



South Fork Fire Rescue responds to vehicle in river

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Alamosa 18U baseball tournament begins today

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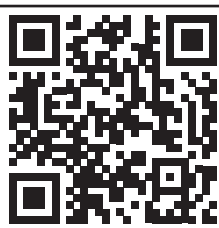
# Valley Courier

FRIDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

June 7, 2024

\$1



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## SLV Today

### Input on design for Hunt Ave. Cultural Trail

#### Cultural Trail

ALAMOSA — Staff with the City of Alamosa Development Services Department will be at First Fridays on June 7, to collect public input about the Hunt Ave. Cultural Trail designs.

The Hunt Ave. Cultural Trail original idea is in the Downtown Plan, and the city was recently awarded funding to move forward with its design. Staff will be located at Main Street and Hunt Avenue.

### Summer Fun Quilt Show coming in July

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Public Library and the San Luis Valley Quilt Guild are partnering to bring the community a gorgeous Summer Fun Quilt Show. The library, located at Alamosa City Hall, 300 Hunt Ave., will host an opening reception with refreshments, curated by San Luis Valley Quilt Guild members, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 6.

Stroll through the Alamosa Farmers Market at Sixth and Ross streets; peruse the shelves of titillating books at Spines Book Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Alamosa Public Library; and then stop by the library to enjoy the Summer Fun Quilt Show and opening reception.

The quilts will be on display from Tuesday, July 2, through Saturday, July 20, at the Alamosa Public Library which is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The library is closed on Thursday, July 4.

For more information, contact the Alamosa Public Library at 719-589-6592.

## SLV WEATHER

Chance of afternoon Showers 87/48

Sat: Chance of afternoon Showers 86/48

Sun: Afternoon Showers Likely 81/49

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## Multiple shots fired into house on State Avenue

Although house was occupied, no one was injured

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER  
Courier Reporter  
ALAMOSA — Officers with the Alamosa Police Department

(APD) were dispatched to a house on the north side of Alamosa Wednesday night on a report of multiple shots being fired. The call came shortly after 11 p.m.

According to APD Chief of Police George Dingfelder, shots were fired into a house at 73 State Avenue. ■ See SHOTS page 3



Courtesy photo

Police and fire investigators are shown on the scene of a Wednesday night shooting incident at 73 State Ave. in Alamosa. Evidence markers seen in the street are marking shell casings from the shooting. Reports indicate that no one was injured, and the Alamosa Police Department said this appears to be an isolated incident and the public is not at risk. Investigators have a person of interest in mind, but at midday Thursday no arrest had been made.

## Summer fun at Medano Creek

By JOHN WATERS  
Courier News Editor



Courier photo by John Waters

Medano Creek in Great Sand Dunes recorded peak water flow May 31 to June 1. Visitors are seen here on June 5 enjoying the cool water in the shadow of 13,345-foot Mount Herard. The peak is named after Valley rancher Jean-Francois Herard who settled in the area in 1876.

GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE — A favorite destination for many San Luis Valley residents and tourists this weekend will be Medano Creek.

On a recent visit, the creek was running wide (about 100 yards) and very shallow. Most of the creek was between one- to two inches deep with one channel that was six to seven inches deep. According to the National Park Service, the peak flow of the creek is about 40 cubic feet per second (cfs) and peaked at 21 cfs on May 31-June 1.

According to the official park service report the current conditions are excellent. ■ See MEDANO page 3

## Monte Vista Cooperative celebrates 75th anniversary

CONTRIBUTED  
MONTE VISTA — In 1949, a group of forward-thinking farmers formed the Monte Vista Coop to pool resources to buy in bulk. Today, the Monte Vista Coop has more than 8,000 members and offers farming and ranch necessities. Each department is strategically operated with the best interests of area farmers and ranchers in mind, helping to keep the local economy robust and thriving.

MV Coop celebrated its anniversary at its annual membership meeting on June 4 at the Ski Hi Complex in Monte Vista.

Whether you are engaged in farming, ranching, recreation, or just living, fuel products are a necessity for everyone. Therefore, the Monte Vista Coop Energy Division delivers diesel, gas, and propane. The service department installs and services both residential and commercial propane tanks, and heaters.

Fuel is one of the necessities for a farmer or rancher. That is why the Monte Vista Coop delivers diesel, gas, and propane along with having a service department that installs both residential and commercial propane tanks. The Monte Vista Coop Energy Division offers a wide range of products and services, along with years of experience to help ensure the quality you deserve.

Coming soon to the MVC Energy Division - The August propane special is expanding to The Summer Fill Special! You can get the same great special delivered. ■ See MVC page 3



## Adams State theatre standout to attend prestigious Florida conservatory

By JULIE WAECHTER  
For Adams State University  
ALAMOSA — Despite graduating from Adams State University as the COVID-19 pandemic emerged, Brandon Billings has advanced his acting career in Denver by performing at regional theatres and in TV commercials.

Once he concludes his current show, "The Hombrés" at Vintage Theatre, he is off to Sarasota, Fla., to begin a Master of Fine Arts (MFA). After two months of auditions and callbacks, he was one of only 10 admitted — out of more than a thousand applicants — to the Class of 2027 cohort at the Florida State University/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training. Now in its 50th year, the conservatory is one of the top 10 programs for actor training in the United States and top 25 in the world.

John H. Taylor, director of Adams State's School of Visual and Performing Arts and chair of the Theatre Program, explained, "Candidates for MFA Acting programs go through a nationwide, highly competitive audition process through the University Resident Theatre Association (URTA). Brandon had a remarkably high number of 'callbacks' (30) from university MFA programs. The Asolo program will provide him with a combination of graduate level acting training and professional experience. This is an incredible opportunity for him and it is one he has earned through hard work. I couldn't be prouder of him."

The Conservatory awarded Billings a full tuition waiver and an assistantship; upon graduation, he will be eligible to join Actors' Equity Association. "For me and my family, this is a dream come true. ■ See BILLINGS page 3

Brandon Billings



Brandon Billings



Chad Spearman

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Lee Crowther



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# Record

## OBITUARIES

### Eleanor Espinoza



**SANFORD** – Eleanor Espinoza, passed away peacefully on June 3, 2024, in Pueblo, Colo. Born on Aug. 8, 1938, in Alamosa, Colo., Eleanor’s life was a tapestry of love, service, and dedication to her cherished values.

Eleanor is survived by her husband of 68 years, Arthur L. Espinoza, a testament to their enduring love and commitment. Their union, sealed at the Salt Lake Temple in 1965, was the cornerstone of a family that grew to include their children, Reyes (Arthur) Espinoza Martinez, Arthur Espinoza Jr., Berna (Marlin) Hostetter, and Regina (Frank) Valdez.

Eleanor’s loving presence will also be deeply missed by her brother, Fred Gutierrez, and her sister, Gloria Duran, alongside her sisters Margaret Trujillo and Tillie Lucero. She leaves behind a legacy that spans generations, blessed with 20 grandchildren, 42 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Eleanor now joins her heavenly family, reuniting with her parents, Joe and Dolores, her daughter Dolores Espinoza Tolbert, two grandchildren, Chanci and Blade Espinoza, and numerous siblings, including Carpio and Reyes Gutierrez.

Her committed partnership with Arthur, Eleanor’s nurturing spirit shone brightly as she adopted the role of a protector for the underdog. Her 20 years with the extraction program were a reflection of her compassion and eagerness to serve those in need.

Eleanor’s creative soul blossomed in her hobbies, which served both as an expression of her love for beauty and as acts of stewardship toward the community of Sanford. Her tireless efforts to maintain the cleanliness of her town were acts of silent service that spoke volumes of her commitment to the environment. An avid quilter, Eleanor poured her heart into intricate patterns and designs, stitching warmth and comfort into every creation. Her bountiful garden stood as a testament to her nurturing care, and her crafts highlighted her resourcefulness and ingenuity.

Eleanor’s love for ge-

nealogy was more than a pastime — it was the lens through which she viewed the world. Her dedication extended to the young minds of her local primary and nursery schools, where she was a wellspring of wisdom and love. As a missionary in the valley and a dedicated group leader at the La Jara nursing home alongside her husband.

To say Eleanor was creative, loving, and faithful would only scratch the surface of her character. These qualities were but a few threads in the rich fabric of her being. She relished her walks, the heft of collected rocks in her hands, remnants of her mountain explorations that sparked joy. A pioneer of recycling, Eleanor transformed used tires into blossoming flowers long before sustainability became a household term.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, June 8, 2024, from 9 to 9:45 a.m. with a funeral service at 10 a.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Sanford First Ward. Burial will follow services at the Sanford Cemetery.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in the care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes, and words of comfort for Eleanor’s family, please visit [www.RogersFunerals.com](http://www.RogersFunerals.com).

held at Romero Valley Funeral Home, 1407 State Ave., Alamosa, CO, 81101, on Friday, June 7, 2024, from 5 to 9 p.m. Her Rosary and Funeral service will be at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 15, 2024, at Sangre De Cristo Catholic Church in San Luis, Colo. Jayne will be laid to rest at the Garcia Cemetery in Garcia, Colo., following the mass, and a meal for her will follow at parish center in Costilla, N.M.

A full eulogy will be presented at the rosary. For more info contact Paul Martinez at 575-224-0231 or Romero Valley Funeral Home in Alamosa at 719-589-9200.

To leave online condolences please visit [romerofuneralhomes.com](http://romerofuneralhomes.com). The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Valley Funeral Home of Alamosa.

### Jayne B. Martinez



San Luis resident Jayne B. Martinez, 65, passed away unexpectedly on May 24, 2024.

She was preceded in death by her son, Jesus Ortiz, her parents Telesfor and Alice Martinez, her nephew Phillip Martinez, her grandparents and all but one her uncles and aunts. Also, her siblings; Teddy Martinez, Kathy Martinez, and Audrey Salazar.

Jayne currently resided in San Luis, Colo., but had also lived in Questa, N.M., Las Vegas, N.M., Bernal, N.M., and La Jara, Colo. She was a Certified Public Accountant and an educator, who was well known for talents in tax preparation, and wine making.

Her viewing will be

held at Romero Valley Funeral Home, 1407 State Ave., Alamosa, CO, 81101, on Friday, June 7, 2024, from 5 to 9 p.m. Her Rosary and Funeral service will be at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 15, 2024, at Sangre De Cristo Catholic Church in San Luis, Colo. Jayne will be laid to rest at the Garcia Cemetery in Garcia, Colo., following the mass, and a meal for her will follow at parish center in Costilla, N.M.

A full eulogy will be presented at the rosary. For more info contact Paul Martinez at 575-224-0231 or Romero Valley Funeral Home in Alamosa at 719-589-9200.

To leave online condolences please visit [romerofuneralhomes.com](http://romerofuneralhomes.com). The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Valley Funeral Home of Alamosa.

## PENDING OBITUARY

### Carolyn ‘Kaye’ Lopez

Sanford resident and educator, Carolyn “Kaye” Lopez, 74, died June 4, 2024, at her home in Sanford under hospice

care. Funeral Services are pending and will be announced through Rogers Family Mortuary. To leave online condolences,

remembrances, words of comfort or tributes for Kaye’s family, please visit [www.RogersFunerals.com](http://www.RogersFunerals.com).

