



Colorado Parks and Wildlife announces expansion of Aira to state parks

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Two Alamosa girls soccer players named All-State by CHSAA

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

June 4, 2024

\$1



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SLV Today

VBS at Gateway Church June 10-14

DEL NORTE – Vacation Bible School with the theme of The Great Jungle Journey will be from 6 to 8:30 p.m. June 10-14 at Gateway Church, 975 Grande Ave., Del Norte. Registration is at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 719-580-0638.

MV mosquito spraying begins June 13

MONTE VISTA – The City of Monte Vista will start its Mosquito Spray Operations at 8 p.m. on June 13. Each year the city works to control the mosquito population by using both aerial spraying of adulticides of the city boundaries and applies larvicides in areas of standing water.

Beginning June 13, the city will once again begin this process. The city will employ two truck mounted aerial foggers. They will begin on the city's furthest boundaries and work toward the town center. Based on responses from last year the city will continue to only do the streets.

For those that have an aversion to the ULV fogging practices the city will again accept applications to be placed on the "No Spray List". Applications can be found on the City Website or hard copies at City Hall.

Contact Robert Vance at rvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us, for any questions or concerns.

SLV WEATHER



Increasing Clouds, Breezy 80/45
Wed: Sunny 85/47
Thurs: Sunny, Breezy 88/50

INSIDE

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City Council to consider multiple ordinances Wednesday night

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA—During Wednesday night's meeting, members of the Alamosa City Council will be voting on five ordinances and a resolution related to everything from the "Model Traffic Code," to firefighter stipends. The meeting starts at 7 p.m.

First on the list, council members will be asked to approve, on first reading, Ordinance No. 11-2024, an ordinance authorizing the Police Chief to sign the San Luis Valley Drug Task Force Memorandum of Understanding

(MOU). As described in the communication to council prior to the meeting, "This MOU allows our investigators, while working as part of the drug task force, to cross those jurisdictional boundaries without hesitation to pursue justice in holding drug dealers accountable for their crimes."

Creation of a Valley-wide drug task force has been a long-standing

■ See **COUNCIL** page 3

The Alamosa City Council will meet for a regular meeting on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Courtesy photo



SummerFest draws crowds to park



Courier photos by Ken Hamrick

That 90's Band performs at SummerFest on the Rio Saturday at Cole Park.



Children roll around in the Water Kicker Wow Balls.



Two children dance to the music of That 90's Band at the SummerFest on the Rio Saturday at Cole Park.



There was always traffic on the Tidal Wave fun slide.

Female inmate at Alamosa County Detention Center found unresponsive in cell



Courier file photo

Erica Ann Martinez, 41, was found unresponsive in her cell at the Alamosa County Detention Center early Sunday morning and was subsequently pronounced deceased at the scene. According to Alamosa County Coroner Joe Dzuris, an autopsy revealed no sign of foul play.

Autopsy rules out foul play

PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — During a routine cell check at the Alamosa County Detention Center early Sunday morning, an unresponsive female inmate was found in her cell.

The 41-year-old woman was discovered at 7:19 a.m., at which time deputies and EMS staff performed life-saving measures. Unfortunately, she was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Joe Dzuris, Alamosa County Coroner, has identified the woman as Erica Ann Martinez. ■ See **DEATH** page 3

Primary election ballots are in the mail today

Local races include
Alamosa County Commissioner District 1, State Senator, and House

By JOHN WATERS
News Editor
ALAMOSA COUNTY — Election ballots for the June 25 primary election are in the mail starting

today. Registered voters will receive a ballot in the next several days.

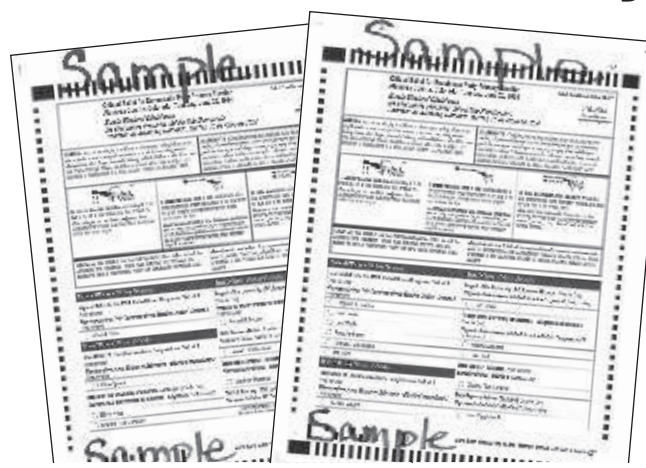
According to The Colorado Secretary of State, in the 2022 primary election in Alamosa County, of the 9,782 active voters, 3,300 or 33.74% cast ballots.

For new Colorado residents who are not yet registered to vote, they can participate in the election if they have resided in the state for 22 days be-

fore the election. Voters must be 18 years of age or older, a U.S. Citizen and not serving a term of imprisonment for a felony conviction.

Registered Republicans and Democrats will receive a ballot their party, and unaffiliated voters will receive both Republican and Democratic ballots and can pick one part to vote for.

On the Alamosa County ■ See **BALLOTS** page 3



The Alamosa County Sample Ballots.

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OBITUARIES

Buddy Randall Romero Sr.

Buddy Randall Romero Sr. (Paloma), 53, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 6, 2024, at Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs with his family by his side. He was born April 24, 1971, in La Jara, Colo.

Buddy truly lived life to the fullest through simple pleasures, chatting with friends and family, fishing, hunting, working on cars, and cruising. Especially spending every minute, he had with his son. When Buddy wasn't with his son, he had his dog Koda that he spent all his time with.

Buddy had an uncanny ability to reach people in a deep and positive way and made friends anywhere he went. If you knew Buddy, you knew he would give his shirt off his back to anyone even if it was a stranger. Buddy was a devoted father, grandpa, brother, uncle,

and friend to all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Lucinda Barela; children; Amber Romero (Joseph Clifford), Estevan Barela (Ashley), Kerrissa Romero (Chris Quintana), Randall Romero, and Alexander Suarez; brothers, Lee Romero, Leon Romero, and Ernest Romero (Peggy); sisters, Margie (Thomas) Alanis, June (Juan) Rodriguez, Ernestina Romero; and Dillie Romero; grandchildren Braydyn Barela, Aspen Barela, Gabriella Barela, and Timber Barela. As well as many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Buddy was preceded in death by his mother Avelina "Roy" Romero, brothers; Don Toby "Neno" Rodriguez, Jimmy "Miko" Armstrong, Danny (Miko) Romero; Sister; Andrea (Honky) Armstrong; grandchild Baby Barela; in-laws Angelica (Gel)



Barela, Mario Barela, Robert (Kiko) Barela; niece Jaydyn Quintana; nephew Miguel Barela.

