



David and Kim Martinez named Grizzly Club Partners of the Year

— Page 6



Colorado to source up to 10 wolves from Oregon this winter for reintroduction efforts

— Page 12



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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

October 11, 2023

\$1

SLV Today

Alamosa County Commissioners to meet today

ALAMOSA — The Board of County Commissioners will meet today at 8:30 a.m., for a regular meeting.

The meeting will be at the commissioners chambers located at 8900 Independence Way in Alamosa. The public is invited to attend. The meeting is also available on Zoom with meeting ID# 270-314-6847.

On the agenda is a proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month and an Operation Greenlight resolution. Also on the agenda is a Boys and Girls Club funding request, and presentations from Southwest Conservation Corp, SLV Community Corrections, and a 2024 Alamosa County Preliminary Budget presentation.

Alamosa Clerk and Recorder's Office election hours

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa County Clerk and Recorder's Office will be closed for regular business on Tuesday, Nov. 7, for the Coordinated Mail Ballot Election. The office will be open for election purposes only and will reopen on Wednesday, Nov. 8, for regular business.

All registered electors are encouraged to vote their ballots they receive in the mail. The ballots may be mailed to the County Clerk's Office or hand delivered to the drop box at 8999 Independence Way by 7 p.m. on Nov. 7. Ballots received after that time will not be counted.

For more information, call the Alamosa County Clerk and Recorder's Office at 719-589-6681.

La oficina del Secretario del Condado estara cerrada el dia Martes 7 de Noviembre 2023 por la eleccion coordinada. La oficina estara abierta para la eleccion exclusivamente y habra el Miercoles 8 de Noviembre 2023 para los negocios regulares.

A todos los votantes registrados los estamos alentado que llenen sus boletas que recibirán por correo. Las boletas pueden ser enviadas o llevadas a la caja de boletas a la direccion 8999 Independence Way tienen hasta las 7 PM el 7 de Noviembre 2023. Boletas recibidas despues del horario no seran contadas.

Si tienen preguntas pueden llamar al numero 719-589-6681.

SLV WEATHER

Mostly Sunny, Windy 69/32

Thurs: Mostly Sunny, Windy 55/23

Fri: Sunny 58/23

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Child Protection Ombudsman helping kids, families work with agencies

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Children, youth, and their families who find themselves interacting with systems much larger than themselves — such as, for example, the Division of Youth Services (DYS), the foster care system, or other child protection services — may feel that they don't have a voice or the understanding they need of how those systems work. In the state of Colorado, the

Child Protection Ombudsman Program (CPO) of Colorado was created for exactly that reason. In CPO's own words, they "serve by helping people find answers to their questions and solutions to their problems" and "help Coloradans navigate the complex child protection system and connect them with resources."

If this sounds like news to the people of the San Luis Valley, that's because, historically, people in the valley who could benefit from their services have not reached out for help.



CHILD PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN of COLORADO

Determined to change that and familiarize agencies in the valley with their services, staff from CPO recently spent an afternoon meeting with local orga-

nizations whose focus is on kids and their families, introducing their organizations and learning, in return, what organizations in the valley are offering.

CPO works independently of ■ See HELP page 3

Valley ag students compete in FFA Range Judging Workshop

STAFF REPORT

SAN LUIS VALLEY — High school agriculture students from across the San Luis Valley competed in the Future Farmers of America (FFA) Range Judging and Plant Identification workshop held on Oct. 4 at the Clark farm near Monte Vista.

The youth educational event was hosted by Matt Sinclair, an agriculture teacher at Sangre De Cristo School near Mosca.

Matt Martinez, agriculture teacher at Alamosa, co-hosted the event and provided lunch for the participants.

The Mosca-Hooper and Center Conservation Districts, and Bill Brinton and Mattea Freel, and the Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative (RGWCEI) provided the funding to support this youth educational event.

The Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management, and Ben Berlinger, Youth Activities Committee chair, provided individual awards for the high-



Courtesy photo

Haylee Freel, from Sangre De Cristo, was honored with high scoring individual on plant identification. Blue grama, one of the plant specimens, is shown in the foreground

scoring individuals as part of their youth activities program.

This rangeland educational youth event involved 21 agriculture students representing four FFA chapters in the Valley. Winning FFA teams were Sangre De Cristo, first place; Sargent second place; Monte Vista, third place; and Alamosa,

fourth place.

During the competition, students were required to identify 20 range plant species and one ecological site. During the plant identification portion, students had one minute to identify the plant before moving on to the next plant.

At the ecological site, ■ See FFA page 3



The Colorado Workforce Center located at the intersection of State Avenue and Fourth Street, suffered damage on Oct. 8 during a car crash when a Honda Civic careened into the building. The building is currently closed.

Colorado Workforce Center closed due to car crash

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — Due to a recent automobile accident, which resulted in substantial damage to the Colorado Workforce Center, the office is not open. However, staff are working virtually at this time, and can be reached by email or calling their direct numbers, which are as follows:

Stephanie Goldbranson — 720-248-7594

son@state.co.us

Marie Harrelson — 720-204-8598

marie.harrelson@state.co.us

Bill Nelson — 720-204-8723

bill.nelson@state.co.us

Staff will also be reaching out on these numbers, which are different from what customers are used to seeing on their caller ID. The center will provide updates on the office as they become available.

School board incumbent Gay is running in the November election

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — Andria Gay, who was appointed to the Alamosa School District Board of Education in May, is running for election to the position. Gay was named to the board to finish the term of former board member Justin Rilling after he resigned. Gay is being challenged by Kaylee Gomez-Romero in the November election.

Waters: Can you give our readers a brief introduction about yourself and why you are running for the board?

Gay: I am a wife and mother, we have three children in the school district. My husband and I own a landscape and irrigation business and I help him run that. I'm a Valley native and have lived in Alamosa for nearly 20 years. My husband grew up in Alamosa and I grew up just south of Alamosa. My family has been in the Valley since the late 1800s. My roots are deep.

Waters: If elected to the board, what two or three goals do you have?

Gay: I think the district as a whole is working through a

strategic plan. Dr. Jones [Superintendent], Dr. Murillo [Assistant Superintendent], and a committee of community members helped to create it and it is a plan that I think the board as a whole wants to support. I believe we have seen the beginning of that plan in action and the results have been incredible. Making sure that we are keeping those goals in mind as we make decisions we will continue to progress. The plan incorporates academic achievement, safety, resiliency, and a sense of belong-

■ See GAY page 3



Andria Gay



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Record

Dangerous bear that charged two boys put down by CPW

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE
COLORADO SPRINGS — On the evening of Wednesday, Oct. 4, Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers responded to a call for help that was initially described as a bear attack with injuries involving two boys in a heavily wooded open space in Colorado Springs.

Officers immediately responded, arriving around 5:30 p.m. to find an aggressive sow had twice charged at the boys, ages 12 and 13, causing one boy to run into a tree branch, suffering a minor injury.

The CPW officers, along with officers with the Colorado Springs Police Department, immediately began a search of the open space to find the sow, estimated to be 150 pounds, and her two cubs, each weighing about 50

pounds.

Quickly, they found the sow. The bear was aggressive toward the officer, as it had threatened the boys, and the CPW officer euthanized the bear.

Then the team began an hours-long search in the darkness in heavy brush for the cubs. The goal was to capture them and release them in the mountains in more suitable bear habitat. At their age and weight, the cubs were old enough to survive on their own.

Officers placed a trap above the spot where the bears were first encountered.

Meanwhile, a CSPD drone was brought to the scene to search for heat signatures that would locate the bears. The cubs were located and officers scared them up a tree so they could be tranquilized.

CPW officers darted each cub with a tranquil-

izing drug, causing them to fall from the tree. The officers then carried them out of the brush and drove them to the CPW Southeast Region office where they were tagged for release and given a drug to reverse the tranquilizer. However, one of the cubs never revived.

The surviving cub was released Friday morning in a remote mountain location.

"This was an unfortunate situation where a sow had become dangerously aggressive toward people instead of being scared of humans," said Tim Kroening, CPW wildlife manager for the Pikes Peak area. "There was no choice but to put it down after it repeatedly charged people."

"And the death of the cub was a sad reminder of why CPW is reluctant to tranquilize wildlife. There are many risks involved when tranquilizing wildlife."

OBITUARIES

Ernestine Garcia

Alamosa resident Ernestine Garcia, 91, was called home to be with the Lord on Oct. 8, 2023. She passed away at Evergreen Nursing Home with her loving family by her side.

Ernestine was welcomed into the world on Oct. 1, 1932, in Ojo Caliente, N.M., the beloved daughter of Bonifacio Trejo and Evangelina Esquibel Trejo. She was united in marriage to Jose David Garcia on May 17, 1951, in El Rito, N.M. They moved to Monte Vista, Colo., in 1957 to raise their seven children in the family home. Ernestine and Jose shared a happy and loving union until his passing in 2003.

