most beautiful scenery in the state.

The plan has support from a wide coalition that includes lawmakers, members of Congress, cities and towns along the route as well as many businesses.

"This is exciting news for northwest Colorado!" said Rep. Meghan Lukens, whose district includes Steamboat Springs. "We've been working hard to develop this critical rail option, and now we're one step closer to making it a reality. Transitioning the existing rail line to passenger rail would lower the cost of living in our communities, create new job opportunities, connect people with more affordable housing options and grow our economy. I'm thrilled the Colorado Transportation Commission has approved our request to create a service development plan for this route."

The next steps would include stakeholder input with communities along the route, counties, recreation industry partners and Union Pacific. Independently, CDOT is working with the Front Range Passenger Rail District on planning for Front Range Passenger Rail, which would provide complementary service from Pueblo, through Denver, to Fort Collins and ultimately to Wyoming and New Mexico.



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Keith R Cerny
Publisher

Brian Williams
Managing Editor



(ISSN 1047-1170)

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Your FIRST Source for Local News

Lifestyles



Photos by Lyndsie Ferrell

The Rio Grande County Museum in partnership with the Windsor Hotel hosted their annual fundraising event and Mystery Dinner on Friday, Oct. 13. The evening was well attended and highlighted local history, mystery and lore. All proceeds went to the preservation and relocation of the Barlow and Sanderson Stage Office.

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SLV community shows support for Rio Grande County Museum

STAFF REPORT DEL NORTE — For the second straight year, the Rio Grande County Museum partnered with the Windsor Hotel for an annual fundraiser dinner that this year benefitted the restoration and preservation of the Barlow and Sanderson Stage Office.

As the sun set in Del Norte on Friday, Oct. 13, people wandered into the Windsor Hotel to enjoy an evening of mystery and ghostly delight. The hotel provided the perfect ambience for the dinner setting that included tales of local lore.

Windsor and museum staff greeted people as they gathered in the front rooms of the building and then at 6 p.m. sharp, the first of two tours kicked off throughout the property led by the Windsor Hotel's Melissa Archuleta. Archuleta is well versed in both local history and the history of the hotel.

The tour included tales about the days when the Windsor served as the local morgue, some of the guests and their untimely deaths as well as tales of ghosts who still linger along the hallways and room of the hotel.

"We have always wanted to hear the stories about the Windsor, and we really enjoyed listening to Melissa while she set the stage for the evening," said attendees Jeff and Lynn Weiser.

The evening also included a three-course meal created by Chef Tim Alfrey who is well known for his creative flare and delicious pairings. Each

course was named after a notorious tale from Rio Grande County's history including the Leroy Brothers, the Fremont and La Llorona.

"The meal was superb. We are never disappointed, but this was almost as if Chef Tim made fall into a meal," laughed diner Mary Vine.

Just as dessert was being placed on the tables, Rio Grande County Museum Director Lyndsie Ferrell thanked the attending crowd for their support.

"It was so nice to see so many new faces here this evening. It just goes to show how far our supporters reach and we are very grateful for your generous donations and for joining us this evening," she said.

