



Kids Kreate An Ad

— Inside today's Valley Courier



Class 1A Southern Peaks All-League baseball team announced

— Page 6



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VOLUME 98, NO. 88

# Valley Courier

SATURDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

June 1, 2024

\$1

## SLV Today

### VFW fundraiser today in Alamosa

ALAMOSA — A VFW fundraiser will be from 12:30 to 7 p.m. today, June 1, at the rear entrance of 519 Main St., Alamosa.

People can purchase a homemade Indian taco meal for \$12, meal includes Indian taco with toppings, dessert and a drink. All proceeds will go to VFW Post No. 899.

## Medicare Fraud Prevention Week

ALAMOSA — Fraud costs Medicare an estimated \$60 billion per year. It costs Medicare beneficiaries in time, stress, their medical identities, and even their health. It costs families, friends, and caregivers in worry and lost work when helping their loved ones recover from falling victim to Medicare fraud.

"Medicare fraud has a devastating impact on both beneficiaries and the Medicare program," said Michelle Phillips State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Coordinator. "We teach people how to avoid experiencing Medicare fraud. By preventing fraud from happening, this program helps individuals and protects the Medicare program for generations to come."

Learn how to protect yourself and your loved ones by joining the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) and their partners for Medicare Fraud Prevention Week which runs the week of June 5, or 6/5, because most people become eligible for Medicare when they turn 65. Learn more about Medicare Fraud Prevention Week at [www.smpresource.org](http://www.smpresource.org).

SMPs help educate and empower people on Medicare in the fight against health care fraud. Your SMP can help you with your questions, concerns, or complaints about potential fraud and abuse issues. It also provides information and educational presentations.

## SLV WEATHER

Showers Likely 80/51  
Wed: Sun/Clouds 85/48  
Thurs: Cloudy 84/46

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# Susan Gibson, 'digging down below the surface'

### Performing June 5 at Society Hall

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER  
*Courier Reporter*

ALAMOSA — If you Google "Susan Gibson, singer songwriter," it's a good bet that, within the first or second sentence of all the websites appearing on screen after screen, the song title "Wide Open Spaces" will show up.

There's a reason for that. Written by Gibson when she was 22, "Wide Open Spaces" was recorded by The Dixie Chicks (now called The Chicks) four years later, promptly blowing the doors off all sorts of charts,

winning all sorts of awards, ultimately being hailed by the Record Industry Association of America as one of the "songs of the century" (you read that right, the century) and garnering Gibson the American Songwriter Professional Country Songwriter of the year award.

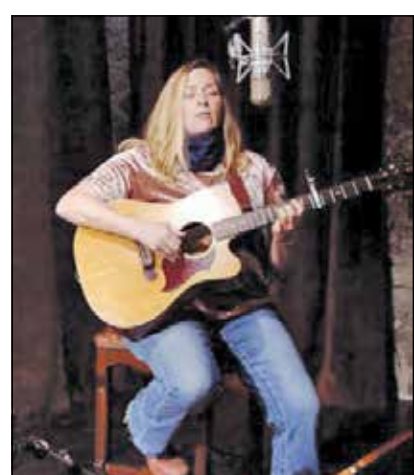
It also put The Chicks on the map as the title cut on their 1999 Grammy Award winning album. As of 2011, the "official video," on YouTube of The Chicks singing "Wide Open Spaces" had been viewed 30 million times. That was 13 years ago. There's no telling what that number is now.

Impressive as all that is, "Wide Open Spaces," is one ex-

traordinary thunderbolt in a life permeated by music. Assuming that one flash of creative genius sums up the totalities of Gibson's insights, talents and gifts, dismisses the powerful forces that led up to its creation and all the moments that followed. It's like trying to view Mount Blanca through a keyhole.

Standing in the early evening outside her home on a stretch of land outside of a small town in Texas Hill Country and talking on the phone about her life with a steady symphony of cicadas in the background, it becomes slap-you-in-the-face obvious that Gibson is doing precisely what she

■ See GIBSON page 3



Courtesy photo  
Singer songwriter Susan Gibson will perform at Society Hall in Alamosa on Wednesday, June 5th at 7:30 p.m.

# SummerFest on the Rio ushers in summer

### Fun, food and festivities in Cole Park this weekend

By JOHN WATERS  
*Courier News Editor*

ALAMOSA — SummerFest on the Rio has begun and offers live music, craft and food vendors, games for kids in Cole Park. The festivities kicked off on Friday afternoon and continue through 4 p.m. on Sunday.

■ See SUMMERFEST page 3

Cole Park on the afternoon of May 31 as vendors and musicians were gearing up for the 4 p.m. opening of SummerFest on the Rio.

Courier photo by John Waters



# Young Voices set for two Valley concerts

CONTRIBUTED

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Young Voices of Colorado Choir, under the direction of Jena Dickey, founder and artistic director, will sing at the Center United Methodist Church at its 9 a.m. worship service and at the United Methodist Church in Alamosa at its 11 a.m. service.

The public is invited to attend these musical performances.

The choir, now in its 33rd season, has grown into a 170-member organization that offers outstanding music education in vocal technique, music theory, sight reading, choral artistry and performance style to students 12-18 years of age.

United through the study and performance of great choral music, the children discover that music is a bridge to understanding the world around them. Training instills the importance of hard work, dedication, commitment, responsibility and integrity.

Weekly rehearsals are enhanced by workshops, fall and winter retreats, performances, and touring.

The choir performs at various schools and churches in the Denver metro area. For more information about the Young Voices Choir, visit [youngvoices.org](http://youngvoices.org) or call the United Methodist Church in Alamosa at 719-589-2243.



Courtesy photo  
Young Voices of Colorado Choir will perform at the United Methodist Church in Center and at the First United Methodist Church in Alamosa on Sunday, June 9.

# Polis signs bill to increase availability of telehealth services

### More successful legislation sponsored by Martinez, Simpson

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER  
*Courier Reporter*

FRISCO — The importance of providing rural

and remote communities with increased access to health care services is a topic that has frequently come up in conversations with Rep. Matt Martinez (D-D62) and Sen. Cleave Simpson (R-D6) since the lawmakers were elected to office in 2022 and 2020, respectively.

Once again, these leg-

islators who are strong proponents of bi-partisan efforts have gotten a bill across the finish line with Governor Jared Polis signing HB24-168 "Remote Monitoring Services for Medicaid Members" into law earlier this week.

The bill was also sponsored by Speaker Julie McCluskie, D-Dillon and Sen. Dylan Roberts, D-Frisco.

SB24-168 will direct the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to reimburse the use of telehealth monitoring for outpatient services for Medicaid patients and provide coverage for continuous glucose monitoring devices.

Additionally, the new law will create a grant

program to assist rural and shortage area providers in obtaining remote telehealth monitoring equipment. Funds from the grant program could

also be used for training staff on utilizing remote monitoring equipment.

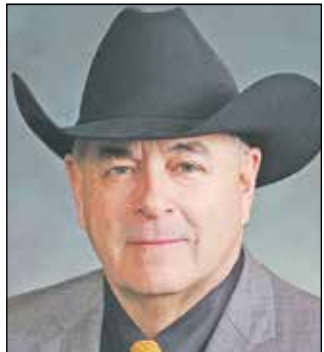
"For many of the residents living in my dis-

trict the grant program could

■ See BILL page 3



Representative Matt Martinez



Senator Cleave Simpson

**PROPERTY TAXES DUE**  
**Alamosa County Property Tax second half payments are due by June 14, 2024 by 4:00 p.m. The Alamosa County Treasurer is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You can reach us at 719-589-3626 as we do accept phone payments for a small processing fee.**  
**Please Avoid Interest by Making Your Payment on Time**



Chad Spearman

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Lee Crowther



# Record

## OBITUARIES

### Buddy Randall Romero Sr.

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

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

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



to all who knew him.

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

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

Buddy was preceded in death by his mother Ave-lina "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.

### Andrew Charles Ford

Andrew Charles Ford (1986-2024)

Andrew (Drew) Charles Ford, 38, of Highlands Ranch, Colo., passed away peacefully with his family at his side at The Denver Hospice, Denver, Colo., on May 22, 2024.

Drew was born in Riverton, Wyo., on March 2, 1986, to Albert Ford and Sally Ford, and later moved to Colorado, which he loved, and where he lived most of his life. Drew attended Alamosa High School before studying Software Engineering at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colo.

After graduating in 2009, Drew joined Fast Enterprises, Centennial, Colo., and worked as a computer consultant on the Colorado, New Mexico, and Washington Projects, E-Services, IRP, and IFTA. He was passionate about his work at Fast. During his 15-year career at Fast, Drew met many amazing and talented people. Many Fast partners, colleagues and clients gathered at Drew's bedside and warmed the hearts of Drew's family and friends with their stories about Drew.

Drew was honored by the love and care of his close-knit group of friends during his college years and throughout all of his years since. The many vacations, golf trips, and condo-weekends with these very special friends brought him so much joy. Drew's family wishes to thank these wonderful friends for their love and care of Drew during his final weeks. They were



by his side every day supporting him in so many ways. We are forever grateful.

Football was always a big part of Drew's life... from the time he came home from the hospital after his birth to a Wyoming football in his crib, to his desire to play elementary flag football, and to playing tackle football in middle school, high school, and college. In his later years, Drew passionately followed his favorite teams...his alma mater-the CU Buffs, the Denver Broncos, and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He amazed others by participating in five or six fantasy football leagues each year and keeping them all straight.

In his leisure time, Drew enjoyed playing golf with friends and family. The high point of his golfing days was playing golf with his brother in Scotland on a recent trip to the UK. During this trip, he also fulfilled his dream of driving across Ireland in honor of his Irish heritage.

To those who knew him, Drew and JEEP were synonymous. Drew enjoyed working on his beloved Jeep, changing out

### Stanley Dale Henderson

Stanley Dale "Cowboy" Henderson, 66, died surrounded by family and his loving fur babies Derby, Moose, Clifford and Lucky, at his residence in Del Norte on Saturday, May 25, 2024. He was born on Jan. 26, 1958, in San Antonio, Texas, to Daniel "Byrd" and Beverly Henderson.

His passion was assisting the firefighters of any community he ever lived in, and he taught the art of firefighting at Texas A&M University. Cowboy was a volunteer firefighter for Del Norte Fire Department for 10 years. Prior to Del Norte, he had



a combined career of over 30 years as a firefighter. During his career as firefighter, he served in various ranks including periods serving as Chief of the Seabrook Fire Department in Seabrook, Texas, First Assistant Chief for

San Leon Fire Department in San Leon, Texas, and Chief of the Fire Department at Clean Harbors in Deer Park, Texas.

He is survived by his child Nathan Henderson (Brittany), grandson Brad Henderson, brother, Rob Henderson (April), sister Laura Denise Brandt, sister Marie McNamara (Shawn) and his mother.

He was preceded in death by his father, and sister Doris Stuart.

A Celebration of Life will be performed at 955 French St. in Del Norte, Colo., on June 29, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

### Virginia Marie (Carpenter) DePriest

Virginia DePriest, 92, passed away on May 19, 2024, in Sturgis, S.D. She was the wife of Leland DePriest. They shared 69 years of marriage together.

Virginia was born in Indianola, Nebraska on January 5th, 1932. She was the daughter of LT and Alice Carpenter. She graduated from Sargent High School and continued her education at Adams State College receiving her bachelor's in education and followed with her master's degree. She was a teacher at Sargent Elementary School until she retired.

Virginia enjoyed geology and hiked many volcanoes in Colorado and New Mexico, she also enjoyed sports, traveling, fishing, attending church and singing with her husband, but her passion was her family. Virginia enjoyed running and she competed in the pancake races in 1950's and later in life she competed in the Senior Olympics including State of New Mexico, Nationals in Norfolk Virginia, and World's in Utah. She will



be remembered for standing by her family in good times and bad.

Virginia is survived by her siblings Donnie Carpenter, Larry Carpenter (Connie), Carolyn Gustafson, Mary Ann Arnett, Teresa Harrison, and Vicki Jones (Art), sister-in-law Linda Hard (Keith), her children Marilyn Harris (Mike), Barbara Dennard, Dick DePriest (Mary Jo), grandchildren Claudia Strait, Jason Arndt, Chad Dennard (KaSandra), Colby Dennard (Kim), Randi Sneed (Malcolm), Jenny Hrusovski (Kirby), Kelly DePriest (Nicole), Beth Rodgers, Kristopher Rodger, great-grandchildren Crystal Finke (Kevin), Cheryl Rance, (Charlie) Aidyn Jacobs, Micayo

Dennard, Chloe Dennard, Serenity Dennard, Keeliea Dennard, Deagan DePriest, Brenna Dennard, Allie Phillbern, Lea Phillbern, Gideon Hrusovski, Minnie Sneed, Rhome Dennard, Vivian Hrusovski, great-great-grandchildren Kaleigh Alexander, Blake Alexander, Emanuel Finke, Wyatt Rance, Jasper Rance, Jude Finke, Ezra Finke, Abigail Finke, and Elizabeth Finke.

She was preceded in death by her parents LT and Alice Carpenter, her husband Leland DePriest, her daughter Patty DePriest, her siblings Warren Carpenter, Isla Crawford, Harold Crawford, Gaylen Harrison, Bunky Arnett, Charles Gustafson, Billie Carpenter, and son-in-law Bob Dennard.

There will be a memorial service at 11 a.m. on June 24 in Del Norte at Gateway Church located at 975 Grand Ave.

Memorial donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Serenity Dennard Foundation in care of Barbara Dennard or your favorite charity.

### Tom Sanderson

Born on March 29, 1950, in Del Norte, Colo., Tom Sanderson's spirit left his body on May 13, 2024, with Margaret by his side.

Like his dad, son, daughter, wife and mother-in-law, Tom was a Sargent High School graduate. He went on to earn degrees in computer programming from Mesa State and Business Education from Adams State. In October of 1972 he married his high school sweetheart, Margaret Chisholm. Two children were born to this union - Ginger Michelle and Kevin Andrew.

Tom was passionate about riding mules in the mountains. He learned the art from his dad who kept him supplied with ponies or horses beginning at age three. His last four-legged friends were his mules, LJ, Clyde and Penny. He enjoyed riding Clyde or Penny on several week-long rides with the Colorado Mule Riders. Tom felt closer to God in nature, in the mountains on one of his mules. He loved to hunt elk with his friends in Wason Park near Creede, Colo., and he enjoyed fishing, particularly at Santa Maria Reservoir where his dad had water rights and where Tom carried on that tradition, hoping to pass that on to his son, Kevin, who passed on at the age of 42 on April 9, 2021.

He and Margaret raised potatoes and small grains in the Sargent Community for 25 years. He was pleased to have raised their children on their farm. Tom had a soft spot for his three granddaughters. He loved to spend



time with "his girls" and just play. He loved kids in general and loved to hold babies!

Tom was a member of Monte Vista Masonic Lodge No. 73 and served two terms as master. He was a 32nd Degree member of the Southern Colorado Consistory and a member of Al Kaly Shriners. He enjoyed being a clown and entertaining the kids. He was a hospital representative for Shriners Hospitals and held offices in the local Sand Dunes Shrine Club multiple times.

He refereed high school football for many years, and women's high school and college basketball for 20 years.

He served on the Colorado Potato Administration Committee, the Colorado Certified Seed Potato Board and on the Monte Vista CO-OP board.

Tom especially enjoyed his work with the Division of Wildlife in Fruita, Colorado where he managed the Horse Thief Canyon State Wildlife Area for five years. He raised crops for wildlife introducing several new crops to the area that attracted even more wildlife than before his arrival there. Deer, quail, turkeys, ducks and geese

increased in numbers, and he was delighted to be farming for wildlife. He began instructing Hunters' Education classes there as well.

Both Tom's parents, Clifford and Laura Lee Sanderson, preceded him in death as did his son, Kevin.

He is survived by his wife Margaret of 51 years, his daughter Dr. Ginger (George) Mentz and their three girls, Madeleine, Alexis, Anna Catherine and Claire Michelle of Colorado Springs, his sister Betty Brink (Glen Burns) of Eloy, Ariz., as well as many extended family members on Margaret's side of the family.

Contributions can be made to Shriners Hospital for Children, 1275 E Fairfax Rd., Salt Lake City, Utah 84103.

Margaret is deeply grateful for the friends and family who visited or contacted them during this difficult time. She so appreciated the kind, compassionate and efficient care Tom received while at Evergreen Nursing Home where he passed.

Cremation has been chosen, and a Memorial Service will be held June 7, 2024, at 2 p.m. at the Sargent Community Church, 6967 County Road 2 East, Monte Vista, Colo.

To leave online condolences, please visit [www.RogersFunerals.com](http://www.RogersFunerals.com).

School Menu  
Tuesday  
June 4, 2024

June Menu  
Not Available

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

### PENDING OBITUARY

### Gordon Lee Payne

Gordon Lee Payne formally from Alamosa. Died suddenly of a massive heart attack at his home in Williamstown, N.J.

### COURIER OBITUARY POLICY

The Courier charges \$75 for each obituary per day. Pending arrangements or death notices are free. This charge affects funeral homes, family or other representatives that place obituaries. All paid obituaries are published on [www.alamosanews.com](http://www.alamosanews.com), for no additional fee.

