



CHSAA Coaches Poll Rankings for Boys Basketball.



First Christmas at new park.

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VOLUME 94, NO. 31

Valley Courier

THURSDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

FEBRUARY 13, 2020

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SLV Today Presidents Day pancake supper

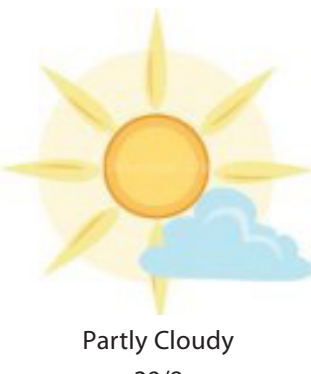
CENTER — The Kiwanis Club of Center will be hosting its 64th annual Presidents' Day Pancake Supper from 4:30-7 p.m. on Monday at the New Center School Cafeteria. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children, with those who are 6-under dining for free. Package sausage will be available for \$4 per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

NCSDBOD 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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Partly Cloudy 39/8 Fri.: Mostly Sunny 45/10 Sat.: Sunny 47/16

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DeGette safeguards wilderness

House approves legislation to protect over 660,000 acres of Colorado land

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. House of Representatives has approved legislation to permanently protect nearly 1.4 million acres of wilderness in Colorado, California and Washington. The legislation, introduced by U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO), is the largest wilderness-protection package the House has approved in more than a decade. It would permanently protect

more than 660,000 acres of wilderness in DeGette's home state of Colorado, 630,700 acres in California and 131,700 acres in Washington. The bill also adds nearly 1,000 miles of river to the National Wild and Scenic River Systems. "We have been working on this legislation for more than 20 years," DeGette said. "The areas that will be protected under this bill are some of the most beautiful and pristine landscapes that our country has to offer. And by officially designating them as wilderness, as this bill does, we will finally be providing them the permanent protection they deserve." The legislation, approved by a vote of 231-183, will provide the nearly 1.4 million acres of wilderness included in the bill with the highest level of permanent land protection available, ensur-

ing they remain untouched and available for future generations to enjoy. By designating the areas as wilderness, they become permanently protected from the threat of any future logging, mining, drilling, road building or any other type of development on that land. Instead, the untouched wilderness areas are preserved for

See WILD page 3



Courtesy image

A perfect, romantic treat

Take sweetie pie to a Valentine's Day show

ALAMOSA — Dating, laughter and romance for Valentine's Day week. A perfect romantic treat. The Adams State University Theatre Department will be presenting two one-act plays just in time for the heart-filled holiday. "Courting 101" and "Check Please" beginning at 7:30 p.m. nightly through Feb. 15, in the Experimental Theatre. "Check Please," written by Jonathan Rand, and directed by Travis Romero, is about the absolute worst of dating and the absolute absurdity of the dating world. "Each character on stage is looking for love and they want to fall in love, but is love really worth it when the person across

from you pretends you're not even there," Romero said. "Check Please" is a perfect, little comedy for your Valentine's Day woes. Maybe a show about bad dates will help one find his or her perfect match." Romero's favorite part of directing was working with like-minded people and creating good times in the space while working towards a shared goal. "Having these nine actors all together and all contributing was wonderful," she added. "Courting 101," written by Yuri Baranovsky, is directed by Madeline Bush. The one-act is a short, crisp play, whose plot includes a professor lecturing about dating as he has two students act through absurd scenarios.

"At the performances you will witness an evening of embarrassment during the worst dates possible and the laughter found in those moments," Bush said. "During my four years here, the Adams State Theatre has rarely opened a second-semester season with such raucous comedies." Bush appreciated the collaboration with her cast. "My cast is one of the most cohesive I have ever worked with," she said. "It has brought me great joy to work on this project and I hope you enjoy watching the show as much as I have enjoyed pulling it together."

Linda Relyea, assistant director of Communications, Adams State University | public relations.

Hurst running to be Alamosa County Clerk and Recorder

ALAMOSA — Jaclyn (Gabel) Hurst has declared her candidacy for Alamosa County Clerk and Recorder. Hurst said: "She is ready to step up, lead the office, and serve her county in a bigger way." She brings over 11 years of experience, working in the clerk and recorder's offices; in Rio Grande County for five years and currently in Alamosa County since 2013. As a woman of integrity, she wants to continue to lead the office in a positive direction, building upon the foundation her predecessor left. She feels there is always room for improvement when working for the county and while serving the public. Hurst considers herself a "Valley girl." She moved to the Valley when she was three years old with her mom, Debora, and her brother, Jared Gabel.

Hurst graduated from Alamosa High School. She was active in 4-H and FFA. In 2002, she was crowned Miss Ski-Hi Stampede Queen where she promoted the sport of rodeo throughout the Colorado. After high school, she attended Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, where she earned her Associate's degree. Customer service is important to Hurst. She does her best to relate to each customer and treats each one with respect while following "rules and statues." She has experience working under three different clerks' management styles. She is familiar and does well with time management, meeting deadlines and paying attention to detail. Through the years, she has strengthened her skills in the industry by becoming a certified registrar for birth and death records. In addition, Hurst



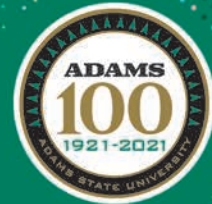
Jaclyn (Gabel) Hurst has successfully completed several certified courses to attain and maintain her certification in election training. She gives credit to the astounding examples taught by her mother and brother while growing up. Hurst stays active in her comby attending events and supporting local groups. She is looking forward to serving the community as Alamosa County Clerk.

Report courtesy of Hurst.

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 at Juanito's Restaurant, 1019 6th Street. And 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. Come hear updates about all of these City departments. To find out more about Rotary International, visit www.rotary.org. For more information about the Alamosa Rotary Club, visit its Facebook page or contact club president Chris Quintana at chris.quintana@slvfd.com. The club meets at noon Mondays at Juanito's in Alamosa and everyone is welcome to attend.

ADAMS STATE GIVES DAY + MONDAY, FEB. 17
LIVE TALENT SHOW & TELETHON
5-7 PM: Facebook live | webcast: adams.edu/live | or join us at Richardson Hall



Record

OBITUARIES

Wayne 'Babo' Carter Thomas, 58



SAN LUIS VALLEY — La Jara 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.

Dyami Brandon Maestas, 35

SAN LUIS — Colorado Springs and former San Luis resident Dyami Brandon Maestas, 35, went peacefully to his eternal rest on Feb. 8, 2020 after a long battle with his Type 1 diabetes.

Dyami was born on July 25, 1984 in Colorado Springs, the son of Huberto J. Maestas and Dana Valdez Maestas.

After graduating from Sierra Grande High School in 2003, he went on to attend the Colorado Art Institute where he excelled at his studies in the Culinary Arts field.

After completing school he worked at many different restaurants on the 16th Street Mall in Denver.

Dyami was an exceptional and fun loving son, brother, uncle, cousin and friend who enjoyed cooking, playing video games, attending cosplay conventions, watching anime, and designing and making costumes and accessories for himself and other cosplay friends.

He was a very artistic, creative person who loved sculpting, experimenting with recipes and making delicious meals. He made the best homemade Mac and cheese and his specialty was menudo.

He loved spending time with his niece, nephews, friends and family.

He will live on through his parents Huberto and Dana Maestas of San Luis; sister, Bianca Maestas (Sergey Bagdasrov) of Denver/Twin Falls, Idaho; brothers, Derrick



Maestas (Genelle Benker) of Seattle; Aubin Maestas of Alamosa; niece, Soleil Maestas; nephews, Amyas Maestas and Cypress Maestas; his best friend since grade school and roommate, Allen Crow of Colorado Springs. He is also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Dyami was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Evan and Louisa Valdez; paternal grandparents, Donald and Olivia Maestas; uncle, Matthew Lynn Valdez; cousins, Adrianna Luz Valdez and Thalia Feliz Garcia.

A vigil service with recitation of the rosary will be held on Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020 at 1 p.m. at Sangre de Cristo Catholic Church in San Luis.

A memorial mass will follow at 1:30 p.m. Inurnment will be held at a later date.

To leave online condolences, please visit romero-funeralhomes.com. The care of arrangements have been entrusted to Romero Funeral Home of San Luis.

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

ALAMOSA — The Optimist Club of Alamosa meets at Nino's Restaurant in Alamosa the first and third Tuesdays at noon. Contact the club at alamoastoptimistclub@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

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

ALAMOSA — 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.

OBITUARIES

Camilo Mansanarez, 90



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, Davis 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.

Camilo was a veteran of the Korean War, serving as a construction engineer, specializing in restoring destroyed buildings. 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 continued 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. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your preferred Diabetes Foundation. Donations can be made in care of the mortuary.

PENDING OBITUARY

Adriano Sanchez, 73

CHAMA—Chama resident Adriano Sanchez, 73, passed away peacefully Feb. 12, 2020.

Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Romero Valley Funeral Home of San Luis.

COURIER POLICY ON OBITUARIES

The Courier charges \$30 for each obituary per day. Pending arrangements or death notices are free. This charge affects funeral homes, family or other representatives that place obituaries. All paid obituaries are published on www.alamosanews.com, for no additional fee.

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

ONGOING VALLEY MEETINGS

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

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

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 & Lamplighting School. Contact Martin at 575-758-5876 or 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 Wand Couzens-Smith for more information at (719) 852-5000 or 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 Mullins, 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 learning-by-doing environment that allows them to achieve their goals at their own pace. Call (719) 588-5127.

ALAMOSA — The GFWC Woman's Citizenship Club of Alamosa meets on the second Friday at noon from September through May at First United Methodist Church, NW door, 2005 Mullins Ave. For more information, please email: womancitizenshipclub@gmail.com

ALAMOSA — Made up of community members who write in many different genres, the Sophia Circle meets weekly to provide support for writers and their writing projects in the downstairs conference room at the Colorado Welcome Center at Alamosa, 6th and State on Sundays from 1-3 p.m.. Writers may drop in on any meeting. Bring copies of the work you want to share. Call Holly at 719-588-7066.

CENTER — The Center Kiwanis meets every Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the Kiwanis Hall in Center. Contact Dick Ramstetter at 719-580-3329.

ALAMOSA — Silver Linings, an open and free positivity group, meets Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. at Nestle Toll House Café in downtown Alamosa.