## South Fork Fire Rescue responds to vehicle in river

**CONTRIBUTED**  
**SOUTH FORK** - On Thursday, May 30, at 7:41 p.m. South Fork Fire Rescue was paged to respond to Highway 160 Mile Post 176 for a vehicle that drove off the road and into a dangerous section of the river known as “The Narrows.”

Responders arrived at a chaotic scene, with the driver stranded on a rock, approximately 100 yards from the vehicle, in the middle of the river, and people trying to improvise a rescue.

The SFFR crew immediately took control of the scene and sent in a rescue swimmer to determine the person’s condition. Once the decision was made to remove the person, a second rescue swimmer was sent in, and the shore team coordinated with the swimmers to complete a successful rescue without further incident.

The next morning, Friday, May 31, South Fork Fire Rescue assisted the wrecker with removing the vehicle from the river. The team worked on this complicated recovery and had the vehicle removed within 30 minutes.

Both missions were logistically complex and the team at South Fork Fire Rescue worked together to achieve a successful outcome.

The crash is under investigation by the Colorado State Patrol.

**South Fork Fire Rescue received a call the evening of May 30 with a request to respond to a vehicle incident along Highway 160 west of South Fork. On arrival, crews quickly assessed the situation and responded to a vehicle in the South Fork Rio Grande and the driver stranded on a nearby rock.**

Photos courtesy of South Fork Fire Rescue

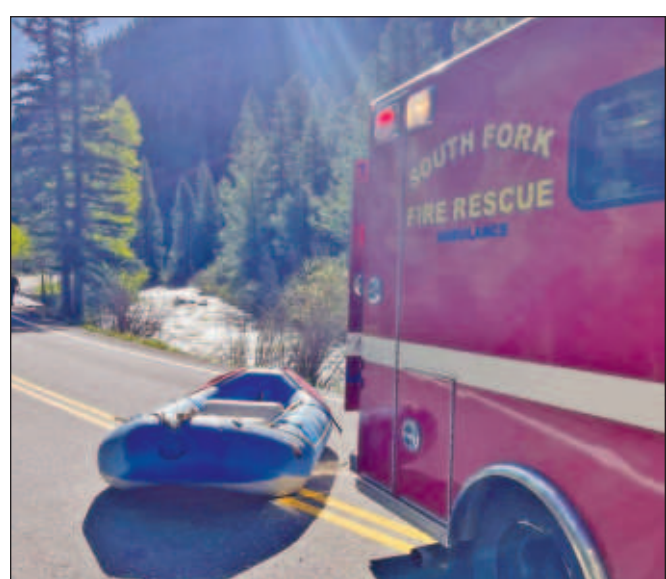


Photo of Courtney Hamilton, a 2021 Centauri High School graduate, at the CERN LAB in Geneva, Switzerland.

## Local graduate attends a ‘History of Women in Science’ study abroad program in Europe

**CONTRIBUTED**  
Courtney Hamilton, a 2021 Centauri High School graduate, has been attending Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, where she is studying Health Science. Hamilton has been given an opportunity to study about the “History of Women in Science” this summer in Europe. She will visit England, France, Switzerland, Germany and Sweden.

She will study the history of science, women’s contributions to the field, and in supporting and empowering women to pursue their scientific interests.

The study will include the European exploration into how politics, custom and society shaped the lives of early female scientists, and how these individuals worked to overcome obstacles and break the barriers of scientific thought.

In addition, she will hear from outstanding modern-day female scientists and champions of women in science, their advice for success, and the challenges they have overcome.

Highlights of the experience include visiting King’s College in London to learn about Rosalind Franklin and her X-ray diffraction images leading to deciphering of the DNA structure; hunting for fossils in the Lyme Regis region; visiting the Marie Curie museum in Paris and learning about her life contributions to chemistry, biology, and her discovery of novel elements; touring CERN, the European Organization for Particle Research near Geneva; visiting the Max Planck Institute for Science and Technology in Munich and Berlin; as well as viewing the Nobel Prize Museum and Concert Hall in Stockholm; all

while exploring the culture and history of these five countries.

Hamilton received a competitive scholarship to help fund this experience.

## Prescribed fire on Stateline planned

Operations will cross the Colorado-New Mexico border

**CONTRIBUTED**  
**LA JARA** – With favorable conditions in the forecast, Rio Grande National Forest fire crews have begun preparing for the 1,000-acre Bighorn/Stateline prescribed fire project located approximately six miles southwest of Mogote. Ignitions could begin as early as Tuesday, June 11.

Two of the burn units are on the Conejos Peak Ranger District in Colorado and one 192-acre unit is on the Carson National Forest in New Mexico.

“There is a need to reduce fuel loading and prepare a seed bed that will be receptive to new growth,” said Judi Perez,

acting Conejos Peak district ranger. “After a couple of years of unfavorable burn windows, we are excited to resume prescribed fire operations and to be working again with our Carson National Forest partners across the state line.”

The project aims to reduce downed slash from previous hand thinning treatments designed to improve forest health with secondary benefits of improving big game habitat and reducing fuel loading. The prescribed fire will reduce the overall fuel load, cycle nutrients, and stimulate the growth of grass, forbs, and aspen.

Due to the location of the

planned fire, smoke will be visible from around the southern San Luis Valley and parts of the Tres Piedras Ranger District and may be heavier locally. No significant smoke impacts on towns or highways are expected.

The Bighorn/Stateline project is part of the 3.8 million-acre Rio Chama Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project, which supports the national Wildfire Crisis Strategy.

Updates for the Bighorn/Stateline will be posted on InciWeb at <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/corgf-bighorn-stateline-prescribed-fire>.

**School Menu**  
**Friday**  
**June 7, 2024**

**BREAKFAST**  
Banana Bread  
Fruit & Milk

**ELEMENTARY**  
Sunbutter Sandwiches  
Cheese Stick  
Carroteenies  
Fruit & Milk

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Sunbutter Sandwiches  
Cheese Stick  
Carroteenies  
Fruit & Milk

**HIGH SCHOOL**  
Sunbutter Sandwiches  
Cheese Stick  
Carroteenies  
Fruit & Milk

Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students  
Alamosa School District  
**To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553**



# Valley News

## SLV Museum hosting presentation by Jocelyn Russell

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The San Luis Valley Museum, 401 Hunt St., is hosting a presentation by Alamosa native and renowned wildlife artist Jocelyn Russell on Saturday, June 8, at 7 p.m.

Russell has embarked on a monument project of Sandhill Cranes in Flight that will be placed at the Welcome center in Alamosa.

The public is invited, and the presentation is free of charge.

Russell credits being raised in Alamosa and the Valley with instilling in her a love of wildlife and nature. From an early age, she knew that art was what she wanted to do. She began sketching and painting animals and eventually learned to sculpt and create beautiful bronze monuments. Her first project was an elk and since that time, she has crafted over 50 monuments throughout the United States.

The GFWC Woman's Citizenship Club has



Cranes in Flight maquette.

Courtesy photo

been working to raise the funds to make the project happen. Jocelyn will be donating her time to the monument.

How does a young girl from a small town become a successful artist? Learn about her story and the events that have impacted her life. This presentation will include a Power Point slide show and should prove to be in-

teresting and enjoyable. Russell appreciates the community and the people who have supported her career over the years.

For more information, contact Jeff Meyers at the Museum by calling 719-587-0667 or Mary Russell with the Woman's Citizenship Club at 719-580-4029. Refreshments will be served.

## SLVH, Children's Hospital Colorado form Care Alliance

*Shared goal: Deliver highest level of pediatric care close to home*

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — San Luis Valley Health (SLVH), the region's largest hospital, and Children's Hospital Colorado (Children's Colorado), one of the nation's top children's hospitals, announced Wednesday they have entered into a Care Alliance, which is a collaboration across the organizations to provide children and their families with the highest level of coordinated medical care as close to home when possible.

"We're very excited about the Care Alliance with Children's Colorado," said Antonio Gurule, San Luis Valley Health's director of clinics. "This will improve our ability to deliver pediatric care right here in the San Luis Valley. It is very much in keeping with our 'trusted partner in health' philosophy. One important aspect of the Care Alliance is the Children's Colorado Regional Clinics which will be located in the pediatric clinic space at San Luis Valley Health."

The formal agreement establishes a standing Care Alliance Steering Committee between the two hospitals. The committee's work will include streamlining care coordination to help reduce costs, improve quality, sup-

port collaborative case management, and knowledge sharing. Of key significance, the alliance means that local kids and their families will have increased access to some of the best minds in pediatric care for their children and young adults without having to travel.

In addition to providing this care, the professional team from Children's Colorado will also provide mentoring, education, and training across care teams at SLVH to enhance delivery of pediatric care.

"We are humbled and proud to partner with San Luis Valley Health to bring increased access to top-ranked pediatric care closer to home for families in the San Luis Valley," said Jennifer Knotts, Children's Hospital Colorado's vice president of partnerships and business development. "Founded more than a century ago, our mission is to improve child health. This new partnership demonstrates our continued commitment to care for Colorado children regardless of where they live by eliminating barriers and increasing access to the knowledge and care of our pediatric experts in partnership with San Luis Valley Health."

The only dedicated pediatric health system within a seven-state region, Children's Colorado partners with community hospitals across a 1,000-mile-radius that comprises Colorado, Montana,

Wyoming and New Mexico to bring pediatric specialty care closer to home. This new partnership marks the 11th Care Alliance for the system. The Care Alliance goals are to support community hospitals across the region by elevating and enhancing pediatric care in communities and, when needed, to streamline care to Children's Colorado when a higher level of care or more specialized need arises for a family. Each Care Alliance is uniquely tailored to meet the specific needs of the community.

"Children's Colorado has and continues to help us support our most critically ill and complex patients, but this collaboration signals a focus on prioritizing and enhancing pediatric care in the San Luis Valley," said Dr. Amarielys Rojas, pediatrician, SLVH Pediatrics Clinic. "As the leading medical facility in the region with the most on-staff pediatricians, it is our duty to provide comprehensive care and be the medical home for the valley's children. This is especially true for complex patients and families where it is extremely difficult for them to be away from home and/or work when their child has medical or surgical needs. This collaboration is vital to the advancement of pediatric medical care in the region and serves as proof that both San Luis Valley Health and Children's Colorado are putting kid's health first, now and in the future."

## MVC

Continued from Page 1

during a multi-month period beginning July 1 through Sept. 30! During The Summer Fill Special, you can switch to an MVC tank and get tank rent waived until April 2025. Don't forget about our Budget Billing! You can spread your annual propane cost over 11 equal payments beginning in July. You can also receive an additional discount if you sign up for recurring monthly payments.

As a Cenex brand dealer, the Monte Vista Coop provides all the conveniences you're accustomed to 24-hour pay at the pump gas diesel fuel, freshly made cold and hot foods and tasty snacks and beverages at our C-Store location in

Monte Vista. Download the MVC Loyalty app and start earning points towards selected purchases at the MVC C-Store!

