



Trinchera Blanca Foundation supports San Luis Valley Conservation strategy



State Tournament basketball all over Colorado

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March 13, 2020

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SLV Today

Indoor archery shoot Saturday

ALAMOSA— Piedra Bowhunters will host an indoor 3-D shoot this Saturday, March 14 at 10 a.m. in the McMullen Building at the Ski Hi Complex in Monte Vista.

Thirty targets will be available. Members will pay \$15 and non-members \$25 with youth paying only \$10. A \$30 family fee is also offered.

Contact Jeff Geiser (575-309-3198) or Michael Wright (719-580-3064) for more information.

Bingo tonight

ALAMOSA— American Legion will be hosting bingo tonight (Friday). Doors open at 5 p.m. and bingo starts at 7.

Dance tonight at Seniors

ALAMOSA— Alamosa Senior Citizens, Inc. will host their monthly dance today (Friday) from 1:30-4 p.m.

Bernal and Alex will provide the music. Admission is \$5 per person or \$3 if you bring a snack.

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SLV WEATHER



Partly Cloudy 46/29

Sat: Partly Cloudy 50/22

Sun: Partly Cloudy 54/22

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Alamosa nets \$265,680 GOCO grant for environmental education center at Rio Grande Farm Park

DENVER— The Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Board awarded a \$265,680 grant to Alamosa County on Thursday, in partnership with San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition, for an environmental education center at Rio Grande Farm Park (RGFP). This project received one of 17 Local Park and Out-

door Recreation grants awarded from a pool of 59 applications.

RGFP opened in 2016 as a multi-use park to promote economic development, healthy living, and education and recreation opportunities in the San Luis Valley. With its LPOR grant, the County will implement the second

phase of park development with the addition of an environmental education center. Funding will also support new restrooms and updated electrical infrastructure.

"The County is grateful to GOCO and excited for the success of the Rio Grande Farm Park and we are proud to be the fiscal

partner in helping them see this project through," said Alamosa County Commissioner Chairman Michael Yohn.

The Local Foods Coalition currently uses the park to offer environmental education programs focused on healthy soil and water, river habitats, healthy food, integra-

tive farming, and environmental stewardship. The education center will enhance programming opportunities, as its indoor classrooms will provide space for year-round lessons, a laboratory for science experiments, and a computer station for online learning.

■ See GRANT page 3

County partners with ASU, TSJC to provide scholarships



Photo by Uriah Valdez

Pictured, left to right, Adams State University Director of Alumni and Donor Relations Lori Laske, with Adams State students Alexander Stokes, Tyler Kenison, Juanita Montoya, Katy Plumb, Isaiah Coffey, Isaiah DeLaCerde, Jonatan Garcia-Dominguez, Joshua Puente, Luz Gonzales, with, back row, Alamosa County Commissioners Helen Sigmond, Michael Yohn, Adams State President Cheryl D. Lovell, and Commissioner Darius Allen.

ALAMOSA— Through the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative Adams State University partnered with Alamosa County and Trinidad State Junior College Educational Foundation to provide scholarships for 25 students from Alamosa County. Representatives from Adams State including the president and students attended the regular board of Alamosa County Commissioners meeting on February 26 to express appreciation for the continued support. "I look forward to a continuing partnership between the three institutions as we move into the future," Laske said.

COVID-19: What is your local public health agency doing?

SANLUISVALLEY— Local public health agencies in the San Luis Valley are working to help our communities be as ready as possible for the coronavirus COVID-19. This looks a little bit different in each county, but generally, this is what your public health agencies have been up to the past several weeks.

Participating in our San Luis Valley Healthcare Coalition, which provides a formalized forum for emergency planning and coordination between health care partners in our area. SLV HCC members include hospitals, clinics, EMS agencies, public health agencies, emergency managers, long term care facilities, and the SLV Behavioral Health Group.

Reviewing, updating, and implementing existing emergency plans. Public

health agencies are not starting from scratch. They have planned and practiced for potential pandemics for many years.

Keeping up with evolving guidance from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CD-PHE) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Participating in frequent planning sessions with CDPHE and the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DSH-SEM).

Making recommendations to local county government officials on reviewing emergency plans on how to maintain essential government services in a worst-case scenario.

Providing guidance and support to municipalities, schools, libraries, other commu-

■ See HEALTH page 3

SLV Behavioral Health awarded \$210,524

DENVER— San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group was among numerous agencies that shared nearly \$5 million in grants to expand access to substance use disorder treatment in rural and frontier communities.

The Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) announced Thursday that SLVBHG will receive \$210,524 to "increase availability for intensive outpatient services to the six counties it serves."

Colorado House Bill 19-1287, which was signed by Gov. Jared Polis last May, established the grant program to increase treatment services in rural and frontier areas of the state. The law provided \$5 million to OBH to be disseminated through three managed service organizations (MSOs), which contract with the state to manage substance use treatment services for uninsured or underinsured Coloradans.

Following a competitive application process, the MSOs awarded \$4.6 million to 16 groups, funding projects such as hiring more certified addiction counselors, launching withdrawal management centers and opening new recovery residence programs.

"We are committed to developing a robust continuum of care for substance use in rural and frontier communities,"

said OBH Director Robert Werthwein. "This much-needed funding will help organizations tailor solutions in their counties and grow successful programs."

The grant evaluation process solicited county-level input to ensure projects met communities' needs. The MSOs convened regional selection committees comprised of two MSO representatives, two area representatives appointed by county commissioners in relevant MSO regions and two CDHS staff members. The remainder of the \$5 million will fund administrative costs, with \$200,000 rolling over into the next grant cycle.

Substance use disorder affects Coloradans in all counties but is particularly acute in rural and frontier communities that lack robust treatment options. In FY 2018-19, more than 54,000 Coloradans received treatment and withdrawal management services for substance use disorder.

OBH has approximately \$5 million available in FY 2020-21 to fund additional projects with applications to be available later this month. Interested organizations should follow the OBH blog for updates and contact the MSO in their region for future funding opportunities.

TSJC, others responding to Covid-19

DENVER— To ensure the health and safety of campus communities across Colorado, the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) activated its emergency operations team focused on coordinating the system's response with the CO Department of Public Health and Environment (CD-PHE) and the guidance provided by the Governor's Office and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

While there are no confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) on any CCCS campus, preparation continues to receive the highest level of attention from college leaders and system administration.

"The health and safety of our 125,000 students and 20,000 employees is our highest priority as we coordinate our response and take informed actions," said Joe Garcia, CCCS chancellor. "Our thirteen college presidents and

I are having regular, ongoing conversations and heeding the guidance of public health experts and the CDC."

Immediate actions taking place across all thirteen colleges include limitations on large group gatherings, implementation of restrictive travel policies, and the possible extension of Spring Break for students. Staff and faculty will utilize the extra time to transition appropriate courses

from in-person to remote instruction and exams, and implement risk reduction plans tailored for each campus.

Due to varying institutional size, location, and programming across CCCS colleges, some courses may not be appropriate to transition to remote learning, such as welding and nursing labs. To provide students with the opportunity to continue their

■ See COVID page 3

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Record

'Heat is on' as DUI enforcement begins today

STATEWIDE — St. Patrick's Day celebrations are right around the corner, and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), Colorado State Patrol (CSP) and local law enforcement agencies are teaming up to keep impaired drivers off the road throughout the holiday weekend.

Starting March 13 through March 18, CDOT, CSP and law enforcement agencies across the state will increase DUI patrols

and enforcement for St. Patrick's Day weekend.

A social media campaign will help alert drivers about the enforcement period.

During last year's four-day The Heat Is On St. Patrick's Day enforcement period, 336 impaired drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, marijuana and other drugs.

The legal blood-



Courtesy photo

alcohol content (BAC) limit in Colorado is 0.05 percent for driving while ability impaired (DWAI) and 0.08 percent for driving under the influence (DUI).

First-time DUI offenders can be punished with up to one year in jail, license suspension and thousands of dollars in fines.

"St. Patrick's

Day is a holiday associated with alcohol consumption. We want Coloradans to be safe, and make the smart choice to never drive impaired," said Matthew Packard, chief of the CSP. "No matter how you choose to celebrate, make the safe choice and plan a sober ride home."

CDOT's The Heat Is On DUI-prevention campaign supports CDOT's Whole System — Whole Safety initiative to reduce traffic injuries and deaths.

OBITUARIES

Baldomero (Manuel) Chairez, 61

FORT GARLAND — Baldomero Chairez, age 61, went home to be with the Lord and his loving daughter on March 6. He was a resident of Fort Garland for the majority of his life.



Carlos, Jose Luis, Manuela, Blanca, Juana, Mariuel, Anna and Martina; his grandchildren: Emma Jo, Manuel, Shania, Cienna, Savanna, Marcos, Miguel Jr., Isiah, Isabella, Xavier and Zachary.

Manuel was born on January 27, 1959 to Luis and Emilia (Puentez) Chairez in Zacatecas, Mexico. On March 9, 1990 he married Catherine Montoya in Alamosa.

Manuel was fond of gardening for his family and neighbors. If he wasn't at his garden, you would find him cruising down the dirt roads listening to his corridos musica.

He loved to build and craft for his family and animals. He loved cooking and bringing warmth to the house he made.

He worked for the city of Blanca, for over 20 years as a maintenance man and helped his neighbors in any way he could.

He was preceded in death by his father, Luis Chairez and daughter, Marivel Chairez.

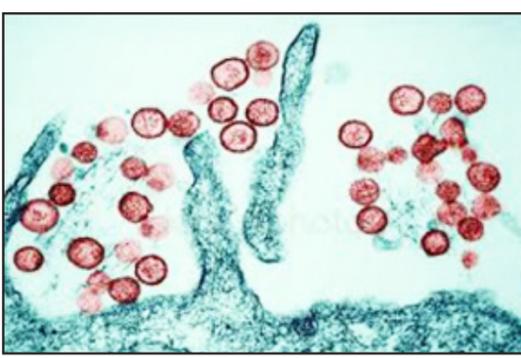
A rosary will be held at 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 14, at the Holy Family Church in Fort Garland. A mass will follow. The inurnment will take place at a later time with his immediate family. A reception will be held following the mass at the Blanca/Fort Garland Community Center, Blanca CO 81123.

Canta y no llores "Amor, amor, amor"

Warmer weather brings hantavirus risk

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Spring cleaning can increase your risk of exposure to hantavirus unless you take proper precautions.

Hantavirus causes Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS), a relatively rare but very serious disease that results in death for more than one-third of those who become infected.



appear 1-6 weeks after exposure to rodents, their droppings, or their nests. Early symptoms include fever, headache, muscle pain, and sometimes nausea and vomiting.

In the San Luis Valley, hantavirus is carried by deer mice, which can move into barns, sheds, crawlspaces, and attics to keep warm through the winter. The virus can be found in the urine, saliva and droppings of infected mice. People are infected by breathing in the virus when stirring up dust from mouse nests or mouse droppings in areas with poor ventilation, or when handling mice.

To protect yourself and your family, do

not sweep or vacuum mice droppings or nesting materials, because breathing dust containing infected droppings or urine is the most common way to be exposed to the virus. Before entering or cleaning enclosed buildings and other enclosed areas where mice may have been present, open them up to air out for 30 minutes. Wear gloves when cleaning rodent-infested indoor areas. Spray mouse droppings and nesting materials with a disinfectant and let them sit for a few minutes before disposing of them in a plastic bag. Take steps to keep rodents away from your home.

First symptoms ap-

Call your doctor right away if you experience symptoms, and be sure to mention any recent rodent exposure. A few days after the first symptoms appear, difficulty breathing develops and progresses very quickly to inability to breathe, so early medical care is crucial for those who do become infected.

Since hantavirus was first identified in the Four Corners area in 1993, Colorado has had 116 confirmed cases of hantavirus; 25 of those were in the San Luis Valley.

For more information call your local Public Health agency, or go to www.cdc.gov/hantavirus.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

VALLEY — The San Luis Valley offers many Alcoholics Anonymous groups.

A.A. members' primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Following are District 3 San Luis Valley AA 12-Step Meetings. The 6th Tradition states that we are not affiliated with any outside organizations, but in the spirit of cooperation, we list these meeting schedules for friends and family. For information, call 719-937-5083.

THURSDAY
 7:15 p.m. RV Park in Blanca
 7:30 p.m. Masonic Hall at 598 Spruce, Del Norte.
 8 p.m. St. Thomas Episcopal Church at 607 4th St., Alamosa.