Recitation of the Rosary will be held on Friday, June 7, 2024, at 7 p.m. at the St. Joseph Parish in Capulin. Mass of the Resurrection will be held June 8, 2024, at 11 a.m., at the St. Joseph Parish in Capulin a dinner will follow at Our Lady of the Valley Parish in La Jara. A private burial will be held on a later date.

Leola Roberts



Longtime Monte Vista resident Leola Roberts, 95, died May 24, 2024, at her home in Monte Vista.

Leola's life began in Monte Vista, Colo., on Sept. 5, 1928, the daughter to Delbert Stillings and Blanche M. Jones Stillings. She married James Roberts on Nov. 6, 1949, at the Christian Church in Monte Vista. They enjoyed over 63 years until his death in 2012.

She was a member of the Order of Easter Star for over 59 years, and a part of Beta Sigma Phi for over 72 years, and a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Leola is survived by her son Edward Roberts of Monte Vista; her sis-

ter Lorraine Holland of Dallas, Texas; her granddaughter-in-law Kelly Roberts of Arvada, Colo.; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her daughter Nancy Roberts, her

grandson Michael Roberts, her siblings: Charles Stillings, Maurice Stillings, Lois Barton, and Cynthia Fischer.

Cremation was chosen and a Memorial Service will be held Friday, Sept. 6, 2024, at the Rogers Family Mortuary, 404 Morris St., Monte Vista. Interment will take place in the Monte Vista Cemetery. Contributions are suggested to Shriners Children's Hospital at <https://donate.lovetotherecue.org>, or to Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado at <https://scottishritefoundation.org/donations/>

To leave online condolences, words of comfort, or tributes for Blanche's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

Carol Jean (Jones) Sveum



January 24, 1949 – May 28, 2024

Carol Jean (Jones) Sveum, 75, died peacefully on May 28, 2024 after a 2.5-year residency in Evergreen Nursing Home. Carol was born Jan. 24, 1949 in Lubbock, Texas, to George Winston and Cynthia (Curtis) Jones. Carol married Larry Sveum on June 8, 1974, and she had two sons, Niels Erik and Lany Wade.

Carol graduated from Texas Tech University with a BA in Journalism and an MA in Mass Communications. Carol taught English and Journalism at several high schools including Childress, Texas, Sweetwater, Texas, Amarillo, Texas, New Orleans, La., and Las Vegas, N.M. She worked for several years at New Mexico Highlands University as an adjunct faculty in the Humanities Department and as the Assistant Director of Information Services. Carol developed a strong interest in pho-

tography and pottery and spent several years studying the techniques involved with each. She also produced a number of unique pots and many black and white photographs. Carol's passion for photography, led her to working for the Las Vegas Daily Optic. She also enjoyed working on craft projects with her sisters, sisters-in-law, and church members.

While a resident in Evergreen, Carol developed deep friendships with the nurses, CNAs, the activity staff, and other staff members.

While at Evergreen, she particularly enjoyed working on crafts for Christmas ornaments or table center pieces and playing Bingo.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents and three siblings, George and Alan Jones, and Ellen Keele.

Carol is survived by her husband Larry, her sons, Niels and Lany, her sister, Claudia (Dick) Thornton, and brother, Claude (Kay) Jones, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be sent to the New Mexico Highlands Foundation, P.O. Box 9000, Las Vegas, NM 87701, or a charity of choice.

Per Carol and her families wishes, a memorial celebration of life will be held at a later date.

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

Author with Creede ties publishes book

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

CREEDE – Rachel Stark was reminded of her hometown the first time she ventured to Creede. Though Perris, Calif., is in a more desert terrain, she couldn't help but feel a connection when a job opportunity took her from the West Coast to the Rocky Mountains in Creede.

Stark had begun the long, magical task of writing a novel – "Perris, California" – and had about half of the story finished by the time she graduated from the University of California, Davis, grad school. Her book was based in her hometown of Perris and using the love and support shown to her by the many women in her life, she created a wonderful polyphonic story about the social confines put on women during the 1980s and 1990s.

"I spent a lot of time thinking about whether I should use my hometown as the location for my book. It felt too close to home, and I felt a great responsibility to represent Perris with complexity, integrity and tenderness. There are more trees than people and both the land and the people are very special to me," she said.

In 2019, Stark found herself whisked to Creede, where she finally found time to continue her novel in the beautiful Colorado Rockies while working on a ranch. Not long after, COVID hit, and she had all the time she needed to finish her book.

Once the book was finished, she allowed the family to read her rough draft and received positive feedback.

"Then a friend of mine, Molly, asked if she could read the book and I was hesitant at first. The writing process is so dear to me. It's something so magical. I was nervous."

Stark met Molly in a coffee shop where she worked in Sacramento, Calif., and thus a friendship was born with a twist of lavender lemonade.

Stark pushed through and allowed her friend to read the novel.

"Once she was done,



Photo courtesy of John Lawley

A new author has hit the bookshelves and has a place close to her heart just for Creede. Rachel Stark has embarked on a journey of a lifetime, and she attributes her success to the wonderful people in her life and her second home in Creede

she asked if she could share it with her mother and that made me even more nervous," laughed Stark. "Her mother was such a strong woman who worked in advertising in New York. But I said yes and off my book went."

Within a few days, Stark heard back from her friend's mom and was told her novel was something special. From that point forward, Stark found herself in a whirlwind of dreams come true as she stood back and watched her novel take flight, first going to an agent in New York and then being sold to Penguin House Books Publishing.

"Everything is still so surreal for me. It is the love and support of my family, friends and the Creede community that keeps me grounded. I couldn't believe at the start of the journey that this was real. This was happening to me, and I feel so blessed," she said.

Stark now calls Colorado home and keeps in close contact with the friends she has in Creede.

"All the people showing up for me in my life right now is what makes this real. It keeps me grounded and is very heart filling. I am so grateful for all of them," she said.

A brief description of the book follows, "Abandoned first by her father and then her mother, as

a girl Tessa is left to live with her abusive stepfather and stepbrother. She survives by finding reserves of strength in herself, and by the surprising, transformative love of another teenage girl, Mel, who sees through Tessa's tough exterior to the vulnerable, scarred, loving woman inside. When she suddenly loses Mel, too, Tessa stumbles into a saving grace of a different kind with Henry and his mama, Angie, becoming a mother and finding herself in a familial existence that somehow carries her into adulthood—until the day she runs into Mel, who has just returned to Perris after years away.

Filled with violence, tragedy, tenderness, longing, and the unvarnished courage of women living in a mostly unseen America, Perris, California is the utterly gripping story of Tessa's journey from trauma to healing, and it introduces us to one of the most indelible female characters since Bone Boatwright in Dorothy Allison's *Bastard Out of Carolina* or Ruth Langmore in *Ozark*."

