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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

October 13, 2023

\$1

SLV Today

Alamosa Cemetery cleanup on Oct. 23

ALAMOSA — City crews will be at the Alamosa Cemetery on Monday, Oct. 23, at 8 a.m. for a thorough cleaning of the cemetery grounds.

Maintenance staff will be disposing of items that are not permanent. If there are items people would like to keep, they must pick them up before Monday, Oct. 23, the city stated.

For more information, contact Danny Govea at 719-496-7368.

New property website through assessor's office

ALAMOSA COUNTY — A new website for property records, in coordination with qPublic.net is now available through the Alamosa County Assessor's Office. The site can be accessed from Alamosa County's homepage, <https://alamosacounty.colorado.gov/>. Then navigate to Departments > Assessor, and click on either Online Property Map or Online Property Search. Please update any bookmarks you may have. Feel free to contact the assessor's office in person, by e-mail, or by phone 719-589-6365.

Sangre de Cristo School selling past yearbooks

MOSCA — The Sangre de Cristo School is cleaning out extra copies of past yearbooks. However, before they do, they would like to make these copies available to the public. There are copies for most years dating back to 1988. The price is \$10 per copy. Anyone interested should contact the yearbook staff via email at yearbook@sangreschools.com.

SLV WEATHER

Sunny 60/21

Sat: Mostly Sunny 63/21

Sun: Sunny 66/24

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State Board of Ed to ASD: 'This team has done amazing things'

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Members of the Colorado State Board of Education had words of high praise for the Alamosa School District after a visit on Wednesday afternoon.

"This team has done amazing things," said Rebecca McClellan, Chairperson of the Board and representative for District 6. "They were struggling for some years, but they've really made progress."

The purpose of the tour, attended by seven of the nine members elected to the board plus the commissioner of education, was to connect those at the state levels with all the regions across the state.

Among the school districts in the San Luis Valley, Alamosa was chosen to host the visit, which began with the State Board conducting their board meeting from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. That meeting was followed by a group conversation, led by Assistant Superintendent Luis Murillo, with students from Alamosa High School (AHS) about their school experiences, including

■ See **AMAZING** page 3
Jamie Dominguez, founder of Shooting Stars Cultural and Leadership Center, addressing the State Board of Education, Commissioner of Education, ASD staff and visitors.

Photo by Luis Murillo



Photo by Patrick Myers, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve

Solar eclipse visible in southern Colorado on Saturday

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

SAN LUIS VALLEY — On Saturday, Oct. 14, many skywatchers in southern Colorado will experience at least a partial eclipse. Also known as the "ring of fire" eclipse, it occurs when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth at its farthest point from our planet.

The Alamosa Public Library will host a solar eclipse viewing gathering in Cole Park from 9:30 to 11 a.m. The library will have cookies, activities, and eclipse glasses. Anyone viewing the eclipse should only do so safely. The viewing is free and will be located in the park behind the Alamosa Public Library.

During an annular eclipse, looking directly at the Sun without specialized eye protection designed for solar viewing is never safe. To capture this 2017 solar eclipse picture, photographer Patrick Meyers developed the image with two different exposures — one of the eclipsed Sun using a

■ See **ECLIPSE** page 3

Alamosa commissioners tackle full agenda

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa County Board of Commissioners had a full agenda to consider on Oct. 11, including property taxes, domestic violence awareness, a preliminary budget, an update from Advantage Treatment Center, and other issues.

Commissioner Lori Laske introduced a resolution on state property taxes that voters will decide on in the November election,

"Regarding Prop HH, because it has a significant impact on the county we have taken the opportunity to make sure our voters are getting the correct information and understand what the impact HH will have on the county and to them individually with the reduction to their TABOR refunds. Because of this, the commissioners have opted to take a position of opposition to HH based on our resolution." [for a full text of

■ See **AGENDA** page 3



Courtesy photo

Pamela Cisneros with the Southwest Conservation Corps provided Alamosa County Commissioners with this photo during her presentation on the work the corps youth crew accomplished this past summer season.

Small crowd briefed on issues at candidate forum

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Five candidates for Alamosa's city council were at the candidate forum on Tuesday night where, in front of a small audience of about eight people in person and four online, they were asked a series of questions ranging from incentives for small businesses to homelessness.

Among the candidates, incumbents Michael Carson, Dawn Krebs, and Liz Hensley are all running unopposed. Only one seat — Ward 3 — is competitive with candidates John

Adams and Jackie Vigil vying for the chance to have a seat at the table.

In their opening remarks, Adams, who is the learning coordinator for San Luis Valley Health, shared that he's originally from New Jersey and, along with his wife, has been in the Valley for 11 years, where he enjoys a "small town" way of life.

Adams wants to have an impact on the city and has served on the redistricting committee, which examined boundaries for the wards electing representatives to the city council, as well as

■ See **FORUM** page 3



Courier photo by Keith R. Cerny

Alamosa City Council candidates participating in Tuesday night's forum at city hall included, from left, Michael Carson, council at large, Dawn Krebs, council Ward 2, John Adams, council Ward 3, Jackie Vigil, council Ward 3, and Liz Hensley, council Ward 1.

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Valley News

Agenda

Continued from Page 1
 the resolution see sidebar].
 The resolution was approved unanimously. Laske added, "And one last comment, this [proposition] gives \$21 billion to the state out of our citizens."

Megan Lang, with Tu Casa gave an update on Domestic Violence Awareness Month and presented the commissioners with a proclamation that read in part, "Domestic violence can have severe consequences for survivors including emotional harm, physical injuries, mental health concerns, and even death. Whereas domestic violence not only impacts survivors but also has effects on children, families, communities, and the nation as a whole...Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an opportunity to educate the public, mobilize community members and engage in advocacy efforts to end domestic violence."

Lang then gave the commissioners an overview of the work Tu Casa does in victim advocacy, prevention and education, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, stalking, and human trafficking.

Commissioner Arlan Van Ry briefed commissioners on Operation Green Light, "a national, county, movement, Amazon also backs us on this. It is where we encourage county, residential, city, all public buildings to light them green the week leading up to Veterans Day. I would like the support of other commissioners for Operation Green Light so we can light our buildings up." Commissioner Vern Heersink offered his support and said, "Absolutely. Commissioner Van Ry, I appreciate you looking into this and appreciate your generosity in buying the lights and I wholly support this and think it is a great idea."

Commissioner Laske also supported the endeavor and said, "I one hundred percent support this, and thank you very much our Veterans are so important to us and any time we can take an opportunity to recognize them I appreciate it."

Commissioner Van Ry said he would introduce a resolution at the next meeting regarding Operation Green Light.

Kale Mortensen, the executive director of the Alamosa Visitor and Convention Bureau, spoke about the Visit Alamosa initiative. During his presentation, he said hotel occupancy is down slightly and that hotel and tax revenue looks bright. Mortensen gave an overview of the video work the bureau is doing. Alamosa County Administrator Roni Wisdom gave the work rave reviews and suggested that some of the future work feature an older demographic. Recruiting international travelers is going well, said Mortensen.

Aaron Miltenberger, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the San

Luis Valley updated commissioners on the club. The Valley Courier will have a feature article on Miltenberger and all the exciting developments at the club in our Saturday edition by Priscilla Waggoner.

Pamela Cisneros, youth program manager with the Southwest Conservation Corp gave a photo presentation regarding the work the outdoor youth crew did in the county last summer. The crew worked on a variety of projects with the City of Alamosa, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, and the Rio Grande Farm Park.

"They did super great this season. I was really impressed with their education in conservation, birding, and recreation. They even participated in meditation, they were a rowdy bunch and they were able to get it done. It was an all-around a great season," said Cisneros.

The conservation corps works on outdoor projects in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico. The organization was founded in 1998 and continues the of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s.

Last year the county financed a two-week work crew and the group requested the county bump that up to a four-week crew at \$9,500 a week. Commissioner Heersink asked, "Is the focus of the program on building up the kids, or is it for getting work done in public spaces?"

Cisneros replied, "We've had this conservation for a long time, are we a youth-serving organization that does conservation, or are we a conservation organization that does youth and development work? I don't think we have ever come to a place because we do both."

Commissioner Laske offered that it would be great if the corp can work more on county facilities and said she is supportive and that the county is now working on its budget.

Josh Mayhugh, the acting facilities manager at the Advantage Treatment Center ATC in Alamosa told the commissioners, "With some of the audit results we had a few weeks our, director did leave employment with us. We thought it was important we have a member of the executive management

here to take control of the program and be here to see sort of what is going on, see some of the training deficiencies we had and help guide the program back into where we want it to be, back where it has been historically." The center provides drug and alcohol addiction treatment.

The audit Mayhugh mentioned is one the Division of Criminal Justice is compiling (and yet to be competed) on the Alamosa Facility that has determined the facility is in non-compliance in several areas with state statutes.

In a meeting in late September with the 12th Judicial District Community Corrections Board that oversees ATC locally, Doug Carrigan, owner of ATC said, "It was a bad audit," and said it was likely the facility would be put on probation for one year."

County Controller Mari-Cruz Mora presented a preliminary budget for 2024. If approved, the county will cover a deficit of \$808,987 out of the general fund. Proposed budget revenues are \$15,281,840 and proposed expenditures are \$16,090,827.



Photo by Luis Murrillo

Superintendent Diana Jones highlighting ASD accomplishments.

Amazing

Continued from Page 1
 ing what is working and what is not.

The AHS conversation was followed by various administrators with the district highlighting the accomplishments made in recent years culminating in a meet-and-greet at the Alamosa Family Center at the Shooting Stars Cultural and Leadership Center where center founder, Jamie Dominguez, explained the significance of the Maestas Case mural that was recently added to the Center.

During the meet-and-greet, Board member Karla Esser, representing Jefferson County and District 7, was notably impressed with the AHS students' ability to express themselves.

"One student told me how many hours she'd already earned in high school toward her Associates degree, her plan to go to college, what she planned to major in, and everything she had planned out for her future after that," she told the Valley Courier. "They were also very open about issues. Social media was on their minds a lot and bullying and how the bullying is always anonymous. They even said they weren't sure I could understand what they were experiencing because things were very different when I was in school. I was so impressed by their awareness."

