



A new way to save makes Del Norte home

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Alamosa dominates All-IML girls soccer team

— Page 6



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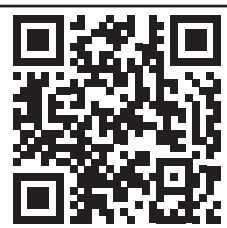
Valley Courier

WEDNESDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

June 5, 2024

\$1



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SLV Today

'Kids Ads' winners

announced by Courier

ALAMOSA – Winners in the Valley Courier's annual "Kids Create an Ad" contest were announced in a special edition published Saturday. Prizes will be available at the Courier office starting Wednesday afternoon or will be delivered to the respective schools when classes resume. Grand prize honors went to Quiana Ruiz, Ortega Middle School eighth grader, for her advertisement promoting Ruby Slipper Bar and Grill. She will receive a \$50 gift certificate to HobbyTown.

First place winners in the respective age groups were: Gabriel Mendez (grades K-2), James Martinez (3-5) and Alexa Sisneros (6-8). Each will receive \$35 cash. Second place winners, each winning \$20, were Kalissa Garcia (K-2), Savoivse Annika G. Balares (3-5) and Jaquelin Sevilla-Cortez (6-8). Third place winners, winning \$10 each, Grayson Beringer (K-2), Bailey Squires (3-5) and Marco Medina (6-8).

Sangre de Cristo School Board of Education meeting

MOSCA – The Sangre de Cristo School Board of Education regular monthly meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11, in the school library at 8751 Lane 7 North, Mosca. Copies of agendas are posted at school site, website, the Hooper and Mosca Post Offices, and the Mosca Pit Stop. Meetings are open to the public.

SLV WEATHER

Sunny 86/47

Thurs: Slight Chance of Showers, Breezy 88/50

Fri: Chance of Showers, Breezy 87/49

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Airport to conduct full-scale exercise Saturday

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — The San Luis Valley Regional Airport in conjunction with emergency management personnel from all six counties in the Valley, and numerous EMS agencies will conduct a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety drill this weekend.

To ensure optimum results of the exercise and for safety, the event is not open to the public and people should not be alarmed by the many

■ See AIRPORT page 3

The San Luis Valley Regional Airport as seen in this airborne photo is the site of an emergency response exercise on Saturday.

Courier photo by John Waters



Courier photo by John Waters

Construction has begun to improve the pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection of Main Street and San Juan Avenue in Alamosa for safety that will include a rectangular rapid flashing beacon.

Alamosa constructing a new safer crosswalk

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA – The City of Alamosa is improving the crosswalk at the intersection of Main Street and San Juan Avenue.

According to Heather Sanchez, City Manager, "All the improvements that have been made to downtown are directly from the downtown plan, which was based on public input.

The number one issue voiced by the general public and the businesses located downtown was related to safety. So, when you had three lanes, the traffic speeds were much higher than people felt safe and so did trying to cross the street with three lanes. A lot of that went into the two-lane design, but it also looked at some of the cross

sections which were, specifically, Hunt and San Juan, where there were even more concerns about traffic safety. So when people push this button, the signs will flash and draw even more attention to the motorists to stop and allow people to cross. It all came from the downtown plan to increase pedestrian safety."

ASU Educator Highlight Award for May goes to Pinales

Food service staff member has made a career feeding Sargent School District students

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

When Sargent School District ended the 2023-24 academic year, it was food service staff mem-

ber Darlene Pinales who found herself in the spotlight when she became the first school cafeteria worker presented with the Adams State Educator Highlight Award.

The award has recognized teachers, custodians, administrators, and after-school specialists over the past two school years. But never before has a cafeteria staff member been held up for their contributions to Valley school kids until



Courtesy photo

Sargent School District Darlene Pinales is the first school cafeteria worker presented with the Adams State Educator Highlight Award.

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Lee Crowther



Record

OBITUARIES

John Lindsay Riddick

John Lindsay Riddick, 81, passed away in his home with his family by his side on May 31, 2024. John was born in Washington DC to Floyd M. Riddick and Marguerite Faerber Riddick.

John is survived by his wife Donna Jones Riddick; his daughter Whitney (Dennis) Graff of Evergreen, Colo.; son Kramer (Alexandria) Riddick of Castle Rock, Colo.; son Ben (Gabriela) Riddick of La Jara, Colo.; four grandsons



Devin Lloyd Riddick (7), Liam Colin Riddick (7), Edward Jones Riddick (1 ½), and Dylan John Rid-

dick (8); and his sister Johanne Riddick of Penasco, N.M.

John was preceded in death by both of his parents.

Cremation has been chosen and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

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

Buddy Randall Romero Sr.

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

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

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



to all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Lucinda Barela; children; Amber Romero (Joseph Clifford), Estevan Barela (Ashley), Kerrissa Romero (Chris Quintana), Randall Romero, and Alexander Suarez; brothers, Lee Romero, Leon Romero, and Ernest Romero (Peggy); sisters, Margie (Thomas) Alanis, June (Juan) Rodriguez, Ernestina Romero; and Dillie Romero; grandchildren

Braydyn Barela, Aspen Barela, Gabriella Barela, and Timber Barela. As well as many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Buddy was preceded in death by his mother Avelina "Roy" Romero, brothers; Don Toby "Neno" Rodriguez, Jimmy "Miko" Armstrong, Danny (Miko) Romero; Sister; Andrea (Honky) Armstrong; grandchild Baby Barela; in-laws Angelica (Gel) Barela, Mario Barela, Robert (Kiko) Barela; niece Jaydyn Quintana; nephew Miguel Barela.

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



Courier Photo by John Waters

Narrow Gauge Book Cooperative has a great lineup of events scheduled for June.

June at the Narrow Gauge Book Cooperative

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — It's summer, and while we all find ourselves outside more than ever, there's still always time for a book. The Narrow Gauge Book Cooperative (NGBC) has several events planned this month, and throughout the summer!

• June 1 through Aug. 31: All Aboard the Summer Reading Express!

The Narrow Gauge Book Cooperative is launching a summer reading program for adults! They're even ending the summer with a pizza party, so you can celebrate and talk about all the books you read! For more details, visit narrowgaugebooks.com, or stop in at the book cooperative Monday through Saturday from 10am to 6pm, and Sunday from 11am to 3pm!

• June 15 at 6 p.m.: Spadefoot Story Slam Community

Each month, the NGBC hosts the Spadefoot Story Slam. For June, the theme is IMPOSSIBLE. Bring your stories of surviving the impossible-or not (the Spadefoot and the NGBC value authenticity over forcing a positive outlook), stories of grit and perseverance, what made you work

through the hard tough middle, stories of having to make an impossible decision, stories that were out of the question/not worth considering/beyond the bounds of possibility, stories where you beat (or failed to beat) the odds. Bring your creative interpretations of the theme! Stories must be true as remembered by you, and stories must be spoken from the heart, not off the page!

• June 21 at 6 p.m.: Larry "Animal" Garner Author Event

The NGBC is hosting a reading, Q&A, and book signing with Larry "Animal" Garner, author of the Hammer Trilogy. Garner is a Colorado native and a Navy veteran. He's traveled extensively in the U.S., mostly on his motorcycle, and come into contact with many interesting characters and dangerous experiences. An avid reader all his life, he became a writer, too, and has been a finalist, twice, for the prestigious Colorado Book Awards.

The trilogy will take you on a high-octane adventure involving drug rings and human trafficking. This series is most suitable for adults, due to the topic and levels of

violence.

• June 29 at 3 p.m.: Maryann Martinez Book Release

The Narrow Gauge is hosting the release of Maryann Martinez's newest book Summer's Hope. Summer's Hope is about a little girl and her horse who make friends and learn and grow together. Martinez has four children and eight grandchildren. As a child raised in the Army, she traveled and experienced many different cultures. She loves her work as a nurse, riding her horse, Thor, and getting lost in her writing. Martinez will read from her book, have a Q&A, and do a signing. We hope to see you there!

• July 3 at 6 p.m.: Indie Press Book Club

The second meeting of the Narrow Gauge's newly formed Indie Press Book Club is coming up! The book this time is Found Audio by NJ Campbell. It's an intriguing trip that questions the difference between dreams and reality. You can pick up a copy at the Narrow Gauge, and we hope to see you there!