PENDING OBITUARIES

Melinda Sue Ybarra

Monte Vista resident Melinda Sue Ybarra, 68, passed away June 2, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Erica Martinez

Alamosa resident Erica Martinez, 41, was called home on June 2, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

School Menu

Tuesday

June 4, 2024

BREAKFAST

Turkey Sausage, Egg & Cheese Wrap
Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY

BBQ Pork Sandwich
French Fries
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL

BBQ Pork Sandwich
French Fries
Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL

BBQ Pork Sandwich
French Fries
Fruit & Milk

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Alamosa School District

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Valley News

'Gift of ART' on display at Milagros Coffee House through June

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — SLV Painters present a "Gift of ART" show that will hang in Milagros Coffee in Alamosa through June.

SLV Painters are a loose association of artists who have painted with Coni Grant in the San Luis Valley Painting Classes. Grant has been teaching and supporting local artists for years in her classes at the Alamosa Recreation Center and in her studio in Alamosa.

A reception will be held on Saturday, June 8, from noon to 2 p.m. at the coffee house. Get a chance to meet the artists and vote for your favorite piece. All work will be on sale and 15% of all sales will be donated to La Puente of Alamosa.

The art will include all mediums including watercolor, acrylic, and oil. The artwork will be presented in a range of sizes to fit every wall space. The paintings will have a wide range of styles and subjects, including "Plein Air," paintings from around the area.

Milagros has been representing and supporting local artists for years, and the SLV painters have had artwork at this venue many times. They are looking forward to continuing this tradition starting again this month.

Milagros Coffee House is at 529 Main St. in Alamosa, hours are 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day except Sunday when they are open 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.



A sample of artwork on display at Milagros Coffee House in Alamosa.

Courtesy photo

Death

Continued from Page 1

nez. The Valley Courier reached Dzuris when he was returning to Alamosa after an autopsy on Mar-

tinez had been completed, the results of which, he says, confirmed there was no foul play.

Alamosa County Sheriff Robert Jackson has contacted the Colorado Bureau of Investigation

and requested a thorough investigation of the incident. According to a statement from the Sheriff's Office, this is an ongoing investigation, and no further details will be released at this time.

Ballots

Continued from Page 1

Democratic ballot, voters can vote for one candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, Adam Frisch. In the Alamosa County Commissioner District 1 race, voters can cast their vote for Richard P. Needham. In the State Senator race, Vivian Smotherman

appears. For State Representative District 62 Matthew Martinez appears.

On the Republican Alamosa County ballot, the following appear: for U.S. House of Representatives, Stephen A. Varela, Ron Hanks, Lew Webb, Russ Andrews, Curtis M. McCracken, and Jeff Hurd. In the Alamosa Commissioner District 1 race, incumbent Lori

Laske appears as does District 3 Commissioner Vern Heersink who is running unopposed. District Attorney 12th Judicial District Anne Kelly is also running unopposed. In the State Senate District 6 race incumbent Cleave Alan Simpson appears. In the State Representative race for District 62, Carol Riggerbach is on the ballot.

Council

Continued from Page 1

ing goal of District Attorney Anne Kelly.

The City Council will also consider, on first reading, whether or not to adopt the 2024 Model Traffic Code, with deletion of several provisions that aren't relevant to Alamosa. As described in communication sent out to councilors, the Model Traffic Code relates primarily to comprehensive traffic control regulations for the City.

On second reading, council will consider an ordinance approving the Colorado State Patrol providing radio dispatch service to the Alamosa Police Department and the Alamosa Fire Department. Also on second reading, the council will consider Ordinance No. 4-2024, An ordinance approving official hours for public use of City of Alamosa Parks and Open Space and pro-

hibiting deadly weapons in all or selected Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities. City staff is recommending that the Council hold another public hearing prior to voting on the ordinance.

In response to feedback from volunteer firefighters, council will consider Resolution No. 5-2024, which would amend firefighter stipends.

As part of an ongoing situation, the council will take up discussion of the future of property located at 919 8th Street where a house, previously owned by a private citizen, was purchased by the city at auction due to its proximity to the water treatment plant.

Since the topic was originally brought up in council meetings, there have been developments in response to concerns stated by the current tenant, the specifics of which will be discussed in both open session and executive session during the

meeting.

However, prior to all those issues, the Wednesday meeting of the council will start with hearing from a diverse and interesting line-up of people and organizations. Alamosa Police Department (APD) Chief Dingfelder will be discussing the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion/Let Everyone Advance with Dignity Program (LEAD) Program and APD's co-responder program. Dingfelder will be followed by an annual update from Alamosa Senior Citizens group with a presentation from the highly innovative, locally based Dark Sky group that is part of SLVGO. Alamosa City council meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays at 7 p.m., in the Council Chambers at 300 Hunt Ave. Those who wish to attend via zoom can do so via Zoom Webinar Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85753492744>.

Classic car destroyed by fire



Courtesy photo

A classic automobile, believed to be a 1968 Chevrolet Camara, was destroyed by fire Sunday evening after it suddenly erupted in flames. Capt. Zach Cerny of the Alamosa Fire Department (AFD) said the driver of vehicle, who was not identified, noticed smoke coming from the area of the gear shift, pulled over in the 1400 block of Ross Avenue in Alamosa and the fire began. AFD responded at 7 p.m. Sunday with one truck and five personnel and were on scene for over an hour dealing with a gasoline leak from the vehicle after the fire was doused.



Great Sand Dunes is hiring a visitor services intern

STAFF REPORT
SAN LUIS VALLEY

— Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve is hiring a full-time seasonal intern starting on June 24 and ending on Oct. 25.

The position is a full-time, seasonal role

starting on June 2, and ending on Oct. 25, and includes a \$730 weekly living stipend and eligibility for a \$2,626.27 AmeriCorps Education Award.

The intern will be involved in the daily operations of the park and

gain valuable experience serving alongside National Park Service staff.

For complete position description and to apply, please visit

<https://jobs.silkroad.com/ConservationL.../Careers/jobs/4804>

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Lifestyles

Possible migraine triggers

(METRO) – Migraine headaches can be debilitating, and chances are many families include at least one person who is fully aware of that reality. In fact, the American Migraine Foundation notes that migraines affect more than 37 million people in the United States, while the World Health Organization includes migraines among its 10 most disabling global illnesses.



Courtesy photo

A number of variables can trigger migraine headaches. Learning those triggers and doing your best to avoid them may help people avoid migraines or reduce their frequency.

to overcome it might help people avoid migraines or reduce their frequency.

- **Changes in sleeping habits:** The AMF notes the link between sleep and migraines is substantial and points out that nearly 50 percent of all migraines occur between 4 a.m. and 9 a.m. Maintaining a regular sleep schedule, including on weekends, may help to lower migraine risk and frequency. In addition, the AMF recommends people avoid watching television, texting, reading, or listening to music while in bed.

- **Weather:** If migraine sufferers feel the weather plays a role in their headaches, they're not necessarily wrong. According to the Mayo Clinic, weather changes can produce chemical imbalances in the brain that can trigger

a migraine. Weather-related triggers may include bright sunlight, extreme temperatures, high humidity, and barometric pressure changes, among others. Individuals who feel certain types of weather have triggered past migraines are urged to stay indoors when similar conditions arise.