THURSDAY
 5:30 p.m. First Christian Church at 518 1st St., Alamosa
 7 p.m. Crestone Town Hall, downtown Crestone (second and fourth Thursdays)

SUNDAY
 5:30 p.m. Sacred Heart Parish Center at 3rd and Edison, Alamosa
 7 p.m. Town Hall at 108 W Galena Ave., Crestone

THURSDAY
 12 p.m. First Christian Church at 1st and State, Alamosa
 12 p.m. Crestone Baptist Church, County Rd. T, Crestone
 7 p.m. Community Church on Main St., Creede
 7:30 p.m. Creative Resource Center at 304 Walnut St., La Jara.
 7:30 p.m. Ables/Disables, Baptist Church at 751 Lincoln St., Monte Vista

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS (NarcAnon)
TUESDAY
 7 p.m. St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 607 4th St., Alamosa
 7:30 p.m. Baca Grande Library at Road T, Crestone

MONDAY
 12 p.m. St. Thomas Episcopal Hall at 607 4th St., Alamosa
 5 p.m. Women's Meeting at Masonic Hall, 598 Spruce St., Del Norte
 7 p.m. Community Church on Main St., Creede
 7:30 p.m. Creative Resource Center at 304 Walnut St., La Jara

FRIDAY
 7 p.m. Sacred Heart School at 3rd and Edison, Alamosa.

THURSDAY
 7 p.m. SDA Church at 313 Craft Drive, Alamosa

SATURDAY
 9 a.m. Little Shepherd Episcopal Chapel at Alder St., Crestone
 7 p.m. St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 607 4th St., Alamosa

TUESDAY
 12 p.m. First Christian Church at 1st and State, Alamosa
 8 p.m. Mountain View Presbyterian Church at 2nd and Broadway, Monte Vista

SATURDAY
 5:30 p.m. at 929 State Ave., Alamosa
 6 p.m. Senior Citizen's Building at 710 Main St., Antonito.
 8 p.m. Mountain View Presbyterian Church at 2nd and Broadway, Monte Vista

SATURDAY
 5:30 p.m. at 929 State Ave., Alamosa
 6 p.m. Senior Citizen's Building at 710 Main St., Antonito.
 8 p.m. Mountain View Presbyterian Church at 2nd and Broadway, Monte Vista

TUESDAY
 12 p.m. First Christian Church at 1st and State, Alamosa
 8 p.m. Mountain View Presbyterian Church at 2nd and Broadway, Monte Vista

For schedule changes, please contact your group service representative (GSR)

School Menu

--- Friday ---
 Mar. 13, 2020

BREAKFAST
 Ultimate Breakfast Round
 Juice & Fruit

ELEMENTARY
 Mac & Cheese
 Green Beans
 Hot Roll
 Vegetable Bar

SECONDARY
 Mac & Cheese
 Green Beans
 Hot Roll
 Vegetable Bar

To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553

Connie E. Deluna, 61

ALAMOSA — Alamosa resident Connie Elizabeth Deluna, 61, passed away on March 10, surrounded by loving family.



many aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Connie was preceded in death by her parents, George and Rose Cordova; sister, Catherine Cordova; brothers, Jerry Cordova and Chris Cordova.

Connie was born in Pueblo on Nov. 9, 1958 to her parents George Jake Cordova and Rose Marie Vigil-Cordova.

Connie enjoyed crocheting, making jewelry, making blankets, fishing and especially the time she spent with her loving family. She will be dearly missed by everyone who knew and loved her.

Connie is survived by her loving and devoted husband, Pete Vivion Deluna of Alamosa; daughters, Constance (Alejandro) Jimenez, Pueblo; Geneva Espinoza, Alamosa; Bernadette Espinoza, Tara Apodoca, Demitria Espinoza and Brittney Espinoza all of Colorado Springs;

son, Patrick (Romona) Espinoza, Pueblo; sisters, Darlene (Louie) Martinez, Capulin; Irene Cordova, Pueblo; special sister and brother-in-law Alicia & Jose Sanchez of Blanca; brothers Joe (Bree) Cordova, Alamosa; George (Sandra) Cordova, Pueblo; 12 grandchildren and one great grandson.

She is also survived by

A Vigil Service with Recitation of the Rosary will be held at 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 15, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Alamosa. A Mass of the Resurrection will be held at 10 a.m., March 16, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Alamosa.

To leave online condolences please visit romerofuneralhomes.com. The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Romero Funeral Home for Connie Deluna.

Margie Mondragon, 88

SAN PABLO — San Pablo resident Margie Mondragon, 88, passed away on March 11, with her loving family by her side.



Burns, Ayden and Landon Huegerich; brother, Victor (Tonita) Martinez, Colorado Springs and sister, Ida Leyba, Colorado Springs.

Margie was born on June 24, 1931, the daughter of Jose Victoriano Martinez and Ignasita Medina-Martinez.

Margie enjoyed cooking, baking, traveling, embroidering, crocheting, quilting and especially the time she spent with her grandchildren, great grandchildren and family. She will be dearly missed by everyone who knew and loved her.

Margie is survived by her children, James Mondragon, Colonias; Jane (Carl) Barela, Colorado Springs; Dolores Burns (Mark Valdez), San Luis;

Sandra Mondragon (Larry Garsez), Colorado Springs; grandchildren Ambrose Barela, Francisco Barela, Cipriano Burns, Daphne Huegerich, Harley Valdez and James Mondragon, Jr.

She is also survived by six great grandchildren: Ezrie, Christian, and Melanie Barela; Sophie Adkisson-

A Vigil Service with Recitation of the Rosary will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 13, at Sangre de Cristo Catholic Church in San Luis. A Mass of the Resurrection will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 14, at Sangre de Cristo Catholic Church in San Luis. Interment will follow at the San Francisco Cemetery in San Francisco, CO.

COURIER POLICY ON OBITUARIES

The Courier charges \$30 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 news@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

La Puente thanks community with reception

BY NICOLE RODRIGUEZ
La Puente Staff

ALAMOSA— La Puente serves 10,000 people annually, but this wouldn't be possible without people who believe in the power of their mission. The community has stepped up in a big way to help La Puente continue to provide a safety net of services.

Both Valley-Wide health systems & SLV Health have cooked numerous meals for La Puente's community meal. The San Luis Valley hosted over 50 food

drives.

La Puente supporters raised \$17,690 on Colorado Gives Day this year. This Christmas Dell's insurance donated gifts to La Puente's Adelante Family Resource Center for 44 families and 116 children. These are just some of the ways that the community has supported La Puente and its family of programs.

La Puente's Legacy Fund sponsored a community thank you reception on February 13 at Milagros Coffee house.

The event was open to all community members and its purpose was to shower the community with love & gratitude.

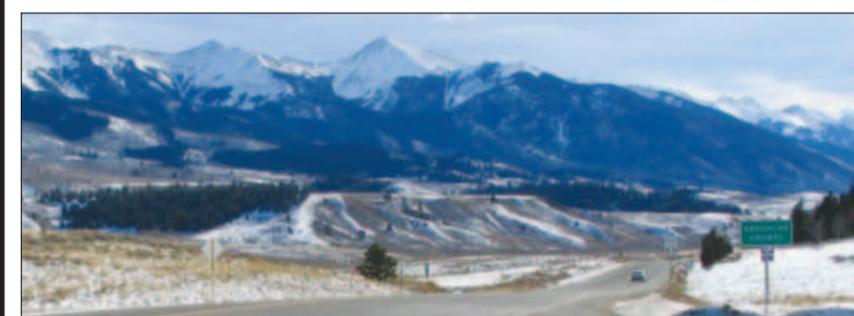
The evening was Valentine's day themed and had live music, mock tails, hors d'oeuvres & homemade brownies. There were 35 attendees who had the opportunity to enjoy this small intimate thank you reception. Attendees also had the opportunity to learn about La Puente's Legacy fund and how they could contribute to La Puente's future.

La Puente's Legacy fund is an endowment, managed separately from other donations, which is invested and the future earnings will help meet the needs of the community far into the future. La Puente believes their Legacy fund is our community's heart beating for a future where basic human needs are met.

If you would like to learn more about La Puente's Legacy fund and ways to contribute contact La Puente's Development Director Amanda Pearson at 719-589-5909



Courtesy photo



One dead in Poncha Pass crash

SAGUACHE COUNTY — According to the Colorado State Patrol Monday, a two-vehicle collision March 8 on Poncha Pass resulted in a fatality after a 2016 Nissan Frontier collided with a 2015 Lexus RX350. The front seat passenger in the Nis-

san was pronounced dead on the scene.

A juvenile male in the Lexus also sustained serious injuries and was flown out to a medical center specializing in child care. The juvenile's injuries are not expected to be life-threatening.

The accident investigation continues, but it is believed that traveling too fast for existing road conditions was a contributing factor to the accident. The name of the deceased party is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

BLM proposes expedited review of pinyon-juniper restoration projects

WEST— The Bureau of Land Management announced a proposal to expedite review and approval of restoration projects across the West designed to address the rapid spread of pinyon-juniper woodlands on sagebrush habitat for the benefit of greater sage-grouse, mule deer and other sagebrush-dependent native wildlife and plant species.

The proposal would establish a new categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act, enabling the agency to streamline review of projects that remove encroaching pinyon-juniper trees to allow for sagebrush restoration.

"Improving sagebrush ecosystems by removing Pinyon-juniper woodland is an established and well-studied practice. If finalized, this proposed categorical exclusion would eliminate needless analysis, so we can more quickly protect and restore sagebrush habitat and reduce the threat of wildfires for the benefit of mule deer, sage-grouse and hundreds of other native species," said Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt.

"Pinyon-juniper encroachment is a serious threat to millions of acres of sagebrush habitat. This proposal will allow us to keep the problem from growing worse, and to accelerate habitat restoration projects that increase

the health and resilience of the landscape for iconic species," said William Perry Pendley, BLM Deputy Director for Policy and Programs.

"Time is of the essence when it comes to the spread of invasive species on sagebrush habitat. Wyoming recognizes the threat that juniper spread has particularly on sage-grouse habitats, which is why I built a directive into Appendix C of Executive Order 2019-3 Core Area Protection Strategy to encourage habitat treatments that are designed to improve sage-grouse habitats, such as juniper removal. Expedited review and approval for juniper treatments is an important means to get these projects on the ground," said Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon.

"The Mule Deer Foundation thanks Secretary Bernhardt and the staff and leadership of the Bureau of Land Management for finalizing this draft categorical exclusion that, once finalized, will result in the restoration and creation of hundreds of thousands of acres of habitat for sage-grouse, mule deer, antelope and other sage dependent species," said Mule Deer Foundation President and CEO Miles Moretti. "This issue has been a top priority for our organization because it will allow MDF and our conservation partners to move quickly on habi-

tat restoration projects absent unnecessary and redundant red-tape. Quality habitat leads to quality hunting and we know our members and other western big game hunters will benefit from the on-the-ground improvements that will result from this policy."

"This announcement is about two of the most important things needed for habitat today," said James L. Cummins, Boone and Crockett Club Policy Committee co-chairman. "It's about active restoration of habitat, and sensible streamlining of paperwork in approving projects. Range managers know how to restore sage habitats. They have analyzed it many times. Now they will be able to do more projects."

"Restoration of habitat is an urgent priority," said Keith Balfourd, Director of Communications, Wild Sheep Foundation. "Big game habitats across the West would benefit from this approach to expediting the approvals of projects. It is a welcome complement to the Department's emphasis on improving habitats."

"Club 20 applauds Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt and Acting BLM Director Perry Pendley for taking action to expedite the process for addressing the spread of pinyon-juniper woodlands in sagebrush habitat. Sagebrush restoration

is critical to preserving habitat for greater sage-grouse and mule deer, two species that are extremely important to Western Colorado. This level of commonsense management is long overdue and is a welcome change in our region," said Christian Reece, Executive Director, Club 20.

"This is a giant step forward for stewards of natural resources," said Caren Cowan, Executive Director, New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association. "The West has long suffered the calamity associated with a dysfunctional NEPA process. The eventual issuance of this new CX as well as the new NEPA regulations that are in process will enhance conservation of land, water and animals. This is also another step toward providing security for the millions of family ranches and farms across the West."

The announcement opens a public comment period that closes 30 days from the date the proposed categorical exclusion is published in the Federal Register. The proposed changes and the new proposed Categorical Exclusion (CX) Verification Report can be reviewed online at: <https://tinyurl.com/w8t4jx2>. Comments can be submitted using the BLM National NEPA Register at <https://tinyurl.com/w8t4jx2>. Follow the instruction at this website.

Event features 'National Popular Vote'

ALAMOSA— The San Luis Valley League of Women Voters will co-sponsor the following event along with the ASU Women in Higher Education on Thursday, March 12, 7pm at Adams State University, McDaniel Hall, room 101.