The Narrow Gauge Book Cooperative is at 602 Main Street in Alamosa. Phone is 719-589-3464.



Courtesy photo

Mutton Bustin at the Alamosa Round-UP is set for June 20 at the Alamosa Fairgrounds. Signups for the annual event close on June 17.

Register now for 2024 Round-UP 'Mutton Bustin'

CONTRIBUTED ALAMOSA — Entries for the annual Alamosa Round-UP "Mutton Bustin" will close on June 17 for the competition that begins on June 20 at the Alamosa Fairgrounds.

As usual, the event will delight crowds of all ages as about 60 little cowboys and cowgirls don their vests and helmets to take on the "wild woolies." To enter, go to www.alamosaroundup.com.

The object is clear, stay

on as long as you can, and get the highest score. Kids ages 4-7 will give it all they have, and show off their cowboy and cowgirl skills, with prizes including Champion Buckles and Justin Boots who can blame them for giving it a go.

The top four riders in each age group will return to ride again during the PRCA Rodeo. Top 4 (4-5 year olds) will return Friday night, June 21, and the Top 4 (6-7 year

olds) will ride again on Saturday night, June 22.

The 2024 Round-UP Mutton Bustin is sponsored by: McDonalds, Big R, 1st Southwest Bank, Alta Convenience Stores, Justin Boots, Wilbur Ellis and SMD Services.

The 2024 Local Barrel Race will be held after the Mutton Bustin, June 20. Entries for the Local Barrel Race will be taken by the Rodeo Secretary on the grounds from 5-6:30 p.m.

• South Conejos School District

13099 County Road G Antonito, CO 81120 June 3 through July 25 Meals will not be provided on July 4 and July 23.

Breakfast: 7:30 – 9 a.m. Lunch: 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

For more information, contact: Debbie Martinez at 719-376-7016.

Rio Grande County to integrate 150th anniversary into annual events

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

RIO GRANDE COUNTY - For the past several months members of Rio Grande County have been planning to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the designation of Rio Grande County at each of the most popular county events throughout the summer.

In conjunction with already planned events, the county has also utilized some funding to design and purchase commemorative coins that are for sale in several locations like the Rio Grande County Museum and have designed and purchased commemorative stickers which are also available for free to businesses and other organizations that want to pass them out.

The county's website has a list of coming events as well as a slideshow that highlights the origins of the county and several pictures provided by the Rio Grande County Museum that show how far the county and its communities have come over the years.

Once Del Norte was established in 1872, the area surrounding the bustling mining town began

to grow and expand. Del Norte remained part of Conejos County as part of the Spanish Land Grants that brought people here as early as 1849 when the Freemont Expedition failed to pass through the San Juan Mountains.

The first leaders of Del Norte alongside leaders from other counties petitioned the state to make separate counties out of Conejos County that stretched almost all the way to where the current Utah State Boarder resides.

Rio Grande County was officially designated alongside Hinsdale and La Plata counties in state legislature No. 52. The San Juan Prospector's article about the designation was brief stating that the legislature had passed and ended with, "San Juan Ho!"

Throughout the years, other towns began to pop up in Rio Grande County, some of which are no longer viable including Loma, Whiskeyville, Baxterville and others. Alamosa followed Del Norte in 1878, Wagon Wheel gap in 1879, Monte Vista in 1884 and Creede in 1891-92.

Plans for the coming summer season will be to celebrate all that Rio Grande County is by honoring annual events like South Fork's Logger Days, Monte Vista's Ski-Hi Stampede and Del Norte's Covered Wagon Days. Dates and times are available on the county's website www.riograndecounty.org. Click on the tab for 150 Anniversary to be directed to the slide show and schedule of planned events.

School Menu Wednesday June 5, 2024

BREAKFAST

Bagel w/ Cream Cheese
Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY

Beef Nachos
Gingerbread
Refried Beans
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Beef Nachos
Gingerbread
Refried Beans
Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL

Beef Nachos
Gingerbread
Refried Beans
Fruit & Milk

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Alamosa School District

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Valley News

4-H Juntos Specialist Gurule receives Outstanding Diversity Promoter award

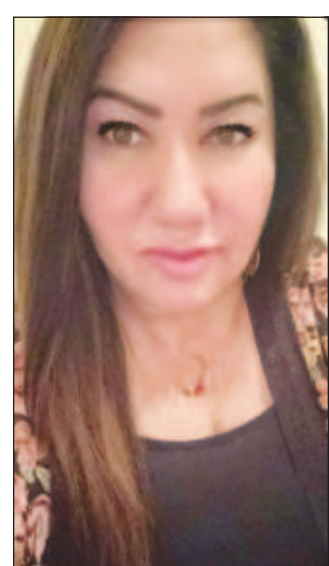
By MARIE MCCOLM
MONTE VISTA – 4-H Juntos Youth Development Area Specialist Carol Gurule received the Outstanding Diversity Promoter in the Southern Region Award. Gurule, who works at the Colorado State University SLV Area Extension in Monte Vista, stated that she is blessed by the award, but truthfully the award was not necessary because she loves what she does.

and programs that can help them with things that they need. I am honored that this program thinks that I am doing a great job, but I do it all with all my heart, and all for the glory of God who helps me, help others every day. I am grateful beyond words though, and I feel blessed to help others, through the position I have been given. Thank you, CSU Extension and Larry Brown, for the opportunity.”

Families. She said that “Strengthening Families,” has opened her heart and mind to what it means to go that extra mile when helping families. The program is targeted at strengthening relationships between families, parents, and children. The program promotes positive communication, family bonding, and joint problem-solving skills.

them 100 percent, with resources, information, education, whatever it is I can do to lighten their load. It’s all about providing information and resources. I genuinely care about helping people, it’s what I love to do,” she said.

for younger siblings. Gurule teaches parents about setting appropriate limits for their children, how to motivate children to apply good behavior skills, and she teaches parents to share their expectations with their children.



Carol Gurule

“I never expected to receive an award like this for doing what I love,” she said. “Even though I feel honored, this is all honestly something I do from my heart. This isn’t just a job for me, I put my whole heart into it. I truly love and care about people. My job allows me to help diverse people that need help. I offer them education,

Gurule is no stranger to helping youth and their families. As part of Gurule’s role with the local extension office, she helps diverse family members come together, and succeed, in high school and with further education, as part of the 4-H Juntos Program.

“Sometimes, I am in a room with one family member talking about problems and things that they may need help with, and I hear something that really touches me. I have often found myself leaving the room for a minute just because I have tears in my eyes. It’s so important to me to be able to help these people, and my heart really goes out to people that are struggling. I am there for

Strengthening Families targets children ages 10-14. The program is designed to help youth succeed during their teen years. It is a six-week program that meets one night a week for two hours. In the first hour, parents and their children separate but work on similar skills. In the second hour, families get together and have fun, play games and work on family projects. Each night, the meetings begin with a free family meal. There is also free childcare provided at the meetings

For youth, Gurule helps with goal setting, stress management skills, parent appreciation skills, understanding and following rules, and becoming resistant to peer pressures.

need help. If I can make a difference that’s what I want to do. I want to see people not struggle, I want to see people and their children succeed. I am proud of the award that I was given, but it wasn’t necessary, I love what I do. To me it’s not a job, it’s a heart song,” she said.

Kelly

Continued from Page 1

property crimes and quality of life crimes.”

Once Kelly was in office and started asking for public input, her commitment was solidified even more. “When I came to the Valley and started talking to police agencies in the communities, leaders in the communities and citizens in the communities, the number one concern over and over was that the drug problem had gotten progressively worse over the years.”

Her decision to focus on forming a drug task force did not come as a surprise. After Governor Jared Polis announced her appointment in August of 2022, Kelly took the podium and, while standing in front of the Justice Center in Alamosa, made the statement, “To those

of you who are distributing and selling your poison to the citizens of this valley, I promise you this. We are coming for you.”

Less than two years later, Kelly has made good on that promise.

The district attorney’s office is currently in the process of officially forming a standing drug task force, comprised of specific law enforcement officers from sheriffs’ offices and police departments across the valley.

“We have a core group of law enforcement officers who are involved as part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the agencies who employ these individuals,” she says, “and we’ve committed to investigating drug operations across the entire Valley.”

The concept of a drug task force is not new to Kelly. She worked with a task force in Weld County when she was

a prosecutor with the DA’s office for that jurisdiction.