The Monte Vista Coop Car Care Center offers tires, batteries, accessories, plus a mobile tire service truck. Whether at the station, on the road, or at the farm, we can provide complete tire service for any size vehicle with excellent service provided to all customers.

If you are looking for quality products and exceptional services provided by trained experts, you have come to the right place. At the Monte Vista Coop Equipment division, we pride ourselves on matching each customer's unique needs with the Kubota that will serve them best. We also offer quality hay and potato equipment services

and products. Visit MVCOOPEQUIPMENT.COM, for product details.

Fertilizer is also another necessity for Monte Vista Coop members. Our Agronomy Division provides conventional and organic fertilizers, crop protection products, seed, and a variety of other agricultural products. At three locations, the Monte Vista Coop Agronomy Divisions can mix customized fertilizer blends to meet our grower's unique needs and field conditions, and with the capability to spread dry or liquid at a variable rate, we bring even more value to our customers bottom line profitability. We now offer drone applications.

The Monte Vista Coop Farm Store is a hardware store with an agricultural emphasis. Carrying ev-

erything from paint and plumbing to tack and clothing, the Monte Vista Coop Farm Store is a major retail location for farmers and non-farmers alike. We also carry a large selection of PJ and Orange Line trailers, Troy Bilt mowers and tractors, stoves, top quality pet foods, lawn and garden fertilizer and products, and Powder River Cattle Equipment. Come in and see us at the MVC Farm Store Father's Day Sale, June 3-15! Visit MVCOOP.COM, for the complete sales flyer.

With feed warehouse locations in Alamosa and Monte Vista, the Monte Vista Coop Feed Division provides premium feed, essential livestock products, and educational insight that helps to build the nutritional foundation of your herd and maximize your prof-

itability.

At the Monte Vista Coop, we are passionately committed to providing our customers with the highest quality products, most innovative solutions, and services delivered with integrity and professionalism.

Stay connected to on Facebook, Instagram, and our website, MVCOOP.COM and pay your bill online, access career opportunities, find emergency contact numbers, company locations, and stay up to date on current sales, promotions, events, and seasonal offers exclusive to the Monte Vista Coop. If you are looking for a career opportunity, please visit MVCOOP.COM to apply for any available position.

The Monte Vista Coop proudly employs over 100 employees. With decades of experience, the Monte

Vista Coop employees are dedicated, hardworking folks whose efforts impact our community and economy. The Monte Vista Coop would like to thank each employee for their service! You are the reason we can celebrate 75 years of dedicated service to our community!

The Monte Vista Coop would also like to thank each customer and member. Your contributions and loyalty help our cooperation succeed and prosper. We appreciate you!

If you would like to become a member of the Monte Vista Coop, visit our website MVCOOP.COM, and download a membership application! "Our mission is to provide options and information, leading edge technology, quality products and services to enhance profitability of the membership today and in the future."

## Medano

Continued from Page 1

are: Medano Creek has a shallow to moderate flow at the Dunes Parking Lot. The creek is flowing in braided channels about 1-5 inches (2-13 cm) deep. There are small surges 1-4 inches (2-10 cm) high in some channels, but not enough water for floating. Flow is typically highest at dawn, and lowest at dusk. These conditions are typical of late June.

The beginning of June is the best opportunity to experience "surge flow", where waves flow down across the sand. The water is not deep enough in 2024 for floating. Because of the creek's popularity, early June weekends are extremely crowded, with long lines of traffic, overflowing parking lots, a crowded beach, and full campgrounds. If possible, plan your visit on a weekday this time of year.

As the creek becomes

much lower around the second week of June, mosquitos emerge in large numbers. Move away from vegetation, to the far side of the creek to avoid the worst of the mosquitos: they don't like open sand but prefer to be near shady bushes and trees.

Although mountain snowpack in many parts of Colorado is above average, the watershed in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains that constitutes Medano Creek is about 5% of average leaving the creek with less water than banner years.

Medano Creek is one of the few places in the world where the phenomenon of surge flow can be experienced. Surge flow is a stream flowing in rhythmic waves on sand. Three elements are needed to produce the surge, a relatively steep gradient to give the stream a high velocity; a smooth, mobile creek bed, in this case, sand, with little resistance; and sufficient

water to create surges. In spring and early summer, these elements combine to make the waves.

As water flows across the sand, underwater sand ridges called antidunes form on the creek bed, gathering water. When the water pressure is too great, the dams break, sending down a wave, or surge about every 20 seconds.

Recently, the park service conducted a public comment period for initial proposed ideas for Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Transportation and Transit Plan to focus on relieving congestion and to allow visitors to have a more enjoyable experience. The comment period ended March 29, and currently, the park service is analyzing all comments and is expected to issue a draft environmental assessment by late fall. A final decision on the plan is expected to be issued in early 2025.

## Billings

Continued from Page 1

ily, coming from little Alamosa, this is a huge accomplishment. I wouldn't have had the confidence to do auditions if not for my family, Dr. John Taylor, and what I was taught at ASU. I know I would not be here without John Taylor. We went from a student-professor relationship, to mentorship, to friendship. He's a huge part of my life. We talk every day."

As a multi-ethnic actor, what most impressed Billings about the Conservatory was its diversity. "In every single class I saw, there were people from all around the world, different ethnicities, different skin tones. It was amazing.

"I am a person/actor who has consistently gotten in casting rooms and auditions, and they say, 'What are you?' noting

my ethnic ambiguity (He has Latino, Indigenous, and Caucasian heritage.) Over time, I have questioned, 'What kind of artist do I want to be?' And over the next three years, I hope to discover that answer for myself. What does it mean for me to be a multi-ethnic artist, and how can I contribute to the future of actors who are like me?"

Taylor said, "Brandon came to Adams State in 2016 and quickly established himself in the classroom and in productions, including 'The Diary of Anne Frank', 'Noises Off', 'A Doll's House Part 2', and 'Good Kids'. He directed a very successful production of 'The Twilight Zone' (after getting permission from CBS to stage three original episodes from the TV series)."

Billings said his favorite show at Adams State was the 2017 pro-

duction of 'The Diary of Anne Frank', directed by Taylor, in which he portrayed Peter Van Daan.

"A lot of the training and stage work I did at ASU provided me with the courage and skill set to begin a career in the industry. I never went in blind and scared," Billings recalled.

Over the last three years, he has performed in nine plays at the Vintage Theatre, Miners Alley Performing Arts Center, and the renowned Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities. One of his television commercials was for the Colorado Lottery. He was also cast in a producer reading for a film, "Welcome to the Fishbowl", to be produced in Colorado featuring Natalie Gold (HBO's "Succession"), "Appropriate on Broadway" and Jeremy Swift ("Ted Lasso").

## Shots

Continued from Page 1

State Ave., near the State Avenue Bridge. Dingfelder confirmed that there were occupants in the house at the time, but no one was in-

jured.

As of Thursday morning, APD had not yet determined if the shots were fired by someone who was on foot or driving by but, during the investigation, a "person of interest" has been identified. As of Thursday af-

ternoon, no arrests have been made.

APD believes this to be an isolated incident, and there is no threat to the community. Due to the ongoing nature of the investigation, no further information is currently being made available.

The police department expressed their gratitude to the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office, Adams State University Police, Alamosa Fire Department, and the Colorado State Patrol for their assistance during this investigation.



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# Opinion

## Measuring the Trump conviction factor in the 2024 race

By BYRON YORK

If you've been keeping up with the news, you've probably heard a lot of speculation about the effect former President Donald Trump's felony conviction will have on the 2024 presidential race. Here's the real answer, so far: We don't know.

The first thing to remember about momentous events and public opinion is that it takes a while for people to process the full import of truly consequential developments. With the Trump verdict, of course partisan zealots on both sides know exactly how they feel. But other, more normal people are not entirely sure. They want to think about it and see how things work out before they settle on what they think.

That's where polls come in. The first survey out of the gate came from Morning Consult. The verdict was announced at about 5 p.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, and by early Saturday morning, Morning Consult reported that a majority of those surveyed, 54%, approved of the guilty decision, and that 15% of Republican voters wanted Trump to drop out. A day later, a CBS News poll found that 57% said the jury reached the "right verdict," but that not many people had changed their minds about the big picture of the 2024 race. Then an ABC/Ipsos poll found that 50% said the verdict was correct, 27% said it was not correct, and 23% don't know if the verdict was correct or not.

What does that mean? Clearly, this is going to take a while to sort itself out.



And the most important question is not "What do you think of the verdict?" or "Do you think Trump is guilty?" The question is, "If the election were today, would you vote for Biden or Trump?" That's the same question pollsters have been asking for more than a year.

There are two places to look -- national polls and swing-state polls. Nationally, the race has been close for a year and half, since the moment Trump declared his candidacy in November 2022. Trump has been ahead of President Joe Biden in the RealClearPolitics average of polls since last September, but by very narrow margins. His biggest edge was 3.5 points in mid-December 2023. Now, Trump's lead is 0.5 points, meaning the race is essentially tied.

Trump's national lead when his Manhattan trial began was 0.3 points, meaning the seven-week, heavily covered, much-discussed trial made little difference in the national race. But you couldn't say so until the trial had been going for a few weeks. Now, it will take a few weeks to see if the verdict will have

a significant effect on the national race.

Then there are the swing-state polls. They are critical to the race. Think about it this way. If Trump is able to win the states he won in 2020, which he can probably do, he then needs to win the Sun Belt states of Georgia and Arizona -- Nevada would be a bonus but is not critical to this calculation. If he does that, he has to win just one of the northern tier of states, Pennsylvania, Michigan or Wisconsin, to win the presidency. That Electoral College math is what caused Democrats to freak out last November when the New York Times published a poll showing Trump leading in five of the six states. Trump's lead has been stable for months now. In the RealClearPolitics average, he is up by 4.8 points in Georgia, 4 points in Arizona and 5.4 points in Nevada. So he's doing quite well in the Sun Belt. Up north, he is up by 2.3 points in Pennsylvania, 0.5 in Michigan and 0.1 in Wisconsin. Much, much closer. Who wins the swing states will determine who wins the presidency. So that will be an important place to look for any

To submit news, email: news@alamosanews.com  
To submit sports, email: khamrick@alamosanews.com

### Letters policy

Letters are welcome and encouraged. All letters submitted for publication in the Valley Courier must be typewritten, signed by the author, and must include a phone number and address where the author can be reached. Letters must not be libelous. The Courier will not run letters that are negative to specific businesses. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, civility and accuracy. Please limit letters to 500 words or less.