She dedicated her life to caring for her family. She was a devoted, selfless and loving wife, mother, grandmother, great- and great-great-grandmother. Once her health started to decline, Ernestine moved to Alamosa with her son Martin



and his family in 2018.

She will live on through her children Emily (Ese-dor) Quintana, Cruz Garcia, Bonifacio (Joann) Garcia, Martin (Gina) Garcia, 21 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, 14 great-great-grandchildren, and brother Modesto Jiron. She is also survived by numerous extended family members

and friends.

Ernestine was preceded in death by her parents, stepfather Marcus Jiron, loving husband Jose David Garcia, children Michael David Garcia, Ernest Garcia, Michael Garcia, siblings Arnulfo Trejo, Efren Trejo, Alfonso Trejo, Elizabeth Trykowski, Esquipula Pedro Trejo, Estella Jiron, Tomas Jiron, Marcus Jiron, Geronimo Jiron and Theresa Medina.

Vigil Service will be held on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023, at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Monte Vista. Mass of the Resurrection will be held on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023, at 10 a.m. also at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Interment will follow at the San Luis Valley Cemetery.

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

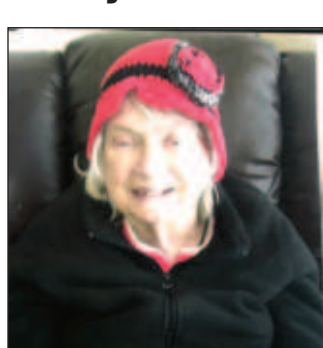
Evelyn Lemen

On Oct. 3, 2023, Evelyn Lemen at the age of 88 was called home to walk with Jesus.

Evelyn was a woman with fierce determination. The eldest of nine children was born a true coal miner's daughter in Durango, Colo. She was a kind, gentle, and loving wife, mother, sister and friend.

She had many talents; seamstress, homemaker, and a crochet queen. Evelyn married a military man (Larry) and supported his Air Force career during challenging times such as the Vietnam War. She was often left to be the sole parent to their three children and successfully raised them with love and devotion.

In 1974, they moved to Alamosa, Colo. Evelyn worked hard to help support her family including the Gerry factory until they closed, the Alamosa Mushroom Farm and after working for Adams State



College with a perfect attendance, never missing a day of work in 10 years she worked as a provider for several homebound women over the years in addition to working with her husband in their wood working business.

She is survived by her son Larry "Lars" Paul Lemen Jr. of Alamosa, Colo., her daughter Ramona L. Miranda who is married to Julian Miranda of San Antonio, Texas, her brothers Dan (Julie) Hunt of Grand Junction, Colo., Lawrence (Susan) Hunt of Palm Coast, Fla.; her sisters Lois Crook of Panama City, Fla., Myrna Mobley of Grand

Junction, Colo., and three grandchildren by her son David R. Lemen, who precedes her in death; Evelyn was also preceded in death by her loving husband of 64 years Larry Paul Lemen.

Evelyn was a friend to all who met her and will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

A visitation for Evelyn will be held Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023, at Rogers Family Mortuary in Alamosa from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. A memorial service will be held Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023, at Calvary Bible Chapel at 7160 Brush Lane in Alamosa at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers please consider donations to Disabled American Veterans, D.A.V.

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

PENDING OBITUARIES

Ronald Wyman

Blanca resident Ronald Wyman passed away Oct. 8, 2023. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Carol Richardson

Antonito resident Carol Richardson passed away Oct. 9, 2023. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home.



File photos

South Fork Kiwanis has announced that it will once again be hosting its annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 23.

Kiwanis Club of South Fork's annual Thanksgiving Dinner set for Nov. 23

By Lyndsie Ferrell

SOUTH FORK — For over 30 years, the South Fork Kiwanis Club has hosted a free annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the South Fork Community Center.

According to South Fork Kiwanis Club President Karen Miller the club has been working with the Rio Grande Hospital to prepare the turkeys which in the past served upward of 300 people on Thanksgiving Day.

Though there have been a few changes, Miller hopes that this year the dinner will continue to be great and fill up a lot of tummies. Everybody is still welcome.

"I have been doing this for a long time and each year presents some challenges. Our main challenge is getting enough people to help with the event. In the past, it was very well received, and we hope to see that every year, but we really could use some help, both before the event and for cleanup in addition to other positions throughout the day," said Miller.

The club has opted to cut back on the number of turkeys because some neighboring towns have decided to have dinner,



South Fork Kiwanis is seeking volunteers for its annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

so it has cut down on how many people attend and serve at the event.

"We do have our regulars and each year we meet more and more wonderful people. It's a great social event and watching everybody mingle while enjoying the dinner makes everything worth it. It is great having the support that we do! We also can't thank our sponsors enough that contribute to the cost of holding this event. Businesses and individuals generously donate each year to help us," said Miller.

The event features a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixings and dessert at the South Fork Community Center from 11 a.m.

to 2 p.m. on Nov. 23. This year will be a buffet-style dinner instead of the regularly served meal that has occurred in the past.

One thing that has never changed is the dedication, preparation and work that goes into hosting this massive event, "almost like mom makes," Miller says. "There will be an opportunity to provide gently used clothing including cold weather apparel and we will take non-perishable foods to distribute to the food banks around the Valley."

For more information or to volunteer for the event, contact Miller at mkmillermink@aol.com or by calling and or texting 720-313-4834.

AFD reminds people 'Cooking safety starts with YOU'

By ALAMOSA FIRE DEPARTMENT

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) — the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week (FPW) for more than 100 years — to promote this year's FPW campaign, "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention." The campaign works to educate people about simple but important actions they can take when cooking to keep themselves and those around them safe.

According to NFPA, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries in the United States. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and deaths.

"Year after year, cooking remains the leading cause of home fires by far,

accounting for half (49 percent) of all U.S. home fires," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of outreach and advocacy at NFPA. "These numbers tell us that there is still much work to do when it comes to better educating the public about ways to stay safe when cooking."

The Alamosa Fire Department encourages all residents to embrace the 2023 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Cooking safety starts with YOU," said AFD Chief Bill Stone. "A cooking fire can grow quickly. I have seen many homes damaged and people injured by fires that could easily have been prevented."

The Alamosa Fire Department offers these key safety tips to help reduce the risk of a cooking fire.

• Watch what you heat. Always keep a close eye on what you are cooking. Set

a timer to remind you that you are cooking.

• Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.

• Have a "kid- and pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove or grill and anywhere else hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and cooking safety, visit www.fpw.org. For fire safety fun for kids, visit sparky.org.

School Menu

Wednesday

October 11, 2023

BREAKFAST

Turkey Sausage & Cheese Sandwich
Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY

Beef Nachos/Refried Beans
Cowboy Bread
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Beef Nachos/Refried Beans
Cowboy Bread
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL

Beef Nachos/Refried Beans
Cowboy Bread
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students

Alamosa School District

To Sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553

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

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

Valley News

Hooper celebrates new playground at annual festival

By MARIE MCCOLM
HOOPER — The sun was shining, the people were smiling, and a slight breeze, along with the fresh scent of hay, was present in the air at the Hooper Festival on Saturday, Oct. 7.

Hooper Town Park had a cozy, happy atmosphere with approximately 55 people. There were hay bales spread out over the park. People sat on hay bales and talked. Children ran back and forth on the grass. The vendor booths were busy. Many people looked at and talked about the new playground equipment that was installed on the other side of Hooper Town Park.

Installation of the equipment began on Sept. 4. The playground equipment was donated by a local school. Over a month, all the playground equipment was put up with help from volunteers in the community. A grant for the equipment installation and revitalization of



Children, and some adults, played on the new playground equipment on Saturday, Oct. 7, at the Hooper Town Park.

the park was initiated by town trustee Mimi Dolan. There were three phases to the playground and park's progression, and the installation of the equipment was phase one and Saturday celebrated its completion.

Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske also attended the festival.

At 1 p.m., people gathered near the middle corner of the park, where a red ribbon with a bow had been placed, to officially open the newly

installed playground equipment to the public.

Hooper Mayor Tommy Dentler said, "The last month the whole entire town has come together to put together this playground for the community. They went from Saturday from 9 in the morning until 5 in the afternoon, weekdays from 5 in the afternoon until 8 at night. We were working in the rain, wind, in the dark, we had headlights on, just to get it done. We are very, very, excited. I am grateful



Photos by Marie Mccolm

Hooper held a ribbon cutting for its new playground equipment on Saturday, Oct. 7.

and humbled. A lot of us believed that we could not get it done in the specific time frame. I am very grateful and excited that we did. Thank you, guys, very much for that. I really appreciate it. I am going to welcome up Lori Laske. She is going to go ahead and say a couple of words and we will go from there. Thank you."