“I knew the effectiveness of drug task forces in other jurisdictions to be able to start creating longer term investigations that required more manpower. In order to avoid just arresting and charging addicts, we need to go after the people who are distributing the poison to people in the valley. And to be able to do that, we really need to be able to pool our resources together and come up with more effective ways of investigating and charging those dealers.”

Effective drug investigations require time, she says, to build trust with people in the community and to gather information. “It takes time to investigate a particular dealer for a longer period so the charges we can bring are more serious charges because we have more informa-

tion. We can interdict a one-time sale but that doesn’t happen as often as we’d like. We need to have the resources to commit longer periods of time for the investigation.”

Obviously, people distributing and selling drugs aren’t exactly brick and mortar operations. “These dealers aren’t staying in Alamosa or Center,” she says. “They’re moving and selling across the Valley. So, the drug task force will enable us to pool resources and information from all the agencies in the valley to make our information gathering more effective and useful in going after higher dealers.”

With that in mind, Kelly describes why the MOU between agencies is so important. “If Monte Vista is working with Alamosa Police Department, they don’t have any jurisdiction in Saguache. But this MOU

provides them with the authority to do that in that jurisdiction.”

As Kelly describes how the drug task force is established, she says her office is going to be actively involved in investigations and overseeing the team. “But this team was formed organically,” she says. “Because of the relationships they have built, they’d been working together anyway.”

“The DA’s office is a mechanism to organize the group and establish legitimacy and purpose to the group so they can have some recognition for the work they’ve done and find ways to be even more effective.”

When asked if she sees this as a proactive approach to law enforcement addressing illegal drug activity, Kelly says, “One hundred percent. That’s the key to a strong task force, by developing relationships and strong sources of information in the valley. “Most of these drug dealers, their business plan involves not getting caught. They’re

not necessarily the ones committing homicides or other offenses where police would respond. Their business is based on being confidential and private because their business won’t survive if they’re exposed. So the goal of the task force is to expose their business operations and try to cut them off.”

The drug task force mission is to go after big players.

“When you have a group of law enforcement agencies that can demonstrate a level of legitimacy and competence, it becomes less attractive to operate your drug business in that area. The valley has been an attractive place to operate drug business in comparison to other parts of the state where drug forces are more active. We want to make it a less attractive place to do business for these criminal and poison distributors. So, we’re not only going after residents of the valley, we’re trying to cut off the head of the snake.”

Award

Continued from Page 1

Pinales was honored for her work in the Sargent School District cafeteria.

“Darlene always has a smile on her face and is there to support the kids. Whether it is saying ‘good morning!’ as they walk in the door and grab a cold breakfast or a student not having to ask for a dietary-changed meal as she already knows what they need, she truly is there for the students,” read her nomination for the award.

Curtis Garcia, director of the Adams State School of Education, along with professors and support staff made the presentation dur-

ing the last week of the school year. Each month, Adams State highlights an educator to recognize, with an intention to bring a focus around the importance of K-12 education and to motivate others to become educators.

Pinales, who resides in Monte Vista, has spent “28 wonderful years” with the Sargent School District. She began as a preschool teacher before making the change to the school cafeteria and a career feeding students.

“I’ve had kids that I had in pre-school when I was a teacher there and I still have them as parents and their grandkids,” she said of her career with Sargent.

On the favorite food the cafeteria serves, she said, “Sargent’s favorite lunches are cheeseburgers and chicken alfredo.”

It’s not just the lunches that the students remember of their time in the cafeteria that serves Sargent schools.

“Ms. Darlene was there from day one of kindergarten for me,” one student wrote in her nomination. “She always knew my name and asked me about what was going on in my life. Come graduation time, I don’t think I truly realized how big of an impact she made on my K-12 career.”

The Educator Highlight Award recognizes Adams State University School of Education

alumni, prominent local teachers, and other educators working within or hailing from the San Luis Valley. In so doing, Adams State University hopes to build familiarity with the community as a serious destination for future educators.

This monthly award recognizes Adams State University School of Education alumni, prominent local teachers, and other educators working within or hailing from the San Luis Valley. In so doing, Adams State University hopes to build familiarity with the community as a serious destination for future educators. To nominate and educator email Chrissy McKinney at cmckinney@adams.edu.

Airport

Continued from Page 1

emergency vehicles and personnel at the airport on Saturday between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. The airport will remain open during the event.

Eric Treinen, Alamosa County Emergency Manager, told the Valley Courier, that the FAA mandates the exercise at commercial airports such as the San Luis Valley Regional Airport.

Treinen said the Federal Emergency Man-

agement Agency will assist in running the exercise at no cost to the county and have several employees on-site.

“We’re having a simulated plane crash on Saturday morning, and we expect between 20-30 actors to be passengers on that plane crash. We will have a variety of injuries, ranging from walking wounded, to critical. This will test our airport response with the Airport Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) and other EMS and we have partnered with the hospital and

they are going to do their surge exercise for a mass casualty event,” said Treinen.

According to the FAA, goals of Airport Emergency Plans are conducted to produce an intergraded emergency plan that provides a response based upon need and emergency location. Ensure readiness in the procedure and coordination needed to support a capable accomplished and effective emergency response in a minimum amount of time. Confirm the functional effectiveness of plans and

procedures under controlled conditions and make changes as needed. Improve emergency responder confidence in the plan and increase familiarity with the airport and resources.

EMS agencies participating in the exercise are the Airport Rescue and Firefighting, Alamosa Fire Department, Alamosa EMS, Alamosa County Sheriff’s Office, Alamosa Police Department, Alamosa Coroner’s Office, RETAC, SLV Health, Conejos EMS, Denver Air, and Centric Aviation.

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Opinion

In small towns, bookstores are thriving

"I love to spend my day in a bookstore," said Amy Sweet. She lives in Red Lodge, Montana, and was explaining why she and her husband Brian opened Beartooth Books in her town of 2,300.

"It was part of the life we wanted — to live in a small town, walk to work, and enjoy outdoor adventures and wonderful people."

She's not alone. For many of the same reasons, bookstores have been opening in small Western towns, said Heather Duncan, executive director of the Mountains & Plains Independent Booksellers Association.

Since 2020, more than 100 bookstores have opened in her region, which extends across 14 states ranging from Texas to Montana and from Nebraska to Nevada.

One reason for the phenomenon, said Amy Sweet, is that "people are proud of their town, our local history. It's all a package, and the bookstore gets to be part of that."

The success of such a low-tech enterprise might surprise people. "Lots of first-time customers come in and say, 'I thought bookstores were dying,'" Brian Sweet said.

But he believes that a bookstore is a perfect complement to today's culture. "A bookstore is quiet, peaceful, and yet mentally stimulating," he said. "It's not our devices and incessant TV news."

Bookstores opening in towns, as opposed to cities, is a trend throughout the West, Duncan said. Of her 60 member stores in Colorado, just 17 are in large cities. The rest are in small towns, smaller cities, or suburbs. In the Western Slope town of Paonia, population 1,500, Emily Sinclair opened Paonia Books a year ago. She said she likes exercising her own as well as local taste, and also enjoys inviting Western writers to give talks and sign their new books.

These days, said Duncan, bookstores are becoming more diverse in both ownership and retail model.

Writers On The Range



John Clayton



"We now have online-only stores, pop-up stores, book buses and book-mobiles," she said. And new store owners are often Black, Indigenous, Hispanic/Latino, or LGBTQ+. "Diverse-owned stores are approximately 20% of our membership. In the past it would have been around 10%."

Locating a bookstore in a rural community is arguably another aspect of diversity—and a surprising strength.

"Small-town stores had a much better success rate during the pandemic," Duncan said, "due mostly to the support of their communities, as well as lower overhead costs."

A strong connection to community, however, requires work. "We pick the books one by one," Brian Sweet said. "People are surprised to hear that—some think we just sell whatever shows up. But I pore over publisher catalogs, and in a small store, for every book that I choose, probably 200 don't make the cut."

Bookstores in tourist destinations, such as Back of Beyond in Moab, Utah, have always thrived on deep community connections. But the current trend highlights how community is something best appreciated by full-time residents rather than visitors.

Like farmers' markets, microbreweries, bakeries and outdoor-gear stores, bookstores are places to gather in person with like-minded neighbors, Amy Sweet said.