Esser also praised Murrillo for being so encouraging and open to hearing the students' comments and concerns.

Chairperson McClellan commented on AHS Principal Andy Lavier's tenure with the school district.

"He's been with the district for, I think, 26 years? That's so important. Stability in that position makes such a huge difference, especially when it's a person who's as good at their job as he is." She went on to add, "And when a person who isn't doing such a great job is in their position for a long time, that impact is obvious, too."

Board member Dr. Lisa A. Escárcega, representing Denver, noted the inclusion of parents in basic processes like registra-

tion for school.

"They're very welcoming of parents," she said. "Instead of doing this," she said, demonstrating two fists bumping into each other, "they're doing this." She then opened her hands in a welcoming gesture. "That's so great to see."

Several of the board members acknowledged that rural districts have advantages that larger districts don't have, such as the ability to be more "nimble" and "flexible", allowing them to alter what they're doing more easily when they find out something isn't working. "Larger districts like Denver just don't have that ability," Dr. Escárcega said.

She also went on to say that she believes public schools are getting an unfair reputation for not providing good education.

"It starts with — no offense — the media saying that," she said. "But if you ask parents what they think of their son or daughter's teacher and they'll say, 'I love her, she's doing such a great job.' That's what the reality is in most schools, I'm sure it is here."

Board member Rhoda Solis, representing newly formed 8th District, was among the most exuberant, part of which she attributed to returning to a part of the state where her family had deep roots and part of which she attributed to what she saw going on in the district.

"It's so important for everyone to work together," she said. "One board member can ruin everything. Really, it just takes one person to do that. But when you have the teachers, the administration, the school board, the parents, the students, the community and the city council all on the same page and all working for the same thing, it's amazing what can happen. I know we did that up in Greeley. And I feel like that's what's happening here."

When asked for a final comment, Colorado Department of Education's Commissioner Susana Córdova complimented ASD for being on the right track, while adding that no one should look at just one year's scores to evaluate a school but the trajectory the school is on.

RESOLUTION OF ALAMOSA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RE: A RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSITION HH ON THE 2023 BALLOT WHICH PURPORTS TO REDUCE PROPERTY TAXES BY BACKFILLING LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUES WITH STATE SURPLUS FUNDS

WHEREAS, Alamosa County, is a political subdivision of the State of Colorado and is geographically located within the San Luis Valley; and

WHEREAS, C.R.S. §1-45-117, authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to adopt a resolution or taking a position of advocacy on any statewide ballot issue; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill SB23-303 ("Proposition HH") was passed by the Colorado Legislature in the final hours of the last day of the 2023 legislative session; and

WHEREAS, SB23-303 was signed by Colorado Governor Jared Polis on May 24, 2023; and

WHEREAS, SB 23-303 requires Proposition HH to be on the November 2023 statewide General Election ballot; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Proposition HH would trigger conditions within SB23-303, authorizing the State of Colorado to circumvent the provisions of Colorado Constitution Article X, Section 20, known as "The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights" or "TABOR;" and

WHEREAS, all property tax revenues remain at the local level and go to pay for schools, roads, fire protection, libraries, police, and other local services; and

WHEREAS, the ballot question allows the state legislature to extend Proposition HH through 2040 producing a \$21 billion net tax increase, as property taxes are reduced by \$21.49 billion while state taxes increase by \$42.38 billion, all without voter approval; and

WHEREAS, the average homeowner would see a property tax savings, they would lose money in future TABOR refunds; and

WHEREAS, based on the passage of SB22-238, Alamosa County homeowners will pay approximately \$410,000 less in 2023 property taxes without reducing any TABOR refunds; and

WHEREAS, while the 768,000, or 33% of all Colorado households that are renters would not directly receive a property tax reduction, yet those who are joint filers would lose money in future TABOR refunds in addition to the increase in property taxes over time that landlords choose to pass on to the renter; and

WHEREAS, Proposition HH places a revenue limit on property tax revenues which may result in decreased services as property tax revenues may not keep up with increasing expenditures by local government and special districts, and

WHEREAS, Proposition HH increases the work load for County Assessors and County Treasurers and requires unnecessary public meetings, resolutions, and monitoring by County staff while at the same time reducing funding for such increased work load, and

WHEREAS, to obtain the "Primary Residence Real Property" or "Qualified-Senior Primary Residence Real Property" tax reductions set for in SB23-303, the property owners would be required to disclose their Social Security Numbers (SSNs) to the Assessor, who would then be required to disclose those SSNs to the Colorado State Registrar; and

WHEREAS, such disclosure of SSNs risks unauthorized disclosures to the detriment of the property owners; and

WHEREAS, TABOR, if allowed to work properly without being circumvented by SB23-303 provides the tax relief desired by Colorado taxpayers, as authorized by the voters of Colorado in 1992; and

WHEREAS, the TABOR refund was never intended to be used for the purpose of backfilling the loss of revenue to local governments caused by the property tax reductions of SB23-303, which would be triggered by the passage of Proposition HH; and

WHEREAS, the backfilling would not benefit most local governments in Alamosa County because SB23-303 prohibits backfilling once the local government assessed property valuations are twenty percent greater than they were on January 1, 2022,

WHEREAS, Proposition HH does not restrict the General Assembly in future years from changing the use of the excess revenues to some purpose other than backfilling the loss of revenue to local governments caused by the property tax reductions of SB23-303; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners formally declares its opposition to Proposition HH for the reasons stated above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board encourages the voters of Alamosa County to vote "No" on Proposition HH on the November 2023 ballot.

DONE THIS 11th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2022 by roll call vote; ALL IN FAVOR

Eclipse

Continued from Page 1
 solar filter to protect the camera's sensor and photographer's eyes, while

the other was unfiltered and captured the landscape below the Sun.

According to NASA, "Do not look at the Sun through a camera lens, telescope, binoculars, or

any other optical device while wearing eclipse glasses or using a handheld solar viewer — the concentrated solar rays will burn through the filter and cause serious eye

injury." There are no eclipse-related activities scheduled for Adams State University, or Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.

Forum

Continued from Page 1
 the planning commission for more than a year. He agrees with steps the city has taken related to housing and homelessness and seeks to be a voice for the people in his ward and the city, as a whole, while also advocating for civil discourse.

in Costilla County, has a long history with Alamosa as a third-generation native who has lived here most of her life, with the exception of 10 years she lived in Center. As she described it, that deep familiarity with the community both motivated her to run for city council and gives her the qualifications to fill the seat.

She thinks the availability of housing is a significant concern as well as public safety, both for

children and the elderly. She understands that people who are homeless are "people, too" and should be treated as such and says her role on the council would be to speak for all the people in Alamosa.

In terms of issues, there was general agreement among the candidates about steps being taken to address housing and homelessness and the importance of educating the public on city actions.

Councilors Carson and

Hensley addressed issues in the greatest depth, with Carson praising the city for efforts to increase affordable housing and Hensley advocating for shifting focus to addressing mental health issues among the homeless population.

The forum was co-sponsored by the Alamosa Chamber of Commerce, the City of Alamosa and the Valley Courier, with Keith Cerny, publisher, moderating the event.

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Opinion

Back to the grindstone

Way back in the day when Ol' Dutch was working three different careers at the same time, I used to take vacations to try and rest up a bit. That isn't how it turned out, though. My kids wanted to have fun and we jammed so many things in a week of break that I had to go back to work to rest.

Since retiring, I have noticed that I am busier than ever and actually feel like I have not had a day off since I quit working proper. A lot of seniors feel the same way as they get involved in so many activities that there is never a break.

This past summer Miss Trixie signed us up for any and every activity that came along and what with working for Mountain Man Rafting too, we were busy as the proverbial beaver. Maybe even busier, too, as we had every tree cut down within 100 miles, so to speak.

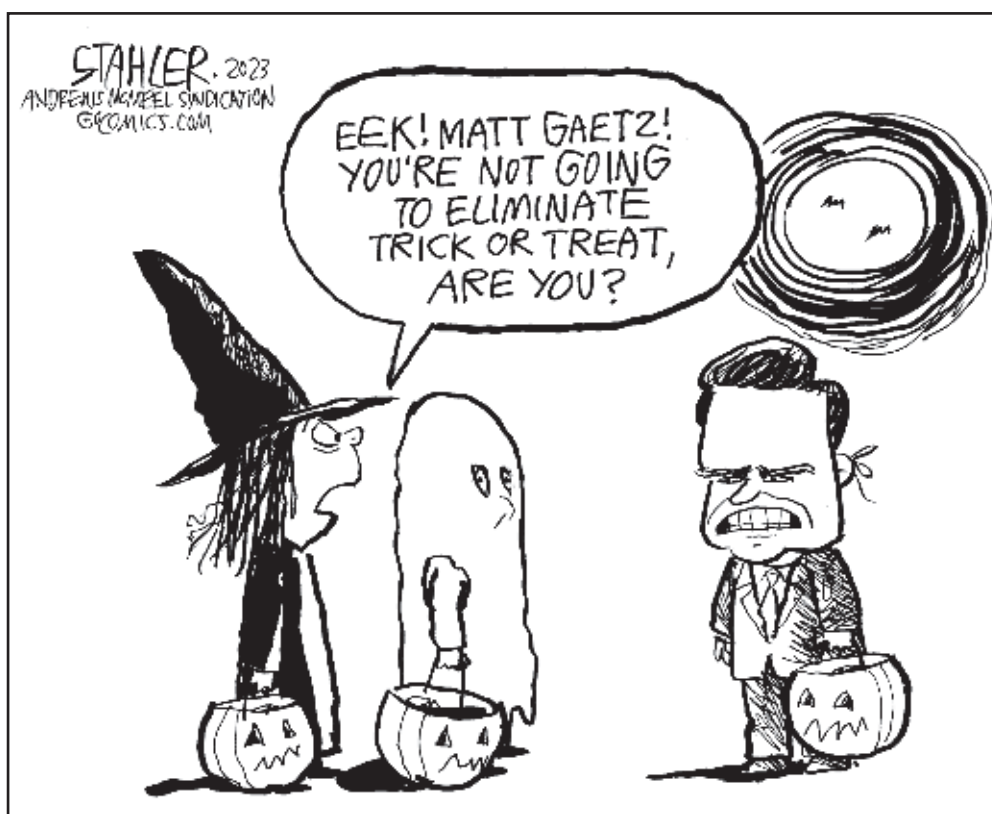
September came with a rush and 28 days of non-stop hunting about did Ol' Dutch in but I made it through and walked some 130 miles in pursuit of the mighty wapiti and poor old bear.