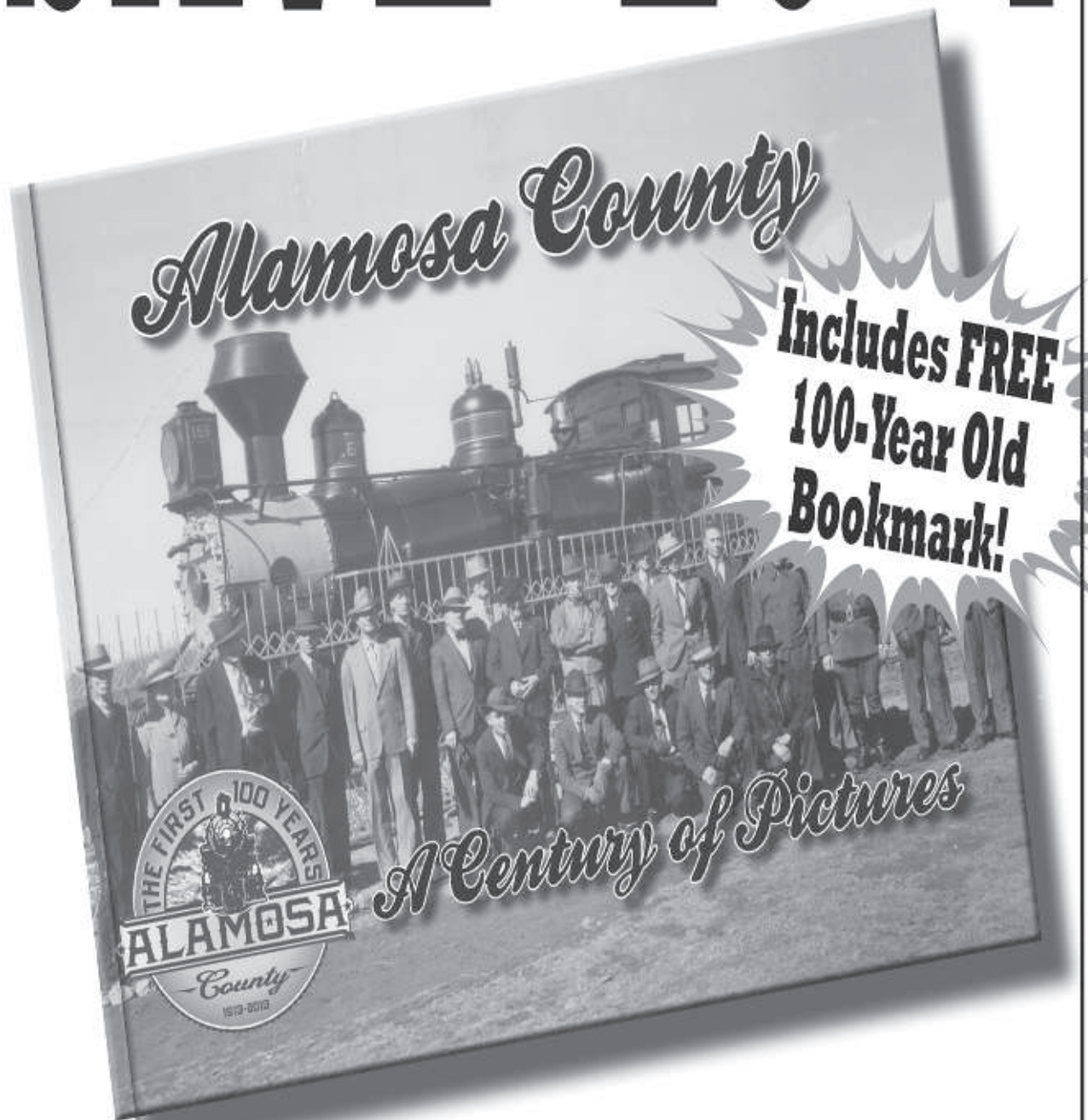
Ferrell also thanked Suzanne Off, one of the remaining few people that have worked over the years to ensure the Barlow and Sanderson Stage Office was cared for and preserved for future generations. The Rio Grande County Commissioners were also thanked for their generosity in donating \$25,000 this past summer to the project.

A huge thanks goes out to the Rio Grande County Museum for its continued support and to the Windsor Hotel which has been one of the biggest supporters of the museum and the Barlow and Sanderson Preservation Fund and to the Del Norte Public Library for collecting donations and continuing to support the cause through several different means.



The Windsor Hotel's Melissa Archuleta took diners on tours and spoke about the spooky history of the hotel and the area.