- **Dehydration:** Dehydration can contribute to a host of adverse side effects, including migraines. According to the AMF, roughly one-third of people who suffer migraines report dehydration is a trigger for their headaches, with some noting that even slight dehydration can quickly cause debilitating head pain. Drinking sufficient amounts of water each day may help reduce migraine risk and frequency.

HUD announces funding to support economic independence for low-income families

By LINDSEY TOOMER

Colorado Newsline
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will allocate \$44 million to support programs that help people living in public housing or receiving rental assistance move toward economic independence.

for its "extraordinary work" helping families not only access affordable housing, but save money that can help them meet their future goals. She said at the start of the Biden administration, there were about 600 programs that supported self-sufficiency across the country, and now there are closer to 1,000.

"One of the things that this administration believes in is making sure that every other city like Denver has a program like that," Todman said.

Todman also announced that three DHA-supported resident councils across Denver will receive \$800,000 to support residents in their communities, part of \$39 million going to local housing leadership teams around the country. The local funding will support efforts to connect residents in those communities to health care, job opportunities, financial education and more.

"We truly believe that any affordable housing crisis should be defined by the challenging conditions that people, families in the U.S. are facing," Denver Housing Authority CEO Joaquín Cintrón Vega said, "and therefore the solution to the crisis should be focused on improving those conditions."

Denver Mayor Mike Johnston said the city has prioritized getting people experiencing homelessness into transitional housing and then permanent housing, but said

"housing first as a strategy doesn't mean housing only as a strategy."

"Once folks arrive to housing, they will need the wraparound supports to be successful, and particularly the wraparound supports that set themselves up to be independent long-term," Johnston said. "Because we know their goal and our goal is for them to get into housing where they can pay their entire rent on their own."

Luiza Kishkinov participated in DHA's Family Self Sufficiency program for five years and saved up enough money to purchase a three-bedroom house for her and her three children. Her family has lived in their new home for about a month, she said.

"Through my time at DHA, I was able to set goals that eventually brought me to this position of homeownership," Kishkinov said. "I've been wanting to be a homeowner as most of you have wanted to be, and I got that opportunity."

U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette, a Denver Democrat, said the HUD funding will help support the most vulnerable members of communities she said are "often forgotten" when talking about housing.

"It takes a long period of commitment at every level to make sure that we can have affordable housing for every Denverite, every Coloradoan and every American, and so that's what this announcement today is," DeGette said.

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Lifestyles

Colorado Parks and Wildlife announces expansion of Aira to state parks

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

DENVER — To continue advancing Governor Jared Polis's goal of a Colorado for All, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) recently announced the expansion of Aira availability to the state parks system.

Aira is a digital tool to help Coloradans and visitors who are blind or have low vision access state services in real time. The Aira Explorer mobile app provides access to visual interpreters when navigating state-operated locations and digital services, including state parks. Through the Governor's Office of Information Technology's (OIT) Technology Accessibility Program (TAP), Aira provides free 30-minute sessions and users can connect for additional sessions if needed.

"All of us at Colorado Parks and Wildlife support working toward the important goals of a Colorado for All," said CPW Director Jeff Davis. "All of our park visitors, including blind or lower vision visitors, deserve access to our services. We're incredibly fortunate to be included in the expansion of Aira, helping ensure everyone feels welcome at our parks, and know that our programs and locations aim to be equitable and inclusive."

Aira uses the camera on a smartphone or computer to connect to a live, professionally-trained agent that uses secure

live video streaming to visually interpret what is shared by the user. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

"The partnership between Colorado Parks and Wildlife, OIT and Aira helps ensure accessibility for all in Colorado's great outdoors," said OIT Executive Director and CIO David Edinger. "Together, we are not only transforming the way people who are blind or low-vision enjoy our state's natural beauty but also setting an example of how public-private collaborations can create meaningful impact."

Using an app like Aira is unique in a state park setting, so users must be aware of the unique challenges these settings may present.

Like all apps that depend on video, a solid cellular connection is required to fully take advantage of Aira services at the park. Since not all parks have cellular service in all areas, visitors should call the park or visit the CPW website to understand connectivity before visiting. Because Aira relies on streaming video, users should plan to ensure their devices are fully charged and consider bringing a backup power source to prepare for extended connectivity.

"A tool like Aira helps us fulfill our mission of providing a quality state parks system for all Coloradans and helps us create more current and future stewards of Colo-

rado's natural resources," said Davis.

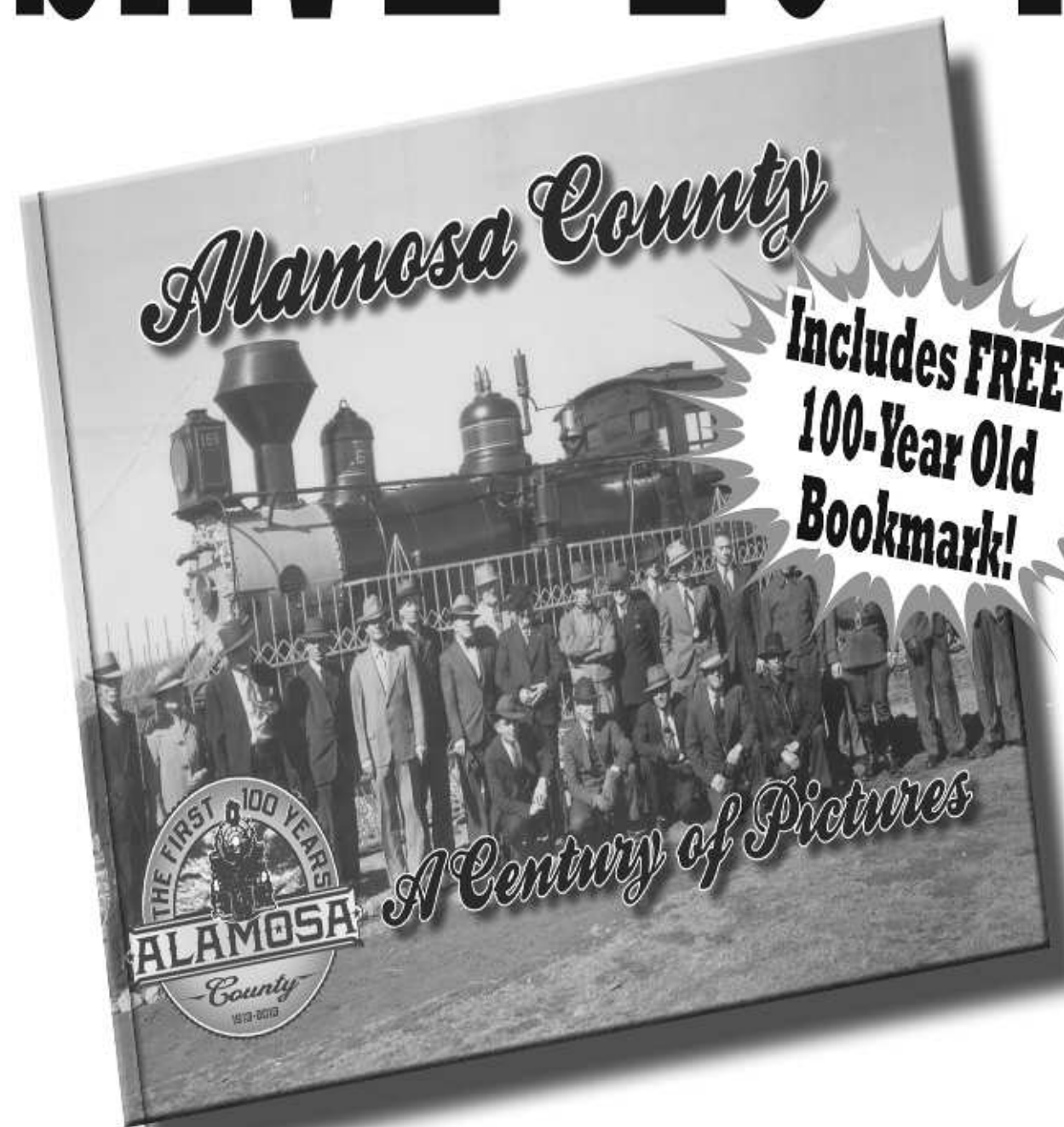
Learn more about how to access and use Aira at oit.colorado.gov/accessibility/aira. Download the app from your mobile device via the Apple Store or Google Play and let your friends and family know about this beneficial service.