That too came to an end, and we soon found ourselves back in Texas on the ranch. But true to form the very next day we had to babysit the Grands and that was just a lot of continuous driving to soccer and horse-riding venues.

Trout Republic



by Kevin Kirkpatrick



Finally, their long-lost parents made it home and we retired to the farm to unpack from the summer. Ol' Dutch was soon immersed in mowing the back 40 to get rid of the weeds and Trixie working on the abode to get it back into livable condition.

I came in from mowing late and lo and behold Miss Trixie had injured her eye. It was blood red and looked terrible. I guess I will have to keep her locked up here for a while as people will think I finally snapped and poked her a good one. Which is so silly as everyone that knows us says she can take me any day of the week and heck that's probably about true.

I think Ol' Dutch is finally going to build a ranch house on the hill, and so

it's going to be a winter of pounding labor to get that up and going. I usually do almost all the work myself but it's going to be harder at 67 years old, I am sure.

We are already looking for materials all over the greater Dallas area as there are deals out there like you cannot believe if you look. Miss Trixie even found free bathtubs from the manufacturer that may have a flaw on the back etc. but otherwise are in perfect condition.

I found some plywood at one-fourth the cost of what it cost at the big box store so that was a godsend, too. 2x4's and other lumber is about the same as there is so much building going on here that leftover lumber is a dime a dozen. Well, maybe not that cheap but it's definitely worth looking for aftermarket

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."

Republican field starts to narrow as early contests loom

By DAVID M. SHRIBMAN

No longer can we say the 2024 presidential election is in the obscure far-off future. The Iowa caucuses are exactly three months away -- and the first real phase of the contest is taking shape.

What we know: Donald Trump has solidified his position atop the Republican field, doing so by the most astonishing feat: building strength from three searing indictments, profiting from his legal peril, and raising money from a mugshot that mere political mortals would consider mortifying. He and Joe Biden seem poised for a runoff.

But at this moment, the unknowns may be more intriguing:

- What is the long-term political implication of the Trump legal woes?

His opponents, accomplished in wishful thinking, believe that in the end, voters will not want a president who faces possible prison time for his crimes. Maybe they're right. But are they the same people who thought Americans would not want an unlikeable, unqualified figure to be president? A month before the 2016 election, a Pew Research Center poll found that 70% of Americans thought Trump was reckless. Only a third thought he was qualified to be president. A few weeks later, thanks to the weakness of his opponent and the peculiarities of the Electoral College, he was president-elect of the United States.

- Is Trump unbeatable for the nomination?

He's way, way ahead. But there are faint signs of weakness, apart from his legal jeopardy, the ultimate effects of which still are unclear. He lost the Iowa caucuses in 2016 and faces a spirited challenge there from Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida, who is closing in on his

pledge to visit all 99 Iowa counties by the end of this month. The DeSantis commitment has prompted Trump to devote more time to Iowa. He knows a weak showing there sets him up for difficulties ahead.

- Is DeSantis the only threat to Trump?

No, not at all. The real threat may not be DeSantis but, instead, former Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina. The one-time United Nations ambassador in the Trump administration, she is doing in New Hampshire what DeSantis is doing in Iowa: going all-in (60 events since February, \$10 million in Boston media market ads). And Haley has more to show for her efforts in New Hampshire than DeSantis does in Iowa.

She's now moved into second place in the Granite State, which holds the first primary of the 2024 political season — a position confirmed not in a single poll but in two polls out on the same day. In both surveys, she has surged ahead of DeSantis. And though her best showing (19% in the Suffolk University/Boston Globe/USAToday poll) still puts her behind Trump (at 49%), she clearly has the momentum in that important state. Her hope: A surprise victory over Trump, or a very strong showing — say, within 10 percentage points of Trump — will transform the contest into a two-person race.

- What's the X factor in the early part of the race?

It's clearly the inclinations of the Republican governors of the first two states. Neither Kim Reynolds (Iowa) nor Chris Sununu (New Hampshire) wants Trump as the party nominee. Right now, the smart money is on Reynolds endorsing DeSantis and Sununu sign-

ing on with Haley.

- Is a gubernatorial endorsement worth much in a race like this?

These would not be meaningless expressions of support. Both governors have high popularity ratings and are respected broadly. They're the two people on the face of the Earth who most worry the Trump team — Sununu especially.

He has made it clear that he wants to clear the field lined up against Trump. He's determined to sweep away the multiple candidates with single digits, probably including uber-warrior former Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey, to transform the contest into a one-on-one match against Trump. Sununu will start urging candidates out of the race by the end of this month, accelerate the effort after Thanksgiving, turbocharge it in the eight days between Iowa and New Hampshire, and pillory those who remain after his state's primary.

- Is abortion going to be a principal issue?

DeSantis, who has signed legislation outlawing abortion after six weeks in Florida, wants it to be; he knows the importance of the religious conservative vote, especially in his target state of Iowa, where some evangelical faith leaders find Trump repellent. Trump, who has signaled that he believes a hardline abortion stand is an electoral loser, also wants it to be. And Haley, who has used abortion as a way to burnish her profile as a reasonable, moderate alternative to the two leading men, wants it to be.

They can't all be right. The conventional wisdom has been that Republican voters are more committed to protecting abortion rights than politicians think they are. But consider this: That

sources.

And while I have most of the tools necessary to build such a structure, there is always something a guy needs and so I will get to buy some new toys I am sure which is always a win-win for any man.

So, if you get bored or too cold where you are and need a vacation, I encourage you to come on down and help with the house. That way when you go home you can rest up from your winter break. It's how we are.

Kevin Kirkpatrick and his Yorkie, Cooper, fish, hunt, ATV or hike daily. His email is Kevin@TroutRepublic.com. Additional news can be found at www.troutrepublic.com or on Twitter at TroutRepublic.

Suffolk/Globe/USAToday poll showed that a majority of likely New Hampshire Republican presidential primary voters said that abortion rights aren't important to them. It will take a few weeks for the candidates to digest this, and to adjust their appeals.

- Is there a single, unrecognized factor that might help us understand the trajectory of the Republican nomination fight?

There might be. It requires some patience and some Grade 4 math. Here's your assignment:

Have a look at the most recent NBC News Survey, and subtract the candidates' negative ratings from their positive ratings. It will tell you something about the temper of the times (Americans have deeply negative feelings about their political leaders and institutions) and something about the people who are seeking the ultimate leadership position in our culture.

The largest gaps between positive and negative ratings belong to DeSantis (minus 20 points) and Trump (minus 19). The smallest belongs to Haley (minus 3).

But before you start imagining the Marine Band playing "Hail to the Chief" to President Haley, add together the pluses and minuses of all three of them.

Trump comes out at 89, DeSantis at 76 — pretty high numbers. Haley, with a positive rating of 23 percentage points and a negative rating of 26, comes out with a total of only 49. That tells us that only about half of the country even has an opinion about her. Watch that space.

David M. Shribman is the former executive editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

LETTER

Hospice del Valle needs our acknowledgement and support

Editor,
My husband Henry Woolbert and I have recently engaged Hospice del Valle for my end-of-life care due to glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer.

Only a couple months ago, I didn't know what the mission of hospice is or who comprises its team. Now I know the team includes nurses of all stripes, a chaplain, a social worker, CNAs, a doctor, and vol-

unteers. Their mission, as they state on their website is to help create a "peaceful transition for clients with life-limiting illnesses; assisting clients, and families in the celebration of life with love, caring and

dignity."

As a recipient of hospice care I can report that they do a phenomenal job supporting us, anticipating our needs, and honoring our choices. They are clear, professional, warm, and sometimes even funny. Humor makes this part of the journey more endurable, at least for me.

Their office in Alamosa is located at 514 Main St. Hospice and their small team serves the entire San Luis Valley, from Villa Grove to Chama, N.M., an area roughly the size of Connecticut: 8,000 square miles.

Like me, you may not have been aware that hospice is a non-profit organization needing support from the community it serves, which one day might include you and your loved ones.

That's the reason I am writing this letter: to bring hospice to your attention and to encourage you to support it any way can. You can call hospice with any questions about donations or services at 719-589-9019.

Kathy Park
Alamosa

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Your FIRST Source for Local News

Lifestyles

Center holds suicide prevention awareness race

By MARIE MCCOLM CENTER — A suicide prevention awareness race took place on Friday, Oct. 6. The race began at the Center Viking Youth Club at 386 S. Broadway in Center. The race wound around the town of Center and ended back at the Center Viking Youth Club.

Center Viking Youth Club Director Carmen Pavlovsky said they did the race in collaboration with the Center School District's STARS Program.

"The STARS Program puts on this race every year for suicide awareness and prevention. We have a suicide coordinator Genesis Escalon. The person in charge of stars is Camille Villa. She is also the cross-country coach, and her cross-country kids are running too. We all work together on this," she said.

Pavlovsky explained that the students and children in the race received a t-shirt that many wore in the race. The t-

shirts had the phrase "No Story Should End Too Soon" printed on them.

"Our goal is to bring suicide awareness and to help end a taboo, to help kids feel comfortable in talking about it," she said. "We want people to feel comfortable talking about it. We have Genesis for students, who want to talk about this, if they are having thoughts like this. Students do think about this, more than anyone realizes. Our goal is to help students feel comfortable talking about this. We want the word 'suicide' to be normal in conversation for students. We want them to hear it, know what it means, and if they are feeling a certain way they can go to a counselor and tell them I am having these thoughts."

Pavlovsky said that the STARS Program helps with this too.

"So, we have students that are in STARS. We have high school students that are paired with middle school students, and

we have mentors and mentees, so that they can look up to them for advice. High school students can lean on each other. Everyone also has these adults that are there for them to go to. Our goal is for the students to know that they have trusted friends and people that they can go to for help. We have all these people together to help as a community to prevent suicide if anyone is having thoughts about it. Our main goal is to get these messages out there, with this run too."