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Sports

Sargent wins Class 2A SPL championship

Grizzly women win RMAC crown, Men finish second



By ERIC R. FLORES
ASU Associate
Athletic Director for
Communications

DENVER — The Grizzlies men's and women's cross country teams competed in the RMAC championships in Denver, Colorado on Saturday. Both teams are coming home with trophies as the women were crowned RMAC champions and the men were runners up. On top of those stellar team finishes, the Grizzlies received multiple other awards at the meet. Brianna Robles was awarded as the Women's Runner of the Year, Tristian Spence was awarded as the Women's Freshman Runner of the Year, and Coach Damon Martin was awarded as the Women's Coach of the Year.

Leading the pack for ASU on the men's side was Romain Legendre, who finished sixth overall with a time of 24:25.9. Dayton Brown was the next runner to cross the line for the Grizzlies in eighth place with a time of 24:33.8, followed by Yonas Haile in 10th (24:38.5), James Dunne in 12th (24:46.9), and David Cardenas 23rd (25:03.1).

Also competing for the Grizzlies was Kidus Begashaw in 29th place with a time of (25:15.2), Emil Bezeckny 34th

(25:28.3), Elijah De La Cerda in 40th (25:37.7), and Mikah Paiz in 47th (25:46.2).

On the women's side, Brianna Robles sprinted to the finish line to earn a first place finish with a time of 20:34.1, followed by Emily Schoellkopf in third with a time of 21:02.9. Ava O'Connor was the next Grizzly to cross the line in sixth place with a time of 21:08.7, followed by Morgan Hykes in 10th with a time of 21:33.0 and to round out the scoring 5 for the Grizzlies was Elena Carey who finished 12th with a time of 21:33.9.

Also competing for the Grizzlies was Tristian Spence who finished 15th with a time of 21:37.3, Reina Paredes in 18th with a time of 21:52.9, Fiona Hawkins in 24th (22:13.3), and Vienna Lahner in 27th (22:27.3).

The Grizzlies will now look forward to the NCAA South Central Regional Cross Country meet that will be held in Lubbock, Texas on November, 4th.



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

Sargent High School's Makayla Brown (4) hits the ball over the net while Kimmy Pargin (6) and Reese Anderson (10) stand by. The Lady Farmers defeated the Lady Miners in Four sets to win the Class 2A Southern Peaks League championship.

The Lady Farmers scored four in a row to take back the lead at 23-21. The Lady Miners, however, scored the final four points for a 25-23 win. Trinidad scored the first point of the third set but Sargent answered by scoring eight unanswered points. The Lady Farmers raised the lead to 15-5, and eventually to 20-8.

The Lady Miners made a run and narrowed the gap to 20-12. But the Lady Farmers scored the last five points to win the set 25-12.

Sargent scored the first two points of the fourth set. The teams exchanged side outs before the Lady Farmers increased the lead to 7-4.

Trinidad scored five points in a row to take a 9-7 lead. Sargent then

took control and gradually increased the lead to 24-14.

The Lady Miners scored four straight points, but the Lady Farmers scored the final point to take the set, match and league championship.

Reese Anderson led the Sargent offense with 39 assists. Makayla Brown led the hitting game with 22 kills, followed by Kandace Pargin with 14, Kimmy Pargin with eight, and Anderson with six.

Kimmy Pargin led in service aces with two, and Brown, Kandace Pargin, and Catie Deacon each had one.

Sargent (16-5, 6-1) will have two nonleague matches at home this week to wrap up the regular season. On Tuesday, the Lady Farmers will host

Hoehne, and on Thursday, they will host Ignacio.

"They're big games and they're both ranked," Cotton said. "Hoehne is ranked eighth and Ignacio is up there too. So big games for us this week and we're excited about a tough schedule to end the season, and into postseason play."