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

# Valley News

## New Arrivals at the Alamosa Public Library

### From the Librarian's Desk

By MARIA KRAMER

**ALAMOSA** — New books are always coming in at the Alamosa Public Library! Here are 10 of our most intriguing arrivals. For more information, or to have a book reserved for you, check [alamosalibrary.org](http://alamosalibrary.org) or call 719-589-6592.

**Horror**  
 • *Immortal Pleasures* by V. Castro

She was once known as La Malinche - the woman who infamously translated for Hernán Cortés. From the ashes of the Aztec Empire, she arose as Malinalli - an immortal vampire. In the present, as she works to track down two Aztec skulls, she meets two men who will satisfy her hunger for love in very different ways.

• *Indian Burial Ground* by Nick Medina

In the 1980's, as seventeen-year-old Louie struggles to hold his family together, unexplainable events plague the reservation where he lives. Bones disappear from graves and the dead speak. In the present day, Louie's niece Noemi finds that her boyfriend has died in a suspicious accident. Is a sinister force resurfacing from the past?

• *Inspirational*  
 If the Boot Fits by Karen Witemeyer

During a ball thrown in her honor - and to find her a husband - heiress Samantha Dearing spots a thief fleeing her home. When the stranger saves her brother's life, Samantha hides the only clue to his identity - an abandoned boot - and resolves to find him herself.

**Local**  
 • *Blossoms on a Poi-*

*soned Sea* by Mariko Tatsumoto

In 1950's Japan, Yuki and Kiyo fall in love - even though he is the son of a senior executive and she is only a fisherman's daughter. Suddenly, all the fish in the bay die and the poor fisherfolk fall sick with a mysterious disease. Could Kiyo's father's company be to blame?

• *Blue Blood* by Kevin P. Wollenweber

The year is 2675. Two scientists have found an abandoned laboratory that contains the secret to the survival of the human race in a world of rapid environmental change. One man will use these advances in an attempt to subjugate all humanity.

**Nonfiction**  
 • *Move by Move* by Maurice Ashley

At age thirty-three, Maurice Ashley became the first African-American Chess Grandmaster.

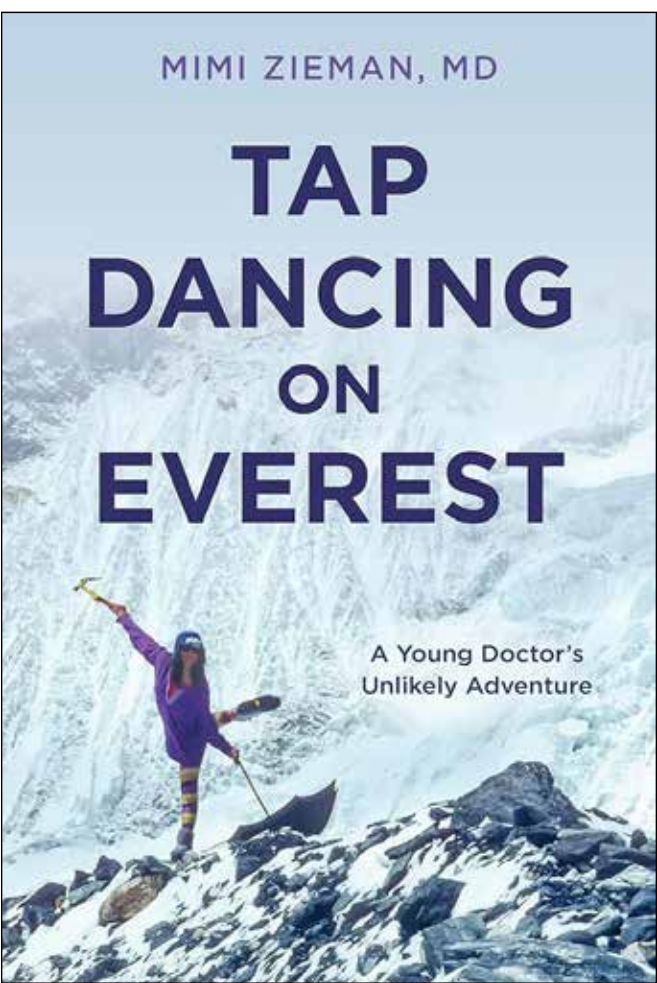
In this book, he reveals the essential lessons chess has taught him about life - from self-knowledge to strategic thinking to the importance of failure.

• *Alien Earths* by Lisa Kaltenegger

As founding director of Cornell University's Carl Sagan Institute, astrophysicist Lisa Kaltenegger built a team of tenacious scientists to find life on faraway worlds. In "Alien Earths," she demonstrates how we can use our home world as a Rosetta Stone, creatively analyzing Earth's history and biosphere to inform our search for alien life.

• *My Black Country* by Alice Randall

The first Black woman to co-write a number one country hit, Alice Randall uses this book to explore and celebrate how Black artists have influenced the most American of music genres.



• *The Internet of Animals* by Martin Wikelski

Animal senses are finely tuned to their environments. Rats are known to flee hours before an earthquake and birds to take flight before a tornado. What if we could track secret animal movements all over the world? Would humans be more prepared for natural disasters?

• *Tap Dancing on Everest* by Mimi Zieman

The plan was out-

rageous: a team of four climbers would attempt a new route on the East Face of Mt. Everest, without using supplemental oxygen, porter support, or chance for rescue. Mimi Zieman would accompany the climbers as the doctor - and the only woman. On Everest, when three climbers disappeared during their summit attempt, she dug deeply to fight for the climbers' lives.



## Crestone Food Bank is now open

**The Crestone Food Bank has opened at a new location next to the Baca Grande Library on County Road T in Saguache County. The food bank is open on Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 p.m.**

Photo by Liza Marron

## Gibson

Continued from Page 1

was born to do.

The youngest of two daughters separated by just two years, Gibson's mother was a third grade science teacher and her father was a railroader. "We kind of followed his job," she says. "He would get promoted and we'd move and then move again."

Gibson's family spent most of that early time in the Midwest - Minnesota, Illinois and Nebraska. Then, her father got transferred to Burleson, Texas when she was in the fifth grade and then to Amarillo, two years later.

"That's where I graduated from high school. That's where my parents were when they passed away. I guess that makes it my home, of sorts. Panhandle West people are also really kind of special. Growing up, I didn't feel like there was a lot to do, but there were fun people to do nothing with."

"I loved Amarillo. I love the flat. It gives you the same sense of perspective as being on the ocean, it's just that it's land on that flat horizon, which is kind of a cool feeling. I love being able to watch the storms coming in and going out. The sunsets and sunrises are beautiful."

Then laughter creeps into her voice. "And, as an adult, I have learned to...really cherish the no traffic and good parking spots."

But those early childhood years spent with her father whose job involved



Courtesy photo

**Susan Gibson in concert. Gibson describes herself as singer, songwriter, storyteller and promises a damn good live show.**

routinely moving things - and her family - from one place to another also left their mark.

"I didn't have a real confident sense of self growing up. It's like... who do I need to be to fit in? That's where something got kind of hard baked in as far as being a little bit of a loner, an underdog. I struggled with friends and being a teenager and body image and the bullying. I just never wanted to go to school on Monday. My whole life, dreading going to school every Sunday night was just...just a f\*\*king tear."

Her parents - her mom, mostly - would say, all the time, "Susan, you get to be a blank page. New school year. New kids."

But it was a four-word phrase that her mother repeated that really stuck, so much, in fact, that Gibson has it tattooed on her arm.

"She'd tell me 'remember who you are'. I think she saw me getting swept away by other people and that was her attempt to

instill in me some kind of true north because I was really susceptible to... how do I belong? We so settle for fitting in when what we really want is to belong."

Gibson didn't start playing the guitar until high school and had only been playing for about a year and a half when she wrote her first song. That's when she discovered that all the things she didn't have the confidence to say to people could be said through her music.

"Wide Open Spaces" was probably in the first 20 songs I ever wrote. I was a troublemaker. I had some hard stuff of my own making in my young adulthood. I was the girl in the song needing to go out and give myself permission to make mistakes. There's something so wonderful and reassuring that, at 22 years of age, I had a glimpse that I was going to have to give myself permission to make a whole bunch of mistakes because that's been my lived reality."

In the 25 years since then, Gibson has been touring with her dog and sharing with audiences the deepest and truest part of who she is through her songs that, for those willing to just listen, tell us as much about ourselves as they do about the woman at the microphone.

Not all of those years have been easy. Both of her parents passed away. The pandemic brought home some hard truths. But, emerging through and from all of that, Gibson's extraordinary lyrics continue to reflect a hard-

scrabble wisdom, couched in melodies that touch that place only music can touch and sung in a voice that is as clear and strong yet nimble as ever.

"My goal is to connect with people and there's no way to do that if I'm not willing to be vulnerable and show myself. I'm asking them to just open up and let the music in, even if it's just ten people in a room of a hundred. That's asking a lot of people, to spend two hours without their phone in their hand and to listen and be engaged with you. And so I want to come and be authentic and real and mean it. I want to buy what I'm selling."

Gibson's been described as the most inventive songwriter of her generation. Those aren't empty words. But what is also true is that she's fiercely honest. Courageously accessible. Strikingly perceptive yet humble. And, if that's not enough, she's also pretty damn funny.

She also continues to reside in a wide open space of her own making and, whatever that may look like or mean to others, she's genuine in asking those of us - who are willing - to spend a few hours and come along.

Susan Gibson, with a little help from Don Richmond, will be performing at Society Hall, Wednesday, June 5, at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:30. Tickets are available online at [www.societyhall.org](http://www.societyhall.org), at the Green Spot in Alamosa, or at the door. As always, wine, beer, soft drinks and snacks will be available.

## SummerFest

Continued from Page 1

day, June 2. There is no admission charge.

Alamosa Mayor Ty Coleman told the Valley Courier, "SummerFest is an exciting time of the year in our community. It's a joy to see people come from all around the San Luis Valley to Cola Park and enjoy the variety of food, music, arts and crafts, along with several fun activities! I encourage our community to come and support the vendors and enjoy the fun activities."

Alamosa Live Music Association (ALMA) will present a "Battle of the Bands" on Saturday with five competing groups and "Finaleyes," performing from 8-9:45 p.m. The winner of the Battle will be decided by a combination of audience voting and judge ranking. The audience will get tokens to vote for their favorite band or bands by placing tokens in the correspond-

ing jars. Five expert judges will rank the bands, and the results of the two rating systems will be combined to determine the battle winner.

The music lineup on Saturday is from 10 a.m.-11:15 a.m. David Mensch, 12-1:15 p.m. That 90's Band, 2-3:15 Ol' Scratch. The Battle of the Bands is from 4 to 7 p.m., with The Audience, Epistemom. The Arcane Ramblers, Rhythms & Red, and 1000 Shadows. The music ends with The Finaleyes from 8 to 9:45 p.m.

On Sunday, Lenny Martinez will perform from 12 to 1:15 p.m. and Sol Boyz will take the stage from 2:15 to 4:00 p.m.

SummerFest on the Rio thanks, Lenny Martinez, Uriah Valdez, Christopher Jiron, Andy Rice, Erin Keck, Jaylyn Espinoza, Jasmine Husmann, Anthony Guerrero, Krystina George, Nancy Harris and Carrol Rogers and all of those who volunteered to sell tickets and pour drinks.

## Bill

Continued from Page 1

district, the nearest hospital is miles and miles away, making it hard to receive high-quality health care when they need it," said Martinez. "This law expands telehealth services into rural and underserved communities like mine so everyone can access the treatment and care needed to live a healthy life. Our bipartisan law also creates a rural-specific grant program to help our health care providers locate and implement telehealth technology in their practice."

"This concept of an expansion of remote monitoring was really an idea Senator Bob Rankin was working on before he left the legislature more than two years ago. I'd heard about it but wasn't actively involved," Senator Simpson told the Valley

Courier.

"But when Senator Roberts picked it up this last session, he reached out to me, and I said I thought it was a wonderful opportunity for rural communities for what it could mean from the patient, hospital and provider's perspective. It will also be a cost saver for taxpayers when people on Medicaid can avoid a cost to the emergency room. The hospital here has been piloting this program for the better part of the year and they could probably quantify how beneficial it is."

Senator Simpson went on to say, "The general legislature isn't always so good at getting things done but, routinely, you find these gems and policy opportunities where you can actually do something to improve people's lives, and this one is doubly valuable. It just pays dividends all around the system. It's a good bill."

# Opinion

## Got freedom?

Every day we see a post on Facebook about freedom costing lives in Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iran, Gulf War, Civil War, and the first colonies revolution against England.

It's easy to see that lives lost to war are sacrifices for Freedom —

ours or another country's. Depending on "Dove or Hawk" positions, people argue for Democracy and the Republic.

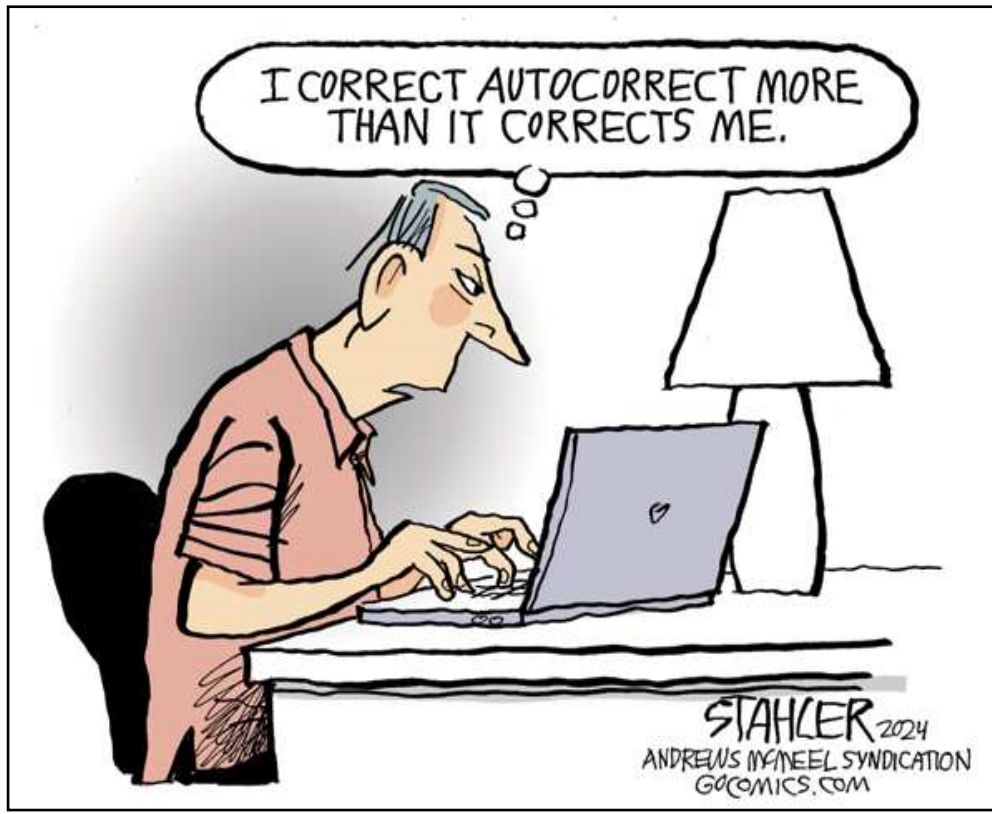
But the real cost of freedom is every day. It has to do with working for corporations who subvert our freedoms by issuing non-printed standards — it's my way or the highway. It has to do with corporations spying on their employees; discriminating against employees; harassing employees or allowing harassment; and most of all squelching free speech.

Without free speech a free society dies. In higher education, the issue of academic freedom is huge. In recent years, we have heard of professors shut down because they dared to challenge thought processes. Higher Education is supposed to be a place to "Question everything." Instead, it is a place where one's

### Movin' On with Nellie



Nelda Curtiss



academic freedom is checked at the door and employees and students are forced to be "mum" about injustices; violations of Americans with Disability Act, and the unethical treatment of adjunct professors. If anyone speaks up about wrongs in the system or offers suggestions to improve, one is promptly put on a "hit list" to be rid of.

Articles in the Chronicle of Higher Education detail how unethical it is to have 75 to 80 percent of faculty in the country on adjunct status with low wages, no benefits or insurance, or assurance of job security. Still, we as the public allow

these injustices. We see the same with Big Box stores who hire employees for just under 32 hours, so they don't have to pay benefits. We must speak up by writing letters to the U.S. Senate and the House; or sending letters to the editor.

The real cost of freedom is speaking up despite the onslaught of corporation or institutional threats. Apathy is the main cause of starving civil rights and freedoms in the country. Too many people say they do not vote; say the system is rigged; say "What's the use?" So, every day, people fear repercussions and

To submit news, email:  
news@alamosanews.com

To submit sports, email:  
khamrick@alamosanews.com

### Letters policy

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

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

do not speak up.

That's when we all must speak up; we must vote; we must pay attention to the discussions and issues; we must speak about our freedoms. Of course, this is more than the "mean girls" or stalkers on Facebook or those who rant about Miranda Lambert. Thoughtfulness is key; it is key to understanding the debates; it is key to our Freedom and democracy.

Nelda Curtiss is a retired college educator and long-time local columnist. Reach her at [columnsbynellie.com](mailto:columnsbynellie.com) or email her at [columnsbynellie@gmail.com](mailto:columnsbynellie@gmail.com).