Commissioner Laske then said, "I am Lori Laske as the mayor mentioned. I am the Alamosa County Commissioner that is for this region. I just want to tell you we are proud of Alamosa County helping with some of the funding for this project. The truly remarkable thing about this project is what this community has done in your leadership. When you have Mayor Dentler, and the board of trustees to lead you in this and to put this project together, specifically we had Mimi Dolan one of your trustees that got a matching grant. This is truly a sense of community. I can tell you I have never seen this much commitment and devotion from



People spent part of their Saturday afternoon at the second annual Hooper Festival on Saturday, Oct. 7.

the community. I just want to tell you I take a lot of pride in that in Alamosa. I also want to tell the rest of Colorado, bring it on. I can tell you what the community looks like, it's called Hooper, Colorado! Would you all help me give a big round of applause to the mayor and trustees."

Commissioner Laske then recognized the trustees. Mayor Dentler gave a special thank you to Dolan.

"She is actually the one who started the grant, took care of it, and put it into motion," he said. "The first grant ever in the town of Hooper, in 125 years. We want to thank you and we appreciate it from the bottom of our heart."

Trustee Dolan said, "I have lived here for over 25 years, and in that time, I have never seen so much community at work. It is amazing and heartwarming because I know that this is where I am going to stay. I know this is my home. It is so nice to see it coming together like this."

Mayor Dentler then called everyone together to cut the ribbon.

"Alright guys on the count of 3 the playground is open," he said. Mayor Dentler counted down from three to one and cut the ribbon.

Mayor Dentler also chuckled and said, "This is for the kids, and for the community, and a couple of the guys went down the slide too."

FFA

Continued from Page 1

students had to complete a rangeland inventory to determine the vegetation composition and rangeland condition of the site and analyze the condition of the soil surface for protection from erosion.

Judging the ecological site also tested plant identification skills.

Following lunch guest speaker, Bill Brinton gave an interesting presentation about soil health and the five principles of restoring soil health on ranches and farms in Colorado.

Pete and Leah Clark discussed how their grazing management strategies are improving their rangeland and enabling them to work cooperatively with the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge.

The Range Judging Contest is one of many FFA Career Development agriculture students can



Courtesy photo

Pete and Leah Clark discuss their ranching operation and cooperative grazing management with the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge.

participate in to test their skills and knowledge learned through their agricultural education classes.

Through the Range Judging Contest, students are tested on their plant identification skills and reading the landscape to determine the ecological site, condition of the rangeland, amount of usable forage, and number of animals that can be properly supported on the land.

FFA Advisors, Mosca-Hooper and Center Conservation Districts, RGWCEI, Monte Vista NWR, and the CO Section of the Society for Range Management made this event a success for all the participating high school agriculture students. A special thank you went to the Clark farm for allowing the use of their farmstead and providing an excellent venue for this educational youth event.

Help

Continued from Page 1

all other state agencies — including Colorado Department of Human Services, DYS, the court system and law enforcement — with a goal of improving services provided and experiences of youth and families impacted by those agencies and systems.

They are available to answer questions people may have that aren't easily answered anywhere else, such as how a parent can get visits with their child, explaining who makes decisions about where a parent's child lives, how the parent can advocate for their child, why their child was disciplined, how to get documents about their child's case and what to do if they think their child is being hurt by someone.

CPO starts by, most importantly, listening to kids and parents in conversations that are free and confidential. They then investigate any concerns reported to them by any Coloradan about what's happening with their case and the child protection system.

They then determine what is the best way to resolve the concerns they've

heard, which might mean improving communications or resolving conflicts that are based on misunderstanding.

In terms of the bigger picture, CPO also identifies trends where the community's needs have changed, and the system hasn't had the funding or the resources or the organizational practices to keep up with the change.

As a result of that process, CPO will make public recommendations for a system to improve.

Finally, CPO takes what they've learned and meets with lawmakers, professionals and others to advocate for legislation and policies that bring lasting, positive change impacting the lives of children and families.

The best way for someone who needs to understand how systems work in a better way or has a concern about something that is happening is to reach out to CPO directly.

In the meeting they held with local groups, staff with CPO assured the group that there will be someone specifically assigned to the San Luis Valley to address concerns coming out of this area. They also emphasized that all conversations and concerns are held in the strictest of confidence.

Michael Teague, director of Public Affairs with CPO, provided more information to the Valley Courier. Beginning July 1, he says, CPO's Client Services team that handles calls to their agency adopted a regional model that assigns each analyst to a specific region as outlined by the Colorado Human Services Directors Association (CHSDA). That team is led by Director of Client Services Amanda Pennington (cc'd) and attached is a map of the regions.

All calls — regardless of region — come in through CPO's main intake line and then are assigned to the Client Services Analyst for the respective region.

CPO can be contacted in two ways, either by calling 720-625-8640 or by out a complaint online at <https://coloradocpo.org>

Local groups that attended the meeting included the Alamosa School District, the Center for Restorative Program, SLV Behavioral Health Group, Alamosa County Department of Human Services and Tu Casa. Aaron Miltenberger, executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of the SLV and board member of Child Protection Ombudsman of Colorado was also in attendance.

Gay

Continued from Page 1

ing, all of those are in that plan.

Waters: Can you address the implications that the ending of federal Covid related funding to schools will have on the district?

Gay: I think that will be a challenge going forward. Like anything we need to adapt. We adapted to the needs of Covid. We always need more staff than we can afford. We just have to adapt to the needs of the district and be realistic about what our budget will allow, and just work with what we know we will have.

Waters: What is the most pressing issue confronting the district?

Gay: There are two, they go hand in hand. We have a gap, when we look at academic achievement, we have had a lot of progress in academic achievement. But the growth piece — making sure that our students are a grade level and they understand and they have learned the material at each grade level. That gap is very difficult to close and we are really working on it. That is definitely a priority area that we need to maintain.

We have an issue that plays into this; post-COVID, we have an issue with attendance. In post-Covid, it has been a struggle to get students back into the classroom. This is a problem throughout the state, not so much the nation. I think we are fourth

lowest in that attendance issue. It is an issue as a state and I'm not sure why. It definitely is an issue and I wonder why?

On a four-day week [the district recently transitioned to a four-day week] every day matters and it has a big impact on students when they miss just one day of school. I feel like they feed each other, we want to close the gap and we want to get more students at grade level performance, and to continue growing beyond that would be wonderful. But if they are not there, how do we do that? It is a struggle. Those two pieces are important to stay focused on.

A sense of belonging is important, it needs to be a place kids want to be, and if they want to be there attendance improves, and their learning improves, so they all build on themselves.

Waters: I understand you have a master's degree in education. How is that an asset to you as a board member?

Gay: Yes, both of my degrees are from Adams State. I taught for three years in Monte Vista in the middle school and I really enjoyed it. This just adds another perspective when we are discussing implementing new ideas. Anything we are discussing district-wide, it is important to have a teacher voice, a parent voice, community voices, and make sure we are really listening to how things will affect people. Being an experienced teacher, this just helps give me another perspective to provide another way to look

at various issues. It helps to consider the big picture and how it impacts everybody.

Waters: Anything else you can tell our readers?

Gay: I do think that I do come to the board with the advantage of being a parent of three children in the school, I have an elementary student, a middle school student and a high school student.

I have been a very active parent in the district for the past eight years. I'm on the district accountability committee. I've been active in the elementary PTO program. I have also been on the unified district leadership committee, the four-day week committee. When we were looking for a superintendent, I was part of the parent stakeholder group. I've been an active participant for a number of years. I know the people involved, I know the history and it helps to have a bigger perspective.

This is part of my decision to run, I feel I have a good sense of what is going on in the district, what the need of the district, what our weaknesses are, what our strengths are.

Education, if you want to make a change, it does take time and sometimes people get impatient with that. Sometimes it takes time and all of these years being on these committees has really helped me understand that.

The Valley Courier interview with Kaylee Gomez-Romero who is challenging Gay for the District 1 position on the Alamosa School Board of Education was published on Oct. 10.

Opinion

Let's blow the whistle on public-land abusers

Dozens of TVs, refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers and abandoned cars had either been gunshot, torched or both.

This place of destruction was what some locals called "Carnage Canyon," roughly 30 acres off Lefthand Canyon in Boulder County.

It was a shocking insight, but was it unique? Think about your own nearby public lands.

This canyon's history began with mountain biking. Sometime in early 2000, a mountain biker discovered the canyon and developed a trail through it. Then, more bikers came in droves and "motocrossers" also loved it, particularly because nobody was around making rules or telling them what to do.

Nobody complained to the Forest Service, the managing federal agency.

After them came people in Jeeps who liked to plow through mud, crawl over big rocks and climb up the sides of the canyon. They also widened the trail into a one-lane, eroded dirt road.

Still other folks figured the canyon was a great place to dispose of junk cars and appliances until the place began to resemble an open landfill. Target practice came next. Still, no one complained.

What else happened to this much-abused canyon? A murder and man-hunt followed by a homeless people whose encampments were not healthy for what was left of the woods. Yet none of this was the cause for restoring the canyon to its original state.