The Courier's editorial board reserves the right to reject a letter for reasons it believes are appropriate. Letters may be subject to editing to fit available space, or exclusion from the Opinion Page. Please, no poetry. Please send signed letters to P.O. Box 1099, Alamosa, CO 81101 or email them to news@alamosanews.com. Letters to staff, not for publication, should be marked "personal."

change after the Trump verdict. Right now, anecdotal reports suggest not much is different. But, of course, not much has changed -- the verdict just happened. Digesting it all will take some time. For months, we have seen polls suggesting that a small number of voters who might be inclined to vote for Trump would reconsider, or decide that they will not vote for him, if he is convicted of a felony. Now he has been found guilty on 34 felony counts. As has been written here many times, the case against Trump was weak and politically motivated. But guided by a prosecutor who pledged to pursue Trump, a judge who is a donor to Biden and top Biden Justice Department official who joined the prosecution for purpose of trying Trump, a jury in deep-blue Manhattan convicted Trump on all counts. Perhaps that will be overturned on appeal long after the election. Perhaps not. But the next decision in the case will be made by voters.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

## LETTERS

# The lessons of acid rain

Editor,

In 1967 Swedish Scientist Svante Oden described a new environmental problem, acid rain. He noted increasing acidity of surface water and rainwater over the previous decades in Europe. He identified sulfur dioxide as an air pollutant that might be contributing to acid rain. The issue was brought to the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development and further scientific investigations throughout Europe and the Americas confirmed the link between air pollutants and acid rain. The forest dieback effects of acid rain became quite evident to, among others, pilots flying over Scandinavia, Northern New England, and Eastern Canada. Fisheries scientists began to note some devastating effects in both Europe and America. Atmospheric scientists identified sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and ammonia

as the key industrial pollutants contributing to the formation of acid rain and its subsequent effects. Interestingly, more than a century earlier an English chemist, Robert Angus Smith, had described acid rain in the heavily industrialized area near Manchester, England. He wrote a book with the prescient title "Air and Rain: The beginnings of Chemical Climatology" "in 1852! However, the topic gained no traction at that time. The topic was revived by Oden and gained traction in 1967.

As the effects of acid rain became well documented, public awareness increased and an international call for action developed. Among those at the forefront of the call to action in the 1970's were environmental groups and sportsmen, with advocacy statements being published in Field and Stream, Outdoor Life and similar publications. Since

acid rain produced in one country can severely affect the environment in another, as happened in Europe and North America, international cooperation was essential and was forthcoming.

Scientific and chemical engineering advances, governmental actions, and international agreements were successful in decreasing sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and ammonia by approximately 90 percent or more. The effect was gratifying, with measurable sustained improvement in the acidity of rain, lakes, and rivers. In addition, the visual effects of forest dieback on aerial imaging resolved. Presently the problem is at bay in North America and Europe.

The success in addressing air pollution and acid rain is pertinent today. This success depended on scientists being accurately regarded as honest brokers of technical information. No one at

the time accused scientists of being conspiratorial. International agreements were recognized as seeking a common good. They were not seen as part of a dark and sinister coalition.

Our children and grandchildren deserve a similar robust, scientifically based, and cooperative response to the approaching climate crisis. There is no conspiracy among the climatologists. They are honest people giving us their most accurate, peer reviewed information. Intellectual integrity, honesty, and a belief in the common good will be necessary to address this increasingly important issue. International cooperative agreements will be necessary. America should lead this response. Our grandchildren will need our best effort.

Robert N Rice  
Alamosa

# How concerned are voters about national defense?

Editor,

When the United States spends more for national defense than the next seven countries spend for the military (and some of them are our allies) and where the Congress continues to increase the Pentagon budget by more than the administration requests, one would think that national defense is a high priority for the country. Given those facts, how does it square that the

leading contender for the Republican nomination for president of the country is one who plays so fast and loose with classified and secret documents of the nation? Documents which in foreign hands could put our country at risk?

I would guess that all of us have seen pictures of the classified, secret and top-secret documents found by the FBI at Mar-a-Lago where they had been

hidden. Staff of the ex-president have reported that they had hidden the documents at the request of the ex-president. It has never been confirmed, but one would wonder what the ex-president planned to do with the materials. Did he just want to impress others with his knowledge of the secrets, or did he have plans to sell the documents to the highest bidder?

As voters, it is easy to overlook ques-

tions about the candidate you support. It will be interesting to see how many people who are concerned about national defense as one of their highest priorities are willing to justify what I at least see as a problem which I can't overlook. Will they really still vote for someone who is a known security risk?

Don Thompson  
Alamosa

# Consider voting Hurd for 3rd Congressional District

Editor,

With the primary ballots out, I would like to ask the voting public to consider

Jeff Hurd for a congressional seat for the 3rd Congressional District. A native of Grand Junction, small business

owner and very well educated on what it takes to represent the challenges of the 3rd. He is running for the U.S.

Congress because he believes western and southern Colorado deserve a sincere and hardworking representative focused more on doing something than being someone. Having grown up in Colorado's 3rd Congressional District and now raising his kids there, Jeff wants to deliver results that will help rural Colorado thrive.

Realizing the problems that face our nation, I believe he will work hard to bring sanity to our congress. With his background of working with agriculture, he understands the challenges we face on a daily basis such as water, inflation and the day to day struggles. I believe Jeff Hurd, who was born and raised in Grand Junction, is a rarity in which would benefit the 3rd Congressional District as well as the nation. I humbly ask for your vote for Mr. Hurd.

Larry Crowder  
Former Colo State Senator  
Alamosa

Keith R Cerny  
Publisher

Brian Williams  
Managing Editor

# Valley Courier

(ISSN 1047-1170)

The Valley Courier is published daily, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday by San Luis Valley Publishing, 2205 State Ave., Alamosa, Colo. 81101. Web site: www.alamosanews.com. Periodicals Postage: is paid at Alamosa, Colo., Monte Vista, Colo., La Jara, Colo., and Fort Garland, Colo. Phone (719) 589-2553. Postmaster send change of address to P.O. Box 1099.



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# Lifestyles

## Donkey Dash races into Creede on Saturday

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

**CREEDE** — It is time again for the annual Creede Donkey Dash on Saturday, June 8.

Come watch history as it comes to life on Saturday. Fuzzy burros and their companions will line up on Main Street in Creede beginning at 10 a.m. The start of the race is the perfect time to meet a burro or two, choose your favorites and cheer them on as they head out along the Bachelor Loop north of Creede beginning at 10 a.m. The start of the race is the perfect time to meet a burro or two, choose your favorites and cheer them on as they head out along the Bachelor Loop north of Creede beginning at 10 a.m. The start of the race is the perfect time to meet a burro or two, choose your favorites and cheer them on as they head out along the Bachelor Loop north of Creede beginning at 10 a.m.

Pack burro racing is a tribute to the historic significance of these warm-hearted animals. Burros helped shape the course of history, carrying the creation of several communities literally on their backs. This race and others like it bring people from all over the region to participate and this year, Creede is offering a shorter distance race with the new 3-mile option.

According to the Creede

and Mineral County Chamber of Commerce, "Burro racing is a great sport begun by some of Colorado's 19th-century miners. Those hardy characters used burros to carry mining tools and supplies through the Rocky Mountains as they prospected for gold, silver, and other valuable ores. Since the burros were carrying a full load, the miners had to walk, leading the animal with a rope. Legend has it that two miners found gold in the same location, and raced each other back to town to be the first to stake a claim to the find. Neither could ride their animal because of its load, so one of the basic rules of burro racing was established.

The Creede Donkey Dash starts and finishes on Main Street adjacent to Basham Park. Teams consist of a burro and runner. The main course covers about 10 miles through Creede's Historic Mining District. Competitors will

pass by the Creede Underground Mining Museum, past the Commodore Mine UP the "Black Pitch", run through the Weaver Town Site, follow the 4x4 Road by the Midwest Mine, up and over through the switchbacks, pass Phoenix Park and then down the East Willow Canyon, through North Creede, and then south back into town to finish off the final three miles of the race with a gradual downhill that ends on a cheering Main Street. Several mines can be seen along the racecourse, including the remnants of the Kentucky Belle, gripping the cliffs hundreds of feet above the road.

The new short course follows all the same standard rules of pack burro racing and is approximately 3 miles long, starting with the main race on Main Street in front of Basham Park. Runners and their burros will head north into the canyon but will diverge from the other racers by



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The annual Donkey Dash is making its way to Creede on Saturday and will feature a new shorter distance race.

turning right onto the East Willow Canyon. They will follow the road for about a quarter of a mile through North Creede and turn right again onto the Up and Over Trail, following this up the back side of the Pinnacles, then crest-

ing over and coming down the ridge that borders the town of Creede to the east. Finally exiting the trail onto 7th Street, runners will turn right and follow La Garita Street north, turning left onto Wall Street, passing the Tom-

myknocker Tavern on the right and making a left at the Post Office, back to the START/FINISH line in front of Basham Park.

For more information or a full schedule of Creede Chamber events, visit [www.creede.com](http://www.creede.com).

## Spark Speaker Series: Empowering Aging in Colorado – continues June 12

By NANCY HARRIS ALAMOSA

Spark the Change Colorado, a leading volunteer nonprofit which is dedicated to service and community health, invites the public to its monthly speaker series. "Empowering Aging in Colorado," is the June topic and takes place on Wednesday, June 12, at 1 p.m. at the Alamosa Senior Citizens Center.

Hosted by the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Alamosa County, the series addresses issues pertaining to older adults and their health and features local expert speakers on topics such as well-being, nutrition, volunteering, memory, physical health, and much more. All are welcome and no registration is necessary. Each presentation will take place on the second Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. in the activity room of the Alamosa

Senior Citizens Center, 92 Colorado Ave.

The featured speaker for June 12 is Jim Grant, Clinical Psychologist, SLV Behavioral Health Group. The title of Grant's talk is "I can't remember. Am I normal or not?" Dr. Grant says of his presentation, "We'll talk about memory loss, what is normal and what is not. That is, as long as I don't forget before then."

Nancy Harris, Spark the Change Colorado's RSVP Manager for Alamosa County, will talk about the benefits of volunteering in one's community and ways to get involved with RSVP.

"Come with an open mind, a desire to learn more about seniors and their well-being, and with your own ideas of future topics and speakers. We will be gathering input from participants at each of the events to determine



Courtesy photo

Dr. Jim Grant will speak at the Alamosa Senior Center, 92 Colorado Ave., on June 12 at 1 p.m. and give a talk, 'I can't remember. Am I normal or not?'

what folks from our senior community are interested in learning about," organizers stated.

For more information about the Spark Speaker Series, or to become an RSVP volunteer, contact Nancy Harris at [nharris@sparkthechangecolorado.org](mailto:nharris@sparkthechangecolorado.org) or 303-867-0868, or visit [www.sparkthechangecolorado.org/rsvp](http://www.sparkthechangecolorado.org/rsvp).

## Swoop of the Cranes Artist Celebration held by the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce was a success

By MARIE MCCOLM MONTE VISTA

The Swoop of the Cranes Artist Celebration was held on Friday, May 31, at The Church Project in Monte Vista.

Approximately 30 people attended the celebration. Manager of the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce, Heather Hillin, welcomed everyone to the event.

"This is a night to celebrate all the wonderful artists who dedicated their time and skills, to help decorate our beautiful town with these vibrant cranes. This project has been a community effort, and I am so excited that so many members of our fine community have participated. I hope everyone will pause and look at the slide show that contains pictures of all these wonderful cranes and the artists that painted them. Welcome everyone, I am so happy that all of you are here with us this evening to help us celebrate," she said.