"Customers in a bookstore are friendly and inquisitive," she said. "They come in to browse and talk

about books."

While tech companies are always looking to "scale up" to provide growth, the challenge for many small towns is finding business models that "scale down" to smaller populations. Bookselling provides that model.

But booksellers agree that they're doing a job: "It's business — it's not reading books all day," said Brian Sweet. "But it's a business where people want to support you. Every day," he added, "people thank us for being open."

Here's a sampling of much-loved bookstores in Western towns under 10,000 people:

Back of Beyond Books, <https://backofbeyondbooks.com/>, Moab, Utah, pop. 5,300

The Mad Dog and the Pilgrim booksellers, <https://www.facebook.com/MadDogandthePilgrimBooks/>, Sweetwater Station, Wyo., population too small to count

Elk River Books, <https://elkriverbooks.com/>, Livingston, Mont., population 8,300

Townie Books, <https://towniebookscb.indielite.org/>, Crested Butte, population 1,681

Reader's Oasis Books, no website, Quartzsite, Ariz., population 2,413

And here's a sampling of bookstores in Western towns under 10,000 that opened in the last three years:

Mountain Shire Books, <https://mountainshirebooks.com/>, Winter Park, population 1,033

CuriosiTea Bookshop, [To submit news, email: \[news@alamosanews.com\]\(mailto:news@alamosanews.com\)](https://book-</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

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."



Beartooth Books

shop.org/shop/CuriosiTeaBookshop, Fairview, Utah, population pop. 1,203

Page Turners, <https://bookshop.org/shop/pageturnersmt>, Fairview, Mont., population 844

Beartooth Books, <https://www.beartoothbookstore.com/>, Red Lodge, Mont., population 2,300

Cobb's Book Nook, <https://cobbsbooknook.company.site/>, Vernal, Utah, population 10,000

John Clayton is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He's the author of the email newsletter Natural Stories.

LETTERS

Willett Ranch appreciates effort of firefighters and officers battling May fire

Editor,
This letter is to acknowledge and thank the men and women who assisted with the

fire at the Willett Ranch in early May. Everyone from firefighters to officers, friends and neighbors who were so helpful and

have shown such kindness. Everyone went above and beyond their assigned duty to help! A special Thank You to the firefight-

ers and officers for taking the time away from their family's and for protecting ours.
The Willetts

Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake thanks Memorial Day volunteers

Editor,
The Colorado Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake is privileged to take this time to thank the many people that volunteered to make our Annual Memorial Day Observance held on May 27, 2024, such a beautiful ceremony.

Thank you to VFW Post and Auxiliary 8121 and Rainbow Girls Monte Vista Assembly #23 for the placement of the flags in the cemetery.

Thank you to Jack Rudder for serving as our Master of Ceremonies this

year. Thank you to Skip Schoen for serving as our Keynote Speaker and for giving such a beautiful and moving address.

Thank you to Gene Farish, Skip Schoen, Larry Heersink, Steve Dunkel, Joe Baca and Dillon Palmgren for serving as our Color Guard.

Thank you to the American Legion Post #131, Center, Colo.: Sgt. of the Guard, Tom Garcia, Tharin Mortensen, Donald Martinez, Clint Kirik, Herman Sisneros, Vince Ortega, Lyle Dye, Nevik Beiringer and Don Martinez for

serving as our Honor Guard.

Thank you to Mike Monclova, Larry Mora & Lawrence Pacheco for playing a beautiful rendition of Taps in a round.

Thank you to Steve Dunkel for providing the opening and closing prayers. Also, thank you to the Fort Garland Memorial Regiment riders, Tyler Ratzlaff, Matt Ratzlaff, Charlie Harris and Dick Ross, for attending with their four horses.

Thank you to John Pinkney for providing the American Legion wreath

presentation, Tom Edmonson for providing the DAV wreath presentation and to Ron Marx for providing the VFW wreath presentation.

Thank you to the Colorado Air National Guard for providing the Fly-By of two F-16's.

Thank you to the Rosacker, Martinez and Hinkley families for tolling of the USS General Patrick Bell in memory of their sons and daughter as well as all those killed in action.

Thank you to Jane Rhett for having the museum open following the observance.

A special thank you to Nancy Arellano and her volunteers who made and served delicious cinnamon rolls to everyone who attended the Memorial Day Observance. A huge thank you to our maintenance department for preparing our immaculate grounds for this special day. Thank you to all our staff members and residents who helped make this day possible.

The Monte Vista Journal and Marie Mccolm, for their outstanding news coverage and photographs.

Without the combined efforts of the groups and persons listed, and others unnamed, the observance would not have been complete.

*Pam Self
Admissions and Marketing Director*


Keith R Cerny
Publisher

Brian Williams
Managing Editor



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Your FIRST Source for Local News

Lifestyles

A new way to save makes Del Norte home

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

DEL NORTE – A new thrift store has opened in Del Norte and for people seeking a good deal on gently loved items, The Merc is the place to go.

When customers first walk into the main building of the old hospital in Del Norte, they are greeted with a sight many thrift store lovers want to see – a well-organized, clean store with floor-to-ceiling treasures.

When Sandra Aloisi decided to open her thrift store, she did it because she saw a need and because of all the towns in the San Luis Valley, Del Norte was about the only one that didn't have an affordable option for shopping.

"I saw a need for it in the town. People love thrift stores and going out to find a deal. We have people here who need it, yes. But we also have people who really enjoy shopping without the fear of breaking the bank," said Aloisi.

Aloisi was quick to get in contact with local entrepreneur and the owner of the buildings that used to be the old hospital in Del Norte – Stan Johnson.

"I told him I thought we needed a thrift store. Somewhere people could go for a good deal and not have to always shop at the higher end boutiques. It takes each one to help a community and since we have several in the area, we needed a thrift store to help balance it out," said Aloisi.

It wasn't long before Aloisi opened her doors that she found out just how right she was. Not only does The Merc accept donations, Aloisi will also hand select and even buy items from people looking to sell the things they no longer need or use.

"If someone is moving, I will suggest they try to sell an item on Facebook Marketplace first but if they do not have any luck, then I will offer a fair price. We are a for-profit business, and we work to help the



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

Sandra Aloisi sits in the sunshine of her back show room of The Merc Gently Loved Thrift Store in Del Norte. Aloisi saw a need for a fun and inviting place for the community to come and not only find treasures, but a deal or two as well.

community as much as we can," she said.

Aloisi was also fortunate enough to find a group of women locally to help her daily at the store.

"I have such amazing volunteers. They come in and help with everything and I really could not do this without them," she said.

The Merc is part of a growing strip mall-type building that has everything from the Respawn Arcade and VR Room to antique stores such as The Golden Fleece and a hair salon.

"We are like a family here. We help each other out when we can, and we always tell our customers to go and check out our neighboring businesses. It is very unique and great for the community," she said.

Aloisi sometimes travels to other thrift stores in the state to seek out unique and wonderful items to add to her growing collection.

"The donations we get are really amazing and I am always willing to con-

sider a donation, but I also love going to find other items that people might enjoy whether its jewelry or clothing," she said.

Aloisi also gives back to the community by providing extra children's clothing to the Del Norte Head Start or making clothing donations to local women shelters and other places in need.

"That's the beauty of this. We get to decide how we give back and how we support our community, so I am always encouraging people to think about what this town needs and then to put together a plan. Even if you fail, at least you can say you tried and you never know. It might work out for the best," she said.

The old hospital is filling up fast but there are still some wonderful rooms that could be filled with all manner of businesses for those who may be interested.

"Come on in and see us. I am sure you will find something you love. This really is my happy place," she said.

CRHDC to host a Homeownership Month celebration

STAFF REPORT

MONTE VISTA — Everyone is invited to attend a Community Resources and Housing Development Homeownership Month celebration on Saturday, June 8, beginning at 12 p.m. and running until about 3 p.m. at 945 Tyndall St.

The purpose of the event is to celebrate homeownership in the community. Come on down and enjoy free drinks, food, and games, while you learn about valuable resources and gain valuable information about CRHDC home ownership options.

The mission of CRHDC is to provide pathways to home and asset building opportunities to benefit low to moderate income communities throughout Colorado. Have you ever dreamed of owning your own home but were worried that you may not have the financial capabilities to do so, CRHDC may be able to provide you with some useful information and informative options for ways in which you can obtain your own home.