Hey, there were no complaints!

But here's how erosion changed things. It brought water carrying large amounts of silt down past the canyon's mouth and into Lefthand Creek. After the silt killed all the aquatic insects, the trout left. It was people who liked fishing for trout who demanded that the

Writers On The Range



Rob Pudim



steam be fixed, and that meant the canyon had to be restored.

The Forest Service invited two non-profit groups — Wild Lands Restoration Volunteers and Trail Ridge Road Runners — and Walsh Environmental Services to restore the canyon.

Over seven years, bullet-ridden debris was hauled away and the squatters discouraged. But it took hundreds of volunteers to dam the erosion channels — one 20 feet deep — and replant grass, shrubs and trees in the trashed roads and open areas.

Some areas had eroded so steeply that a person could stand upright, reach out and touch the ground. Hay bales used to mulch grass seeds would tumble down the slope like bison stampeding over a cliff.

But one problem remained, and it was a big one: target shooting. A number of "near misses" made many shooters uneasy. There were also five documented shootings involving Forest Service employees and 10 complaints from area residents about flying bullets too close for comfort.

When the Forest Service erected signs closing the area to recreational shooting, their signs became targets riddled with bullet holes. But after the canyon was damaged by flooding in 2013, motorized access became blocked and tar-

get shooting was phased out.

These days, the canyon no longer looks lunar, fish are finally back and silt traps at the bottom of the canyon are almost empty. Mountain bikers are welcome on designated trails.

Locals liked to blame tourists, newcomers and outsiders for the illegal dumping, vandalism and unregulated shooting in the mountains. But Carnage Canyon's problem areas were not tourist destinations, and most of the broken appliances and shot-out signs were problems well before the surge of newcomers.

The truth is that when damage occurs over the decades, it is usually done by people who live in the area. We have to put the blame where it belongs, and that's on us. We are the yahoos who do this, not Californians or Texans.

It's also true that no government agency will act unless we complain. So when there's an opportunity to participate in planning for what the agency calls "travel management," we need to get involved.

I was one of the volunteers who worked several summers to help restore the battered landscape once called Carnage Canyon. The work was rewarding, as all improvements were better than what was there, but volunteers shouldn't have to be called in to clean

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."



Courtesy Photo

everything up.

Federal agencies need to be better protectors of the public lands they manage for us. And when we see rampant abuse, we need to blow the whistle to protect the lands we all own.

Rob Pudim is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He is a cartoonist and public-land advocate in the Denver area.

Lo que sucede dentro del hogar — What happens within the home

By SAN LUIS VALLEY IMMIGRANT RESOURCES CENTER

Survivors of domestic violence have a similar story to share, but what sets the experiences of immigrant survivors aside from others? In particular, the experiences of Latino immigrant survivors living in the San Luis Valley.

Lo que sucede dentro del hogar, se queda dentro del hogar. What happens within the home stays within the home. Unfortunately, this phrase resonates with most immigrant survivors of domestic violence as it is an innate way of living for them. Specifically, any domestic issue that occurs within the home must remain a private affair and domestic violence is no exception. The notion even goes further to include that despite domestic violence causing suffering and chaos within the home, the survivor is expected to live with it for the sake of keeping their family together. The formal term for this concept is familismo.

Aside from familismo, immigrant survivors face many other challenges as to why they remain in abusive relationships. The main challenge they face involves language barriers as the majority (of whom live in the Valley) primarily speak Spanish or Q'anjob'al, a Mayan language from Guatemala.

The lack of language justice found within organizations throughout the Valley causes negative implications as immigrant survivors are afraid to call certain service providers and or organizations to seek assistance despite meeting their qualifications. Some are even afraid to call law enforcement not only because of the language barrier, but because they believe calling the police will automatically put them at risk of losing their legal status in the U.S. or getting deported.

In fact, abusers will intimidate or threaten their victims by saying they will call ICE on them if they leave the re-

lationship, take the children elsewhere, disclose the abuse to anyone, or simply for remaining in contact with friends and or family. Another challenge that is common amongst immigrant survivors living in the Valley involves feeling overwhelmed and/or untrusting of the Judicial System simply because victim rights are nonexistent in their home country and the U.S. judicial system is a foreign arena to them.

Lastly, adequate, and affordable housing is a huge barrier that immigrant survivors face. The majority of immigrant survivors are undocumented, stay-at-home-mothers, non-English speakers, and single parents. All these factors affect them in obtaining housing because they lack legal status, a social security number, employment, and credit history, etc. - which are usual requirements by most landlords/rental agencies. Needless to mention, the SLV has a huge housing crisis as rental units

are scarce, and rent is high.

How can San Luis Valley immigrant survivors of domestic violence be better supported? They can be better supported by receiving services in their native language, receiving information about their victim rights, and SLV organizations collaborating with one another, especially with the SLV Immigrant Resource Center (SLVIRC).

The SLVIRC can offer assistance to survivors through its Crime Victim Housing (CVH) and legal assistance program. Under the CVH program, survivors can receive financial assistance, interpretation services, assistance in navigating the Judicial System and advocacy. As for the legal assistance program, they can receive information and assistance in filing for immigration relief under VAWA or the U-Visa, both free of charge. For any information, please reach out to SLVIRC at 719-587-3225.

LETTER

October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month

Editor,

In 1988, President Ronald Regan proclaimed October Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month. Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day is observed on Oct. 15 each year and includes the International Wave of Light.

National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month has become a safe

space for those grieving a loss and others trying to understand and comfort. This October, discover ways to communicate gently and sensitively to grieving parents and anyone suffering the loss of an infant.

There are activities and community resources available and closer than you think. Tens of thousands of families

across the United States are devastated each year by the death of their baby. But the grief of these families and the value of their babies' lives are very rarely acknowledged.

Promoting awareness of pregnancy and infant loss not only increases the likelihood that grieving families will receive understanding and support, but

also results in improved education and prevention efforts which may ultimately reduce the incidence of these tragedies.

Here is a list of ways to participate in giving awareness and remembrance to our children.

- Tying blue and pink ribbons around trees in yards, neighborhoods, and parks

- Light candles and display them in your window Oct. 15, 7 p.m.; participate in the International Wave of Light by lighting a candle at 7 p.m. local time to honor all babies gone too soon. Keep your candle lit for at least one hour to create a continuous "wave of light" across all time zones covering the entire globe.

From having this personal experience in my family's life, it is comforting to be able to share this information with the community. If you have had this experience in your life as well remember you are not alone and it is OK to not be OK.

This is written in memory of our daughter Emma Mae Irene Trujillo. Her first birthday would have been on Oct. 9, 2023.

Ruby and Andrew Trujillo
Monte Vista

Keith R Cerny
Publisher

Valley Courier
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Brian Williams
Managing Editor

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Lifestyles

Rio Reels fundraiser offers engaging short films on Oct. 20

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — The seventh annual Rio Reels Film Festival will take place Friday, Oct. 20 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Ski-Hi Banquet Hall in Monte Vista.

Hosted by the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project, the event will include dinner, drinks, and a great selection of river-related short films. This year's films will include engaging stories from all around the world, including the Pacific Northwest, Patagonia, Tasmania, and Colorado. Included in the festival

is, "Romeo November: A Lighthawk Story," which is a film by American Rivers that tells the story of a number of nature-based solutions people on the Colorado River are using to address habitat degradation and fire impacts.

Part of the event will be a silent auction and door prizes that include lodging, art, outdoor gear, clothing, and more. Advance tickets are available online for \$30 and can be found by visiting riograndeheadwaters.org or searching for Rio Reels Film Festival on Eventbrite. Tickets will also be

sold at the door for \$40.

The Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project has been completing projects throughout the watershed for over 20 years. Funds raised from the event go directly towards these projects to improve water quality, wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, and overall river health!

The event would not be possible without sponsors American Rivers, Conejos Water Conservancy District, Cooley and Sons Construction, Cultivating Hearts, Robins Construction, San Luis Valley Ir-



rigation District, Stephen Quiller, Stone's Farm Supply, Trinchera Ranch,

and the other artists, individuals, and businesses who have generously

sponsored this event and donated to the silent auction.

As consumers flock to organic foods, lawmakers urge more federal grants for farmers

By SAMANTHA DIETEL

Colorado Newsline

WASHINGTON — U.S. lawmakers are pushing a bill that would boost support for organic farmers amid rising demand for their products.

U.S. Sens. Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin and Angus King of Maine in the Senate, alongside U.S. Reps. Chellie Pingree of Maine and Annie Kuster of New Hampshire in the House, introduced the Organic Market Development Act in late September. The bill would codify and increase funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Organic Market Development Grant program, which allows organic farmers and producers to apply for grants to help support their businesses.

The lawmakers are working to include this legislation in the upcoming farm bill.

The bill is also co-sponsored by Sens. Peter Welch, a Vermont Democrat, and Kristen Gillibrand, a New York Democrat. Rep. Andrea Salinas, an Oregon Democrat, is also a co-sponsor.