Come join us in viewing Winner Takes All. This

film explains how the Electoral College came to be, its impact on U.S. legislative policy, and current efforts to make presidential elections better represent the will of the people.

The film will be followed by a presentation by Sylvia Bernstein, Colorado Coalition Coordinator for the Yes on National Popular Vote campaign, on the impact of the National Popular Vote legislation on Colorado. For further information, call Jan Oen, 719-480-4771.



COVID

■ Continued from Page 1

educations in which they have invested so much time, money, and effort, while ensuring safety for students in these career and technical education programs, courses will be held in spaces that allow for adequate social distancing.

"We are prepared for this

fast-moving, fluid situation and are implementing appropriate plans at each of our colleges to keep our communities safe and avoid interference with student academic progress," said Garcia.

CCCS hopes to keep offices and colleges open, but also wants to ensure alignment with best practices to promote a healthy environment such as implementing plans to allow employees to work remotely and ensuring paid sick leave.

Health

■ Continued from Page 1

nity organizations. Facilitating an inventory of personal protective equipment and other critical supplies among Healthcare Coalition partners. This

information will be critical should we get to the point where we need to request assistance with this from the federal level.

In addition, public health agencies are continuing with all of the other important ongoing work they do in support of our community's health. Individuals who

are experiencing symptoms like coughing and fever, especially if they have recently traveled, should call their doctor or health care provider.

For more coronavirus

information, please visit <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus> or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>

Grant

■ Continued from Page 1

More than 6,500 community members visit the park or participate in programming each year. School groups attend field trips, local youth participate in enrichment programs and summer camps, and annual festivals draw in families from across Colorado. The addition of an indoor environmental education center will increase capacity to expand park offerings and host more events.

"We are thrilled to partner with Alamosa County and GOCO to advance environmental education and infrastructure at the Rio Grande Farm Park," said Local Foods Coal-

ition director Liza Marron. "This project will also allow park users to have access to bathrooms and electricity as they enjoy the outdoors. Additionally, this project came through the Alamosa Inspire Initiative (Project Wild). Furthermore youth from the Boys & Girls Clubs of the SLV and Ortega Middle School helped create the many ideas and concepts that were included in the grant application."

The park is located along the Rio Grande and within walking distance for more than 4,000 residents. A pedestrian bridge connects the property to nearby Cole Park as well as a library,

shops, and restaurants. The 11-mile Alamosa Trail system also runs through the property, which connects to Alamosa Riparian Park, Adams State University, Alamosa Wildlife Refuge, and several residential neighborhoods.

Planning for the park and environmental education center is rooted in community priorities. Local youth face barriers to the outdoors, and the opioid epidemic has had a significant impact on the community. The variety of free programming offered at RGFP provides an accessible way to get outside and serves as a positive influence in the

community toolbox to prevent vulnerable youth from using substances.

Center construction will begin in May and continue through the summer and fall. A grand opening is scheduled for April 2021.

To date, GOCO has invested more than \$7.4 million in projects in Alamosa County and conserved more than 29,000 acres of land there. GOCO funding has supported previous phases of RGFP; Recreation Inspires Opportunity (Alamosa RIO!), one of 15 Generation Wild communities in Colorado; and Cole Park Skatepark, among other projects.

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) invests a portion of Colorado Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state's parks, trails, wildlife, rivers, and open spaces. GOCO's independent board awards competitive grants to local governments and land trusts, and makes investments through Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Created when voters approved a constitutional amendment in 1992, GOCO has since funded more than 5,200 projects in all 64 counties of Colorado without any tax dollar support. Visit GOCO.org for more information.

SKI-HI 6 SHOWTIMES
719-589-4471

Fri. 5:15, 8:10	I Still BELIEVE One love can change your life PG
Fri. 5:20, 8:10	THE HUNT Hilary Swank, Emma Roberts R
Fri. 5:35, 8:05	SONIC THE HEDGEHOG Getta, Go, Fast! PG
Fri. 5:15, 8:10	THE INVISIBLE MAN What you can't see can hurt you R
Fri. 5:40, 8:10	ONWARD Cometh Soon PG
Fri. 5:30, 8:10	THE CALL OF THE WILD Based on the Legendary novel PG

Opinion

God bless America ...

HOLLYWOOD — God Bless America, and how's everybody?

President Trump addressed the country on TV Wednesday and laid out his plan to combat the spread of Corona Virus and explained his moves to backstop any economic effects.

The panic was getting way out of hand. Last night I watched a Porn Hub video and the guy delivered a pizza and left.

President Trump assured Americans that our top pharmaceutical companies, our top scientists and researchers are working hard to halt COVID-19 and find a vaccine.

Each day brings more progress. We haven't yet found a cure for Corona virus but we have found a cure for March Madness.

President Trump took great pains Wednesday to assure Americans we're in a health crisis, not a financial crisis. With that day's fourteen-hundred-point drop in the Dow, the market moved into bear territory after eleven years. And just like that, Obama stopped taking credit for the stock market.

Bernie Sanders addressed reporters Wednesday and admitted Tuesday primaries were a bad night for his campaign but added he looks forward to his debate with Biden on Saturday. For his part, Biden got off to a promising start on the campaign trail Wednesday. He remembered his pants.

The DNC changed its debate rules to keep Tulsi Gabbard out of the Saturday debate. However, during a Fox News interview Wednesday, Tulsi smiled big and said she liked her chances of getting the nomination. Think about it, the Corona Virus is spreading and her two opponents are both over 75.

NIH Director Dr. Anthony Fauci spoke to Congress Wednesday and he warned the lawmakers that stern measures are ahead to combat the virus. The CDC quarantined every nursing home in America Wednesday. However the DNC insisted they let Biden and Bernie out for occasional campaign events.

The Washington Post said the virus has caused many churches in Washington, D.C., to cancel services. A few attendees at a national Episcopal conference tested positive.

Thanks to the Corona Virus hand-washing obsession this will be the first Easter season where Pontius Pilate is the good guy.

Boston and Chicago canceled next week's traditional St. Patrick's Day Parades in their cities due to fears the Corona Virus will infect the huge, raucous parade crowds. No Chinese virus will ever destroy the spirit of these gallant Gaels. I just saw a t-shirt that read Elbow Bump Me, I'm Irish.

The NCAA announced it will only allow family members to sit inside the arena for the NCAA basketball tournament games. The NBA canceled the season. The NBA was considering having games played with no people sitting in the seats, following the business model initiated by the WNBA.

California Governor Gavin Newsom praised President Trump for sending him everything the state needs to combat the virus. The West Coast is jittery being closest to Asia. Washington state banned public events over 250 seats, but still leaving 247 unsold seats to Yoko Ono's upcoming show.

Los Angeles experienced a serious run on grocery stores on Wednesday. Rumors of shortages fueled the panic buying of bathroom tissue. The U.S. Coast Guard intercepted a narco-submarine in the Caribbean Wednesday and seized a dozen cases of toilet paper with a street value of \$500 million.

Russia's Parliament passed a measure Wednesday to allow Vladimir Putin to ignore the term limits law in Russia and allow him to remain their president for yet another twelve years. Putin won his last presidential election in a landslide. Coincidentally, his election opponents died in a landslide.

Harvey Weinstein drew a twenty-three-year prison sentence after being convicted on charges of past instances of sexual assault made by many actresses. It sent a chill through the entertainment industry. Right now I'd like to apologize to all the women I've slept with who didn't get a movie deal. Argus Hamilton is the host comedian at The Comedy Store in Hollywood and entertains groups and organizations around the country. E-mail him at Argus@ArgusHamilton.com.



Argus Hamilton

I've got a secret ... maybe

I often hear retired people say: "I've never been busier. I don't know where all the time goes."

Well, I know where it goes: it goes to the doctor's office.

I'm in good health, and checkups and tests still take up a good part of my week. It's cutting into my golf time and nap time. My friend Charlie went to a doctor last week to look at an old, persistent ankle injury. When the doctor was finished, Charlie also mentioned that his knee was acting up. Oh, no, that needs a different appointment, with a different doctor, in a different part of town. Charlie said it was like having your eye doctor say, "Hey, I don't do both eyes, just one. You want the other eye, make another appointment."

Something tells me I'm going to hear from foot doctors about this, but that's OK. I can dish it out and I can take it. My medical knowledge ends with, "Your ankle bone connected to your leg bone, your leg bone connected to your knee bone" from a song I haven't heard in 50 years. Modern medicine has probably

changed since then, but a doctor is a doctor -- they should all know something about a knee, even if it's not their specialty.

All the doctors' offices tell you to show up 20 minutes early for your appointment so that you'll have plenty of time to fill out the same forms you filled out the last time you were there. Yes, it's important to know if my meds have changed since the last visit. But why they want yet another record of my Social Security number, and to make yet another copy of my driver's license, is not so clear.

If Google or Facebook asked for that information, there'd be a rebellion, but if your doctor asks for it, sure. What's the worst that could happen?

What's that? You say my bank account has been looted by an identity thief? How? They'd have to know my Social Security number, my birthday and my address to do that. Where could they ever get all that information? I don't even give my ZIP code to stores that still ask for it. Thank goodness my doctor keeps my files, along with hundreds of others, in paper file folders right behind the receptionist's desk, next to a business-sized copy machine where they'd be hard for anyone to get to. Except, oh, the nightly cleaning crew, that creep the receptionist used to date, the guy who fixes the

air conditioning and a few dozen other people who stroll through the office on a regular basis.

And it's not just my primary doc who has my files: so does my optometrist, my cardiologist, my dentist, the imaging lab and every health care provider I've ever seen. They are doing for my privacy pretty much what a hospital gown does for my backside. Yet it seems the only person who can't see my very personal and private files is me.

I'm still waiting for the results of tests I took weeks ago. Mum's the word. There's a website where I can see the results if I jump through 50 hoops, but when I finally log in and get to the correct page, there are no results listed. Another doctor has the same setup, but it's on a different site, which means a different login and a different set of five security questions. Who was my best friend in first grade? What was my mother's maiden name?

Why on Earth would I answer these questions? How many times has my identity been stolen by Eastern European hackers who just love to get their hands on this kind of stuff? This is not protecting my privacy; it's invading it. There has to be a better way.

Contact Jim Mullen at mullen.jim@gmail.com.



Jim Mullen

Old schools are building new memories

By SYLVIA LOBATO
Courier Reporter

Wednesday night, I mingled with some happy people who attended an event that touched generations. No one took any special precautions regarding the Coronavirus pandemic shaking people up around the globe. The epidemic in the room was one that brought joy mixed with tears.

It was farewell of sorts to at least two generations of education and a memorial to two community schools and the people who attended a consolidated school built between them. Sierra Grande has served K-12 students since the middle of the last century. Good, mediocre and excellent.

The school mirrors most aging community schools, but I was drawn to a special hallway devoted to photographs of each graduating class. I hope it's retained. In that hallway are senior year photos of moms, dads, grandparents and graduates of each year. The photos are of

students at many levels in Fort Garland High School and nearby Blanca, as well as Sierra Grande which consolidated the schools. Hundreds of people called it their education home.

As I looked at the photos, I realized that many of those students have graduated to the hereafter. They were with the school district in spirit. Taken under the wing of a graduate now in her 50s, I recognized some people who had been rivals with Alamosa, Centennial, Center, Centauri, Sargent, La Jara, Antonito and many more prep match-ups over the years. Others had been cooperating in history fairs, science fairs, band programs, stage plays and still more.

I said I would love to see many more. There will be. I recalled state basketball, football, baseball and more, then stepped outside to see grandchildren

of the players and fans running in the wind outside the aging school. When I walked into the building, I saw a life-sized statue of a male artist working on a welcome to the school at the foot of Mount Blanca. Yes, there were tears in my eyes as I returned to the old school and listened to the superintendent talk of a day fraught with problems that had begun with a broken pipe spreading to the entire plumbing system.

Sierra Grande was rapidly showing her age. As I walked to my car, I began thinking of the day Alamosa High School became Ortega Middle School, then met the wrecking ball. Tears began to flow. They still flow, sometimes sorrow mixed with humor. When the new school is built over the summer, only one more BEST school awaits design and Centauri students will gather to ensure a new one. It's time.

This is Matthew's story

At my birth I was flown Flight for Life to a hospital in Denver, and my intestines were floating out of my stomach. Brutal, right?

Oh, hello. My name is Matthew and my story of becoming an addict begins at the age of nine years old. I first started smoking weed thinking it was cool, with all of my friends. I used this drug, because it was social, and I went through school partying and doing things a normal teenager would do. As time passed, I would drink with my friends, and only having my father (Alfred Martinez, Hello Dad, I love you), was very hard on me.