## Property tax bill produced key improvements thanks to GOP participation

By MARK HILLMAN  
Capitol Review

Property taxes remain a hot topic in Colorado and rightly so. During COVID, economists expected home values to fall as the economy experienced a sharp recession. So, in 2020, the legislature asked voters to eliminate a 40-year-old law that prevented property taxes from rising in unison with the value of that property. Voters agreed.

Then something strange happened: the COVID recession was brief and instead of tanking, home prices soared because few homes were offered for sale. Without the 40-year-old Gallagher amendment to limit residential property taxes, homeowners' tax bills exploded along with rising home values.

In 2023, legislators offered voters a faux tax cut in Proposition HH. Smelling a skunk (and probably feeling swindled in repealing the old tax limitation), voters overwhelmingly rejected Prop HH and demanded the legislature do better. Instead, the legislature passed solely with Democrat support a teeny, tiny tax cut for one year only. That left in law an automatic tax hike

starting next year.

Seeking a more permanent resolution, lawmakers created a property tax commission, and in the closing days of this year's legislative session, a bipartisan group of legislators introduced an actual tax cut. Democrats, still hold overwhelming majorities in the legislature, didn't need Republican votes. To their credit, Democratic leaders wanted a bipartisan resolution to put the issue to rest.

That's not much leverage, but to their credit, Republicans made the most of it. It would have been easy for them to simply vote "no" and blame Democrats for soaking taxpayers. But why do that when they could help taxpayers instead?

Rep. Lisa Frizell (R-Castle Rock) and Sen. Barbara Kirkmeyer (R-Brighton) offered to join as sponsors of a permanent reduction in tax rates in exchange for key improvements to benefit taxpayers. Notably, they achieved:

- An end to the illegitimate practice of raiding taxpayers' TABOR refunds to reimburse local government for lost tax revenue. The TABOR raid was a poor decision two years agreed to by even the

most conservative Republicans.

- A permanent reduction in the homeowner property tax rate, rather than the temporary adjustments the legislature has relied on since 2022. No longer can the legislature use the threat of a snapback to higher tax rates to try to seduce voters into accepting a puny tax cut in exchange for massive growth in government spending (as with last year's Prop HH).

- A larger and permanent tax rate cut for business and agricultural properties for the first time in 40 years. Under Senate Bill 233, those taxpayers will see a 14% reduction over the next three years.

Republicans recognized this as an important, permanent gain for taxpayers. In the end, they overwhelmingly supported the gains won by Frizell and Kirkmeyer.

The resulting law doesn't cut property taxes all the way back to pre-COVID levels. That wasn't an option for the obvious reason that school districts, cities, counties and special districts have experienced inflation-driven cost increases requiring at least some additional tax revenue to maintain existing services to

their taxpayers.

Republicans would certainly agree that many local governments could tighten their belts more. However, majority Democrats consistently err on the side of more funding for government at taxpayer expense. Even today, nothing more clearly separates the two parties than the question of increasing or decreasing government spending and citizens' taxes.

This long-term tax cut ends the annual drama of legislative brinkmanship that treats taxpayers like yo-yos. That's why most Republicans ultimately backed the change.

Come November, voters may have options to further reduce property taxes. But thanks to Republicans' willingness to roll up their sleeves and work on good policy, voters for once find themselves in the enviable position of knowing they can count on a certain tax cut already with the option to vote for another.

Thanks to Republicans who were willing to do the hard work of negotiating, taxpayers finally come out ahead.

Mark Hillman served as Senate Majority Leader and State Treasurer.

## June is Gun Violence Awareness Month

By CHARLOTTE LEDONNE

**COLORADO** — Colorado experienced 701 gun-related suicides and 251 gun-related homicides in 2021, the latest data available from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. These numbers have steadily increased since 2006. San Luis Valley numbers reflect this trend, with 35 suicide and seven homicide deaths due to firearms from 2018-2021.

Suicide was the 11th leading cause of death in the U.S. in 2021. Suicide is not a normal response to stress and is a complex behavior with no single cause. Warning signs are often missed or misunderstood by family members, loved ones and community members. Some of these signs are talking about

wanting to die or wanting to kill themselves, talking about feeling empty or hopeless or having no reason to live, talking about feeling trapped or feeling that there are no solutions, feeling unbearable emotional or physical pain, withdrawing from family and friends and or taking great risks that could lead to death, such as driving extremely fast.

Therapy and medication are helpful in treating suicidal thoughts. The Suicide and Crisis hotline 988 provides a connection to a trained professional offering confidential support. What can be done to mitigate suicide by firearms? Awareness and offering support to someone experiencing suicidal thoughts or intent, reducing access to

lethal items or places, connection and follow-up and responsible storage of firearms.

Homicide numbers have risen nationally in recent years. Inequitable social conditions such as unemployment and poverty, childhood and/or traumatic experience, and individual behaviors such as alcohol or substance use impact the likelihood of both perpetrating and experiencing firearm homicide. (EFGV, 2021)

There is no one common denominator for gun violence, and no easy solution. We can each do our part to reduce the incidence.

Whether you own a gun, live with someone who does, or just want to be part of the solution to gun violence,

you can make a difference. What can you do? If you own a gun, store it responsibly. If you live in a home with guns, store them unloaded and locked away, with ammunition stored separately. Teach all family members, including children, about gun safety. Most people support responsible gun ownership and want to reduce gun violence.

The Community for Non-Violence Coalition of the San Luis Valley invites the Valley community to remember those affected by gun violence. As residents of the San Luis Valley, we may have differences of opinion on things like culture, religion, or politics, but we share a lot in common. In this age of division and polarization, we commit to listen to each other and work to understand each other with open minds and hearts. We are the SLV!

For further information, visit [www.letstalkgunscolorado.com](http://www.letstalkgunscolorado.com), the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment at [www.cdphe.colorado.gov/office-of-gun-violence-prevention](http://www.cdphe.colorado.gov/office-of-gun-violence-prevention), the National Institute of Mental Health at [www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/suicide-prevention](http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/suicide-prevention) and the Education Fund to Stop Gun Violence, [efsgv.org](http://efsgv.org) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Charlotte Ledonne is a member of the San Luis Valley Community Non-Violence Coalition. Additional articles to be published in the Valley Courier in June will address Colorado and Guns, The Second Amendment and Gun Violence Lived Experiences.

Keith R Cerny  
Publisher

Brian Williams  
Managing Editor

# Valley Courier

(ISSN 1047-1170)

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

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## Your FIRST Source for Local News

# Religion

## Harrison Butker and Catholic confusion about sacraments

Early in the coronavirus pandemic, Catholic clergy -- along with pastors in many other traditions -- struggled with secular authorities or even their own leaders while trying to provide sacred rites at the heart of their faith.

### On Religion



Terry Mattingly

Churches were locked. Some priests returned to open-air confessions, even drive-thru lanes. In some cities, priests in hazmat suits were allowed to offer last rites, usually without family members present. Some officials, secular and sacred, were more flexible than others.

A network of Catholic activists wrote an urgent plea: "Bishops, we, your faithful flock, implore you to do everything you can to make the sacraments more available. ... Something is terribly wrong with a culture that allows abortion clinics and liquor stores to remain open but shuts down places of worship."

This bitter divide resurfaced during the May 11 Benedictine College commencement speech by Harrison Butker, a three-time Super Bowl champion from the nearby Kan-

sas City Chiefs. While remarks about women and family life dominated headlines, most of the placekicker's 20-minute address focused on divisions inside Catholicism.

Cultural chaos is "in our parishes, and sadly, in our cathedrals too," said Butker. "As we saw during the pandemic, too many bishops were not leaders at all. They were motivated by fear, fear of being sued, fear of being disliked. They showed by their actions, intentional or unintentional, that the sacraments don't actually matter. Because of this, countless people died alone, without access to the sacraments."

Thus, many Catholics have simply stopped listening to bishops they believe are acting like politicians instead of spiritual fathers, he claimed. "Today, our shepherds are far more concerned with keeping the doors open to the chancery than they are with saying the difficult stuff out loud."

While expressing sympathy with Butker's concerns that broadside

against Catholic leaders went too far, Chris Stefanick said in a Real Life Catholic video:

"OK, 'our bishops.' I'd like to ask which ones. All of them?" asked Stefanick. However, it was important that Butker accurately focused on the struggle by many Catholics -- especially those sick or dying -- to receive the sacraments during the pandemic.

"To just move on without calling it out, without repentance from the church, isn't doing us any good," said Stefanick. "We failed, big time, as a church. It shows in our numbers not coming back, and it wasn't just so much that the sacraments were not important. What many sensed was a message from church leaders suggesting, 'You're not important to me.'"

Butker's claim that Catholic leaders acted like "the sacraments don't actually matter" hit hard in the wake of a much-debated 2019 Pew Research Center survey that claimed only 31% of U.S. Catholics believe that during Mass, "the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus."

However, a 2023 survey by the Center for Applied Research in the Aposto-

late at Georgetown University reported that many modern Catholics are confused about how to describe this core doctrine. The new research found that 95% of weekly Mass attendees and 80% of those who attend at least once a month believe in the "Real Presence" of Jesus in the Eucharist. Still, the survey reported that only 17% of adult Catholics attend Mass at least once a week, as opposed to 24% before COVID.

Ongoing Catholic debates about sacramental theology offer clues as to why Butker's scathing remarks rang true for many

believers -- especially the young -- who are seeking solid spiritual ground after the pandemic, said cultural critic Bethel McGrew in an online essay about "Harrison Butker and the state of Catholicism." The NFL star was addressing "a generation which desperately wants to believe that things like the Eucharist mean something and is not at all sure this is what their leaders believe," she wrote.

Recently, she added, she saw a "touching" video clip of the Catholic president of Poland scrambling to retrieve a Eucharistic wafer as it

blew in the wind. "Once the Host is consecrated, Catholics are to protect it with exactly this sort of care, making sure it's not lost or wasted," she said. "To a religious outsider, this might seem like a very strange gesture, but it makes sense if you believe the Eucharist means something."

*Terry Mattingly is Senior Fellow on Communications and Culture at Saint Constantine College in Houston. He lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and writes Rational Sheep, a Substack newsletter on faith and mass media.*

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

**All-Denominational**  
Emmanuel Chapel - Independent Bible Church  
0432 Hwy 149, South Fork  
719-573-5411  
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.  
Worship, 10:45 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Service, 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Night Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

**Church of the Living God**  
11611 2nd Avenue, Hooper  
719-378-2080  
Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship  
Sunday, 6 p.m. - Book of Acts Study  
Monday, 7 p.m. - Youth  
Thursday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study  
San Luis Valley Christian Center  
305 S. Broadway (3rd & Broadway), Monte Vista  
719-852-6168  
Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship  
Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - Bible Study  
Prayer House Church  
410 Main Street, La Jara  
Pastor Jaime Flores • 719-298-0007  
Sunday Morning Service, 10:30 am  
Wednesday Family Ministry, 6:30 pm  
Friday Night Bible Study, 7:00 pm

**Sargent Community Church**  
6967 N. County Rd. 2 E., Monte Vista (across from Sargent School)  
Pastor Stephen Burns • 719-852-2980  
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

**Back Row Church - Church Community**  
In the Alamosa Presbyterian Church Building  
Alamosa  
www.backrowchurch.com  
Kim Nipple • 303-532-9342  
Worship Service - Wednesday Evening at 5:00 pm

**Apostolic**  
Alamosa Apostolic Church  
510 First St., Alamosa  
Meets Sundays 1-2 p.m.  
2-3 p.m. - Lunch  
3-5 p.m. - Worship Service

**Antonito Apostolic Church**  
710 Main St., Antonito  
Meets Sundays  
11-12 p.m. - Sunday School  
12-1 p.m. - Worship service

**Apostolic Pentecostal**  
Church of Champions, Acts 2:38  
9056 Hwy 285 South, Alamosa - 719-587-3351  
Dan Dawning Pastor, 719-588-7307  
Sunday, 1:00 p.m. - Service

**Assembly of God**  
River of Life Church  
2602 Clark Avenue, Alamosa  
Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship  
Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Service

**Center Assembly of God**  
7th & Miles • P.O. Box 507, Center, CO 81125  
Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

**Assembly of God**  
Sons and Daughters of God Ministry  
677 Madison Street, Monte Vista  
Pastor Leonard Sandoval, 719-849-0212  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. Service  
Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Prayer

**New Life Fellowship**  
520 7th St., Del Norte, 81132  
719-657-3360  
Adult Sunday School - 9:00  
Services - 10:00

**Bahai Faith**  
meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. on Zoom.  
Email: harrline@qjade.org for a Zoom invite

**Baptist**  
**Grace Community Baptist Church**  
431 Lincoln Ave., Monte Vista  
Rev. Bill Walstrom, 719-937-1451  
Worship: 9:30; Sunday School: 11:00 am  
Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 pm

**Living Water Bible Fellowship**  
2910 Clark Street, Alamosa  
719-589-6351  
Sunday, 9:00 & 10:45 am Worship Services\*\*  
Sunday, 10:45 am Children's Ministry (PreK-5th grade)  
Sunday, 10:45 am Teen Bible Study (6th-12th grade)  
Tuesday, 7:00 pm Young Adults College Group  
Wednesday, 6:30 pm Bible Quizzing (1st-6th grade)  
Wednesday, 6:30 pm Reign Youth Group (6th-12th grade)  
Wednesday, 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study\*\*  
Saturday, 3:00 pm Worship Service\*\*  
Small Groups meets throughout week, please call for info  
\*\*Nursery is available (twice-week)

**College Heights Baptist Church**  
Pastor Jesse Crecone  
2045 Church Avenue, Alamosa  
Sunday, 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. - Sunday School  
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Morning Worship

**San Luis Valley Baptist Church**  
930 State Avenue, Alamosa  
719-589-5938  
Pastor R.L. McDonald  
Wednesday 7 p.m. - Worship  
Saturday, 2 p.m.  
Sunday, 10 a.m. - Sunday School  
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Worship  
Sunday, 6 p.m. - Evening Worship  
Spanish Ministry- Iglesia Bautista Rehobot  
Pastor Sal Garcia, 589-3020

**Calvary Bible Chapel**  
7160 Brush Lane, Alamosa  
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Worship  
Sunday, 10:20 a.m. - Sunday School  
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Ministry of the Word  
Small group studies meet during the week.

**Calvary Blanca**  
Pastor Matthew Leonard - 719-379-3317  
Sunday, 9:30 am - Bible Study  
Sunday, 11:00 am - Service  
Wednesday, 6:30pm - Community Get to Know You

**Calvary Baptist Church**  
2160 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista  
Sunday, 9:45 a.m. - Bible Study  
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Worship  
Tuesday, 6 p.m. - C.L.A.Y. Youth  
Thursday, 6:30 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study

**South Fork Baptist Church**  
0130 Four Seasons Dr. (Old Chizum Bldg), South Fork  
(East side near laundrymat & car wash)  
Sunday, 9:30am, 9:30am  
Sunday, 10:30am - Worship  
For more information - Pastor Paul Moon - 719-496-7702

**United Presbyterian Church of Antonito**  
P.O. Box 665, Antonito  
Office Hrs. Tues, 9:00am-12:00

**Catholic**  
Sacred Heart Church  
715 4th Street, Alamosa  
Saturday, 4:00 p.m. - Mass  
Saturday, 6:00 p.m. - Spanish Mass  
Sunday, 8 a.m. - Mass  
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Mass

**Hooper Church**  
3rd and Adams, Hooper  
Sunday, 9 a.m. - Morning Worship

**Meditation, Kriya**  
Mountain Institute  
Alamosa - (575)758-5876

**United Church of La Jara**  
522 Walnut, La Jara  
719-274-5250  
Terry Buckman, Pastor  
Cell Phone: 339-8444  
Office Hours: Mon, 9:00 am - 12:00  
Sunday 9:00 am - Contemporary  
Coffee Fellowship 10:00 am

**Christian Science Services**  
400 Ross Avenue, Society Hall, Alamosa  
Services - Sundays at 10:00 p.m.  
The second Wednesday of each 4 p.m.  
Thanksgiving Day 10 a.m.

**Pioneer United Church in Del Norte, Colorado**  
A Congregation of Evangelical Covenant Order Presbyterians  
630 Spruce St. (1.5 blocks south of Hwy. 160)  
Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Sunday  
Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m. Sunday  
Worship Service - 11:00 a.m. Sunday

**Church of the South Fork**  
0116 Landon Dr., South Fork, Co, 81154  
Sunday are at 9 am - Services  
School Room. Choir is held on Wednesday at 6pm during the summer months with a final practice at 8:15am on Sunday

**Christian**  
**Bethel Christian Church**  
Pastor Erik Lira  
Worship Service Sunday 3:00 p.m.  
Bible Study Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
Bilingual Services  
Monday Free Music Classes  
Instrumental Classes 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Voice & Bass Guitar 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**Word of Faith Christian Center**  
401 Sante Fe, Alamosa  
Sunday, 10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.  
Friday, 6:00 p.m. M.O.S.H. Youth Night

**The Peak Community Church**  
510 San Juan, Alamosa  
Sundays, 6 p.m. - Fellowship  
Sundays, 7 p.m. - Worship & More

**Pentecostal**  
Alamosa Pentecostal Church  
184 East 2nd St., Alamosa - 719-589-0475  
Pastor Carl Sutter  
Bible Study Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday School Sunday 1:00-1:45  
Worship 2:00-3:00

**Christian Fellowship Church**  
The Door  
1300 West 12th St., Alamosa  
Pastor Martin Montoya • 719-587-6197  
Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Sunday School  
Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Worship  
Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Victory Service  
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. - Revival

**Christian Independent**  
Alamosa Christian Church  
410 McQuerry, Alamosa  
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School  
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship  
Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. - Family Night & Youth Group

**Christian Reformed**  
Alamosa Christian Reformed, 719-589-3493  
1861 Rd 10 S., Alamosa  
Pastor Philip VanderWindt  
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School  
Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - Worship

**Churches of Christ**  
**Alamosa Church of Christ**  
408 Victoria Avenue, Alamosa  
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Classes  
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship  
Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study  
Healing Hearts, a Bible-based 12 step group meets, every Friday at 7 p.m.