Pavlovsky said the Center Viking Youth Club meets every day, Monday through Thursday after school, and all day on Fridays.

"We provide time for students here. We provide snacks, and different activities. We provide social emotional learning, we ride bikes and skateboards, we learn about making healthy choices. We have the kids help us make the snacks and make their own lunch. We do science projects

and art projects. Also, depending on the time of year, we might add different things. We also celebrate holidays."

The club will be doing something for Dia De Los Muertos Day and trick or treating, for example.

"A lot of the students that we have here, well their parents might really need this space, because their parents might be working until 5 or 6 o'clock, and they need somewhere for their kids to go," she said. "We try to provide education and food, but our number one goal is building relationships. We try to provide a safe, educational space and there is a tuition fee, but we do not turn the kids away if they don't have the fee. We are also working on trying to provide transportation too. I feel the club and this run go hand in hand, because we are definitely about building positivity and good relationships."

STARS Program Director Camille Villa said they had a good turnout

for the race. "The STARS Program stands for students teaching about relationship success," Villa said. "We get high school mentors to middle schoolers, and then we have staff

members that mentor the high school students. It's a chain down. It works out really good and we do a lot of activities. We do this every year, for suicide prevention. We really care a lot about that."



Photo by Marie Mccolm

Some of the students that participated in the suicide prevention awareness race on Oct. 6 pose for a photo. The event was organized by the Center Viking Youth Club and Center School District's STARS Program.

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Colorado gets passing, not perfect, grade on redistricting process

By SARA WILSON
Colorado Newswire

Colorado's redistricting process was praised by a national coalition of advocacy groups for its use of independent commissions, though the organization said the state could have done a better job engaging the general public for feedback on proposed districts.

The state earned a B rating on the Community Redistricting Report Card from the Coalition Hub for Advancing Redistricting and Grassroots Engagement, which analyzed every state's performance in drawing new state legislative and congressional lines following the most recent census.

Colorado is among eight states that received that grade, joining Alaska, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Montana, New Mexico and Vermont. Only California and Massachusetts earned an A.

The grades "reflect how different methods for drawing districts impact the ability of community leaders to effectively change maps, how effective organizing can achieve wins even under the most difficult circumstances and how communities of color have fought back against efforts to limit their political power," said Dan Vicuña, the director of redistricting and representation at Common Cause.

Researchers gave grades based on the aggregate community feedback they received from people and organizations in each state. They considered aspects in the process such as

transparency, opportunities for public input and willingness of decision makers to draw districts based on that input, and adherence to non-partisanship.

Colorado used independent redistricting commissions — one for congressional districts and one for state legislative districts — for the first time in 2021 after voters approved the process in 2018. Each commission had 12 members: four Democrats, four Republicans and four unaffiliated voters. The commissioners were determined through a combination of random selection of qualified applicants, selection by legislators and a panel of retired judges.

The Colorado Supreme Court approved the maps for the state's eight congressional districts and 100 state legislative districts in November 2021.

"Advocates found that the (independent redistricting process) allowed for significantly more community input than in prior cycles," said Elena Langworthy, the deputy director of policy at State Voices, a healthy democracy nonprofit.

She said that in general, independent commissions tend to be more transparent and fair than state legislatures that are tasked with drawing districts.

Void in public education

There were over 5,000 public comments and 170 proposed maps submitted during Colorado's redistricting cycle. A lot of that feedback, however, was for maps based on

estimated census data, as there was a pandemic-related delay in actual data. The report notes that the opportunities for feedback on maps using actual data was more limited than originally promised.

Colorado's congressional redistricting commission needed to account for an additional congressional district during its process. Because of population growth, Colorado gained one new seat — what is now the 8th Congressional District, represented by Democratic Rep. Yadira Caraveo.

The report noted that even though advocates submitted map proposals that would have made the new district majority-Latino, the final map instead made it an opportunity district, where some white voters could vote with racial minority-preferred candidate. The commission should "prioritize creating competitive districts over protecting minority communities," the report said.

Latino voters were key in Caraveo's victory.

The report suggested that for the next redistricting cycle, the state should educate the public more on the process.

"Advocates found that the state did not have sufficient funding for community outreach, and the public education infrastructure left a void which nonprofit organizations needed to fill," the report reads.

Redistricting takes place every 10 years to coincide with the national census.

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Sports



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick
Centauri High School's Spencer Smith sacks and strips Trinidad quarterback Isaiah Moreno in Thursday's game in La Jara. Smith also scored a touchdown on the play as the Falcons defeated the Miners 63-0.

Defense scores four touchdowns as Falcons romp

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor
LA JARA – The Centauri High School football team had a short week to prepare for this week's game against Trinidad.

After playing at Del Norte last Saturday, the Falcons had only three days to prepare for the Miners. But the short week didn't affect Centauri as it rolled to a 63-0 win Thursday at the CHS field.

"Our kids came out and they were ready to play," said Centauri coach Kyle Forster. "They executed the game plan. They had only three days, but they came out and played well. They were ready to play."

The Falcons scored right away as Carson Shawcroft took the opening kickoff and raced 81 yards for the touchdown. The point after snap from center was low, but the holder Jace Haslett threw to Parker Buhr for the two-point conversion and Centauri led 8-0.

Trinidad went three and out on its first possession, and Centauri took little time getting back into the end zone. This time Deven Brady ran 42 yards for paydirt. Josh Polkowske made the point after for a 15-0 lead.

The defense got into the scoring column midway through the first as Spencer Smith sacked and stripped Trinidad quarterback Isaiah Moreno and recovered the fumble in the end zone for

a touchdown. Polkowske again made the point-after and the Falcons led 22-0.

The Falcons scored again the next time they had the ball as Buhr ran 11 yards for a touchdown. The Polkowske kick was good again and the lead grew to 29-0.

The Centauri defense collected its second touchdown as Marcos Atencio intercepted Moreno and returned the ball 20 yards to the end zone. Polkowske again made the point after and the lead was 36-0.

After the Miners recorded their first first down of the game, the drive stalled and they punted.

Buhr scored his second touchdown, this time from 57 yards out. The point-after attempt was blocked and the Falcons led 42-0 after the first quarter.

The rest of the game was played under a running clock, but Centauri scored twice in the second quarter – both times by the defense.

First Dallyn King intercepted Moreno and returned the play 45 yards for the score. The point-after snap was bobbled, but Haslett threw to Polkowske who scored the two-point conversion and the lead was extended to 50-0.

Then Atencio recorded his second pick-six of the game, this time on a 19-yard play. Polkowske made the extra point and Centauri had a 57-0 advantage at halftime.

The Centauri junior varsity got into the scoring column early in the second half. After Trinidad fumbled on the second-half kickoff, Leland Chacon ran 12 yards for a touchdown. The point-after attempt was blocked to wrap up the scoring.

The Miners made one attempt to score later in the third quarter as they advanced to the Falcons' 30. But Trinidad came away empty as it turned the ball over on downs.

Centauri had 205 yards of total offense with 190 coming on the ground. Buhr led the running game with 79 yards on four carries. Chacon ran for 63 yards on eight carries, and Brady carried the ball once for 42 yards.

Sean Jarvies completed only one pass for 15 yards. Haslett had the only reception.

Trinidad was held to just 51 yards of total offense – 18 rushing and 33 passing. Moreno completed two of 15 passes for 33 yards. Xavier Garcia had one catch for 22 yards, and Andres Romero had one reception for 11 yards.

In the Miner running game, Garcia ran for 15 yards on nine carries, and Colton Roybal had 15 yards on seven carries.

The Miners were held to just three first downs.

"I have to give a lot of credit to my defensive coordinator," Forster said. "He put a great game plan together. The kids just came out and played

Alamosa softball will

play Saturday in Greeley

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor
ALAMOSA – The Colorado High School Activities Association released the Class 3A State Softball Tournament brackets on Monday. The brackets are posted on the CHSAA Now.com web site.

The Alamosa High School softball team qualified for the state tournament and it will head to Greeley for its first games. The Lady Mean Moose will play Wellington at 10 a.m. on

Saturday at Twin Rivers Park in Greeley.

Should Alamosa defeat Wellington, it will play the winner of the game between University and Arvada later in the day.

Other Tri-Peaks League teams that qualified for state include La Junta, Lamar, Rocky Ford and Wiley.

The winners of the regional tournaments advance to the state tournament on Oct. 20-21.



Courtesy photos
The following photos from Wednesday's edition are being re-run today because of a production error. Top: Kim and David Martinez were named the Grizzly Club Partners of the Year. Bottom: The Adams State School of Counselor Education was named the Corporate Sponsors of the Year. Both were honored at the Donor and Student recognition dinner on Tuesday.

Centauri 63, Trinidad 0

Trinidad	0	0	0	0-0
Centauri	42	15	6	0-63

First quarter
C – Shawcroft 81 kickoff return (Buhr pass from Haslett), 11:46
C – Brady 42 run (Polkowske kick), 10:18
C – Smith recovered fumble in end zone (Polkowske kick), 7:24
C – Buhr 11 run (Polkowske kick), 4:22

Second quarter
C – King 45 interception return (Polkowske pass from Haslett), 11:15
C – Atencio 19 interception return (Polkowske kick), 6:10

Third quarter
C – Chacon 12 run (kick blocked),

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD TUESDAY

Prep girls volleyball
Buena Vista def. Sargent 25-17, 23-25, 22-25, 25-15, 15-11

WEDNESDAY

Prep boys soccer
Bayfield 4, Alamosa 1

THURSDAY

Prep football
Sangre de Cristo at La Veta - no report
Sierra Grande at Primero - no report
Centauri 63, Trinidad 0

Prep boys soccer
Alamosa at Montezuma-Cortez - no report

Prep girls volleyball
Creede at Sangre de Cristo - no report
Del Norte def. Sanford 25-15, 23-25, 25-19, 27-25
Trinidad at Center - no report
Sierra Grande at

Primero - no report
College men's soccer
Colorado State Pueblo 4, Adams State 0

SCHEDULE FRIDAY

Prep football
Ignacio at Monte Vista, 6 p.m.
Sanford at Sargent, 6 p.m.
Alamosa at Manitou Springs, 7 p.m.

