



Sangre de Cristo in Blanca for league play.

— Page 6



Don't brush off your cat's dental health.

— Page 14

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VOLUME 94, NO. 32

# Valley Courier

FRIDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS FEBRUARY 14, 2020 \$1

**Imagine Your Ad Here!**

**SLV Today**  
Presidents Day pancake supper

**CENTER**—The Kiwanis Club of Center will be hosting its 64th annual Presidents' Day Pancake Supper from 4:30-7 p.m. on Monday at the New Center School Cafeteria. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children, with those who are 6-under dining for free. Package sausage will be available for \$4 per pound.

**Valentine's Day dance**  
**ANTONITO**— Everyone is invited to the Antonito Seniors Valentine's Dance from 1-4 p.m. on Friday. There will be a \$3 entrance fee and bring snack to share. Music by Bernal Maestas and Alex Lopez.

**NCSDBOB meets Tues.**  
**CONEJOS**— A regular board meeting for the North Conejos School District Board of Education will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the District Administration Office in La Jara. Agendas are available at the District Administration Office, 17890 US Highway 285, La Jara, Colorado, or on our web site www.northconejos.com.

**Valentine's BINGO**  
**ALAMOSA**— American Legion Valentine's Sweetheart Bingo \$1,199 must go. Doors open at 5 p.m. and Bingo begins at 7 p.m. on Friday Everybody is welcome.

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**SLV WEATHER**



Mostly Sunny 46/11  
Sat.: Mostly Sunny 47/14  
Sun.: Mostly Sunny 53/25

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## SLV man recognized during State of the Union Address

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**  
Valley Publishing

**SAN LUIS VALLEY**—Travis Steffens, a graduate and local resident of the San Luis Valley was recently recognized for his efforts to help change the lives of homeless U.S. citizens and veterans across the nation by President Donald Trump during his State of the Union Address last week.

Steffens graduated from Sargent School District in 1997 and has since grown a unique nonprofit company known as R Investments and R Academy. According to information provided by his mother and local resident Kris Steffens, the company is well on its way to changing the lives of thousands and is continuing to grow every day.

According to information provided through several sources

and including the R Investments website, "R Investments is the parent company of the R Enterprise family of companies and is the "engine" that acquires real estate assets for rehabilitation, transformation and stabilization by our subsidiaries. We work with private investors and banks to create superior rates of return in short and long term investment horizons. We leverage "Opportunity Zone" legislation to maximize long term financial results for our partners. R Investments is focused on the full cycle of wealth generation through each step of the process — planning, development, construction, rehabilitation, leasing, property management and brokerage."

R Investments is the parent company to R Academy which is the organization recognized by

■ See **TRUMP** page 3



Courtesy photo  
Investment founder and CEO Travis Steffens shakes hands with President Donald Trump after speaking to attendees at the Opportunity Zone Panel held in Charlotte, N.C. Steffens, was recently recognized for his efforts and work done through R Investments and R Academy.



Courtesy photos  
Reyna Martinez, San Luis Valley Victim Response Unit director/Alamosa County Victim Advocate coordinator; Charlotte Hefner, San Luis Valley Victim Response Unit Victim Advocate volunteer; Larry Gardner, San Luis Valley Victim Response Unit victim advocate volunteer; Robert Jackson, Alamosa County Sheriff; Tammy Brubacher, San Luis Valley Victim Response Unit victim advocate volunteer; Linda Howard, San Luis Valley Victim Response Unit victim advocate volunteer; Sandra Goodwin, San Luis Valley Victim Response Unit victim advocate volunteer; and Darius Allen, Alamosa County Commissioner pose for a photo with plaques in hand.

## Victim responders honored

**SAN LUIS VALLEY**— Today is a day of celebrations for the SLV Victim Response Unit that it would like to share with the Alamosa County Commissioners.

In 1995, the Victim Response Unit was established with the support of the Alamosa County Commissioners and the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office, enhancing the program and expanding services to crime victims through the 12th Judicial District with grant funding from VALE and VOCA.

Because the majority of the SLV Victim Response Unit funds come from grants, we rely on the match in-kinds provided by the volunteers.

Without these amazing volunteers this program would be nothing. Therefore, today the SLV Victim Response Unit and the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office would like to recognize five amazing volunteers that have served the community as Victim Advocates for five or more years.

- Tammy Brubacher 7 years

■ See **UNIT** page 3



Reyna Martinez, San Luis Valley Victim Response Unit director, Alamosa County Victim Advocate coordinator; Robert Jackson, Alamosa County Sheriff; and Alyssa Northam-ASU nursing student.

## Valley Humane League holding adoptathon

**ALAMOSA** — The Valley Humane League will hold an adopt-athon at the Narrow Gauge Book Coop in Alamosa from 11 to 2 Saturday February 15th. Please come by and meet your new best friend maybe!! We will have a few puppies and small dogs up for adoption. For more information call Diana at 719-580-4014

**TRASH PICKUP**  
**ALAMOSA** — Presidents' Day Trash Schedule: Residential Route no change Commercial Route Mon., Feb. 17 will be collected Tues., Feb. 18; Recycling Center Closed Mon., Feb. 17 and reopens Tues., Feb. 18. Please contact the Alamosa Public Works Department at 719-589-6631 with any questions.

**ASDBOE TO MEET**  
**ALAMOSA** — The Alamosa School District Board of Education will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 18 in the Board Room of the Administration Office at 209 Victoria Ave.

**REPUBLICANS TO MEET**  
**CONEJOS COUNTY** — The Conejos County Republican Party 2020 Precinct Caucus will be held at the Sanford High School on March 7 at 2 p.m.

## Correction Alamosa Rotary Club presents Rice at Juanito's Monday

**ALAMOSA**—The Alamosa Rotary Club is pleased to announce that Andy Rice will speak at noon on Monday, Feb. 24, at Juanito's Restaurant, 1019 6th Street.

Rotary will not meet Monday, Feb. 17, due to the Presidents Day holiday.

Rice stays busy planning, organizing, directing, and supervising all activities and staff in the Parks and Recreation Department, which includes the Recreation Division, Parks Division, City Ranch, Cemetery, and Library.

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# Record

## OBITUARIES

### Wayne 'Babo' Carter Thomas, 58

MANASSA — Manassa resident Wayne "Babo" Carter Thomas, 58, passed away on Feb. 10, 2020 at the Sky Ridge Medical Center in Lone Tree surrounded by his wife and loving family.

Wayne was born on Feb. 16 in Alamosa to Leland and Deanna Carter Thomas. He married his wife of more than 36 years, Debbie Baetge, on June 4, 1983 and they were sealed for time and all eternity in the St. George, Utah, Temple.

Wayne worked for many years helping his family on their ranch. Following his graduation from Adams State College he became a teacher and taught for several years in Antonito, Centauri and most of his working career was spent as a teacher and coach at Sangre de Cristo School in Mosca. He coached football, basketball, and track for many years. He enjoyed every minute spent with his students and athletes. He was an avid Dallas Cowboys and BYU football fan. His latest endeavor following his retirement from teaching was working for the Conejos County Hospital in admissions and serving as a temple worker in the Albuquerque, N.M., Temple.

Wayne loved horses and four wheeling about the countryside. He also enjoyed traveling with his wife Debbie and seeing all the sights. His favorite trip being his recent return to Italy where he served a two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Most importantly, he loved spending time with his family and especially his grandchildren, who he loved dearly. He was affectionately referred to by all of his grandchildren and many extended family members as "Babo." Wayne had an interest in history and had a great deal of stories to share about history with just about anyone.



Wayne is survived by his wife, Debbie of La Jara; his children, Deslie (Milo) Medina of La Jara, Trevor (Ashlee) Thomas of Twin Falls, Idaho, Randi (Devin) Billman of Herriman, Utah; Jordan (David) Romero of Denver; Travis (Kirsten) Thomas of North Salt Lake, Utah; and Teresa (Clayton) Thomas of Eagle Mountain, Utah; his grandchildren: Collin, Paislyn, Railey, Anistan, JR, Lynix, Jesse, Kenzie, Sawyer, Aria, Rylinn, Henlee and Khloe; his brothers and sisters, Marvin (Sandi) Thomas, Ranae (Bennett) Greene, Rochelle (Ben) Anderson, Trenna (Adam) Santos, Charlotte (Nathan) Coombs and Russ (Nicole) Thomas; as well as a host of nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Leland and Deanna, and his father-in-law Howard Baetge.

Visitations will be held from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14 and from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday Feb. 15, both at the Manassa 3rd Ward Church.

A funeral service will be held 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020, also at the Manassa 3rd Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Interment will follow services in the Manassa-Romeo Cemetery in Manassa.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements.

To leave online condolences, words of comfort or stories for Wayne's family, please visit [www.Rogers-Funerals.com](http://www.Rogers-Funerals.com)

#### 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](http://www.alamosanews.com), for no additional fee.

Please email obituaries if possible to [news@alamosanews.com](mailto: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.

## 80th birthday celebrations



Courtesy photo

Former longtime Alamosa residents are sharing their special moments with the local community, as Byron (Barney) & Carol (Whipple) Sears are about to experience their 80th birthday celebrations. The family of these two wonderful individuals would like to honor them with a Card Shower to help celebrate their 80th birthdays. Carol's is Feb. 25 and Byron's is March 16. Cards and memories may be sent to: Byron & Carol Sears, 705 Elmwood Drive, Ogallala, NE 69153.

## OBITUARIES

### Camilo Mansanarez, 90

MONTE VISTA — Camilo Mansanarez, 90, passed from this world into God's kingdom, on Monday, Feb. 10, 2020 at Homelake Veterans Center.

Camilo was born on July 15, 1929 to Manuel and Theodora (Martinez) Mansanarez.

At 21, he married the love of his life, Beatrice Valdez. Together they raised their two daughters and one son.

Camilo is survived by his wife, of 70 years, Bea; daughters, Rosalyn (Joseph) Velasquez and Linda (Anthony) Cherry; brother, Levi Mansanarez; grandchildren, Jodi Velasquez, Joel Velasquez, Amanda (Tommy) Espinoza Velasquez, Vanessa (Luis) Brinez, David Lee (Logan) Mansanarez, and Cameron Mansanarez (Tanner Nelson); great-grandchildren, Matthew, Adrian, Leilani, Jediah, Faith, Wyatt, and Sebastian; and great-great-granddaughter, Olivia; along with numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Manuel and Theodora; son, David Kelley; and siblings, Isaac Mansanarez, Virginia Martinez, Clara Jimenez, Fred Mansanarez and Alice Lopez.

Cam was a veteran of the Korean War, serving as a construction engineer, specializing in restoring destroyed bridges. He also served a tour during the occupation of Japan following World War II.

Cam owned and operated the J2C Auto Repair Shop, along with his brothers-in-law, John and Alex Valdez, for many years. He then was employed as a construction engineer at Homelake Veterans Center. During his lifetime he built his own home, became an accomplished professional artist, mastering all mediums of art and silversmithing. He taught silversmithing at the Monte Vista Community School and taught art at the Rio Grande County Museum.

Although Cam lost his eyesight in 2006, he contin-



ued to paint from memory. In 2013, he entered an art contest sponsored by the National Veterans Art Association. His first-place award sent his painting to Washington, D.C., to be hung in the U.S. Capitol Building.

Cam was a loving, kind, generous man, who loved visits from his grandchildren, family gatherings, the outdoors, the mountains, aspen trees, gambling and dancing. His family will miss his loving presence, dinner prayer and quick wit.

In celebration of his life, a memorial mass will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Monte Vista on Feb. 18, 2020 at 10 a.m.

Burial to follow at the Homelake Veterans Center Cemetery in Monte Vista.

The family of Cam would like to express sincere appreciation to the Monte Vista Ambulance, Alamosa Regional Medical Center and Homelake Veterans Center for the compassionate and loving care he received while at these facilities.

Rogers Family Mortuary in Monte Vista is in care of the arrangements. To offer condolences or words of strength for the family, please visit [www.rogersfunerals.com](http://www.rogersfunerals.com). In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your preferred Diabetes Foundation. Donations can be made in care of the mortuary.

#### San Luis Valley Crimestoppers

If you have information about an unreported or unsolved crime in the San Luis Valley, Crimestoppers pays for information that leads to the arrest of criminal offenders. Citizens may report crimes anonymously and remain eligible for rewards.

Call San Luis Valley Crimestoppers at 589-4111.

## AA 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.

#### FRIDAY

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

#### 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

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

#### AL-ANON

#### 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

#### 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

#### 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

#### WEDNESDAY

12 p.m. First United Methodist Church at 2005 Mullens, Alamosa

6 p.m. Senior Citizen's Building at 710 Main St., Antonito

## ONGOING VALLEY MEETINGS

ALAMOSA — The San Luis Valley Military Family Support Group meets the fourth Tuesday at from 5-6:30 p.m. in Alamosa. For more info call Vicki Jones at 852-3123.

ALAMOSA — Sierra Blanca Chapter #43, Order of The Eastern Star, meets on the first and third Mondays, at 7:30 p.m. at the Alamosa Masonic Hall, 512 San Juan Ave. Call Sharon at 589-4320.

ALAMOSA — La Leche League of the San Luis Valley holds its monthly meetings on the fourth Saturday at 11 a.m. at Hospice del Valle, 524 Main St. in Alamosa. Pregnant and nursing women are welcome to attend with their children and babies. Please call 587-3657.

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Kiwanis Club meets on the second, third and fourth Thursdays at noon at IHOP. Contact: Amanda Wilkinson, 719-589-2564 or email [amanda@alamosastatebank.com](mailto:amanda@alamosastatebank.com)

ALAMOSA — The Optimist Club of Alamosa meets at Nino's Restaurant in Alamosa the first and third Tuesdays at noon. Contact the club at [alamosaoptimistclub@gmail.com](mailto:alamosaoptimistclub@gmail.com) or President Dawn Melgares at 719-580-0178. Visitors and new members are welcome.

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Rotary Club meets every Monday at noon at Juanitos in Alamosa. Contact Dean Swift, 589-3499 or [dean@deanswiftseed.com](mailto:dean@deanswiftseed.com)

ALAMOSA — Veterans Therapeutic/Support Group meets every Monday from 5-6:30 p.m. at 315 State Ave. Ste 101, Alamosa. Call 588-8885 to register or email [d.counselingservices@hotmail.com](mailto:d.counselingservices@hotmail.com)

SOUTH FORK — Kiwanis meets every Thursday at 8 a.m. at the Feelin' Good Coffeehouse in South Fork. Contact: Karen Miller, 719-873-5466 or email [mkmillermink@aol.com](mailto:mkmillermink@aol.com)

MONTE VISTA — The Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group meets on the second Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon at the Chamber of Commerce, 947 1st Avenue, Monte Vista. Call the Southern Colorado office at 719-372-5985.