My mother was a person that drank very heavily. In fact, she drank so much that years later, it ended up taking her from me. And even though she wasn't there, I would honestly say her death was the point of where it all began.

In the summer of 2009, two months out of high school, I met a beautiful woman, Rebecca, and decided to ask her out. I figured that she was 'the one.' We were together for 12-years and to this day, I still love her.

Remember how my mother died? Well, that was the beginning of my self-pity and the start of my story.

Me and Rebecca were together, and we had already started our family of six-kids. Then, one day I decided to go to New York and that's where I messed-up. Came back four-months later and the house we built was gone and I started to use heroin and meth. Because of this I ended up homeless and in jail. And, when I came to jail, Rebecca left me.

Depression hit me then and I started using a lot more, but eventually decided to change, or I wanted to change. I went to rehab and now, even though I am still in the system, I have managed to find a better outlook on life and don't use heroin anymore. And, I am working on the meth next and so far, I have been a month sober from both. And, I am working on my relationship with God, bringing back

my old talents of drawing which is one of my passions and have been working-out a lot. I have also started college and am seeking employment when I get out of incarceration. And, even though I have made a lot of bad decisions and bad choices, I am now regaining my life back and soon will be a better person.

When I was a kid, I wanted to be an artist when I grew-up and I loved playing basketball. My father was my one-trusted-adult that I could talk with and he took me to church weekly. I believe in God very much.

My drug-use caused our family to fall apart and I'm so sorry for it. I drank alcohol for 13 years, to be social; I used meth and heroin for four years; and smoked weed for 18 years (the thought of my kids using drugs makes me very scared). I started using socially and to forget the feeling of being hurt.

I would love to make things right with my kids and have them back. I really miss them. What can I do to make things right with them? I will start contacting them and make arrangements to see them. If I could change anything, I would change my life, my choices, and my future.

My advice for parents struggling with addiction: Please find it in your soul, mind, and heart that our children need us, so put down your habits and pick-up your children; they need you; the future needs them, and our community needs us.

My advice for grandparents of kids like me: Stay strong. Don't give-up on trying to get your grandchildren to understand what "it" is doing to you and your family. To kids with 'parents like me,' there

Amarah's Corner



'Kids Like Me'

is hope for all of us so please, try to understand that depression, poverty, and being an addict is hard on all of us, especially you. Stay strong.

If I woke-up tomorrow and everything was perfect, I would have my kids back and my parents would be proud of me. I would work on being the best person/father/son I could be. I will strive to make this happen. This is a promise to my-self.

Thank you very much for your time and for hearing a little bit about my story.

If you have questions or would like to hear more about my story, please feel free to write me at 885 6th St., Apt # 4, Del Norte, CO, 81132, and I will contact you back. ~Matthew

You are a kid like me, Matthew. Thank you for having the courage to share your story.

Remember, Jesus loves you and Jesus is Lord.

Write them

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Religion

Church Calendar

On Religion: Holy Communion and Autism: The Mass is not a normal meal

by Terry Mattingly

Ever since the Last Supper, Catholics have pondered what happens during the Mass when they believe the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus.

"Because Christ our Redeemer said that it was truly his body that he was offering ... it has always been the conviction of the Church ... that by the consecration of the bread and wine, there takes place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord, and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his blood," proclaimed the Council of Trent, after the Protestant Reformation.

"This change the holy Catholic Church has fittingly and properly called transubstantiation. The Eucharistic presence of Christ begins at the moment of the consecration and endures as long as the Eucharistic species subsist."

Believers approach this mystery with the greatest care and respect. This may be hard for children to grasp as they prepare for First Communion.

Now imagine trying to teach this core Catholic doctrine to persons -- young and old -- who have mental and physical

disabilities that make it hard, or impossible, for them to acknowledge what is happening in the Mass.

"Because we believe Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of our Lord, we want to be very careful about this," said Father Matthew Schneider, who is known to his Twitter followers as @AutisticPriest.

"This isn't a theology test. No one needs a theology degree to take Holy Communion," he said. "We simply need to make sure that they know this is an act in a church rite -- that they are not eating ordinary food like at home. We're trying to find out if they have a basic understanding of what's happening."

Under Catholic canon law, children can begin Holy Communion "if they can distinguish the body of Christ from ordinary food and receive communion reverently."

Schneider noted that U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops guidelines state that some individuals -- because of their disabilities -- may need to communicate this understanding "through manner, gesture or reverential silence rather than verbally."

This discernment pro-

cess can be emotional, complicated and even painful. Thus, the bishops encouraged priests to "consult with parents, those who take the place of parents, diocesan personnel involved with disability issues, psychologists, religious educators and other experts in making their judgment. If it is determined that a parishioner who is disabled is not ready to receive the sacrament, great care is to be taken in explaining the reasons for this decision. Cases of doubt should be resolved in favor of the right of the Catholic to receive the sacrament."

This is a topic close to Schneider's heart, since he was diagnosed as autistic two years after his ordination in 2013. He has paid close attention to how Catholic clergy and educators minister to people all along the autism spectrum, while personally wrestling with what used to be called Asperger's syndrome.

"Some autistics -- who don't adapt to this neurotypical world too well -- really can't go through the normal sacramental preparation class," he wrote in an online commentary on this topic. "It's just not going to work. I went through all the

pretty much normal ones as a kid, but I can see a lot of other autistics really struggling with that."

Under normal circumstances, children receive First Communion after completing an education process that leads to the confession of sins, in what is now called the Sacrament of Reconciliation. However, children with disabilities may struggle with this process or find it impossible, depending on their ability to communicate.

Schneider stressed that this is when parents and pastors should seek help from specialists at their local diocese, or a nearby archdiocese, who can help them find the proper materials and teaching methods for each special-needs child. For example, there are now flipbooks and picture-card sets that -- without words -- explain the symbols and rituals in a Mass.

One "Communion Is Not the Same as Food" puzzle set uses simple

images to help children distinguish between the Eucharist and "home food."

"Sometimes ordinary human communications can simply break down," said Schneider. "Pastors and parents have to find a way to stay on the same page while handling these sensitive issues."

(Terry Mattingly leads GetReligion.org and lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He is a senior fellow at the Overby Center at the University of Mississippi.)



Terry Mattingly

The Joy of Being Truly Humble

Jesus says in Matthew 5:3 (AMPC), "Blessed...are the poor in spirit (the humble, who rate themselves insignificant), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven!"

Humility isn't a very popular word, yet, all throughout the Bible, the Lord instructs us about the benefits of being "humble-minded." I love James 4:6. It says, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble" (NIV). In other words, the humble get the help!

I believe humility is often misunderstood and viewed as a weakness. But it's the exact opposite. Humility places us in a position to receive God's grace and become everything He's called us to be.

A humble person is also a happy person. They can take joy in their life and what God has called them to do, regardless of what the world thinks about it.

For instance, maybe your current circumstances and responsibilities from God are mundane by the world's standards. A prideful person would rather do something they think the world admires...something others see as "important." But the truth is it's not what we do that makes us important.

We are important because God created us and He loves and values us. As we receive His love and find our true worth in Him, then we can truly enjoy our purpose in life and be genuinely content.

So many people are miserable, constantly comparing themselves to others who they think are smarter, prettier, or more successful. But the "poor in spirit" have the ability to be happy with who they are.

My husband, Dave, is a perfect example. Years ago, the Lord instructed him to leave his job in the engineering field to help establish *Joyce Meyer Ministries*.

At that time, God spoke to his heart and said, "If you do what I am calling you to do and support Joyce so she can do what I've called her to do, then you will have real peace and happiness."

Dave is an extremely vital part of this

Moving Up Higher
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gratitude, it releases joy and power into our lives.

9. A humble person has a tender conscience and is quick to repent.

10. A leader who is truly humble treats everyone with respect. How a leader treats people is the quickest way to find out their level of humility.

First Peter 5:6 (NIV) says, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time." And Jesus says in John 15:5, "...Apart from me you can do nothing." I often pray things like, "Lord, I can do absolutely nothing without You today. Please help me—I need Your grace in every situation."

The older I get, the more I realize the importance of humility. I encourage you to pray and ask for God's help. By His grace, you can live with an attitude of humility and really enjoy your life in Christ.

*For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-teaching CD series **Nine Attitudes That Keep You Happy**. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, **Enjoying Everyday Life**, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.*

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 100 books, including **BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND** and **YOUR BATTLES BELONG TO THE LORD** (FaithWords). She hosts the **Enjoying Everyday Life** radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