Earlier this year, the OMDG program was provided a one-time \$75 million allotment through the Commodity Credit Corporation. The program is currently only funded for the 2023 fiscal year, a spokesperson from Pingree's office said in a written statement.

This bill would maintain that \$75 million each year while also investing an additional recurring \$25 million in appropriations beginning with the 2024 fiscal year.

"This bicameral bill would formally authorize the Organic Market Development Grant program by Congress to ensure it is a long-lasting, continued program versus a one-time round of funding," a spokesperson from Pingree's office said.

Demand for organic food

Organic agriculture sales reached \$60 billion last year and are continuing to rise, according to a Baldwin press release.

"We know the demand for organic foods is growing dramatically right now, and so we want to equip our organic farmers with the tools they need to meet that demand," Baldwin, a Democrat, told States Newsroom.

King, an independent, said the bill would help his state's growing organic food movement, which he said is "an important part of our agricultural economy."

"Anything I can do to help support the growth of that business is something I'm very interested in," King said. "That's why I introduced the bill. It's a big deal."

Organic farmers

According to the Baldwin release, the Organic Market Development Grant program "aims to support the development of new and expanded organic markets by building and expanding capacity" for many aspects of the organic agriculture industry, including:

- Production
- Aggregation
- Processing
- Manufacturing
- Storing
- Transporting
- Wholesaling
- Distribution
- Development of consumer markets

Organic farmers and producers can use these funds to upgrade their equipment and facilities, according to the Baldwin release.

Baldwin said the legislation would "build on the success of the Organic Market Development Grant program and allow more producers to access these resources and tools to grow our agriculture economy and ensure Wisconsin remains a leader in the organic food industry."

Wisconsin had the second-highest number of certified organic farms in the U.S. in 2021 with 1,455, according to a USDA report.

"Wisconsin's organic farmers and businesses are stepping up to meet the growing demand for organic products, and I'm committed to delivering the support they need to grow their businesses and reach new markets," Baldwin said in a press release.

Organic food in Maine

King said Maine's organic farmers "face increasing challenges from changing global markets, climate change," so they should receive continued support and resources to "evolve with the times."

"The Organic Market Development Act would codify an existing, and highly in demand, grant program to ensure the continuance of grant funding to Maine's organic farmers so that they can respond to

these challenges and pave the way for the future of the organic food industry," King said in a press release.

Pingree, a Maine Democrat who is a member of both the House Agriculture Committee and House Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee, is also a longtime organic farmer.

"As more farmers consider making the transition from conventional to organic farming, we must strengthen organic processing and storage and enhance market opportunities," Pingree said in a press release.

Pingree is also a co-chair of the House Organic Caucus, and she worked on the previous farm bill.

"The bill also expands grants to cover cold storage, which there is a huge, unmet need for. In Maine, for example, a dairy farmer applied for an Organic Market Development Grant, but wasn't eligible because it was for cold storage," a spokesperson from Pingree's office said. "This bill would ensure the program grants cover cold storage, which is an important aspect of successful, organic farming."

The OMDG program received approximately 200 applications from across the U.S. While grants have not been awarded yet, Pingree's spokesperson said it is anticipated that "all the current funds allocated will be used."

Organic farmers and producers in Maine and across the country have been asking for these resources for years, Pingree's spokesperson said, and cited a 2020 study that ranked Maine second in the nation for the availability of organic food.

"There's a strong need in Maine and across the U.S. for more organic processing, storage and new marketing opportunities," Pingree's spokesperson said. "This bill would do just that."

The Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association has shown sup-

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Sports

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD TUESDAY
Prep girls volleyball
Sargent at Buena Vista – late

SCHEDULE WEDNESDAY
Prep boys soccer
Alamosa at Bayfield, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY
Prep football
Sierra Grande at Primero, 7 p.m.
Trinidad at Centauri, 7 p.m.

Prep boys soccer
Alamosa at Montezuma-Cortez, 3 p.m.
Prep girls volleyball
Trinidad at Center, 4:30 p.m.
Del Norte at Sanford, 5 p.m.
Creede at Sangre de Cristo, 6 p.m.
Sierra Grande at Primero, 6 p.m.
College men's soccer
Colorado State Pueblo at Adams State, 3 p.m.

FRIDAY
Prep football
Ignacio at Monte Vista, 6 p.m.
Sanford at Sargent, 6 p.m.
Alamosa at Manitou Springs, 7 p.m.
Sangre de Cristo at La Veta, 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

David and Kim Martinez named Grizzly Club Partners of the Year

By ERIC R. FLORES
ASU Associate A.D. for communications

ALAMOSA – Three generations of David and Kim Martinez's family have walked the halls of Adams State University. To this day, David and Kim can be found seated in the ASU Grizzly Club section, watching several sporting events.

David and Kim each have degrees from ASU. David earned his bachelor's degree in business administration in 1984 and a bachelor's in physical education in 1987. Kim graduated in 1984 with a bachelor's in elementary education and again in 1999 with a master's in Education.

David was a football player, and part of the 1980 football team inducted into the Adams State University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2016.

David's father was a wrestler for the then-named Indians and graduated in 1958.



Kim and David Martinez were named the Adams State University Grizzly Club Partners of the Year.

After graduation, David worked at City Market in Alamosa. He coached several city recreation teams and football at

Ortega Middle School in Blanca. "We love coming to all the events; we adopted a softball player this year, so it was fun to go to those

games," said Kim. "Dave and I met at Adams State, started dating there, and when Megan was on the volleyball team, we went everywhere with them. He loves wrestling, and we love attending every event at Adams State, from athletics to the plays."

The couple had three children, including Megan, a volleyball player for the Grizzlies in the 2000s. Since then, the Martinez family has been Grizzly Club members and has watched several sports religiously.

"We have sponsored volleyball players and a softball player. We get to know these players by having them to our house, going out to eat, and going to their games," said Kim. "This helps these student athletes feel more at home while they are away from home."

The couple was honored at the Donor and Student Recognition Dinner on Tuesday, Oct. 10.

ASU Counselor Education named Corporate Sponsors of the Year

By ERIC R. FLORES
ASU Associate A.D. for Communications

ALAMOSA – Adams State University Counselor Education has been selected as the 2023 Grizzly Club Sponsor of the Year.

In addition to being a vital department at Adams State on the academic side, the School of Counselor Education believes in helping student-athletes.

"The School of Counselor Education has found it essential throughout the years to find meaningful ways to support students and other areas across campus," noted Cheri

Meder, the School of Counselor Education Director. "We are uniquely positioned to support and assist students in various capacities, including our Grizzly Club sponsorship. One key aspect drawing us to the Grizzly Club is the focus on supporting student-athletes through scholarships. To us, this is crucial so students can continue their studies and hopefully find our Master's and even doctoral programs something they can strive for through ASU."

"In terms of helping ASU in general, we always hope our reach extends

beyond athletics into other parts of campus and the community. We have enjoyed funding the Homecoming Carnival since its creation," note Meder. "This event always highlights the importance of community involvement and had grown in that other schools offer free activities and events, which get people interested in the programs offered here at ASU. We support the School of Visual and Performing Arts in several capacities, funding things like the writing center and certain programs of the library. We believe not only our support to various

initiatives across campus but also our faculty and staff development is crucial to support our students and students as a whole."

The ASU Counseling Education was honored at the Donor and Student Recognition Dinner on Tuesday, Oct. 10.



The Adams State University School of Counselor Education was named the ASU Corporate Sponsors of the Year.

UPCOMING GRIZZLY ATHLETIC EVENTS

Thursday, October 12
Men's Soccer vs Colorado State University Pueblo at Alamosa, Colo.
3:00 p.m.

Friday, October 13
Men & Women's Swim vs Texas Permian Basin at Alamosa, Colo.
TBA
Women's Volleyball at Colorado Christian University at Lakewood, Colo.
7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 14
Men & Women's Swim at Colorado State University Pueblo at Pueblo, Colo.
TBA
Football vs Chadron State College at Alamosa, Colo.
1:00 p.m.
Women's Volleyball at Chadron State College at Chadron, Neb.
6:00 p.m.

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Lifestyle

Envision San Luis celebration Oct. 13-14

By DIANE DREKMAN

SAN LUIS — San Luis will be the place to be Oct. 13-14. The Town of San Luis and the Costilla County Economic Development Council (CEEDC) have been working for to settle various issues and to renovate the beautiful white Sangre de Cristo Cultural Heritage Center in the middle of San Luis. Issues have been resolved.

With the renovations that have been done to the theater, museum, and commercial kitchen, which comprises the Cultural Heritage Center, the town is ready for its unveiling Oct. 13-14. Come celebrate Envision San Luis with the mission "Rise Higher!" and see the beautiful oak beam ceiling in the theater, the renovated museum, and commercial kitchen and learn the future plans for the Sangre de Cristo Cultural Heritage Center, where people will once again be able to study and learn about the unique history and culture of the San Luis

Valley.