ALAMOSA — TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) CO 568, Alamosa, a non-profit weight loss organization, meets every Tuesday evening at the College Heights Baptist Church at 2035 Church Avenue in Alamosa. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. with an informative meeting at 6:15. Anyone interested in having weight loss support is welcome to attend a free meeting or call Doris at 589-6396 for more information.

ALAMOSA — Search and Rescue meetings are the fourth Tuesday at the Alamosa County Sheriff Office, 1315 17th St., at 6 p.m. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer is welcome. Call Suzi at 719-588-9236.

ALAMOSA — The San Luis Valley Photography Club meets the first Wednesday at the Alamosa Public Library at 6:30 p.m. Contact Stephen Jensen at 379-0001 or [slyphotostephen@gmail.com](mailto:slyphotostephen@gmail.com)

ALAMOSA — Families Healing Families is a community-based organization that provides support and resources for families affected by the impact of substance abuse. They meet on the third Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center at 92 Rio Grande Ave. (on

the north end of Cole Park) in Alamosa.

ALAMOSA — Peace Meditation at the Campus Ministry Office, Adam State University, Alamosa, is held on Thursdays at 5:15 p.m. Everyone is invited. Contact Candace Knowlan 805-886-6959.

ALAMOSA — American Legion Auxiliary Unit #113, Alamosa, holds its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday at the American Legion Building at 514 Fourth Street, Alamosa. Call Evelyn Espinola at 719-313-1466 or Alice Robinson at 589-0543.

ALAMOSA — Open drop-in meditation for health, stress management and spiritual growth, is held at 10:45 a.m. the second Sunday of the month at St. Thomas Episcopal Parish Hall, 607 Fourth St., Alamosa, with Mountain Institute, A Kriya, Meditation & Lamp-lighting School. Contact Martin at 575-758-5876 or [talentolocal@live.com](mailto:talentolocal@live.com)

ALAMOSA — Youngsters are invited to the Alamosa Public Library Story Room every Friday morning to sing, color, dance, read, enjoy adventures, share with friends and giggle. Babies and toddlers are welcome at 9:30 a.m. and preschoolers at 11 a.m.

ALAMOSA — Free breast feeding classes are offered in Alamosa at the San Luis Valley Health Education and Conference Center on the second and fourth Mondays of each month from 3-4 p.m.

MONTE VISTA — Valley Fiber Art Guild — VFA is a group for anyone interested in fiber arts: knitting, crocheting, weaving and spinning. We work on our individual projects, sometimes do projects together and learn from each other. We meet the fourth Saturday of every month from 1 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at 757 County Rd. 29, Monte Vista. Call or email Wanda Couzens-Smith for more information at (719) 852-5000 or [wcouzenssmith@gmail.com](mailto:wcouzenssmith@gmail.com)

ALAMOSA — Alamosa Masonic Lodge meetings are every first and third Thursdays at 7 p.m. (except June, July and August) at the Alamosa Masonic Lodge, Main and San Juan.

ALAMOSA — A Caregivers Support Group meets at First United Methodist Church, 2005 Mullens, Alamosa, on the first Monday of every month. For more information, call 589-2243.

ALAMOSA — Alamosa Toastmasters meets on Mondays at noon at The Bridge in Alamosa at 3407 Carroll Street. Participants will find a supportive learn-by-doing environment that allows them to achieve their goals at their own pace. Call (719) 588-5127.

School Menu  
--- Friday ---  
Feb. 14, 2020

NO SCHOOL



To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553



# Valley News

## Unit

Continued from Page 1

- ▶ Charlotte Hefner 15 years
  - ▶ Larry Gardner 15 years
  - ▶ Sandra Goodwin 16 years
  - ▶ Linda Howard 20 years
- Shield 10-78 was created after a group of local first responders responded to a 911 call and spent the next 14 hours on scene with no meals, water, proper clothing, little to no breaks and lack of sleep.

Be aware some of these first responders were at the end of their shift when the call came out, extending their shift to over 20 hours.

This occurs more often than we anticipate, leaving our first responders hungry, cold and deprived of sleep.

“With the collaboration with Adams State University, I received this amazing student Alyssa Northam from the nursing (program) who was eager to help our community and motivated to start a new project,” said Reyna Y. Martinez, Victim Response Unit Director. “By working together, we were able to find a grant called Walmart Community Grant, which we were approved for \$1,500 in order to get Shield 10-78 started.”

This funding will assist first responders in the time of a crisis and/or involved in a critical incident, provide support and basic emergency essential needs during long calls.

“This is only the beginning for Shield 10-78, as we continue to work very hard in order to help our first responders and ensure that they are able to further their ability to protect and serve our community,” Martinez said.



Courtesy photos  
**Reyna Martinez, San Luis Valley Victim Response Unit director, Alamosa County Victim Advocate coordinator; Helen Sigmond, Alamosa county commissioner; Larry Gardner, San Luis Valley Victim Response Unit victim advocate volunteer; Darius Allen, Alamosa county commissioner; Tammy Brubacher, San Luis Valley Victim Response Unit victim advocate volunteer; Charlotte Hefner, San Luis Valley Victim Response Unit victim advocate volunteer; Linda Howard, San Luis Valley Victim Response Unit victim advocate volunteer; Michael Yohn, Alamosa county commissioner; and Sandra Goodwin, San Luis Valley Victim Response Unit victim advocate volunteer hold their plaques while posing for the camera.**



**Michael Yohn, Alamosa county commissioner; Reyna Martinez, San Luis Valley Victim Response Unit director; Alamosa County Victim Advocate coordinator; Helen Sigmond, Alamosa county commissioner; Alyssa Northam, ASU nursing student; Adam Lopez, Alamosa Walmart manager; and Darius Allen, Alamosa county commissioner display a donation check.**

“... I received this amazing student Alyssa Northam from the nursing (program) who was eager to help our community and motivated to start a new project.”

—Reyna Martinez

SLV Victim Response Unit director, Alamosa County Victim Advocate coordinator

## Putting the brakes on the brakes



Courier photo by Keith R. Cerny

**Alamosa firefighters were called to the corner of Hunt and Main streets on Thursday afternoon to help cool down over-heated brakes on an 18-wheeler that was passing through town. Assistant Chief Tony Bobicki said the truck driver had applied a fire extinguisher to the rear tandem brakes before firefighters arrived on scene just a block from AFD Station 1. He couldn't be certain if the brakes had actually caught fire or just seriously overheated. It took AFD officials more than 30 minutes to satisfactorily cool the brakes down.**

## Trump

Continued from Page 1

President Trump during his address. “We provide the opportunity for the homeless, living on the streets and in shelters, to become part of the R family of companies. Through our proven process of housing, tools, training and loving accountability, we provide a solid and safe foundation for everyone to regain their footing, find significance and become a productive member of society again. Each person is intensely trained in all core construction trades and then employed by R Restoration to provide quality low-income housing for R Country.”

One success story from R Academy focuses on one man's journey from rags to riches. Tony Rankins from Cincinnati was a special guest for the State of the Union Address and his story has made headlines.

According to his online bio, Tony Rankins was born in Nashville, Tenn., in 1964.

From an early age, Rankins was separated from his family and eventually ended up in full-time foster care.

Though he was never formally adopted, he spent ages 8-18 with the same foster mother who he said raised him the best she could.

After graduating high school, Rankins joined the military, completing one

tour with the Army in Afghanistan. Upon completing his first tour, Rankins decided not to re-enlist as the post-traumatic stress that he continues to fight today, was just too much for him.

Tony was married at age 29 to the love of his life. However, due to the nature of his flashbacks, he quickly turned to drugs as a way to numb himself from his military experiences.

His drug abuse, and his struggle with addiction, made it difficult for him to keep a steady job and to eventually be separated from his wife.

After several stints in prison, his longest sentence being 18 months, Tony wanted to change;

however, his addiction was just too much.

Rankins found himself jobless, separated from his wife and living out of his car. While living in his car, he came across a construction project in Nashville.

This project happened to be one of R Investments projects. That was almost two years ago. Since joining the R Investments family, Rankins has been trained in several construction trades, including carpentry, framing, brickwork and painting. He is now currently living in an apartment, located in an opportunity zone, he is off drugs completely and he is back with his wife.

Rankins said that the only reason that he has

been able to keep his job, stay off drugs and stay with his wife is because of the “support, brotherhood and training” that R Investments has been able to provide. Rankins is currently working on a project located in Cincinnati in an opportunity zone and will continue and will work on another project in Cincinnati.

Steffens has now been appointed to the Opportunity NOW panel and spoke during the meeting held by President Trump in Charlotte, which focused on the Opportunity Zone.

Rankins is only one of many success stories that are growing exponentially everyday through the efforts of R Investments and R Academy.

## MV Head Start holding Open House

**MONTE VISTA** — Monte Vista Head Start invites the San Luis Valley community to the Monte Vista Com-

munity Center at 2863 Sherman Avenue for its Open House from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14.

**MAKE TIME FOR FAMILY READING**  
 Reading the newspaper is a great way to get the family together.  
You'll find fun and informative news and features on a wide range of topics. Plus, reading the newspaper with your children helps them understand what's happening in the world and how it affects them.

**Valley Courier**  
 For Subscription Information, call 589-2553

## SLV food bank serves the needy

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) works to improve the health of low-income persons who are at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA Foods. Individuals must be at or below 130% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines.

Food packages include a variety of foods, such as nonfat dry milk, UHT 1% low fat milk, juice, farina, oats, ready-to-eat cereal, rice, pasta, peanut butter, dry beans, canned meat, poultry, or fish, and canned fruits and vegetables.

This food box is free to those who meet the income guidelines.

Costilla County Commodity Program will be in Del Norte on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at the Annex Building next to the Courthouse 6th Street, Del Norte from 9am to 10:30 am., and in Monte Vista at the Calvary Baptist Church, 2160 Sherman Avenue, Feb. 19 from 12:30- 3:30pm.

Please bring a picture ID.

**SKI-HI 6 SHOWTIMES**  
 719-589-4471

Fri. 5:25, 8:15  
**FANTASY ISLAND**  
This Island Is A Scream PG-13

Fri. 5:35, 8:05  
**SONIC THE HEDGEHOG**  
Gotta Go Fast! PG

Fri. 5:40, 8:15  
**THE PHOTOGRAPH**  
Love story for the ages PG-13

Fri. 5:30, 8:15  
**BIRDS OF PREY**  
Mind over mayhem - Margot Robbie R

Fri. 5:15, 8:10  
**1917**  
Time is the enemy R

Fri. 5:20, 8:10  
**JUMANJI**  
Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart PG-13



# Opinion

## God bless America ...

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

The Comedy Store soon marks the 45th year since my arrival in 1976 when we wild young Baby Boomer comics had the world at our feet.

I'll never forget the night my best friend burst into the room yelling, "It's a Boy!" with tears streaming down his face. We never went to Thailand again.

The Wall Street Journal predicts

that the presidential election will generate billions of dollars in ad revenue for broadcast news networks, cable news stations and newspapers.

There is a lot of news to digest nowadays.

Just this past week

Parasite won Best Picture and finished

fourth in Iowa.

South Korea celebrated

after Parasite became the

first foreign movie to win the Oscar

for Best Motion Picture in Hollywood

on Sunday.

It's no surprise they are great film-

makers. South Koreans grew up watch-

ing American classics like Lassie and

Rin Tin Tin and Old Yeller on the Food

Channel.

The Masked Singer is a huge hit in

which a superstar singer performs

behind a mask while the panel and

audience try to guess his identity.

The format is popular overseas and

already China is producing a cheap

knock-off of the show using unpaid

performers. It's called the Masked

Population.

Prince Harry and Duchess Meghan

settled into a mansion in British Col-

umbia last week after they felt driven

out of England by tabloid intrusiveness

into their private lives. One British

tabloid recently claimed Meghan had

her vagina tightened. I don't know,

Prince Harry looks the same to me.

Senator Amy Klobuchar, when asked

about her drug policy, told reporters

that back when she was a prosecutor

in Minneapolis they had drug courts.

That sounds a lot more profitable than

a food court. That is, unless you open

a pizzeria right next to a marijuana

dispensary in the food court.

President Trump fulfilled his constitu-

tional duty on Monday by submitting

his proposed federal budget to the Clerk

of the House of Representatives in the

U.S. Capitol.

Trump's budget is over a thousand

pages long. And now the nation waits

to see if Nancy Pelosi can rip a phone

book in half.

The New Hampshire Primary gave

Democrats their first opportunity to

vote directly for their favorite candi-

date Tuesday.

It got down and dirty toward the end.

The last poll showed Bernie tied with

Mayor Pete and Amy Klobuchar tied

with Liz Warren, and that was just

back in the hotel room.

New Hampshire Democrats enjoyed

a huge voter turnout for the presiden-

tial primary Tuesday in which Bernie

finished ahead of Mayor Pete and Amy

Klobuchar. All week long, Democrats

had been complaining about the voter

turnout for the Iowa Caucuses. It was

96% Caucasian.

Democratic candidates upped the

bidding as reckoning day neared in

New Hampshire. Mayor Pete proposed

decriminalizing all party drugs, but

Bernie only agreed to legalize pot.

Who'd have thought that with this

field of candidates, Bernie would turn

out to be the voice of conservative reason.

Joe Biden left New Hampshire Tues-

day before his fifth-place finish in the

Democratic primary could be certified

as final. He spent the week snapping at

voters who aggravated him. Joe Biden

is running a variation of the Grassroots

Campaign in which he shouts at every-

body to get off his lawn.

Mike Bloomberg continued pouring

millions into network TV ads and social

media advertising aimed at Trump.

Mike just adopted what he feels is the

right campaign slogan for the presi-

dential race. The only thing that can

stop a bad guy with a billion dollars is

a good guy with a billion dollars.

The Kansas City Chiefs were treated

to a huge Super Bowl victory parade

before thousands of fans. However the

players angered the fans by showing

up drunk, stoned or wired, chugging

beers and grabbing their crotches along

the parade route. It marked the official

start of the NFL offseason.