Theresa Montano, the Senior Solutions Architect for OIT's Technology Accessibility Program team, uses the Aira app at Chatfield State Park.

Courtesy photo



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Alamosa

Books can make for a great way to bond

(NAPSI) — What do you do for an encore when you publish your first book at age 9? Well, if you're Katelyn Lonas, you go on to write and illustrate over 70 more by the tender age of 17.

Katelyn's books are all about inspiring others to believe in themselves and follow their dreams. Her motto is "Believe Dream Achieve." The line includes picture books, chapter books, coloring books, drawing books, fantasy, biography, science and much more. This Bearific collection is available online and in stores.

The books, range from the story of Captain Kate McCue the first American woman to be named captain of a "Mega" cruise ship, to drumming, to gluten free recipes, to myths, to pet care, to the constitution among many others. In addition, she collaborated with the Marine Mammal Care Center, a non-profit organization working towards saving seals and sea lions, to create books about their stories. Bearific also works with many other individuals, businesses and non-profit organizations such as Mercy Flights, the nation's first non-profit air ambulance service, to create aspiring stories.

Families can keep the Bearific fun going with Katelyn's adorable pictures on puzzles, cards, notecards, cartoons and videos.

Why Read

Reading to and with your kids can be a great way to help them do better in school, according to Jessica Logan, assistant professor of educational studies at The Ohio State University and a member of Ohio State's Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy: "Young children whose parents read them five books a day enter kindergarten having heard about 1.4 million more words than kids who were never read to," she said.

Even kids who read only one book a day will hear about 290,000 more words by age 5 than those who don't regularly read books with a parent or caregiver.

"Kids who hear more vocabulary words are going to be better prepared to see those words in print when they enter school," added professor Logan. "They are likely to pick up reading skills more quickly and easily."

The Children's Bureau of California, says reading to your kids gives them seven benefits:

1. Supported cognitive development
2. Improved language skills
3. Preparation for academic success
4. A special bond between parent and child
5. Increased concentration and discipline
6. Improved imagination and creativity
7. A lifelong love of reading.

Sports



Emmy Tibbitts

Courier file photos by Ken Hamrick



Jayden Wubben

Two Alamosa girls soccer players named All-State by CHSAA

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Colorado High School Activities Association released its All-State girls soccer teams on Friday with two members of the Alamosa High School team being recognized.

The two Lady Mean Moose players are junior goalkeeper Emmy Tibbitts and sophomore midfielder Jayden Wubben.

Tibbitts had 192 saves last season which was an average of 12 per game. She allowed 23 goals on the season.

She also played on offense on some occasions and she scored four goals.

Wubben led the Lady Mean Moose in scoring with 10 goals and nine assists for a total of 29 points. She also recorded



12 steals.

Alamosa had a record of eight wins, six losses and two ties and it also won the Intermountain League with a record of 4-1-1. The Lady Mean Moose also advanced to the Class 3A State Tournament.

Class 2A State Tournament

At Runyon Sports Complex, Pueblo
Friday, May 24

Limon 17, Buena Vista 7, 6 inn.
Lyons 12, Swink 2, 5 inn.
Dayspring Christian Academy 11, Las Animas 3
Denver Christian 4, Monte Vista 1
Lyons 5, Limon 1
Denver Christian 11, Dayspring Christian Academy 2

Saturday, May 25

Buena Vista 6, Swink 5, Swink eliminated
Las Anima 5, Monte Vista 0, Monte Vista eliminated

Buena Vista 7, Dayspring Christian Academy 4, Dayspring Christian Academy eliminated
Limon 2, Las Animas 1, 8 innings, Las Animas eliminated
Denver Christian 6, Lyons 2

Friday, May 31

Limon 4, Buena Vista 3, Buena Vista eliminated
Limon 8, Lyons 3, Lyons eliminated

Saturday, June 1

At CSU Pueblo's Rawlings Field
Denver Christian 2, Limon 1, Limon eliminated

Sports Bulletin

Follow sports editor Ken Hamrick on X.

His handle is @KenHamrick1.

SCHEDULE
FRIDAY
Baseball

Alamosa, Monte Vista at

Alamosa Tournament, TBA

SATURDAY
Baseball

Alamosa, Monte Vista at Alamosa Tournament, TBA



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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

THE ALAMOSA HOUSING AUTHORITY is seeking a qualified individual for a full-time **MAINTENANCE LABORER**. Minimum of three years of knowledge in small appliance repair, basic knowledge of electrical and plumbing such as changing electrical outlets, light fixtures, operating a plumbing snake, changing out faucets to list a few. Be able to operate grounds keeping equipment and be able to know and use common hand tools. Have common knowledge of minor furnace repair problems and basic carpentry skills (must be able to patch holes in drywall and interior doors). **MUST LIVE IN ALAMOSA COUNTY** and be able to be on-call for emergency maintenance requests. Must also have a valid Colorado Driver's License, and must be able to pass Colorado Background Investigation and a drug test. Minimum starting hourly wage is \$20.50 and we offer a competitive benefit package. Wage is determined upon experience. Apply at Alamosa Housing Authority located at 213 Murphy Drive. Job will close on June 28, 2024 or when position is filled. (6/8/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for the 2024-25 school year for (1) **CENTAURI MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH TEACHER**. Applicants must hold a current Colorado Teaching License or be able to obtain proper endorsement. Applications are available at the District Administration Office, 17887 US Hwy 285, LA JARA, CO 81140 or can be downloaded at www.northconejos.com. Submit application to the central office or email to rmccarroll@northconejos.com. Position is open until filled. EOE. (6/8/24)