San Luis Town Manager Susan Sanderford has been involved in a number of projects to revitalize San Luis — like opening a visitor center, starting a monthly art co-op, and partnering with organizations like Downtown Colorado, to promote and support small businesses and entrepreneurs.

The festivities start Oct. 13 from 9-11:30 a.m. Downtown Colorado Inc. will host a summit meeting at the San Luis Coffee Company, part of the growing number of businesses in San Luis, for those with the entrepreneurial spirit who want to learn more about starting a small business in a small town.

People can also find out about business opportunities in San Luis Valley at a "creative opportunity fair" following the summit at 11:30 a.m. at the Heritage Center Theater. Throughout the day, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. there will be people from Downtown Colorado Inc. to tell business owners what is involved

in redeveloping a property and what cleanup assessments are needed. Members of the community like Dana Maestas and the Soul Players of the Valley have been working diligently to clean the museum classroom theater and commercial kitchen.

A celebration wouldn't be complete without musical entertainment. It is a rare chance to see an important band in Hispanic music, Little Joe y La Familia Oct. 13 from 3:30-5 p.m. The band has had a 50-year career, winning five Grammy Awards, being

inducted into the Texas Tejano Hall of Fame. At 82, Little Joe and his band are still going strong. Most recently, they received the 2023 National Heritage Fellowship, which is the highest honor the National Endowment for the Arts gives for traditional and folk arts. Tickets are still available before Oct. 13 for \$40, and \$50 at the door. Call San Luis Town Hall for tickets and more information, 719-672-3321. The music continues from 7-9 p.m. with DJ CRL CRLL for a fun, family affair.

The celebration of the (partial) opening of the Sangre de Cristo Cultural Heritage Center continues Oct. 14. Start the morning with a free yoga class by Amy Raney, owner of Spin Drift Sandboards and a yoga instructor at the Blanca-Fort Garland Community Center, from 9-10 a.m. in the Heritage Center courtyard. The Sangre de Cristo church will hold a garage sale from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. CEEDC will conduct tours showcasing the renovations that have been made and share the future plans

for the building 10 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be additional vendors and food available from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

In conjunction with the Envision San Luis celebration, the San Luis Coffee Company is having an October Fiesta on Oct. 14 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Enjoy brats with kraut served all day while listening to the sounds of local bluegrass/country band Still Whiskey from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Then Aaron and Gabe DJ 2:30-4:30 p.m. Another favorite band, Indian Nickel plays from 5-7 p.m.

Monte Vista City Council recognizes Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Bullying Prevention Month

By MARIE MCCOLM
MONTE VISTA — The Monte Vista City Council recognized Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Bullying Prevention Month with proclamations during their meeting on Oct. 5.

A special presentation was made by the Kindness Club of Monte Vista. The Kindness Club is a school organized club that promotes kindness and compassion amongst students. The club hosts extracurricular activities to help members of the community with acts of kindness.



The club explained that they wanted to highlight Bullying Prevention Month for everyone. Co-facilitator for the Kindness Club, Francisca Archuleta, who is also a fourth and fifth grade counselor at Bill Metz Elementary, introduced the club, and its co-facilitator Laura Lynn Buss. Archuleta also introduced some student members who were at the meeting.

The kids collectively talked about some of the goals for the club, including to always use kindness, to use compassionate and caring words, and to promote and spread kindness.

Devon Davey, the Bullying Prevention coordinator for the Monte Vista School District, spoke a little bit about Bullying Prevention.

"In 2019 we got a grant from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) for Bullying Prevention Education," Davey said. "This grant allotted us about \$75,000 to really spread kindness

throughout our schools. We also want to talk about bullying prevention during the month of October. We have a curriculum that we would like our teachers to teach the class and I will let the teachers take over and talk about this."

Archuleta explained bullying to everyone at the meeting. The children from the Kindness Club joined in and explained bullying, and helped read along through many of the images

that were presented at the meeting about bullying and the different types and ways bullying occurs.

Director of Public Works Rob Vance also spoke to council members regarding the approval of a grant.

"Tonight, before you is a memo for a contract for the award of a memo F Grant Design," Vance said. "It's an award for JLK Engineering to design the multimodal sidewalk project from Ski Hi all the way to the Alta fuel station on the north side of 160. That contract came in at \$288,294.89. It is a state-funded grant, there is no match for the city. So, the entire funding that comes from this will come from the ARPA funds from the state. I need council to make a motion to approve the award of the contract and to allow our City Manager Gigi Dennis to sign."

The council unanimously approved the contract.

The next City Council meeting will be held on Oct. 19, at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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)

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

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 BASKETBALL 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)

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

FT RN POSITION OPEN IN WOUND CARE DEPARTMENT of RIOGRANDE 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 RIOGRANDE 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 Khrystynn@riograndehospital.net or call 719-657-4090. (10/13/23)

CN NEEDED FULL-TIME NIGHTS at RIOGRANDE 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 Khrystynn@riograndehospital.net or call 719-657-4090. (10/13/23)

WARD CLERK needed at RIOGRANDE HOSPITAL. Amazing opportunity to join our incredible patient-centered and service-oriented team. Must be motivated and available to work flexible shifts. Full-Time Hours and Full Benefits. Apply at 310 County Road 14, DEL NORTE, CO 81132 or online at www.riograndehospital.org. Contact Khrystynn Cano 719-657-4090. EOE. (10/13/23)

SUBSTITUTES TEACHERS NEEDED at the UPPER RIOGRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT in DEL NORTE! Call or email: Sophia at 719-657-4040, x4000 (scruz@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)

UPPER RIOGRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT has received a grant for a full-time JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR - for the next 3 years, starting in the 2023-2024 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)

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

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

EQUIPMENT MECHANIC OPENING. PERFORM diagnostics, service repairs, and maintenance work on semis, paving and heavy construction equipment. Perform preventive maintenance tasks and ability to diagnose and troubleshoot mechanical issues. Looking for an individual who is excellent at problem solving and self-motivated. Moderate physical activity is required and must pass a pre-employment drug test. \$18-24 per hour DOE. 401k, paid time off and potential to earn an annual bonus. Application open until filled. Applications can be picked up at 7040 US HWY 160 W, ALAMOSA, CO 81101. Resumes can be emailed to office@asphaltconstructors.com. (10/11/23)

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

OTERO COLLEGE CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES is accepting applications for Migrant and Seasonal Head Start - MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST. Job descriptions and applications are available at the CDS website: www.cdshheadstart.com. For more information contact Michelle Weaver, 719-384-3103 or at michelle.weaver@otero.edu. Otero College Child Development Services is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action/Title IX/Section 504 employer. (10/17/23)

CITY OF ALAMOSA is seeking a full-time WATER WASTE-WATER TECHNICIAN III. Hiring pay is \$50,980.80 to \$66,476.80 per year DOE. Fringe benefits include CO PERA Retirement employer contribution 14.73% & employee contribution is 9.00%, 11.5 holidays per year, 2 personal days, 80 hours of sick leave, and 80 hours of vacation leave per year. Employer paid life insurance, STD, LTD & AD&D, 75% of medical, vision, and dental premiums paid by the employer. Wellness Program, and discounted recreational memberships. The ideal candidate should possess a Colorado Class D Wastewater Treatment, Class D Water Treatment, Class 2 Wastewater Collections, and Class 2 Water Distribution certificate or ability to obtain within twelve (12) months from date of hire. For a full job description and to apply, visit cityofalamosa.org or stop by City Hall at 300 Hunt Ave. The City of ALAMOSA provides Equal Opportunity Employment for accommodations, please submit them in writing with the application. Application deadline - open until filled. (10/14/23)

WANTED EXPERIENCED PRESSMAN. Must be reliable, flexible, and dependable. Apply in person, 2205 State Street, ALAMOSA. (TFN)

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

303 - ANTIQUES

ANTIQUA GREEN SIX COCA COLA GLASSES with handles 16oz, \$40. Call 719-298-2175. (10/20/23)

304 - LAWN & GARDEN

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

324 - SEED & FEED

HORSE & COW HAY: GRASS, GRASS/ALFALFA, ALFALFA. 3x3 and 4x4 bales, various quality and pricing. 719-850-8917. (11/1/23-monthly)

HORSE HAY \$9/BALE; COW/GOAT HAY \$4.50 per bale. 719-274-0380. (10/13/23)

350 - FARM EQUIPMENT

MILLER DISK 25 FT. WIDE. \$20,000. Call 719-850-1143. (10/17/23)

353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

BILLIES: BOER/NUBIAN CROSS and pure NUBIAN, 1.5 yr olds, ready for breeding, excellent genetics. 719-588-6621. (10/14/23)

LARGE SQUARE BALES STACKING SERVICE: 3X3, 3X4, 4X4. Phone Tim 719-553-6327. (10/20/23)