*Argus Hamilton is the host comedian*

*at The Comedy Store in Hollywood and*

*entertains groups and organizations*

*around the country. E-mail him at*

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**Argus Hamilton**



To submit news, email:

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To submit sports, email:

sjiron@alamosanews.com

### Letters policy

Letters are welcome and encouraged. All letters submitted for publication in the Valley Courier must be typewritten, signed by the author, and must include a phone number and address where the author can be reached. Letters must not be libelous. The Courier will not run letters that are negative to specific businesses. The Courier's editorial board reserves the right to reject a letter for reasons it believes are appropriate. Letters may be subject to editing to fit available space, or exclusion from the Opinion Page. Please, no poetry. Please send signed letters to P.O. Box 1099, Alamosa, CO 81101 or email them to news@alamosanews.com. Letters to staff, not for publication, should be marked "personal."

## Reflections on not-so-new neighborhood

Call me crazy, but I often visit the neighborhoods important to me as a child.

Each one remains, but drastically changed.

Alamosa is a place dedicated to change, but not always for the best.

Residential areas sport new coats of paint on newer residents, as well as older places, contrasting with abandoned homes yielding to the years.

My friend, critical as always, says the city needs to do something with them.

How? Most of the houses are privately owned and nothing would rise to eminent domain. So much is constrained by prevailing law.

I remember the people who lived there and the stories behind their departure.

The funniest was at my grandmother's nursing home. Across the street lived a

budding politician who took his baseball and bat home because he couldn't change the rules to benefit himself. Buh-bye.

His mother sent him out to play, impeccably clean. His idea or hers? Who knows?

That family is gone, moving on when the railroad stopped hauling people. I wouldn't recognize him now if they returned.

Anyway, the nursing home plumbing failed and granddad was digging a hole to prepare for the arrival of a commercial plumber. That meant a whole weekend of malodorous sludge.

We loved playing outside so it didn't affect us, so the Saturday the event took place was free fun as we played in the side street. We could do that back then.

That day, the kid stopped by to say he was going to his cub scouts meeting and would receive a new merit badge. My uncle, three years and a month older than me, dropped out of that group.

He went to work covering the trench with a collapsible gizmo that would yield to any weight over 25 pounds and yelled at our nemesis when he got home.

Chest stuck out, he strutted over. My

uncle had something in his hand and bade him to "come look."

The only thing is, he had to walk across the covered area. The rest is history. Up to the neck, new badge floating loose, angry mother, grandmother stifling laughter, uncle running into the house and under his bed.

Nobody got hurt, no one was punished and I became a Girl Scout. My grandparents moved and the large brick home became a private residence. That was more than 65 years ago. One seldom sees kids playing in the neighborhood streets.

There are no rules, even for the fella who owns the ball. My oldest granddaughter just turned 21 and didn't want to play kick the can because there were no printed rules.

Today, she is an artist. A pastime that is ruled by her own talent.

Dumped in the sewer? Oh, well ... Makes for good art, but the sewer isn't big enough to dump anyone into.

Some of the changes I have watched take place over the years aren't popular, but some corporations just play by their own rules or take the game away.

### Native Writes



**Sylvia Lobato**

## Will impeachment play in November?

The Democrats who impeached President Trump knew they did not have a prayer of removing him from office. But they also knew impeachment might have another effect — to weaken the president and reduce his chances of winning reelection in November.

It was an unprecedented plan — an election-year gambit in which Democrats used the House of Representatives' constitutional power of impeachment as perhaps the most audacious oppo maneuver of all time.

But will it work? One, will voters even remember impeachment when Election Day comes around in nine months? And two, if they do, which way will impeachment cut? Will it help Democrats, or help the president?

It is often remarked that news is happening at a never-before-seen pace in Trump's Washington. A story that in an earlier era might dominate coverage for weeks is supplanted by an equally big story a day later, and then by another a day after that. It can all blend together and fade in the voters' minds.

On the other hand, impeachment was big. And even if it does fade in memory, Donald Trump himself appears determined to keep it alive.

"The radical left's pathetic partisan crusade has completely failed and utterly backfired," the president told a crowd of 12,000 at a rally in Manchester on the eve of the New Hampshire primary. "While the extreme left has been wasting America's time with this vile hoax, we've been killing terrorists, creating jobs, raising wages, enacting fair trade deals, securing our borders and lifting up citizens of every race, color, religion and creed."

After his "full, complete and absolute total acquittal," Trump will not let voters forget what Democrats did. On the campaign trail in coming months, he will take care to place the Democratic impeachment in the context of his administration's accomplishments, economic and otherwise.

By the way, Trump drew a capacity crowd in New Hampshire, dwarfing any crowd drawn by Democrats in their

hotly contested primary. He did the same thing in Iowa just before the caucuses, speaking to a packed house of more than 7,000 in Des Moines.

In Iowa, Trump also put impeachment in the context of his administration's goals: He is doing the country's work, while Democrats are consumed with partisan rage.

"We're having probably the best years that we've ever had in the history of our country — and I just got impeached!" Trump said. "Can you believe these people? I got impeached!"

The president's base is particularly receptive to that message, because they believe strongly that Trump has been the target of unfair treatment in Washington.

But look for the president to deliver the same message to all audiences in the campaign: I'm working hard creating jobs, raising wages, keeping us safe, and all Democrats could come up with was impeachment.

Indeed, three of the president's top opponents — Sens. Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Amy Klobuchar — all voted to remove him from office. But it has often been noted that neither they, nor any of the other Democratic candidates, make a big deal of impeachment on the campaign trail.

Yes, Democrats wanted Trump removed from office; Democratic support for conviction was sky-high. But voters knew that was not a realistic possibility, so they have consistently placed health care, climate change, gun control and inequality at the top of their list of concerns.

Indeed, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, fresh from pushing impeachment through the House on a partisan vote, recently tweeted that the "three most important issues to America's working families" are: "1) Health care. 2) Health care. 3) Health care."

But don't look for the president and Republicans to allow Pelosi to slip away from impeachment.

"I believe the overtly partisan, fumbling and bumbling fashion with which House Democrats conducted the process

will boost GOP/right-of-center voters and demonstrate to progressive/left voters that the Democrats cannot deliver," said veteran Republican strategist David Carney in an email exchange. "Their incompetence in impeachment, the Iowa count and stopping the Trump agenda lowers confidence in establishment Democrats to red-flag levels. Overall, the whole impeachment circus has been a net negative for the Pelosi forces."

It's always possible that could change. Maybe the entire country will move on. But not if Trump can do anything about it.

In Des Moines, he told supporters the entire impeachment saga was about Democrats trying to bring him down, one way or another.

"It's not gonna work," he said. "Watch. Just watch."

*Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.*

## Write them

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# Religion

## Church Calendar

# Did Trump intend to reject words of Jesus?

Few politicians at the National Prayer Breakfast were shocked when President Donald Trump brandished copies of The Washington Post and USA Today to celebrate their "AQUITTED" headlines.

### On Religion



Terry Mattingly

But it was a Harvard University professor who did something even more provocative — quoting strong words from Jesus of Nazareth during an event known for its meek God-talk and vague calls for unity. America's "biggest crisis," said Arthur Brooks of the Kennedy School of Government, is a culture of contempt that is "tearing our society apart."

"I want to turn to the words of the ultimate original thinker, history's greatest social entrepreneur, and as a Catholic, my personal Lord and Savior, Jesus," said Brooks, author of books such as "The Conservative Heart" and "Love Your Enemies." He is the former leader of the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank.

The key passage for this era, he said, is found in Gospel of St. Matthew, chapter 5, verses 43-45: "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven."

Brooks added: "Love your enemies! Now that is thinking differently. It changed the world starting 2,000 years ago, and it is as subversive and counter-intuitive today as it was then. But the

devil's in the details. How do we do it in a country and world roiled by political hatred and differences that we can't seem to bridge?"

Trump declined to take part when Brooks challenged prayer-breakfast participants to raise their hand if they loved someone who disagreed with them about politics.

As the next speaker, the president responded to Brooks' remarks with words that unleashed a week of online debate among conservative religious believers — early Trump supporters and reluctant Trump supporters alike — who have debated the degree to which they can embrace his take-no-prisoners approach to national leadership.

Addressing Brooks, Trump said: "Arthur, I don't know if I agree with you."

Moments later, the president took aim at his opponents — Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi was seated at the head table — calling them "dishonest and corrupt people" who have "done everything possible to destroy us."

"They know what they are doing is wrong, but they put themselves far ahead of our great country," he added. "I don't like people who use their faith as justification for doing what they know is wrong. Nor do I like people who say I pray for you, when they know that that's not so. So many people have been hurt, and we can't let that go on."

The question that loomed over the online debates that followed the prayer breakfast was whether Trump — by rejecting the "love your enemies" commandment — was signaling his disagreement with Brooks or with Jesus.

Conservative columnist Cal Thomas, for three decades the host of a media dinner linked to the National Prayer Breakfast, mourned this lost opportunity

for some sense of reconciliation after a brutal week of political warfare.

"If the person who believes he or she has been wronged by another reaches out and offers forgiveness," he wrote, "it can have the effect of disarming the other person and lowering the political and personal temperature. ... Perhaps it is time to suspend this annual event, or to hold it without this president attending if he can't accept the nonpartisan theme that has been its tradition for nearly seven decades."

Another religious conservative, in an online piece framed as a personal letter to Trump, called for a change in White House tone that would be appropriate, both as a faith statement and as a political strategy.

"You believe in deals. So maybe you can

make a deal for us," wrote Hunter Baker, dean of arts and sciences at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee. "Please don't shame us by attending events like the National Prayer Breakfast and turning a meeting based on faith into another avenue for political combat."

Instead, he suggested that Trump ponder another piece of scripture, Romans 12, verse 20: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Baker told the president: "Maybe you should try that."

Terry Mattingly is the editor of *GetReligion.org* and Senior Fellow for Media and Religion at The King's College in New York City. He lives in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

## UU presents Diaz from La Puente

ALAMOSA — Unitarian Universalist Fellowship believes in the dignity of every human being and live this life with compassion and respect.

An Interfaith Service recognizing the work of Street Outreach and Alamosa Homeless Coalition will be held 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 16 at the Alamosa Presbyterian Church, at 330 San Juan

Ave. Guest speaker, Shanae Diaz, from La Puente Home will share her experiences with unsheltered guests.

Host congregations are the Presbyterians, the Anabaptist and Unitarian Universalist Fellowships. All are welcome. Call Jan Oen, 719-480-4771, for additional information.

## Southern Baptist church meets Sunday

LA JARA — The new Southern Baptist Church, Bethel in the Valley, meets every Sunday evening at 6 p.m. at 522 Walnut street in La Jara.

The church will be starting a new

sermon series on the book of Romans on Feb. 16. It will be led by Pastor Jason Renner. Child care available for 8-under. Please plan to check it out and study the word of God.

## Ash Wednesday rapidly approaching

The Christian tradition of Lent is celebrated across the globe by many different denominations of the faith. Lent is a 40-day period of sacrifice that begins on Ash Wednesday — Feb. 26 — and culminates with the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

Lent is designed to help Christians prepare for Easter through prayer, repentance of sins, almsgiving, denying

the ego, and putting an end to sinful practices. Fasting is a component of Lent, as is abstinence from certain behaviors. In fact, in some

Western countries, Catholics have been encouraged to adopt forms of abstinence that do not involve food and drink during Lent.

All actions serve as forms of self-denial to mirror the sacrifice Jesus Christ made for his people. TF202712

## Expectations That Build a Great Marriage

My husband, Dave, and I have been married over 50 years, and I can honestly say we have a great marriage. But it didn't start out that way. Like many people, I learned that it takes effort and a willingness to let God change us if we're going to have a healthy marriage. One of the most important things we can do is examine our expectations.

Having unrealistic expectations can sabotage a marriage before it ever begins. So many people enter marriage expecting their spouse to be something they are not. Or they have the unrealistic expectation that he or she will be able to keep them happy all of the time.

For starters, I think it's important to realize that the way you feel when you're dating is different than how you'll feel after you've been married for a while. In the beginning, everything is new and exciting, and emotions are running high. But a day will come when all of those emotions won't necessarily be there, and that's okay.

For instance, just because I don't melt into the carpet every time Dave walks into the room, it doesn't mean I love him any less than before. In fact, I love him more. Our love is deeper because it's based on years of experience and getting to know each other. We have a quality of relationship now that is so much greater than when we first met.

The key to building a healthy marriage to Dave has been a serious commitment to be as close to God as I can possibly be. Maturing spiritually in Christ has changed me in wonderful ways that have healed and restored my soul and filled me with His love.

In Ephesians 3:17 (AMP), the apostle Paul prayed for the church in Ephesus, "that Christ may dwell in your hearts through your faith" and that they would be "[deeply] rooted and [securely] grounded in love." Being changed by the love of God has given

me the ability to love Dave the way I should love him, rather than expecting him to be everything I think he should be.

It's become a long-standing joke — especially for women — that we look at the person we're going to marry and think, I can change them. Sadly, this is the way I viewed my husband during the early years of our marriage.

Dave and I have completely opposite personalities. He's naturally laid-back and easygoing, always looking at the bright side of things. I'm more of your typical "Type A" personality. I'm highly motivated but can also be too harsh and insensitive.

Well, for years, I tried to get Dave to be more aggressive like me, especially when it came to stepping out into new things. He would inevitably say, "Joyce, you're always out ahead of God." And I would reply, "And you're always ten miles behind Him!"

On one occasion, after I continued to criticize his behavior, Dave finally said, "Joyce, you better be glad I'm this way. Because if I wasn't, you wouldn't be doing what you're doing." And he's right!

The Lord used this experience to show me the dangers of nit-picking Dave about things I perceive as weaknesses. Even if Dave does need to change in an area, God is the only One who can change him — my pestering will only make things worse and drive a wedge between us.

I used to just pray for God to change Dave. Now, I pray more like this: "God, I would really like for Dave to change in this area, but maybe he's not the problem — maybe it's my attitude. So, first, I ask You to change anything in me that needs to be changed. If there's something Dave needs to change, I pray that You will work in that area of his life. In the meantime, please help me to focus on all of the great things about my husband."



If you're constantly trying to change your spouse, you end up focusing on all of their weaknesses and things you don't like. And you'll overlook their strengths and good qualities.

Dave is a great husband, and I honestly have no complaints. But if I just focused on the things that annoy me from time to time, I would eventually see nothing else and make myself miserable.