At the celebration, just inside of the basement of the Church Project tables were laid out with hand-blown glass decorations. There were bottles of water, and spirits were also offered to those who attended. The event was catered by Ravenswood LLC, owned by Tumara Steinbach. There were traditional charcuterie

cups with cheese, pickles, wild asparagus, and three types of meat, topped with blackberries.

Many crane artists walked around, mingling with people, and answering questions about the cranes they painted. Some of the artists of the cranes included Bill Metz Elementary, Monte Vista School District Admin, Dani Trodick, and Dustin and Macey Sigaty.

Owner of the Church Project and co-host, Madeleine Ahlborn, spoke about the event, and how she felt about holding the event in the Church Project building.

"When Heather reached out about hosting the annual soiree here for the Crane Celebration, I was just really enthusiastic and grateful. I am happy to share this space because it is for the community. We are still a growing space. I have been gifted so many wonderful things while being here, and it feels really good to be able to give back here too," she said.

The Swoop of the Cranes is a residential art and beautification project brought to the town by the Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce and former board member Ken Hamko. Businesses and residents are encouraged to sponsor a 5-foot steel crane, that is then painted and or decorated by an art-

ist of the sponsor's choice. The completed crane is then affixed to a light pole in Downtown Monte Vista and on display from March through August.

At the end of August, early September, the cranes are removed and offered for purchase at a local auction, usually at the Potato Festival in Monte Vista. The proceeds from the auction go toward funding community projects in Monte Vista. Artists can also choose to purchase the crane, before it goes to auction.

The artist of four different cranes this year, Trodick stated she was excited to be at the celebration.

"I was asked by a few businesses to paint cranes this year, and I was so excited to be able to do this. I painted four cranes while being pregnant and it was super fun. The project itself is super fun and I love to paint. Being a part of this community project is great, and I definitely want to do it again next year. I look forward to it," she said.

Artist Dustin Sigaty said, "I really appreciate the chamber putting together a slightly formal soiree to celebrate the art in the community. It was really great to see it all at The Church Project, which I think is one of the most exciting things happening in Monte Vista right now."

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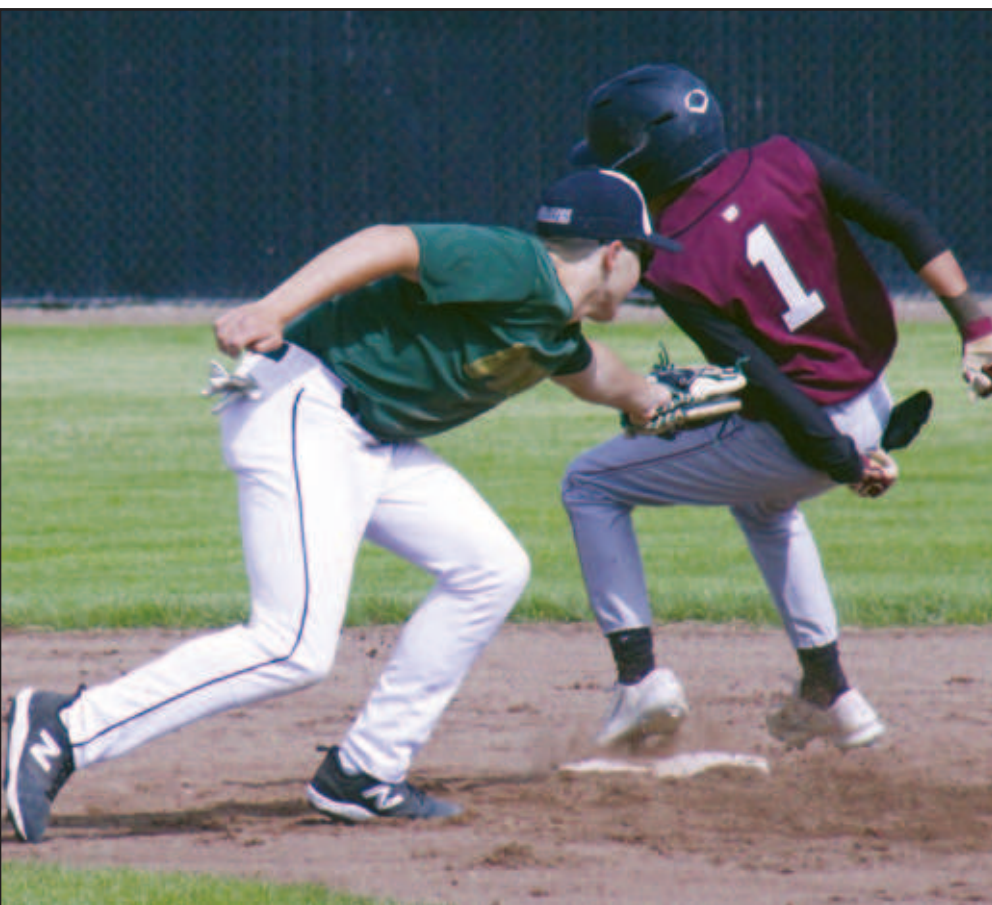
Kole Wilkinson - 6th Ortega Middle School

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# Sports



Courier file photo by Ken Hamrick

Alamosa High School's Jaidyn Burciaga (1) steals second base before Monte Vista's Kaden Mellott can apply the tag in last year's Alamosa 18U Tournament. This year's tournament begins today at 10 a.m. at Ortega Middle School.

## Alamosa 18U baseball tournament begins today

By **KEN HAMRICK**  
*Courier sports editor*

**ALAMOSA** – The annual Alamosa 18U baseball tournament will take place this weekend and it will begin with two games today at Ortega Middle School.

There are six teams playing in this year's tournament with three teams competing in two pools.

In Pool A, the teams consist of Alamosa, Monte Vista and Lamar, while in Pool B, it will be the Alamosa JV team, Center and Bayfield.

Both fields at Ortega will be in use.

On the north field, Alamosa will host Monte Vista at 10 a.m., followed by Monte Vista vs. Lamar at 12:15 p.m., and Alamosa against Lamar at 2:30 p.m.

On the south field, play begins with

the Alamosa JV hosting Center at 10 a.m., followed by Center against Bayfield at 12:15 and the Alamosa JV against Bayfield at 2:30 p.m.

Play continues Saturday with the semifinals at 10 a.m. There will be a semifinal game on both fields.

The tournament will end with the championship game at 12:15 p.m. on the north field.

### ALAMOSA 18 U TOURNAMENT

**Friday**  
Center at Alamosa JV (south field), 10 a.m.  
Monte Vista at Alamosa (north field), 10 a.m.  
Bayfield vs. Center (south field), 12:15 p.m.  
Lamar vs. Monte Vista (north field), 12:15 p.m.  
Bayfield at Alamosa JV (south field), 2:30 p.m.  
Lamar at Alamosa (north field), 2:30 p.m.

**Saturday**  
Semifinal #1 (north field), 10 a.m.  
Semifinal #2 (south field), 10 a.m.  
Championship (north field), 12:15 p.m.

## AHS Football scramble is Sunday

By **KEN HAMRICK**  
*Courier sports editor*

**ALAMOSA** – The Alamosa High School football team is hosting a four-player scramble on June 9.

The cost of the tournament is \$85 per

player and it is open to everyone. All proceeds benefit the AHS football team.

There are limited spots left open, therefore, golfers will need to call the shop at (719) 589-9515 to register.



## Larry Holder golf tourney is June 29

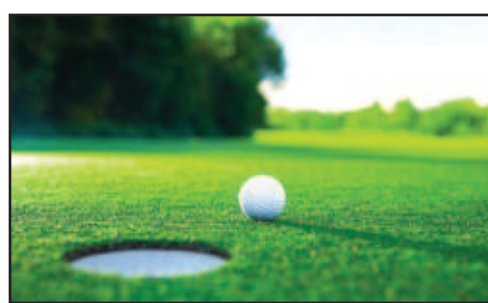
By **KEN HAMRICK**  
*Courier sports editor*

**ALAMOSA** – The Larry Holder Golf Tournament will take place on June 29 at the Monte Vista Golf Course.

This year, the tournament features golf with a twist on the Front 9 and with a glowball on the Back 9.

The entry fee is \$70 per player or \$120 for a team. It includes as dinner, which will be between the Front 9 and Back 9, but a golf cart is not included in the fee. Registration is at 4:30 p.m. with tee time from 5:30-6 p.m.

There are several sponsorships. The Ruby Sponsorship is \$1,500 which includes four teams and four golf carts and 16 drink tickets. The Platinum Sponsorship is \$750 and includes two teams and two carts and eight drink tickets. The Gold Sponsorship is \$400 and it includes one team and a cart (if available) and two drink tickets. The Silver Sponsorship is \$300 which



includes one team and two drink tickets. The Bronze/Glowball sponsorship is \$250, and hole sponsors are \$100.

There will also be a \$10,000 cash prize for a hole in one which is sponsored by the Bruce Denton Farmers Insurance Agency.

For sponsorship or information, call Karen Holder at (806) 542-1649, Jeff Holder at (719) 580-7136, or Michelle Burkhardt at (719) 588-1594. You can also go to the web site at [www.larryholdersurvivorship.com](http://www.larryholdersurvivorship.com).

## Online registration now open for Manassa Pioneer Days 5K

*Contributed*

**MANASSA** – Area runners are encouraged to register in advance for the Manassa Pioneer Days 5K to avoid waiting in line on race day.

The Pioneer Days 5K, hailed as southern Colorado's longest-running road race – and one of its largest – will take place on July 20 beginning at 8 a.m. The start and finish lines are adjacent to Jack Dempsey Park.

Registration is available online until July 18 at <https://runsignup.com/Race/CO/Manassa/PioneerDays5K>, or at bit.ly/LetsGoRunMHK. The race fee is \$20.

Race officials encourage runners to register online to help make the race-day experience go more smoothly. Those who register in advance can pick up their race packet in Jack Dempsey Park during the afternoon of July 21, or between 7-8 a.m. on July 22.

In-person registration will also be available in Jack Dempsey Park from 1-5 p.m. on July 19, and at 7 a.m. on race day.

The 47th Annual Manassa Pioneer Days 5K will be chip timed, with live results available at [bit.ly/LetsGoRunMHK](http://bit.ly/LetsGoRunMHK).

## Sports Bulletin

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

### SCHEDULE

#### FRIDAY

#### Baseball

Center at Alamosa JV

(Alamosa 18U Tournament), 10 a.m.  
Monte Vista at Alamosa (Alamosa 18U Tournament), 10 a.m.

Center vs. Bayfield (Alamosa 18U Tournament), 12:15 p.m.

Lamar vs. Monte Vista (Alamosa 18U Tournament), 12:15 p.m.

Bayfield at Alamosa JV (Alamosa Tournament), 2:30 p.m.

2:30 p.m.  
Lamar at Alamosa (Alamosa 18U Tournament), 2:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY

#### Baseball

Alamosa 18U Tournament semifinals, 10 a.m.

Alamosa 18U Tournament championship, 12:15 p.m.



# Public Notices

**DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION 3, STATE OF COLORADO**  
**TO: ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN WATER APPLICATIONS**  
**FILED IN**  
**WATER DIVISION 3.**  
Pursuant to C.R.S. 37-92-302(3), you are notified that the following is a resume in Water Division 3, containing notice of applications and certain amendments filed in the office of the Water Clerk during the month of May 2024 for each county affected.