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD

FRIDAY

Prep football

Alamosa 27, Florence 25
Centauri 38, Ignacio 6
Mancos 58, Sanford 0
Monte Vista 58, Center 6
Primero 80, Mountain Valley 52
Sangre de Cristo 56, Manzanola 20
Prep boys soccer
Lake County 3, Alamosa 0
Prep girls softball
Strasburg 14, Alamosa 3, 5 inn.
Prep girls volleyball
Center 25-13, 25-19, 25-12
Cotopaxi def. Sierra Grande 25-21, 25-19, 23-25, 25-19
Mancos def. Sanford 25-20, 25-14, 25-23
Primero def. Mountain Valley 25-7, 25-15,

25-14
Swink def. Del Norte 27-25, 25-12, 30-28

SATURDAY

Prep football

Del Norte 36, Trinidad 0
Hayden 58, Sargent 14
Prep girls volleyball
Alamosa def. Sterling 25-20, 16-25, 16-14
Alamosa def. Wiggins 25-16, 25-17
Crested Butte def. Mountain Valley 25-7, 25-16, 25-16
Lamar def. Alamosa in two sets - scores not reported
Las Animas def. Sierra Grande 25-10, 25-1, 25-15
Merino def. Alamosa 25-22, 25-21
Monte Vista def. South Park in three sets - scores not reported
Sangre de Cristo def. Center 25-16, 25-20, 22-25, 22-25, 15-7
Sargent def. Trinidad 25-17, 23-25, 25-12, 25-18
College football
Colorado Mesa 42, Adams State 7
College women's volleyball
Colorado School of

Mines def. Adams State 25-22, 29-27, 25-20

SUNDAY

College men's soccer

Colorado School of Mines 5, Adams State 0
College women's soccer
Colorado School of Mines 3, Adams State 0

SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

Prep girls volleyball
Hoehne at Sargent, 4:30 p.m.
Sanford at Sangre de Cristo, 5 p.m.
Pagosa Springs at Monte Vista, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY

Prep girls volleyball
Ignacio at Sargent, 5 p.m.
Alamosa at Fowler, 6 p.m.
College women's soccer
Colorado State Pueblo at Adams State, 3 p.m.
College women's volleyball
New Mexico Highlands at Adams State (RMAC Power Pod), 6 p.m.

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CAFFETERIA 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 LIASON. 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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AVON STEIN COLLECTION: \$25. 719-852-8879. (10/25/23)

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

362 - HOME FURNISHINGS

BEAUTIFUL GOLDEN OAK HEAD BOARD: 64"Wx48"H, \$50. Call 719-256-4058 or 719-429-9900. (10/28/23)

368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

PUPPY NEEDS GOOD HOME: Blue Merle Australian Shepherd mother and Border Collie dad. 10 weeks old, had first shot. Very playful. Home check necessary. Please call 719-580-4014. (10/27/23)

FEMALE GREAT PYRENEES looking for a NEW HOME. Good disposition, friendly. 719-992-1110. (10/27/23)

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

OOPS! GOT PUPPIES WHO NEED A HOME? San Luis Valley ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY is a nonprofit ANIMAL RESCUE dedicated to stopping the euthanasia of healthy adoptable pets. Having pets altered is the number one way to stop pet overpopulation. If your pet has had puppies contact us. We will take the puppies into our rescue and spay the mama dog for free after the puppies are weaned. If needed, we will also provide dog food & gas money to get the dogs to us to help in this situation. Spay/neuter is one of the greatest gifts you can provide your pet, your family, and your community. We have found good responsible homes for over 8,000 animals. Contact 719-587-9663 (WOOF); email: woof@slvaws.org. (TFN)

304 - LAWN & GARDEN

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

307 - APPLIANCES

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

324 - SEED & FEED

HORSE & COWHAY: 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)

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)

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. \$1450/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.