**South Fork Church of Christ**  
205 Birch St., South Fork, 719-873-1259  
Nathan Wheeler Pastor  
Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.

**Central Church of Christ**  
200 Franklin Street, Monte Vista, 719-852-3811  
David L. Baker Preacher  
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Class  
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Worship  
Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study

**San Luis Valley Church of Christ**  
704 Del Sol, Alamosa, 719-589-2114  
Sunday Bible Study 9 am  
Sunday Worship 10 am  
Wednesday Bible Study 6 pm

**Cornerstone Community Church**  
Hwy. 160 Del Norte next to Rio Grande Medical Clinic  
Pastor Mark 719-657-9107  
Sunday 9:50 a.m. free breakfast  
Sunday 10:20 a.m. Contemporary  
Worship & Children Sunday School  
Wednesday 5:15 p.m. Dinner, music, fellowship, teachings

**Episcopal**  
Saint Thomas Episcopal Church  
607 4th Street, Alamosa  
Sunday, 9 a.m. - Service

**Saint Stephen the Martyr**  
729 3rd Avenue, Monte Vista  
Sunday, 10 am Service  
**First Christian Church**  
518 First St. (First & State) Alamosa  
589-6805  
Sunday, 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School  
Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - Church Service  
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - Bible Study

**Valley Fellowship**  
240 East 5th Street, Center - 719-754-3904  
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary  
Worship, Prayer and Bible Study  
\*Bible Studies during the week, call for information.

**First United Methodist Church**  
2005 Mullins Ave., Alamosa - 719-589-2243  
"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"  
Morning Worship - Sunday, 11:00 am  
Children's Church - Sunday, 10:30 am

**Community Churches**  
United for Christ Community Church (SBC)  
"Community Centered Around Love"  
7th & Broadway in Blanca - 719-379-3317  
Sunday School 9:30-10:30  
Worship Service 11am

**Bible Believer's Community Church**  
11762 E US HWY 160, Alamosa, Co 81101  
719) 206-3239  
Sunday worship 10:30  
Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm  
www.bbcchurch.co

**Presbyterian**  
Alamosa Presbyterian Church  
330 San Juan Avenue, Alamosa  
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship

**Hispanic Pentecostal**  
Iglesia Pentecostal Unida LA  
907 Tenth St. Alamosa - 719-587-3546  
Guadalupe Salazar Pastor  
Wed. 7:00 p.m. Service  
Sat. 7:00 p.m. Youth Service  
Sun. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
Sun. 5:00 p.m. Worship

**New Hope Church**  
"The Church on the Hill"  
25258 Hwy 160, South Fork, Co. 81154  
Pastor John Jayne • 719-873-1202  
www.newhopest.com  
Morning Worship - 10:00 am  
Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 - 9:45

**Anabaptist Fellowship of Alamosa**  
330 San Juan Ave., Alamosa, CO 81101  
alamosafellowship@gmail.com  
Sunday 4:30 PM Worship in the north wing of the Alamosa Presbyterian Church

**Independent, Fundamental Baptist**  
First Baptist Church of Costilla County  
9717 County Rd H, Mesita - 719-206-0011  
Pastor Paul Jones  
Sunday, 9:45 am - Sunday School  
Sunday, 10:45 am - Morning Worship  
Sunday, 12 Noon - Potluck Dinner  
Sunday after dinner - Afternoon Worship  
Thursday, 7:00 pm - Mesita Bible Study and Prayer meeting

**DEAF MINISTRY FOR ALL SERVICES**  
**Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
Alamosa Y S A Ward  
300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa  
Sunday, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Alamosa

**Second Ward**  
927 Weber Drive, Alamosa  
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Alamosa Third Ward**  
300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa  
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Alamosa Fourth Ward**  
927 Weber Drive, Alamosa  
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Sierra Vista Branch (Spanish Language)**  
300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa  
Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

**Lutheran**  
St. Peters Lutheran Church & School  
Church: 1821 Grande Avenue, Monte Vista  
School: 330 Faraday Street, Monte Vista  
Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - Services  
School: K-8, Monday-Thursday

**Trinity Lutheran Church & School**  
52 El Rio Drive, Alamosa  
Sunday, 9:45 a.m. - Bible Study  
Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship

**"Small Bible Study Groups Throughout the Week"**  
-Pre-School through 5th grade  
Church: 589-4611, School: 589-3271

**Conejos Canyon Community Chapel**  
20662 Slate Hwy. 17 (between mile posts 21 and 20)  
Fellowship Sunday, 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - Worship Service

**Mountain Valley Church**  
408 State St., 17 Alamosa  
Pastor: Richard Pinkerton  
589-2899 or 588-7662  
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School  
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

**Presbyterian Church of Monte Vista**  
702 Second Avenue, Monte Vista  
(719) 852-2555  
Sunday, 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School  
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Sunday Worship

**Seventh-day Adventist**  
**Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
315 Craft Drive, Alamosa  
Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study  
Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - Worship

**United Methodist**  
**Mosca United Methodist Church**  
538 Barker Street, Mosca  
970-270-3078  
Pastor Steve Dunkel  
Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m.

**Unitarian Universalist**  
**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**  
330 San Juan Ave., Alamosa  
"North Wing of Alamosa Presbyterian Church  
719-587-5529  
Service & Youth Programs at 10:30 am  
Sunday

**Valley Church of the Nazarene**  
Pastor: Chris Yocom  
228 Madison, Monte Vista - (719) 852-5858  
churchoffice@valleymaz.com  
Sunday  
Sunday Morning Worship 10:15 a.m.  
Sunday School Classes 9 a.m.

**Wednesday**  
Dinner at 6 p.m.  
Small Group Classes at 7 p.m.

**Thursday**  
Teen Activities (beginning at 6:30 p.m.)  
\*Nursery is available during all services  
Visit website at www.valleymaz.com for online  
bulletins and service information or call the  
number above.

**Church of Scientology**  
511 Main Street, Suite #12, Alamosa  
719-587-5554  
Monday and Wednesday, 7-10p.m. - Services

**Grace Assurance Ministry**  
Church without Religion  
9851 CR 4 S., Alamosa, CO  
Sunday Mornings - 10:30  
Randy Brown - 719-588-7004  
Eric Wolf - 719-480-3977

## Bible Digest

**Saturday, June 1, 2024**  
"O generation of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." (Matthew 12:34 AKJV)

Our words reveal what is in our hearts? Think it over.

**Sunday, June 2, 2024**  
"I will bless the LORD, who has given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons. I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." (Psalms 16:7-8 AKJV)

Day and night our lives should all be about Jesus. He knows what is best for us.

**Monday, June 3, 2024**  
"And you shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endures to the end shall be saved." (Matthew 10:22 AKJV)

Don't be surprised or alarmed that the world hated you for Jesus' sake. Jesus said it would happen.

**Tuesday, June 4, 2024**  
"Help, LORD; for the godly man ceases; for the faithful fail from among the children of men." (Psalms 12:1 AKJV)

You are not alone. The Lord is faithful and He will never leave you.

**Wednesday, June 5, 2024**

"My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loves he corrects; even as a father the son in whom he delights." (Proverbs 3:11-12 AKJV)

The Lord loves us enough to take the time to discipline us.

**Thursday, June 6, 2024**  
"For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and I should heal them." (Matthew 13:15 AKJV)

It seems that many in our day suffer the spiritual symptoms above. Lord, help us.

**Friday, June 7, 2024**  
"As for me, I will behold your face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with your likeness." (Psalms 17:15 AKJV)

One day we shall be like our Lord in His likeness. Amen! Thank God for His wonderful salvation.



## The Key to Fulfill Your Purpose in Life!

God loves you and He has a good plan for your life. You are a wonderful creation made by Him and you have a unique purpose to fulfill in this world.

Ephesians 2:10 (AMP) says that as Christians, "For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus...for good works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking up paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us]."

It's so exciting to know we are each created with a purpose and God has a good life that He has prepared in advance for us to live. But it's important to understand that we have an enemy, Satan, who wants to keep us from having the life Jesus died to give us.

Yes, Satan has a plan for us, too, and his plan is destruction and death. John 10:10 (ESV) says the enemy "comes only to steal and kill and destroy."

The good news is we have everything we need through Christ to overcome the enemy. We just have to know who we are in Christ, believe that we have His authority, and know how to release the power God has given us.

To do this, we have to rely on our faith in God. Romans 12:3 (ESV) says each person has a "measure of faith that God has assigned." This means God has given you enough faith to do His will, whatever it may be and no matter what the enemy throws at you to stop you.

or have serious financial problems. Whatever your situation is, God has given you everything you need, through Christ, to keep you moving forward in His plan for your life.

We need to always remember that God is greater than our problems—nothing is too hard for Him and nothing catches Him by surprise. When we're going through hard times and the enemy is attacking us, we don't need to ask, "What can I do?" The question is, "What can God do?" The Word says all things are possible with God, and greater is He who lives in me than he who is in the world (Matthew 19:26 and 1 John 4:4).

I want you to really get this in your heart today: In Christ, you have enough faith and the strength you need to do whatever you need to do in life! Get rid of "I can't" thinking and focus on the truth of God's Word, which says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!" (Philippians 4:13 NKJV).

Prayer is a simple, powerful way to interrupt Satan's plan because we release our faith through prayer. First Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV) says, "Pray without ceasing." This basically means prayer can be as natural as breathing, and our first response in every situation. It's so amazing that we can talk to God all the time.

Now the enemy doesn't want us to pray, so he will do everything he can to discourage us. He wants us to think prayer is hard, that we need to use eloquent speech and sound poetic, that we need to be careful what we ask God for so we don't overload Him with too many requests, or that we have to be in a certain place with a certain posture (on our knees, head bowed, eyes closed) for God to hear us. But it's actually simple to pray effectively.



**Moving Up Higher**  
with  
**Joyce Meyer**

James 5:16 (ESV) says, "...The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." God wants you to come to Him honestly, with a sincere heart, and just talk to Him as a friend. Be yourself and don't approach conversation with God as a religious activity. Humble yourself before Him and open your heart to Him. He loves you and wants you to walk in His will for your life victoriously.

As a believer in Jesus Christ, you are God's child and He is always with you. He is Almighty God, and if God is on your side, who can be against you?

In Christ, you have what you need today to live in victory. Put your faith in God constantly. Pray, take God-inspired action, and fulfill your true purpose in life!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource *Unleashing the Power of Faith*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (FaithWords)*. She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

You are loved.

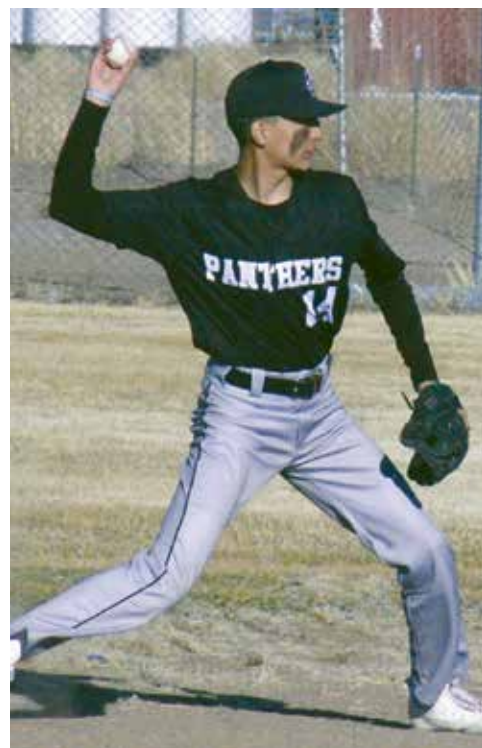
Sunday School 9am  
Sunday Service 10:15am  
1861 Rd 10 S  
www.alamosacr.org  
719-589-3493

See you at Sunday School

# Sports



Kobe Mizokami



Rolando Najera

## Class 1A Southern Peaks All-League baseball team announced

By **KEN HAMRICK**

*Courier sports editor*

**ALAMOSA** – The Class 1A Southern Peaks League announced its All-League baseball team in May.

Sierra Grande leads the All-League team with seven selections. The Panthers are led by Most Valuable Player senior Brian Ontiveros. They have four additional first team selection in junior Kobe Mizokami, junior Patrick Sanchez, junior Adrian Casados and sophomore Rolando Najera.

Two more players, senior Derek Martinez and sophomore Jadyn Martinez are honorable mention.

Sierra Grande's Brandon Mizokami was named the Coach of the Year.

The Panthers had a record of 13 wins and three losses and advanced to regional tournament action.

Antonito has four selections. Senior Darius Gomez, sophomore Rylan Trant and freshman Dylan Gray are all first team, and freshman Lucas Cordova is honorable mention.

The Trojans had a record of 7-9-1.

Centennial has three selections. Senior Samuel Aguilera and senior Manny Benton were placed on the first team,



Courier file photos by Ken Hamrick

**Brian Ontiveros**

and junior Amado Montoya is honorable mention.

The Rams' final record was 2-10.

## AHS Football Scramble is June 9

By **KEN HAMRICK**

*Courier sports editor*

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

The cost of the tournament is \$85 per



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

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

## ASU Little Dribblers Camp is June 3-5

By **KEN HAMRICK**

*Courier sports editor*

**ALAMOSA** – The Adams State University men's basketball team is hosting its Little Dribblers camp beginning on Monday and ending on Wednesday.



Registration is open and the cost is \$75 per camper.

The tournament runs from 9 a.m. until noon all three days.

For more information, visit [www.adamsstatebasketballcamps.com](http://www.adamsstatebasketballcamps.com) or contact [ahardick@adams.edu](mailto:ahardick@adams.edu).

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

*Contributed*

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

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

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

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

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

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

### NOTICE OF 2024 PRIMARY ELECTION

Per Colorado Revised Statute 1-5-205, Alamosa County Clerk & Recorder, Mari Felix, announces that the 2024 Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, June 25, 2024. Ballots will be mailed to all active, registered voters the week June 3, 2024. The Democratic or Republican ballot packet will include: 1 Ballot, 1 Secrecy Sleeve/Instructions, and 1 Return Envelope. Unaffiliated voters will receive a Democratic and Republican ballot. Voters will mark one ballot, insert it into the Secrecy Sleeve/Instructions, insert this into the Return Envelope, **SIGN** the envelope where indicated and mail or return the voted ballot to the Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) at the Alamosa County Building, 8999 Independence Way Ste 101, Alamosa, CO 81101.

- Beginning June 11, 2024 the drop boxes will be available 24 hours each day until 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- The VSPC will be open from Monday, June 17th through Tuesday, June 25th, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.
- on Saturday, June 22nd, from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.
- Election Day, June 25th, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

**Ballots must be received by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. Ballots received after 7:00 p.m. on Election Day will not be counted. Postmarks do not count.**

### AVISO DE LAS ELECCIONES PRIMARIA DE 2024

Según el estatuto revisado por el Estado de Colorado 1-5-205, La Secretaria y Registradora del Condado de Alamosa, Mari Felix, anuncia la eleccion Primaria Presedencial del 2024 se llevara a cabo el 25 de junio del 2024. Las boletas se enviaron por correo a todos los votantes Registrados como activos, esto se llevara la semana del 3 de junio del 2024. El paquete de boletas incluirá 1 boleta, Instrucciones con la cubierta de confidencialidad, un inserto informativo multilingüe de la boleta y un sobre de devolución. Los votantes no afiliados recibirán dos boletas una republicana y una demócrata. Los votantes marcarán una boleta, la pondrán en la cubierta de confidencialidad / Instrucciones, y la pondrán en el sobre de devolución, **FIRMARAN** el sobre donde se indica la firma y enviarán por correo, o devolverán la boleta votada al Centro de Votación y Servicio al Votante (C.V.S.V.) en el edificio del Condado de Alamosa. Cual esta situado en 8999 Independence Way Ste. 101, Alamosa, CO 81101.

- A partir del 11 de junio, el buzón estará disponible las 24 horas del día hasta las 7 PM el día de elecciones.
- El C.V.S.V. estará abierto desde el Lunes 17 de junio hasta el Martes 25 de junio de Lunes a Viernes de 8 AM a 4:30 PM
- El Sábado el 22 de junio de 8 AM 12 PM
- El día de las Elecciones el 25 de junio de 7 AM a 7 PM

**No se contarán las Boletas que se entreguen pasado de las 7PM el día de las Elecciones.**

Mari Felix  
Clerk & Recorder  
Secretaria y Oficial de Registro



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**Sports  
Bulletin**

Follow sports editor  
Ken Hamrick on X.

His handle is  
@KenHamrick1.