**2024CW6: GWR CAPITAL, LLC 2727 WEST 7TH Street, Suite 224 Fort Worth, TX 76107 philip@pcwindustries.com, (817)676-4219** Application for change of Water Right in Costilla County. Decreed water right for which change is sought: Name of structure: Well No. 1, Case No. W-1501, Permit No. 45109-F, WVID 2405141 (Bertram Well) Date of original and all relevant subsequent decrees: December 1, 1977 Case No: W-1501 Court: District Court, Water Division No. 3 Legal description of decreed structure: NW1/4 SW1/4 Section 24, Township 11 North, Range 72 West, Sixth P.M. at a point 1470 feet from the South section line and 100 feet from the West section line in Costilla County, Colorado. (Please note that the correct principal meridian is: Costilla Principal Meridian or C.S.P.M.) Decreed source of water: Unconfined Aquifer (the well is 100 feet deep). Appropriation Date: December 31, 1955, Total amount decreed to structure: 400 gpm = 0.891 cfs. Decreed use: Irrigation and Stockwater. Amount of water that applicant intends to change: 400 gpm. Decreed water right for which change is sought. Name of structure Well No. 1, Case No. W-1730, Permit No. 21589-F, WVID 2405160 (Cole Well) Date of original and all relevant subsequent decrees March 29, 1979 Case No: W-1730 Court: District Court, Water Division No. 3 Legal description of decreed structure SE1/4 NW1/4 Section 25, Township 11 North, Range 72 West, Sixth P.M. at a point 1500 feet from the North section line and 2340 feet from the West section line in Costilla County, Colorado. Decreed source of water Unconfined Aquifer (the well is 700 feet deep). Appropriation Date December 31, 1950. Total amount decreed to structure 800 gpm = 1.78 cfs Decreed use Irrigation. Amount of water that applicant intends to change 800 gpm. Additional decrees of the Water Court for the subject water rights (Case Nos. 2022CW29 and 2022CW30) Name of structure Well No. 1, Case No. W-1501, Permit No. 45109-F, WVID 2405141 (Bertram Well) Date of original and all relevant subsequent decrees April 19, 2023 Case No: 2022CW29 Court: District Court, Water Division No. 3 This filing seeks to consolidate two irrigation well rights (the Cole Well and the Bertram Well) into the original Bertram Well and a replacement well that was drilled under permit no. 87397-F that will be used to provide irrigation water for 30 acres within Section 24, T1N, R72W, CSPM. Applicant further requests the well originally drilled as a replacement of the Bertram Well under permit no. 87397-F become a supplemental well to the original Bertram Well. The two wells will be limited to 1200 gpm and a maximum annual withdrawal of 90.0 acre-feet (individually and in combination), the irrigation of not more than 30 acres within Section 24, T1N, R72W, CSPM. Applicant requests the ability to retain the original Cole Well structure as an exempt well. It will be re-permitted as such. Applicants will install and maintain a metering system that accurately measures total production from the two wells. Applying to consolidate the water right decreed to Well No. 1, Case No. W-1730, WVID 2405160 (Cole Well) into Well No. 1, Case No. W-1501, WVID 2405141 (the Bertram Well) and a new supplemental irrigation well located very near the original Bertram Well. The GPS location of the well drilled under Permit No. 87397-F is UTM, NAD83 463701 mE, 4098230 mN. The GPS location of the Betram Well (WVID 2405141) is UTM, NAD83 463706 mE, 4098236 mN. If a change in point of diversion, provides legal descriptions of decreed location and actual or new location of structure. (PLSS) (include perpendicular distances from section lines, and indicate 1/4 1/4, section number, township, range, meridian and county; mark the location of the structure on a USGS topographic map and attach to this application a legible 8 1/2 x 11-inch copy of the applicable portion of the map). In areas where section lines have not been established, a bearing and distance to an established government monument is acceptable. In areas having generally recognized street addresses, include street address, and if applicable, the lot, block, and subdivision. Yes, see above. Name and address of reputed owner: GWR Capital, LLC 2727 West 7th Street, Suite 224 Fort Worth TX. 76107

You are notified that you have until the last day of July 2024, to file with the Water Clerk a verified statement of opposition setting forth facts as to why a certain application should not be granted or why it should be granted only in part or on certain conditions or a protest to the requested correction. A copy of such a statement of opposition or protest must also be served upon the Applicant or the Applicant's attorney and an affidavit or certificate of such service must be filed with the Water Clerk. The filing fee for the Statement of Opposition is \$192.00. Forms may be obtained from the Water Clerk's Office or our website at [www.courts.state.co.us](http://www.courts.state.co.us). Jennifer Pacheco, Water Clerk, Water Division 3, 8955 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101. No. 3978. Published in the Valley Courier on June 7, 2024.

**Request for Proposal (RFP)**  
**Auditor Services**

**Introduction:**  
The Town of Crestone is seeking proposals from qualified firms to provide auditing services for fiscal years 2022-2024. The selected auditor will be responsible for conducting a comprehensive audit of the Town's financial statements in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

**Scope of Work**  
The selected auditor will be expected to perform the following tasks:  
- Conduct an audit of the Town's financial statements in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.  
- Review internal controls and make recommendations for improvements, if necessary.  
- Provide a management letter outlining findings and recommendations.  
- Assist in the preparation of required financial reports and statements.  
- Any other tasks deemed necessary for a comprehensive audit.

**Proposal Submission:**  
Interested firms are invited to submit their proposals by email. Proposals should include the following:  
- Firm profile, including relevant experience and qualifications.  
- Proposed audit approach and methodology.  
- Proposed timeline for completion of the audit.  
- Fee schedule and estimated total cost.  
- References from past clients, preferably in the public sector.

PO Box 64, Crestone, CO 81131, (719) 256-4313, [crestonetownoffice@gmail.com](mailto:crestonetownoffice@gmail.com)  
No. 3950.  
Published in the Valley Courier on May 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 28, 29, 31, June 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 2024.

**District Court**  
**Alamosa County, Colorado**  
Court Address: 8955 Independence Way  
Alamosa, CO 81101  
In the Matter of the Estate of: Gunner Clay Andrews, a/k/a Gunner C. Andrews, a/k/a Gunner Andrews  
**Deceased**  
**COURT USE ONLY**  
Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address):  
Helen Sigmond, P.C.  
P.O. Box 1270  
Alamosa, CO 81101  
Phone Number: (719)589-6626 E-mail: [helen@helensigmondpc.com](mailto:helen@helensigmondpc.com)  
FAX Number: N/A Atty. Reg. #: 13019  
Case Number: 2024 PR 30015  
Division Courtroom  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-12-801, C.R.S.**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Estate of Gunner Clay Andrews, Deceased Case Number 2024 PR 30015  
All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to X District Court of Alamosa, County, Colorado or Denver Probate Court of the City and County of Denver, Colorado on or before September 25, 2024 (date)\*, or the claims may be forever barred.  
John C. Andrews  
Type or Print name of Person Giving Notice  
721 Graf Drive  
Address  
Alamosa, CO 81101  
City, State, Zip Code  
No. 3960.  
Published in the Valley Courier on May 24, 31, & June 7, 2024.

**County Court**  
**Conejos County, Colorado**  
Court Address:  
6683 County Road 13, Conejos, CO 81129  
In the Matter of the Petition of: ANDRE JAMIL WILCOX  
**Adult:**  
For a Change of Name to: ANDRE JAMIL MARTINEZ  
**COURT USE ONLY**  
Case Number:  
2024C24  
Division B  
**PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
Public Notice is given on May 21, 2024 that a Petition for a Change of Name of a Adult has been filed with the Conejos Court. The Petition requests that the name of ANDRE JAMIL WILCOX be changed to ANDRE JAMIL MARTINEZ By FELIX GALLEGOS Clerk of Court  
No. 3961  
Published in the Valley Courier on May 24, 31, and June 7, 2024

**Notice of Proposed School Budget**  
Notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the South Conejos School Board of Education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and has been filed in the South Conejos School District Business Office. The proposed budget is available for inspection on the district website under financial transparency. Such proposed budget will be considered for adoption at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of said district at 13099 County Road G, Antonito, CO, on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. No. 3971.  
Published in the Valley Courier on June 1, 4, 5, 7, & 8, 2024.

**ALAMOSA COUNTY**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held before the Alamosa Planning Commission on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 6:00 PM and again before the Alamosa Board of County Commissioners on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 8:30 AM, in the Alamosa County Services Center, 8900 Independence Way, Alamosa, Colorado for the purpose of considering an application for a Special Use Permit submitted by Sand Dunes Mushroom Cooperative on property currently addressed as 6670 Gaumer Ln, Parcel 541506304008. The applicant is proposing to operate a commercial greenhouse. This property is in the Rural (RU) zone district. The legal description of the property is: Tract 12 of the Redwing Sub-division, according to the plat filed August 20, 1963 under Reception No. 1451006, County of Alamosa, State of Colorado. Details regarding this application are available for public inspection in the Alamosa County Land Use Office at 8999 Independence Way Suite 100 during regular office hours or at (719) 589-3812.  
Richard Hubler  
Land Use Administrator  
Alamosa County  
No. 3977.  
Published in the Valley Courier on June 7, 2024.

**101-MEMORIALS**

**Dorothy E. Romero**  
March 19, 1934  
- June 7, 2018



Wow, 6 years have gone by since you made you're heavenly presence. Gone but will never ever be forgotten ever. I went to church for Mother's Day. Prebaterian, all your friends were there. We chatted a little while, then I went to the cemetery to talk to you and dad. Had a good day. Can't believe it 6 years so fast has gone bye. I've tried to slow down some, and I have. Remember on Wednesday dad would go call Bingo at the care center & The Bridge. You and I would go to smorgaboard at Hunan's about every Wednesday and eat and eat, very good memories, plus along with the other 67 million I have. Good morning, good afternoon, good night Mom. Same to you dad. I love you, I know you have a lot of angels out of them all you're the most beautiful of them all.  
Your son Poncho, Frankie J.  
I LOVE YOU!