ALAMOSA — Groups are held for women who have experienced domestic violence every second Tuesday from 5-6 p.m. at the Grizzly Training Center, Alamosa. There will be refreshments and childcare provided. Contact Jennifer McCoy-Hanna at Tu Casa, Inc. 719-589-2465.

ALAMOSA — Grief support group meets the first Tuesday of every month at 300 Hunt at the Alamosa Public Library from 5:30-6:30 p.m. For more information, call Liz Hood, 580-3697.

School Menu
--- Thursday ---
Feb. 13, 2020

BREAKFAST
Breakfast Bites
Juice & Fruit

ELEMENTARY
Grilled Chicken Sandwich
Potato Salad
Vegetable Bar

SECONDARY
Domino's Pizza
French Fries
Vegetable Bar

An assortment of fresh fruit and canned fruit as well as fresh vegetables and canned vegetables will be offered weekly. Menu subject to change.
To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553

SAVE ON FUEL!
SHOP LOCALLY

Valley News

Spirit of Giving Program on display

LDS church hosts Stake Conference

ALAMOSA — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints will hold its semi-annual Stake Conference on Saturday-Sunday.

It will be held at the Alamosa Stake Center at 927 Weber Drive.

The General Adult session will take place at 6 p.m. on Saturday and the Priesthood Leadership session will be held at 8 a.m. on Sunday, and the General Session, which will be broadcast into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints building located at 3rd and Richardson, also will be held at 11 a.m. on Sunday.

All are welcome to attend.

Trustees meet in Denver

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Board of Trustees will meet today-Friday in Denver. Members of the public can listen to the public proceedings by phoning 877-820-7831; pass code 2818138#.

Donate canned beans Mon.-Fri.

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Food Bank is seeking donations of canned beans. If able, please bring donations to 513 6th St. Monday-Friday from noon-4 p.m.

SKI-HI 6 SHOWTIMES

719-589-4471

- Tues - Thurs: 5:30, 8:15
BIRDS OF PREY
Mind over mayhem - Margot Robbie R
- Tues - Thurs: 5:25, 8:10
BAD BOYS FOR LIFE
Will Smith, Martin Lawrence R
- Tues - Thurs: 5:15, 8:10
1917
Time is the enemy R
- Tues - Thurs: 5:30, 8:15
RHYTHM SECTION
Blake Lively, Judd Law R
- Tues - Thurs: 5:30, 8:10
DOLITTLE
Robert Downey Jr., Antonio Banderas PG
- Tues - Thurs: 5:20, 8:10
JUMANJI
Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart PG-13



Courtesy photo

Pictured above are some of the recipients of the 2019 Spirit of Giving Program. Each year San Luis Valley Federal Bank Board of Directors approves \$30,000 to be split among all the bank member's favorite non-profit organizations within the San Luis Valley. Each account that is with SLVFB will count as one vote. This year, SLVFB had 165 non-profits receive a portion of the donation with each vote valuing at \$10.89. From Thanksgiving to Christmas, votes were collected. To find out the 2019 results, please visit <https://www.slvfed.com/2019-spirit-of-giving/>.

Claire set to speak at Juanito's on March 2

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Rotary Club is pleased to announce that Jim Clare, manager of the San Luis Valley Regional Landfill, will speak on Monday March 2 at noon at Juanito's Restaurant, 1019 6th Street.

Jim started working for the SLVRSWA July of 2012.

He retired from the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative with 37 years of service.

His background included many areas of service along with purchasing

agent, regulatory compliance officer, substation tech, operations manager and consumer relations manager.

Jim Clare believes the SLVRSWA is an important industry for the Valley region and wants to make the operation an

improved and continued success. He believes the future for solid waste will have many new changes from recycling to energy use.

To find out more about Rotary International, visit www.rotary.org.

For more information

about the Alamosa Rotary Club, visit our Facebook page or contact club president Chris Quintana at chris.quintana@slvfed.com.

The club meets at noon Mondays at Juanito's in Alamosa and everyone is welcome to attend.

Events

Continued from Page 1

wild weekend of eccentric mountain fun. Events include night skating and bonfires, curling competitions, art gallery openings and live improv theatre and more.

Friday

6-11 p.m., Winter Gala: Prime Rib Dinner & Dance

(MCFA) Elk's Lodge Saturday

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: 2-4 p.m., Artists Demos; Variations on a Theme: Cabins

VCMUF (Old Gym): 4-6:15 p.m. Kids Activities (donation)

Ruth Theatre: 5 p.m., Boomtown (\$10)

Ruth Theatre 7 p.m. Boomtown (\$10)

Sunday

Quiller Gallery 10 a.m.-4 p.m., open

6 Mile Flats: 10 a.m. Nordic Ski Lesson & Fun Session; All Levels Welcome (weather permit-

ting) Meet in the Parking Lot (Hwy. 149 & Middle Creek Road)

Ruth Theatre noon-4 p.m., Free Lecture/Film Series, "Steve Quiller: The Making of a Mural," Short Film by Allison Quiller; Ramona Weber: The Role of Women in the 1890s

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

Kip's Grill has a special menu planned for Friday from 3-9 p.m. Live music with Bo De Pena is set for Sunday.

Rare Things Gallery will feature a 25% off sale during the weekend's activities.

Wild

Continued from Page 1

the public's benefit and enjoyment — whether it be for hiking, horseback riding, rafting, kayaking, hunting, fishing, camping or some other popular form of outdoor recreation.

Studies have shown that preserving wilderness lands for the public to use often provides a direct economic boost to the nearby economies.

According to the Colorado Office of Economic Development, Colorado's outdoor recreation industry generates \$28 billion in consumer spending every year in the state; and supports more than 229,000 jobs. Nationally, the industry is responsible for generating \$887 billion in consumer spending each year.

Specifically, the legislation — known as the Protecting America's Wilderness Act — would protect:

- 660,000 acres in 36 areas across Colorado. Unlike many of the high-elevation wilderness landscapes that have the focus of previous land-protection bills, DeGette's legislation seeks to protect more of Colorado's mid-elevation ecosystems that serve as critical habitats for a variety of plants and wildlife, and are often used by Coloradans for a wide-range of outdoor recreation activities. While more than two-thirds of the areas to be protected in Colorado are already being treated as wilderness areas, by officially designating them as such, DeGette's bill will provide them the permanent protection they deserve. The

legislation will protect 36 unique areas across the state, including the Handies Peak, Dolores River Canyon and Little Bookcliffs. More information on the areas to be protected in Colorado is available here.

- 312,500 acres in Northwest California. The legislation will expand nine existing wilderness areas in Northwest California and establish eight new ones. It would also add 480 river miles to the National Wild and Scenic River System. The areas to be protected in Northern California were originally included in legislation Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA) introduced last year (H.R. 2250).

- 287,500 acres in Central California. The legislation will create two new potential wilderness areas and two new scenic areas in the Los Padres National Forest and Carizo Plain National Monument. It would also create a 400-mile hiking trail to connect the wilderness areas in the southern and northern portions of the Los Padres National Forest. The areas to be protected in Central California were originally included in legislation Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA) introduced last year (H.R. 2199).

- 30,700 acres in Southern California. The legislation will expand the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, establish a new National Recreation Area, and designate approximately 30,659 acres as wilderness. It would also add approximately 45.5 river miles to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The areas to be protected in Southern California were originally included in legislation Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA) introduced last year (H.R. 2215).

- 191,000 acres in Southern California. The legislation would expand the existing Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area by adding 191,000 acres of the Rim of the Valley Corridor. The area to be protected was originally included in legislation Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) introduced last year (H.R. 1708).

- 131,900 acres in Washington State. The legislation would designate 126,544 acres on the Olympic Peninsula as wilderness and another 5,346 as potential wilderness. It would be the first new wilderness designation in Olympic National Forest in nearly 30 years. The bill would also add an additional 464 river miles to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems. The areas to be protected in Washington were originally included in legislation Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA) introduced last year (H.R. 2642).

DeGette, who has been working to permanently protect public lands in her state for more than two decades, introduced the now-approved legislation (H.R. 2546) in May 2019. At that time, the bill was known as the Colorado Wilderness Act, and it sought to protect more than 600,000 acres of wilderness in 32 areas across Colorado.

After being approved by the House Natural Resources Committee in November, DeGette agreed to amend her sole-

ly-Colorado-focused legislation to incorporate five other land-protection bills that were being sought by members from California and Washington. She also renamed it, from the Colorado Wilderness Act to the Protecting America's Wilderness Act, to reflect the broader reach of the amended bill.

Prior to its final approval on the House floor, DeGette offered — and the House approved — an amendment to add four more areas in Colorado to her bill. The additional areas were Colorado's Diamond Breaks, Papoose Canyon, North Ponderosa Gorge and South Ponderosa Gorge — bringing the total number of areas to be protected in Colorado to 36 and the total number of acres in her state to 660,000.

DeGette's decades-long effort to protect Colorado's wilderness started shortly after she was first elected to Congress.

In 1998, DeGette was approached by a group of concerned citizens who had been working for years to identify untouched areas throughout the state that could qualify for a wilderness designation. DeGette has been working hand-in-hand with the group ever since they first met — as well as with countless other leaders from across the state — to craft the legislation that the House approved today.

While DeGette has introduced various versions of the Colorado Wilderness Act in every Congress since 1999, this is the first time it has been voted on by the full

House. Now that it's been approved, it will soon head to the Senate where DeGette is already working closely with lawmakers there in an effort to make sure it's included in any land-protection package the chamber may consider this year.

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Opinion

God bless America ...

HOLLYWOOD — Chris Matthews and James Carville sounded the alarm to fellow Democrats on Monday about big government socialists.

The same day Trump's proposed budget was bigger than any budget ever proposed by any Democrat president. And the winner of the 2020 presidential race goes to ... Parasite!

Hollywood's Nokia Theater was the site of the Oscars telecast, however

the after-parties were held 3 miles west in West Hollywood. This is the one town in L.A. where it's always after-party time. The sign at the city limits reads, Entering West Hollywood — It Only Seems Kinky the First Time!



Argus Hamilton

The Academy Awards telecast on ABC live from Hollywood Sunday night attracted the lowest TV ratings in the history of the awards show. The movie stars are fast losing touch with reality. It wasn't until Joaquin Phoenix gave his acceptance speech did I realize that The Joker was a bio-pic.