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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lid fastener
 - 5 Golf peg
 - 8 Exec's helper
 - 12 Lascivious look
 - 13 "Give ___ rest"
 - 14 Actress — Moreno
 - 15 Actor — Penn
 - 16 On cloud nine
 - 18 Lovers' meeting
 - 20 President — Hoover
 - 21 Ology
 - 23 "How ___ love thee?"
 - 24 Dominate
 - 28 Turns, as a jetliner
 - 31 Turnstile
 - 32 Calendar abbr.
 - 34 Once owned
 - 36 Before now
 - 37 Spy org.
 - 38 Cornbread
 - 39 Crisp cookie
- DOWN**
- 1 Emcee
 - 2 Ripening agent
 - 3 Do in
 - 4 Thoughtful
 - 5 Game outcome
 - 6 Engrave
 - 7 Made less severe
 - 8 "Lawrence of ___"
 - 9 Venue
 - 10 Commotion

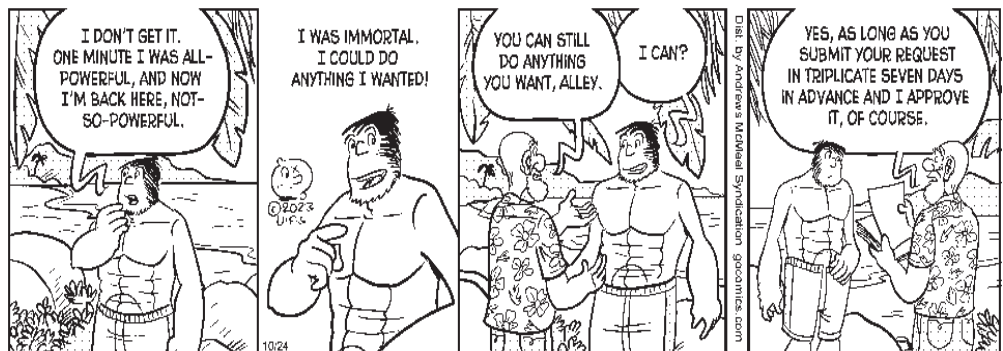
Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

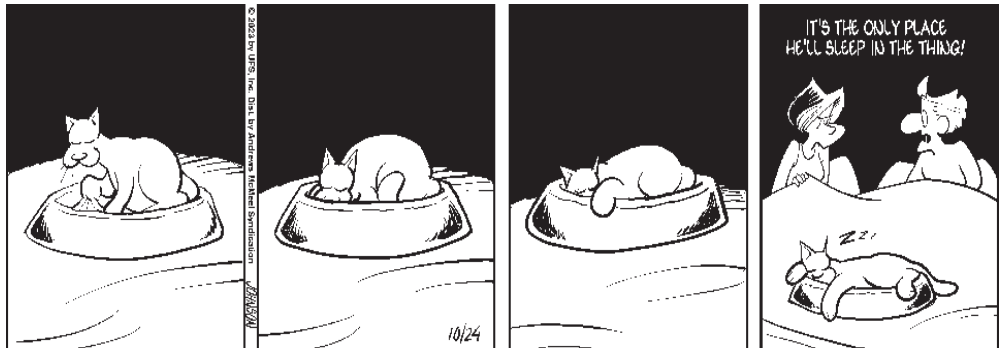
- 11 Diplomat's specialty
- 17 Helen of —
- 19 Screening org.
- 22 Catchall abbr.
- 24 Links org.
- 25 Tattered duds
- 26 School in England
- 27 Secular
- 29 "Slow down!"
- 30 Hit some high notes
- 33 New Mexico town
- 35 Billy — Williams
- 38 Almond confection
- 40 Ridiculous
- 41 No —, no gain
- 43 — and downs
- 45 The Thinker sculptor
- 47 Make pulpy
- 48 Have — in one's bonnet
- 49 Christmas
- 50 Detective — Wolfe
- 52 Driver or Sandler
- 53 Word
- 54 Cabinet mem.
- 56 Moisture