But when I focus on the good things and everything I really like about him, it produces feelings of gratitude, love and joy...and the "bad stuff" suddenly seems less important.

Take a moment right now and pray for your spouse. Commit your relationship to the Lord and ask Him to help you focus on everything you like about them. No one is perfect, but when you choose to love your spouse for who they are, you open the door for God to bless your marriage in amazing ways.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's CD and DVD resource Marriage: You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://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.*

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

<p><b>All-Denominational</b> Church of the Living God 11611 2nd Avenue, Hooper 719-378-2080</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><b>San Luis Valley Christian Center</b> 305 S. Broadway (3rd &amp; Broadway), Monte Vista 719-852-6168</p> <p>Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - Bible Study</p> <p><b>Prayer House Church</b> 410 Main Street, La Jara Pastor Jamie 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><b>Sargent Community Church</b> 6667 N. County Rd. 2 E., Monte Vista (across from Sargent School) Pastor Hugh Harris • 719-852-2960</p> <p>Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Back Row Church - Church Community</b> In the Alamosa Presbyterian Church Building Alamosa <a href="http://www.backrowchurch.com">www.backrowchurch.com</a> Kim Nipple • 303-532-9342</p> <p>Worship Service - Wednesday Evening at 5:00 pm</p> <p><b>Apostolic</b> 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><b>Antioch Apostolic Church</b> 710 Main St., Antioch</p> <p>Meets sundays 11-12 p.m. - Sunday School 12-1 p.m. - Worship service</p> <p><b>Apostolic Pentecostal</b> Church of Champions, Acts 2:38 9056 Hwy 285 South, Alamosa - 719-587-3351 Dan Dawning Pastor, 719-588-7307</p> <p>Sunday, 1:00 p.m. - Service</p> <p><b>Assembly of God</b> River of Life Church 2602 Clark Avenue, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Service</p> <p><b>Center Assembly of God</b> 7th &amp; 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><b>Assembly of God</b> 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><b>New Life Fellowship</b> 520 7th St., Del Norte, 81132 719-657-3360</p> <p>Adult Sunday School - 9:00 Services - 10:00</p> <p><b>Baptist</b> 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><b>Living Water Bible Fellowship</b> 2910 Clark Street, Alamosa 719-589-6351</p> <p>Sunday, 9:00 &amp; 10:45 am Worship Services** Sunday, 10:45 am Children's Ministry (Pre-K-5th grade) Sunday, 10:45 am Teen Bible Study (6th-10th grade) Tuesday, 7:00 pm Young Adults College Group Wednesday, 6:30 pm Bible Quizzing (18-30th grade) Wednesday, 6:30 pm Reign Youth Group (16th-22nd grade) Wednesday, 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study** Sundays 9:00 am Worship Service** **Nursery is available (w/vis-priv)</p> <p><b>College Heights Baptist Church</b> 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><b>San Luis Valley Baptist Church</b> 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 Rehoboth Pastor Sal Garcia, 589-3020</p> <p><b>Calvary Bible Chapel</b> 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><b>Calvary Blanca</b> Pastor Mathew Leonard - 719-379-3317</p> <p>Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Service Wednesday, 6:30pm - Community Get to Know You!</p> <p><b>Calvary Baptist Church</b> 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><b>South Fork Baptist Church</b> 0130 Four Seasons Dr. (Old Chizum Bldg), South Fork (East side near laundromat &amp; car wash) Sunday School, 9:30am Sunday, 10:30am - Worship</p> <p>For more information - Pastor Paul Moon - 719-496-7702</p> <p><b>Catholic</b> 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 Every Sunday, 8 p.m. - Mass</p> <p><b>Hooper Church</b> 3rd and Adams, Hooper</p> <p>Sunday, 9 a.m. - Morning Worship</p> <p><b>Meditation, Kriya</b> Mountain Institute Alamosa - (575)758-5876</p> <p><b>United Church of La Jara</b> 522 Walnut, La Jara 719-274-6260</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><b>Christian Science Services</b> 400 Ross Avenue, Society Hall, Alamosa Services - Sundays at 10:00 p.m. The second Wednesday of each 4 p.m. Thanksgiving Day 10 a.m.</p> <p><b>Pioneer United Church in Del Norte, Colorado</b> A Congregation of Evangelical Covenant Order Presbyterians 630 Spruce St. (1.5 blocks south of Hwy. 160) Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m. Sunday</p> <p><b>Church of the South Fork</b> 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><b>Christian</b> 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 &amp; Bass Guitar 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Word of Faith Christian Center</b> 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><b>The Peak Community Church</b> 510 San Juan, Alamosa</p> <p>Sundays, 6 p.m. - Fellowship Sundays, 7 p.m. - Worship &amp; More</p> <p><b>Pentecostal</b> Alamosa Pentecostal Church 184 East 2nd St., Alamosa - 719-589-0475</p> <p>Pastor Carl Suter</p> <p>Bible Studt Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Sunday School Sunday 1:00-1:45 Worship 2:00-3:00</p> <p><b>Christian Fellowship Church</b> 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><b>Christian Independent</b> 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 &amp; Youth Group</p> <p><b>Christian Reformed</b> 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><b>Churches of Christ</b> 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><b>South Fork Church of Christ</b> 205 Birch St. South Fork, 719-873-1259</p> <p>Kevin Bradley Pastor</p> <p>Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Sunday, 10:00 a.m.</p> <p><b>Central Church of Christ</b> 200 Franklin Street, Monte Vista, 719-852-3811</p> <p>David L. Baker Preacher</p> <p>Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Class Sunday, 10:30 a.m. &amp; 6 p.m. - Worship Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study</p> <p><b>San Luis Valley Church of Christ</b> 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><b>Cornestone Community Church</b> 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 &amp; Children Sunday School Wednesday 5:15 p.m. Dinner, music, fellowship, teachings</p> <p><b>Episcopal</b> Saint Thomas Episcopal Church 1007 4th Street, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 9 a.m. - Service</p> <p><b>Saint Stephen the Martyr</b> 729 3rd Avenue, Monte Vista</p> <p>Sunday, 10 am Service</p> <p><b>First Christian Church</b> 618 First St. (First &amp; 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><b>Valley Fellowship</b> 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><b>First United Methodist</b> First United Methodist Church 2035 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><b>Community Churches</b> United for Christ Community Church (SBC) "Community Centered Around Love" 7th &amp; Broadway in Blanca 719-379-3317</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30-10:30 Worship Service 11am</p> <p><b>Bible Believer's Community Church</b> 11762 E US HWY 160 Alamosa, Co 81101 719) 206-3239</p> <p>Sunday worship 10:30 Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm <a href="http://www.bbchurch.org">www.bbchurch.org</a></p> <p><b>Presbyterian</b> Alamosa Presbyterian Church 330 San Juan Avenue, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship</p> <p><b>Hispanic Pentecostal</b> Iglesia Pentecostal Unida L.A. 507 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><b>New Hope Church</b> "The Church on the Hill" 25258 Hwy 160, South Fork, Co, 81154 Interim Pastor Ed Fleming • 719-973-1202 <a href="http://www.newhopest.com">www.newhopest.com</a></p> <p>Morning Worship - 10:00 am Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 - 9:45</p> <p><b>Anabaptist Fellowship of Alamosa</b> 330 San Juan Ave., Alamosa, CO 81101 <a href="mailto:alamosafellowship@gmail.com">alamosafellowship@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Sunday 4:30 PM Worship in the north wing of the Alamosa Presbyterian Church</p> <p><b>Independent, Fundamental Baptist</b> First Baptist Church of Costilla County 9717 County Rd H, Mesita 719-206-0011</p> <p>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><b>DEAF MINISTRY FOR ALL SERVICES</b> 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><b>Second Ward</b> 927 Weber Drive, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Alamosa Third Ward</b> 300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Alamosa Fourth Ward</b> 927 Weber Drive, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Sierra Vista Branch (Spanish Language)</b> 300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa</p> <p>Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.</p> <p><b>Lutheran</b> St. Peters Lutheran Church &amp; 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><b>Trinity Lutheran Church &amp; School</b> 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, Phone: 589-3271 Conejos Canyon Community Chapel 20062 State Hwy. 17 (between mile posts 21 and 20) Fellowship Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - Worship Service</p> <p><b>Mountain Valley Church</b> 408 State St. 17, Alamosa Pastor Richard Pinkerton 589-2899 or 589-7662</p> <p>Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - Worship Service</p> <p><b>Presbyterian Church of Monte Vista</b> 702 Second Avenue, Monte Vista (719) 852-2655</p> <p>Sunday, 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 11 a.m. - Sunday Worship</p> <p><b>Seventh-day Adventist</b> 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><b>United Methodist</b> Mosca United Methodist Church 5385 Barker Street, Mosca 720-254-5564</p> <p>Reverend Hugh Harris Sunday Worship: 8:00 am</p> <p><b>Unitarian Universalist</b> Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 330 San Juan Ave., Alamosa 719-587-5529</p> <p>"North Wing of Alamosa Presbyterian Church" Service &amp; Youth Programs at 10:30 am Sunday</p> <p><b>United Presbyterian Church of Antioch</b> P.O. Box 665, Antioch</p> <p>Office Hrs. Tues, 9:00am-12:00 Sunday 9:45am - Sunday School 10:45am - Service</p> <p><b>Valley Church of the Nazarene</b> 228 Madison, Monte Vista - 852-5668 Sunday Morning Worship 10:15 am</p> <p>Sunday School Classes 9:00 am Every other Wednesday, 6 p.m. (757)758-5876 for information for class schedule</p> <p><b>Church of Scientology</b> 511 Main Street, Suite #12, Alamosa 719-587-5554</p> <p>Monday and Wednesday, 7-10 p.m. - Services</p> <p><b>Grace Assurance Ministry</b> Church without Religion 9851 CR 4 S, Alamosa, CO Sunday Mornings - 10:30 Randy Brown - 719-588-7004 Eric Wolf - 719-480-3977</p>
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see you in sunday school!



# Sports

## Sierra Grande hosts T-Birds for Parent Night

### Thunderbirds handle business in Blanca

By **STEPHEN JIRON**  
*Courier Sports Editor*

**BLANCA** — It was an interleague meeting with Sangre de Cristo and Sierra Grande girls basketball on Thursday night. Sangre took the game over the Panthers by a score of 67-32.

A busy week for the Thunderbirds (12-3, 7-0 SPL) continues. Thursday's road game at Sierra Grande was Sangre de Cristo's second game in a week where they'll be playing four games. The T-Birds entered Thursday's meeting on a low note dropping a 40-24 meeting with Sanford on Tuesday. Sierra Grande (6-11, 4-3 SPL) cleaned up a three-game skid with 61-17 deconstruction of Lake City on Monday.

Thursday night the Panthers fell into a hole in the first quarter with Sangre de Cristo running out to an 18-8 lead early led by Lexi Metz's 5 first-quarter points. Sierra Grande's Rebecca Casados got Sierra Grande on the board first in the second quarter by hitting a three-pointer. Casados would lead the Panthers going

into the half with 5 points.

Sangre de Cristo continued to push the pace led by Kyle Christensen's 7 third-quarter points eventually triggering a running clock in the final 8 minutes. Christensen would cash in on 6 visits to the free-throw line for 8 points to lead the T-Birds in scoring with 19 points. Christensen was followed in scoring by senior Makenzie Rogers who finished her night with 11 points.

Sierra Grande's Destinee DeLeon tied for the team lead in scoring with Vivian Carrell, both girls put up 6 points on Thursday evening.

The win puts Sangre de Cristo back in the win column. The Thunderbirds will have a short turnaround staying on the road for a meeting with Manzanola (2-12) on Friday. Tipoff is slated for 6 p.m. according to MaxPreps. Sierra Grande will go back to the drawing board. The Panthers will attempt to turn it around on Friday night when they visit neighbor Centennial (5-8, 4-4 SPL), tipoff is scheduled for 5 p.m.

### First-quarter burst carries Sangre de Cristo to win

By **STEPHEN JIRON**  
*Courier Sports Editor*

**BLANCA** — Sangre de Cristo boys basketball defeated host Sierra Grande on Tuesday by a score of 67-48. Sangre de Cristo (14-1, 7-0 SPL) entered Thursday's game coming off their first loss of the year to 3A class New Mexico team, Raton. Sierra Grande (4-11, 3-4) entered Thursday's contest on a two-game skid, dropping meetings to Sanford and Cotopaxi.

When the action got underway Sangre de Cristo hit the ground running while Sierra Grande took a little while to warm up. Midway through the first, the T-Birds ran out to a 12-0 lead. Following baskets from Sierra Grande's Caleb Scharsch and Keaton Fisher, Sangre de Cristo owned a 24-4 advantage. The Panthers would close the distance before the quarter but still began the next frame trailing 26-11.

Sierra Grande was sure to play the T-Birds competitively for the rest of the game but were just unable to dig themselves out of the 20-point hole. For every quarter down the stretch, Sierra Grande finished within at most three points of Sangre de Cristo. Sangre de Cristo did well to contain Sierra Grande's main weapon. The Panther's leading scorer

Isiah Chairez was kept off the scoring sheet.

Meanwhile, the Thunderbird's own Cole Christensen got his points. Christensen who scored his 1,000th career point earlier this month produced 25 points in the win, 15 of those in the first quarter. The T-Birds would rely on Mario Enriquez down the stretch, the Sangre senior earned 8 of his 12 points in the fourth quarter. Sierra Grande's Scharsch was an important part of the game plan in the paint and he would spend a good deal of his night shooting from the charity stripe. Drawing fouls worked pretty well and Scharsch would put up 10 of his 19 points from the free-throw line in addition to completing two three-point plays. Behind Scharsch was Thomas Archuleta who drained three 3-pointers and collected 13-point on Thursday.

The win gets Sangre de Cristo back on track, the T-Birds will stay on the road for a road contest with Manzanola (9-5) where they'll look to continue building steam heading into a meeting with 3A opponent Salida (8-7) on Saturday. Sierra Grande will look to score a turnaround of their own when they go on the road to meet neighbor to the south, Centennial (4-6, 3-4 SPL) the night of basketball is scheduled for a 5 p.m. start.



Courier photos by Stephen Jiron

Sangre de Cristo senior MaKenzie Rogers (21) takes it to the hoop with Sierra Grande's Mariana Loya (34) in defense.