Prep cross country
Alamosa, Antonito, Centauri, Centennial, Center, Del Norte, Monte Vista, Sargent at Eric Wolff Invitational (at Monte Vista Golf Course), 9 a.m.

Prep girls volleyball
Mountain Valley at Centennial, 11 a.m.
Alamosa at Pueblo South, noon
Antonito at Sierra Grande, 5 p.m.

College women's volleyball
Adams State at Colorado Christian, 7 p.m.
College swimming
Texas-Permian Basin at Adams State, TBA

SATURDAY

Prep football
Mountain Valley at Branson/Kim, 1 p.m.
Antonito at Sierra

Grande, 5 p.m.
Center at Del Norte, 7 p.m.

Prep girls gymnastics

Canon City, Pueblo Central at Alamosa (at Ortega Middle School), 10 a.m.

Prep girls softball
Alamosa vs. Wellington (Class 3A Region 3 Tournament at Greeley), 10 a.m.

Prep girls volleyball
Antonito at Centennial, 11 a.m.
Creede vs. Mountain Valley (at Moffat), 11 a.m.

Rye at Del Norte, noon
Centauri at Pagosa Springs, 1 p.m.

Alamosa at Delta, 3 p.m.
Sanford at Sargent, 4 p.m.
Center at Monte Vista, 6 p.m.

College football
Chadron State (Neb.) at Adams State, 1 p.m.

College women's volleyball
Adams State at Chadron State (Neb.), 6 p.m.

College swimming
Adams State, Colorado School of Mines at Colorado State Pueblo, TBA



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*INSIDE: A Salute to
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Create a fire safety plan to include pets



Fire safety measures are essential yet often overlooked. In addition to outlining the proper action to take should a fire break out, a fire safety evacuation plan can be an invaluable, life-saving tool. A fire safety plan should include all members of a household — including pets.

The American Humane Society says each year more than 500,000 pets are affected by house fires. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that nearly 1,000 home fires each year are accidentally started by pets. Pets are curious animals and they may investigate open flames from unattended candles, fireplaces or grills. Pets may start fires by accidentally turning stove knob covers or biting on or playing with electrical wires and outlets. Young pets may be especially inquisitive and boisterous, so fires may be prevented by keeping young animals behind gates or in secure areas when there

are open flames.

There are many ways to safeguard everyone in the event of fire. Here are some steps to include in a fire safety plan.

- Check and replace smoke and carbon monoxide detectors regularly. Monitored smoke detectors can be helpful if you regularly leave pets home alone, since firefighters will be alerted and can respond.

- Take inventory of where pets like to hide or nap. This can prove helpful if you need to evacuate a home quickly due to fire. Remember that pets can sense stress and may be more difficult to catch if they feel something is amiss, advises the ASPCA. Therefore, try to remain as calm as possible.

- Keep pets near exits when you are not home to make it easier for firefighters to enter the house and save the animals. The Red Cross also recommends placing collars and

leashes as well as pet carriers near the exits.

- Invest in a pet safety sticker and hang it in a visible window to alert firefighters that you have pets inside. The sticker includes important information, such as the number of pets, type of pets and veterinarian contact information.

- Plan escape routes and practice evacuations. Make sure at least one family member is in charge of grabbing pets and getting outside safely so others can focus on evacuation. Identify all exits and what to do if one or more exits is impassable.

- Have a game plan should the house be damaged and uninhabitable. Line up a place to meet outside and explore pet-friendly accommodations at a hotel, friend or family member's house.

Fire safety plans should include all members of the household, which includes companion animals.

How to make homes safer from fires

Over a five-year period beginning in 2015 and 2019, fire departments across the United States responded to roughly 347,000 home structure fires per year. That data, courtesy of the National Fire Protection Association, underscores the significance of home fire protection measures.

Smoke detectors are a key component of fire protection, but there's much more homeowners can do to protect themselves, their families, their belongings, and their homes from structure fires.

- Routinely inspect smoke detectors. Smoke detectors can only alert residents to a fire if they're working properly. Battery-powered smoke detectors won't work if the batteries die. Routine smoke detector check-

ups can ensure the batteries still have juice and that the devices themselves are still functioning properly. Test alarms to make sure the devices are functioning and audible in nearby rooms. Install additional detectors as necessary so alarms and warnings can be heard in every room of the house.

- Hire an electrician to audit your home. Electricians can inspect a home and identify any issues that could make the home more vulnerable to fires. Ask electricians to look over every part of the house, including attics and crawl spaces. Often overlooked areas like attics and crawl spaces pose a potentially significant fire safety threat, as data from the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) indicates that 13

percent of electrical fires begin in such spaces.

- Audit the laundry room. The laundry room is another potential source of home structure fires. NFPA data indicates around 3 percent of home structure fires begin in laundry rooms each year. Strategies to reduce the risk of laundry room fires include leaving room for laundry to tumble in washers and dryers; routinely cleaning lint screens to avoid the build-up of dust, fiber and lint, which the NFPA notes are often the first items to ignite in fires linked to dryers; and ensuring the outlets washing machines and dryers are plugged into can handle the voltage such appliances require. It's also a good idea to clean dryer exhaust vents and ducts every year.



- Look outward as well. Though the majority of home fires begin inside, the NFPA reports that 4 percent of such fires begin outside the home. Homeowners can reduce the risk of such fires by ensuring all items that utilize fire, including grills and firepits, are always used at least 10 feet away from the home. Never operate a grill beneath eaves, and do not use grills on decks. Never leave children unattended around firepits, as all it takes is a single mistake and a moment for a fire to become unwieldy.

- Sweat the small stuff. Hair

dryers, hair straighteners, scented candles, clothes irons, and holiday decorations are some additional home fire safety hazards. Never leave candles burning in empty rooms and make sure beauty and grooming items like dryers, straighteners and irons are unplugged and placed in a safe place to cool down when not in use.

Fire departments respond to hundreds of thousands of home fires each year. Some simple strategies and preventive measures can greatly reduce the risk that a fire will overtake your home.

How to reduce risk of home fires this holiday season

Safety might not be the first thing people think of as the holiday season approaches. Faith, celebrations, decorations, and holiday dinners all come to mind when considering the holiday season. But that doesn't mean safety should be left out of holiday planning.

Fire safety bears special consideration during the holiday season, when the prevalence of fire hazards like Christmas trees, holiday lighting displays and other decorative items increase the risk for home fires. Such tragedies can be averted with a few simple safety measures.

- Tend to your tree. Live Christmas trees are awe-inspiring, but they also pose a significant fire risk. The National Fire Protection Association urges celebrants to purchase only healthy trees with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched. Such trees are less likely to dry out, especially when well-watered throughout the season. Dry trees can catch fire more easily than healthy trees if embers from nearby fireplaces or candles drift in their direction.

- Recognize that location matters when decorating. The NFPA notes that Christmas trees should always be placed at least three feet away from any heat source, including fireplaces, space heaters, heat vents, candles, and even overhead lights. If decorating with



candles, never place them on the tree or on tables where other flammable decorations have already been placed. Chanukah menorahs should never be placed near curtains or other decorations.

- Turn off all lights and extinguish all lit decorative items when leaving the home or going to bed. Lit candles and menorahs should never be left unattended. The NFPA recommends turning tree lights and exterior decorative lights off when leaving the home or going to bed.

- Utilize a fire screen on fireplaces. Embers can catch on trees, decorations or anything else that's flammable if they escape the fireplace. Fire screens prevent that from happening by ensuring embers from burning logs stay in the fireplace. Like

candles and menorahs, fires burning in a fireplace should never be left unattended. Make sure all embers have been extinguished before leaving the home or going to bed.

- Keep discarded trees away from your home. A 2014 analysis from the NFPA found that none of the ten days with the largest share of Christmas tree fires were before Christmas. Dried out trees still pose a fire risk even after they've been removed from a home. When discarding a tree at the end of the holiday season, place it at the curb or keep it a safe distance away from your home and garage until you can.

Fire safety measures are an important component of the holiday season that can prevent this joyous time of year from turning tragic.

Common causes of house fires

According to the Consumer Products Safety Commission, roughly 25,000 home fires causing more than 300 deaths occur in the United States each year. Homeowners can keep themselves and their families safe by being aware of the dangers around a home that can contribute to house fires and the preventive measures that can reduce the risk for such fires.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, the following are the most common factors that can lead to fires around the house.

- Cooking accidents: It can take mere seconds for grease splatters or an overheated pan or pot to cause a fire. Stay in the kitchen at all times when cooking.

- Heaters: Have furnaces and other heating appliances regularly inspected. Keep portable heaters away from anything that can burn, including curtains and furniture. Do not leave portable

heaters running while you are sleeping or out of the home.

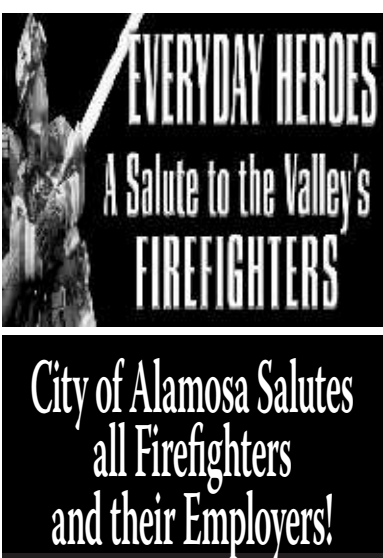
- Smoking: Smoking inside a home can lead to fires. Some people forget to extinguish the smoke or embers may fall, while butts may smoulder for hours before causing flames to form.

- Washers and dryers: Between 2010 and 2014, American fire departments responded to an estimated 15,970 home fires

involving clothes dryers or washing machines each year. Mechanical or electrical failure or malfunction was involved in the vast majority of home fires involving washing machines. Failure to clean dryers also can cause fires to ignite.

- Candles: Candles can add ambiance to a room and are commonly used in decorations, but they also can be a fire hazard. Candles easily can be knocked over by children, pets and others. Do not leave candles lit and unattended.