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

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NEW AUTO READY HEATED CAR SEAT COVER, \$20. 719-852-8879. (10/20/23)

PORTABLE OXYGEN MACHINE, used one month, \$500 firm. Call 719-849-6483. (10/18/23)

BIG BOY'S TOYS: 2 HARLEYS, 2-4 WHEELERS, 1 SIDE-BY-SIDE. Call Doug for details, 719-851-0812. (10/17/23)

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

368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

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

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

387 - WANTED TO BUY

OLDER VEHICLE WANTED. Car or truck that runs good! Call Bernie 719-580-9044. (10/14/23)

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

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415 - HOMES FOR SALE

40 TO 80 acre parcels or more. HOUSE RECENTLY REMODELED, 2 miles of frontage on Hwy. 285. Excellent place for an RV Park. 719-850-1897. (10/25/23)

420 - LOTS & ACRES

40 TO 80 ACRE PARCELS or MORE, house recently remodeled, 2 miles of frontage on Hwy. 285. Excellent place for an RV Park. 719-850-1897. (10/25/23)

426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

FOR SALE IN ALAMOSA County: 1980 GLENWOOD TRAILER HOUSE \$6,700. Must be moved, 402-269-7172. (E-TFN)

525 - GUNS

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

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

HOUSE FOR RENT in ALAMOSA. Small ONE BEDROOM, ONE BATH, fenced yard, pets negotiable. 719-588-5303. (10/14/23)

ALAMOSA: PARTIALLY FURNISHED BEDROOM Apartment, newly remodeled. Great location, \$700/month, \$700 deposit, no pets. 719-580-5400. (10/18/23)

Accepting applications for 1 bedroom apartments. Must be 62 or older or disabled
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Apartments
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754-3664
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This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Accepting Applications for 2 & 3 bedroom family units
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2256 E. Drive Monte Vista, CO
852-4302
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1-800-659-2656
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Accepting Applications for waiting list for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Family units available
West View Villas
510 Dunham Monte Vista, Colo
852-3949
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Accepting applications for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Rent based on income for qualifying households.
Gomez Manor Apts.
804 State St. Antonito, Colo.
376-2388
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1-800-659-2656
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Accepting applications for 2 bedroom apartments. Family living at an affordable price.
Guadalupe Hacienda Apts.
404 W. 8th Antonito, Colo.
376-2025
TTY
1-800-659-2656
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

606 - BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT

OFFICE FOR RENT, 10'x10', 315 State Avenue, ALAMOSA. 719-580-3338. (11/8/23)

611 - HOUSES FOR RENT

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Aficionado
 - 5 Hoary
 - 8 From — to riches
 - 12 Blue dye
 - 13 Parrot of New Zealand
 - 14 Provo's state
 - 15 Singer — Turner
 - 16 Bladed tool
 - 17 Additional
 - 18 Cotton fabric
 - 20 Rapid
 - 22 Dawn personified
 - 23 Actor — Ferrigno
 - 24 Stage whisper
 - 27 Population count
 - 30 Mass of gauze
 - 31 Classifieds
 - 32 Golf standard
 - 34 Nothing
 - 35 — Beta Kappa
 - 37 Brick wall covering
 - 38 Put down
- 40 Actress — Zellweger**
- 42 Admiral's org.**
- 43 Hidden microphone**
- 44 Young cod**
- 46 Fish with hook and line**
- 49 Foray**
- 50 Trash can**
- 52 Wheel hub**
- 54 Poker stake**
- 55 Modifying wd.**
- 56 Dollar bills**
- 57 Look**
- 58 Unctuous stuff**
- 59 Man about town**

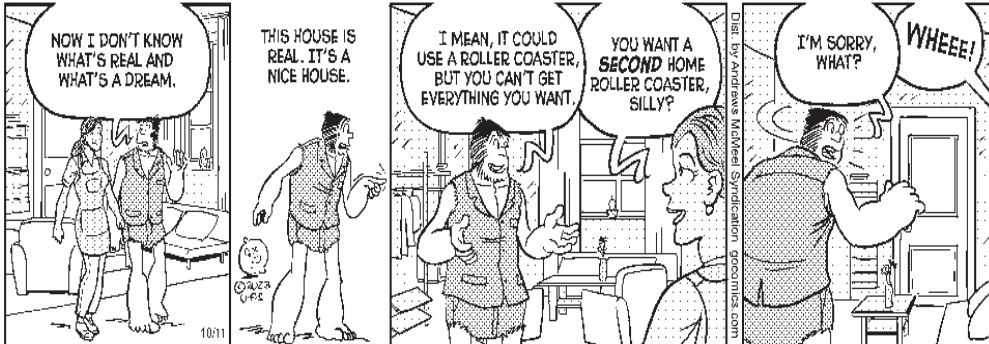
Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	N	T	A	B	E	L	A	W	O	L
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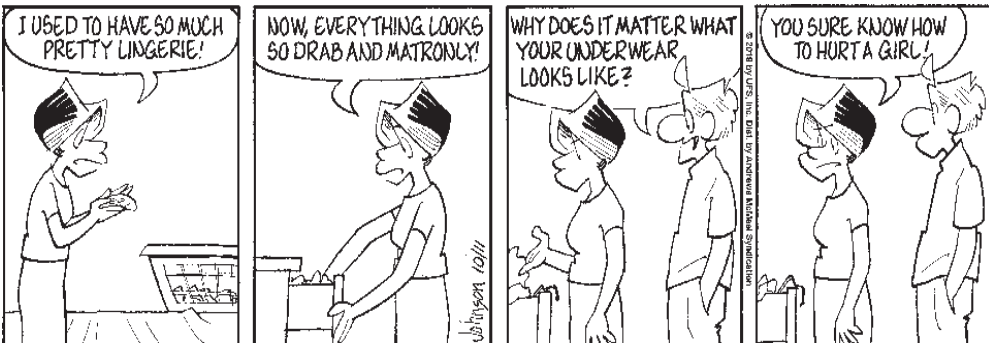
- 7 Bowled over**
- 8 Disturbance**
- 9 On the peak of**
- 10 Actor — Oldman**
- 11 That ship**
- 19 Fish eggs**
- 21 Charged particles**
- 24 Plant bristle**
- 25 Uttered**
- 26 Lazy**
- 27 Son of Adam**
- 28 Go — smoke**
- 29 Put aside for later**
- 33 Liquor**
- 35 Money in Mexico City**
- 36 Purse**
- 39 "Dial M for —"**
- 40 Try for office**
- 41 Holiday beverage**
- 43 Stringed instrument**
- 44 Rational**
- 45 Mention**
- 47 Country road**
- 48 Regular**
- 49 Grammy category**
- 51 Wedding vows (2 wds.)**
- 53 Rough calc.**

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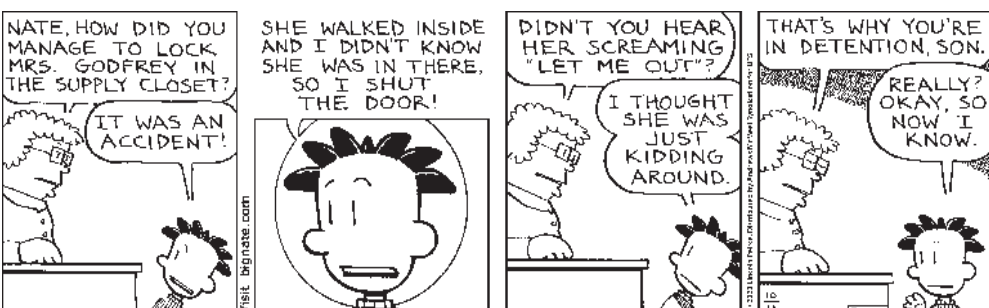
ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



BIG NATE



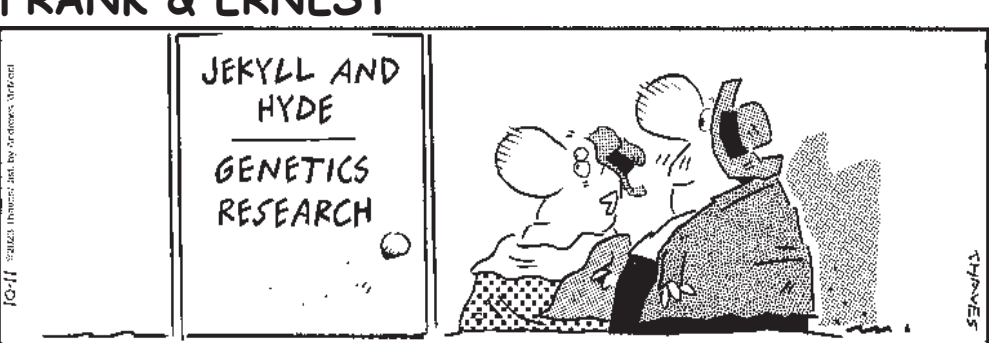
THE BORN LOSER



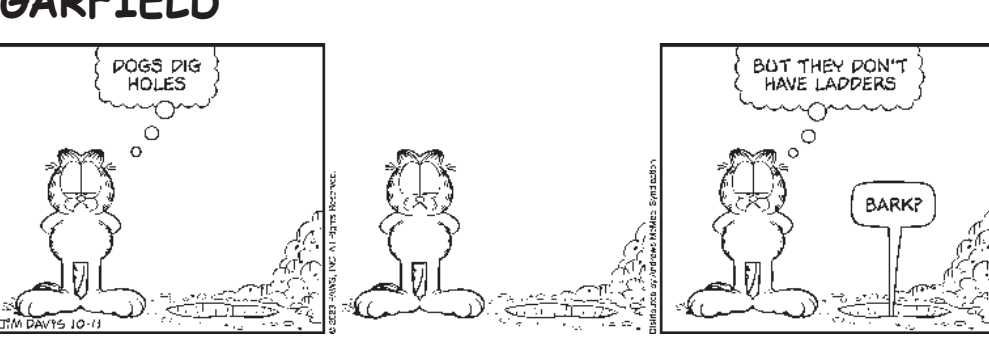
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