Sangre de Cristo senior Cole Christensen (23) looks to navigate Sierra Grande defenders Isreal Martinez (10) and Caleb Scharsch (23) during Thursday's league game.

## Grizzlies Set for Home Opener

By **AARON KINNISCHTZKE**  
*ASU Sports Information Director*

**ALAMOSA** — The Adams State Grizzlies Baseball team prepares for their first home series of the 2020 season, as they are set to take on a nonconference opponent in the University of the Southwest in a four-game series of doubleheaders on Friday and Saturday.

The Grizzlies come in with a 2-6 overall record, having played on the road the past two weekends against Wayland Baptist, Arizona Christian, and Midland University. Their most recent, a thrilling 8-7 victory in 10 innings against Midland in Glendale, Arizona, is a win that the Grizzlies would like to build off in order to give them a great deal of momentum headed into conference play. They were



able to take home both games against Midland in a 6-4 win on February 6th and an 8-7 victory two days later. They will face off against a 3-5 University of the Southwest Mustangs team who comes in with a record of 3-5.

Last weekend in Arizona, the Grizzlies went 2-2 in a pod series against Arizona Christian and Midland University down in Glendale. In that series, the Grizzlies

were able to see who will be a big contributor for them in the future. Despite committing an unfortunate amount of errors on defense, the Grizzlies were able to produce timely runs late, and scrape together an extra-innings victory in their final game against Midland. In the victory, it was shortstop Jace Wytulka with the game-winning base hit in the bottom half of the 10th inning to secure the victory for the Grizzlies and send them back to Colorado with a big win. Wytulka on the game was 2-5 with one RBI.

The Grizzly pitching staff has gotten their fair share of quality starts thus far, as Dalton Carleo pitched 7 innings in the first game against Midland, earning the victory thanks to five strikeouts

and just three earned runs. Jamison Fuentes started the second game against Midland, and although he would take home a no-decision, he pitched five hard innings and came out of the game with three earned runs. The Grizzlies hope that their pitching can continue to be as strong when they return to altitude.

The four-game home series against the University of the Southwest this weekend begins Friday, with the first pitch set to go at 11:30 AM from the Adams State Baseball Field. The second game of the doubleheader will immediately follow at 2 PM. Saturday, games are again slated to go at 11:30 and 2. Live stream and stats will be provided by the ASU Sports Information Department at asugrizzlies.com.

### Results

- Adams State Baseball**  
**Feb. 7** Arizona Christian 12, ASU 1  
**Feb. 8** ASU 8, Midland 7 - 10 Inn.
- Adams State Basketball**  
**Feb. 7** Regis 72, ASU 46 (W)  
 Regis 99, ASU 75 (M)  
**Feb. 8** Colorado Christian 52, ASU 44 (W)  
 Colorado Christian 86, ASU 73 (M)
- Prep Basketball**  
**Feb. 7** Cotopaxi 65, Sierra Grande 41 (G)  
 Cotopaxi 51, Sierra Grande 50 (B)  
 Moffat-Mt. Valley 65, Manzanola 41 (G)  
 Manzanola 66, Moffat-Mt. Valley 40 (B)  
 La Veta 51, Creede 22 (G)  
 Antonito 52, Lake City 11 (G)  
 Del Norte 61, Gunnison 24 (G)  
 Gunnison 71, Del Norte 35 (B)  
 Pagosa Springs 57, Centauri 50 (G)  
 Centauri 53, Pagosa Springs 36 (B)  
 Alamosa 68, Monte Vista 18 (G)  
 Alamosa 60, Monte Vista 45 (B)  
 Sangre de Cristo 64, Centennial 31 (G)  
 Sangre de Cristo 79, Centennial 34 (B)  
**Feb. 8** Raton 57, Sangre de Cristo 46  
 Primero 64, Antonito 60 (B)  
 Centauri 61, Bayfield 35 (G)  
 Centauri 58, Bayfield 46 (B)  
 Crested Butte 47, Sanford 38 (B)  
 Sargent 58, Sierra Grande 25 (G)  
 Del Norte 65, Center 33 (G)  
 Center 53, Del Norte 50 (B)  
 Moffat-Mt.-Valley 65, Centennial 51 (G)  
 Centennial 44, Moffat-Mt.-Valley 35 (B)  
 Alamosa 59, Montezuma-Cortez 42 (B)  
 Pagosa Springs 69, Monte Vista 26 (G)  
 Pagosa Springs 53, Monte Vista 38 (B)  
**Feb. 11** Sanford 40, Sangre de Cristo 24  
 Ignacio 61, Del Norte 56  
 Ignacio 61, Del Norte 56  
**Feb. 13** Sangre de Cristo 67, Sierra Grande 32 (G)  
 Sangre de Cristo 67, Sierra Grande 48 (G)

### Sports Bulletin

- Adams State Wrestling**  
**Feb. 13** Colorado Mesa 27, ASU 17
- Prep Wrestling**  
**Feb. 7** Alamosa 76, Monte Vista 3  
**Feb. 8** Pagosa Springs 47, Centauri 26
- Charger Invite**  
 11. Sargent-19, 14. Center- 9,  
 16. Mountain Valley -6

### Upcoming Events

- Adams State Baseball**  
**Feb. 14** 12/ 3 p.m. Univ. of the Southwest at ASU (DH)  
**Feb. 15** 12/ 3 p.m. Univ. of the Southwest at ASU (DH)
- Adams State Basketball**  
**Feb. 14** 5:30/7:30 p.m. ASU at Dixie State (W/M)  
**Feb. 15** 5:30/7:30 p.m. ASU at Westminster (W/M)
- Prep Basketball**  
**Feb. 14** 3 p.m. Center at Sanford (G/B)  
 3 p.m. Antonito at Cotopaxi (G/B)  
 4 p.m. Creede at Moffat-Mt.-Valley (G/B)  
 5 p.m. Del Norte at Sargent (G/B)  
 5 p.m. Sierra Grande at Centennial (G/B)  
 5:30/ 7 p.m. Monte Vista at Bayfield (G/B)  
 5:30/ 7 p.m. Centauri at Montezuma-Cortez (G/B)  
 4/ 7 p.m. Alamosa at Pagosa Springs (G/B)  
 6 p.m. Sangre de Cristo at Manzanola (G/B)  
**Feb. 15** 1 p.m. Manzanola at Creede (G/B)  
 2 p.m. Moffat-Mt.-Valley at La Veta (G/B)  
 2 p.m. Sanford at South Park (G/B)  
 2 p.m. Crested Butte at Center (G/B)  
 3 p.m. Monte Vista at Montezuma-Cortez (B)  
 3 p.m. Centennial at Antonito (G)  
 5 p.m. Sargent at Swink (G/B)  
 5:30/ 7 p.m. Lake City at Sangre de Cristo (G/B)

5:30/ 7 p.m. Alamosa at Centauri (G/B)

- Adams State Lacrosse**  
**Feb. 21** 6 p.m. ASU at Colorado Mesa (M)  
**Feb. 23** 12 p.m. ASU at Westminster (M)
- Adams State Softball**  
**Feb. 15** 12/ 2 p.m. ASU vs Okla. Panhandle State (DH)  
**Feb. 16** 11 a.m./ 1 p.m. ASU vs Okla. Panhandle State (DH)
- Prep Swimming (G)**  
**Feb. 14** State Championships  
 Sargent at Thornton
- Adams State Wrestling**  
**Feb. 16** Rocky Mountain Open  
 10 a.m. ASU at Colorado School of Mines
- Prep Wrestling**  
**Feb. 14-15** CHSAA 3A, Region 1  
 Alamosa at Montrose Event Center  
 CHSAA 2A, Region 2  
 Centauri, Center, Del Norte, Monte Vista, Sanford, Sargent at Sierra Grande HS

Schedules subject to change

### SLV Special Olympics Showcase

**ALAMOSA** — Come show your support for the SLV Dust Devils by bringing your friends and teammates for an unforgettable and unique experience. There will be a silent auction, concessions, and a great game at Plachy Hall on Feb. 23rd at 2 p.m. Admission is free but donations are always appreciated. For more information or if you're interested in volunteering contact: pvjohnson@adams.edu

### AP&R Youth Soccer

**ALAMOSA** — The 2020 Alamosa Parks & Recreation coed youth spring soccer registration is now open. You may register your child online at www.AlamosaRec.org, or drop by the AFRC located at 2222 Old Sanford Rd. For more information, contact the AFRC at (719) 589-2105.



# Lifestyle



Courtesy photo

## Countdown begins for the first ever ASU Gives Day

**ALAMOSA** — Food, music, art, dance, with a little chemistry thrown in: The Adams State Gives Day is sure to delight all audiences.

The very first Adams State Gives Day will begin at 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 17, in Richardson Hall Auditorium, and it will include a live talent show and telethon that will be a coast-to-coast livestream via the web page at [adams.edu/live](http://adams.edu/live).

The Adams State Facebook page also will carry the event live.

Community members of Alamosa and the San Luis Valley are encouraged to support talented Adams State students from all disciplines by being a part

of the live audience. There is no admission charge. For those unable to attend in person, invite family and friends to watch live online.

The Adams State Talent Show and Telethon will run until 7 p.m. at Richardson Hall Auditorium. As student and community acts perform on stage, the livestream will encourage viewers to call in pledges to support Adams State University. In addition, Adams State students will be working the phones and calling individuals to encourage support for the university.

Local music legend Don Richmond will stop by and perform on stage in support of Adams State

Gives Day. Another 12 student acts, including a comedy skit, musical acts and a magic show by chemistry students will be part of the talent show. Others performing include Las Semillas de la Tierra dance group at Adams State and the Adams State mariachi band.

Adams State Gives Day is an effort by the Adams100 Commission to increase support and establish new traditions and new events for Adams State as the University moves into its 100<sup>th</sup> year in 2021.

Report courtesy of a news release from Chris Lopez 719-587-7846; [chrislopez@adams.edu](mailto:chrislopez@adams.edu); [www.adams.edu/news](http://www.adams.edu/news).

## How social media makes breakups that much worse

**BOULDER** — Imagine flipping through your Facebook News Feed on Valentine's Day and spotting a notification that an ex is now "in a relationship."

Or maybe the Memories feature shows a photo from that beach vacation taken with the ex last year.

Or an ex-lover's new lover's mom shows up under People You May Know.

Scenarios like these are real and not uncommon, according to a new University of Colorado Boulder study exploring how breaking up is even harder to do in the digital age.

"Before social media, break-ups still sucked, but it was much easier to get distance from the person," said Anthony Pinter, a doctoral student in the information science department and lead author of the study published in the journal *Proceedings of the ACM* (Association for Computing Machinery). "It can make it almost impossible to move on if you are constantly being bombarded with reminders in different places online."

The research team recruited participants who had experienced an upsetting encounter online involving a break-up within the past 18 months and interviewed them for over an hour.

Among 19 who underwent in-depth interviews, a disturbing trend emerged: Even when people took every measure they saw possible to remove their exes from their online lives, social media returned them — often multiple times a day.

"A lot of people make the assumption that they can just unfriend their ex or unfollow them and they are not going to have to deal with this anymore," said Pinter. "Our work shows that this is not the case."

News Feed, the primary interface that opens when one launches Facebook, was a major source of distress, delivering news of ex-lovers announcing they were in a new relationship. In one case, a participant noticed his roommate had already "liked" his ex's post. He was the last of his friends to know.

Memories, which revives posts from years' past, was equally heart-rending, with one participant recalling how a sweet years-old message from his ex-wife popped up out of nowhere delivering an "emotional wallop."

Many shared stories of encounter-

ing exes via their comments in shared spaces, such as groups or mutual friends' pictures.

"In real life, you get to decide who gets the cat and who gets the couch, but online it's a lot harder to determine who gets this picture or who gets this group," said Pinter.

Take A Break works — for some. In 2015, Facebook launched the Take A Break feature, which detects when a user switches from "in a relationship" to "single" and asks if they want the platform to hide that person's activities.

But people like Pinter, who don't use the Relationship Status tool, never get such an offer.

"Facebook doesn't know we broke up because Facebook never knew we were in a relationship," he said.

Even when someone unfriends their ex, if a mutual friend posts a picture without tagging them in it, that picture may still flow through their feed.

And even when they blocked their exes entirely some reported that the ex's friends and family would still show up on Facebook as suggestions under People You May Know.

"Am I never going to be free of all this crap online?" asked one exasperated participant.

The research stems from a larger National Science Foundation grant award called Humanizing Algorithms, aimed at identifying and offering solutions for "algorithmic insensitivity."

"Algorithms are really good at seeing patterns in clicks, likes and when things are posted, but there is a whole lot of nuance in how we interact with people socially that they haven't been designed to pick up," said Brubaker.

The authors suggest that such encounters could be minimized if platform designers paid more attention to the "social periphery" — all those people, groups, photos and events that spring up around a connection between two users.

## Did you know?

The modern era is often referred to as the "Digital Age," but mankind's relationship with science and technology dates back much further than the 21st century.

According to [Wired.com](http://Wired.com), in 2006 scientists confirmed that a device discovered in 1900 amid the remains of an ancient Mediterranean shipwreck was an analog computer.

The device, since dubbed the "Antiky-

thera Computer," was believed to help calculate astronomical cycles so sailors could more easily sail between Alexandria and Athens.

The Antikythera Computer has been dated to sometime around the first century B.C., proving that man's fascination with gadgets is an ancient one that has been paying dividends for millennia. TF202679

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### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15th

Quiller Gallery	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open
Main Street	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Ice Sculptures (Weather Permitting)
Silver Ice Park	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Creede Curling (Weather Permitting)
C. Waters Gallery	2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Artists Demos; Variations on a Theme: Cabins
VCMUF (Old Gym)	4 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.	Kids Activities (Donation)
Ruth Theatre	5 p.m.	Boomtown (\$10)
Ruth Theatre	7 p.m.	Boomtown (\$10)

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16th

Quiller Gallery	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open
6 Mile Flats	10 a.m.	Nordic Ski Lesson & Fun Session; All Levels Welcome (Weather Permitting) Meet in the Parking Lot (Hw 149 & Middle Creek Road)

Ruth Theatre NOON-4p.m.

Free Lecture/Film Series – Steve Quiller: "The Making of a Mural"; Short Film by Allison Quiller; Ra.m.ona Weber: *The Role of Women in the 1890's*; Headwaters Alliance: *The Night Sky & You*; Michael and Shelley Dee, *International Travelers*; "Journeys to the Evil Axis: Being a Tourist in Syria, Iran, and North Korea" – followed by Q&A – Be sure to leave yourself time to enjoy a meal in one of Creede's delicious restaurants.