**SCHEDULE**  
FRIDAY, JUNE 7  
Baseball

Alamosa, Monte Vista at

Alamosa Tournament, TBA

**SATURDAY, JUNE 8**  
Baseball

Alamosa, Monte Vista at  
Alamosa Tournament, TBA

# Lifestyle

## Winter snowpack recedes earlier than usual in southern Colorado after rare, sudden and large melt

By SHANNON MULLANE  
*The Colorado Sun*

Southwestern Colorado is left with 6% of its peak snowpack earlier than usual this season in part because of a rare, sudden and large melt in late April.

Snow that gathers in Colorado's mountains is a key water source for the state, and a fast, early spring runoff can mean less water for farmers, ranchers, ecosystems and others in late summer. While the snow in northern Colorado is just starting to melt, southern river basins saw their largest, early snowpack drop-off this season, compared to historical data.

For Ken Curtis, the only reason irrigators in Dolores and Montezuma counties haven't been short on water for their farms and ranches is because the area's reservoir, McPhee Reservoir, had water supplies left over from the above-average year in 2023.

"Because of the carryover, the impacts aren't quite that crazy bad," said Curtis, general manager of the Dolores Water Conservancy District. "If we hadn't had that carryover, it would have been a terrible year."

A terrible year like 2021, he added, when many irri-

gators who depend on water from McPhee only received 10% of their normal water supply.

The snowpack in the southwestern San Miguel-Dolores-Animas-San Juan combined basin peaked at about 18 inches April 2, then plummeted by 8 inches during the last half of April. It was the largest 14-day loss of snowpack before the end of April in this basin since the start of data collection in the 1980s, according to the Colorado Climate Center at Colorado State University.

The basin still held onto 1.1 inches of snow-water equivalent, the amount of liquid water in snow, as of Wednesday. Typically, the snowpack is about twice as high in late May, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"The Rio Grande and the southwest basins, the snow is pretty much gone, and it's going to be gone within days to a week at this point," said Russ Schumacher, the state climatologist and CSU professor.

The Upper Rio Grande Basin, which spans the central-southern part of the state including the San Luis Valley, had 0.1 inch of snow-water equivalent as of Wednesday, much less than

its norm for late May, which is about 1.5 inches.

Eastern and northern basins, like the South Platte Basin which includes parts of Denver, have held onto their snowpack for slightly longer than usual. These basins have above-average snowpack for late May, ranging from 119% to 162% of the historic norm, as of Wednesday.

The April decline in the southwest was caused by warm and dry conditions and sublimation, when snow and ice change into water vapor in the atmosphere without first melting into liquid water. Dust that darkens snow and speeds snowmelt also played a role, Schumacher said.

The spring runoff is a little faster than usual in the southern basins, but it's within the realm of normal, said Brian Domonkos, snow survey supervisor for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which manages snow-measurement stations around the state.

"What we're seeing right now is not something that I would be alarmed about," Domonkos said.

Spring snowfall, storms and cooler temperatures have slowed the speed of snowmelt in some areas as well, he said.

In Durango, the Animas River's flows were around 2,000 cubic feet per second Wednesday, lower than the late-May norm of 2,990 cfs.

When it comes to re-

creation, the lower flows might actually be a boon, said Ashleigh Tucker, who is planning a river sports event, Animas River Days, scheduled for June 1 and

2. Some races require participants to pass through hanging gates, moving both upstream and downstream through a whitewater park, she said.

# Here's Your Sign!

## We can fill it for you. Call Keith or Debbie, 719-589-2553



Photo courtesy of the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce

Colorado Gator Farm staff, family members and community well-wishers celebrated the grand opening of the new reptile barn there with a ribbon cutting Friday morning. Owner Jay Young is shown in the middle holding a sign. The new barn replaces the previous reptile building that was destroyed in a horrific fire on April 18, 2023, killing more than 100 reptiles including numerous snakes, turtles, tortoises, caiman, and others.

## Gator Farm celebrates its new reptile barn

Officially named the David Lindsey Reptile Center

By MARIE MCCOLM MOSCA - Colorado Gator Farm owner Jay Young was smiling but also flooded with mixed emotions during a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new reptile barn on Friday, May 24.

He was joined by approximately 20 family and friends, including Alamosa County Commissioner Lori Laske and former Senator Lewis Entz, during the ceremony. The new barn was officially named the David Lindsey Reptile Center.

"The new building will house mostly rescued reptiles, snakes, lizards, tortoises, and some parrots," Young said. "This has been a lot of hard work and a long road, but life is going to throw things at you, it's up to you how you handle it. All you can do is the best you can, with what you have got, and now we have a new barn."

The new barn replaces the structure that burned down in a devastating fire on April 18, 2023. More than 100 turtles, tortoises, lizards, and snakes died in the fire.

Young stated that it was heartbreaking to lose the building and all the animals that were in it, but so many people had also stepped up to help them. The Gator Farm regrouped and was open not long after the fire and began working on the new barn.

loss. Some of the animals we had, we had for over 25 years," Young said. "It's hard to just pick up and go on. The outpouring of support from the public was so immense."

Young stated it was not just the financial support that he appreciated; it was more about the love that was given to everyone at the farm during the loss.

"We must have been doing something right to get that much love and support. It was hard to pick up the pieces and go on, but here we are, and we are still doing it. The support from the community has been huge and we couldn't do it without them," he said.

The new facility was dedicated to Dave Lindsey, a man who had worked diligently to help with the construction of the new barn, and became a close friend, "like family," to Young.

According to Young, Lindsey was unfortunately diagnosed with cancer. He fought the cancer for almost two years but passed away the morning of the ribbon-cutting ceremony, according to Young.

"This is in honor of David. He just passed away this morning. I had hoped he would be here today to see this. He fought the good fight against cancer, but it was time for him to be at peace and not suffer anymore."

Young smiled with tears running down his cheeks and said, "He was hoping to be here for the grand opening, too. He's here with us in spirit. It's been a long time coming. Excited about the ribbon cutting, but also wish he could have made it today."

**ALAMOSA ROUND-UP**  
*Faith. Freedom. Rodeo!*  
**June 14-15, 2024**  
★ Ranch Rodeo ★ Demolition Derby ★

**June 20-22, 2024**  
★ Mutton Bustin ★ Cowboy Church ★ PRCA Rodeo ★ Justin Lawrence Concert ★

[alamosaroundup.com](http://alamosaroundup.com)

# Public Notices

### Request for Proposal (RFP) Auditor Services

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

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

Any other tasks deemed necessary for a comprehensive audit.

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

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

### Notice of Proposed School Budget

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

### ALAMOSA COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held before the Alamosa Board of County Commissioners on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 8:30 AM, in the Alamosa County Services Center, 8900 Independence Way, Alamosa, Colorado for the purpose of considering an application by Korsail Energy dba Cornflower Solar, LLC to permit the site selection and construction of a 90 MW solar generation and 72 MW battery storage (BESS) facility on property identified as parcels 541102100008 & 541102300219 in Alamosa County. This activity is regulated by Alamosa County HB1041 Regulations, Chapter 6: Regulations for Site Selection and Construction of Major Facilities of a Public Utility.

The legal description of the property is: The E 1/2 and the SW 1/4 of Section 2, AND the W 1/2 of Section 11, T37N, R9E, N.M.P.M., County of Alamosa, State of Colorado.

Details regarding this application are available for public inspection in the Alamosa County Land Use Office at 8999 Independence Way Suite 100 during regular office hours. Questions can be addressed to Richard Hubler at 719-589-3812 extension 1541 or by email to rhubler@alamosacounty.org.  
Richard Hubler  
Land Use Administrator  
Alamosa County  
No. 3974.  
Published in the Valley Courier on June 1, 2024.

### MUNICIPAL COURT, Alamosa, Colorado

3000 Hunt Avenue, Alamosa, CO 81101  
THE CITY OF ALAMOSA, COLORADO, by and on behalf of the PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
ANDREW CHACON and JASMINE J. MARTINEZ  
Defendant  
Court Use Only  
Attorney for the Plaintiff:  
Erich Schwiesow, #23385  
3000 Hunt Ave.  
PO Box 419  
Alamosa, CO 81101  
719-587-2498  
eschwiesow@ci.alamosa.co.us  
Case No.: 24 CV 001  
SUMMONS FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF  
The City of Alamosa, by and on behalf of the People of the State of Colorado  
TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:  
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court. There is no filing fee.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within the applicable time period, the Court may enter judgment by default against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice.

This is an action for closure of the property at 2912 Chester Place, Alamosa, Colorado, as a nuisance property under the provisions of Chapter 14, Article VI, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Alamosa.  
Dated: May 23, 2024  
/s/  
Erich Schwiesow, #23385  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
Published in the Valley Courier  
First Publication: May 25, 2024  
Last Publication: June 1, 2024  
No. 3962.  
Published in the Valley Courier on May 25 & June 1, 2024.

### NOTICE

District Court, Rio Grande County, Colorado  
Court Address: 925 6th St, Room 204, Del Norte, CO 81132  
In the Matter of the Estate of:  
ROBERT JACK a/k/a ROBERT J. JACK a/k/a ROBERT JAMES JACK  
Deceased  
COURT USE ONLY  
Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address):  
Pacyga Law Firm, LLC: Benjamin Pacyga, #48355  
Address: 402 San Juan Ave., Alamosa, CO 81101  
Phone 719-580-4984 Email: ben.pacyga.law@gmail.com  
Case Number:  
2024 PR 30000  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-12-801, C.R.S.  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Estate of Robert Jack a/k/a Robert J. Jack a/k/a Robert James Jack, Deceased  
Case Number 2024 PR 30000  
All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to X District Court of Rio Grande, County, Colorado or Denver Probate Court of the City and County of Denver, Colorado on or before August 28, 2024 (date)", or the claims may be forever barred.  
Russell Johnson, Personal Representative  
Type or Print name of Person Giving Notice  
2405 Park Avenue, Alamosa, CO 81101  
Address  
Alamosa, CO 81101  
City, State, Zip Code  
No. 3963.  
Published in the Valley Courier on May 25, June 1 & 8, 2024.

### NOTICE

The next quarterly meeting of the Board of Managers for Special Improvement District No. 4 of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District is set for June 4, 2024 and will begin at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Building located at 8805 Independence Way in Alamosa, CO, 81101. This meeting will also be held by Zoom teleconference. The public may participate by attending the meeting in person or listen in to the meeting by dialing in to the Zoom teleconference. To join please call either number: 1-301-795-8592 or 1-669-900-8833, enter the Meeting Id: 875 0682 1934##, and wait for the meeting to begin. There is no charge for this call. This meeting is open to the public.  
No. 3964.  
Published in the Valley Courier on June 1, 2024.

### NOTICE

The quarterly meeting of the Board of Managers for Special Improvement District No. 4 of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District is set for June 4, 2024 and will begin at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Building located at 8805 Independence Way in Alamosa, CO, 81101. This meeting will also be held by Zoom teleconference. The public may participate and listen in to the meeting by dialing in to the Zoom Meeting/teleconference. To join please call either number: 1-253-215-8782 or 1-301-715-8592, enter the Meeting Id: 830 3309 6036##, and wait for the meeting to begin. There is no charge for this call. This meeting is open to the public.  
No. 3965.  
Published in the Valley Courier on June 1, 2024.

### NOTICE

The quarterly meeting of the Board of Managers for Special Improvement District No. 3 of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District will be held on June 6, 2024, and will begin at 8:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Building located at 8805 Independence Way in Alamosa, CO, 81101. This meeting will also be held by Zoom teleconference. The public may participate and listen in to the meeting by dialing in to the Zoom/teleconference. To join please call either number: 1-346-248-7799 or 1-301-715-8592, enter the Webinar Id: 849 6965 2904##. There is no charge for this call. This meeting is open to the public.  
No. 3967.  
Published in the Valley Courier on June 1, 2024.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of public hearing before the Board of Trustees of Romeo, Colorado at 6:30 p.m. on the 20th day of June 2024, located in the chambers of the Board of Trustees, Town Hall, 315 2nd Ave, Romeo, CO 81148, for the purpose of considering Ordinance of Adoption of the Guidelines and Regulations for Water Projects for Export Outside the San Luis Valley as Designated as Matters of State Interest of the Town of Romeo  
Materials relating to the guidelines and regulations may be examined at the office of the Town Clerk, Town of Romeo, 149 2nd Ave, Romeo, CO 81148.  
This Notice given and published by the order of the Town Board of Trustees, Romeo Colorado.  
Dated this 1st day of June 2024  
TOWN OF ROMEO, COLORADO  
Gloria Quintana, Town Clerk  
No. 3972.  
Published in the Valley Courier on June 1 & 15, 2024.

### ALAMOSA COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held before the Alamosa Board of County Commissioners on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 8:30 AM, in the Alamosa County Services Center, 8900 Independence Way, Alamosa, Colorado for the purpose of considering an application by Public Service Company of Colorado dba Xcel Energy to permit the site selection and construction of a transmission line in Alamosa County. This activity is regulated by Alamosa County HB1041 Regulations, Chapter 6: Regulations for Site Selection and Construction of Major Facilities of a Public Utility.

The description of the property is: Multiple parcels along the Modified Proposed Route as shown in Appendix A of the final application dated April 2024, for the portion lying within the County of Alamosa, State of Colorado.

Details regarding this application are available for public inspection in the Alamosa County Land Use Office at 8999 Independence Way Suite 100 during regular office hours. Questions can be addressed to Richard Hubler at 719-589-3812 extension 1541 or by email to rhubler@alamosacounty.org.  
Richard Hubler  
Land Use Administrator  
Alamosa County  
No. 3973.  
Published in the Valley Courier on June 1, 2024.

**099 - ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**163 - LOST & FOUND**

**LOST DOG: SMALL 14yo female POODLE MIX.** White with darker long ears. Missing since May 18, near Cole Park, ALAMOSA. WEARING A BANDANA WITH SUNFLOWER PRINT. Please call if seen, 719-480-9744. (6/1/24)

**165 - PERSONALS**

**CHRISTIAN [ORTHODOX] GENTLEMAN** seeking a wife in Covenant Marriage, by way of Christian Dating. I'm in my 70's, well-looking, good health and never married/NO Baggage! [I was seeking "first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." I am a small-scale gifted Preacher/Minister, College Grad Plus, and well-Traveled. I am NOT Computerized, with a simple phone and voice mail Only! After Military Service [Active 5 yrs.] I worked predominately in Agriculture - hands on; so I am rural, agrarian by choice, and a homeowner in N.M. Looking for a mature Lady of like precious Faith (NON-Denominational). I appreciate Hiking, camping, Birding and Real Christian Fellowship- [I believe the Holy Bible-KJV-unto Salvation.] Please write if interested and we can meet at a church or cafe in Alamosa or elsewhere in the Southwest. May God be with you in this I Pray. Sincerely in JESUS LORD of ALL Gerald CRILLY POB. 253 Tres Piedras, N.M. 87577 (7/5/24)

**173 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

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

**221 - HELP WANTED**

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

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

**221 - HELP WANTED**

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

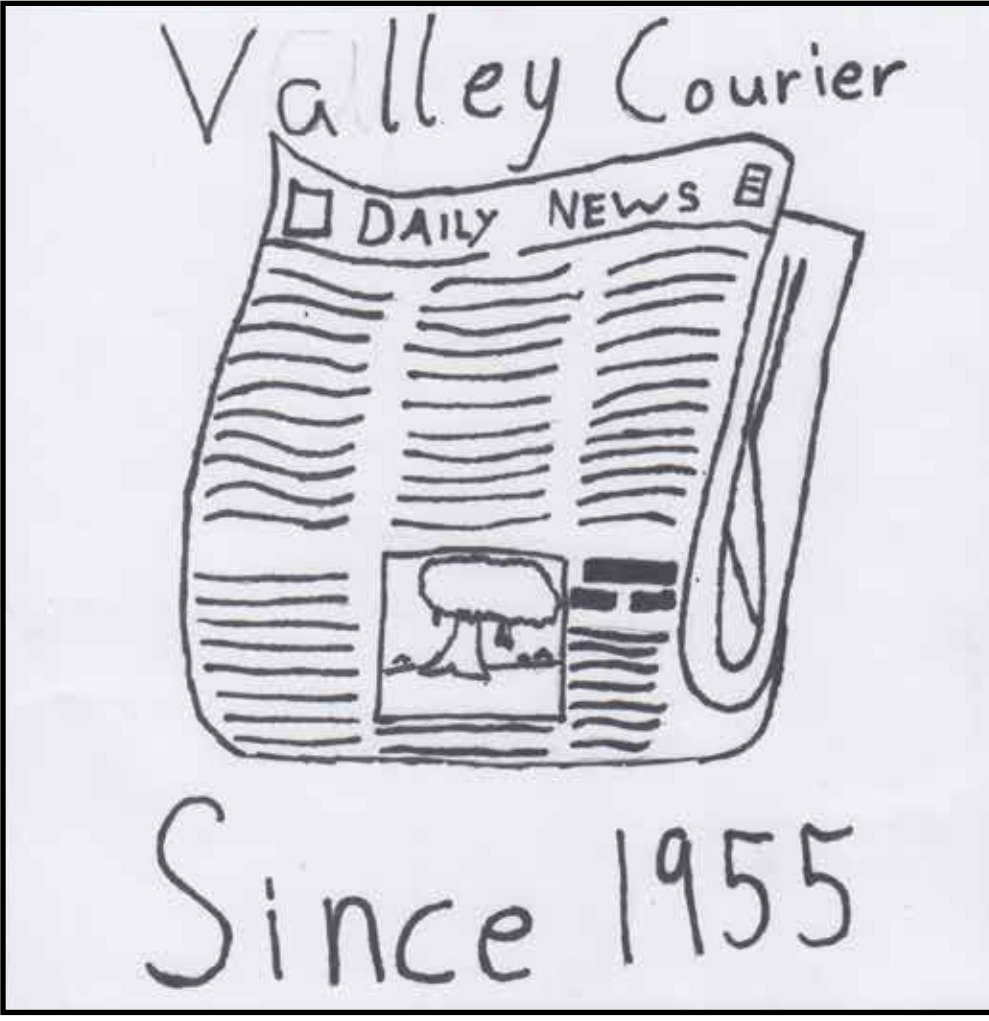
**NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT** is currently accepting applications for an **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNSELOR.** Interested applicants must be certified/licensed in counseling. NCSD offers a competitive salary with a \$915 health benefit monthly. Applications may be picked up at North Conejos School District 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)