According to their website, CRHDC dates to 1971. CRHDC was developed

originally as part of the Colorado Migrant Council, to help with unfavorable living conditions for migrant and seasonal agriculture workers that lived in Colorado for a time.

The venture of the organization has since grown to address all types of housing needs, and to assess different building opportunities that may arise in both rural and urban communities around the state of Colorado. CRHDC prides itself on taking a more sustainable approach in delivering their services, by comprising new lines of businesses, that engage residents and their communities with stable housing and financial development efforts that are more suitable for different areas.

To date CRHDC has worked in over 30 different counties in Colorado. CRHDC has also supervised and overseen the establishment of more than 200 self-help-built homes, for people who have low to moderate financial stability. To date, CRHDC has also erected over 500 units for agriculture workers and over 300 units of budget-

friendly multi-housing units across the state.

CRHDC can offer information on counseling and education for people who are interested in owning their own homes. CRHDC can also help people obtain and find lenders, who are budget friendly and offer affordable mortgage options to people who are interested in obtaining their own homes. CRHDC also can offer affordable opportunities for rental units, statewide. You too can develop and obtain affordable home ownership opportunities, through CRHDC.

There will be a lot of information given out at the upcoming homeownership celebration, as well as a bouncy house provided for the kids, along with face painting, music, yard games, and more. Come on down and obtain some valuable information about home ownership and take a tour at the establishment.

This is a free community event hosted by CRHDC in partnership with NeighborWorks America, to celebrate homeownership month and provide valuable information on homeownership to the community.



Valley-Wide Welcomes
Jennifer Hanna, CSWC
to
Sierra Blanca Medical Center
106 Blanca Avenue, Suite 300, Alamosa, CO

Jennifer realized early on in her life that she would be a social activist. As she began working in the Social Work field, she realized the power of therapy. Jennifer has the most experience working with people who have experienced various types of interpersonal violence. She finds Sexual Assault trauma cases most rewarding. In addition, she also enjoys working with young children in play therapy, and adolescents. Born and raised in Alamosa, Jennifer enjoys riding dirt bikes, kayaking, going to the gym, cooking and spending time with her daughter. If her career path didn't lead her to social work she would be a stand-up comedian. She serves on the Board of Directors for Tu Casa, Inc., loves swimming and being in the water, but fish scare her!

Integrated Behavioral Health services are available to all patients. Talk to your primary care provider!



valley-widehealth.org



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2024 Theme: Linked by Love

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7th & 8th Grade Camp- July 14-19

High School Camp - July 21-26



Find more information and registration at:
www.beavercreekcamp.org

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Sports



Courier file photos by Ken Hamrick

Emmy Tibbits was a first team selection and also the Goalkeeper of the Year.

Alamosa dominates All-IML girls soccer team

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Intermountain League released its All-League girls soccer team in May with six members of the Alamosa High School team being recognized.

Four of the six All-League selections were named to the first team. Emmy Tibbits, Jayden Wubben, Araceli Molina and Lexany Heredia all received those honors.

Tibbits was also named the League's Goalkeeper of the Year. She recorded 192 saves for an average of 12 per game, and she allowed 23 goals.

She occasionally played offense and she scored four goals.

Wubben was the Lady Mean Moose's leading scorer with 10 goals and nine assists for 29 points. She also had 12 steals.

Molina scored five goals and had three assists for 13 points. She also had 25 steals.

Heredia recorded four goals and seven assists for 15 points. She also had 10 steals.

The remaining two All-League selections were honorable mention in Noemi Lemus and Reese Canaan.

Lemus scored two goals and had one assist for five points. She led the team in steals with 30.

Canaan had 17 steals on the season.

Alamosa's Kelly Wubben was named the League's Coach of the Year.

Bayfield's Sydney Rey was the Player of the Year.

Alamosa won eight games, lost six and tied two in 2024. The Lady Mean Moose won the league title with a 4-1-1 record.

All of Alamosa's All-League players will return next season.



Jayden Wubben, first team



Araceli Molina, first team



Lexany Heredia, first team



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Sports Bulletin

Follow sports editor Ken Hamrick on X. His handle is

@KenHamrick1.

SCHEDULE
FRIDAY
Baseball

Center at Alamosa (Alamosa Tournament), 10 a.m.

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

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

Lifestyle

Colorado county clerks focus on election transparency, worker safety

By LINDSEY TOOMER
Colorado Newswire

Boulder County Clerk and Recorder Molly Fitzpatrick's job used to be a largely behind-the-scenes role focused on the unremarkable work of facilitating elections and other county administrative functions. Those days are long gone.

Now, Fitzpatrick said in an interview, clerks are in front and center, included in regular conversations about election credibility and security. In the wake of the 2020 election, many clerks have their integrity questioned daily and have faced regular harassment and threats from people who believe the election was stolen from former President Donald Trump.

"Pre-2020, we weren't called traitors. We were not told that we're part of the problem," said Fitzpatrick, a Democrat first elected in 2018. "Clerks didn't receive death threats. We weren't told, 'You cannot stop what's coming, no one can,' or talking about public executions. None of that rhetoric was there prior to 2020."

Election officials around Colorado and the rest of the country have stepped security measures to protect their staff and volunteers, as well as to safeguard their election systems from potential tampering. At the same time, they've sought to increase transparency and share more information to instill trust with their workers and their processes as they run elections.

Fitzpatrick, who also serves as president of the Colorado County Clerks Association, said security around elections comes in two forms: ensuring safety for election workers who are facing threats from election deniers, and protecting elections equipment and processes from potential disruptions.

Claims that the 2020 election was fraudulent or compromised have been debunked by elections officials, experts, media investigations, law enforcement and the courts.

Most clerks are adding additional security camera coverage around ballot drop boxes and their elections offices. Many are implementing more training on safety and election security for staff and volunteers, as well as access controls for certain rooms with election equipment. Some also open their offices up to the public so they can show people exactly how they run elections and verify ballots and vote counts.

Matt Crane, executive director of CCCA, said elections teams have always conducted safety and security assessments and reported any potential vulnerabilities. He said in recent years there's been a larger focus on sharing information and reporting anything clerks could construe as a potential threat or problem so others can be aware.

Fitzpatrick said her office has ramped up training on so-called insider threats, like the one allegedly posed by former Mesa County Clerk and Recorder Tina Peters in

a 2021 breach of secure election equipment. Election workers are receiving training on what to look out for and how to report any suspicious activity, as well as emergency responses for situations including active shooters and white substances found in ballot envelopes.

"We are in better communication than we ever have been with our district attorney's office and the sheriff's office just to make sure that everyone's aware of what's going on, ensuring that they have the latest information on situational awareness," Fitzpatrick said. "We do not have active threats in Boulder County, but we want to make sure that we're looking at what's happening across the country, because we know that patterns matter and we're not immune from something happening in Boulder County."

"These aren't conversations we were having in 2020"

Federal law enforcement agencies have issued dire warnings about potential threats to the 2024 election, with one FBI official telling the winter conference of the National Association of Secretaries of State in Washington earlier this year that the outlook is "extremely alarming," according to Stateline. Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold in February launched a grant program to help county clerks pay for security upgrades to deal with election-related threats.

El Paso County Clerk and Recorder Steve Schleiker, a Republican, said he needs to be able to answer any voter who asks what El Paso County is doing to ensure their safety when exercising their right to vote. He upgraded every security camera at ballot boxes in his county so they are now solar-powered, and he streams live footage from those cameras at all times.

Because he said safety for his staff and election workers is his top priority, Schleiker also installed a film that is resistant to bullets of a certain caliber over the windows looking into the ballot processing room. The door to the elections department remains locked at all times with a security camera, so anyone trying to enter must identify themselves and be let in by staff.

Schleiker is in contact with local law enforcement agencies to discuss having a security presence around voting centers in case any emergencies arise.

He also started training his team on how to use Narcan, an opioid-overdose reversal antidote, and keeps doses at all of his county's voting service and polling centers after elections officials in other states received letters contaminated with fentanyl. Fentanyl is an extremely potent synthetic opioid linked to tens of thousands of deaths annually, though toxicologists say that fears of passive exposure to aerosolized fentanyl powder are largely unfounded.

"I never thought I would

be sitting here looking at the different things, the conversations I'm having today," Schleiker said. "The security measures that I'm putting in place today, such as having conversations about Narcan — these aren't conversations we were having in 2020."