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**099 - ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LAKE CITY HOSTS**  
a Wednesday Market for locally-grown foods and artisans in June, July, August. INTERESTED IN BEING A VENDOR? lakecitydirr.com/vibrant-economy. (6/26/24)

**165 - PERSONALS**

**CHRISTIAN [ORTHODOX] GENTLEMAN** seeking a wife in Covenant Marriage, by way of Christian Dating. I'm in my 70's, well-looking, good health and never married/NO Baggage! [I was seeking "first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." I am a small-scale gifted Preacher/Minister, College Grad Plus, and well-traveled. I am NOT Computerized, with a simple phone and voice mail Only! After Military Service [Active 5 yrs.] I worked predominately in Agriculture – hands on; so I am rural, agrarian by choice, and a homeowner in N.M. Looking for a mature Lady of like precious Faith (NON-Denominational). I appreciate Hiking, camping, Birding and Real Christian Fellowship- [I believe the Holy Bible-KJV-unto Salvation.] Please write if interested and we can meet at a church or café in Alamosa or elsewhere in the Southwest. May God be with you in this I Pray. Sincerely in JESUS LORD of ALL Gerald CRILLY POB. 253 Tres Piedras, N.M. 87577 (715/24)

**173 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

**LICENSED PLUMBER DOES** all types of plumbing & plumbing repairs. Quick service! Call anytime, weekends & evenings: 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (8/2/24-monthly)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT** is seeking a MUSIC or THEATRE 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> (Vacant Until Filled). (6/25/24)

**SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT** is seeking an anticipated LEAD PRESCHOOL TEACHER for the 24-25 school year. Applicants must possess a Level 2 in Colorado Shines and preferred Lead Teacher Certificate. 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> (Vacant Until Filled). (6/25/24)

**SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT** is accepting applications for BUS DRIVERS for the 2024-2025 school year. Must possess a valid Colorado driver's license and a commercial driver's license (CDL) or be able to obtain one. Please submit a district application, resume, cover letter, transcripts, and certifications at <https://www.southconejos.com/page/how-to-apply>. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. (vacant until filled). (6/25/24)

**THE NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT** is accepting applications for the 2024-25 school year for a CENTAURI MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER. Applicants must hold a current Colorado Teaching License or be able to obtain proper endorsement. Please call Brian Riccatone with questions at 719-849-5140. Applications are available at the District Administration Office, 17887 US Hwy 285, LA JARA, CO 81140 or can be downloaded at [www.northconejos.com](http://www.northconejos.com). Submit application to central office or email to [rmccarrall@northconejos.com](mailto:rmccarrall@northconejos.com). EOE. (6/14/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**Night Inserters NEEDED!**  
8-10 hours weekly. Must be self-motivated, dependable, and reliable. Please email applications to [squintana@alamosanews.com](mailto:squintana@alamosanews.com)

**The Center Housing Authority** is now taking applications for the Buena Ventura Project for 2&3 bedroom apartments at 138S. Worth Street, Center, Colorado.

**THE SANGRE DE CRISTO SCHOOL DISTRICT** is looking for a K-12 MUSIC TEACHER. Interested applicants can contact Dave Crews at 719-420-1422. (6/14/24)

**RIO GRANDE COUNTY** is hiring! Available full-time positions with competitive pay and benefits include: ASSESSOR'S OFFICE APPRAISER TRAINEE; PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE; ROAD & BRIDGE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR; SHERIFF'S OFFICE DETENTION/DISPATCH DEPUTY; Sheriff's Office DETENTION/DISPATCH SERGEANT and CORPORAL; Sheriff's Office ROAD DEPUTY; Sheriff's Office JAIL COOK; SOCIAL SERVICES LEGAL TECHNICIAN MANAGER. Benefits include medical, retirement, and paid time-off. Visit [www.riograndecounty.org](http://www.riograndecounty.org) for details including applications and job descriptions or pickup at Human Resources: 925 6th St., Rm. 200, DEL NORTE, CO. (7/26/24)

**MECHANIC POSITION AVAILABLE** at VALLEY TRACTOR REPAIR, MONTE VISTA, CO. This is a full-time position offering top pay with benefits. Contact Ric or Tony for qualifications, 719-852-0200. (6/19/24)

**THE TOWN OF CENTER** is seeking applications for a full-time STREETS & PARKS SPECIALIST DEPARTMENT. The applicant should be able to operate various pieces of equipment, such as lawn mowers, trimmers, chainsaws, dump trucks, snow plows, tractors, backhoes, and street sweepers. The applicant will also need to be able to work with underground sprinklers and irrigation systems and may assist with Animal Control. He/she needs to be self-starter, and have the ability to plan ahead and look to the future as the town grows. Salary will be \$16 to \$20 dollars an hour, based on experience. Benefits include 100% health paid for employee, with competitive plans in dental, vision, and life insurance, generous PTO vacation earnings as well as up to a 3% match for retirement IRA's. Must have a valid driver's license and be able to pass a drug test. Applications are available on the Town's website or can be picked up at Town Hall. If you have any question's contact Jaime at 719-754-3497. Applications must be turned in by close of business on June 14, 2024. (6/14/24)

**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 [urigers.co](http://urigers.co) or at the District Office. (7/3/24)



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# Classifieds

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**COME BE A part of the growing CENTENNIAL R-I team!** We are seeking applications for an **ELEMENTARY TEACHER, SECONDARY MATH TEACHER, LIBRARY PARAPROFESSIONAL, CUSTODIAL, REGULAR BUS ROUTE or ACTIVITY BUS DRIVER**, and a variety of **SUBSTITUTES**. Positions will remain open until filled. Each position has unique responsibilities, yet all require the same application process. Please submit a resume, three letters of recommendation, pertinent transcripts, and a background check/valid CDE license with an application. Submit applications through <https://www.applitrack.com/centennialschool/onlineapp> or email [kimbarael@centennial.k12.co.us](mailto:kimbarael@centennial.k12.co.us). All full-time positions qualify for a competitive benefits package and salary as outlined through our Master Agreement, which is available at [centennial.k12.co.us](http://centennial.k12.co.us). The starting pay range for certified staff is \$36,872 to \$49,509; 9-month staff is \$20,613- \$26,205; and 12-month staff is \$29,812-\$33,354; route/activity driver pay is based on route/mileage; substitute pay is \$120/day. We are doing great things in SAN LUIS; it's the perfect time to join our team. (6/22/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT** is currently accepting applications for an **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNSELOR**. Interested applicants must be certified/licensed in counseling. NCSO offers a competitive salary with a \$915 health benefit monthly. Applications may be picked up at North Conejos School District Central Office or downloaded on the district website at [www.northconejos.com](http://www.northconejos.com). Applications can be submitted to the central office or emailed to [rmccarroll@northconejos.com](mailto:rmccarroll@northconejos.com). Position is open until filled. EOE. (6/8/24)

**NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT** is currently accepting applications for **HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR**. Interested applicants must be certified/licensed in counseling. NCSO offers a competitive salary with a \$915 health benefit monthly. Applications may be picked up at North Conejos School District Central Office or downloaded on the district website at [www.northconejos.com](http://www.northconejos.com). Applications can be submitted to the central office or emailed to [rmccarroll@northconejos.com](mailto:rmccarroll@northconejos.com). Position is open until filled. EOE. (6/8/24)

**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)

**SANFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT IS** accepting applications for a **PART-TIME LIBRARIAN**. All candidates must pass background checks. Applications can be downloaded at [www.sanfor.schools.org](http://www.sanfor.schools.org). Sanford School is an EOE&E. (6/8/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**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](http://www.slvh.org) (6/12/24)

**CAFETERIA STAFF NEEDED** at UPPER RIOGRANDESCHOOL 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](mailto:lmartinez@urtigers.co). Applications can be retrieved online at: [www.urtigers.co](http://www.urtigers.co). (7/3/24)

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# Classifieds

### 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](http://www.northconejos.com). Submit application to the central office or email to [rmccarroll@northconejos.com](mailto:rmccarroll@northconejos.com). Position is open until filled. EOE. (6/8/24)

**NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT** is accepting applications for the 2024-25 school year for (1) **CENTAURI HIGH 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](http://www.northconejos.com). Submit application to the central office or email to [rmccarroll@northconejos.com](mailto:rmccarroll@northconejos.com). Position is open until filled. EOE. (6/8/24)

**NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT** is currently accepting applications for **LA JARA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**. Applicants must have a principal license/certification or be in the process of obtaining one. NCSO offers a competitive salary with a \$915 health benefit. Interested applicants may download an application at [www.northconejos.com](http://www.northconejos.com) or pick one up at North Conejos School District Central Office. Applications may be submitted to Superintendent Darren Edgar at [dedgar@northconejos.com](mailto:dedgar@northconejos.com) or delivered to the NCSO Central Office. Application deadline is Thursday, June 6th at 4:00 p.m. (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 [www.northconejos.com](http://www.northconejos.com) 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 [www.northconejos.com](http://www.northconejos.com) or at the District Office. (7/3/24)

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS/LONG TERM SUBS** needed at the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT in DEL NORTE! Call or email: Sophia at 719-657-4040, x4000 ([scruz@northconejos.com](mailto:scruz@northconejos.com)) for more information, go on-line: [www.northconejos.com](http://www.northconejos.com), 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)

**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](mailto:dtrujillo@urtigers.co). Applications can be retrieved online at: [www.northconejos.com](http://www.northconejos.com). (7/3/24)

### 221 - HELP WANTED

**DEL NORTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** is seeking an energetic, caring individual to serve as a **SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAEducator**. 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](mailto: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 [www.northconejos.com](http://www.northconejos.com). (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](mailto:dtrujillo@urtigers.co). Applications can be retrieved on-line at: [www.northconejos.com](http://www.northconejos.com). (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](mailto:ahardy@urtigers.co) or contact Annie at 719-657-4020. Applications can be found online at: [www.northconejos.com](http://www.northconejos.com). (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](mailto: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)

**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](mailto:delnorte1860@outlook.com) or mailed to Del Norte Town Hall, 140 Spruce Street, DEL NORTE, CO 81132. EOE. (6/12/24)

**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)

**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 [www.timberfalling.com](http://www.timberfalling.com) to apply. (6/12/24)

### 221 - HELP WANTED

**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, a 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 CDOT 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 [crestonetownoffice@gmail.com](mailto:crestonetownoffice@gmail.com). (6/19/24)

**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](http://www.lapuente.net) Email: [hr@lapuente.net](mailto:hr@lapuente.net) (6/19/24)

**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](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)

**SPRINKLER REPAIR & INSTALLATION.** Quick Service! Call evenings & weekends: 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (8/2/24-monthly)

**324 - SEED & FEED HORSE & COW HAY:** GRASS, GRASS/ALFALFA, ALFALFA. 3x3 bales, various quality and pricing. 719-850-8917. (7/3/24-monthly)

### 221 - HELP WANTED

**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](http://www.sanfordschools.org). Sanford School is an EOE&E. (6/8/24)

**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](mailto:ahardy@urtigers.co) or call Mrs. Hardy at (719) 657 - 4020. Applications can be accessed online at [www.northconejos.com](http://www.northconejos.com). (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)

**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](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)

**304 - LAWN & GARDEN**

**324 - SEED & FEED**

### 341 - GARAGE SALE

**8AM, UNIT NUMBER 62** next to the plaza apartments on **MULLINS AVENUE**. (6/8/24)

**YARD SALE: 1902 STATE AVE.** 6/7th, 6/8th ALL DAY. Fishing supplies, baby clothes, kitchen, household items. (96/8/24)

**SATURDAY 6/8, 8-1PM, 8011 W 10th, ALAMOSA.** Tools, Avon, dollar table clothes, household items, FREE items. (6/8/24)

### 350 - FARM EQUIPMENT

**WANT TO BUY or RENT:** a small to mid-size **VERTICAL MIXER**. 719-580-1391, ask for Bill. (6/11/24)

### 360 - MISC. FOR SALE

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

### 401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

**Century Property Management & Sales, LLC**  
**Alamosa • 589-5744**  
**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE**  
For all your rental needs please call **719-589-5744** or stop by **823 Main St. Alamosa, CO 81101**  
[www.alamosarentals.com](http://www.alamosarentals.com)