**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)

**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)

**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)

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# Classifieds

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**THE ALAMOSA HOUSING AUTHORITY** is seeking a qualified individual for a full-time **MAINTENANCE LABORER**. Minimum of three years of knowledge in small appliance repair, basic knowledge of electrical and plumbing such as changing electrical outlets, light fixtures, operating a plumbing snake, changing out faucets to list a few. Be able to operate grounds keeping equipment and be able to know and use common hand tools. Use 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.sanfordschools.org](http://www.sanfordschools.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](http://www.northconejos.com). Submit application to the central office or email to [rmccarroll@northconejos.com](mailto:rmccarroll@northconejos.com). Position is open until filled. EOE. (6/8/24)

**NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT** is currently accepting applications for **LA JARA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**. Applicants must have a principal license/certification or be in the process of obtaining one. NCSO offers a competitive salary with a \$915 health benefit. Interested applicants may download an application at [www.northconejos.com](http://www.northconejos.com) or pick one up at North Conejos School District Central Office. Applications may be submitted to Superintendent Darren Edgar at [dedar@northconejos.com](mailto:dedar@northconejos.com) or delivered to the NCSO Central Office. Application deadline is Thursday, June 6th at 4:00 p.m. (6/8/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

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

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

**221 - HELP WANTED**

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

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# Classifieds

### 221 - HELP WANTED

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

**DEL NORTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** is seeking an energetic, caring individual to serve as a SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAREGISTRAR/EDUCATOR. Applicants must have a high school diploma and prior experience working with students with special needs is preferred. Please submit your application to Amy Duda, DNES Principal at 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO 81132; [aduda@urtigers.co](mailto:aduda@urtigers.co); or call at 719-657-4050. The position will be open until filled. You can pick up an application at the District Office or on-line at [www.urtigers.co](http://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](mailto:lmartinez@urtigers.co). Applications can be retrieved online at: [www.urtigers.co](http://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](mailto:dtrujillo@urtigers.co). Applications can be retrieved on-line at: [www.urtigers.co](http://www.urtigers.co). (7/3/24)

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

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

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

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

### 221 - HELP WANTED

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

**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](mailto:crestonetownoffice@gmail.com). (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)

### 221 - HELP WANTED

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

**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 [officemanager@slvlandfill.com](mailto:officemanager@slvlandfill.com) or returned at the office. Download the application at [slvlandfill.com](http://slvlandfill.com). (6/5/24)

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

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

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

### 221 - HELP WANTED

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

**ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY** is looking for candidates to fill the position of BUDGET ANALYST within the BUSINESS & FINANCE DEPARTMENT. You can apply <https://adams.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/ASU/details/Budget-Analyst-R188>. We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions please reach out to our Human Resources department 719-587-7990. (6/8/24)

**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)

**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](http://JTTimber.com) to apply. (6/12/24)

**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](mailto:tluna@mtknk.com). (6/5/24)

**3 SEASONS YARD SERVICE**. Call 719-588-1183. (6/1/24)

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

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

**FRIDAY, MAY 31 & Saturday, June 1**: 2519 County Road 10 South, ALAMOSA, CO 81101. (6/1/24)

### 353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

**REGISTERED BLACK ANGUS BULLS** For Sale. Low pap scores, calving ease and grove. OLDEST ANGUS HERD in COLORADO. Smalley's Angus. 719-588-4664 or 719-378-2459. (6/4/24)

**MUST SELL: 6'X10' enclosed STORAGE TRAILER**. 7'x10' very LOW TRAILER. Small ARC WELDER. New 3" Skill BAND SAW. 4" BELT SANDER. Men's Carbondale BICYCLE. 2" black powder mortar. BEAVER pelts. Some LEATHER. Some ARCHERY. Trophy white tailed HEAD MOUNT. Craftsman RIDE ON LAWN MOWER. 719-850-1032. (6/4/24)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**304 - LAWN & GARDEN**  
3 SEASONS YARD SERVICE. Call 719-588-1183. (6/1/24)

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

**341 - GARAGE SALE**  
FRIDAY, MAY 31 & Saturday, June 1: 2519 County Road 10 South, ALAMOSA, CO 81101. (6/1/24)

**345 - WOOD**  
PECAN WOOD CHUNKS for sale. Great for smoking meat! 719-588-1183. (6/1/24)

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

### 601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

**630 - ROOMS FOR RENT**  
ROOMS FOR RENT: FURNISHED. ALAMOSA. 719-436-5550. (6/11/24)



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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  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

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

# Comics

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 — Diavolo sauce
  - 4 Pie — mode
  - 7 Goblet part
  - 11 Sass
  - 12 Slender
  - 13 Aqua —
  - 14 Card up a sleeve
  - 15 Tsunami
  - 16 Rights org.
  - 17 Ice cream store
  - 19 Five-cent piece
  - 21 Weaponry
  - 23 Flying geese formation
  - 24 Furious
  - 27 Stage hint
  - 29 Caviar
  - 32 Energy cartel
  - 33 Low voice
  - 34 "It's the Same — Song"
  - 35 Joke
  - 36 Chums
  - 37 Racing sled

- 38 "— on a Grecian Urn"
  - 39 Look at
  - 40 Giant god
  - 41 — Aviv
  - 43 Metal container
  - 45 Brags
  - 48 Scientist — Einstein
  - 52 Dwindles
  - 53 Wading bird
  - 55 Clock numerals
  - 56 Only
  - 57 Dog in "Peter Pan"
  - 58 Ology
  - 59 Adolescent
  - 60 Jay's follower
  - 61 — off (annoy)
- DOWN**
- 1 Hinged piece
  - 2 Costa —
  - 3 Copycat
  - 4 Warning blast
  - 5 Actress — Tyler
  - 6 Prayer ender

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 7 Room
- 8 Exhaust (2 wds.)
- 9 — Stanley Gardner
- 10 Handle roughly
- 12 Foil
- 18 Secular
- 20 Currier's partner
- 22 Climbed
- 24 Corporate emblem
- 25 Apple product
- 26 Oil source
- 28 Starship — Enterprise
- 30 Gymnast — Korbut
- 31 Paradise
- 33 Howl
- 36 Hit again and again
- 37 Branch
- 40 Oklahoma city
- 42 City in Germany
- 44 Day many save for
- 45 Outdo
- 46 Small woodwind
- 47 Go down
- 49 Sign on a door
- 50 Small hill
- 51 Duration
- 54 Ovine cry

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

## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

## HERMAN

"Your resume says you spent 'fore years at collej."

## ALLEY OOP

KAREEN, WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO KEETH FOR TRYING TO DESTROY EARTH?

THE WORST PUNISHMENT IMAGINABLE. HE'S GOING TO BE STUCK IN A TIME LOOP.

WELL, THAT'S NOT THAT BAD, CONSIDERING WHAT HE DID. IN A WAY, THAT'S KIND OF LIKE HE GETS TO LIVE FOREVER.

HE'S GOING TO BE STUCK IN A ONE-SECOND LOOP OF THE SENSATION RIGHT BEFORE THE SNEEZE COMES OUT.

THAT'S HORRIBLE! NOTHING HE DID WARRANTS THAT!

## ARLO & JANIS

I ADMIT THIS IS NICE!

THE FISH TACOS ARE GREAT!

AFTER ALL, LITTLE THINGS LIKE THIS ARE WHY WE'RE CONSIDERING THIS MOVE!

AND THE KIDS, OF COURSE!

OF COURSE!

BUT IF THEY LIVED SOMEWHERE LIKE, SAY, KAUSAS...

## BIG NATE

UGH! MRS. GODFREY HITTING A WALK-OFF HOMER! COULD THERE HAVE BEEN A WORSE END TO THIS GAME?

AND NOW HERE SHE COMES TO RUB OUR NOSES IN IT!

WONDERFUL GAME, KIDS! YOU ALL PLAYED SO WELL!

THAT WAS LOW.

## THE BORN LOSER

I DON'T SEE MY PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY SANDWICH...

I THOUGHT I BROUGHT IT IN HERE, I MUST'VE LEFT IT IN THE KITCHEN.

WHOOOPS! I THINK I JUST FOUND IT!

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

NO, EDGAR, IF YOU WANT TO COME IN, YOU HAVE TO BARK!

SIGH

HEY! STOP THAT! GET OUT OF MY FLOWERBEDS! EDGAR!... COME HERE!

## FRANK & ERNEST

...AND IT HAS A ROOMY WALK-IN CLOSET.

## GARFIELD

YOU KNOW, GARFIELD...

I'VE DONE PRETTY WELL IN LIFE

COULD YOU BE A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC?

DON'T YOU THINK?

THIS LIFE?

## THE GRIZZWELLS

CHECK OUT MY NEW PICKLEBALL PADDLE... IT'S MADE ESPECIALLY FOR SENIORS

HOW SO?

IT DOUBLES AS A DEFIBRILLATOR

VERY HANDY

## PEANUTS

RING!

HELLO? NO I'M SORRY... SHE'S NOT HERE...

# Friendship reformed before being completely abandoned

DEAR ABBY: I am a male scientist at a large university. Four years ago, I was surprised to receive an email from someone with whom I'd been friends many years ago, when he was a post-doctoral fellow in our department. We were good friends back then, but we lost contact when he moved east and quit research. He now works in computer security. After he reinitiated contact, we resumed the friendship, with regular phone calls and emails.

Two years ago, he invited me to spend the day with him and his wife (whom I'd never met), when I visited my family on the East Coast. Since my family lives near him, I took him up on the offer and spent a very pleasant day with them at their home.

Abby, I never heard from him again! After sending several emails and a postcard thanking him and his wife for being gracious hosts, there has been silence ever since. Incidentally, we're both Jewish, as is his wife. During the years before he reconnected with me, he became Orthodox and very observant, which I am not. Any thoughts about what is going on

and what, if anything, I can do about it? -- BAF-FLED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR BAFFLED: What might have happened during your visit with this old/new friend is anybody's guess. I doubt your lack of religiosity has anything to do with this. Perhaps his wife discouraged further contact. Because he was withdrawing, you may never know. But as things stand, I don't think there's anything you can do about it. If you hear from him in another few years, feel free to ask him.

DEAR ABBY: I have been in my relationship for almost five years and believe that "nothing is constant but change." My partner has caviar taste with tuna fish money. They like expensive things but can't afford to maintain them. They rob from Peter to pay Paul, make purchases with high-interest charge cards and complain constantly they don't have any extra money. They are presently looking for another job to make more money to spend.

I live on a fixed income. I'm trying to control spending but end up in arguments about not hav-

**ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**

ing money to do things. My partner has mastered the art of spending other people's money, including mine, which I think is selfish. Any suggestions about how to work out these money issues? -- ALL ABOUT THE MONEY

DEAR ALL ABOUT THE MONEY: You and your partner have very different values when it comes to finances. THEY AREN'T GOING TO CHANGE. This is one of the subjects that most frequently causes couples to break up. (Others include politics, sex, religion and child rearing.) My suggestion: End the relationship before this person causes you to go bankrupt.

# Lifestyle



Photo courtesy of the Irwin home

This 6-foot welded wire fence successfully keeps deer from browsing on these gorgeous blooming tulips and hyacinths in Saguache.

## Newcomer's Guide to Gardening in SLV

### Managing Deer in the Garden

By EMILY FOLZ  
CSU Extension - Colorado Master Gardener

#### SAN LUIS VALLEY

A reader and avid gardener wrote in and reminded me of another gardening challenge many of us face here in the Valley — deer! I'm not sure why I forgot to mention them since a group of five to seven visit our yard periodically in the evenings, and a herd of 60 were recently in a field nearby! Perhaps it's because I haven't lived with deer before and haven't experienced firsthand how quickly they can decimate our landscaping.

The reader mentioned how fickle deer can be, feasting on "deer resistant," plants one night and then leaving them alone the rest of the season. I appreciate the reminder that deer-resistant doesn't mean deer-proof. Hungry deer aren't picky and will eat what's available, particularly our garden's tender new spring growth.

Deer lack upper incisors, so they grasp and tear the leaves and buds off plants, leaving a rough, torn, shredded appearance. They also cause damage by trampling on plants and stripping the bark off trees. In spring and early summer, deer feed on the new growth of grass, leafy plants, and spring blossoms. In autumn, male deer cause damage

to trees when they rub their antlers against them to remove the velvet layer covering them.

There are several strategies to try to manage deer damage. Notice I say manage and not prevent. I am told that a realistic goal is to reduce deer damage by 30 percent, and that a 50 percent reduction is considered highly successful. That's good to know! I'm clearly outnumbered and am the newcomer to their neighborhood. I suspect managing my expectations will go a long way toward easing me into my new environment. In other words, I may need to reconsider adding hydrangeas to my garden....

I'm told employing several strategies at a time may improve our overall success. Strategies to consider include physical barriers such as fencing. Suggested "deer proof" fencing is 8 feet high and made of woven wire. Gardeners in Saguache told me they've had success with a 6-foot fence, except when they forget to close the gate and deer promptly wander in and enjoy a "garden buffet"!

Some gardeners use electric fencing. Tree tubes, wire cages, and netting can protect saplings, seedlings, and small shrubs until they are bigger and can survive some browsing.

Deer repellents are a short-term solution and must be reapplied after it rains and when new growth appears. They are typically more effec-

tive on plants less often browsed by deer. Contact repellents, such as those containing capsaicin, are applied directly to the plants and make them taste unpleasant. Area repellents, like predator urine, protect larger areas by repelling deer due to their foul odor.

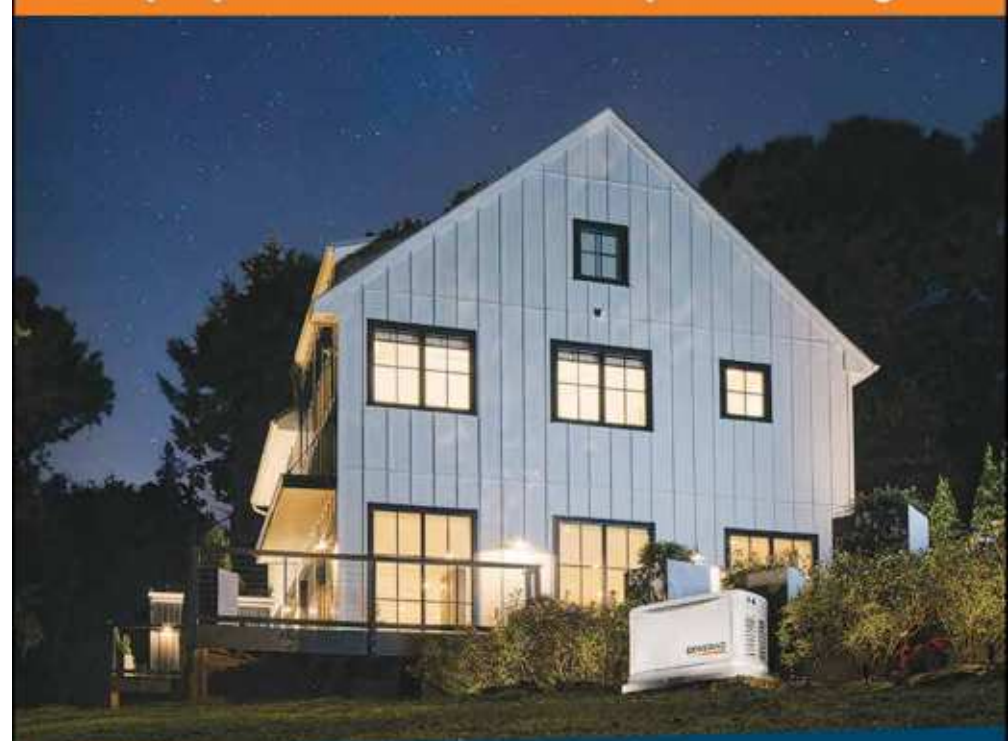
Another strategy is to plant deer vulnerable plants closer to your home or in areas of more frequent human activity and surround them with less palatable plants.

I've discovered a number of deer resistant plants in my yard. How do I know they are deer resistant? Because they've been here for years and are still here despite the herd of 60 deer down the road! They include Siberian Peashrub, golden currant, snowberry, spirea, columbine, lilac, and old garden roses.