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			
61				62				63			

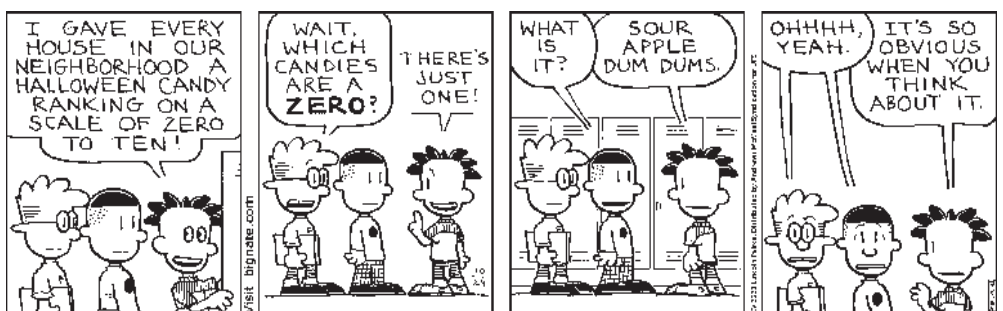
ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



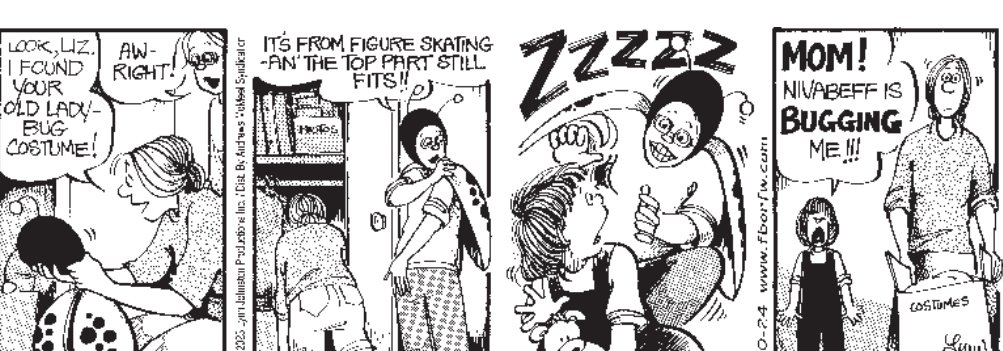
BIG NATE



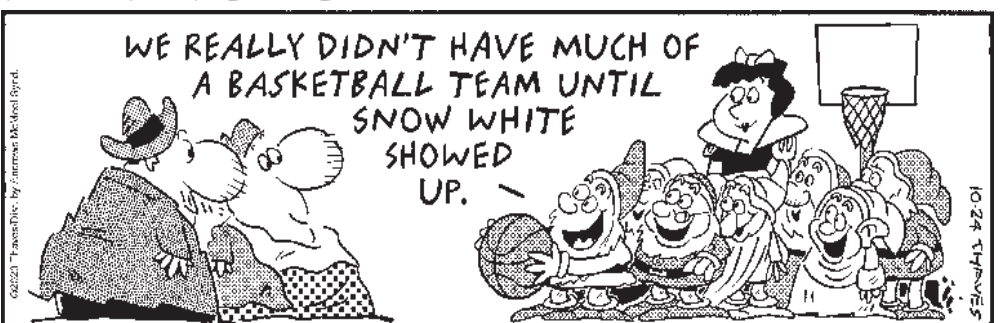
THE BORN LOSER



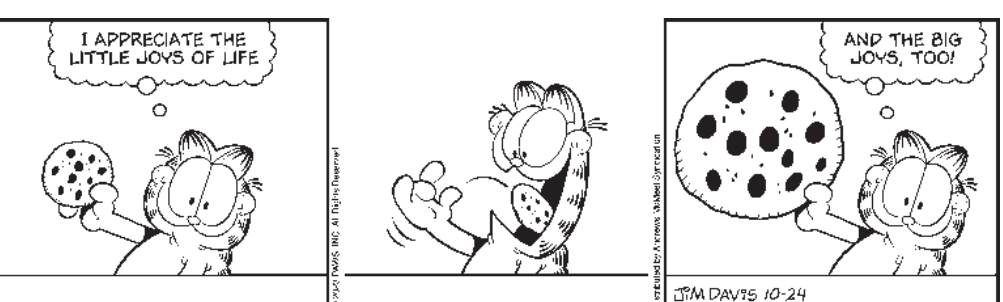
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