President Trump enjoyed a huge campaign rally in New Hampshire on Monday. He debunked a fake photograph of him that's circulating on social media, which shows him with a burnt-orange face and a slicked-back hair-do. It makes Trump look like he's running for Prime Minister of Canada. Elizabeth Warren promised New Hampshire voters a pay raise for schoolteachers Monday. On Friday, a Maryland teacher was arrested for having sex with her 16-year-old male student inside her car. It's to our nation's shame that teachers are so underpaid they can't even afford a motel room.

The New Hampshire primary vote count ran into the night Tuesday with Democratic Socialist Bernie Sanders in the lead. Bernie called for the nationwide legalization of marijuana, but he did not mention cocaine or heroin. Who knew Bernie was the conservative alternative to Democrats?

President Trump submitted his proposed federal budget to the House of Representatives, which was 1,000 pages long. Nancy Pelosi immediately cut it in half. President Trump and Nancy Pelosi are inseparable, in fact last week it took four Secret Service agents and a dog to pull them apart.

President Trump fired two NSA staffers and a State Department envoy who testified against his Ukraine call. The Deep State hates him. It may have escaped the president's attention that NASA didn't start looking for other planets that could support human life until Trump was elected president.

The National Distillers Association reported that a tequila maker in New York is distilling the world's first Kosher tequila, and it's called Agave. All the details are in order. The kosher tequila is blessed by a rabbi, and it carries an Orthodox seal, and the worm inside the bottle is Bernie Madoff.

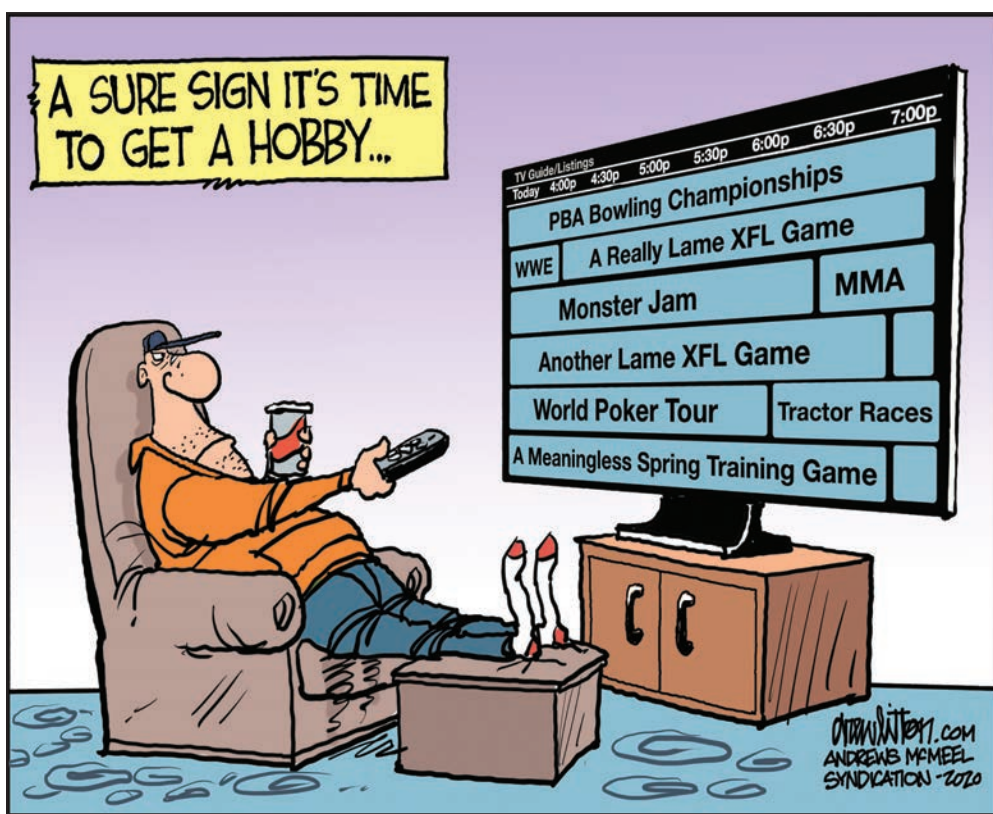
The Wall Street Journal says the Mormon Church has quietly amassed a \$100 billion investment fund. The article didn't reveal the name of the investment broker who landed the Mormon investment fund. However if Mitt Romney has a son named Hunter, my money's on him.

The New York Post reported that Prince Harry and Meghan gave a paid speech at JP Morgan Alternative Investment Conference in Florida last week. Their speaking fee was reported to be between \$500 and \$1 million dollars. The topic was The Importance of Free Speech.

Buckingham Palace announced that Prince Andrew's 16th birthday party will not be a big party or a public celebration. For the last 40 years, Andrew has been the one Royal whose photographs made him appear to be the happiest of all the Queen's children. And now we know why.

The Rolling Stones released the itinerary of their 15-city spring and summer tour of North America on Monday, which will begin in San Diego in April and end in St. Louis in July. The press release also revealed that Keith Richards has quit smoking. No word on who finally put him out.

Argus Hamilton is the host comedian at The Comedy Store in Hollywood and entertains groups and organizations around the country. E-mail him at Argus@ArgusHamilton.com.



No one made the call for me

The Light. Part 2. Have you ever wondered why some kids like me behave so badly, why they're out of control, don't pay attention and are just impossible?

The alcohol/drug use of each parent is a factor. And, the mother's neonatal use of alcohol and drugs while pregnant with the baby result in brain damage, if the baby survives. He/she will have a myriad of life-long problems including, but not limited to, damaged cognitive processing, inability to focus, speech impediment, lack of self-control and an inability to think clearly. Unless someone intervenes after the baby's birth, the baby/child will also have years on end, multiple levels and layers of abuse/neglect, aka trauma (see below). Life for kids like me with an addict parent is hell on earth.

I was incomprehensibly neglected and abused emotionally, verbally, mentally and physically by Sarah, her addict/abusive/pedophile "fiancé," and by my stepfather. But I didn't demonstrate bad behavior because of the abuse I endured.

I was the kid who was afraid to look at anyone, afraid to say anything, and I couldn't concentrate in school because everything was a blur. I was the kid who stared out the classroom window wondering if there would be food at "home" that night, wondering if Sarah's "fiance" would abuse me that night, and praying I would be able to

Amarah's Corner



'Kids Like Me'

protect myself and my baby sister from him. I remember praying that the airless, air mattress my baby sister and I huddled together on in our sub-zero temperature "bedroom" would transform into a magic carpet and fly us out the window to grandma.

I remember praying my teacher, or someone, would look into my eyes and see what I was thinking, "Help me! Please, help me!"

Life with Sarah included being dragged through multiple states, towns and schools. Alamosa Elementary fourth grade was my 16th school, aka — the child is hopelessly, continuously dragged through the wreckage of the parent's addiction lifestyle.

I believe with all my heart that God put Mrs. Alicia Romero in Alamosa Elementary fourth grade just for me. She was my teacher and my angel until God helped my grandma find us and got me and my baby sister back with her. I will always love Mr. and Mrs. Romero. That's the way it's supposed to be. A teacher is supposed to be a safe person for a kid like me, rather than a bully who humiliates kids in front of an entire classroom, like my OMS sixth-grade, so-called "teacher" did to me. When a teacher perpetrates such behavior against a child, I believe it is criminal. It happened to me, and that "teacher" is still at OMS.

Sympathy is not my objective. My goal is to educate people to get off their uninformed rear ends and take a stand for kids like me.

Question, were you abused/neglected when you were a kid, but no one made the call for you? If so, then more than anyone, you know we need help.

Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 25:40 (King James Version), "Whatever

To submit news, email: news@alamosanews.com

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."

Valdez's support of elderly, disabled appreciated

Letter to the Editor: I am writing this letter to thank Representative Donald Valdez.

In this time of hyper-political divisions amongst parties, it is refreshing to have a State Representative that will listen to his constituents and vote in a non-partisan manner when it is the right thing to do.

Representative Valdez has been a major supporter and defender of our elderly and disabled communities. He has stood for them and protected them when legislation has come up that would have hurt their benefits and their choices.

There is two key issues currently going through legislation in Denver: 1. Maintaining the current Medicaid funding for those who are living in long-term care to

provide for the needs of these elderly and disabled community members; 2. listing long term care facilities as residential properties as they have always been listed vs. the state starting to charge long term care facilities for those who come in as short term rehabilitation for 30 days or less a tax equivalent to lodgers tax as if we are a motel.

Thank you Representative Valdez for doing the right thing and standing up for our elderly and disabled community members who need the services we provide.

No one grows old and wants to live in a long-term care facility; however, there are circumstances beyond the control of many where we are the only place for them to call home.

We will continue to work hard for our community to provide the best care possible and appreciate you working hard on our behalf.

Joyce Humiston, Rio Grande Inn-La Jara, River Valley Inn-Del Norte.

Allies bomb Dresden 75 years ago today

Today is the 44th day of 2020 and the 55th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1542, Catherine Howard, fifth wife of King Henry VIII, was executed on grounds of treason for committing adultery.

In 1945, Allied aircraft began bombing the German city of Dresden.

In 1960, France successfully detonated its first atomic bomb.

In 2000, the last of Charles Schulz's original "Peanuts" comic strips ran in Sunday papers, one day after the cartoonist's death.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Grant Wood (1891-1942), artist; Tennessee Ernie Ford (1919-1991), singer/actor; Chuck

Yeager (1923-), aviator; Kim Novak (1933-), actress; Stockard Channing (1944-), actress; Jerry Springer (1944-), TV personality; Mike Krzyzewski (1947-), basketball coach; Peter Gabriel (1950-), singer-songwriter; Henry Rollins (1961-), singer-songwriter; Neal McDonough (1966-), actor; Randy Moss (1977-), football player; Mena Suvari (1979-), actress.

TODAY'S FACT: The central event of author Kurt Vonnegut's celebrated novel "Slaughterhouse-Five" is the Allied bombing of the city of Dresden during World War II. Estimates of civilian casualties from the bombings range from 35,000 to 135,000.