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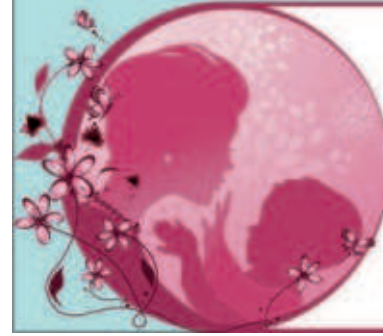
To enter, upload your photo on the link on our facebook or website ([alamosanews.com](http://alamosanews.com)), mail below or e-mail ([lsveum@alamosanews.com](mailto:lsveum@alamosanews.com)) by 12 pm Feb. 29, 2020. A photo album of the photographs will appear on website & facebook links every day, and in The Valley Courier newspaper every Tuesday edition. Don't forget to visit the website or facebook link and vote for your favorite by 12 pm Feb. 29, 2020!

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# Lifestyle

## Colo. forests bouncing back from beetles

### But elk and deer slowing recovery

**MINERAL COUNTY** — Two words and a tiny little creature strike fear in the hearts of many Colorado outdoor enthusiasts: bark beetle. But new research from University of Colorado Boulder reveals that even simultaneous bark beetle outbreaks are not a death sentence to the state's beloved forests.

The study, published this month in the journal *Ecology*, found that high-elevation forests in the southern Rocky Mountains actually have a good chance of recovery, even after overlapping outbreaks with different kinds of beetles. One thing that is slowing their recovery down: Foraging elk and deer.

"This is actually a bright point, at least for the next several decades," said Robert Andrus, lead author of the study and recent PhD graduate in physical geography. "Even though we had multiple bark beetle outbreaks, we found that 86% of the stands of trees that we surveyed are currently on a trajectory for recovery."

Between 2005 and 2017, a severe outbreak of spruce bark beetles swept through more than 741,000 acres of high-elevation forest in the southern Rocky Mountains near Wolf Creek Pass — killing more than 90% of Engelmann spruce trees in many stands. At the same time, the western balsam bark beetle infested subalpine fir trees across almost 124,000 acres within the same area.

If one goes skiing in Colorado where there is usually high-elevation, one will find Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir forest, said Andrus.

The researchers wanted to know if these overlapping events, caused by two different types of bark beetles, would limit the ability of the forest to recover. So, they measured more than 14,000 trees in 105 stands in the eastern San Juan Mountains, tallying the surviving species and the number of deaths. They had expected that the combined effects of two bark beetle outbreaks would prevent forest recovery, but they found that the forests were quite resilient.

That's an important contrast from what happens following a severe fire, which can cause forests to convert to grasslands, according to previous research by Thomas Veblen, coauthor of the study and distinguished professor of geography.

"It's important that we perform these sorts of studies because we need different management responses depending on the forest type and the kind of disturbance," Veblen said.

They also found that greater tree species diversity prior to the bark beetle outbreaks was a key component of resilient forests.

Tens of millions of acres across the western United States and North America have been affected in the past two decades, and Colorado has not been spared. A severe mountain pine beetle outbreak began in 1996, easily visible along I-70 and in Rocky Mountain National Park. Since 2000, more than 1.8 million acres of Engelmann spruce statewide have been affected by spruce beetles in high-elevation forests.

With continued warming there will come a time where conditions caused by climate change exceed the forests' ability to recover, Veblen said.

#### IMPACTS OF UNGULATES

The study is the first to consider the effects of two different types of beetles that affect two different dominant tree species, as well as the effects of browsing elk and deer in the same area.

Bark beetles prefer bigger, mature trees with thicker bark, which offer more nutrients and better protection in the wintertime. They typically leave the younger, juvenile trees alone — allowing the next generation to recover and repopulate the forest.

But while in the field, researchers noticed many smaller trees were being munched on by elk and deer. Known as "ungulates," these animals like to nibble the top of young trees, which can stunt the trees' vertical growth. They found more than half of the tops of all smaller trees had been browsed.

That doesn't mean that those trees are going to die — ungulates are just more likely to slow the rate of forest recovery.

Avid Colorado skiers and mountaineers looking forward to typical, green forests, however, will have to be patient.

"We don't expect full forest recovery for decades," Andrus said.

Sarah Hart, also a PhD graduate of Colorado University and now a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, contributed to this study.

Report courtesy of new release from [cunews@colorado.edu](mailto:cunews@colorado.edu).

## Ticks pose problems when it warms up

As the weather warms, ticks are out looking for a host to climb on and get a blood meal. Ticks are a significant concern because they can be infected with bacteria, viruses or parasites, says the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, tularemia, and babesiosis are just a few of the many tick-borne diseases. These pathogens can be passed to humans and pets via the bite of infected ticks.

In 2018, at least one variety of disease-transmitting tick had been found in all of the lower 48 states, according to the CDC. In addition, researchers at Cornell University identified 26 species of ticks along the East Coast alone. Preventing tick bites has never been more important. The process starts right in one's own backyard.

According to Consumer Reports and the New York State Integrated Pest Management Program, controlling wildlife that enters one's yard can help keep tick numbers down. Open access means animals can enter and so can ticks. Fencing and pest management solutions may help.

Other ideas include landscaping techniques that can reduce tick populations:

Ticks are problematic, but various measures can help control tick populations in a yard. GT194820



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# Lifestyle



Courtesy photo

In the Gunnison River gorge, CPW Aquatic Biologist Eric Gardunio, holds a whirling-disease resistant rainbow trout. CPW is stocking fish resistant to the disease throughout the state.

## Whirling Disease resistant rainbow trout a Colo. reality

**STATEWIDE** — Whirling Disease first impacted Colorado's rainbow trout in the mid-1990s and eliminated many wild populations of this popular sport fish.

The aquatic tragedy sparked a decades-long effort by Colorado Parks and Wildlife research scientists to find a remedy and re-establish populations.

Since 2003, the researchers have been crossing a strain of rainbow trout resistant to the disease with other strains of rainbows in the hope of developing a trout that would fend off whirling disease. Now, after more than 20 years of study, frustration, experimentation and dogged persistence by CPW's aquatic researchers, the tide has turned in the fight against the dreaded disease. Whirling-disease resistant rainbows are now thriving in the wild and the agency is collecting their spawn, enabling hatcheries to propagate millions of fish that will be distributed to rivers and streams throughout the state.

"Thanks to advance genetic testing, we know these fish are maintaining their resistance to whirling disease," said George Schisler, CPW's aquatic research chief. "Now they are surviving, reproducing and contributing to future generations of Gunnison River rainbows."

This long success story started on an August day in 1994 when former CPW researcher Barry Nehring, while walking the river bank in the Gunnison Gorge, noticed small fish swimming helplessly in circles. He knew immediately that the fish were infected with a microscopic spore that damages the cartilage of young fish and prevents them from swimming and developing normally. Whirling disease had arrived in the wild.

The disease was accidentally introduced to Colorado in the late 1980s when infected fish were imported to state and private hatcheries. After those fish were stocked in 40 locations, the spore spread and within a decade infected many rivers throughout state. The disease kills young fish, so eventually natural reproduction by wild rainbows ended across much of Colorado.

In search of a remedy, CPW scientists and biologists from wildlife agencies throughout the West started researching the disease in the late 1990s. At a national conference in Denver in 2002, a researcher from Europe who studied whirling disease gave a presentation about a strain of disease-resistant rainbow trout he'd found at a hatchery in Germany.

Schisler, working with the University of California-Davis, imported eggs and then tested the hatched fingerlings, known as Hofers — named after the German hatchery. He found they were 100 times more resistant to the disease than the various CPW rainbow strains.

He also learned that because these fish had been raised in a hatchery for decades, they showed no inkling of the flight response needed to elude predators in the wild. So, researchers started crossing them with wild strains, such as the Harrison Lake and Colorado River

rainbow to produce fish that exhibit wild behavior and maintain resistance to whirling disease. Those fish were stocked in rivers around the state and some natural reproduction started.

Biologists working in the East Portal Section of the Gunnison River gorge began documenting wild reproduction of rainbow trout in that location in the mid-2000s. These fish demonstrated strong resistance to whirling disease but also had instincts to survive in the wild. Through advanced genetic analysis, Schisler and his research partner, Eric Fetherman, determined that a DNA marker unique to the stocked Hofer-crosses appeared to have been incorporated into this population, resulting in observed resistance to the disease.

The researchers and agency aquatic biologists determined that developing a brood stock using the Gunnison River trout would be the best way to repopulate Colorado's rivers with wild rainbows. Since 2014, more than 500,000 eggs have been collected from these fish to stock into whirling-disease positive rivers and to create hatchery brood stocks.

The trout now has its own moniker: The Gunnison River Rainbow.

CPW's Glenwood Springs hatchery is propagating both the pure Gunnison River Rainbows and crosses of those fish and other strains of whirling disease-resistant rainbows. This summer more than 1.3 million of fingerling disease-resistant rainbows will be stocked in rivers and streams throughout the state.

The ultimate goal of the stocking effort is to restore natural reproduction in the wild, eliminating the need to stock rainbows in the future.

However, re-establishing the rainbows continues to be a long-term project. After rainbows vanished, brown trout took over Colorado's big rivers. They prey on the small rainbows that are stocked or hatch and compete for food and habitat with adult rainbows. Biologists say it will take many years for rainbows to become firmly established.

Research scientists don't declare victory easily, but Fetherman noted that the research project in the East Portal is officially closed. Populations across the state will continue to be monitored because the tiny worms that produce the spores causing whirling disease will likely always exist in Colorado's rivers.

"I feel like we've done some good work and these fish are ready to be stocked statewide," Fetherman said.

For more information on CPW's aquatic programs, go to: <https://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/Fishing.aspx>

CPW is an enterprise agency, relying primarily on license sales, state parks fees and registration fees to support its operations, including: 41 state parks and more than 350 wildlife areas covering approximately 900,000 acres, management of fishing and hunting, wildlife watching, camping, motorized and non-motorized trails, boating and outdoor education. CPW's work contributes approximately \$6 billion in total economic impact annually throughout Colorado.

## Spring season is on its way: celebrate uniqueness of equinox

The first day of spring is widely associated with a spirit of rejuvenation. But flowering plants and warming temperatures are not the only reasons to celebrate the arrival of the spring equinox.

According to the National Weather Service, the spring equinox, together with the autumnal equinox, is one of only two times of the year when Earth's axis is tilted neither toward nor away from the sun.

This results in a near-equal amount of daylight and darkness at all latitudes. The NWS notes that the nearly

equal hours of day and night results from a refraction of sunlight, or a bending of the light's rays that causes the sun to appear above the horizon, even though its actual position is below the horizon.

In 2020, the spring equinox in the northern hemisphere occurs on March 19.

While it's easy to embrace the arrival of spring as a mere harbinger of warmer weather to come, the first day of spring also is a great time to pause and reflect on just how unique the equinoxes are. TF203763

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# Living



Courtesy photo

## Don't brush off cat's dental health

February is Pet Dental Health Month, an opportunity for pet owners to check on the health of their furry friend's mouth.

While pet owners may be more familiar with the importance of the oral health of their dogs, cats especially are at risk for developing dental disease, so regular dental care is paramount to maintaining their healthy set of teeth.

Dr. Bert Dodd, a clinical professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, says oral diseases have serious repercussions on a cat's well-being and that the prevention of developing these, and similar conditions, should be the main goal of dental care.

"Cats are at risk for periodontal disease, caudal stomatitis, tooth resorption and oral cancer," Dodd said, adding that an at-home dental care routine for cats should include daily tooth brushing, a water additive, a dental diet and dental chews.

Liquid water additives that owners can add to their pet's water bowl can prevent a buildup of plaque and tartar. Many brands will also freshen your pet's breath.

Similarly, kibble dental diets are designed to gently scrape plaque and tartar from a cat's teeth

as it chews. Both water additives and dental diets promote dental health but should be used in addition to, not instead of, good oral hygiene and regular brushing.

Cat owners should brush the teeth of their feline friend daily, Dodd advised. Special feline toothbrushes and toothpaste can be purchased from most pet supply stores. Human toothpaste should never be used to clean the teeth of an animal, as cleaning agents harmless to humans may cause toxicity in pets.

When first implementing a dental care routine, pet owners may wish to consult with their veterinarian for advice on brushing techniques and acclimatizing their animal to a new routine.

"Dental care chew toys and treats for cats can also help clean the animal's teeth," Dodd said.

Aside from a regular at-home dental care routine, Dodd also said owners should bring their pet in annually for a dental cleaning and check-up. Since February is Pet Dental Health Month, many clinics may offer specials on dental care services in the coming weeks—now is a great time to schedule an appointment for one's pet.

Cats acting abnormally, including dropping their food, head shyness and

lack of self-grooming, might be suffering from dental problems. Cat owners should not ignore these signs and should seek veterinary help if they suspect their pet is unwell, Dodd said.

Preventative dental care efforts pay off in the long run by protecting a pet's mouth from disease and you from costly dental procedures. Though the notion of brushing a cat's teeth might seem silly, it is necessary to ensure that the pet feels its best.

*Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University.*

## Genetics tests confirm presence of wolves in Colorado

MOFFAT COUNTY — Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) biologists have received notification back from a genetics lab confirming that four scat samples collected near a scavenged elk carcass in Moffat County in early January came from wolves. This is the first official documentation of a pack of wolves in the state since the 1940s.

Of the four samples, DNA results indicate three are female and one is male. The testing was also able to determine that all the wolves were related, likely as full siblings.

"The DNA doesn't tell us the age," said CPW Species Conservation Program Manager Eric Odell. "We don't know where or when they were born. We can't say. But that there are closely related wolves is a pretty significant finding."

Odell also noted that "although previous reports had mentioned sightings of up to six wolves, this doesn't do anything to alter that estimate. Just because we only collected four scat samples doesn't mean there were only four animals."

CPW is still waiting to receive results back from scat samples collected at a potential wolf sighting in Moffat County on Jan. 19.

CPW would like to remind the public that wolves are a federally endangered species and fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, killing a wolf can result in federal charges, including a \$100,000 fine and a year in prison, per offense.

The public is urged to contact CPW immediately if they see or hear wolves or find evidence of any wolf activity. The Wolf Sighting Form can be found on the CPW website.