<p>All-Denominational Church of the Living God 11611 2nd Avenue, Hooper 719-376-2080</p> <p>Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship Sunday, 6 p.m. - Book of Acts Study Monday, 7 p.m. - Youth Thursday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study</p> <p>San Luis Valley Christian Center 305 S. Broadway (3rd & Broadway), Monte Vista 719-852-6168</p> <p>Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - Bible Study</p> <p>Prayer House Church 410 Main Street, La Jara Pastor Jaime Flores - 719-288-0007</p> <p>Sunday Morning Service, 10:30 am Wednesday Family Ministry, 6:30 pm Friday Night Bible Study, 7:00 pm</p> <p>Sargent Community Church 6667 N. County Rd. 2 E., Monte Vista (across from Sargent School) Pastor Hugh Harris - 719-852-2950</p> <p>Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Back Row Church - Church Community In the Alamosa Presbyterian Church Building Alamosa www.backrowchurch.com Kim Nipple - 303-532-9342</p> <p>Worship Service - Wednesday Evening at 5:00 pm</p> <p>Apostolic Alamosa Apostolic Church 510 First St., Alamosa</p> <p>Meets Sundays 1-2 p.m. 2-3 p.m. - Lunch 3-5 p.m. - Worship Service</p> <p>Antionio Apostolic Church 710 Main St., Antionio</p> <p>Meets sundays 11-12 p.m. - Sunday School 12-1 p.m. - Worship service</p> <p>Apostolic Pentecostal Church of Champions, Acts 2:38 9056 Hwy 265 South, Alamosa - 719-587-3351 Dan Dawning Pastor, 719-588-7307</p> <p>Sunday, 1:00 p.m. - Service</p> <p>Assembly of God River of Life Church 2602 Clark Avenue, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Service</p> <p>Center Assembly of God 7th & Miles • P.O. Box 507, Center, CO 81125</p> <p>Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Worship, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Assembly of God Sons And Daughters Of God Ministry 877 Madison Street, Monte Vista Pastor Leonard Sandoval, 719-849-0212</p> <p>Sunday 10:00 a.m. Service Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Prayer</p> <p>New Life Fellowship 520 7th St., Del Norte, 81132 719-657-3360</p> <p>Adult Sunday School - 9:00 Services - 10:00</p> <p>Baptist Grace Community Baptist Church 431 Lincoln Ave., Monte Vista Rev. Bill Walstrom, 719-937-1451</p> <p>Worship: 9:30, Sunday School: 11:00 am Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 pm</p> <p>Living Water Bible Fellowship 2910 Clark Street, Alamosa 719-589-6351</p> <p>Sunday, 9:00 & 10:45 am Worship Services Sunday, 10:45 am Children's Ministry (Pre-K-5th grade) Sunday, 10:45 am Teen Bible Study (6th-12th grade) Tuesday, 7:00 pm Young Adults College Group Wednesday, 6:30 pm Bible Quizzing (1st-9th grade) Wednesday, 6:30 pm Reign Youth Group (10th-12th grade) Wednesday, 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study Sundays 5:00 pm "Worship Service" Small Groups meet throughout week, please call for info *Nursery is available (twice/week)</p> <p>College Heights Baptist Church 2045 Church Avenue, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 11 a.m. - Morning Worship</p> <p>San Luis Valley Baptist Church 930 State Avenue, Alamosa 719-589-5938</p> <p>Pastor R.L. McDonald</p> <p>Wednesday 7 p.m. - Worship Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 11 a.m. - Worship Sunday, 6 p.m. - Evening Worship</p> <p>Spanish Ministry- Iglesia Bautista Reñobol Pastor Sa Garcia, 589-3020</p> <p>Calvary Bible Chapel 7160 Brush Lane, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Worship Sunday, 10:20 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 11 a.m. - Ministry of the Word</p> <p>Small group studies meet during the week.</p> <p>Calvary Blanca Pastor Mathew Leonard - 719-379-3317</p> <p>Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study Sunday, 11:00 am - Service Wednesday, 6:30pm - Community Get to Know You!</p> <p>Calvary Baptist Church 2160 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista</p> <p>Sunday, 9:45 a.m. - Bible Study Sunday, 11 a.m. - Worship Tuesday, 6 p.m. - C.L.A.Y. Youth Thursday, 6:30 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study</p> <p>South Fork Baptist Church 0130 Four Seasons Dr. (Old Chizum Bldg), South Fork (East side near laundromat & car wash)</p> <p>Sunday School, 9:30am Sunday, 10:30am - Worship</p> <p>For more information - Pastor Paul Moon - 719-496-7702</p> <p>Catholic Sacred Heart Church 715 4th Street, Alamosa</p> <p>Saturday, 5:15 p.m. - Mass Saturday, 7:00 p.m. - Spanish Mass Sunday, 8 a.m. - Mass Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Mass Sunday, 5 p.m. - Mass</p> <p>Catholic Mass Student Union Room 308 - ASC Campus, Alamosa</p> <p>Every Sunday, 8 p.m. - Mass</p> <p>Hooper Church 3rd and Adams, Hooper</p> <p>Sunday, 9 a.m. - Morning Worship</p> <p>Meditation, Kriya Mountain Institute Alamosa - (575)758-5876</p> <p>United Church of La Jara 522 Walnut, La Jara 719-274-6250</p> <p>Terry Buckman, Pastor Cell Phone: 339-8444 Office Hours: Mon. 9:00 am - 12:00 Sunday 9:00 am - Contemporary Coffee Fellowship 10:00 am</p> <p>Christian Science Services 400 Ross Avenue, Society Hall, Alamosa</p> <p>Services - Sundays at 10:00 p.m. The second Wednesday of each 4 p.m. Thanksgiving Day 10 a.m.</p> <p>Pioneer United Church in Del Norte, Colorado A Congregation of Evangelical Covenant Order Presbyterians 630 Spruce St. (1.5 blocks south of Hwy. 160) Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Sunday Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m. Sunday</p> <p>Church of the South Fork 0116 Larden Dr., South Fork, Co, 81154</p> <p>Sunday are at 9 am - Services School Room. Choir is held on Wednesday at 6pm during the summer months with a final practice at 8:15am on Sunday</p> <p>Christian Bethel Christian Church Pastor Erik Lira</p> <p>Worship Service Sunday 3:00 p.m. Bible Study Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Bilingual Services Monday Free Music Classes Instrumental Classes 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Voice & Bass Guitar 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Word of Faith Christian Center 401 Santa Fe, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Friday, 6:00 p.m. M.O.S.H. Youth Night</p> <p>The Peak Community Church 510 San Juan, Alamosa</p> <p>Sundays 6 p.m. - Fellowship Sundays, 7 p.m. - Worship & More</p> <p>Pentecostal Alamosa Pentecostal Church 164 East 2nd St., Alamosa - 719-589-0475 Pastor Carl Suter</p> <p>Bible Study Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Sunday School Sunday 1:00-1:45 Worship 2:00-3:00</p> <p>Christian Fellowship Church The Door 1300 West 12th St., Alamosa Pastor Martin Montoya - 719-587-6197</p> <p>Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Worship Sunday, 6:30 p.m. - Victory Service Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. - Revival</p> <p>Christian Independent Alamosa Christian Church 410 McQuerry, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. - Family Night & Youth Group</p> <p>Christian Reformed Alamosa Christian Reformed, 719-589-3493 1861 Rd 10 S., Alamosa Pastor Philip VanderWindt</p> <p>Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - Worship</p> <p>Churches of Christ Alamosa Church of Christ 408 Victoria Avenue, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Classes Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study Healing Hearts, a Bible-based 12 step group meets, every Friday at 7 p.m.</p> <p>South Fork Church of Christ 205 Birch St. South Fork, 719-873-1259 Kevin Bradley Pastor</p> <p>Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Central Church of Christ 200 Franklin Street, Monte Vista, 719-852-3811 David L. Baker Preacher</p> <p>Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Class Sunday, 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Worship Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study</p> <p>San Luis Valley Church of Christ 704 Del Sol, Alamosa, 719-589-2114</p> <p>Sunday Bible Study 9 am Sunday Worship 10 am Wednesday Bible Study 6 pm</p> <p>Cornestone Community Church Hwy. 160 Del Norte next to Rio Grande Medical Clinic Pastor Mark 719-657-9107</p> <p>Sunday 9:30 a.m. free breakfast Sunday 10:20 a.m. Contemporary Worship & Children Sunday School Wednesday 5:15 p.m. Dinner, music, fellowship, teachings</p> <p>Episcopal Saint Thomas Episcopal Church You067 4th Street, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 9 a.m. - Service</p> <p>Saint Stephen the Martyr 729 3rd Avenue, Monte Vista</p> <p>Sunday, 10 am Service First Christian Church 618 First St. (First & State) Alamosa 589-8805</p> <p>Sunday, 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - Church Service Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - Bible Study</p> <p>Valley Fellowship 240 East 5th Street, Center - 719-754-3804</p> <p>Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship, Prayer and Bible Study *Bible Studies during the week, call for information.</p> <p>First United Methodist First United Methodist Church 2005 Mullins Ave., Alamosa 719-589-2243</p> <p>"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors" Morning Worship - Sunday, 10:15 am Children's Church - Sunday, 10:30 am</p>	<p>Community Churches United for Christ Community Church (SBC) "Community Centered Around Love" 7th & Broadway in Blanca 719-379-3317</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30-10:30 Worship Service 11am</p> <p>Bible Believer's Community Church 11762 E US HWY 160 Alamosa, Co 81101 719) 206-3239</p> <p>Sunday worship 10:30 Sunday Bible Study 7 pm www.bbchurch.org</p> <p>Presbyterian Alamosa Presbyterian Church 330 San Juan Avenue, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship</p> <p>Hispanic Pentecostal Iglesia Pentecostal Unida L.A. 307 Tenth St, Alamosa Guadalupe Salazar Pastor 719-587-3546</p> <p>Wed. 7:00 p.m. Service Sat. 7:00 p.m. Youth Service Sun. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School Sun. 5:00 p.m. Worship</p> <p>New Hope Church "The Church on the Hill" 25259 Hwy 160, South Fork, Co, 81154 Interim Pastor Ed Fleming • 719-873-1202 www.newhopest.com</p> <p>Morning Worship - 10:00 am Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 - 9:45</p> <p>Anabaptist Fellowship of Alamosa 330 San Juan Ave., Alamosa, CO 81101 alamosafellowship@gmail.com</p> <p>Sunday 4:30 PM Worship in the north wing of the Alamosa Presbyterian Church</p> <p>Independent, Fundamental Baptist First Baptist Church of Costilla County 9717 County Rd H, Mesita 719-206-0011 Pastor Paul Jones</p> <p>Sunday, 9:45 am - Sunday School Sunday, 10:45 am - Morning Worship Sunday, 12 Noon - Potluck Dinner Sunday, after dinner - Afternoon Worship Thursday, 7:00 pm - Mesita, Bible Study and Prayer meeting Home Bible studies in Costilla County Meeting in different locations</p> <p>DEAF MINISTRY FOR ALL SERVICES Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Alamosa Y S A Ward 300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Alamosa</p> <p>Second Ward 927 Weber Drive, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>Alamosa Third Ward 300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>Alamosa Fourth Ward 927 Weber Drive, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.</p> <p>Sierra Vista Branch (Spanish Language) 300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.</p> <p>Lutheran St. Peters Lutheran Church & School Church: 1821 Grande Avenue, Monte Vista School: 330 Faraday Street, Monte Vista</p> <p>Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - Services School: K-8, Monday-Thursday</p> <p>Trinity Lutheran Church & School 52 El Rio Drive, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 8:45 a.m. - Bible Study Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship</p> <p>"Small Bible Study Groups Throughout the Week" - Pre-School through 5th grade Church: 589-4611, School: 589-3271 Conejos Canyon Community Chapel 20062 State Hwy. 17 (between mile posts 21 & 20) Fellowship Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - Worship Service</p> <p>Mountain Valley Church 408 State St. 17, Alamosa Pastor: Richard Pinkerton 589-2899 or 589-7662</p> <p>Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship Service</p> <p>Presbyterian Church of Monte Vista 702 Second Avenue, Monte Vista (719) 852-2555</p> <p>Sunday, 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 11 a.m. - Sunday Worship</p> <p>Seventh-day Adventist Seventh-day Adventist Church 315 Craft Drive, Alamosa</p> <p>Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - Worship</p> <p>United Methodist Mosca United Methodist Church 5385 Barker Street, Mosca 720-254-5564</p> <p>Reverend Hugh Harris Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Unitarian Universalist Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 330 San Juan Ave., Alamosa 719-587-5529</p> <p>"North Wing of Alamosa Presbyterian Church" Service & Youth Programs at 10:30 am Sunday</p> <p>United Presbyterian Church of Antionio P.O. Box 665, Antionio</p> <p>Office Hrs. Tues, 9:00am-12:00 Sunday 9:45am-10:00am 10:45am - Service</p> <p>Valley Church of the Nazarene 228 Madison, Monte Vista - 852-5668 Sunday Morning Worship 10:15 a.m.</p> <p>Sunday School Classes 9:00 a.m. Every other Wednesday 6 p.m. (757)58-5876 for information for class schedule</p> <p>Church of Scientology 511 Main Street, Suite #12, Alamosa 719-587-5594</p> <p>Monday and Wednesday, 7-10 p.m. - Services</p> <p>Grace Assurance Ministry Church without Religion 9851 CR 4 S, Alamosa, CO Sunday Morning - 10:30 Randy Brown - 719-588-7004 Eric Wolf - 719-480-3977</p>
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Sports

State Tournament basketball gets underway

By **STEPHEN JIRON**
Courier Sports Editor

The State basketball tournaments are underway, and the San Luis Valley has teams playing in three different cities that are host to State Tournament action. Despite a healthy respect for the Coronavirus severely curbing attendance at games fans were still in full throat.

Denver University was the home of the 3A basketball tournaments which saw Alamosa boys as well as both Centauri boys and girls in competition.

First up for the day was Alamosa boys taking on Faith Christian for the second time of the season, the first being at the Glenwood Invitational tournament. The first quarter went back and forth with each team getting their own scoring streaks in. Faith Christian led with a 6-point run, to which Alamosa answered with 7 straight. Entering the second quarter the Moose led 11-8. That was where the game essentially ended. Alamosa fell silent while the Eagles ripped off 14 unanswered points in the second quarter. Alamosa's Ian Jackson heated up with 12 points down the stretch, but Alamosa could not recover from their disastrous second quarter. Faith Christian eliminated Alamosa 55-40. Jackson went on to lead the Moose in scoring with 16 points in the game.

Second up was Centauri's girls. The Falcons met University in the quarterfinals on Thursday afternoon. Centauri wasted no time taking control against University, running out to an 11-5 lead in the first quarter. Centauri's Brynli Sowards led Centauri in the first quarter with 6 points. From there the Falcon's main weapon made her presence known. Junior Courtney Hamilton owned the paint while splitting time down low posting a team-leading 16 points during her minutes. Hamilton and the Falcons went on to win 52-34, never having trailed against the Bulldogs. The win sets up a 7 p.m. Final 4 meeting with Eaton on Friday.

The final team representing the valley in Denver on Thursday was Centauri boys who got the difficult draw of attempting to dethrone the defending state champion Manual

Thunderbolts. Through the first four minutes of play, Manual subsisted on three-pointers alone thanks to some sniping by Jordan Reed to lead 9-4. Baron Holman helped with a trey of his own to keep Centauri close trailing 15-12 after one. Manual hit another burst in the second quarter with Jordan dropping three more 3-pointers on the Falcons helping the Thunderbolts to a 30-22 advantage at the break. There's an old adage, hard work beats talent that doesn't work hard. The Falcons could tattoo that statement on themselves as all year long putting Centauri away has never been an easy task because the Falcons fight for every rebound, every loose ball and embody a never say die attitude. Centauri charged back in the third with Peyton Polzin and Mason Claunch combining for 8 unanswered points and just like that Centuri tied the game at 37 points late in the third. From there it was a knockdown drag-out fight. With time winding down in the fourth Centauri closed the distance from a 59-52 game with a free throw and a three-pointer from Claunch to make it 59-56. Seconds remaining, Manual fouled after the inbound along the near sideline giving Centauri one final chance to tie the game. The three-point attempt fell short and the Thunderbolts moved on to the semifinals. Claunch led the Falcons in scoring with 21 points unofficially.

2A is in Loveland for playoff basketball and the San Luis Valley also had three teams vying for titles: Del Norte girls and Sanford boys and girls. Games got started in Loveland bright and early with Del Norte starting at 8:45 a.m. The Tigers faced No. 5 Wray and ran away with a 63-46 win. Del Norte will move on to the next round of the double-elimination tournament where they'll meet the No. 1 seed in the tournament, Limon. The Tigers and Badgers are set to do battle at 7 p.m. Friday.