Valley Courier (ISSN 1047-1170)
Keith R Cerny Publisher
Daniel McKillop Managing Editor
Awarded Colorado Press 2017
First Place, Best Photo Essay
First Place, Best Portfolio
Second Place, Best News Photo
Second Place, Best photo Essay
Second Place Serious Columns
The Valley Courier and Conejos County Courier are published daily, Tuesday through Saturday by Alamosa Newspapers, Inc. 2205 State Ave., Alamosa, Colo. 81101. Periodicals Postage is paid at Alamosa, Colo., Monte Vista, Colo., La Jara, Colo., and Fort Garland, Colo. Phone: (719) 589-2553. FAX: (719) 589-6573. News Media Corp. Web Site: http://www.valleycourier.com. Postmaster send change of address to P.O. Box 1099.

Lifestyle

First Christmas at new park



Photo courtesy of Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Darcy Mount, photo above, collapses in the snow after three grueling days working solo in Eleven Mile and Spinney Mountain state parks during the Christmas holidays. Mount, photo below, sits on a rock and relaxes.

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A chilling tale of frozen brakes, stuck ice spikes, dead batteries

By DARCY MOUNT
 Column

LAKE GEORGE —

Like many of you, I worked during the Christmas holidays. It was my first Christmas at my new parks — Eleven Mile and Spinney Mountain state parks in the high country of Park County — and it turned out to be more of an adventure than I expected.

For those who don't know, our 41 state parks stay open year-round. Even when the temperatures plunge below zero and snow piles up, as it does at my parks in winter.

We have passionate ice anglers who pull their huts and augers and fishing equipment far out on the creaking ice, drill holes and spend days pulling huge fish from the water below.

Others come with their snowshoes and cross country skis to rejoice in the tranquility that the parks offer in the deep of winter. If they are lucky, they may see raptors, including bald eagles, or elk and deer, or even the "beggin' burros" that run wild in this country a century after their ancestors were turned loose by miners in the gold camps around Cripple Creek.

Anyway, having spent most of my career at Front Range parks of Lake Pueblo and Cheyenne Mountain, I wasn't quite prepared for what winter, and especially my three days alone over Christmas at Eleven Mile and Spinney Mountain, would throw at me.

My adventure started Christmas Eve. It was cold and blustery and I had the park mostly to myself. I climbed into my patrol truck to make my rounds and found it would not start. This happens regularly when our temperatures drop below zero. Unfortunately, my truck was parked in the pole barn making it difficult to reach the battery from another truck with jumper cables—if the other trucks would start. Finally, I got the Senior Ranger's truck to start and decided to simply drive it for the day.

Next, my safe-driving skills left me stranded. I put on the parking brake at one of my stops on patrol and when I tried to leave, I was unable to release the break. I tried so hard I actually broke the brake handle. Jolly Old Saint Nick I was not.

With the brake stuck and the truck immobilized, I decided to try and get my own truck started. But all the jump packs in our shop were dead. Finally I found a large battery charger that I dragged to my poorly parked truck and used an extension cord to plug it in



and attach to my battery. However, I didn't notice the cord was wrapped around the hitch of my truck and when I rolled it forward to access my battery I heard a crash. The tangled extension cord had pulled down steel ramps on a nearby snowmobile trailer, shredding the cord. Since I could not find another cord, I delicately attached it to my truck battery and plugged it in.

Fearing it might set fire to the barn, I decided I needed to stay and keep an eye on it. So I climbed into my truck to do email on my phone until the battery was charged. Not exactly the idyllic view of the park I usually get. Finally, with my truck battery charged, I was able to resume my patrols before heading to my office. It was windy but the ice was full of anglers. Even our ice rink was busy. I decided to talk to some of the folks fishing along the shore to update our fishing report. So I put my ice spikes on my boots, walked out and talked to several groups of fishermen. It was actually a highlight of my day as I had some good conversations and found everyone was in compliance with all the regulations.

I returned to my truck and my holiday fun resume as I fought to get my ice spikes off my boots. Like the truck emergency brake, they had become frozen to my feet. I fell gracefully under my truck trying to get them off. Eventually I drove away and promptly forgot all the fishing report information I had just received.

On Christmas Day, I was determined to put the previous day's problems behind me. Among my chores was to empty the pay tubes. So I gathered the supplies and headed to the south side of the park.

I started at the southern-most pay tube and worked my way around the park. I got back in my truck and went to the next tube where the local herd of donkeys "helped" me empty it. Actually, they stuck their faces in my work and bumped into me a dozen times, probably begging for a handout.

I happen to like them so I spent a few minutes talking to them before heading to the next tube. I got all the way back to the north side and realized I had been so distracted by donkeys that I missed a pay tube. So I had to backtrack 20 minutes and grab it before finishing my chores.

As I patrolled, I saw many anglers trying out brand-new Christmas fishing gear and having a successful day of fishing. I returned to the office to process the pay tube contents — a chore I haven't done much in my six months as park manager. In fact, I had completely forgotten how to enter the data in the computer. It was my little gift to our office administrator when she returned to work.

On my last solo day, I managed to crash the snowmobile into the front of the trailer as a large contingency of firemen and fishermen watched. Luckily the only damage was to my ego and I'm sure I was the subject of some conversations.

My holidays were full of, let's call them learning opportunities that tested my holiday spirit, but honestly I would not trade my Christmas for anything.

If you have general questions about Colorado Parks and Wildlife, email Darcy at AskARanger@state.co.us. Darcy may answer it in a future column.

But if you have an immediate question about wildlife or a state park, please call the nearest CPW office in your community. For CPW office locations and contact information, go to <http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/ContactUs.aspx>.

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- 4 Shopping Local saves you money and time!** Travel expenses and personal time make the overall cost of items higher.
- 5 Shopping Local retains our community:** Without the support in the local community, restaurants, shops and services are forced to close.
- 6 Shopping Local retains our distinctiveness:** Local businesses respond quicker to the needs of the customers and stock products to meet the core community's needs.
- 7 Shopping Local encourages community growth.** By choosing to do business locally you help maintain Alamosa's diversity, charm & appeal. Which in turn, attracts new community members.
- 8 Shopping Local invests in community services and city economy.** Your dollars spent in locally-owned businesses have three times the impact on your community as dollars spent outside of Alamosa.
- 9 Local shops value you more:** Local businesses survive by their reputation & repeat business which means you get a higher standard of service.

Sports

Grizzley grapplers on the mat against Mavericks

By GEORGE A. GALAVIZ-ORTIZ
ASU Sports Information

ALAMOSA — The Adams State Wrestling squad returns to Plachy Hall after a going 2-1 on the road to face #25 Colorado Mesa University. Grizzlies currently hold an overall record of 5-3 on the season, including a 3-2 record within the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference. Adams State holds on strong to a No. 13 spot within NCAA Division II, tied with Ashland University and Newberry College.

Keeping Up With The Grizzlies

Adams State hit the road for two weeks after taking down New Mexico Highlands at home, gaining two more wins in CSU-Pueblo and Chadron State. Grizzlies increased their win streak to three and looked to make it four heading into Golden to face #9 Colo. School of Mines. It would be Adams State, however, to fall short of the win, falling to the Orediggers in a close 23-18 bout before a big homecoming.

Grizzlies would come out on top in half of the matches Friday night, starting with the 125-pound bout between Adams State's Isaiah De La Cerda and Mines' Matthew Lavengood. De La Cerda



would put up the first three points for the Grizzlies, edging out Lavengood 10-3, earning a win by decision.

#5 Jonathan Andreatta would keep the streak alive in the 133-pound bout, earning a victory by major decision over Mines' Jake Woods. Andreatta would hold Woods to 8 points while putting up 19.
#4 Noah Hermosillo held Wesley

Rayburn to a single point while putting up an explosive 10 to earn another four team points in another victory by major decision.

#9 Josiah Rider found his way to a 6-0 decision victory Noah Ottum to put up another three team points.

157-pounder Natrelle Demison would keep his individual win streak alive in the last bout of the night, earning another major decision victory for the Grizzlies, holding Ryan Fidel scoreless and putting up 10 points for an explosive performance.

Colo. School of Mines would also take away five matches, including two victories by pinfall and one victory by technical fall, eventually outscoring Adams State 23-18. Grizzlies look to bounce back Thursday night, as they return home for more RMAC action.

Scouting the Mavericks
Colorado Mesa comes in this week with two matchups against NM Highlands today and tomorrow's bouts against Adams State. Mavericks currently hold an overall record of 7-4 including a 3-1 record within the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference and hold a #25 spot in the national rankings.
The Mavericks last saw the mats at

home, earning a shut-out victory over San Francisco State 45-0, for an explosive RMAC victory.

Mavericks have three nationally ranked grapplers in their lineup, including 157-pounder Payton Tawater standing at #9, #10 Fred Green in the 165-pound weight class, and #11 Donnie Negus in the 197-pound weight class.

Adams State Probable Line-Up

- 125 Isaiah DeLaCerda
- 133 Jonathan Andreatta
- 141 Noah Hermosillo
- 149 Josiah Rider
- 157 Natrelle Demison
- 165 Ryan Rochford
- 174 Isaac Lopez
- 184 Will Tyler
- 197 Cole Gustavson
- 285 Sylvester Montgomery

A look at CHSAA's Boys basketball rankings

By STEPHEN JIRON
Courier Sports Editor

The latest edition of the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) Coaches Poll Rankings have come out. The lone newcomer to the rankings is Alamosa Basketball. Featured are San Luis Valley teams, for the complete listing be sure to visit CHSAANow.com.

3A



6. Centauri - 63

The Falcons have responded well from their first loss of the season on Jan. 31 to Inter-mountain League (IML) foe, Alamosa. Centauri has stacked wins over Pagosa Springs (8-9, 3-5 IML) and Bayfield (2-15, 1-7 IML) on the seventh and eighth to complete the series sweeps against both teams. The league wins keep the Falcons in contention for top seeding in the district tournament. The loss to Alamosa didn't change much for the Falcons as their position in the poll stayed steady at sixth place the following Monday. A position Centauri has held to this day.

Alamosa (13-4, 8-0 IML) cur-

rently holds the league lead but the Falcon's fate is very much in their own hands. Centauri has three more league games left on the regular-season slate. Montezuma-Cortez, Alamosa and Monte Vista. The goal is likely to win out and let the district seeding information take care of the rest.