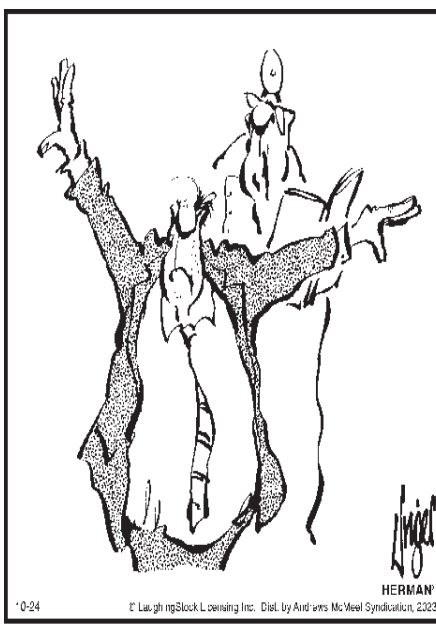
		2	5	1			7	8
		7			8	4		1
4	8	1		6				3
		9	2	3				
	1	6		8		7	3	
			7	6	2			
7			2			8	5	4
1		5	8			9		
6	4			5	7	3		

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



Family can't stomach dad's kitchen creations

DEAR ABBY: My husband loves cooking for the family. Unfortunately, he's a horrible cook. My kids hate what he prepares, so most of the food goes in the trash.

I have had many conversations with him about this, begging him not to do it and telling him if he wants to cook, he should make something for himself. His reply is always, "I'm not forcing you guys to eat my food. You are welcome to eat something else." But when we do that, he sulks and ruins everyone's day, so we end up giving in. I don't know how to get through to him about this. -- TASTES BAD IN THE EAST

DEAR TASTES BAD: You can talk till you're blue in the face, and your husband still won't get the message because he doesn't want to hear it. He doesn't CARE about the waste.

Of course, you and the kids could explain EXACTLY what you don't like about what he has prepared, and offer suggestions about the seasoning, etc., which might help him. And perhaps you could all cook together from time to time.

In the future, when your children achieve independence and the family gathers, each family member may want to bring their food with them. However,

while they live under your roof, they'll have to accept what their father insists on giving them.

DEAR ABBY: My son is getting married in Mexico in six months. I would like to take a special friend with me as my plus-one. My wife has dementia. It is quite severe, and she has been in a care facility for two years. She no longer recognizes anyone, including me. Would it be wrong to take my lady friend to Mexico? We haven't been intimate yet, but romance at the beach in Mexico is very possible. What do I do? -- UNCERTAIN IN IOWA

DEAR UNCERTAIN: Your son's wedding is not the time to "surprise" anyone with this lady's presence. Depending upon how large your family is and how close you all are, some people may already be aware that you're involved with someone and why. But ask your son and his fiancée if bringing her would be disruptive, and gracefully base your decision on their response. A wedding is supposed to be about the bride and groom on their special day with no distractions.

DEAR ABBY: I heard my old high school boyfriend was arrested. It made the news. I hadn't seen or heard from him in more than a decade. While I'm relieved that I dodged



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

a bullet (I am happily married to someone else now), I feel terrible for his mom. We are still friends on social media and keep up with each other. Should I reach out to her in what must be a humiliating and concerning time, or should I keep to myself? -- HESITANT IN TEXAS

DEAR HESITANT: Because you and this woman have a relationship that extended beyond the one between you and her son, by all means reach out. Tell her you heard what happened, and that you care about her and want to be supportive. She may or may not contact you, but she'll know you care about her. Knowing someone cares could make all the difference for her.