Also advancing in the 2A tournament were the Sanford girls. Last year Sanford scored an upset in the first round knocking off first-seeded Limon. This year the Green Machine felled another

giant, besting previously undefeated Rye 46-31 in the first round. With the win, Sanford will take on Holyoke in the semifinals. The lone boys squad in Loveland, Sanford, didn't enjoy as much luck in the

first round. Despite being favored in the seeding order over opponent Wray, Sanford's boys couldn't come away with the win dropping a 49-36 decision. With the loss, Sanford will face the loser of Highland

and Ignacio at 10:15 a.m. on Friday.

1A basketball in Greeley had one local team in attendance, Sangre de Cristo's girls. The lady T-Birds took on South Baca early with an 8:45 a.m.

start. Sangre de Cristo fell to the Patriots 38-34. The loss sends Sangre de Cristo to the consolation bracket of the double-elimination tournament where they'll meet Briggsdale at 11:45 a.m. on Friday.



Photo by Stephen Jiron

Alamosa's Brenden Crowther (11) faces a swath of defenders during state tournament action at Denver University on Thursday night. Alamosa dropped a 55-40 decision to Faith Christian.



Photo by Stephen Jiron

Courtney Hamilton (44) of Centauri looks for the hoop during the Falcons' victory over University on Thursday. Hamilton and the Falcons will be back on the court at 7 p.m. against Eaton on Friday



Courtesy photo by Debra Parra

Del Norte's Kendra Parra (24) gets in a clean layup during the Tiger's runaway 63-46 victory over Wray on Thursday



Photo by Stephen Jiron

Centauri's Mason Claunch (12) battles to the basket. Claunch led the Falcons in scoring with an unofficial 21 points in Thursday's loss to Manual.



Lifestyles

RGNF explains reasons for spring road closures

BY Lyndsie Ferrell
RIO GRANDE- With weather becoming warmer with each passing day, the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) has announced their annual spring closures throughout the forest with an estimated reopening date by the end of May. For those who have resided in the Valley for many years, this is a common occurrence and one that typically marks the official beginning of spring, but for those who may be new to the area, it has been voiced as a hindrance.

use permit to access these roads to conduct work such as getting water developments ready, fix fencing and other repair work for their allotments.”
 “We issue our grazing permittees an off-road travel card with specific dates they can access their allotments before the grazing season for improvement maintenance. Other folks may be permitted to access closed roads if there is a legitimate reason for access. Many of the permittees that access closed roads are bonded so if there is damage their bond will pay for the repair costs.”

In an attempt to understand the policies in place by the RGNF, the South Fork Times reached out to new Public Relations Director Gregg Goodland for some feedback. During an interview Monday, March 9, Goodland was able to highlight some interesting facts about spring road closures and their purpose in forest management.

Goodland also stated that anyone who witnesses people going into spring closure areas can report these sightings to the Rio Grande National Forest at any time. “We welcome questions, as well as, feedback and reports of any kind. We close roads because they are At Risk Areas as a means to prevent further damage and keep the roads open to the public during summer, fall and winter months.”

“The main goal for the Rio Grande National Forest is to protect road infrastructure throughout the forest. Roads are closed seasonally to prevent damage from vehicles while the surface is soft and vulnerable to rutting and the creation of large potholes. Not to mention getting stuck is a problem that can be significantly compounded when other vehicles attempt to help the stuck vehicle.”

Goodland explained that there are repercussions for those that do not adhere to the spring closure regulations that can include a citation and fines up to \$5,000. “Violators can be asked to pay for road repairs if there is damage, but this is not about avoiding the fine. This should be mainly about us being good land stewards for our forests.”

Goodland stated that the damage that can be caused by vehicles traveling along specific routes that have been closed for the spring/mud season can be very expensive to fix. “The damages can be widespread and cost thousands of dollars of unbudgeted funds to repair. People don’t like to hear this, but we do not have any extra funding to pay for damaged road repairs.”

The forest service has spring closure travel maps that show each road within the Rio Grande National Forest that are free and either available online or at the RGNF office located at 1803 Highway 160 just west of Monte Vista or online at www.fs.usda.gov. “The Motor Vehicle Use Map is the best place to look for closures and estimated reopening dates. We will be revisiting the spring road closure schedule and we will be seeking public input at that time.”

In the past, Valley residents have stated seeing cattle ranchers who have access to spring closure gates go into closed areas even though the general public is not allowed. When asked for clarification on this topic, Goodland stated, “Permittees are allowed under special



Courtesy Photo

Forest Service roads are closed seasonally to prevent damage from vehicles while the surface is soft and vulnerable to rutting and the creation of large potholes. The main goal for the Rio Grande National Forest is to protect road infrastructure throughout the forest.

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Adams State music department hosts Taos Soundscapes concert

ALAMOSA- As part of the ETHOS: Exploring Equity through Music project, the Adams State University Department of Music will sponsor Taos Soundscapes as they perform at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 22, in Leon Memorial Hall.

tory Month, and will be featuring upcoming violinist, Renee Hemsing Patten. She will perform works by Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel and Isabella Leonarda, on the 400th anniversary of her birth, accompanied by pianist/harpsichordist Claire Detels and cellist Rebecca Caron. Baritone Mark Jackson, accompanied by Detels, will perform other works by Isabella Colbran and Marian McPartland.

Taos Soundscapes is a chamber group dedicated to bringing inspiring musical performances to the communities of Northern New Mexico, as well as community outreach, and addressing diversity and equity issues.

The concert is \$10 for adults, \$5 for AS&F and Friends of Music, and \$1 for students. For more information, please call 719-587-7621.

Taos Soundscapes will present “Music of Great Women Composers” in honor of Women’s His-



Photo courtesy of Renee Hemsing Patten

Renee Hemsing Patten, violinist, will perform with the Taos Soundscapes on March 22 on the Adams State University campus.

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Spring Car Care

4 ways to make your vehicle more eco-friendly

Many new vehicles are made with the environment in mind, as more and more drivers are embracing eco-friendly features that reduce the carbon footprints of their vehicles. But motorists need not purchase new cars to make their driving habits more environmentally friendly. The following are a handful of steps drivers can take to protect the environment regardless of how new or old their vehicles are.

well. According the United States Department of Energy, each five miles per hour drivers drive over 50 miles per hour is akin to adding an additional \$0.14 per gallon for gas. That's because driving above 50 miles per hour is far less fuel-efficient than driving below that figure. So slowing down when posted speed limits mandate driving 50 miles per hour or slower is not just safer and more eco-friendly, it's better for your wallet as well.

1. Maintain your vehicle.
Even if your car or truck has no eco-friendly features designed to reduce fuel consumption and cut down on emissions, that does not mean the vehicle cannot be more fuel-efficient or produce fewer emissions. Adhering to the maintenance schedule recommended in your vehicle owner's manual can conserve fuel and cut back on potentially harmful emissions. Well-maintained vehicles burn less fuel, as they don't force engines and other components to work as hard during operation as vehicles that have not been taken care of. Replace worn down or dirty spark plugs, which misfire and waste fuel, and fuel and air filters once they are no longer operating at peak capacity. Address any issues that arise with your vehicle's emissions systems immediately, visiting your mechanic if the vehicle seems to be sputtering or emitting any abnormal fumes.

3. Keep cargo off the roof.
When you must haul cargo, keep that cargo in rear-mount cargo boxes or the backseat or trunk of your car rather than the roof. Rooftop cargo boxes make vehicles less aerodynamic, reducing highway fuel economy by as much as 17 percent according to the U.S. DOE. By comparison, rear-mount cargo boxes reduce highway fuel economy by just 2 to 5 percent. If you haul cargo in your trunk, remove items when your trip is complete, as excess, unnecessary weight in the car will reduce its fuel efficiency.

4. Inspect the gas cap.
Few drivers may think to examine their gas caps while filling up at the pump, but such an inspection may reveal cracks or other damage that are wasting fuel. When gas caps are cracked, loose or damaged, fuel can escape gas tanks as a vapor, wasting fuel and contributing to emissions. If the cap is in need of replacement, consult your mechanic, the dealer who sold you your vehicle or the vehicle manufacturer. SC163919

2. Slow down.
Driving above the speed limit is not just dangerous but potentially harmful to the environment as

How to reduce vehicle maintenance costs

Major repairs to a vehicle can be expensive. When unanticipated repairs are necessary, drivers' budgets can be thrown out of whack, potentially causing a domino effect that compromises their ability to pay their bills on time.



Courtesy photo

and oil filter replacements is a great way to protect the engine. Manufacturer guidelines vary in regard to oil change and oil filter replacement intervals, but such recommendations can be found in your manual.

• **Hone your DIY skills.**
Drivers also can save money on maintenance by doing some of their own minor vehicle repairs. YouTube is home to many DIY tutorials that can teach drivers how to change their own oil and replace the filters on their vehicles. Routine repairs are relatively easy, and many tutorials can walk you through them step-by-step. Depending on how much you drive, learning to do your own minor vehicle repairs may save you hundreds of dollars per year.

• **Perform routine inspections.**
Older vehicles may or may not alert drivers via noises or leaks that they're in need of repair. Routine inspections of hoses, brakes and tires, which should always be properly inflated, can let drivers know if their vehicles are experiencing problems before those problems grow and become something costly.

Vehicle maintenance costs tend to be most expensive when drivers ignore routine maintenance or miss signs that their cars and trucks might be struggling. By adhering to manufacturer maintenance guidelines and paying attention to their vehicles, drivers can reduce the cost of keeping their cars on the road. SC193722



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Replacing cracked or damaged gas caps is one way to make a vehicle more eco-friendly.

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Lifestyles

Trinchera Blanca Foundation supports San Luis Valley Conservation strategy

SAGUACHE COUNTY — The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) is pleased to announce a generous grant from the Trinchera Blanca Foundation to help make additional conservation in Colorado's San Luis Valley (the Valley) possible in 2020 and beyond. The Trinchera Blanca Foundation's support will advance CCALT's San Luis Valley Conservation Strategy, a program designed to address increased demand for conservation tools from landowners in the Valley. "Working farms and ranches are paramount to the character and economy of the Valley," said Louis Bacon, chairman of The Moore Charitable Foundation and Trinchera Blanca Foundation. "CCALT's San Luis Valley Conservation Strategy program will give local landowners facing increased development pressure and other uncertainties a viable option to conserve their farm and ranch lands now and for future generations." Geographically, the San Luis Valley is nearly

8,000 square miles, bordered on the west by the La Garita Mountains and the San Juans, and to the east by the Sangre De Cristo Mountain Range. With fertile soil and a favorable growing season, agriculture has been the predominant economic driver in the Valley for generations. Large farming operations and family ranches make up the fabric of the communities in the Valley, and ranchers and farmers produce multiple crops and products including beef, bison, potatoes, quinoa, and lettuce.

An influx in development in recent years, combined with drought and economic pressures on farming and ranching families, has increased the importance of conservation in the region. For many ranchers and farmers, conserving their land is the only way to keep their properties in agricultural production. To date, CCALT has partnered with multiple families to conserve more than 9,000 acres in the Valley, and more than 41,535 acres in the region,

protecting agricultural lands, key wildlife habitat, and 17 miles of stream frontage along Saguache Creek. While this work is impressive, there is still more to be done.

In 2020, CCALT hopes to complete four conservation projects in the Valley (adding an additional 5,862 acres of conserved land to the region), expand our operating presence in the Valley, and increase funding

opportunities for landowners interested in conservation. The San Luis Valley Conservation Strategy will drive these projects and objectives forward with support from the Trinchera Blanca Foundation.

"The San Luis Valley is an integral part of Colorado's western heritage and agricultural history. The farming and ranching families of the Valley have a strong conservation ethic. These family farms and ranches are worth conserving for the future of Colorado, and CCALT is proud to be a partner in this work," said Erik Glenn CCALT executive director.



Georgiana West — pioneer midwife of the San Luis Valley

CONEJOS COUNTY — "Hurry, Hurry, Georgiana, the baby is coming!" What did pioneer expectant mothers do when a baby was due and unable to go to a hospital?

They called on Georgiana West. Many women of the southern end of the San Luis Valley called on this skilled mid-wife and nurse. She delivered over 1,000 babies, between 1915 thru 1963.

Georgiana's home was located about one mile north of the state line between Colorado and New Mexico. She also tended to many mothers who lived in New Mexico. The State of New Mexico licensed mid-wives, Colorado never licensed mid-wives, but required a filing of birth records.