Taking the district tournament is a great way to assure some home games come state tournament time. That and the winner of the district tournament last year, Montezuma-Cortez, was the lone team from the IML to advance to the Great 8 in Denver. The year before district winner Bayfield, won it all. That said top seeding doesn't guarantee much. The district champions the past two years didn't enter the tournament as the top seeds.

10. Alamosa -33



For the second time in the 2019-20 season, the Mean Moose (13-4, 8-0 IML) have downed a

top ten contender in the rankings. For the first time in the 2019-20 season, Alamosa has made the top ten of the CHSAA Rankings.

Dec. 12 Alamosa bested Faith Christian bottling up leading scorers Caleb Ruter and Caleb Clark to a combined 16 points. Both times following wins the Moose would climb slightly with a small boost in voting points.

Since having beat No. 6 Centauri the Moose added three more league wins and entered the rankings at the No. 10 spot this past Monday.

The Mean Moose currently lead the league standings with an undefeated record. Alamosa is scheduled for two more interleague games and can lock up the first seed in the district tournament just by repeating their success against both opponents.

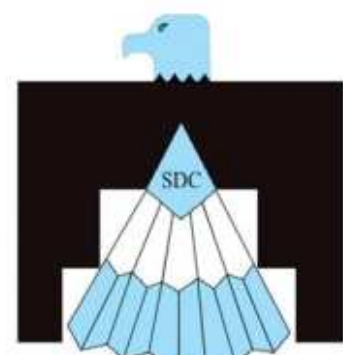
Starting Friday Alamosa will be on the road for the final two games of the regular season. First will be Pagosa Springs then the Moose will be in Centauri on Saturday. Both games are slated for 7 p.m. tipoffs.

2A

9. Sanford- 43

Sanford goes down the stretch ranked 9th in the 2A class in Monday's CHSAA Coaches Poll Rankings.

This is a small decline for Sanford (12-4, 3-1 SPL) who were No. 7 the week prior. The drop



likely stems from Sanford's 47-38 loss to fellow Southern Peaks Leaguer Crested Butte (13-2, 5-0 SPL) on Saturday afternoon.

Despite their impressive record, the Titans were a stranger to the Coaches Poll prior to the game. And still have yet to crack the top ten of the rankings.

The game will serve as a preview for Sanford of what to look out for at the district tournament. Sanford still has three more league contests to complete before worrying about tournament play.

First up, will be Center on Valentine's Day. Then next week Sanford will close the regular season with games against Sargent and Del Norte.

1A

3. Sangre de Cristo - 66

The first loss of the year for Sangre de Cristo was largely

inconsequential. The T-Birds dropped a 57-46 contest to Raton in New Mexico. While a loss is a loss, one to a 3A out of state opponent carries less weight.

The coaches from Monday's poll seem to agree as Sangre held on to their No. 3 spot from last week.

At most, the T-Birds got a good chance to see some late season talent in preparation for tournament play.

Sangre de Cristo still has three league designated games left, with a combined record of 17-24.

Sangre de Cristo also has some challenges down the stretch as well. Feb. 15th the T-Birds welcome 3A Salida (8-7). Sangre de Cristo will close the regular season on Feb. 21 on the road against 1A's fifth ranked team, Kim/Branson (13-2). There is still plenty of regular-season basketball to be played in Mosca.

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

Adams State Wrestling

- Feb. 7 Colorado School of Mines 23, 18

Sports Bulletin

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. 13 5 p.m. Lake City at Creede (G/B)
5 p.m. Sangre de Cristo at Sierra Grande (G/B)
- 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)

Adams State Swimming

- Feb. 12 RMAC Championships
ASU at Mesa State (W/M)

Prep Swimming (G)

- Feb. 14 State Championships
Sargent at Thornton

Adams State Wrestling

- Feb. 13 6 p.m. Colorado Mesa at ASU

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

Alamosa Parks & Recreation's February update

February Update!
Here's what's happening at Alamosa Parks & Recreation ...

How to find out what's going on:
Fall & Winter Activities Guide
Spring & Summer Activities Guide (Coming Soon) www.AlamosaRec.org

City of Alamosa Activities on Facebook
Upcoming Community Events

Feb. 8-29: Winter Farmers Market, Saturdays at North River Greenhouse
Feb. 14-17: Cabin Fever Daze in Creede, CO
Feb. 22: ALMA and Friends Concert at Society Hall

March 3: Youth of the Year at the Boys and Girls Club
March 6-8: Monte Vista Crane Festival
March 7: Family Fun Skate Day at the Multi-Use Pavilion/Ice Rink

Multi-Use Pavilion/Ice Rink
If you haven't yet, check out all the programs going on at the rink before the ice season ends on March 31, click on the link above for a detailed schedule and information.

Open Skating (no rentals) - Public Skating (rentals available)
Ice Skating Lessons-

Open Stick & Puck
Adult Drop-In Hockey-Youth Ice Hockey (League)

Field Trip Program-Themed-Skate Nights
Mark your calendar for the Alamosa Prevention Coalition's next Family Fun Skate Day on Saturday, March 7 from noon to 4 p.m. This event is free.

Outdoor Recreation
Alamosa School District Adventure Club-Spring 2020 Schedule

Be on the lookout for Spring and Summer programs like the popular Birding, Boat Trips, and Weekends on the Rio activities.

Report a Park Issue or Report a Trail Issue
Health & Fitness at the AFRC

Did you know the AFRC offers 25 fitness classes/activities each week?

Cycling-Core Circuit-Pickleball- Pilates -PowerHour -Step Aerobics
Taekwondo-Workout Group-Yoga- + New classes coming in 2020.

The AFRC offers affordable memberships and does not require a contract. Choose to pay day-to-day or month-to-month.

Adult Sports
Adult Volleyball
February 18-April 30:
Season Dates

Adult Softball: Season info will be announced soon!

Youth Sports
Youth Volleyball
The player registration deadline has passed but both divisions have open spots. Sign up at the AFRC soon.

Feb. 3-April 11: Season Dates-Youth Wrestling
REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW

Feb. 24: Player Registration Deadline

Feb. 25-April 4: Season Dates

This is a club sport/program, led by Alamosa High School wrestling.

Youth Soccer
REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!

March 2: Player Registration Deadline
March 9-May 2: Season Dates

Note: Please be aware that the Spring Youth Sports seasons overlap with each other to varying extents.

~ Hockey ~ Volleyball ~ Wrestling ~ Soccer ~

Alamosa Youth Football (Tackle Football)
REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW

Feb. 1-March 1: Super-early registration

March 2-June 1: Regular registration

June 2-July 31: Late registration

August-October: Sea-

son Dates
This is a club sport/program, led by Alamosa Youth Football.

Oil Painting
March 3-April 21: Next Session on Tuesday Evening

March 5-April 23: Next Session on Thursday Morning

Full Session is 8 classes/\$90 or Drop-in @ \$15/class

Recreation Center Hours

Nov 1 - April 30
May 1 - Oct 31

Monday - Thursday
6:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Friday
6:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Saturday
7:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Sunday
7:00 AM - 3:00 PM

12:00 PM - 6:00 PM
CLOSED

Upcoming Recreation Center Closures
Feb. 16 Day before Presidents' Day
Feb. 17 Presidents' Day

Alamosa Parks & Recreation
Alamosa Family Recreation Center

2222 Old Sanford Rd.
Alamosa, CO 81101, 719-589-2105, www.AlamosaRec.org

AFRC mailing list
AFRC@listserv.ci.alamosa.co.us

<http://bulk-mail.axint.net/mailman/listinfo/afrc>

Feral swine eradicated from Colorado

PUEBLO— All known feral swine have been eliminated from Colorado thanks to a near 15-year state and federal partnership comprised of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services (WS), the USDA Forest Service (FS), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA).

The partnership formed in the early 2000s as a task force to manage invasive feral swine, which root up crops and pastures causing billions in damage nationwide each year.

Feral swine also spread disease to livestock, wildlife and humans. Ground-nesting birds and other wildlife are easy prey for feral swine. And the swine put native wildlife at risk by competing for resources and destroying habitats and ecosystems.

Feral swine are incredibly hardy animals and can survive, even thrive, in almost any habitat. That combined with high reproductive rates makes their ability to establish new populations extremely effective.

"The eradication of feral swine will help protect and benefit Colorado's agricultural crops and livestock as well as wildlife, wildlife habitat and private and public lands," said Travis Black, deputy regional manager of CPW's Southeast Region.

"This achievement points to the value of collaborative efforts in staffing, funding and resources to accomplish a common goal," said Wayne East, CDA Agriculture Wildlife Liaison.

"Partnerships are important to completing complex tasks and we have done something great for agriculture and the wildlife of Colorado by eradicating feral swine," said Martin Lowney, USDA APHIS WS, State director.

The Colorado feral swine task force will continue to monitor to ensure the state remains free of this invasive species and the damage they can inflict.

One can help keep Colorado free of feral swine. Spread the word that in Colorado it's illegal to possess, transport or release feral swine, wild swine species or hybrids.

Report sightings of feral swine or transportation activities to USDA Wildlife Services at 1-866-4-USA-WIS 1-866-487-3297 or Colorado Parks and Wildlife at 303-297-1192.

Signs game unsafe to eat

One of the more enjoyable aspects of hunting is enjoying the bounty at the dinner table after a successful hunting trip. However, not all game is safe to eat. Field & Stream, a retailer that caters to hunters, fishermen, campers and other outdoor enthusiasts, notes that the following are some ways hunters can determine if freshly killed game is safe to eat.

▶ Look for signs of previous injuries. Previously wounded animals may be infested with maggots or have abscesses, which are swollen areas of tissue that contain pus. Animals that appear to have been injured prior to being killed should not be eaten, as consuming them can leave hunters vulnerable to illness.

▶ Examine the animal's eyes and skin. Sunken eyes or emaciated, scabby skin also could indicate the animal was suffering from illness or injury prior to being killed.

▶ Look for tick infestations. Game infested with ticks should not be consumed.

▶ Look for fluid discharges. Game that has discharges of dark blood or creamy or green substances should not be consumed.

▶ See if the animal passes the smell test. Game suffering from gangrene or had decaying flesh typically emit a strong, foul odor and such animals should not be consumed.