The CSU Extension website provides a wealth of information on strategies to reduce deer damage, as well as information on the susceptibility of various Colorado plants to deer browsing — <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/natural-resources/preventing-deer-damage-6-520/>

I'd love to hear your experiences! What strategies have you tried to reduce deer damage? What has worked? What hasn't worked? Which plants have been resistant to deer browsing? Which haven't? Anyone had luck with hydrangeas? Send me an email at [slvgardening@gmail.com](mailto:slvgardening@gmail.com).

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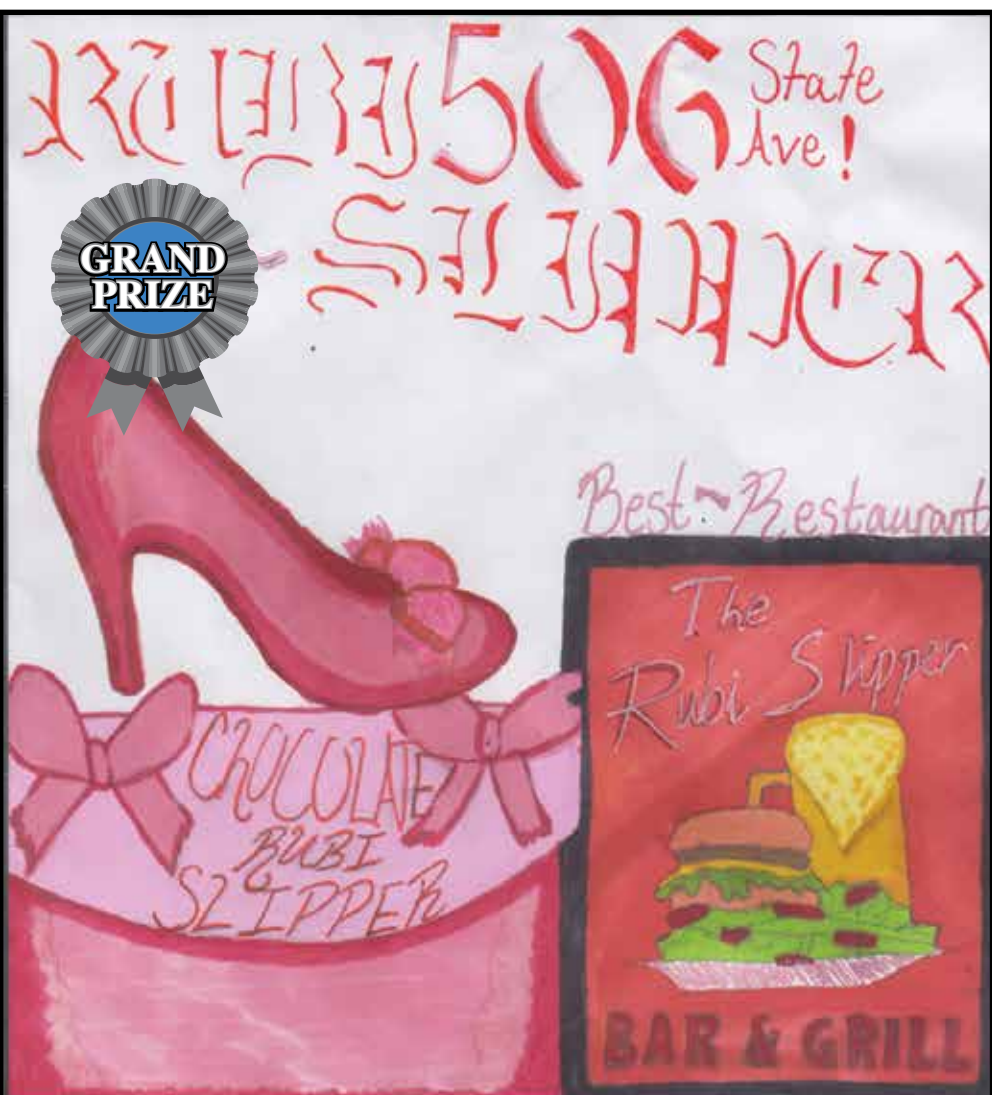


# Valley Courier

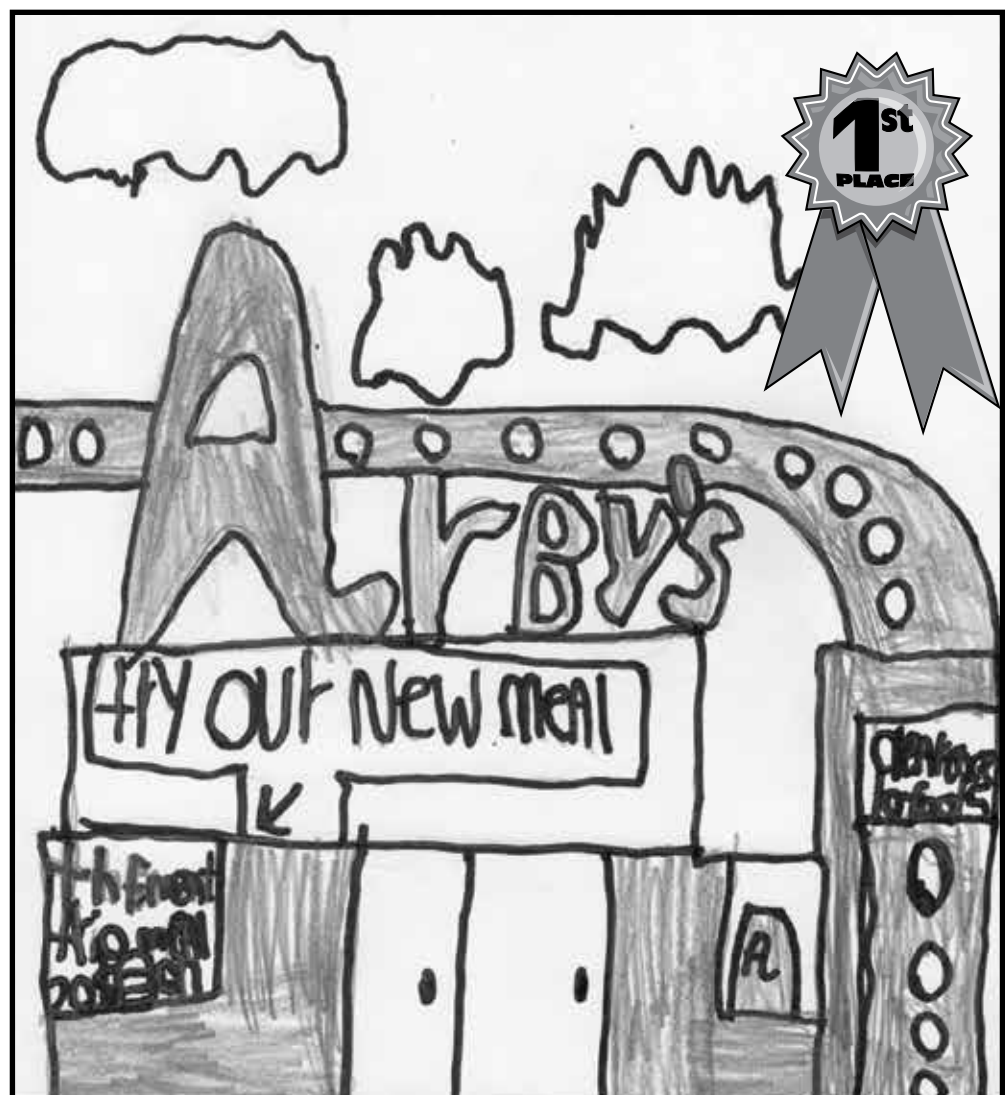
## KIDS KREATE AN AD

The following advertisements were designed and drawn by Alamosa students in grades K through 8 for the Valley Courier's "Kids Kreate an Ad" contest. Students compete in three divisions: Grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8. A grand prize of a \$50 Gift Certificate will be awarded to the overall winner while winners in each division will receive awards of \$35, \$20 and \$10, courtesy of the Valley Courier. Winners whose ads appear on the first two pages of this special sections will have their prizes delivered to the schools.

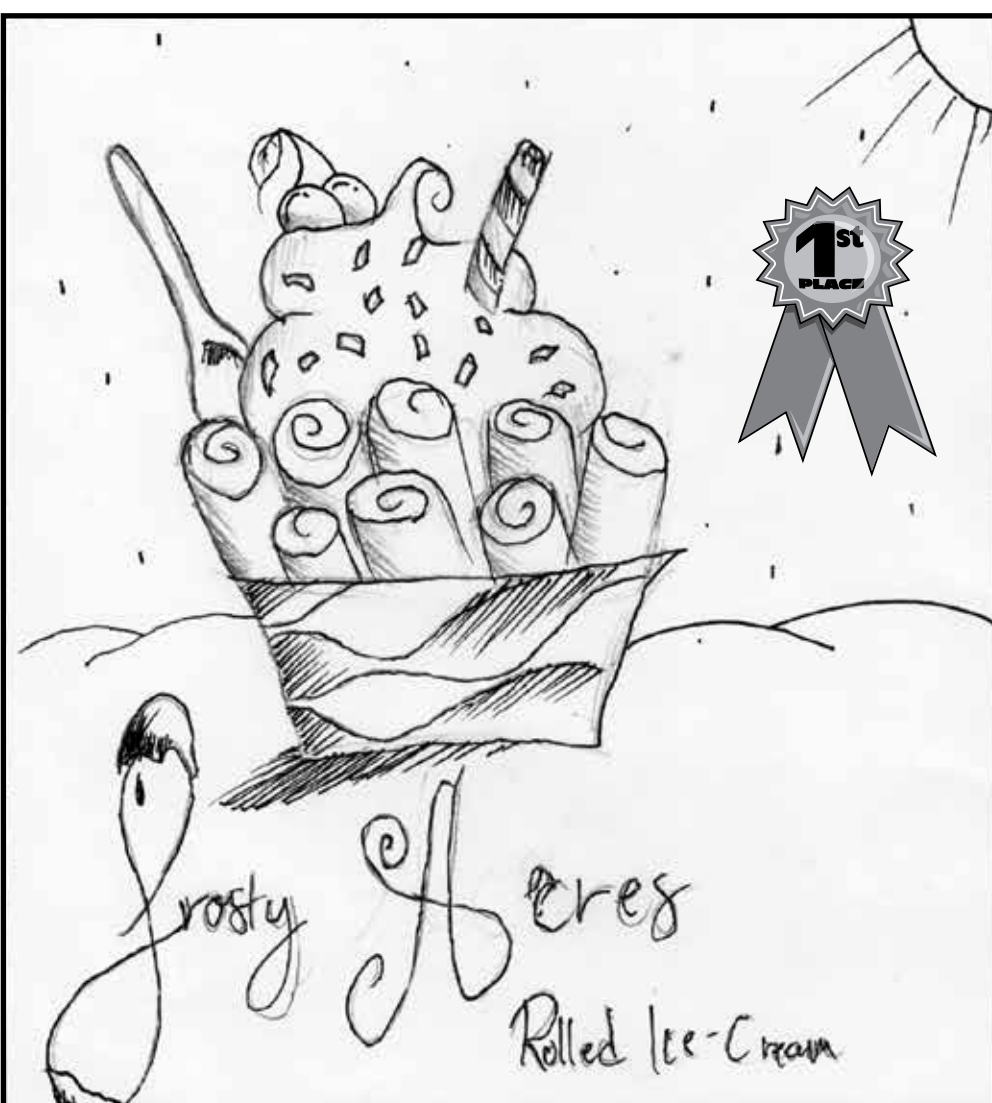
The Valley Courier thanks all of the students who participated in the contest and especially those local businesses who made it possible to publish this special section. It would be impossible to publish all of the entries, but many will be on display at businesses around Alamosa.