Georgiana assisted women in San Luis, San Acacio, Joroso, La Jara and Antonito.

She traveled to the homes where she was needed, by such modes as horse and buggy, trac-

tors, sled, jeeps, and in cars. Some deliveries had to be accomplished under primitive conditions with very little means for good sanitation; she tried to keep mother and baby as clean as possible. On rare occasions, there might be only one bed in the home, and it would be occupied with an ailing or elderly family member.

Georgiana never lost a mother; few babies were still born or died soon after birth. During the last 10 years of her practice, she would take care of the mothers in her own home. She charged \$25.00, which included delivery of the baby, room and board, and care for mother and baby for about three days after delivery. If a family was unable to pay Georgiana, she would accept whatever they could pay.

For more information, visit our website: sangreheritage.org Reference: "The San Luis Valley Historian". Volume IX. Number 4. 1977.



Courtesy Photo

Georgiana West, pioneer SLV midwife, poses by her home.

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[†]Does not include cost of material. Expires 3/31/20. ^{**}All participants who attend an estimated 60-90-minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$100 gift certificate. Visit <https://www.restaurant.com/about/terms> for complete terms and conditions and <https://www.restaurant.com> for participating restaurants. Retail value is \$100. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID, be able to understand English, and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 10 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Expires 3/31/20.

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099 ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPPER RIO GRAND School District – Transportation Department Seeking bids for numerous vehicles: 1997 Ford Econoline Van \$2500, 2006 F-450 14 passenger mini bus \$10,000, 2006 F-450 14 passenger mini bus \$10,000, 1991 Thomas 65 Passenger bus \$2,000, 1994 Bluebird 77 passenger bus \$3,000. For more information, please contact Demo Trujillo @ 719-657-4007 or dtrujillo@urtigers.co. All bids due by April 1, 2020. (3/17)

BIDS BEING SOUGHT for garage door installation at the Bus Garage of the Upper Rio Grande School District. For more information, please contact the Administrative Offices at 719-657-4040. Bids due by April 1.(4/1)

ACUCENTER A COMMUNITY acupuncture clinic in Del Norte. The clinic will be open every Thursday 3pm to 6pm. Experience the health benefits of affordable acupuncture from our team at Vista Acupuncture. Located at 990 6th St, Del Norte. Schedule an appointment now call 360-821-9006 (3/18)

185- SERVICES & REPAIRS

FLU PREVENTION CLINIC Every Thursday in March. Be proactive and strengthen your immune system at the Acu Center Community Clinic located in Del Norte, 990 6th st. Call for appointment 360-821-9006.(4/3)

LICENSED PLUMBER DOES all types of plumbing repairs and plumbing remodel done at reasonable rate. Call 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593.(4/2)

221 HELP WANTED

THE BOE OF Center Schools is now accepting applications for Elementary Teacher for the 2020-2021 School Year. Qualifications: Must hold a Colorado Teacher's License or, such alternative to the above qualifications as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. For information and application materials please call (719) 754-3442 or visit the District's website at www.center.k12.co.us and click on the Employment Opportunities and "Certified Staff Application". Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE.(3/20)

THE BOE OF Center Schools is now accepting applications for Secondary Math Teacher for the 2020-2021 School Year. Qualifications: Must hold a Colorado Teacher's License or, such alternative to the above qualifications as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. For information and application materials please call (719) 754-3442 or visit the District's website at www.center.k12.co.us and click on the Employment Opportunities and "Certified Staff Application". Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (3/20)

THE CITY OF Alamosa is hiring a part-time Library Assistant. (Hiring range \$12.00 to \$12.60/hour DOQ). 20-25 hours per week. Hours will include evenings and weekends. Computer and customer service skills are a must. Duties include, but not limited to, shelving, collection maintenance, and customer service. Full job description, announcement, and application can be found on our website at cityofalamosa.org. Deadline: 03/26/2020 at 4:30 p.m.(3/27)

221 HELP WANTED

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL District is accepting applications for a Health Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year. The person in this position will teach health in grades 6th through 12th. A complete list of desired qualifications and experience is posted on the district website <http://ww2.monte.k12.co.us/employment-opportunities.html>. Monte Vista School District offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, and life coverage. Applications may be submitted to the District Office, 345 E. Prospect Ave., Monte Vista, CO 81144, by April 1, 2020, or until the position is filled. Applications may be downloaded from the district website or call 719-852-5996.(3/28)

APARTMENT MANAGER. OVER the Rainbow Apartments, down-town Alamosa seeks a live-in skilled property manager. Responsibilities include lease management, facility upkeep, handling tenant needs and issues. Qualifications: mature, good communication and computer skills, good references. Knowledge of human services helpful. Compensation includes salary, apartment, paid utilities and benefits. Serious applicants, please submit resume to hr@lapuente.net.(3/28)

REAL ESTATE OFFICE Hiring Part Time Secretary/Admin. Assistant resumes can be sent to andrea.hurtao23@yahoo.com Call 719-852-0450 for more info.(3/20)

CONEJOS COUNTY DEPARTMENT of Social Services is seeking a Case Manager (CM). Responsibilities include: Determines eligibility for Food Stamps, Adult programs, Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF), and Medicaid. Ability to apply critical thinking to a wide range of situations. Must have strong computer and interviewing skills. A broad knowledge of community services a plus. High School Diploma or equivalent required, two years of education and customer service experience preferred. County Application Form Required. Applications are available at Conejos County Administration Office 6683 County Rd. 13, Conejos, CO 81129, or via email upon request at cricci@co.conejos.co.us. Deadline is Thursday, March 19, 2020. Inquiries call 719-376-6799 EEOE (3/19)

SANGRE DE CRISTO School District is looking for highly motivated Middle School Science Teacher that has a desire to teach and the ability to pass their passion of learning onto students. For more information please contact Mr. Stagner at 719-378-2310 or bstagner@sangreschools.org. Teaching applications may be downloaded from sdc.schooldesk.net or picked up at school office. Positions open until filled. (3/27)

221 HELP WANTED

RIVER VALLEY INN Nursing Home has a RN Charge Nurse Day position open ASAP! Health benefits/ Competitive wages please stop in for an application at 1335 6th st in Del Norte co or call 719-657-1105. Ask for Paula or Susan. (RVI is EOE)(3/19#1)

RIVER VALLEY INN Nursing home in Del Norte is looking for CNA's to join our family! Night shift with differential, health benefits/competitive wages. please stop in for an application at 1335 6th st. in Del Norte co or call 719-657-1105. Ask for Paula or Susan. (RVI is EOE)(2/19#2)

LEASING AGENT FOR apartments and storage units full-time with benefits. Experience with leasing, Customer Service, Office skills required. 237 Broadway, Alamosa 719-587-3307.(3/17)

MSW SEEKING CONTRACT work, Psychotherapist registration, 16-20 hours per week, Insured, culturally sensitive, bilingual, able to travel in SLV. Email: pafsvinfo@gmail.com (3/17)

ALAMOSA MOSQUITO CONTROL District is now hiring for seasonal staff. Please visit their website www.mosquitobytes.org. click on EMPLOYMENT for job descriptions and applications. Alamosa Mosquito Control District is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Must be 18 + to apply. (3/19)

TU CASA, INC. and the Children's Advocacy Center of the San Luis Valley are seeking an individual who is compassionate, organized, crises oriented and highly motivated to serve children and families in the San Luis Valley as a Bilingual Family Advocate. The Bilingual Family Advocate organizes and provides services and referrals for the children and families who visit the SLV CAC because of allegations of physical/sexual abuse. This includes providing victim advocacy, giving information and referrals, accompanying children and families to court and acting as a liaison between the family and the system at large. These services are provided in both English and Spanish. The position starts at \$14/hr, 28 hrs/week with a potential for higher pay dependent upon experience and education. For more information about qualifications and requirements, please check the job description online at slvtucasa.net. Interested parties should submit a cover letter and resúme to Theresa Ortega at theresa@slvtucasa.net. If you have any questions, please call Theresa or Michelle at (719) 589-2465. Cover letters and resúmes will be accepted until Friday, March 13, 2020, at 4 p.m.(3-14)

FARMING TECHNOLOGY CORP is Seeking Irrigation Technician Qualification, With Sprinkler and Well Maintenance. Apply In Person At 8629 Rd 105 North Mosca, Co 81146 Phone 719-754-0559.(4/15)

221 HELP WANTED

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL District is accepting applications for a Part-Time Food Service Employee. The position is for 2.5 hours per day (10:45 am – 1:15 pm), Monday –Thursday, at Bill Metz Elementary School. Applications may be submitted to the District Office, 345 E. Prospect Ave., Monte Vista, CO 81144, until the position is filled. Applications may be downloaded from the web site <http://ww2.monte.k12.co.us/employment-opportunities.html> or call 719-852-5996.(3/19)

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL District is seeking dynamic, people oriented candidates for the position of Monte Vista Middle School Principal. Start date will be August 1, 2020, with a competitive salary based on experience, plus an attractive benefit package. Interested individuals should submit application materials electronically in pdf format to mary@monte.k12.co.us by March 26, 2020. A full description of desired qualifications and experience may be viewed on the district website <https://ww2.monte.k12.co.us/employment-opportunities.html>. Applications are available to download on the district web site or call (719)852-5996. (3/24)

221 HELP WANTED

DEL NORTE BANK is seeking an Executive Assistant. Applicants should possess the following skills: Highly proficient in Excel and Word, be able to communicate and write letters about complex matters, manage multiple systems that are either Excel or database driven, be able to manage and maintain scheduling efforts, be an eager team member with problem solving skills. At a minimum a bachelor's degree or equivalent is required. The position is permanent, full-time, M – F, 8am – 5pm with a robust benefits package. Salary commensurate with experience. Qualified candidates please send your resume or application to postmaster@truelocalbank.com by March 18, 2020. Application available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers. EOE.(3/17)

SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL District is seeking a current paraprofessional. Candidate must possess Early Childhood Credentials, have great communication skills, and the ability to multi-task. Interested individuals should submit a District application, resume, cover letter, transcripts and credentials to apply@Southconejos.com by March 13, 2020.(3/13#3)

221 HELP WANTED

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY'S Department of Teacher Education is seeking applications for a Part-Time Program Assistant. Please submit letter of application addressing qualifications, curriculum vita with unofficial transcripts: Names and contact information for 3 references: Mr. Curtis Garcia, Search Committee Chair, 208 Edgemont Blvd, suite 3050, Department of Teacher Education, McD 246, Alamosa, CO 81101. curtislgarcia@adams.edu <https://www.adams.edu/hr/administrative-positions/>. Review of completed applications will begin immediately. Priority considerations will be given to applications received on or before March 15, 2020. (3/21)

MONTE VISTA ESTATES Nursing Home is Seeking a full time day shift CAN seeking a full time evening shift (2-10) shift CAN If you love working with the elderly and enjoy making a difference in the lives of our residents, please contact us. We look forward to having you join our team. (3/28)

BUSY... HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS now hiring experienced housekeeping staff. Pay is by room not minimum wage! Apply in person. (3/19)

221 HELP WANTED

SAN LUIS VALLEY Behavioral Health Group
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Additional employment opportunities found at slvbhg.org/employment-opportunities/

Bookkeeper/Accountant
Wall, Smith, Bateman Inc. is seeking a Full time Bookkeeper. This position, in a fast paced office environment, offers challenging work assignments and career growth. Applicants must have 5 years or more experience in A/R, A/P, P/R and QuickBooks software. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Email resumes to: matthewl@wsbcpa.com.

Administrative Assistant
Wall, Smith, Bateman Inc. is seeking an Administrative Assistant. Candidates must have excellent client service skills and a positive, friendly attitude. Duties include greeting clients, handling all telephone calls, and general office responsibilities. Applicants need excellent multi-tasking and organizational skills. Strong computer skills with experience in Word and Excel. Full time position with excellent salary and complete benefit package. Only candidates with the above skills should apply. Email resumes to: matthewl@wsbcpa.com.

Assistant Firm Administrator
Wall, Smith, Bateman is seeking an assistant Firm Administrator. Duties include performing a variety of office management and human resource functions. Applicants need excellent multi-tasking and organizational skills. Strong computer skills with experience in Word and Excel. Prior experience as an office manager/HR is preferred. Full time position with excellent salary and complete benefit package. Only candidates with the above skills should apply. Email resumes to: matthewl@wsbcpa.com.