▶ Investigate the interior of the animal. Just because a game animal exhibits no outward signs of illness or injury does not necessarily make it safe to eat. Hunters are advised to wear surgical or dishwashing gloves and run their hands over the body of the animal. Signs of disease or illness include hair that comes off easily, a soft or gelatinous underside of the skin when peeled off, and/or a gush of blood or fluid that is not the result of the hunter's gunshot wound.

▶ Examine muscle tissue. Muscle tissue should not smell bad or contain parasites or blood spots. In addition, examine the muscle tissue for blood clots, black blood or a greenish discharge, each of which are indicators of disease.

▶ Examine the rib cage and muscle tissue. Humans can contract tuberculosis after eating game that was infected with the disease. Indicators of tuberculosis include tan or yellow lumps on the inside surface of the rib cage or in the tissue of the lungs. TF19B511

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Alamosa

Western Living

Forest Health 2019: viewpoint on insects

LAND, WATER AND PEOPLE



Gregg Goodland

BY GREGG GOODLAND
SAN LUIS VALLEY — The 2019 forest health survey results were released last week and, once again, indicated a decline in activity of two forest insects that have most noticeably impacted the Rio Grande National Forest for several years: The Spruce beetle and Douglas-fir beetle.

The Douglas-fir beetle spread was nearly negligible for 2019, affecting only 670 acres with scattered pockets of mortality. The spruce beetle infestation spread another 6,700 acres in 2019, down significantly from the 34,000 acres in 2018 and 47,000 acres in 2017. In total, the spruce beetle has infested about 622,000 acres of spruce-fir and mixed conifer forest on the Rio Grande National Forest. That is one-third of the Forest.

The decline in spruce beetle impact is a result of the beetles running out of food. The primary food source for the spruce beetles in this area is our mature, high-elevation Engelmann spruce and, frankly, there aren't many uninfested stands left. The beetles are able to infest blue spruce in certain instances, but mostly they prefer Engelmann spruce.

We did experience a 7,000-acre increase in Western spruce budworm activity, up to 27,000 acres affected. Activity was most evident in the northern part of the Saguache district and the southern part of the Conejos Peak district. Spruce budworms eat the new needles on coniferous trees such as Douglas fir, white fir, subalpine fir and spruce. They typically don't kill trees unless they stay active in an area for several years. This may be the case in some areas of the forest.

These issues have been considered from many angles and one aspect remains the same: there was nothing the Rio Grande National Forest could do to stop these natural disturbances.

However, in response, the Forest has conducted numerous timber sales to salvage dead and dying trees for commercial sawtimber. But even that cycle may be declining due to the diminishing value of the salvageable timber.

We will continue to offer new salvage sales as long as the dead timber still has value, the areas we can work in are suitable, and we receive funding to develop the projects. We will also continue to design projects that reduce stand densities and fuel loading in order to manage for a resilient landscape.

all three of these insect species are native to Colorado. Often, they will have temporary, localized impacts to the forest. While other times, such as the spruce beetle epidemic, their affect will be noticeable for much of our lifetime. That may be hard for many of us to accept, but we must also remember that the forests around us have been changing throughout the millennia. They need change to survive the long-term. Insects and wildfires are the two agents of change we are most familiar with. It is the swift and stark changes from these events that we humans must often place a label on. I'll submit to you that we are the only species to view these changes as bad. This suggests that all the affected plant, animal, insect and bird species simply recognize the change and either adapt, move away or perish. That is nature.

There is also much talk about the wildfire potential as a result of the dead trees. While dead trees with needles can certainly support extreme fire behavior under the right conditions, so can live trees that are full of highly flammable resins. In large swaths of the Forest, the dead trees have dropped their needles, thereby reducing the potential for high-intensity crown fires. As more dead trees fall over, the surface fires in these areas will likely be of a higher intensity. But I must point out that if it is needed to fight that fire, an attack on a surface fire has greater probability of success than one in the tree crowns.

I really don't like the fact that so many of the live trees of our forests have died. I've had to change my way of thinking and have realized that a forest, or any other natural landscape, will never remain that static place as it does in our photographs. But I am very confident that the vegetative landscape is changing in response to its environment and sometimes feel that we are mere observers to the incredible forces of nature.

Gregg Goodland is the Public Affairs Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest.



Spruce beetle activity in Engelmann spruce. Photo: A. Steven Munson, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org.

Courtesy photo



(719) 587-1800 | 20 Craft Dr. Alamosa CO 81101 | TownAndCountryAlamosa.com

Pre-Owned Vehicles

2013 Chevy Camaro

\$15,995



#P11084

2016 Ford Fusion

\$16,995



#P75772

2017 Dodge Journey

\$16,995



#P28844

2015 Chrysler 300S AWD

\$18,995



#C7499A

2019 Chevy Malibu

\$19,850



#P72972

2016 Buick La Crosse

\$19,990



#P78871

2018 GMC Terrain

\$24,995



#P20425

2017 Ford Explorer

\$25,140



#P94212

2019 Jeep Compass

\$27,995



#P20540

2017 Ford F-150

\$31,995



#P77850

2019 Toyota 4-Runner

\$34,995



#P47820

2018 GMC Canyon

\$36,440



#P33879

SAVE GAS!
 Shop Locally

PUBLIC AUCTION

We will hold our 30th Annual SLV Machinery & Equipment Consignment Sale at the Monte Vista Co-op

Tuesday, March 17, 2020
10:00 o'clock a.m.

Tractors
 Hay • Grain • Tillage • Potato Equipment
 Construction Equipment • Livestock Equipment
 Trucks • Trailers • Vehicles

*Due to space limitation NO SMALL ITEMS
 No Hand Tools - No Scrap or Junk*

Tuesday, February 18th Deadline to have items listed on Sale Bill.

Art Goehl (719) 588-1812 **CALL** Jim Higel (719) 589-2116
 Cole Larsen (719) 480-3414
All vehicles must have proof of title.

NEED TO SELL YOUR VEHICLE?
 WE WILL BUY IT!

*Includes GM Financial Trade Assistance. All prices exclude tax, tags, title. Price include delivery and handing fee \$359.99. All prices include Owner loyalty. Payments are with 10% down or trade equity at 3.25% APR for 75 months with all factory incentives applied. See dealer for complete details. Artwork used for illustration purposes only. All offers valid on in stock units only. Offers expire 02/29/2020.

Classified Marketplace

FREE!

Sell your household items for FREE.
Total value of item must be \$200 or less. FREE ads include 20 words or less and run 5 times.



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Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. would like to inform the public that inactive patients' medical records will be destroyed on February 24, 2020. A patient is considered inactive if he/she has not had a visit or contact in the last 10 years. If a patient was younger than 18 at the last visit or contact the patient will be considered inactive 10 years after their 18th birthday. If a patient wishes to obtain their records he/she may call Valley-Wide Health Systems at 719-587-1165.
No. 1289
Published in the Valley Courier on February xx, and xx, 2020

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS CENTER SANITATION DISTRICT

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and, particularly, to the electors of the Center Sanitation District of Saguache and Rio Grande Counties, Colorado.

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that an election will be held on the 5th day of May, 2020, between the hours of 7:00a.m., and 7:00p.m. At that time, two (2) directors will be elected to serve 2-year terms. Eligible electors of the Center Sanitation District interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form from the District Designated Election Official (DEO); Janet J Beiriger
Center Public Library
500 South Broadway
Center, CO 81125
719-850-8922

The Center Public Library is open on the following days: Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If the DEO determines that a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form is not sufficient, the eligible elector who submitted the form may amend the form once, at any time, prior to 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2020. The deadline to submit a Self-Nomination and Acceptance is close of business on Friday, February 28, 2020 (not less than 67 days before the election). Earlier submittal is encouraged as the deadline will not permit curing an insufficient form. Affidavit of Intent to be a Write-In-Candidate forms must be submitted to the office of the designated election official by the close of business on Monday, March 2, 2020 (the sixty-fourth day before the election.)

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, an application for a mail-in ballot shall be filed with the designated election official no later than the close of business on Friday, May 2, 2020, except that, if the applicant wishes to receive the mail-in ballot by mail, the application shall be filed no later than the close of business on Tuesday, April 29, 2020.

CENTER SANITATION DISTRICT

Janet J Beiriger
No. 1303
Published in the Valley Courier on February 13, 2020

221 HELP WANTED

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 (RV1 is an EOE)(2/19)

LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME employee to help farm. Welding experience and driving farm equipment call 719-850-2137.(3/10)

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 wrap-around experience a plus. Applicants should have a 3 years relevant experience. Email resume and cover letter to carey@restorative-programs.org. Position open until filled. CRP is a EOE. (2/19)

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)

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. Please direct any questions to Nicholas Barela at (719) 376-5455. Closes 2/17/2020 (2/14)

EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS UNIT Case Manager needed for Rio Grande County Department of Social Services. Requires High School Diploma or GED, as well as one to three months related experience, including thorough knowledge of TANF rules and regulations and other assistance programs. Computer skills required may include word processing, spreadsheet applications, and various accounting programs. Application and job description available on line at www.riograndecounty.org or pick up and submit to Human Resources 925 6th Street, Room 200, Del Norte, CO 81132(2/13)

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

221 HELP WANTED

CITY OF ALAMOSA is seeking a Full Time Maintenance Worker 1 with a hiring salary of \$14.42 - \$15.86 per hour (DOQ), to provide routine maintenance tasks in and around the City Facilities. Applications can be found online at www.cityofalamosa.org under Employment or at the HR Department, 300 Hunt Avenue, Alamosa, Colorado. Closing date is February 13, 2020 at 4:30 pm. (2/15 #2)

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. Open until filled. (3/3 #1)

221 HELP WANTED

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)

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.sierragrandeschool.net Applications may be submitted to Mr. Brandon Mizokami at bmizokami@sierragrandeschool.net For more information please contact Mrs. DeAnn Arellano at 719-379-3257.(2/22)

221 HELP WANTED

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 (2/21)

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)

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)

221 HELP WANTED

Make a difference, not just a living!

Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.
Accepting applications for the following positions
• **DENTAL HYGIENIST** – Center Dental Clinic
Please visit our website for more details:
<https://vwhs.org/careers/>

221 HELP WANTED

\$30,000+
Immediate opening in multi-media sales. Experience appreciated.
Send resume to:
KCerny@alamosanews.com
Valley Courier

099 ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANYONE KNOWING THE woman who managed curves in Alamosa please contact me 719-580-2290. Wanting info about your previous business, equipment, etc. (2/20)

102 CARD OF THANKS

THANK YOU FROM family of Dora P. Sandoval. We would like to Thank family, friends, San Luis Care Center, Romero Valley Funeral Home Inc. Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Rev Okeahialara for their support and kindness during this difficult time. The Sandoval Family, Louie, Debra, Steve and Benjie(2/13)

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)

175 WEDDINGS

BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN RANCH WEDDING/REUNION SITE. Lodge w/kitchen, dining, sleeping; 9 guest cabins. 719-580-2486. (2/13)

221 HELP WANTED

POTATO SEED CUTTERS Needed! Work in Center starting next week. Please call 719-754-3854 or walk into Ponderosa's office east of Jones Oil.(2/19)

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 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 crcci@co.conejos.co.us. Deadline is Thursday, February 20, 2020. Inquiries call (719) 376-6799.(2/20)

221 HELP WANTED

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; or call 719-657-4030. The position will be opened until filled. Please pick up an application at the District Office or on-line at dncsd.org.(2/27)

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. Applications will be accepted through, Tuesday, February 20, 2020. (2/20)

LOOKING FOR A career opportunity and being a part of your local community? 1st Southwest Bank is growing and hiring a Loan Processor, offering a strong benefits package & career growth opportunities. EOE. Go to <https://www.fswb.bank/who-we-are/careers/> for more details & to apply.(2/19)

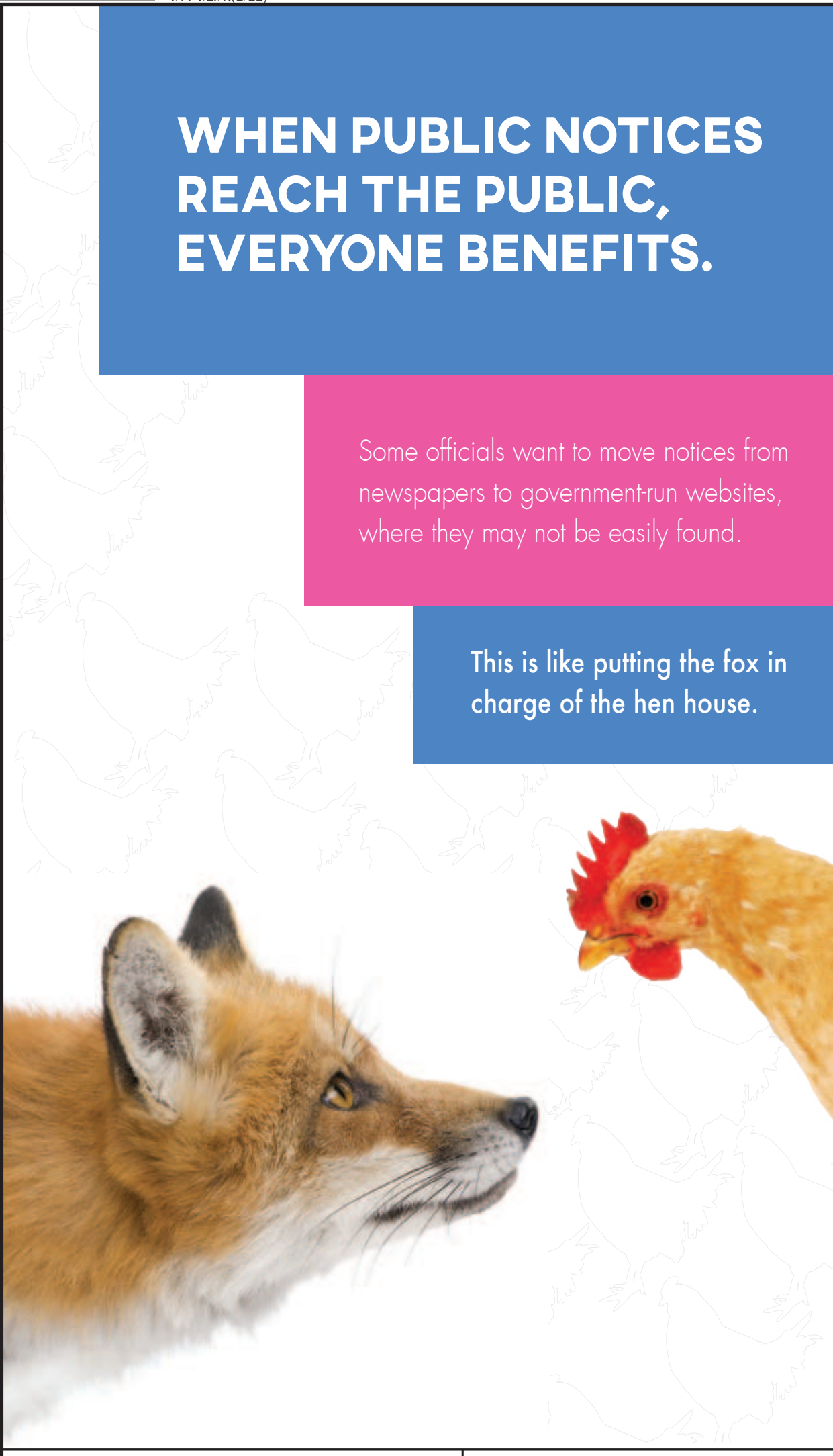
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR, FULL-TIME The Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust is hiring a full-time Office Administrator to work in our Del Norte office. Find the job announcement at <http://www.riograndelandtrust.org/job-opportunities> or email Joelle Marier at joellem@riograndelandtrust.org for more information.(2/27)

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 or City Hall at 300 Hunt Avenue. Protected by the EOE law. Closing date February 24, 2020 at 4:30 pm.(2/27)

WHEN PUBLIC NOTICES REACH THE PUBLIC, EVERYONE BENEFITS.

Some officials want to move notices from newspapers to government-run websites, where they may not be easily found.

This is like putting the fox in charge of the hen house.



Keep Public Notices in Newspapers



www.newsmediaalliance.org

Classifieds

221 HELP WANTED

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

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)

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 service 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 (2/18)

324 - FEED & SEED

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)

345 WOOD

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

351 LIVESTOCK

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

360 - MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

MOBIL 10W 30 conventional motor oil, \$15.00 a case, have a bunch. 720-384-5600(2/13)

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)

369 - PETS & SUPPLIES

FOR ADOPTION: MIA She is four months old and already very large. She is part pyrenees and part border collie. A wonderful dog! Valley Humane 589-3385(2/14)

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)

NEED CATS FOR MOUSERS? Want to adopt kittens? Help trap/neuter/release efforts? Donate food/litter/supplies? Low cost spay/neuter clinic for cats. http://www.catsaliveslv.com 719-298-7028. (TFN)

FREE TO GOOD HOME. Adults and kittens. NO MOUSERS OR BARN CATS. Spay/neuter clinics coming to Alamosa in near future. Call Donna K 719-589-5952 or 719-580-9078. (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 kckennedy163@gmail.com(3/3)

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)

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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

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634 - ROOMMATE WANTED

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

717 WATER SHARES

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

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Blanca 81123	Homelake 81135	Romeo 81148
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Capulin 81124	Jaroso 81138	San Acacio 81151
Center 81125	La Garita 81132	Sanford 81151
Chama 81126	La Jara 81140	San Luis 81152
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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Move like lava
 - 5 That guy's
 - 8 Keep — on
 - 12 Makes haste
 - 13 Drink suffix
 - 14 Mr. Sikorsky
 - 15 Grabbed
 - 17 Small lumps
 - 18 "Fish Magic" artist
 - 19 Marbles
 - 21 Sense organ
 - 23 Ben & Jerry rival
 - 24 Maiden
 - 27 Black playing card
 - 31 Like some cats
 - 32 Writer — Bagnold
 - 34 New Age singer
 - 35 Two-piece cookie
 - 37 Ounce fraction
 - 39 Beauty salon item
- DOWN**
- 1 Mild interjections
 - 2 Sound piggish
 - 3 Enthusiasm
 - 4 High regard
 - 5 Villain's cry
 - 6 Notion

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

- 7 Papyrus is one
- 8 Antique photograph
- 9 Fit of shivering
- 10 Cuts short
- 11 Almost-grads
- 16 Halt
- 20 Mag fillers
- 22 Tear to bits
- 24 Be bold
- 25 Pharaoh's god
- 26 Trevis Fountain coins once
- 28 Murray or Rice
- 29 Did batik
- 30 Have a bite
- 31 Popinjay
- 33 Jazz great — Brubeck
- 36 Epic journey
- 38 Rationed out
- 41 Use hair rollers
- 43 Snuggle
- 45 Abominable
- 47 Ad award
- 48 Equine fodder
- 49 Tidy the lawn
- 51 Goody-goody
- 52 Metric prefix
- 53 Mont Blanc
- 55 Right away
- 56 Qt. fractions

ALLEY OOP

THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT. HE WAS A BRITISH LOYALIST. HE WANTED US TO HELP STOP THE BOSTON TEA PARTY.

BUT IF WE DID THAT, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA MIGHT NEVER EXIST!

I MEAN, MAYBE...?

WOULD THAT BE THE WORST THING?

NO WAY! I DON'T WANT TO LEARN TO DRIVE ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ROAD!

ARLO & JANIS

HERE WE ARE, HAVING A ROMANTIC DINNER IN A COZY RESTAURANT!

TOMORROW, THIS JOINT'LL BE PACKED WITH SUCKERS WAITING TO EAT FROM AN OVER-PRICED FIXED MENU!

YOU DON'T THINK I'M BEING CHEAP, DO YOU?

NO! IT'S PERFECTLY SENSIBLE!

BUT MAYBE YOU COULD BRAG ABOUT IT A LITTLE LESS!

BIG NATE

...BUT MALLORY! I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT ANYMORE CONNOR! IT'S OVER!

I HOPE WE CAN STILL BE FRIENDS.

ALOHA. NOW THAT'S TIMING.

THE BORN LOSER

I WAS WORKING SO HARD THIS AFTERNOON, I MISSED MY COFFEE BREAK!

TO MAKE UP FOR IT, MAY I COME IN FIFTEEN MINUTES LATE TOMORROW?