When Schleiker started as clerk, he said he worked with the El Paso County Office of Emergency Management to implement plans for a variety of different emergencies. He said conversations around security have become a weekly occurrence for clerks and election staff at the secretary of state's office.

"A situation may never ever happen, however, we should be prepared for it, because if it does happen, we have everything in place," Schleiker said.

Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder Amanda Gonzalez, a Democrat, said she's put additional focus on her office's relationship with emergency response teams in place in the county. She said while some of the threats elections departments are facing may be new to them, the local sheriff's office might have familiarity with similar threats in a different context and can lend a hand in addressing their concerns.

"Prior to 2020, I did not think that particularly on a national level, our disagreements would take the tone they did," Gonzalez said. "It is healthy to have conversations. It's healthy to disagree. It is not okay to incite violence. It is not okay to attack our election systems in a really disingenuous way."

Increasing transparency Gonzalez said her office has started running tours for the public earlier and more frequently than in years prior in hopes of furthering public awareness about election systems. She said after 2020, more people started criticizing and questioning the systems in a rude, disingenuous way.

When her office gets

calls or emails expressing concerns about allegations that are inaccurate, Gonzalez said they will invite people to come in and talk about the systems directly. She said sometimes people will come out with a better understanding and respect for the clerks' processes, but sometimes they will continue to be rude and reiterate their distrust in the elections process.

"One of the things that we can do to help people have faith in our elections, and hopefully be kinder to our election workers, is to be transparent about the system," Gonzalez said. "We are happy to answer those questions and engage with voters when it's coming from a place of wanting to understand more about our systems."

Fitzpatrick said her team has also added security as part of its public tours. Visitors are asked to leave personal belongings in their cars during tours.

"I think this moment demands deep transparency into our operations, and we're trying to meet that moment by doubling down on anything that provides transparency to the public, but we have to ensure that's balanced with security measures for our staff and our judges, because they deserve it," Fitzpatrick said. "They are here implementing the election despite enormous circumstances, and it's important that we're continually improving how we're supporting and securing their environment."

Rio Grande County Clerk and Recorder Cindy Hill, a Republican, also added video cameras in and around her office and increased security training for election workers. She said her office shares the added concerns around physical safety to the office and elections equipment and is training everyone to be aware of their surroundings.

"We held a training for the public during the presidential primary explaining the process," Hill said in an email. "We asked the attendees to

bring their ballots to the training so they could see how we do signature verification, batching, and processing of the ballot."

A 'citizen election academy'

One opportunity the CCCA is pursuing to help members of the public gain a better understanding of elections is through a "citizen election academy" currently in the works. Crane said he hopes to have the first two online classes from the program available in August or September ahead of the general election.

"The idea is over the next couple of years, we will build this out to cover all aspects of the election," Crane said. "But really it is so that citizens, if they want to know how the election is really run and hear from the experts who run them, this academy is a great opportunity for them to come and learn about what really happens."

The academy will aim to preemptively debunk some of the disinformation the association is anticipating will spread during the height of election season — but Crane said he's already anticipating that some candidates will reject election results if they lose in the primary or general elections.

"Being honest about our elections is not in their DNA and certainly not advantageous to them either politically or financially," Crane said. "So we do expect that, but our folks are more ready than ever in terms of... documenting everything and being prepared if somebody tries to come back and say 'Well, you didn't do this,' and then saying, 'Well, yes we do and here's how we can prove it.'"

Three historically Republican leaning congressional districts in Colorado all have open races for their next representative in Congress this year, and Crane said teams in those districts are prepared to face higher levels of disinformation.

Schleiker said he also anticipates people will continue to reject election

results, despite all the efforts he and other clerks have made to increase transparency and awareness around election systems. To him, continued education at the most basic level is the best way to combat disinformation.

"I respect everybody's opinions and things like that, but we're here to conduct a job," Schleiker said. "My job as clerk and recorder is not to be partisan — my job is to call the balls and strikes. I am the referee, and we are going to coordinate the best and safest elections that I possibly can."

Gonzalez said her office has also ramped up its presence at community events to help share accurate information about Jefferson County elections and recruit election judges, bipartisan teams that support county clerks in executing elections. She said her county hires about 300 people for primary elections and about 900 for the general election in November, and one of the first questions she gets from people interested in being an election judge is, "Is it safe?"

While concerns about safety have been heightened, Gonzalez said interest in serving as a judge has also grown. Her office filled their temporary election worker team quicker than any years prior, which makes her optimistic.

"What that says to me is that people are seeing the threat to our democracy, and they're not having it," Gonzalez said. "They know that you should be voting, you should be participating in events in your community, you should be civically engaged. And if we want our democracy to survive, you have to fight for it."

"You have to show up," she added. "You have to do your part, and we're not going to be scared off by this vocal but small group that wants to dismantle our democracy. Those people are just not the majority."

Colorado's primary election is June 25. The general election is Nov. 5.

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NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is currently accepting applications for an **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNSELOR**. Interested applicants must be certified/licensed in counseling. NCSD 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. Applications can be submitted to the central office or emailed to rmccarroll@northconejos.com. Position is open until filled. EOE. (6/8/24)

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)

NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is currently accepting applications for **HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR**. Interested applicants must be certified/licensed in counseling. NCSD 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. Applications can be submitted to the central office or emailed to rmccarroll@northconejos.com. Position is open until filled. EOE. (6/8/24)

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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.sanforthschools.org. Sanford School is an EOE&E. (6/8/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

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. Submit application to the central office or email to 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. NCSD offers a competitive salary with a \$915 health benefit. Interested applicants may download an application at www.northconejos.com or pick one up at North Conejos School District Central Office. Applications may be submitted to Superintendent Darren Edgar at dedar@northconejos.com or delivered to the NCSD Central Office. Application deadline is Thursday, June 6th at 4:00 p.m. (6/8/24)

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

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; or call at 719-657-4050. The position will be open until filled. You can pick up an application at the District Office or on-line at urtigers.co. (7/3/24)

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

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

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

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

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

CAFETERIA STAFF NEEDED at UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. Must have a high school diploma and some knowledge of working in a kitchen or a willingness to be trained. Pay is dependent on prior experience. Please contact Leslie Martinez at 719-657-4040, x1100 or email her at lmartinez@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co. (7/3/24)

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

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

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

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

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, 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. (6/19/24)

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

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

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/employmentopportunities> or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (6/12/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

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

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

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/employmentopportunities> or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (6/12/24)

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

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/employmentopportunities> or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (6/12/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

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/en-US/ASU/departments/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)

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

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

304 - LAWN & GARDEN

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 qualities and pricing. 719-850-8917. (7/3/24-monthly)

HAY FOR SALE: \$7 bale. 719-274-0380. (7/9/24)

341 - GARAGE SALE

8AM, UNIT NUMBER 62 next to the plaza apartments on MULLINS AVENUE. (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

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401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

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420 - LOTS & ACRESAGES

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

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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)

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 (6/19/24)

Accepting applications for 1 bedroom apartments. Must be 62 or older or disabled
Cielo Vista Apartments
166 S. Wills Center, Colo
754-3664
TTY 1-800-659-2656
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Accepting Applications for 2 & 3 bedroom family units
Valley Grande Apts.
2256 E. Drive Monte Vista, CO
852-4302
TTY 1-800-659-2656
This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Accepting Applications for waiting list for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Family units available
West View Villas
510 Dunham Monte Vista, Colo
852-3949
TTY 1-800-659-2656
This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Accepting applications for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Rent based on income for qualifying households.
Gomez Manor Apts.
804 State St. Antonito, Colo.
376-2388
TTY 1-800-659-2656
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Accepting applications for 2 bedroom apartments. Family living at an affordable price.
Guadalupe Hacienda Apts.
404 W. 8th Antonito, Colo.
376-2025
TTY 1-800-659-2656
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

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)

611 - HOMES FOR RENT

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)



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 That woman
 - 4 Guided
 - 7 Package with a bow
 - 11 Smoked salmon
 - 12 Angry
 - 13 "Garfield" beagle
 - 14 Abbr. in business
 - 15 Gigantic
 - 16 Skeletal part
 - 17 Card with 2 pips
 - 19 Crush
 - 21 Fish eggs
 - 22 Unexploded bomb
 - 23 Russian monarch (var.)
 - 24 Chili — carne
 - 25 Blue bird
 - 28 Track
 - 29 "— may I help you?"
 - 30 Horse's hair
 - 31 Love god