Suspicious linger about paternity of fiance's 'niece'

DEAR ABBY: My fiance and I have been together nine years. During that time, we have had our ups and downs. Eight years ago, after a year of dating, we decided to move in together. The following year we got into a big argument because his ex-girlfriend was sticking her nose into our household. (She was also dating his brother.) He moved out that night, but we were able to repair our relationship and decided to live separately for a while. A month and a half after he moved, I found out she was pregnant. Her due date was nine months from when he moved out. He swears it's not his child and that it's his brother's. I have tried to let it go because I can't accuse him of lying just because of the timing of her pregnancy. We were engaged once before, and I called it off because of this. He proposed to me again two years ago, and our wedding date is set for next year. I don't want to call it off again, although this is still bothering me. He knows I was hurt by an ex-boyfriend who cheated on me in the past, and I think he knows if I find out the truth, I will leave him. He treats this child like she's his own, not a niece. He picks her up and takes

her out for dinner and to the park and other stuff he doesn't do for his other nieces or nephews. Should I let it go, or trust my gut? -- SECRET OR NOT IN NEW YORK

DEAR SECRET: Tell your fiance you want him to consent to giving a sample of his DNA, as well as his favored niece's, to be tested. His reaction will speak volumes. If he agrees, you will finally have the answers you are looking for. Do not go ahead with the wedding until you have that information.

DEAR ABBY: Every time my brother or another relative calls or visits, they deliver uninterrupted lectures on subjects we disagree on. There is no real conversation or exchange of ideas. I've told them I don't discuss politics, etc., and interrupted their lecture (which I've heard many times before) to say I have to go, but they keep talking.

Once I said I was hanging up, but I'm not sure my brother heard me. He was angry and offended when I did. If I introduce a new topic in the middle of the lecture, they will morph it into something to lecture on within a minute. They never have facts or data behind their "what's wrong with the world" views. The lectures



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

become tense for both of us, as they try to "sell" their points of view and I become frustrated at the whole process. Any advice? -- SISTER WHO'S HEARD IT ALL

DEAR SISTER: You stated that you have asked these relatives not to discuss topics that make you uncomfortable. Because they can't resist doing it anyway, screen your calls and talk to them less often. Just because someone phones does not mean you must talk to them, but if you are trapped, tell the person you can talk only for 10 minutes. When that time has elapsed, say goodbye and hang up. If someone is offended by this, remind them that they were warned.

Lifestyle

Colorado to source up to 10 wolves from Oregon this winter for reintroduction efforts

By CHASE WOODRUFF

Colorado Newswire

Colorado wildlife officials have cleared one of the last and largest hurdles to the state's efforts to begin the reintroduction of gray wolves on the Western Slope by the end of this year.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife said Friday that it had reached a one-year agreement with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to receive up to 10 wolves from that state beginning in December, just ahead of a deadline set by Proposition 114, the wolf reintroduction ballot measure passed by Colorado voters in 2020.

"We are deeply grateful for Oregon's partnership in this endeavor, and we are now one step closer to fulfilling the will of the voters in time," Gov. Jared Polis said in a press release.

CPW officials plan to capture up to roughly 15 wolves this winter and transport them to Colorado for release within a large region centered on Glenwood Canyon. The agreement with Oregon ends the uncertainty over where the first of those wolves will come from, and whether the state would be able to put "paws on the ground" before the statutory Dec. 31 deadline.

Officials in states including Wyoming, Montana and Idaho — where ranching and hunting interests have fueled a conservative backlash to wolf reintroduction programs begun in the 1990s — have pointedly declined to assist Colorado's efforts. Wildlife officials in Washington, another possible source, expressed openness to assisting Colorado but said it was unlikely they could meet the Dec. 31 deadline.

Under the agreement, Oregon wildlife officials will share information about wolf locations and best practices for capture, with CPW staff and private contractors responsible for the capture operations themselves and all associated costs.

In addition to screening wolves for disease and other health problems, "CPW will make efforts to transplant wolves that have not been involved in repeated depredations," the agency said. While the majority of wolves don't routinely prey on livestock herds, the specter of "problem wolves" that become habituated to the behavior has been cited as a concern by ranchers and state lawmakers who have remained skeptical of reintroduction.

Another key hurdle for the state's efforts was cleared last month, when federal officials approved an exemption that will allow wolves that threaten livestock to be killed in certain circumstances, which the Endangered Species Act would otherwise prohibit. Proposition 114 requires the state to provide compensation to agricultural producers for confirmed wolf depredations of livestock.

Colorado's 11-member Parks and Wildlife Commission finalized the wolf reintroduction plan in a unanimous vote in May. CPW staff plan to capture, transport and release 10 to 15 wolves in the winter months between December and March, repeating the process for the next two to four years until a stable population is established.

"The wolves will be released at select sites in Colorado as soon as possible once they arrive in the state to minimize stress on the animals," Eric Odell, CPW's wolf conservation program manager, said in a statement. "CPW will aim to capture and reintroduce an equal number of males and females. We anticipate that the majority of animals will be in the 1- to 5-year-old range, which is the age that animals would typically disperse from the pack they were born in."



A pair of wolves.

Photo courtesy of CPW

kids' corner

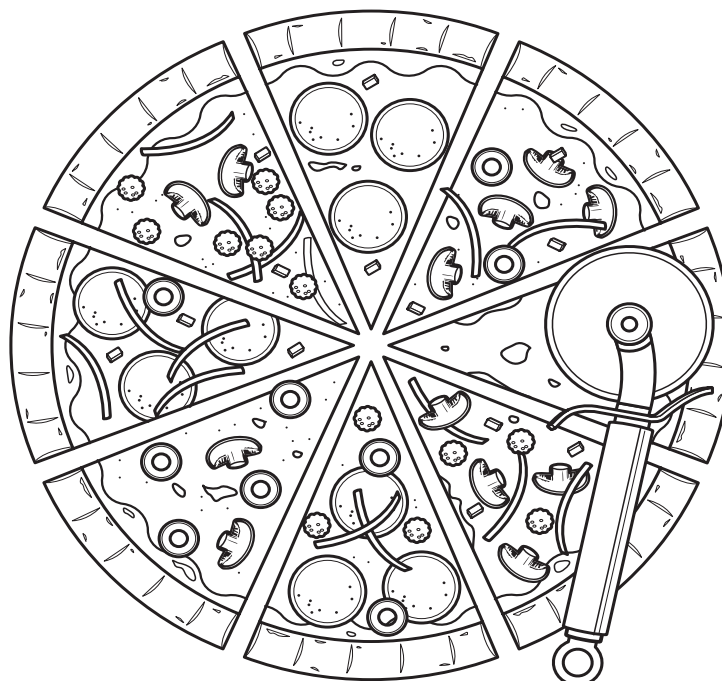
HEALTH FACT:

THIS TYPE OF CRUST HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THOSE WHO MUST GO GLUTEN-FREE TO EAT PIZZA.

ANSWER: CAULIFLOWER

Creative Coloring

Celebrate dining on pizza. Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1956:** THE NEW YORK YANKEES' DON LARSEN PITCHES THE ONLY PERFECT GAME IN A WORLD SERIES TO DATE.
- **1967:** CHE GUEVARA AND HIS MEN ARE CAPTURED IN BOLIVIA.
- **1982:** AFTER ITS LONDON PREMIERE, "CATS" OPENS ON BROADWAY AND RUNS FOR NEARLY 18 YEARS.



CONSUME

eat, drink or ingest food or drink

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Slice

SPANISH: Rebanada

ITALIAN: Fetta

FRENCH: Tranche

GERMAN: Stück

Did you know?

PEPPERONI IS THE MOST POPULAR PIZZA TOPPING ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: PIZZA CUTTER WHEEL



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