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FIREFIGHTER TAYLOR BERTSCH
Member for 4 years
Employer: City of Alamosa Police Department

City of Alamosa
589 - 2593

FIREFIGHTER MOLLEE HEENEY
Member for 2 years
Employer: City of Alamosa Police Department

City of Alamosa
589 - 2593

FIREFIGHTER NICK BUNDY
Member for 2 years
Employer: CO Division of Fire Prevention & Control

City of Alamosa
589 - 2593

FIREFIGHTER REGIS GILMARTIN
Member for 2 years
Employer: Adams State University

Adams State University
587-7011

FIREFIGHTER ROD DAVID JR.
Member for 2 years
Employer: Coke

Swire Coca Cola
589-2523

FIREFIGHTER SEAN GARCIA
New Hire
Employer: Colorado State Patrol

Valley Courier
589-2553





EVERYDAY HEROES

A Salute to the Valley's FIREFIGHTERS

COSTILLA COUNTY Fire Department

Aaron Adams, Captain Station 3
Layne Anderson
Gilbert Apodaca
Joshua N. Casias

Leon Casias, Lieutenant Station 1
Matthew Cordova
Robert Dale, Chaplin
Richard Duran,
Juan Espinoza, Lieutenant
Station 2
Heather Hauck
David Heinstein
Matt Husman

Michael Jackson, Lieutenant Station 3

Jacob A. Kern, Captain Station 2
Cade Kunugi
Matthew Lucero

Raphael J. Maestas, Captain Station 1

John V. Meyers
Isaiah Montano
Lucas Pettigrew
Julian Rodriguez
Colleen Romero
Brian Rost

Theldon Smith, Chief
Hunter Velasquez
Bladamir Astroga
Tyler Kester
Jesus Reyes

Lionel Valdez- Chief
Joe Silva-Assistant Chief
Robert Marquez
Tony Valdez
Ernest Quintana
Dwayne Quintana
William Flores
Chris Quintana
Deigo Quintana
Russell Valdez

CARMEL Fire Department

Justin Rogers, Chief
Ryan Reinhardt, Assistant Chief
Curtis Schneider, Captain
Vern Heersink, Lieutenant
Keith Tolsma, Secretary
Joe Dicamillo, Safety Officer

Firefighters:
Ron Escherman
Ron Reinhardt
Kent Reinhardt
Derek Heersink
Jorgan Holtcamp
Marshall Dickinson
Chandler Schneider

SOUTH CONEJOS Fire Department

Ernest Abeyta
Jose Archuleta
Arthur Atencio
Heather Comstock
John Comstock
Paul Duran
Rossi Duran
Fernandez Garcia
Jonathan Garcia
Mandi Garcia
Jonathan George
Phillip Gonzales
Johnnie Gurule
Joseph Gurule
Stephanie Gurule

Tashiana Gurule-Salazar
Billy Klingler
Felipe (PJ) Romero III
Amber Romero
Lee Romero
Josh Salazar
Dylan Sisneros
Jeffery Sisneros
Tony Velasquez

Post Commissary
29477 CO-159 • Fort Garland
719-379-3518

Hi Altitude Convenience
316 Miranda Ave. • Fort Garland
719-379-3675

ROBINS CONSTRUCTION
719-376-2351
38767 State Hwy. 17
Antonito

LA JARA Fire Department

(Note: The La Jara Fire Department list was not verified by publication date)

Austin Valdez Fire Chief
Tony Galvez Asst Chief
Matt Montoya Captain
Jerry Lujan Lieutenant
Steve Shawcroft Secretary
Pat Hernandez Driver 1

Leon Montoya
Carlos Martinez
Luis Escobedo
Darren Rodriguez
Aaron White
Pat Montoya

Firefighters
Jim Hoogendoorn
Jared Anderson

DEL NORTE Fire Department

Roger Banderas-Chief
Adelmo Trujillo-1st Assistant Chief
Shawn Vanderpool-2nd Assistant Chief
Steven Trujillo-Captain
Ryan Haynie-Secretary
Joel Estrada-Treasurer
Dale Henderson-Training Officer
Gilbert Trujillo-Firefighter
Curtiss Barbosa-Firefighter
Michael Hutchinson-Firefighter
Michael Dickey-Firefighter
Felix Ortiz-Firefighter

Manuel Tafoya-Firefighter
Justin Wright-Firefighter
Greg Vanaken-Firefighter

DEL NORTE BANK
705 Grand Del Norte, CO 81132 (719) 657-3376
117 N. Main Creede, CO 81126 (719) 658-0126
TrueLocalBank.com FDIC

MONTE VISTA Fire Department

Chief, Patrick Sullivan
Asst. Chief, Calvin Brown
Captain, Glen Slingerland
Lieutenant, Cody Sullivan

Dru Valdez
Terry VanBibber
T.J. VanBibber
Trent VanBibber
Daniel Macias
Landon Tolsma
Nathan Gonzales

Firefighters:
Ryan Archer
Damian Arellano
Greg Castro
Aaron Garcia
Dean Jacquez
Evan Lopez
Ryan Lopez
Sheldon Lowder
Marshal Mathias
Juan Palomarez

Fire District Board
Jeff Keck
Scott Deacon
Brian Christensen
Jeremy Mueller
Lyla Davis
Troy Plane

SOUTH FORK Fire Department

Tyler Off - Chief
Tyler Schmidt - Captain
Michael Filippi - 1st Lieutenant
Tyler Hathorn - 2nd Lieutenant
Brittany Off
Lucas Slade
Andy Dickey
Shannon Goldsberry
Nate Goldsberry
Woody Wilson
Melanie Dickey
Linette Schmidt
Jed Piant
Mark Worle
Ben Webster
Aimee Blackmon
Josh Brophy
Brantlee Webster

Scott Hobbs
Amanda Hobbs
Bob Chastain
Steve Delaney
Curtis Mclain
Sharleen Lucas
Matt Huber
Riley Duff
Hunter Dennis
Trysten Ogden
Camden Crowell
Zack Zinanti
Brittany Hathorn

DEL NORTE BANK
705 Grand Del Norte, CO 81132 (719) 657-3376
117 N. Main Creede, CO 81126 (719) 658-0126
TrueLocalBank.com FDIC

Colorado DFPC observes Fire Prevention Week



Firefighters with the Division of Fire Prevention and Control, San Luis Valley Region32, are observing National Fire Prevention Week this week. Pictured are, from left, Daniel Macias, Matt Page, Lieutenant Dean Jacquez, Captain Cody Sullivan, Captain Zach Cerny, Lieutenant Kyla Nies, Nick Bundy, Landon Tolsma and Battalion Chief Matt Nolting. Not pictured are Deputy Section Chief Paul Duarte and Deputy District Chief Devin Haynie.





EVERYDAY HEROES

A Salute to the Valley's FIREFIGHTERS

NORTHERN SAGUACHE Fire Department

Crestone Volunteer Fire

Department

Adam Kinney
Alder Lakish
Armando Mendez
Craig Tomaski
Nathan Good
Nate Randel
Steven Johnson
William Klausmeyer
Joshua Fruland

Moffat Volunteer Fire

Department

Sam Eastman
Bill Eastman
Amy Housell
Johny Kunkler
Quinton Mann
Francisco Silva
Victoria Silva

Saguache Volunteer Fire

Department

Kendal Adolph
Caleb Bohl
Kimberlee Bohl
Logan Boyles
Hailey Collins
Warren Collins
Tabitha Hapl
Gage Glovan
Zach Joyner

Noel McLaughlin

Wes Moores
Jeff Phillips
J.T. Scanga

Villa Grove / Bonanza Volunteer Fire

Department

Jason Alvarado
Scott Close
Kaydin Drawdy
Larry Drawdy
David Frees
George Frees
Randy Kelly
Bill Johnson
Mark Perkovich
Alexis Vollertsen
Ethan Vollertsen
Gary Vollertsen
Shawn Vollertsen
Francis Wilson
Shelby Wilson
Trevor Ward

CENTER Fire Department

Russell Brown

John Anderson
Rylan Good
Ryan Koehn
Jason Ensz
Sheila Paskett
Dale Bartee
Jayden Yost
Delsa Chavez
Darwin Ensz
Ryan Holland
Erin Yost
Javier Urbina

Dave Paskett

Jaylon Koehn
Travis Paskett
Cody Loewen
Miguel Macias
Ty Schmidt
Ruben Rendon
Trenton Paskett
Brandi Ensz
Joe Villanueva
Zyra Gomez



SANFORD Fire Department

Chief – Mike McCarroll
Asst. Chief – Russell Crowther
Lieutenant – Mark Signs
Captain/Training – Kory Russell

Tim Crowther
Scott Frost

David Kreps
Julian Lopez
Michael Metger-Agin
Kay Miller
Trevor Miller
Tod Mortensen

CREEDE Fire Department

(Note: The Creede Fire Department list was not verified by publication date)

Robert Hosselkus
Jimmy Adelman
Greg Pearson
Mark Tiley
Casey Adelman
Jesse Albright
Jess Biernat
Brian Brittain
Ron Carpenter
Kyle Carpenter
Luke Crenshaw Jr
Kyle Michaels

Caleb Simon
Terry Wetherill
Josiah Gould
Charles Miller
John Steele



CENTRAL CONEJOS Fire Department

Richard Martin
John Comstock
Doug Bagwell
Stewart Smith
Mark Gilleland
Tim King
James Sowards
Jacob Ortiz
Denny Fringer
Brett King
Isreal Rivera
Ernest Abeyta
Brock Bagwell

Christian Gardunio
Ethan Bently
Folin Ortiz
Rodney King
Sam Cissneros
Lee Cordova
Brian Antencio



MOSCA & HOOPER Fire Department

(Note: The Mosca & Hooper Fire Department list was not verified by publication date)

Chief Blaine Witherspoon
Asst. Chief Greg Rogers
Asst. Chief Paul New
Capt. James Cooley
Capt. Mark Rogers
Lt. Robert McKinley
Lt. Cory Lane