- 32 Samovar
- 33 Portent
- 34 Spanish title
- 35 "Parks — Recreation"
- 36 Yarn ball
- 37 Finale
- 38 Word in place names
- 39 Eye makeup
- 43 Satellite's path
- 46 Colorful stone
- 47 Birthright seller
- 49 Poem
- 50 Designer — Wang
- 51 Skillful
- 52 Born (Fr.)
- 53 Go onstage
- 54 Perched
- 55 Beavers' creation

DOWN

- 1 Slipped
- 2 Whetstone
- 3 Brief trip
- 4 Actor — Diamond Phillips

Answer to Previous Puzzle

N	E	T	E	B	B	B	A	G	S		
A	D	O	T	R	I	O	S	E	R	I	E
P	E	R	I	A	N	S	H	I	V	E	
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I	N	T	E	R	E	V	E	N			
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R	E	I	N	D	U	E	T	A	M	P	
A	N	N	A	A	B	S	L	A	S		

- 5 Therefore
- 6 Fundamentally (2 wds.)
- 7 Pepo
- 8 Run in neutral
- 9 Fish features
- 10 Brewed beverages
- 12 Transparent
- 18 Embers
- 20 Play on words
- 23 Arum family plant
- 24 Cable
- 25 Famed agent (2 wds.)
- 26 Again
- 27 Strong desire
- 28 Blushing
- 29 Scores
- 30 Back tooth
- 35 Santa — winds
- 36 Influence
- 37 Brilliance
- 39 Change location
- 40 Top
- 41 Wrap-around garment
- 42 On water
- 44 Brainwave
- 45 Be abundant
- 48 Rearward

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	

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

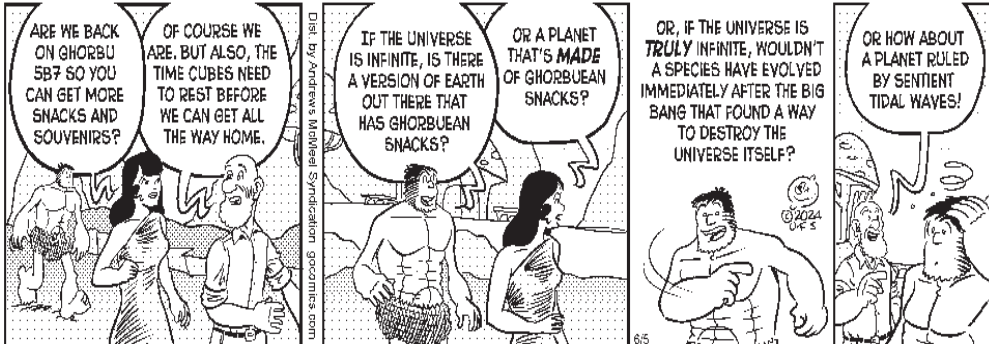
6	2	4	7	3	5	1	8	9
8	3	5	6	1	9	2	7	4
1	7	9	2	8	4	5	6	3
2	6	7	4	5	3	8	9	1
9	5	1	8	2	7	3	4	6
3	4	8	1	9	6	7	2	5
4	1	3	9	7	8	6	5	2
7	9	2	5	6	1	4	3	8
5	8	6	3	4	2	9	1	7

HERMAN

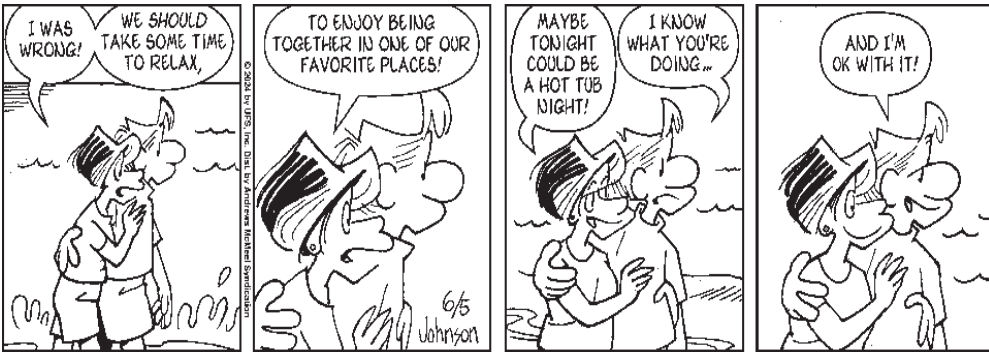


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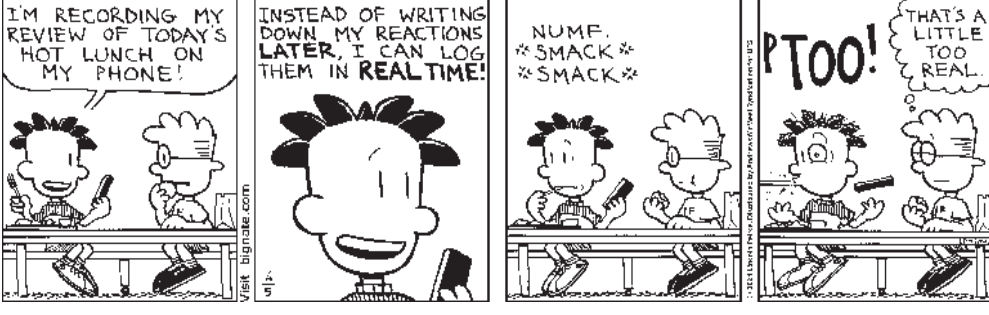
ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



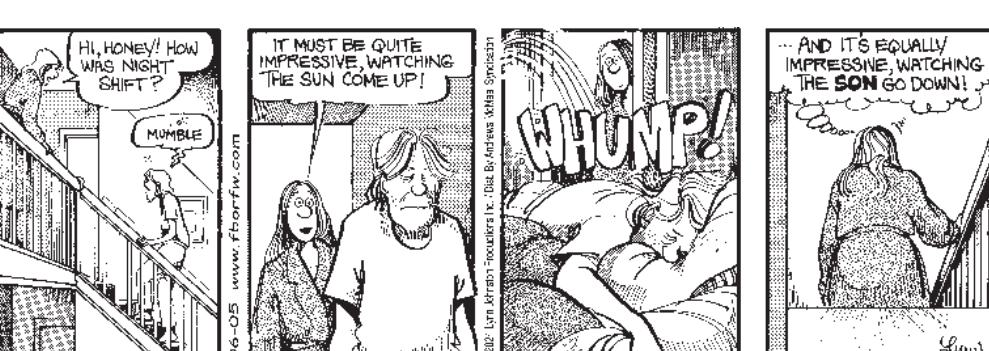
BIG NATE



THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



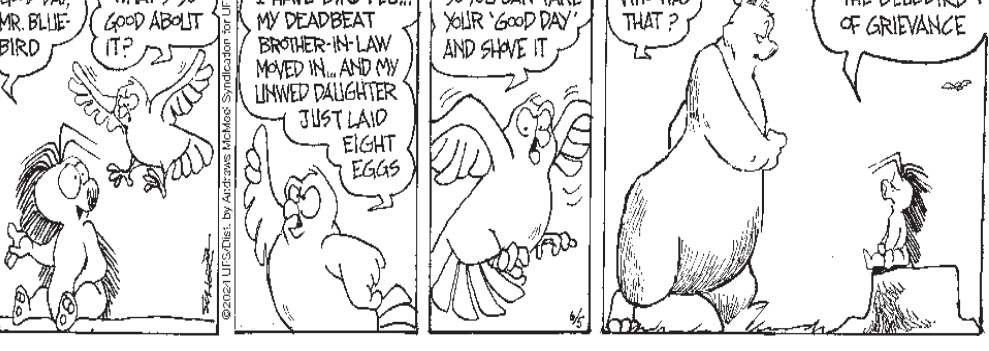
FRANK & ERNEST



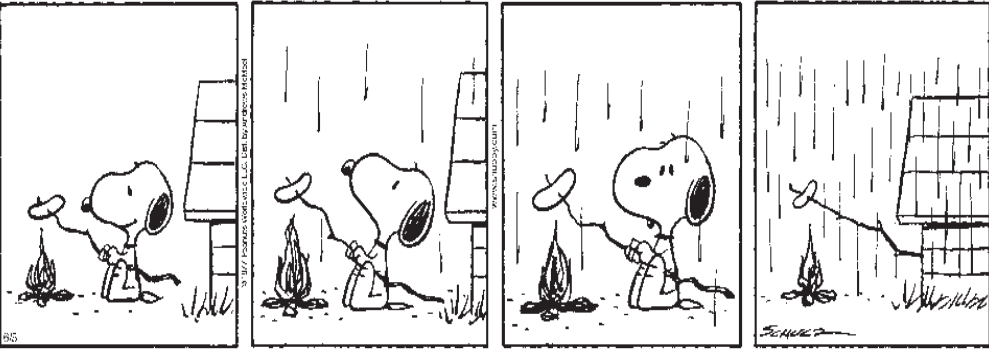
GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



After 25 years with girlfriend, man remains married to wife

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my partner, "Hank," for 25 years, but although he is legally separated, he is still married. We have lived together for 24 of these 25 years. He has two adult children with his wife. I used to be married and have two adult children with my ex-husband. Hank and I have one child together (now an adult), as well.