AT HOME CHILD CARE PROVIDER needed at the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. 150 days per year which includes all days that teachers are at school. Applicants must have a high school diploma and experience working with young children is a plus! Please submit your application and resume to: Aaron Horrocks, Superintendent, at 950 French Street, DEL NORTE, CO, 81132, or call at 719-657-4040, x4000. Applications may be retrieved on-line at urtigers.co or at the District Office. (7/3/24)

JT TIMBER FALLING is hiring LOG TRUCK DRIVERS. Class A CDL. Starting at \$25/hr (\$37.50/hr Overtime). Great benefits are available. Home every night and based out of BLANCA, COLORADO. Call 719-379-4066 or visit JTTimber.com to apply. (6/12/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

DIRECTOR FOR INFANT CARE CENTER needed at the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. Please submit your application and resume to: Aaron Horrocks, Superintendent, at 950 French Street, DEL NORTE, CO, 81132, or call at 719-657-4040, x4000. Applications may be retrieved on-line at urtigers.co or at the District Office. (7/3/24)

LEAD TEACHER FOR INFANT CARE CENTER needed at the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. 150 days per year which includes all days that teachers are at school. Please submit your application and resume to: Aaron Horrocks, Superintendent, at 950 French Street, DEL NORTE, CO, 81132, or call at 719-657-4040, x4000. Applications may be retrieved on-line at urtigers.co or at the District Office. (7/3/24)

SUBSTITUTES TEACHERS/LONG TERM SUBS needed at the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT in DEL NORTE! Call or email: Sophia at 719-657-4040, x4000 (scrutz@urtigers.co) for more information, go on-line: urtigers.co, or stop by the district office at: 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO to pick up an application. You do not have to hold a college degree or be a certified teacher to substitute; however, you must be a high school graduate and have a substitute license from CDE (Colorado Department of Education). (7/3/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

CAFETERIA STAFF NEEDED at UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. Must have a high school diploma and some knowledge of working in a kitchen or a willingness to be trained. Pay is dependent on prior experience. Please contact Leslie Martinez at 719-657-4040, x1100 or email her at lmartinez@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co. (7/3/24) DEL NORTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is seeking an energetic, caring individual to serve as a SPECIAL EDUCATION PARA-EDUCATOR. Applicants must have a high school diploma and prior experience working with students with special needs is preferred. Please submit your application to Amy Duda, DNES Principal at 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO 81132; aduda@urtigers.co; or call at 719-657-4050. The position will be open until filled. You can pick up an application at the District Office or on-line at urtigers.co. (7/3/24)

POTATO WAREHOUSE IN CENTER IN NEED OF WORKERS. There are SEVERAL POSITIONS AVAILABLE. Hours 8:00 am-???. Competitive wages. Please inquire at MOUNTAIN KING SPUD GROWERS, 1090 South Miles Street, Center, CO. (6/5/24)

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

FULL-TIME MAINTENANCE & GROUNDS POSITION open at the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. Applicant must pass a background check and be able to work independently, be a forward-thinking individual with an overall team approach to all tasks at hand. Applicant must also be able to work in all weather conditions (snow removal/general landscaping). If interested, please contact Demo Trujillo, 719-657-4040 x4007, dtrujillo@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co. (7/3/24)

BUS DRIVERS NEEDED FOR the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT, CDL & NON-CDL DRIVERS. Will pay for CDL license and training with contract. Must be able to pass a background and pre-employment drug test. If interested, please contact Demo Trujillo, 719-657-4040 x4007, dtrujillo@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co. (7/3/24)

JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONIST / SCHOOL ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR, needed at DEL NORTE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL for the 2024-2025 school year. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic team. Applicants must have a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Annie at 719-657-4020. Applications can be found online at: urtigers.co. (7/3/24)

PART-TIME SECRETARY AT SACRED HEART CHURCH. Monday thru Friday - Hours 9:00 am to 2:00 pm (25 hrs. a week). Should be bilingual and have some Microsoft programs (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher) and google email/calendar knowledge. Please submit resume to admin@sacredheartalamosa.org or come to the office for an application. If you have any questions, please call the office at (719) 589-5829, ext. 11. (6/12/24)

SAN LUIS VALLEY HEALTH is seeking a highly organized and detail oriented EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT to work closely with the Chief Medical Officer. The Executive Assistant will provide high level administrative support to the CMO which will include managing schedules and arranging meetings. This position will play a crucial role in maintaining effective communication between medical staff leaders, hospital administration, and legal counsel. As Executive Assistant, you will serve as an essential link between senior management and medical staff to coordinate the operational processes of physician and allied health credentialing, meeting management, and flow of information while also maintaining strict confidentiality and ensuring compliance with organizational policies and accrediting and regulatory agencies. The pay range for this position is \$19.95 - \$27.84. For more information and to apply please visit our careers page at www.slvh.org (6/12/24)

TOWN OF DEL NORTE MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK. Town of Del Norte is hiring PART-TIME Municipal Court Clerk. High school graduate or GED equivalent and two years of office, legal, and court clerical. Will work closely with Town municipal judge for operations and procedures of the municipal court system. With knowledge of legal terminology and practices. Oversees and maintains the court dockets, records of all pending and disposed cases, and ensures accurate and updated information. All administrative and technical duties in support of municipal court. Send resume to Town of Del Norte - Attention Town Clerk. Resumes may be submitted by email to delnorte1860@outlook.com or mailed to Del Norte Town Hall, 140 Spruce Street, DEL NORTE, CO 81132. EOE. (6/12/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION at ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY is seeking a FIELD PLACEMENT COORDINATOR. This position is responsible for coordinating field experiences across all Education programs, undergraduate and graduate, and works with program coordinators, and administrative personnel, as well as outside partners and constituents to provide high-quality experience for our pre-service educators. This is a twelve-month full-time, exempt position. The pay range for this position is \$46,476 - \$52,164 commensurate with experience and education. A master's degree in an education related field is required and experience in educator preparation is preferred. For more information and to apply, please visit https://www.adams.edu/hr/employment/ (6/11/24)

SANFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT IS accepting applications for a HIGH SCHOOL ASSISTANT FOOTBALL COACH. Must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent, or such alternative to the above qualifications as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. All candidates must pass background checks. Applications can be downloaded at www.sanfordschools.org. Sanford School is an EOE&E. (6/8/24)