*Report courtesy of a press release from Travis Duncan, CPW statewide, 720-595-8294.*

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### 221 HELP WANTED

**SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL** District is currently seeking to hire a Health and Wellness Coordinator. This is a .5 position. This position will start immediately and will run through the duration of the grant 2022. Interested parties must have a minimum of an LPN license and must have experience working in public schools. The position calls for coordinating activities of service providers with other services in the school district, create systems and processes to track the schools' progress in attaining a culture of wellness. If interested, please apply to [apply@southconejos.com](mailto:apply@southconejos.com). Applications will be accepted through Tuesday, February 20, 2020. (2/20)

**FREE CERTIFIED NURSE AIDE** COURSE: River Valley Inn Nursing Home in Del Norte Colorado is offering a free Certified Nurse Aide class. Starting March 4, 2020 class will be on Wed/Thurs. Deadline for applicants is February 24th, 2020. Please come in for application, 1335 6th Street, Del Norte CO. 81132. (719)-657-1105 (RVI is an EOE) (2/19)

**EXPERIENCED DENTAL HYGIENIST** wanted. Established practice in Alamosa, full time or part time. Must have active license. Send resume to PO Box 1841 Alamosa, CO 81101. (1/15-TFN)

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**MONTE VISTA SCHOOL** District is accepting applications for a High School Head Volleyball Coach (with possible teaching positions available). 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 district website <http://ww2.monte.k12.co.us/employment-opportunities.html> or call 719-852-5996. (2/25)

### 221 HELP WANTED

**THE CITY OF** Alamosa is seeking a Full-time Maintenance Worker I for the Streets Department with a starting salary of \$14.42 - \$15.86 per hour DOQ. For more information and to apply visit [www.cityofalamosa.org](http://www.cityofalamosa.org) or City Hall at 300 Hunt Avenue. Protected by the EOE law. Closing date February 24, 2020 at 4:30 pm. (2/27)

**CENTER FOR RESTORATIVE** Programs seeks: LEAD / Wraparound Case Managers who will be responsible for providing intensive case management/wraparound services; working closely with community partners such as justice system partners, law enforcement, behavioral health, housing, human services, schools and workforce development. Ability to establish strong support and service plans for wraparound and other services being provided. Successful candidates will have experience providing wraparound services, intensive case management, working with individuals with behavioral health issues and working with community partners and families. Spanish speaking and wraparound experience a plus. Applicants should have a 3 years relevant experience. Email resume and cover letter to [carey@restorativeprograms.org](mailto:carey@restorativeprograms.org). Position open until filled. CRP is a EOE. (2/19)

### 221 HELP WANTED

**THE SAN LUIS** Valley Department of Human/Social Services is accepting proposals for an AND Navigator to serve the following counties: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, and Rio Grande/Mineral. This individual should be SOAR certified or commit to becoming certified within a quick timeframe. This is a contracted position whose primary function will be to assist DSS/DHS applicants with the application/appeal of SSI benefits. Please submit letter of interest and proposed outreach strategy that would illustrate how services will be managed in each of these counties to Nicholas Barela, P.O. BOX 68, Conejos, CO 81129 or [nicholas.barela@state.co.us](mailto:nicholas.barela@state.co.us). Please direct any questions to Nicholas Barela at (719) 376-5455. Closes 2/17/2020 (2/14)

**MONTE VISTA AREA** Ditch Companies seeking a ditch rider, experience preferred. Must have a valid CDL reliable transportation, Welding capabilities, able to run and maintain heavy equipment. Salary based on experience. Send resume to 147 Washington St., Monte Vista Co 81144 (2/18)

**PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST** NEEDED immediately. Need to be dependable. Bring resume to Valley Courier, Attention Keith. (TFN)

### 221 HELP WANTED

**SEEKING A PART-TIME** Family Advocate, with potential for full-time at a later date. The Family Advocate is responsible for the engagement, intake, assessment, internal triage, and case management for families seeking service at Adelante Family Resource Center. The Family Advocate works with families to create positive and long-term growth aimed to improve safety, stability, and self-efficacy by providing trauma-informed, strengths-based, solution focused, and culturally responsive services. Duties include assisting with client goal setting. Service/referral/resource navigation in the community, regular in-person visits at Adelante, in family homes and in the community. Additional responsibilities include collaboration with local community partners and other program staff, data tracking, reporting and adherence to program grant requirements. Bachelor's degree preferred with two years of experience working in the human serve field with direct client contact. Bi-lingual a plus. Please send cover letter and resume to: HR, PO BOX 1235, Alamosa, CO 81101 or email to [hr@lapuente.net](mailto:hr@lapuente.net) (2/18)

**HOST/HOUSTESS** NEEDED APPLY in person, at 506 State Street. Rubi Slipper must be flexible. No Phone calls. (2/15)

### 221 HELP WANTED

**THE ALAMOSA POLICE** Department is seeking a FT Police Officer, \$19.86 per hour to join the Alamosa Police Department. Some duties include, protecting the lives, health, welfare, and property of individuals within the city limits by enforcing municipal, state, and federal statutes, ordinances, and laws. For a full job description and to apply please visit the [cityofalamosa.org](http://cityofalamosa.org). Open until filled. (3/3 #1)

**SIERRA GRANDE SCHOOL** District is currently accepting applications for a High School Spanish Teacher/ELL Director. Applicants must have a current state certification/license or in the process of receiving a certification/license and enrolled in an educational program for completion or endorsement. Application forms are available at the district office located at 17523 E. Hwy 160 Blanca, CO 81123 or on the District's website at [www.sierragrandschool.net](http://www.sierragrandschool.net) Applications may be submitted to Mr. Brandon Mizokami at [bmizokami@sierragrandschool.net](mailto:bmizokami@sierragrandschool.net) For more information please contact Mrs. DeAnn Arellano at 719-379-3257. (2/22)

**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)

### 112 - BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

**LICENSED PLUMBER** DOES all types of plumbing repairs and plumbing remodel done at reasonable rate. Call 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (3/5)

### 221 HELP WANTED

**ALAMOSA COUNTY** TREASURER and Public Trustee, job opening for Accounting Technician. Please visit [alamosacounty.org](http://alamosacounty.org) for job application and details. 37.5 hours per week (full time with benefits) \$14-\$14.50 per hour. Must have experience with Treasurer's Deeds, releases, foreclosures and banking and cash management. Deadline to apply is 2/21/2020. (2/21)

**BLANCA/ FT. GARLAND** Community Center is currently accepting applications for part time front desk receptionist, for nights and weekend. Applications may be picked up and submitted at the Blanca/ Ft. Garland Community Center 17591 Hwy. 160 Blanca CO 81123. Until position is filled. For more information contact Tomas Maestas at 719-379-3450. (2/21)

**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](mailto:bstagner@sangreschools.org). Teaching applications may be downloaded from [sdc.schools.net](http://sdc.schools.net) or picked up at school office. Positions open until filled. (2/21)

**SARGENT SCHOOL DISTRICT** is accepting applications for a Current Secondary English Teacher position. Please visit our website for additional information and application: [www.sargent.k12.co.us](http://www.sargent.k12.co.us) or call 719-852-4023. Applications accepted until position filled. EOE (2/27)

**CONEJOS COUNTY** IS seeking a Heavy Equipment Operator/Driver/Laborer. Applicant must be able to operate a loader, grader, belly dump, and drive a semi, must have a class A Commercial Drivers License, clean driving record and pass a pre-employment drug screen. \$16.25/HR County application form required. Applications available at County Human Resources/Administration Office 6683 County Rd. 13, Conejos CO, or via email upon request at [criccico@co.conejos.co.us](mailto:criccico@co.conejos.co.us). Deadline is Thursday, February 20, 2020. Inquiries call (719) 376-6799. (2/20)

**DEL NORTE ELEMENTARY** School is seeking an energetic, caring candidate to serve as a PARA-EDUCATOR. Applicants must have a high school diploma. Please submit your application to Amy Duda, DNES Principal at 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO 81132; [aduda@urtigers.co](mailto:aduda@urtigers.co); or call 719-657-4030. The position will be opened until filled. Please pick up an application at the District Office or online at [dnscsd.org](http://dnscsd.org). (2/27)

**CDL TRUCK DRIVER** needed in hay hauling operation. Class A CLD in good standing, Drug testing required, Competitive payHome on most evenings and on weekends Please call 719-588-4481 for more information (2-16)

Make a difference, not just a living!



Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.

Accepting applications for the following positions

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Please visit our website for more details: <https://vwhs.org/careers/>

**\$30,000+**

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Send resume to: [KCerny@alamosanews.com](mailto:KCerny@alamosanews.com)



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# Advertisers: You have job openings... we have workers. ALL LOCAL!



Valley Courier

West Fork Complex at 79,000 acres

Alamosa fireworks are postponed

Ox Cart Fire spawns spot fires on Tuesday



Valley Courier

13,000 Readers

Call 719-589-2553 to place your help wanted ad today! Hurry, the deadline is noon.



# Classifieds

### 221 HELP WANTED

**ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY:** Counseling, Career and Accessibility Services Adams State University seeks applicants for Counseling Services Coordinator of Accessibility services. AAEOE. For more information visit: [https://www.adams.edu/hr/administrative-positions/\(2/19\)](https://www.adams.edu/hr/administrative-positions/(2/19))

### 351 LIVESTOCK

**PIGS FOR SALE** \$1.00 lb. live weight. 570-395-0184 (TFN)

### 360- MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

**RAMSEY 12 VOLT** Pro 8000R Series #817508 wench 93 ft. 5/16 cable. Remote switch, roller fairlead. 719-852-2285 (10/22-TFN)

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

### 369 - PETS & SUPPLIES

**FOR ADOPTION:** 4 little black puppies, part boxer. Males and females. Call or come by Valley Humane League 589-3385

**FOR ADOPTION: SUNSHINE!** an adorable little black chihuahua mix. She is a small lap dog and partially house trained. She gets along with other dogs and cats. Please call Valley Humane League for more information. At this time she is in foster care but we can bring her to meet you at the shelter. 589-3385

### 324 - FEED & SEED

**PREMIUM TARPED** AND shedded grass hay 3x3 Bales 750 lbs. near Monte, CO. 719-588-8506. Discounts for larger amounts. (2/25)

**PREMIUM ALFALFA** AND grass/alfalfa, small bales \$7.00 in hay shed (719) 580-2509. (03/18)

**HORSE AND COW** hay: grass, grass/alfalfa, alfalfa. 3x3 and 4x4 bales, various quality and pricing. 719-850-8917 (7-13-TFN)

### 330 FREE

**BARN CATS CALL** 719-379-4179.(2/14)

### 345 WOOD

**WOOD FOR SALE!** \$145.00 a cord. Call 719-588-1183. (2/7 TFN)

### 369 - PETS & SUPPLIES

**VALLEY DOG TRAINING,** Alamosa. Obedience agility classes \$50. 6 weeks 719-379-4157 for information. (2/18)

**ALL DOGS ADOPTED FROM THE VALLEY HUMANE LEAGUE HAVE TO BE SPAYED OR NEUTERED BEFORE GOING TO THEIR NEW HOME.** (TFN)

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

### 387 - WANTED TO BUY

**LOOKING FOR A** 2 or 3 bedroom mobile home 1981 or higher for \$15,000 or under. Call or text 719-580-9525(TFN-E)

### 409 FARM & RANCH LAND

**FOR LEASE: 126** acres under pivot for hemp, near Moffat, CO. Please Call (719) 942-3286 or email [kkennedy163@gmail.com](mailto:kkennedy163@gmail.com)(3/3)

### 415 - HOMES FOR SALE

**PORTER REALTY, INC.**  
Excellent Service, Expert Advice  
**719-589-5899**  
503 Main Street • Alamosa  
[www.PorterRealty.com](http://www.PorterRealty.com)

**NEW**  
**\$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

**\$279,900** - Well-kept manufactured home on 35 acres with 1 share of Commonwealth irrigation water. This 5 bedroom home is in excellent condition and has 3 full bathrooms and over 2000 square feet of total living space. The detached shop on the property has all the room you need. Additional outbuildings with storage. Immaculate yard and more than enough irrigation water for the property. This is a rare opportunity to buy a home between Alamosa and Monte Vista at this price point. Call today for more details! 5799 E County Road 2, Monte Vista MLS # 765673

**\$200,000** - Country home north of Alamosa that sits on 5 acres. 5 bedroom, 1 3/4 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

**NEW**  
**\$159,000** - Excellent start home or investment property north of Main street in Alamosa, CO. This 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, 1 car garage home, has updated floors, paint, boiler, and hot water heater. A must-see at this price point! 211 Alamosa Ave, Alamosa MLS # 766364

### 415 - HOMES FOR SALE

**1 BEDROOM GARAGE** carport fenced front and back yard, and workshop. \$600/Mo. 719-850-6055.(2/25)

**HOUSE IN ALAMOSA** For Sale. 5 Bedrooms 2.5 Bathrooms call or text 719-496-6795 or 719-480-0960. (2/20)

**IN ALAMOSA, 206** and 212 Bonney Dr. 3 Bedrooms, 1 bathroom. \$140,000/ each OBO call 719-480-3777. (2/18)

**DEL NORTE COLORADO,** Owner Finance, 3 Bedroom 2 Bathroom \$1000/Mo. 719-253-2978.(2/15)

**2 HOMES/ 5.25** Acres, Trees!, 3 wells!, Extra electric System, Trees!, Corral. \$184,000.00 970-640-9562.(3/13)

### 420 - LOTS & ACREAGE

**25 ACRES AT** Sangre de Cristo Ranches, with Elec. 200' water well, Sangre de Cristo creek runs through it. 80 acres 2 1/2 miles west of San Acacio call Al Lopez 719-588-2930/719-843-0930.(2/25)

### 525 GUNS

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

### 601 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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Alamosa • 589-5744

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For all your rental needs please call 719-589-5744 or stop by 823 Main St. Alamosa, CO 81101  
[www.alamosarentals.com](http://www.alamosarentals.com)

### 601 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**AFFORDABLE 1 BEDROOM** apartment for rent in Alamosa and a studio apartment for rent in Monte Vista. Call (719)850-2069. (2/27)

### 611 - HOMES FOR RENT

**3 BEDROOM 1** Bathroom propane and wood heat fenced yard room for livestock. 970-640-9562.(2/22)

**BEAUTIFUL NEWLY RENOVATED** home for rent, great views of Mt. Blanca and The Sand Dunes. Attached garage, \$1,150/Mo. 9 miles east of Alamosa, No smoking. 719-588-0304. (2/19)