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ALAMOSA HOUSING AUTHORITY is seeking a qualified individual for a full-time Maintenance Laborer I position. General: Under supervision performs work of semi-skilled nature in the area of housing maintenance and grounds. Clean/paint apartments, operate landscaping equipment, repair minor furnace problems, perform plumbing duties. Must be able to be on call for emergency maintenance requests. Job Qualifications: Working knowledge of maintenance of appliances, electrical, plumbing and grounds. Minimum of one year experience in electrical repair, plumbing, maintenance or similar, able to follow directions. Desirable but not required. Knowledge of common hand tools, carpentry, plumbing, etc. general mechanical understanding and ability, valid Colorado Driver's License good driving record, must be able to pass Colorado Background Investigation. Benefits include \$12.00 an hour, medical, dental, and vision. Apply at Alamosa Housing Authority at 213 Murphy Drive. Job will close on March 13, 2020 The Alamosa Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer.(3/13)

SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL District is now accepting applications for Anticipated K-12 Principal for the 2020-2021 school year. Start date will be July 2020, with a competitive salary based on experience, plus and attractive benefit package. Qualifications: Experience as a vice-principal or comparable administrative experience. Must hold a Colorado Administrative License. Interested individuals should submit a District application, resume, cover letter, transcripts and credentials to apply@Southconejos.com by March 13, 2020.(3/13#1)

221 HELP WANTED

THE CITY OF Monte Vista is seeking a Chief of Police. Candidates should possess demonstrated leadership skills, high integrity, demonstrated success in problem-solving policing methods, the development and implementation of police budgets, data-driven deployment methodologies and department-level financial management. Minimum requirements: Bachelors' degree in police or criminal justice, public administration, law enforcement or a directly related field. A Masters' degree and / or leadership training such as: FBI National Academy, Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command or equivalent preferred. Colorado POST certification, or the demonstrated ability to obtain Colorado certification, is required. Candidates must have been a peace officer for a minimum of 10 years, including 6 years of police supervisory/leadership experience at the rank of sergeant or higher. The position has a competitive salary and excellent benefit package. The general hiring minimum salary is \$82,000. Salary at appointment is dependent on qualifications. To be considered for this position you must complete a City of Monte Vista employment application at www.cityofmontevista.colorado.gov. Please submit your completed job application (resume optional) and a cover letter to the Human Resources office, 95 W. 1st Ave., Monte Vista, CO 81144 or e-mail your application to hrmanager@ci.montevista.co.us. All applications must be received not later than Monday, March 16, 2020.(3/14)

NEED A SECOND IN-COME? child support? Car Repairs? Taxes Due? Earn up to \$800/month delivering the Valley Courier. Contact Keith at 589-2553. (2/26-TFN)

221 HELP WANTED

SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL District is now accepting applications for the following Anticipated Teaching Positions for the 2020-2021 school year: Secondary math teacher, Teacher of grade 1, .5 Art, and .5 Social Studies. Qualifications: Must hold a Colorado Teacher's License, or such alternative to the above qualifications as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. Please submit a District application, resume, cover letter, transcripts and credentials to apply@southconejos.com by March 13, 2020. (3/13#2)

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369 - PETS & SUPPLIES

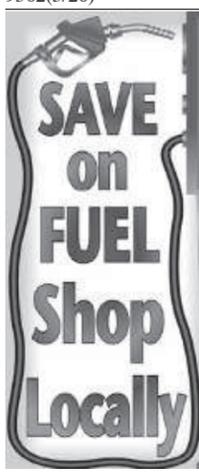
OOPS! GOT PUPPIES who need a home? San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society is a nonprofit animal rescue dedicated to stopping the euthanasia of healthy adoptable pets. Having pets altered is the number one way to stop pet overpopulation. If your pet has had puppies contact us. We will take the puppies 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)

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415 - HOMES FOR SALE

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\$311,500 - Three bedroom, four bathroom, plus office! Home on north side of Monte Vista, CO. Backyard adjoins golf course. Excellent layout with plenty of living spaces. Nice kitchen, huge master bedroom with walk-out 2nd story patio with views. Oversized two-car garage, mature landscaping, and so much more! You must see this home. 62 Pioneer Road, Monte Vista MLS # 766361

\$189,500 - Country home north of Alamosa that sits on 5 acres. 5 bedroom, 13/4 baths, eat-in kitchen, living room with built-in shelves, some updating in kitchen and baths, new paint and carpeting, handicap accessible shower in downstairs bath, wood deck, stairways from 2nd story bedrooms for fire safety and water filter system. Located off a paved road and close to town. Call today for more details. 9205 Stanley Road, Alamosa MLS # 763069

\$165,000 - Great home in the heart of Alamosa near the Park, River, Walking Trails, ASU and downtown. Charming interior with new paint, hardwood floors, tile updates in kitchen and bath, newly insulated walls for more efficiency and new electrical wiring. Private backyard features mature landscaping and sprinkler system. Call today for more details. 721 First Street, Alamosa MLS # 767039

\$145,000 - Well maintained home east of Alamosa. Home features an open floor plan with 2 living areas, vaulted ceilings, large kitchen with oak cabinets, updated appliances and dining area. Master suite has double sinks, corner tub, separate shower and walk-in closet. Metal Roof, 1.4 acre lot, metal garage with 2 doors and more. Call today for more details. 18305 Ash, Alamosa MLS # 767266

420 - LOTS & ACREAGE

LAND FOR LEASE - 13230 CR. 6S Alamosa, CO. Acreage for lease, some water, some fencing, ditch cleaning involved. Open to ideas. Contact Cheryl 719-480-0502.(3/18)

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RENT 1 BEDROOM studio Alamosa some utilities included 800-641-3750 / 719-480-3932 (3/19)

611 - HOMES FOR RENT

AVAILABLE JULY, 3 Bedroom 2 bathroom. Nice bright newer house. 1 car garage close to ASU. 719-580-6997. (3/19)

BEAUTIFUL 3 BEDROOM 2 bathrooms, log home on river, 2 car attached garage. Totally furnished must see. \$1,500/MO plus deposit call 719-672-3146.(3/14)

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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Watch
 - 5 Oz. or lb.
 - 8 Engineer's place
 - 11 Field units
 - 13 Estuary
 - 14 Have — at
 - 15 Express gratitude
 - 16 Sang door-to-door
 - 18 Smidgens
 - 20 Public sentiment
 - 21 Ristorante fare
 - 23 Flavor enhancer
 - 24 Table part
 - 25 Jazz's — Fitzgerald
 - 27 Mane
 - 31 Nest-egg letters
 - 32 Leaf through
 - 33 Antoinette lost hers
 - 34 Plant parasite
 - 36 Crazy about
 - 38 — Juan
 - 39 "Jeopardy!" host
- DOWN**
- 1 Cauldron
 - 2 Berlin pronoun
 - 3 Baseball stat
 - 4 Makes one's way
 - 5 Eyebrow shapes
 - 6 Actress
 - 7 Rainproof covers
 - 8 Holler
 - 9 Mellows
 - 10 Portend
 - 12 Ice Capades performer
 - 17 Must
 - 19 Ominous
 - 21 Grave risk
 - 22 Banded quartz
 - 23 Senseless folly
 - 24 Succotash bean
 - 26 Cambodia neighbor
 - 28 Noted fabulist
 - 29 Where Florence is
 - 30 Tear
 - 35 Oust
 - 37 Robots
 - 43 Steaming
 - 45 Curly coifs
 - 46 Engrossed
 - 47 Lectern
 - 48 Flower container
 - 49 On a rampage
 - 51 Caught ya!
 - 53 Shipboard direction
 - 54 "Diamond Lil"
 - 55 Jacket feature

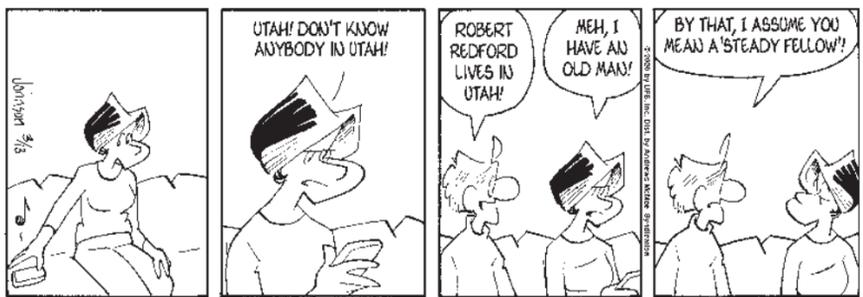


- ACROSS**
- 40 Consumer
 - 41 Passe
 - 42 Sidekick
 - 44 Full of suds
 - 46 Harsh-voiced bird
 - 49 Yeah, right! (2 wds.)
 - 50 Dental filling
 - 52 Serious theater
 - 56 "Nova" network
 - 57 Letter before sigma
 - 58 To date (2 wds.)
 - 59 Familiar digit
 - 60 Chatter
 - 61 Wineglass feature
- DOWN**
- 6 Actress
 - 7 Rainproof covers
 - 8 Holler
 - 9 Mellows
 - 10 Portend
 - 12 Ice Capades performer
 - 17 Must
 - 19 Ominous
 - 21 Grave risk
 - 22 Banded quartz
 - 23 Senseless folly
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 - 49 On a rampage
 - 51 Caught ya!
 - 53 Shipboard direction
 - 54 "Diamond Lil"
 - 55 Jacket feature

ALLEY OOP



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BIG NATE



THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



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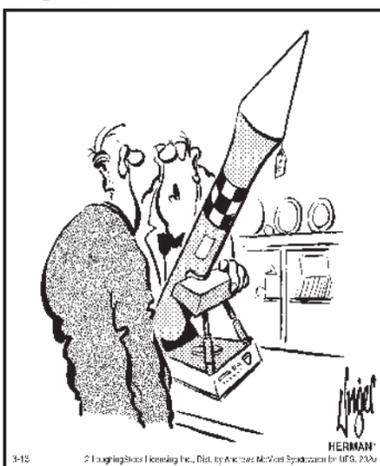
THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



HERMAN



"And for the man who has everything, we have this personal nuclear deterrent."

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

" L N R S L R C R Y I K Y K S S U H K O B S R K O
 Y H Y I R B K Z R E S K D R — K X O Y I K Y L B
 A I R U R C R U K S S U H K O B S R K O Y H ."
 — A L S S L R X R S B H X

TODAY'S CLUE: © senba G

Previous Solution: "Hearing people clapping ... it's like bungee cord jumping — it's a rush; you just want to do it again." — Jason Aldean

Adoptive mom writes rules for strangers with questions

DEAR ABBY: I'm an adoptive mother who has had more than my fair share of inappropriate comments directed at me and my children. They usually come from strangers or acquaintances. I'm about up to here with them, so I thought I would write you about etiquette for interacting with adoptive families: Though we may stand out to you, we think of ourselves as a family like any other. Please do NOT start a conversation with us that has the sole purpose of pointing out the obvious. Remember that my children have ears. Please do not ask questions in front of them about them or their adoption. Don't ask in private unless you are a close friend. Better yet, let me broach the subject. Please do not ALWAYS comment on my daughters' hair. Yes, it is nicely braided and decorated with beautiful beads. But isn't there something else you can say about them? Maybe just once? And please don't talk in front of them about how hard it must be for me to do their hair. I LOVE braiding it. Please don't say I am a saint for adopting them. I chose to adopt because I never wanted to have biological children. And please don't say how nice it is for me to love them so much. Why would you expect that

I wouldn't love my children? Please do not pity my children. They have amazing lives, are fiercely loved and have bright futures ahead. And please do not introduce me to others as someone "who has adopted two girls from Africa." Because my daughters are black does NOT mean they are from Africa! I would much prefer you simply say, "Anne has two 8-year-old daughters." And last, please remember that you and I are both people who love our families, and we have more in common than you might think. -- ANNE FROM CALIFORNIA

DEAR ANNE: Thank you for a great letter. Sometimes well-meaning people simply don't think about the impact their words can have when they begin a conversation. I hope my readers will take your words to heart because they are valid.

DEAR ABBY: While separating photographs after my divorce from my wife, I found some photographs of relatives' and friends' weddings. Is there any protocol on what to do with them? In some cases, the marriages (and friendships) have ended, so I assume I should just dispose of them, correct? I will send my ex-wife any photos of her and her family, but none that include my family. Is this the right way to go?



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

We don't live in the same area anymore, and our families were never close. I would be interested to hear what you think should be done with family photos that include me, my ex-wife and our children. Should they go just to the children? I am in a new committed relationship, and I do not wish to keep any photos of my ex for any reason. Can you please help? -- NEEDS TO KNOW IN NEW YORK

DEAR NEEDS TO KNOW: Send the family pictures to your children and instruct them to share them with your ex IF she would like to have them. If you still have a relationship with the friends and relatives, inform them that you found the photos and ask if they would like to have them. That would be the considerate thing to do.