TOWN OF CENTER is accepting applications to fill 2 positions in their UTILITY DEPARTMENT. Applicant should possess knowledge and skills in all aspects of high voltage power lines, gas systems, water distribution, and sanitation. Applicant should accept duties of construction, repair, maintenance, and operation of these systems. Applicant must also have a valid driver's license and be able to operate trucks, backhoe, and other equipment in the performance of these duties. The duties also included are heavy manual labor and utilization of a large variety of hand tools. Some experience is preferred and continued training will be provided. Salary: \$19 - \$22 per hour depending on Experience. Generous Benefits Plan: 100% Employer-Paid Health Insurance, Competitive dental, vision, and life insurance plans, Generous PTO vacation earnings, Up to 3% match for retirement IRA's and Half-Day Fridays. Applicant must also have the ability to interact with customers and possess good communication skills. Applicant must also pass a background check and pre-employment drug testing. The candidate will also be subject to random drug testing upon hiring per CDOJ regulations. CDL license preferable but not required. The application deadline is June 7, 2024. (6/7/24)

NOW HIRING: PUBLIC WORKS ASSISTANT. Job Description: A Public Works Assistant is an on-call, PART-TIME position with no benefits, supervised by the Public Works Superintendent. The Public Works Assistant assists the Public Works Superintendent to service the sewer system, water system, roads and bridges, drainage, buildings, parks, Town properties, and cemetery. Required Knowledge, Qualities, Skills, And Abilities: Working knowledge of the language, principles, methods, materials, and equipment common to municipal public works repairs and maintenance of parks, roads, grounds, and buildings. Ability to operate and maintain small snow removal equipment, mowers, and a variety of power and hand tools. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with Town officials and employees, representatives of other agencies and organizations, and members of the community. Required Education, Training, And Experience: A valid Colorado driver's license or equivalent, and high school diploma or equivalent. Previous experience in a parks or public works department preferred. All applicants should fill out an application (located at http://townofcrestone.colorado.gov/) to submit along with a resume and cover letter to crestone-townoffice@gmail.com. (6/19/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

THE SLV LANDFILL is accepting applications for a TEMPORARY LANDFILL LABORER/BACKUP EQUIPMENT OPERATOR. Maintain landfill property, pick up trash, and be a backup equipment operator. Position open until filled. \$16.00 to \$17.00 per hour, 32 to 40 hours week. Applications to Kim at officemanager@slvlandfill.com or returned at the office. Download the application at slvlandfill.com. (6/5/24)

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for HS ASST. BOYS' BASKETBALL COACHES (2 positions). The salary for these positions will be paid from the current MVSD Extra Duty Salary Schedule, which can be viewed on the district website - Employment Opportunities page. Placement on the salary schedule will be determined by experience at time of hire. Applications may be submitted through our online employment application https://www.pirates.monte.k12.co.us/employmentopportunities, by May 29, 2024 or until the positions are filled. For questions contact the District Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (6/5/24)

AMERICORPS PATHWAYS NAVIGATOR. LOCAL, well-respected non-profit agency seeking enthusiastic individual to coordinate and support AmeriCorps members serving with the Rural Alliance for Dignity. No AmeriCorps experience necessary. On the job training and professional development provided. This position will specialize in recruitment, placement, and guidance for AmeriCorps members serving in small non-profit organizations throughout SOUTHERN COLORADO. They will work with La Puente's team to provide career pathway, logistical and project support for our local cohort of AmeriCorps Members. Join our dynamic team of dedicated professionals and learn the joys and satisfaction of helping others. Qualifications: interest in non-profit organizations, ability to travel, relationship skills, organizational, and writing skills. \$41 - 45k/yr/benefit package. Send resume: La Puente Home, P.O. Box 1235, ALAMOSA, CO 81101, 719 233-2673 www.lapuente.net Email: hr@lapuente.net (6/19/24)

SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is seeking an ELEMENTARY TEACHER for the 24-25 school year. Applicants must possess a Colorado Teaching License or be eligible to apply for one. Salary schedules are available on the district website. Please submit a district application, resume, cover letter, and transcripts at https://www.southconejos.com/page/how-to-apply. (6/5/24)

DEL NORTE HIGH SCHOOL is seeking a qualified SECONDARY BUSINESS TEACHER. We are seeking an experienced, hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, and vibrant team. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License with a Secondary Business endorsement. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Annie Hardy at ahardy@urtigers.co or call Mrs. Hardy at (719) 657 - 4020. Applications can be accessed online at www.urtigers.co. (6/15/24)

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26Jt is paying years of service and single health insurance benefits. Apply now to become part of our dynamic district as we are now accepting applications for the position of ELEMENTARY TEACHER, for the 2024-2025 School Year. Qualifications: Must hold a valid State of Colorado Teacher's License or such alternative as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. Applications can be found on the District Website https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (6/12/24)

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY is looking for candidates to fill the position of BUDGET ANALYST within the BUSINESS & FINANCE DEPARTMENT. You can apply https://adams.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/ENUS/ASU/details/Budget-Analyst_R188. We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions please reach out to our Human Resources department 719-587-7990. (6/8/24)

SHIPPING CLERK NEEDED for a POTATO WAREHOUSE in CENTER, CO. Hours are generally 8am-6pm Monday thru Friday, and possibly a few hours Saturday mornings. FAMOUS software experience and knowledge a must. Salary is negotiable. Please inquire at MOUNTAIN KING SPUD GROWERS, 1090 South Miles Street, Center, CO or email resume or application to tluna@mntking.com. (6/5/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26Jt is paying years of service and single health insurance benefits. Apply now to become part of our dynamic district as we are now accepting applications for the position of ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER, for the 2024-2025 School Year. Qualifications: Must hold a valid State of Colorado Teacher's License or such alternative as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. Applications can be found on the District Website https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (6/12/24)

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY is looking for candidates to fill the position of BUDGET ANALYST within the BUSINESS & FINANCE DEPARTMENT. You can apply https://adams.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/ENUS/ASU/details/Budget-Analyst_R188. We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions please reach out to our Human Resources department 719-587-7990. (6/8/24)

SHIPPING CLERK NEEDED for a POTATO WAREHOUSE in CENTER, CO. Hours are generally 8am-6pm Monday thru Friday, and possibly a few hours Saturday mornings. FAMOUS software experience and knowledge a must. Salary is negotiable. Please inquire at MOUNTAIN KING SPUD GROWERS, 1090 South Miles Street, Center, CO or email resume or application to tluna@mntking.com. (6/5/24)

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630 - ROOMS FOR RENT

ROOMS FOR RENT: FURNISHED, ALAMOSA. 720-436-5550. (6/12/24)