Firefighters

Kyle Beiriger
Andrew Bolt
Nate Bower
David Brown

Cory Cooley
JJ Cooley
Troy Dieckman
Joe Dzuris
Rick Eskew
Justin Gilmore
Chuck Montague
Heather Tillman
Jason Tillman
Tuck Slane
Cody Parker
Grant Beiriger
Willie Squires

BACA GRANDE Emergency Services - Fire/EMS

(Note: The Northern Saguache Co. Fire Department list was not verified by publication date)

Tad Crawford
La Toya Ocana
Jim Vanderpool
Amanda Mooreman
Harold Fowler
Kevin Duarte
Frances Song
Caitlyn Morgan
Hillary Semanski
Mathew Crowley

Ben Antoniewicz
Regis Gilmartin
Cristina Lakish
Billy McColm
Timothy Hines
Craig Worth
Maria Martinez
Cory Childers
Travis Davis

CAPULIN Fire Department

(Note: The Capulin Fire Department list was not verified by publication date)

Lionel Valdez- Chief
Joe Silva- Assistant Chief

Firefighters:

Robert Marquez
William Flores

Ernest Quintana
Chris Dwayne Quintana
Diego Quintana
Ivan Quintana
Chris Quintana sr.
Russell Valdez

ROMEO Fire Department

Steve Sorensen
Vaughn Smith
Marissa Smith
Keldon Sorensen
Roman Marrufo
Lonnie Lopez

Lee Romero
Alex Guymon
Steven Wilson
Jorge Cortez
John Comstock
Heather Comstock

Public Notices

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

Publication Title: Valley Courier
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 Editor: Brian Williams, P.O. Box 1099, 2205 State Ave., Alamosa, CO 81101

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box.
 None

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
 The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

13. Publication Title: Valley Courier
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: Sept. 30, 2023

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)			
1. Paid (By Mail)	3490	3490	
2. Outside County Paid Subscriptions (Based on PS Form 3841 (include paid distribution above normal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies))	65	65	
3. Paid Distribution Outside the Mails (including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®)	1805	1805	
4. Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS® (e.g., First Class Mail®)	1425	1425	
5. Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS® (e.g., First Class Mail®)	0	0	
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 1b(1)-(5), (2), (3) and (4))			
	3295	3295	
d. Free or Nominal Rate			
1. Free or Nominal Rate Outside County Copies (Based on PS Form 3841)	0	0	
2. Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies (Based on PS Form 3841)	20	20	
3. Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS® (e.g., First Class Mail®)	0	0	
4. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	25	25	
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 1d(1)-(4), (2), (3) and (4))			
	45	45	
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 1b and 1d)			
	3340	3340	
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 page 43)			
	150	150	
h. Total (Sum of 1f and g)			
	3490	3490	
i. Percent Paid (1b divided by 1h times 100)			
	96%	96%	

16. Electronic Circulation:
 Publication Title: Valley Courier
 Issue Date: Sept. 30, 2023

17. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies			
	287	287	
b. Total Paid Copies (Line 15c + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a))			
	3582	3582	
c. Total Paid Distribution (Line 15c + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a))			
	3634	3634	
d. Percent Paid (Both Paid & Electronic Copies) (16a divided by 16c x 100)			
	99%	99%	

I certify that 95% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

Publication of Statement of Ownership

If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the Oct. 13, 2023 issue of this publication. Publication not required

Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Keith R. Cerny (signature on file) Date: Sept. 30, 2023

Verify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil penalties (including multiple damages).

DISTRICT COURT, COUNTY OF ALAMOSA, STATE OF COLORADO
 8955 Independence Way
 Court Address: Alamosa, CO 81101
 Telephone: (719) 589 - 4996
 HAVEN FAIR and ALVIN HOLDEN, JR., Plaintiff,
 vs.
 ALLIE RAY, EARNEST WILSON, NATHANIEL WILSON, PREATO WILSON, WILLIAM H. WILSON, JR., WILLIAM H. WILSON, SR., WILLIAM H. WILSON, SR., and FAMILY, and all other persons who claim as heirs, devisees, creditors or otherwise under said defendants, and all unknown persons who claim any interest in the subject matter of this action, Defendants
 Attorney: Motz Law Firm, LLC
 Name: Jeffrey E. Motz
 Address: 410 San Juan Ave. P.O. Box 779 Alamosa, CO 81101
 Phone Number: (719) 589-6676
 E-mail: jeff.motzlaw@gmail.com
 Atty. Reg. #35972
 COURT USE ONLY
 Case No. 2023 CV 030012
 Division C
 SUMMONS (BY PUBLICATION)
 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:
 YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Complaint filed with the Court in this action, by filing with the Clerk of this Court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within thirty five (35) days after the service of this Summons upon you. Service of this Summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the Clerk of the Court. If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within thirty five (35) days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice to you. This is an action to quiet title to the following described property situate in the County of Alamosa and State of Colorado, to-wit: The SW 1/4 SE 1/4 of Section 5, Township 37 North, Range 9 East, N.M.P.M.
 DATED: September 19, 2023
 MOTZ LAW FIRM, LLC
 By: Jeffrey E. Motz
 Jeffrey E. Motz, Reg. No. 35972
 Published in the The Valley Courier
 First Publication Date: September 22, 2023
 Last Publication Date: October 20, 2023
 No. 3571.
 Published in the Valley Courier on September 22, 29, October 6, 13, & 20, 2023.

District Court of Conejos County, Colorado
 PO Box 128
 Conejos, CO 81129
 (719) 376-5465
 In the Matter of the Estate of: Waldo Benjamin Torres aka Waldo Ben Torres aka Waldo B Torres aka Waldo Torres
 Deceased
 COURT USE ONLY
 Jerome A. DeHerrera, Atty Reg. No. 35893
 ACHIEVE LAW GROUP LLC
 146 W. 11th Avenue
 Denver, CO 80204
 Phone: (303) 725-2769
 E-mail: jdh@achievelawgroup.com
 Case Number: 2023PR30013
 Division C Courtroom
 NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-12-801, C.R.S.
 NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Estate of: Waldo Benjamin Torres, Deceased Case Number: 2023PR30013
 All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Conejos, County, Colorado or Denver Probate Court of the City and County of Denver, Colorado on or before February 13, 2024 (date), or the claims may be forever barred.
 Achieve Law Group, LLC
 Type or Print name of Person Giving Notice
 146 W 11th Ave.
 Address
 Denver, CO 80204
 City, State, Zip Code
 No. 3603.
 Published in the Valley Courier on October 13, 20, & 27, 2023.

Notice of Request for Proposal for Ditch Cleaning and Maintenance
 Subdistrict No. 5 of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District is seeking proposals from qualified equipment owners and operators to clean and maintain the channel along approximately 4,600 feet of irrigation ditches in Saguache County. The contractor will be responsible for supplying the equipment needed for the channel cleaning and will also be responsible for complying with existing regulations. In your response please include your qualifications to conduct this type of work, a cost estimate for completing the work and a timeline for completing the project. For further questions, including arranging a site visit or to obtain a map, please contact Chris Ivers at 719-589-6301 or chris@rgwcd.org. Proposals will be accepted through October 25th, 2023, and may be submitted in person or by mail to 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO, 81101, or by e-mail to chris@rgwcd.org.
 No. 3604.
 Published in the Valley Courier on October 13, 14, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, & 25, 2023.

X County Court District Court Denver Juvenile Court Alamosa County, Colorado
 Court Address:
 In the Matter of the Petition of:
 ___Adult:
 ___Adult:
 or
 X Parent/Petitioner: Marisa Garcia/Jose Lopez Gonzalez
 For Minor child: Izavel Zyan Lopez Gonzalez
 For a Change of Name to: Izavel Zyan Lopez
 DATE FILED: October 3, 2023 3:50 PM
 COURT USE ONLY
 Case Number: 2023 C 187
 Division Courtroom
 PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
 Public Notice is given on October 9, 2023 (date) that a Petition for a change of Names of a X Minor Child or ___Adult has been filed with the Alamosa County Court.
 The Petition requests that the name of Izavel Zyan Lopez Gonzalez
 First Name Middle Name Last Name
 Be changed to
 Izavel Zyan Lopez
 First Name Middle Name Last Name
 By Nikki Quintana
 Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk
 No. 3606.
 Published in the Valley Courier on October 13, 14, & 17, 2023.

099 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

STROKE AND CARDIOVASCULAR disease are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149. Call 1-833-939-0353. (8/18-TFN)

163 - LOST & FOUND

LOST CAT: \$250 REWARD for getting me back home! My name is "Chucky". I'm a big chunky boy with bright blue eyes, long white whiskers, long white paws, black around both eyes with white in the middle, white belly and black/brown top. Last seen near Bonney Dr., ALAMOSA, (BEHIND LOAF & JUG/Hwys. 17 & 160) 10/4/23. 719-588-4907. (10/17/23)

173 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

LICENSED PLUMBER DOES all types of plumbing & plumbing repairs. Quick service! Call anytime, weekends & evenings: 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (10/27/23-monthly)

221 - HELP WANTED

FULL-TIME SALES
 Valley Publishing has an immediate need in advertising sales (full-time). Any sales experience is appreciated but will train. Email resume to General Manager Brian Williams at bwilliams@valleypublishinginc.com

WE GOT THE HELP WE WERE LOOKING FOR WITH THE HELP OF THE VALLEY COURIER. Smokin Spuds.

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

221 - HELP WANTED

ALAMOSA STATE BANK
 A Real Community Bank
 Local Ownership. Local Commitment.
 2225 Main St. • Alamosa • 719-589-2564

Alamosa State Bank is looking to hire a full-time teller. We are looking for an individual that is customer and community focused. Cash handling and customer service experience preferred. Benefits include competitive salary – EOE. Outstanding benefit package to include a large percentage of health and dental insurance premiums paid for employee and their family. Excellent 401K retirement plan to include matching and profit-sharing contributions. Family friendly and community-oriented environment. If you are interested in joining a winning team, please apply in person at 2225 Main Street, Alamosa.
 Member FDIC - An Equal Opportunity Employer.