NO, YOU MAY COME IN FIFTEEN MINUTES EARLY AND TAKE YOUR BREAK THEN.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

HEY THERE YOU ARE! I COULDN'T FIND ANYBODY, IT'S SO DARK IN THERE!

MAN! I CAN'T SEE A THING AFTER ALL THOSE FLASHING LIGHTS!

THE MUSIC IS SO LOUD, ALL YOU CAN DO IS VELL!

MY EARS ARE STILL RINGING!

YOU KNOW, THIS HAS TO BE ONE OF THE BEST DANCES WE EVER HAD!!

FRANK & ERNEST

TALK ABOUT HEALTHY, HIS IMMUNE SYSTEM EXTENDS TO KNOWLEDGE!

GARFIELD

MY, WHAT A LOVELY DAY!

WHAT ELSE YOU GOT?

THE GRIZZWELLS

AS A CANDIDATE, I'D LIKE TO CAMPAIGN ON THE ISSUES.

BUT THAT DRAFT-DODGING, WOMANIZING, SLEAZY OPPONENT OF MINE WON'T LET ME!

PEANUTS

WHAT'S ALL THE YELLING ABOUT?

THIS STUPID MARCIE SAYS WE'RE ALL HYPOCRITES!

SHE SAYS WE DON'T REALLY BELIEVE THAT CHUCK IS A GOOD BASEBALL MANAGER SO OUR WHOLE DINNER IS HYPOCRITICAL!

I'M NOT STUPID, SIR.

BY GOLLY, IF IT WEREN'T FOR ONE THING, I'D SLUG HER!!

WHAT'S THAT?

DEEP DOWN I KNOW SHE'S RIGHT!

OH, GOOD GRIEF!!

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
	18			19			20			
21				22			23			
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31				32			33		34	
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47	48			49			50		51	52
53				54			55			56
57				58			59			
60				61			62			

HERMAN

"He seems to have decided on a baseball scholarship."

Niece suspects elderly aunt is being isolated by her son

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have an elderly (90-plus) aunt who lives with her son in a town about four hours away. She corresponds by letter with us regularly, and we always write back. However, it has become apparent that she's not receiving our letters because she doesn't make any comments on any of the things we write to tell her about. We suspect that her son is withholding her mail because we have written to him in the past to express our displeasure about how he treats his mother's emotional and safety needs. In the last letter we received from her, she told us she expected to spend Christmas in her basement apartment while her son and his wife's family have Christmas festivities upstairs. It broke our hearts, but we realize that since we're so far away, there's little we can do. We've tried sending letters without our return address on the envelope, etc. to get past her son's scrutiny, but we really don't believe she's getting her mail. Should we contact the police or social services to do a wellness check on her, or do you have another suggestion? We know she occasionally goes to a senior center in town. Should we write to her in care of the senior center? Your

comments are appreciated. --SUSPICIOUS IN GEORGIA

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: Your relative may be having memory issues, or your fears may be genuine. Is it possible to talk with her on the phone or visit her to make an assessment? If someone suspects that an older person is being physically, emotionally or financially abused, it should be reported so the matter can be investigated. You can do that by contacting Adult Protective Services in your aunt's state or the National Domestic Violence hotline at thehotline.org or 800-799-7233.

DEAR ABBY: A few years ago, I found some flirtatious and slightly risqué messages between my husband and a female business associate. My husband agreed that they were wrong and says he has discontinued those kinds of conversations. He has stayed in contact with her, and their friendship remains. After dealing with the hurt for more than two years, I finally told him a few months ago the only way I would be OK with their friendship is if he introduced me to her. He promised he would, but he hasn't followed through. This week I saw our phone bill that while on a



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

recent business trip he was texting with her late into the night and early in the morning. I confronted him, but he continues to say they are just friends, and he is doing nothing wrong. I'm heartbroken. I feel he has betrayed my trust. What should I do? --DISRESPECTED IN TEXAS

DEAR DISRESPECTED: Your husband is doing something wrong. He's hurting you and threatening the marriage. What you should do now is ask your doctor or your health insurance company to refer you to a marriage and family therapist, schedule some visits and insist that your husband join you. If he is interested in saving the marriage, he will agree. If not, you may need to reconsider your future and consult an attorney.

Lifestyle

Safari Club International battling Wolf Ballot Initiative

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Safari Club International, the leader in defending the freedom to hunt and promoting wildlife conservation worldwide, raised an astounding \$140,000 in response to a strategic call to action focused on the proposed forced reintroduction of wolves into Colorado.

Led by the Colorado delegation of SCI during last week's 48th Annual SCI Convention, these funds will be utilized in the state to advance concerns surrounding the Colorado Wolf Ballot Initiative.

SCI hosted an educational seminar focused on the issue and the SCI Board of Directors also discussed a strategy and detailed course of action to address the threats posed by this issue and prevent the initiative from advancing. Chapters from across the country stepped up to help fund this effort and SCI will continue generating additional revenue for this fight until it is finished in November.

SCI will immediately begin engaging in a grassroots campaign led by Coloradoan's Protecting Wildlife, alongside its partners from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Colorado Farm Bureau, and the Colorado Woolgrowers Association. Interested parties are invited to view their website for more information on the "Rethink Wolves" campaign.

The proposed ballot measure would mandate the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission (CPW) to develop a plan to restore and manage gray wolves in Colorado "using the best scientific data available" and "designed to resolve conflicts with persons engaged in ranching and farming." According to documents obtained by Safari Club International through a Colorado Open Records Act request, the reintroduction effort would cost Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) approximately \$6 million through the first eight years of implementation, with additional yearly expenses topping over three-quarters of a million dollars annually.

"Wildlife management by ballot box is a horrible precedent to set," said Ben Cassidy, Director of Government Affairs for SCI. "Wildlife management decisions should be made by the biologists, wildlife managers and scientists who have the expertise and experience to make decisions that will affect Colorado's wildlife and those who enjoy that wildlife.

Aside from the obvious safety concern of releasing wolves into a rapidly growing state that already boasts 6 million

residents, the ballot effort has raised red flags in the hunting community. Forcing the sudden presence of an apex predator into the ecosystem would likely have disastrous effects on the large ungulate populations for which Colorado is famous.

Fewer elk and mule deer from predation means fewer hunting tags available for resident and non-resident hunters. Such a reduction in tags and the hunting licenses required to purchase the tags would result in a loss of revenue for CPW for management of wildlife and habitat. Over time, this could impact the federal funding the state of Colorado receives through the Pittman-Robertson Act, which distributes funds based on the number of hunters a state has for the purpose of wildlife management.

Hunters are joined in their concern by the agricultural community who fear that wolf predation on livestock could damage an industry that contributes more than \$4 billion a year into the state. Lastly, there are also

Endangered Species Act implications. Wolves are an endangered species and will continue to be so until the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delists them.

Safari Club International will continue to monitor this situation and will be involved in every way it can to ensure state management authority isn't undermined at the ballot box.

To receive important updates and alerts about not only this ballot issue in Colorado, but other important fights around the country sign up for SCI's Hunter Advocacy Action Center.

Safari Club International-First For Hunters is the leader in protecting the freedom to hunt and in promoting wildlife conservation worldwide. SCI's approximately 200 Chapters represent all 50 of the United States as well as 106 other countries. SCI's proactive leadership in a host of cooperative wildlife conservation, outdoor education and humanitarian programs, with the SCI Foundation and other conservation groups, research institutions and government agencies, empowers sportsmen to be contributing community members and participants in sound wildlife management and conservation. Visit the home page www.SafariClub.org, or call 520-620-1220 for more information

Report, photo courtesy of press release from Robert Brooks, senior associate, The Herald Group, dial: 202-617-3080 | email: rbrooks@theheraldgroup.com.

Humane housing for safe, comfortable livestock

Consumers depend on various agricultural producers to provide the fruits, vegetables and meat and dairy products they rely on for sustenance.

The conditions in which livestock are sometimes housed and cared for is a cause of concern for many such consumers. However, farmers who understand that their livelihoods depend on the health of their animals often do their best to keep their livestock healthy and comfortable.

Animal agriculture is evolving as animal scientists, veterinarians and farmers seek ways to provide for animal health and welfare. At the same time, farmers are seeking ways to minimize the negative impact these changes can have on employees and the environment.

INDOOR HOUSING

Data published in 2016 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that indoor housing protects livestock from harsh external environments and serves to decrease exposure to parasites and diseases spread by insects, wildlife and other vectors.

Although some are quick to say that outdoor living is better and indoor conditions can be unsanitary, many studies have proven the opposite. Increased prevalence of infectious disease and parasites are well-known risks associated with outdoor housing of livestock, said the USDA. This has been proven by studying both indoor and outdoor chickens, as well as swine.

BATTERY CAGES

Many people are concerned about the welfare of hens spending time in battery cages. These cages prevent hens from fighting with one another, but they also put the birds in very tight quarters. Battery cages were often coveted because their sloped floors allowed clean eggs

to roll away into collection areas, making the process less labor-intensive.

Farmers are trying to find a balance between keeping eggs clean and birds safe while providing humane living conditions without affecting the cost of eggs. In some areas, such as the European Union, battery cages are no longer in use. Egg-laying hens in Canada also may find battery cages a thing of the past thanks to the a new NFACC code for the care and handling of Canada's hens.

In addition, Publix, Wal-Mart, Costco, Denny's, and more than 20 other major companies have stopped buying eggs from producers who use battery cages.

GROUP HOUSING

Veal production has long been a point of contention among animal welfare activists. The traditional option has been to keep calves alone in "veal crates," which are small and provide limited movement. Many veal farmers have slowly transitioned

away from veal crates, said the organization Animal Smart. Group pens and indoor barns are climate-controlled and allow calves to stay together. Some farms even afford the calves some outdoor time for fresh air.

Group housing is more social and less restrictive for the calves. According to the American Veal Association, veal farmers spent more than \$50 million over 10 years to transition to these group housing systems. Calves can stand, stretch, lie down, groom themselves and benefit from year-round ventilation to thrive.

Furthermore, milk-fed calves raised for veal are raised until age 22 weeks, and marketed at 500 pounds, which is much older and larger than many people likely know, according to AVA.

Great strides are being made to ensure that livestock are provided humane living conditions and environments to keep them comfortable and safe. TF185004



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Tip

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