### 420 - LOTS & ACREAGES

**ACREAGE FOR SALE - \$2,000/ACRE.** Contact Rick 928-277-6140. (7/6/24)

### 426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

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

### 525 - GUNS

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

### 601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**CHARMING REMODELED ONE+ BEDROOM, ONE BATH, ONE-PERSON** unit in a quiet four-plex in DEL NORTE. \$700/month, inclusive of water and sewer. Pets and smokers are not permitted. Call 719-850-0750. (6/14/24)

**EAST ALAMOSA STUDIO.** Utilities included. No pets /smoking. \$590 monthly. Deposit. First & last month rent. 3 months steady employment to qualify. 719-580-3710. (6/7/24)

**MODERN & SPACIOUS APARTMENT** for Rent in **PRIME CRESTONE LOCATION**. Welcome to your new home! Nestled in the heart of Crestone, this beautifully appointed apartment offers both comfort and convenience in every square foot. Key Features: Location: Prime Crestone location, offering easy access to local amenities and attractions. Size: Approximately 1,250 square feet of living space. Rent: \$1600 per month (inclusive of electricity, trash disposal, propane, sewer, and water services). Deposit: \$500 (plus first and last month's rent). Pets: Unfortunately, no pets allowed. Application Process: All potential tenants are required to undergo an interview and background check. Schedule a Viewing: Don't miss out on this opportunity to call this apartment home! Contact us today to schedule a viewing and start the application process. PO Box 64, Crestone, CO 81131; (719) 256-4313; [crestonetownoffice@gmail.com](mailto:crestonetownoffice@gmail.com) (6/19/24)

### 601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**PROFESSIONAL OFFICE OR RESIDENTIAL SPACE FOR** one person located in an end-unit in a four-plex in DEL NORTE. Approximately 700 sq ft with an open entry area, separate office or bedroom, kitchen area, and 3/4 bath. \$800/month, inclusive of water and sewer. Pets and smokers are not permitted. Please call 719-850-0750. (6/14/24)

### 611 - HOMES FOR RENT

**REMODELED TWO BEDROOM, 1 BATH** home on a corner lot in DEL NORTE. Near biking/hiking trailhead. Pets and smokers are not permitted. Please call 719-850-0750. \$875/month. (6/14/24)

**2 STORY HISTORIC RENOVATED 4 BEDROOM, 2.5 BATH.** Appliances furnished. Deck, shop, garage, large fenced in backyard. Excellent neighborhood; 416 2nd Ave., MONTE VISTA. \$2150/month, plus utilities. Yearly lease; available 6/1/24. Contact 719-852-5101 or 719-852-5350. (7/9/24)

### 630 - ROOMS FOR RENT

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



# Lunch Break.

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# One Man's Junk is Another Man's Treasure.

# Try Our Classifieds!



# 589-2553



# Comics

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Defeat
  - 5 Deity
  - 8 Venus de Milo's lack
  - 12 Nurse in Asia
  - 13 ET's craft
  - 14 Hardware item
  - 15 Go the extra —
  - 16 Stone
  - 17 Ship of 1492
  - 18 Endeavor
  - 20 "Peter Pan" girl
  - 21 Settle up
  - 22 Actor — Harrison
  - 23 Implied but unsaid
  - 26 Chum
  - 27 Fleur-de —
  - 30 "Woe is me!"
  - 31 Our moon, at times
  - 33 Collected
  - 35 Formerly
  - 36 Family mem.
  - 37 Family member

- 38 Readily available (2 wds.)
  - 39 Shadowy
  - 40 "As I — saying ..."
  - 41 Blood, — and tears
  - 44 Skyline
  - 48 Lose freshness
  - 49 Olla
  - 50 Miami-County
  - 51 Vaulted church area
  - 52 Days long gone
  - 53 Means justifier
  - 54 Droplet
  - 55 Plaything
  - 56 What remains
- DOWN**
- 1 Tibetan monk
  - 2 Drop
  - 3 Season
  - 4 A little embarrassed
  - 5 Tiny fish
  - 6 "Think — —!"

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

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

- 7 Period
- 8 Building wing
- 9 Word in a forecast
- 10 Tend
- 11 Do in
- 19 Doily
- 20 Gets hitched
- 22 Had regrets about
- 23 Labels
- 24 Jai —
- 25 Popular pets
- 26 Born and —
- 27 Time of fasting
- 28 Peruvian of old
- 29 Walk
- 31 Stuff
- 32 Think about
- 34 Do a publishing job
- 38 Scull
- 39 No longer in
- 40 Verbose
- 41 Q-tip
- 42 Dry
- 43 "Born Free" lioness
- 44 2008
- 45 Western writer — Grey
- 46 Likelihood
- 47 Cozy home
- 49 Airliner

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			

## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

## HERMAN

"I hit it with the truck."

## ALLEY OOP

SO, AS YOU CAN SEE, THE UNIVERSE IS NOT INFINITE, AND IN FACT, DOESN'T EXIST OUTSIDE THE MILKY WAY.

ALL I CAN SEE IS THE HEADACHE THESE LIGHTS ARE GIVING ME.

THE MIRRORS REFLECT THE EXISTING STARS, GIVING THE ILLUSION OF ENDLESSNESS.

SO THE UNIVERSE IS MUCH SMALLER THAN WE THOUGHT?

INDEED! INSTEAD OF INFINITE STARS, IT'S ONLY THE 100 BILLION STARS OF OUR GALAXY.

THAT'S A BIG NUMBER. I CAN'T REALLY WRAP MY BRAIN AROUND IT.

THINK OF IT THIS WAY: IF YOU HAD ONE DOLLAR FOR EVERY STAR IN OUR GALAXY, YOU'D HAVE 100 BILLION DOLLARS.

NOW MY HEAD HURTS.

## ARLO & JANIS

GEAR! YOUR FOLKS HAVE FINALLY DECIDED TO MOVE DOWN HERE!

WE WERE BEGINNING TO WONDER!

WE WEREN'T SURE OURSELVES TILL LAST NIGHT, BUT WE WANT TO DO IT!

I'M GLAD TO GET THAT OVER! I FEEL LIKE A WEIGHT HAS BEEN LIFTED OFF ME!

ALL WE HAVE TO DO NOW IS FIND A DECENT PLACE WE CAN AFFORD, BUY IT, PUT OUR HOUSE ON THE MARKET, PACK EVERYTHING AND MOVE.

## BIG NATE

TIME TO FIGURE OUT IF THIS IS MASHED POTATOES OR VANILLA PUDDING!

NUMF.

SMACK SMACK

NONE OF THE ABOVE?

IT'S TARTAR SAUCE.

## THE BORN LOSER

MY AUDIOLOGIST SAYS MY TESTS SHOW MY HEARING HAS DIMINISHED.

SO IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GET HEARING AIDS?

NAH...

I DON'T CARE TO HEAR WHAT MOST PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY ANYWAY!

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

BEHIND WHAT WAS ONCE DALY'S GARAGE LIES A HIDDEN TREASURE! BENEATH NEARLY 100 YEARS WORTH OF SCRAP METAL IS AN AMAZING ASSORTMENT OF ANTIQUE TOOLS, CAR PARTS AND MACHINERY.

WELL, IT'S NOT EXACTLY THE WAY YOU WROTE IT, HONEY, BUT THE INFORMATION ALL THERE!

VEAH... I WONDER IF GORDON KNOWS IT'S BEEN PRINTED.

NEW OWNER GORDON MAYBE IS STILL NOT SURE WHAT TO DO WITH THIS FIND...

## FRANK & ERNEST

TONIGHT'S TOPIC: "ETHICS and MORALITY"

EVER HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS, FRANK?

ONLY WHEN I CAN'T HAVE BOTH!

## GARFIELD

BURP!

GOOD ONE!

LIZ IS PERFECT

TELL ME ABOUT IT

## THE GRIZZWELLS

WHAT DID JASMINE SAY WHEN YOU ASKED HER OUT AGAIN?

IT'S NOT SO MUCH WHAT SHE SAID...

BUT THE WAY SHE SAID IT

WELL, THEY DO SAY OPEN COMMUNICATION IS THE ESSENCE OF A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP

## PEANUTS

MY UNCLE JUST GOT A PROMOTION

OH? WHAT DOES HE DO?

HE'S A DESIGNER FOR AN AUTOMOBILE COMPANY

HE THINKS OF DIFFERENT PLACES TO PUT THE HOOD LATCHES SO THE SERVICE STATION ATTENDANT CAN'T FIND THEM!

# Flirtation with the past endangers stable present

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to a wonderful man for 17 years. Recently, I reconnected online with an old high school flame. We have been talking about my hometown, which is where he lives. So many things have changed! I moved away more than 30 years ago and have been missing it lately.

While texting, my old BF hinted that he loves me. I have always felt like he was the one who got away, which he now knows. We have discussed it and agree that we need to ignore our feelings. (Neither of us wants to hurt my husband.) The problem is, I can't stop thinking about him and the "what-ifs." It is making me grumpy and picky with my husband, whom I adore. Will this feeling go away, and are we right to try to deny our feelings? -- LEAVING WELL ENOUGH ALONE

DEAR LEAVING: Those feelings will not go away as long as you continue to nurture them by communicating with your old high school flame. Considering that you are married to a husband you adore, you are right that you should ignore the temptation to upset the applecart. Deal with this by ending this online romance, which, if you allow it to distract you further, will destroy your marriage. The grass is NOT always greener on the other side.

DEAR ABBY: My younger sister passed away in her 40s

two years ago. She was my only sibling, and even though we had grown apart as we grew older, I was devastated. We'd had our quarrels in the past. She often put me down, but I took it hard when she passed.

My niece took it upon herself to let me know that my sister never liked me. Now I'm not allowed to see my niece's children. My mother babysits them, and I'm not allowed to see my mother if they are around. With my schedule and her babysitting, I get to see Mom only once every couple of months.

I feel so alone, like I have no family left other than my children and husband. I am also mourning the loss of my mother because I am not allowed to see her. I cannot even talk to her on the phone when my niece and her kids are around. Help, please. -- BREAKING HEART IN OHIO

DEAR BREAKING HEART: The only person who can help with this sorry situation is your mother, who is allowing herself to be controlled by your niece. If you haven't already, tell your mother how hurtful this situation is for you and ask if she really wants her only LIVING daughter to be estranged from her because your sister disliked you, and her daughter is carrying forward the torch. It's a sad and sorry situation, but nothing will change until she puts



her foot down.

DEAR ABBY: We often have potlucks at my place of work. This year, I have been helping organize them. It is glaringly apparent that some people bring substantial dishes to share while others bring something paltry or nothing at all. How do I word an email to an entire staff that would not seem overbearing or aggressive but states, "If you don't bring, you don't eat"? -- HUNGRY IN KENTUCKY

DEAR HUNGRY: Here's how: "It has become apparent that some of you bring substantial dishes to the potlucks, while others bring something paltry or nothing at all. Folks, if you don't BRING -- you don't EAT!" Sign it, "Love to all, the Happy Organizer."