Should I be concerned that he isn't divorced? He keeps telling me he wants to, and I refuse to beg him about it because I don't want him to think I'm nagging him. I love him and I know he loves me as well. Should I walk away after all this time, or should I nag him? -- **UNSETTLED IN MASSACHUSETTS**

DEAR UNSETTLED: I don't think you clearly understand what the fact that Hank is still legally married means for your own future. If something should happen to him, HIS WIFE, not you, will be making all medical decisions for her husband, including whether he can have visitors. She would be entitled to evict you from the house and keep the contents if his name is on the deed. She would be the one to decide what would happen to his remains. You would be left with nothing and no legal leg to stand on.

Please discuss this with a lawyer who can give you more detail about the horror story that may lie ahead.

Once you understand all the implications, discuss this with Hank, who should formally do now what he should have done a quarter of a century ago.

DEAR ABBY: I live on a nice, quiet street. My three neighbors are elderly. The single gentleman next door is fighting pancreatic cancer. The other two men have been showing interest in his house "if anything happens." One of them even went over for a visit acting like he was a friend. After a few minutes, he mentioned he'd be interested in the house if he was going to be selling it. I am very upset that he would be so nervy and insensitive as to approach this guy! I want to let him know how I feel. My wife says I need to let it go. And you, Abby? -- **HATES VULTURES IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR HATES VULTURES: I will assume that you know about this because your next-door neighbor told you. While I agree that approaching the man took a lot of guts, it is possible that the approach wasn't regarded as offensive.

We don't know what your neighbor's estate plan involves or who will administer it in the event of his death. Knowing the name of the executor who will be handling matters after the inevitable happens would ease the process. That's why I am advising you not to stir the pot. Your wife is right.



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

You may wind up living next door to these people -- unless someone outbids them.

DEAR ABBY: When my son was in the second grade, his teacher recommended counseling because she thought he was introverted. We blew her off. Decades later, we found out our son had been molested by a family member. It started when he was in the second grade. We are devastated and reeling from guilt. How do we move forward and help our son? -- **GRIEVING IN THE WEST**

DEAR GRIEVING: You do now what you should have done when your son was in second grade and his teacher spotted a problem: Seek a referral to a licensed psychotherapist for ALL of you.

Lifestyle

2024 Ray and Colette Skeff Scholarship recipients

CONTRIBUTED
Scholarships were awarded in the amount of \$1,300 each to Shania Baumgardner and Kayleigh Garcia at the Monte Vista Awards Night on May 23.

Baumgardner plans to attend Trinidad State College to pursue a degree in dental hygiene.

Garcia plans to attend Adams State University pursuing a general degree with an emphasis

on ultrasound/diagnostic medical sonographer.

Scholarships were awarded in the amount of \$500 each to Yanelli Garcia and Cheyenne Martinez at the Center Awards Night on May 14.

An annuity was purchased for the Monte Vista School District and the Center School District in 2003. Each year a check is sent from Kansas City Life Insurance Company for the interest on the

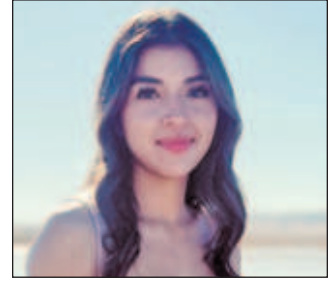
funds to be given as a scholarship to students selected by the schools. The annuity is good for a minimum of 20 years. Ray passed away April 7, 2022, but will be remembered each year as the scholarship will continue for as long as Colette is living.

This is the 21st year of the Skeff Scholarship for both schools and a total has been awarded in the amount of \$66,010.

The Skeffs wanted to give the scholarships to express their support for deserving students who want an education. Ray was a graduate from Center High School and Colette was a graduate from Monte Vista High School.



Shania Baumgardner



Kayleigh Garcia



Courtesy photo

'Breakfast Rush' by Scott Hizny is the 2024 Mountain Shootout winner.

Creede Arts Council announces winners of Mountain Shootout

CONTRIBUTED
CREEDE – The Creede Arts Council recently announced the winners of this year's Mountain Shootout photography competition. "Breakfast Rush" by Scott Hizny was the overall winner.

"The Creede Arts Council would like to offer a sincere thanks to each of our photographers for participating in this year's Mountain Shootout Photography competition. Our judge this year, Chere Waters, was thrilled with the submissions and we are all blown away by the talent represented in our artists' work," CAC stated.

Out of 38 entries, Judge Waters selected a first place, second place, and third place winner as well as five honorable mention awards.

The winners are as follows:

- First Place: "Breakfast Rush" by Hizny
- Second Place: "Retirement" by Tom Hetzel
- Third Place: "Windmill between Des Moines and Clayton NM" by Bob Seago

Honorable Mentions (five awards): "Old Frosty Fence" by Dennis Schoenfelder, "Nature's Piercing" by Amber Newhouse, "Black Sheep of the Family" by Amber Newhouse, "Chasing Shadows" by Tristan Porco, and "Monumental Meditation" by Keelia Killip

"We are very excited to begin our public exhibition on June 14 at the Creede Visitor Center and to offer the works listed for sale to the public. We will be hosting an opening reception on June 14 at 5:30 p.m. at the Creede Visitor Center. Please attend and feel free to bring your family and friends to this special event," CAC stated.

Kole Wilkinson - 6th Ortega Middle School

THIS INGREDIENT IN MILK HELPS TO BUILD STRONG BONES.

ANSWER: CALCIUM

Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

DYIRA [] [] [] [] []
10 6 1

LKIM [] [] [] []
7

CEEHSE [] [] [] [] [] [] []
2 5 11 8 3

TGOURY [] [] [] [] [] [] []
9 4

[] [] [] [] [] [] N [] [] [] []
1 2 3 2 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 6 11

Answers: Dairy, Milk, Cheese, Yogurt, Ice cream sundae

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1665: THOMAS WILLET IS APPOINTED THE FIRST MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY.
- 1817: THE EARLIEST FORM OF BICYCLE, THE DANDY HORSE, IS DRIVEN.
- 1942: ANNE FRANK RECEIVES A DIARY FOR HER THIRTEENTH BIRTHDAY.



CHURN

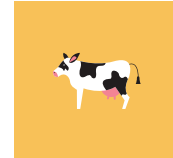
to agitate or turn milk or cream in a machine to produce butter

How they SAY that in...

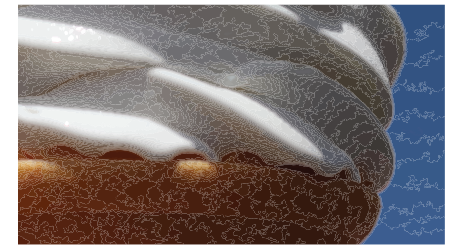
- ENGLISH:** Dairy
- SPANISH:** Lácteos
- ITALIAN:** Latticini
- FRENCH:** Produits laitiers
- GERMAN:** Molkereiprodukte

Did You Know?

PEOPLE WHO DO NOT WANT TO CONSUME PRODUCTS FROM COWS CAN CHOOSE ALTERNATIVE DAIRY PRODUCTS.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: ICE CREAM CONE



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