### 634 - ROOMMATE WANTED

**MATURE WOMEN LOOKING** for a female roommate for a female roommate to share a 3 bedroom house. For information call 719-589-6921 or 719-588-0813.(2/19)

### 702 - AUTOS FOR SALE

**1958 CHEVY 2** door Vin # 174047. Southside Salvage and Towing (2/21)

### 717 WATER SHARES

**AUGMENTATION WATER SHARE** of Middlemist water for sale 719-588-3224. (2/28)

# Quick ZIP CODE Reference

Alamosa.....	81101
Adams State College.....	81102
Antonito.....	81120
Blanca.....	81123
Bountiful.....	81140
Capulin.....	81124
Center.....	81125
Chama.....	81126
Conejos.....	81129
Creede.....	81130
Crestone.....	81131
Del Norte.....	81132
Ft. Garland.....	81133
Garcia.....	81134
Homelake.....	81135
Hooper.....	81136
Jaroso.....	81138
La Garita.....	81132
La Jara.....	81140
La Sauses.....	81151
La Valley.....	81153
Manassa.....	81141
Moffat.....	81143
Mogote.....	81120
Monte Vista.....	81144
Mosca.....	81146
Romeo.....	81148
Saguache.....	81149
San Acacio.....	81151
Sanford.....	81151
San Luis.....	81152
San Pablo.....	81153
South Fork.....	81154
Spar City.....	81130
Villa Grove.....	81155

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- Tractor Mowing
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FREE Estimates  
We Welcome Insurance Claims  
**L&M**  
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# Comics

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Web diary
  - 5 Spanish "that"
  - 8 Gridiron letters
  - 11 Bumpkin
  - 13 Quagmire
  - 14 Pamplona yell
  - 15 Painter's device
  - 16 Moth or ant
  - 17 Court figures, briefly
  - 18 Takes into custody
  - 20 Klutzy
  - 22 Censure
  - 24 Billy — Williams
  - 25 Telephone ABC
  - 26 — spumante
  - 28 Mouse target?
  - 32 Suitcase
  - 33 Where Anna met a king
  - 34 Leah's son
  - 35 Lop off
  - 37 Ticklish Muppet
  - 39 Karate level
  - 40 Tempo
- DOWN**
- 1 So long!
  - 2 Mauna —
  - 3 Approves
  - 4 Ms. Davis of films
  - 5 Subsidies
  - 6 Old French coin
  - 7 Farming major
  - 8 Bump
  - 9 Swing to and fro
  - 10 In case
  - 12 Pack animals
  - 19 Attack
  - 21 Astronaut — Armstrong
  - 22 Safari leader
  - 23 Mr. Spock's forte
  - 24 Faintest
  - 25 Cook's meas.
  - 27 Rangy
  - 29 Evergreen
  - 30 Running tracks
  - 31 Muse count
  - 36 Bushel part
  - 38 One way to shop
  - 44 "Laughing" animal
  - 46 Consumers
  - 47 Not at risk
  - 48 Infamous czar
  - 49 Pince-nez part
  - 50 Look at impertinently
  - 53 Rock band booking
  - 55 Cry of contempt
  - 56 Temple inst.
  - 57 Flowery garland

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- 7 Farming major
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- 19 Attack
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- 49 Pince-nez part
- 50 Look at impertinently
- 53 Rock band booking
- 55 Cry of contempt
- 56 Temple inst.
- 57 Flowery garland

## ALLEY OOP

A man in a suit asks a woman, "I'll be right back. I'll see if I can get the lowdown from another local." She replies, "Good day, kind sir. Might I have a cup of tea?" He returns with a teacup and says, "Can't afford tea - the British taxes are too high. Would you like the next best thing?" She asks, "What is it?" He offers, "Roasted parsnip broth." She tastes it and says, "It's... delicious."

## ARLO & JANIS

Arlo and Janis are in bed. Arlo says, "Turning in so early?" Janis replies, "Had you there, didn't I?"

## BIG NATE

Mallory says, "Happy Valentine's Day!" Nate asks, "For me?" She says, "Of course for you! A homemade card from yours truly!" Nate replies, "I'm betting that you're ready to love again now that you've broken up with Connor!" Mallory says, "That was fifteen seconds ago! I believe in being proactive."

## THE BORN LOSER

A man offers a woman a box of chocolates. She says, "Sweets for the sweet, my love! Happy Valentine's Day!" He replies, "There aren't any chocolates in the box, just a note!" She reads the note and says, "That's an I.O.U. Sorry - you know I can't resist chocolate-covered cherries!"

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

A group of people are talking. One says, "They're closing the gym - did you call your dad to come and get us?" Another replies, "Not yet." A third says, "So? Let's do something! Let's party! Go for it!" A fourth says, "Eeoww! Freedom! Anybody got any money?" A fifth replies, "Uh... no." A sixth says, "Hi, Dad... uh... could you come and get us?"

## FRANK & ERNEST

Frank and Ernest are at an airport. Ernest says, "These pets with wheels that lots of people travel with are very standoffish."

## GARFIELD

Garfield asks, "Do you know what I want for my birthday, Garfield?" Odie replies, "To be nice to me?" Garfield says, "No, that's not it." Odie asks, "Are you sure?"

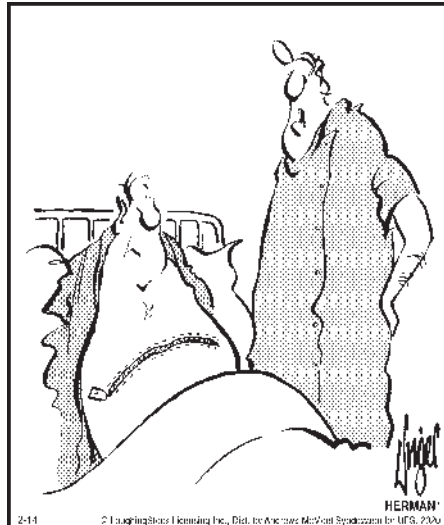
## THE GRIZZWELLS

A man says, "Do you ever wonder why we waste so much time sitting and staring into space?" A woman replies, "Oh, right." He says, "Because we forget where that old television set is."

## PEANUTS

Woodstock says, "Cancel the dinner?" Linus replies, "We can't cancel the dinner! Everyone is already here! Everyone is already seated! Even the guest of honor is here!" Woodstock says, "It's all hypocritical... we're not really sincere... we're all going to say things about Charlie Brown that we don't really believe, and it's all hypocritical!" Linus says, "I would have enjoyed even a hypocritical dinner."

## HERMAN



"If we have to go in there again it will save you a bundle."

## 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.

"BAN OTAX BAN'ZW CT SAKW XUWT  
 BAN RYT'E MYSS YVSWWF JWRYNVW  
 EUW ZWYSCEB CV MCTYSSB JWEEWZ  
 EUYT BANZ IZWYHV." — IZ. VWNV V

TODAY'S CLUE: V stands for X

Previous Solution: "Education ... I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in." — Abe Lincoln

## Blind date begins love story that has lasted for 55 years

DEAR ABBY: I met my lady on a blind date many years ago. When I knocked on the door, it opened and this beautiful girl was standing there. Thinking I could never be so lucky, I asked, "Is your sister home?" No. She was my date.

We dated for a few months, fell in love and got married. We have had a wonderful 55-year marriage, and it gets sweeter every day. We handle different opinions with courtesy and respect.

I'm 81 now, and hugging and kissing her fills my heart with warmth and happiness. The greatest joy in my life is to love and be loved. I wish everyone the same. -- ECSTATIC IN NEW JERSEY

DEARECSTATIC: Congratulations on 55 years of happiness. Thank you for sharing your love story with my readers and me. Today, I wish them -- and you and your lovely wife -- a very Happy Valentine's Day.

DEAR ABBY: My sister recently self-published a book that purportedly honors my mother's service in World War II. Her book is completely inaccurate. It is filled with romantic fantasy and historical errors, and cheapens my mother's real service with untruths.

My sister is now busy selling and promoting the book with interviews and book signings. My mother, if she were still alive, would be embarrassed and ap-

palled. I don't want to cause a family feud, but I feel if I remain silent, I'm helping to perpetuate something that is wrong on multiple levels. What, if anything, should I do? -- READING A LOT INTO IT

DEAR READING: I am sure your late mother was an amazing woman whose story didn't need embroidering. It may be a blessing she isn't around to see what your sister has done to it. Because the book is now in print, it's too late to "stop the presses." If you try to discredit what was written, it will very likely cause a rift, and I don't recommend it. Wish your sister luck and cross your fingers that it won't become a bestseller.

DEAR ABBY: My brother lives in another state. He was never a good brother. He has always been self-centered, controlling and condescending. He is no longer in good health. Some time ago, he named me as his power of attorney for financial and health issues. I am elderly and have my own issues, so, should the need arise, it would be difficult for me to travel to where he is.

He has never been open, so I don't know who his health care providers are, who his banker or investment people are, etc., so, even if I were to go, I'd have no idea where to start to act on his behalf and according to his wishes. I don't even know what his wishes are, for that matter.



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

Because of his caustic personality, he has few friends and no family of his own. How do I resign as his power of attorney so there is no assumption by anyone that I would be a responsible party for him? -- UNABLE IN THE WEST

DEAR UNABLE: Discuss this with your attorney to be sure you have all your i's dotted and your t's crossed. Then write your brother a letter. Explain that because you have no information about his doctors, his wishes about end-of-life planning, his banker or investment adviser -- plus the fact that your own health isn't the greatest -- you hereby resign as his power of attorney. Send the letter via registered mail so he will have to sign for it, and there will be proof that your brother received it.



# Lifestyle

## Wetlands and water — you saw them then, now you don't

By **LISA CYRICACKS**  
Valley Publishing

**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — Peggy Godfrey, Saguache County representative to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) board, has been looking for water — more specifically the water she believes has been displaced from lower Saguache Creek and San Luis Creek into the Rio Grande Closed Basin Project.

Prompted by board members requesting a work session at the September meeting, and in receipt of letters including a letter from the Saguache County Commissioners, the RGWCD board met Jan. 16 in public session to review the research prepared by Godfrey.

Godfrey, with the support of the Saguache County Commissioners, said the Valley did not receive its usual monsoons.

August waterflow was at 163%, Sept. 76%, and it stood at only 60% of normal in October.

“We had senior rights called out in September and October last year that had never been called out,” McDermott commented this past Tuesday, meaning their water use was curtailed. The dry months caused problems in meeting water delivery to New Mexico and Texas in fulfillment of the Rio Grande Water Compact.

The Division of Water Resources had projected 60,000 acre-feet from the rains, which did not materialize. So ditches dried up this fall because 100% of that water was owed to New Mexico and Texas.

Out of the original 929,000 acre-feet, the dry summer meant over half of that amount had to be delivered across state lines, amounting to 561,300 acre-feet.

At the conference, McDermott estimated that the Rio Grande side of the compact will have a credit of 900 acre-feet.

While moisture was at a low in November, it has “recovered nicely,” he said, and Tuesday moisture levels stood at 108% of normal, with the southern Sangre de Cristo Range “in good shape.” The forecast predicts a dry spring for the southwest, but nowhere near 2002 levels, he concluded.

**CRAIG COTTEN**

Division Engineer Craig Cotten spoke next, announcing that Judge Michael Gonzales is the new water judge for the Valley.

Gonzales is the one who will enforce the upcoming Rio Grande Compact restrictions under article 7.

These groundwater rules were approved in 2019 for all nonexempt wells in Division 3, except for those wells around San Luis. These wells must remedy depletions to ditch water rights.

Ground water rules will see a two-year, phase-in period and subdistricts must be in compliance by 2021. Augmentation plans must be filed by March 15 or must go to a substitute water supply plan.

**CLEVE SIMPSON**

Rio Grande Water Conservation District Director Cleve Simpson said his district has an “exceptional staff” helping to manage the subdistricts.

The district also works on other things pertaining to the state legislature. The Rio Grande Natural Area and other entities also are managed by the district.

Simpson introduced his subdistrict managers who reported on the progress of each district.

**HEATHER DUTTON**

Dutton, manager for the SLV Water Conservation District, said augmentation projects have been in place in five counties since the 1980s.

She said he District has the majority of the Transmountain Ditch and owns several water rights. Augmentation is available for domestic, commercial, agricultural and municipal wells.

It is also available for agricultural purposes, “but gets quite expensive,” she said. Dutton provided a table for potato growers to help them estimate the cost of augmentation for their operations.

## Winter tree watering necessary during drought conditions

**SOUTHWEST COLO.** — Despite lots of snow falling in many regions of Colorado recently, much of the southwest area of the state is currently experiencing some level of drought, according to the National Drought Mitigation Center.

Trees in urban and community settings throughout this area are dormant now, but still require occasional watering during dry winters to remain in top health.

Vince Urbina, urban and community forestry manager for the Colorado State Forest Service, says both established and recently planted trees in Colorado — especially at lower elevations — often require additional watering in the winter months during extended dry periods, which is for more than two weeks without lasting snow cover.

“Adding winter water to your trees now is the best way to ensure optimum health and vigor for the growing season,” Urbina said. “Overly dry trees become susceptible to root and branch die-back and subsequent insect and disease problems.”

The CSFS offers the following winter watering tips:

- Water when it is warm. The best time for winter watering is on days when snow has melted off and the temperature is above 40 degrees.
- Water a wide area. Tree root systems may spread much wider than the height of the tree, with most absorbing roots in the top foot of soil. Apply water to soak the entire area underneath the full span of a tree's branches.
- Water slowly. To ensure deep penetration, use a drip or soaker hose on a low setting (or soft spray wand) to apply water slowly to the full area at the rate of 10 gallons per inch of tree diameter.
- Retain mulch. To retain soil moisture and save water, apply 4 inches of organic mulch onto bare soil within 2 to 3 feet from the base of the trunk, but not directly against the trunk.
- Repeat as necessary. Until spring precipitation arrives, be sure to continue watering every few weeks in the absence of snow and colder temperatures.

For more information about urban tree care, visit the CSFS website at [csfs.colostate.edu](http://csfs.colostate.edu).

Report courtesy of a press release from Teddy Parker-Renga, associate director of communications and communities, Colorado State Forest Service.



Saguache Creek flowing through Saguache County.

Courtesy photo

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