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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Court divider
 - 4 — tide
 - 7 Luggage
 - 11 “Much — About Nothing”
 - 12 Tom, Dick and Harry
 - 13 Pennsylvania port
 - 14 Pay- — -view
 - 15 Fleming and Somerhalder
 - 16 Swarm structure
 - 17 Silliness
 - 19 Drink after a drink
 - 21 Lay to rest
 - 23 Regular
 - 24 Do a certain dance
 - 26 Fairy tale heavy
 - 28 Pointed tool
 - 29 Sugar shape
 - 31 Disreputable place
 - 35 Blueprint
- DOWN**
- 1 — Valley, California
 - 2 Unspoiled place
 - 3 Mexican food staple
 - 4 Efface
 - 5 Hopper
 - 6 Pear variety
 - 7 Toed the line
 - 8 Come into play
 - 9 Granted
 - 10 Prophet
 - 12 Mint brand (2 wds.)
 - 18 Printer’s need
 - 20 “On — Majesty’s Secret Service”
 - 22 Healthy
 - 24 Soft food
 - 25 Hooting bird
 - 27 Jewel
 - 30 Application
 - 32 Regal
 - 33 Eau-de- —
 - 34 Corn spike
 - 36 Kurt Cobain’s band
 - 38 What’s produced
 - 41 Stage signal
 - 43 — Beta Kappa
 - 44 Actress — Burstyn
 - 45 Rustic home
 - 47 British —
 - 48 Antitoxins
 - 49 Arp’s art
 - 51 Shirley Maclaine role
 - 52 Knocks
 - 55 Baby bear

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

ALLEY OOP

WELL, DOC, IF WE'RE DONE HERE ON KEPLER-186F, MAYBE WE COULD HEAD HOME? THAT COUCH IN THE BREAK ROOM ISN'T GOING TO LOUNGE ON ITSELF.

OH, PISH POSH. LET'S ENJOY THE SIGHTS! I CAN REMOVE THIS RIDICULOUS HAT AND SAMPLE THE LOCAL...

ELBERT WONMUG! I KNEW I'D SEE YOU AGAIN SOMEDAY! YOU OWE ME 34 SPACE DOLLARS IN OVERDUE LIBRARY FINES.

ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE WE SHOULD GO!

ACTUALLY, NOW I WANT TO STAY!

ARLO & JANIS

I LIKE GRAY DAYS WITH SQUALLS ON THE HORIZON AND ANGRY WHITECAPS!

ON VACATION, YOU WANT EVERY DAY TO BE BLUE SKIES AND WARM WATER.

A MAJESTIC DAY SUCH AS THIS WOULD BE CONSIDERED A DISASTER.

BUT IF WE LIVED HERE...

INSIDE A MONTH, WE'D BE TAKING IT ALL FOR GRAITED.

BIG NATE

HI, NATE WRIGHT, FOOD CRITIC FOR THE WEEKLY BUGLE. I'LL HAVE SOME LASAGNA, PLEASE.

AND KEEP IN MIND, ONE IMPORTANT THING THAT A FOOD CRITIC CONSIDERS IS--

SPLUT!

I WAS GOING TO SAY "PRESENTATION," BUT I THINK THAT SHIP HAS SAILED.

CAN I HAVE MINE IN A BOWL?

THE BORN LOSER

AHHH! THIS RECLINER IS MY HAPPY PLACE!

IN FACT, IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE BREAKING OUT IN SONG...

NOTHING COULD BE FINER THAN TO BE IN MY RECLINER IN THE MORNING...

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

THEY'RE GOING TO RUN YOUR ARTICLE! WELL, CONGRATULATIONS, MIKE, THAT'S WONDERFUL NEWS!

YEAH! I WENT WITH THE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER TO TAKE PICTURES TODAY - AN IT WAS SO COOL!

LIKE THIS IS IT! YOU KNOW, THIS IS MY FIRST BIG BREAK!

UH...YOU'VE JUST HAD YOUR SECOND...

EGGS!

FRANK & ERNEST

IT'S FROM SOME BANK I'VE NEVER HEARD OF... A "NON-CUSTOMER SURCHARGE."

GARFIELD

HEY, POOKY...

LOOKIN' GOOD

HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING OUT?

THE GRIZZWELLS

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

DON'T YOU REMEMBER? I HAVE MY APPOINTMENT WITH THE ANIMAL PSYCHIATRIST TODAY

A SPLIT PERSONALITY? ... JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO?

PEANUTS

SECOND BOOK OF CHAPTER NINE.

JEZEBEL IS SITTING THERE LOOKING OUT OF THE WINDOW, SEE...

BEFORE SHE CAN DO ANYTHING, THREE MEN PICK HER UP AND THROW HER OUT THE WINDOW!

SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT TV SERIES

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11			12					13		
14			15					16		
17		18			19	20				
	21				22	23				
24	25				26	27				
28			29	30			31	32	33	34
35			36		37		38		39	
			40	41			42	43		
	44	45			46	47				
48					49	50			51	52
53					54	55			56	
57					58				59	
60					61				62	

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN

"We were made for each other, Cybil!"

Angry daughter retaliates as mother halts the gravy train

DEARABBY: Over the course of 12 years, my husband and I have gifted more than \$400,000 in down-payment money to our adult daughter and her husband. Both are now in their mid-40s. I gave them most of this money behind my husband's back.

Recently, my daughter has been pressing me for more money, saying, "good grandparents/parents help their kids." I give them \$1,200 a month in cash and student loan payments, and I have done this for 10 years. I finally told my husband about my deceit, and he is being incredibly forgiving of me. He understands I have insecurity issues, and I worry about losing my daughter's love and contact with our grandchildren.

Two years ago, our daughter told us that due to our "difficult personalities," she needed boundaries, and my husband and I were allowed to visit only one week a year (they live 3,000 miles away). This came as a shock, since my husband cared for our grandchildren from birth until the family moved away when the kids were 4 and 6. We have traveled with them and thought we were close.

Given all this, I told my

daughter I felt manipulated, and I was giving them a two-month notice before ending the monthly contributions. She has now cut off all contact with us -- blocked all phones and social media. I'm devastated. I feel hopeless and I am seeking counseling. I can't shake the feeling I'm at fault. Your thoughts? -- **BLOCKED IN WASHINGTON**

DEAR BLOCKED: Your only "fault" rests with the fact that you gave your manipulative and ungrateful daughter a LOT of money and concealed it from your husband. You can't make someone love you by buying their affection. (It's either there or it isn't.) As you can see now, doing so was fruitless.

Your daughter is using your love for the grands to punish you for not forking over even more. (And she thinks YOU have a "difficult personality"? Wow!) I'm overjoyed that you will be discussing this sorry situation with a licensed mental health professional. It's the surest way I know of to quit blaming yourself and to regain your emotional balance.

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend who, any time we ate out, if a server tried to take her empty plate, and others around



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

her weren't done eating, would stick her hand out to prevent the server from taking her plate. She says it's rude to take a plate when others haven't finished their meal. I think it is rude for her to do that to the server. I have mentioned this to her only once and we've been friends for 30 years. What do you think? -- **DINING OUT IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR DINING: I don't think your friend is rude. According to Emily Post, when a server removes someone's plate before everyone is finished eating, it can leave the impression that those still eating are holding things up, and those who are done can be left feeling that they rushed the meal.