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY is hiring a CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT ADVISOR/RECRUITER. This is a twelve-month exempt, at-will, full-time position with a competitive salary and benefits. The primary responsibility of the position is managing student records and recruiting and advising high school concurrent students. This individual will report to the Executive Director of Extended Studies. A bachelor's degree with relevant experience is required. Some in state travel is also required. For more information, please visit <https://www.adams.edu/hr/employment/>. (10/21/23)

MONTE VISTA HEAD START is accepting application for a Teacher Aid. This position is full time 38 hours/ week. Must have a Colorado Shines Level 2 or equivalent. Starting pay is \$15.50 to \$16.25 depends on experience. Applications are available at Monte Vista Head Start, 2863 Sherman Ave., MONTE VISTA, Colorado. For more information, you may contact the Director by email, Director@MVheadstart.org or call 719-852-3215. An employment application must be complete. Position open until filled. (10/21/23)

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

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

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

ALAMOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT is now accepting applications for the following position: ASSISTANT COOK (District Wide). Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosa.k12.co.us/> For more information, contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (10/20/23)

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

NOW HIRING EXPERIENCED PLUMBER. Looking for a hardworking, drug-free, dependable individual with a clean driving record. Journeyman's license a plus. Please call 719-379-2770. (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)

BAGGERS/STACKERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY at WORLEY & MCCULLOUGH. Please fill out application at 2471 East County Road 7 North, MONTE VISTA, CO 81144. (10/24/23)

DEREK'S PLUMBING HIRING LICENSED JOURNEYMAN PLUMBER. Pay based on experience. Call 719-588-0682. (10/24/23)

JOURNEYMAN BLOCK AND BRICK MASONS needed F/T in DURANGO, CO. Please contact Trig Masonry (970) 385-4404. (10/24/23)

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26Jt is paying years of service and single health insurance benefits. Apply now to become part of our dynamic district as we are now accepting applications for the position of ELEMENTARY PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER, for the remaining 2023-2024 School Year. Qualifications: Must hold a valid State of Colorado Teacher's License or such alternative as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. Applications can be found on the District Website <https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities> or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (11/4/23)



Satisfy your curiosity by reading the newspaper every day. You'll find something interesting in the newspaper.

In fact, the paper is such a reliable source for the information you want, it can even be used by students as a homework and school research tool.

Valley Courier
 Subscribe Today!
 719-589-2553.



FEEL LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER?

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

Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

SLV AHEC IS seeking a dedicated, energetic, and passionate High School Student Health Career Pipeline PROGRAM COORDINATOR to join our team. SLV AHEC has a long history of providing important and helpful services for the SLV by addressing community needs, and has historically been a powerful agent of change, creating programs that often grow to become their own entities. For more information email nakayla@slvahec.org or call 719-298-0177. SLV AHEC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (10/21/23)

MAINTENANCE PERSON WANTED for a 50 unit apartment complex in ALAMOSA, CO. Duties include but not limited to cleaning, minor plumbing, minor electrical, drywall repair, painting, and grounds keeping. Fax or email a letter of interest and/or resume to 719-274-1230 or nnieman@landmarkmanagement.com Equal Employment Opportunity. (10/20/23)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

SANFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for a JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL B A S K E T B A L L COACH. Applications can be downloaded at www.sanford-schools.org. Sanford School is an EOE&E. (10/18/23)

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

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

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

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

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

NEED A SECOND INCOME? child support? Car Repairs? Taxes Due? Earn up to \$800/month DELIVERING THE VALLEY COURIER. Contact Keith at 719-589-2553. (2/26-TFN)

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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Highway problem
 - 4 Barrel
 - 7 Recipe direction
 - 11 Boxing champ Muhammad
 - 12 Approach
 - 13 Lariat
 - 14 Unexploded bomb
 - 15 Sky bear
 - 16 Commedia dell'
 - 17 Electrical unit
 - 19 Steering device
 - 21 — podrida
 - 22 Got out in a hurry
 - 23 Cordial flavoring
 - 25 Ice mass at sea
 - 27 Managed
 - 28 Uprising
 - 30 Mop
 - 34 Legend
 - 36 Ebb or neap
 - 38 Nest egg letters
 - 39 Racetrack shape
- DOWN**
- 1 — Pinkett Smith
 - 2 Reunion attendee
 - 3 Halfway mark
 - 4 Seoul setting
 - 5 Ambulance letters
 - 6 Equipment

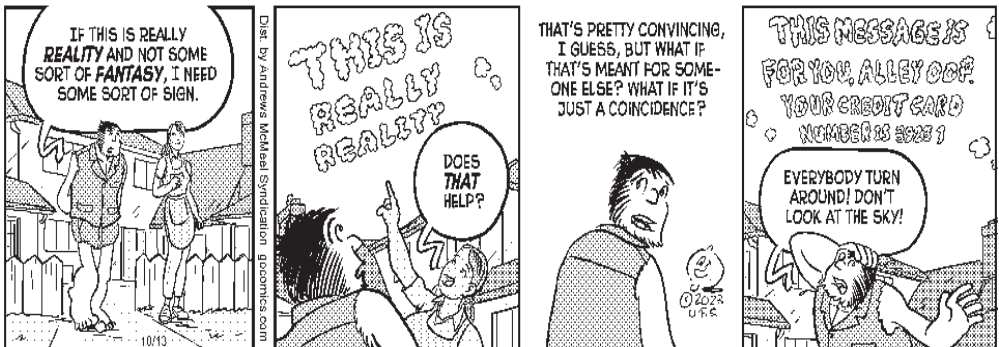
Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 7 Holds lovingly
- 8 Crowd on the move
- 9 Chose
- 10 Duke or marquis
- 12 Salon item
- 18 Golfer Ernie
- 20 Alien craft
- 23 Sleeve filler
- 24 Certain vote
- 25 Thwart
- 26 Cousin to Inc.
- 29 "Don't give — thought"
- 31 Needing no cables
- 32 Timetable abbr.
- 33 Howl
- 35 Handgun sheath
- 37 Hot coals
- 40 Flight formation
- 42 Brownie
- 43 Cup brand
- 44 Actress — Ekberg
- 45 Nice smell
- 46 Work part-time
- 47 Colleen
- 49 "Born Free" lioness
- 50 Team of superheroes (hyph.)
- 53 Stout

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



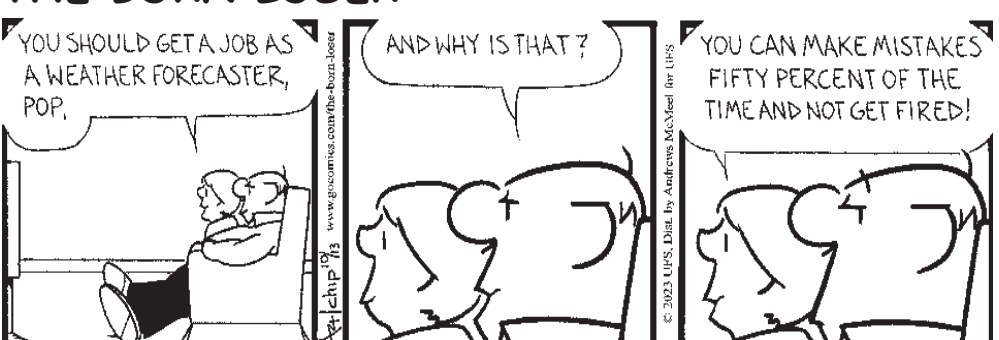
ARLO & JANIS



BIG NATE



THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



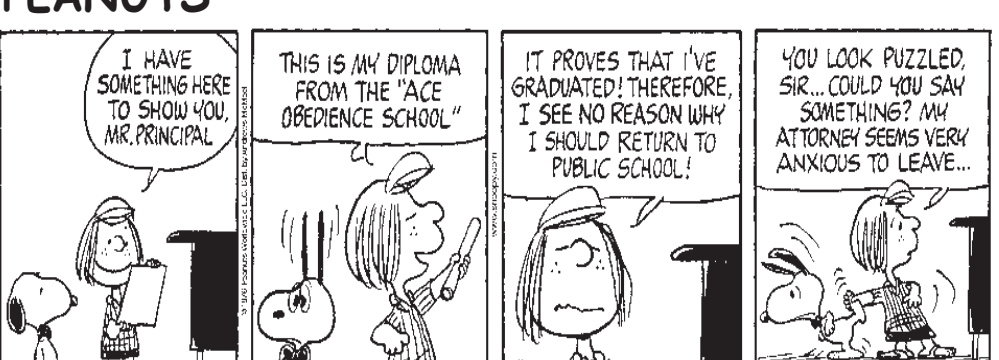
GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



Relative's cat has worn out any kind of welcome

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law, "Irma," is a peach -- she's the sweetest person in the world. She will do anything for anyone to lend a helping hand. Two weeks ago, she fell and broke her femur, which resulted in a significant hospital stay and needed rehabilitation. My wife and I have been taking care of her house and managing all her other daily tasks while she recovers, but one of these has become an issue.

mess to clean up every day and takes more than an hour. That cat has single-handedly ruined this section of our house by urinating all over the floors and furniture.

We have a beautiful home we've worked hard on, and it really hurts to see the animal ruin things. She has to go, as I see it, but Mom loves her cat. What do we do? -- "FELINE" BAD IN MISSOURI

DEAR "FELINE" BAD: Mehitabelle doesn't appear to like living with you any more than you like having her as a houseguest. If your mother-in-law's home is close enough to yours that you could go there once a day, you might all be happier if the kitty was returned to her own territory rather than staying at your place. If you or your wife could arrange to give Mehitabelle her meds once a day and find someone else willing to see that she gets her second dose, the situation might be workable until your mother-in-law is released. Please consider it. It may save your sanity.

DEAR ABBY: I live with my best friend and his younger son. We get along well, but my friend's older son is a meth and heroin addict. He has stolen from all of us, but his



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

father refuses to ban him from the house, saying he refuses to give up on his boy. This is tearing their family apart, and I'm at my wits' end emotionally. Please advise. -- LOSING MY MIND IN OHIO

DEAR LOSING: I am sorry, but if you value the possessions you have worked hard to acquire, you will have to move out in order to protect them. Tell your friend you don't expect him to choose you over his drug-addicted son. Make clear that he and his younger son are welcome to visit you anytime, but you cannot ignore that his older boy is so caught up in his addiction that he can't be trusted. Then follow through.