Quiana Ruiz  
8th Ortega Middle School



James Martinez  
3rd Alamosa Elementary School



Alexa Sisneros  
6th Ortega Middle School

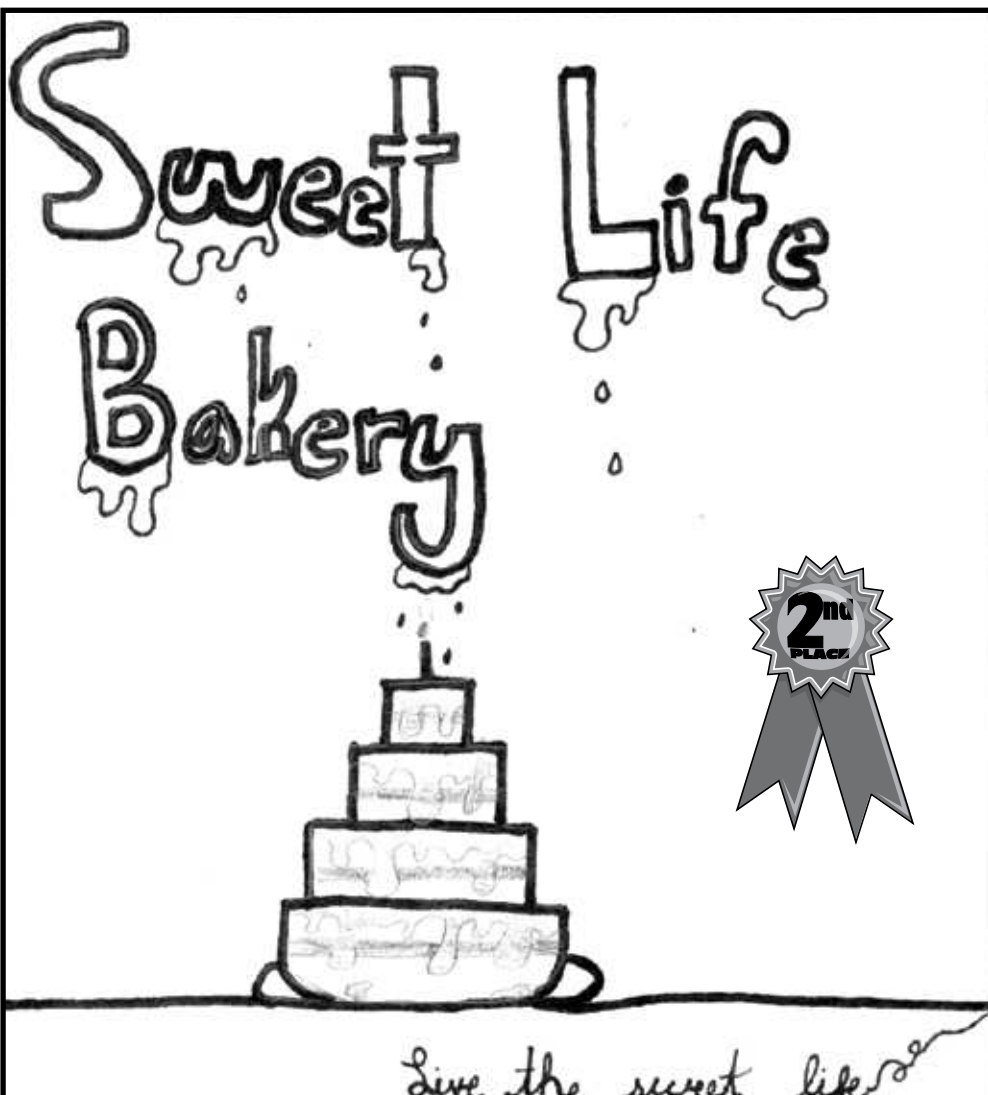


Gabriel Mendez  
1st Alamosa Elementary School



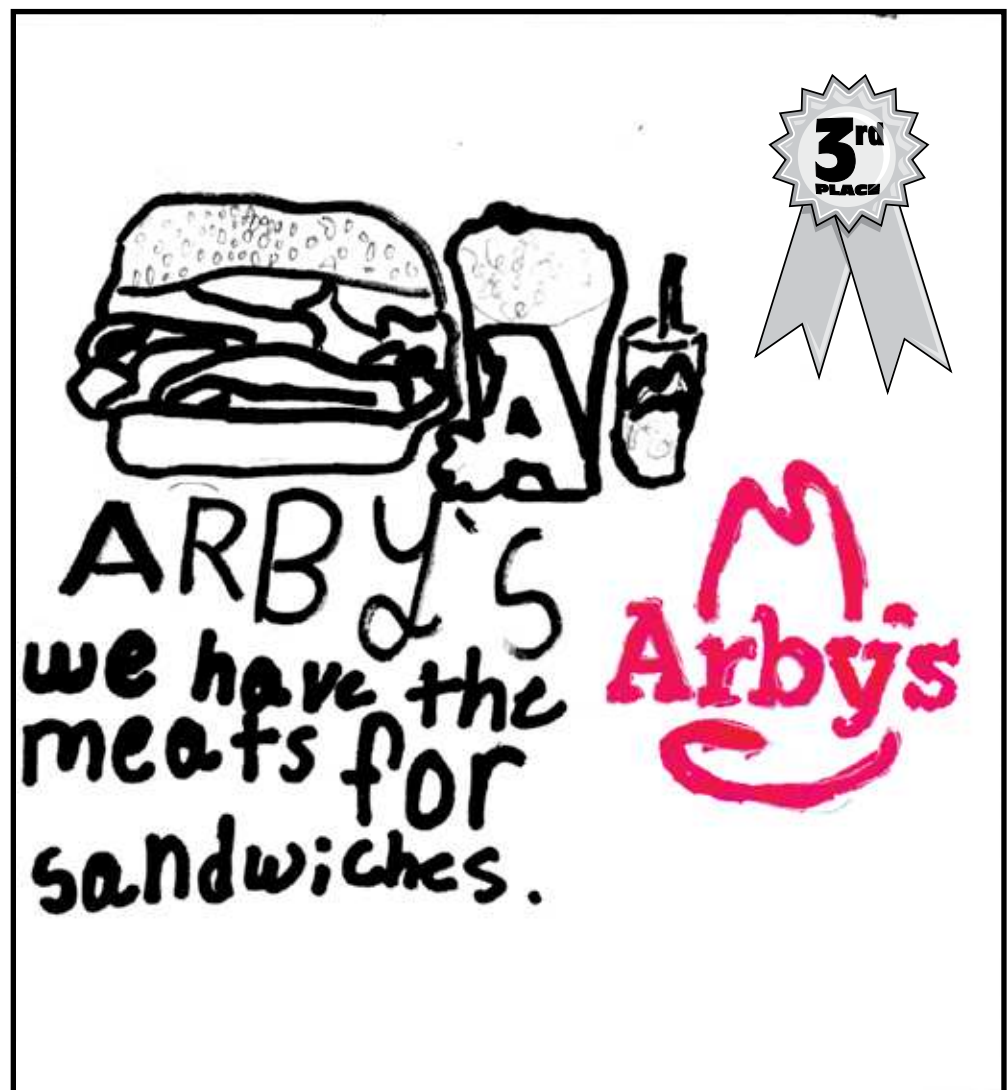
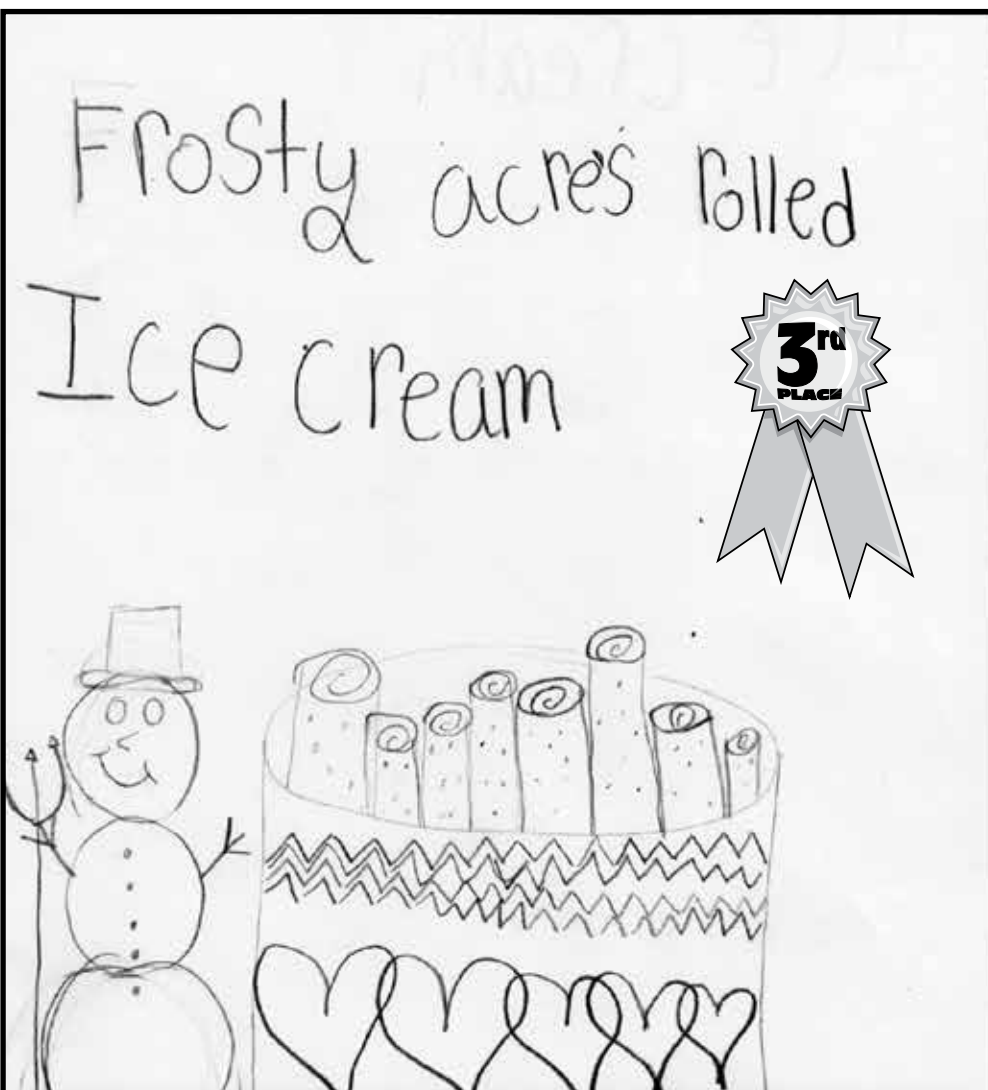
Savoivse Annika G. Balares  
3rd Alamosa Elementary School

Jacquelin Sevilla - Cortez  
7th Ortega Middle School



Kalissa Garcia  
K - 2

Grayson Beiringer  
2nd Alamosa Elementary School



Bailey Squires  
3rd Alamosa Elementary School

Marco Medina  
7th Ortega Middle School



Adrian Chadwell - 3rd Alamosa Elementary School



Adriel Valdez - 2nd Alamosa Elementary School



Aiden - 2nd Alamosa Elementary School



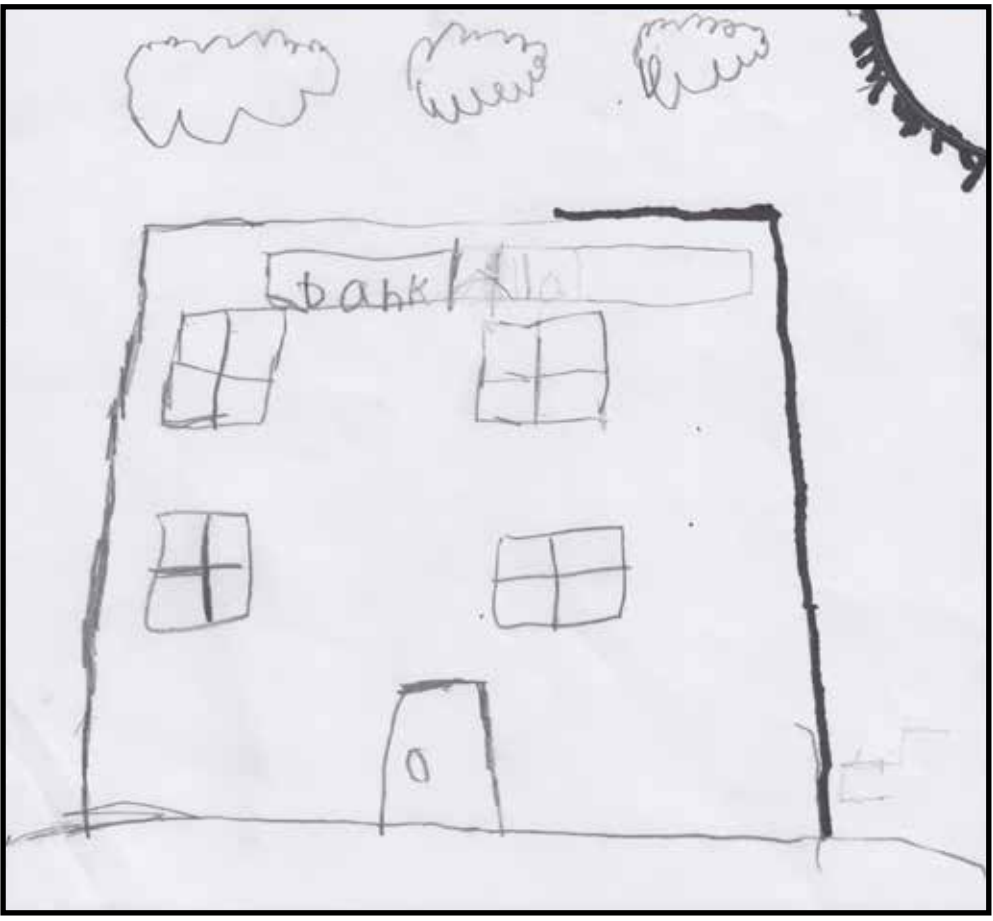
Eden Gonzalez - 1st Alamosa Elementary School



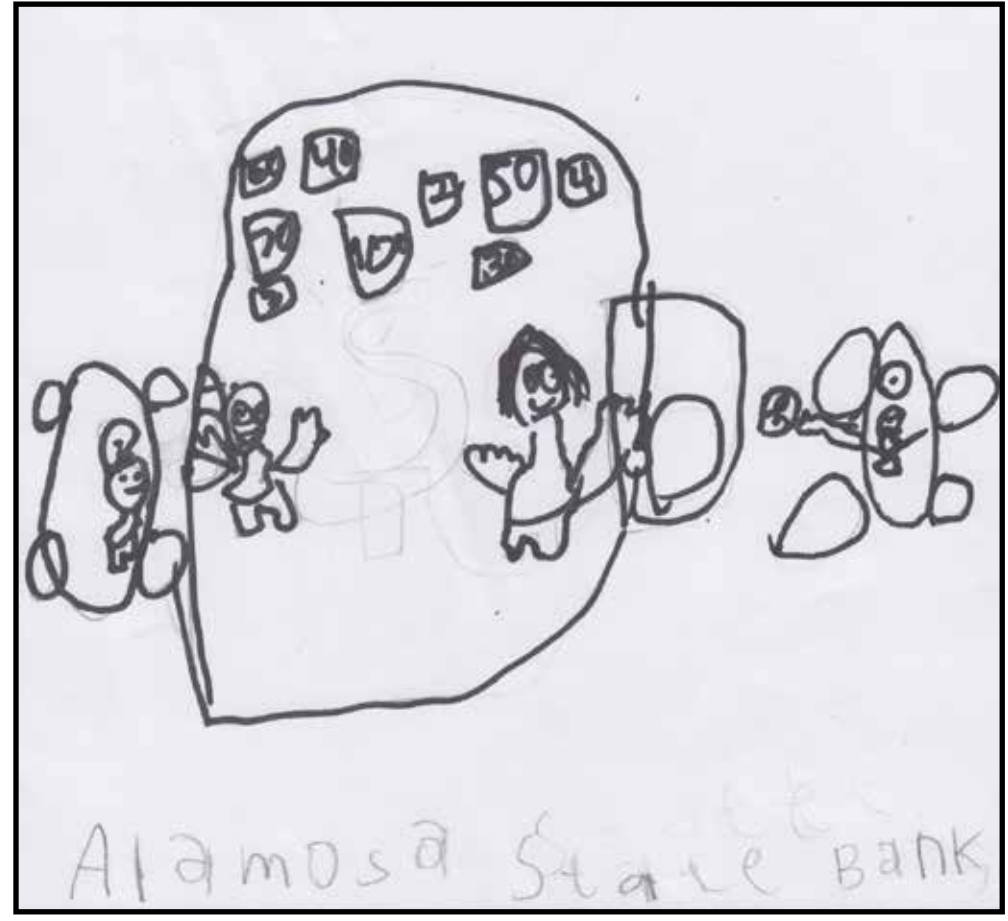
Emmitt Gylling - 7th Ortega Middle School



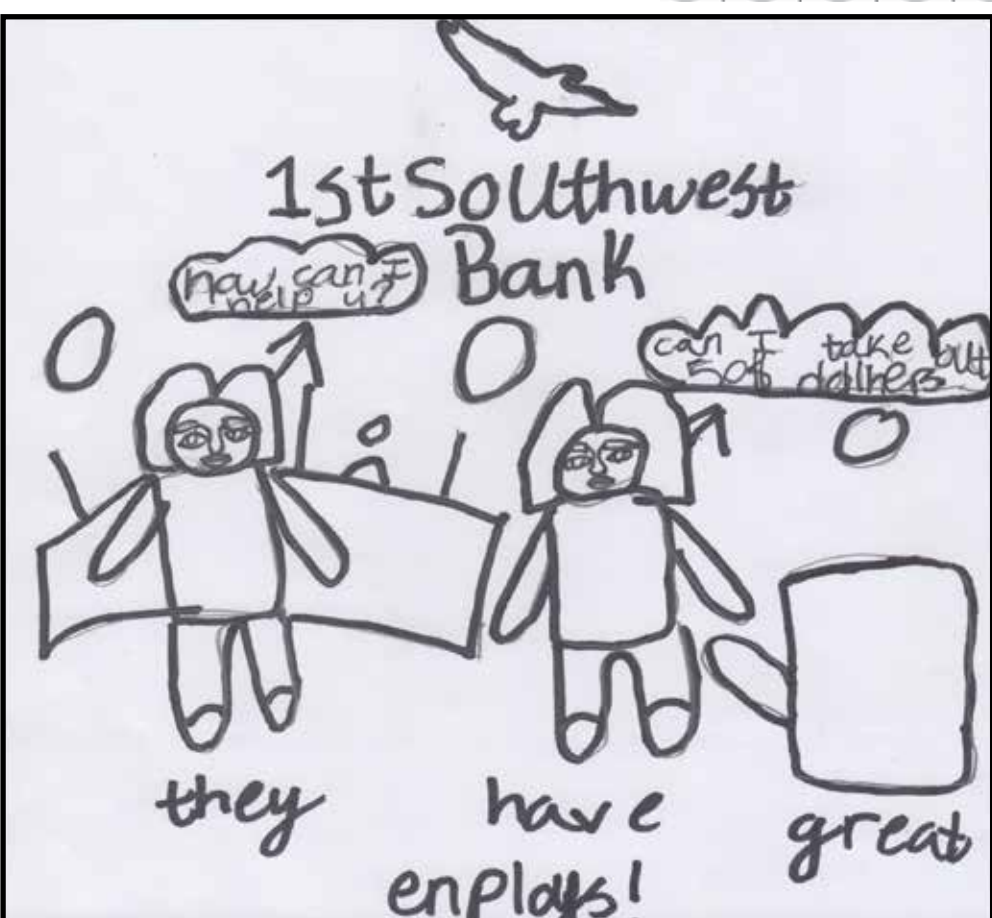
Eva - 1st Alamosa Elementary School



Isaac Aguilar - 2nd Alamosa Elementary School



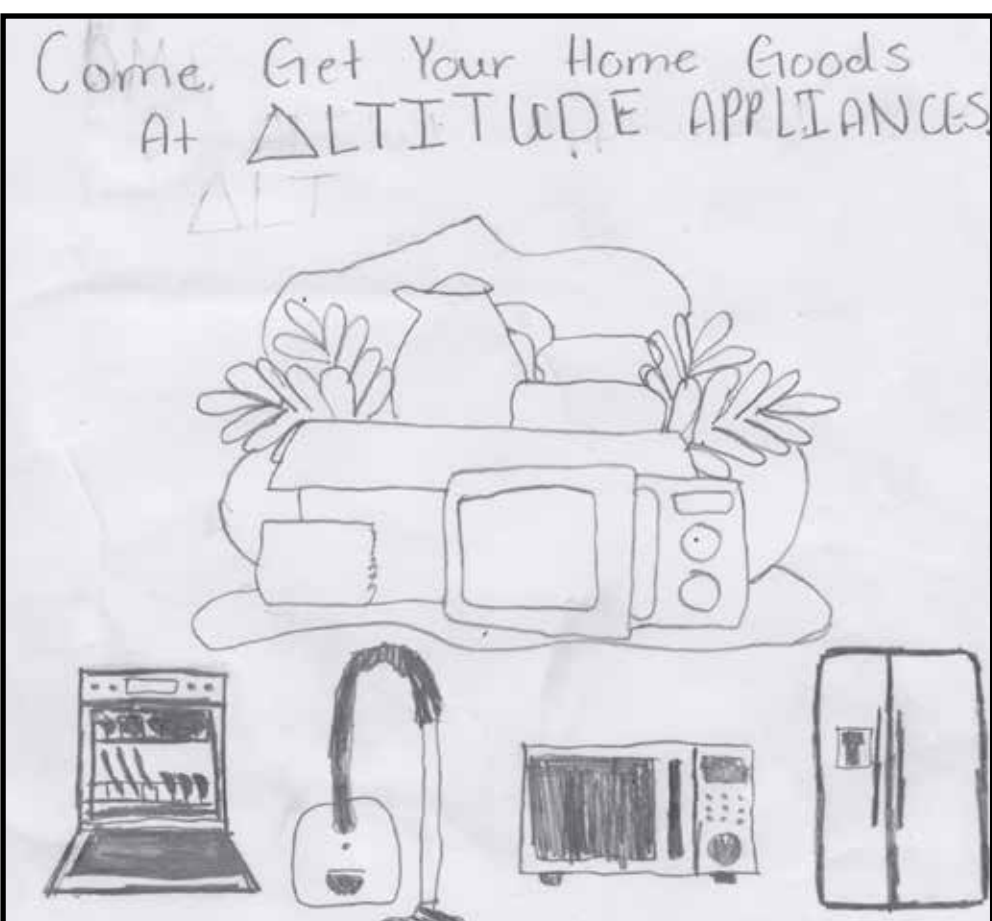
Khloe Velasquez - Kindergarten Alamosa Elementary School



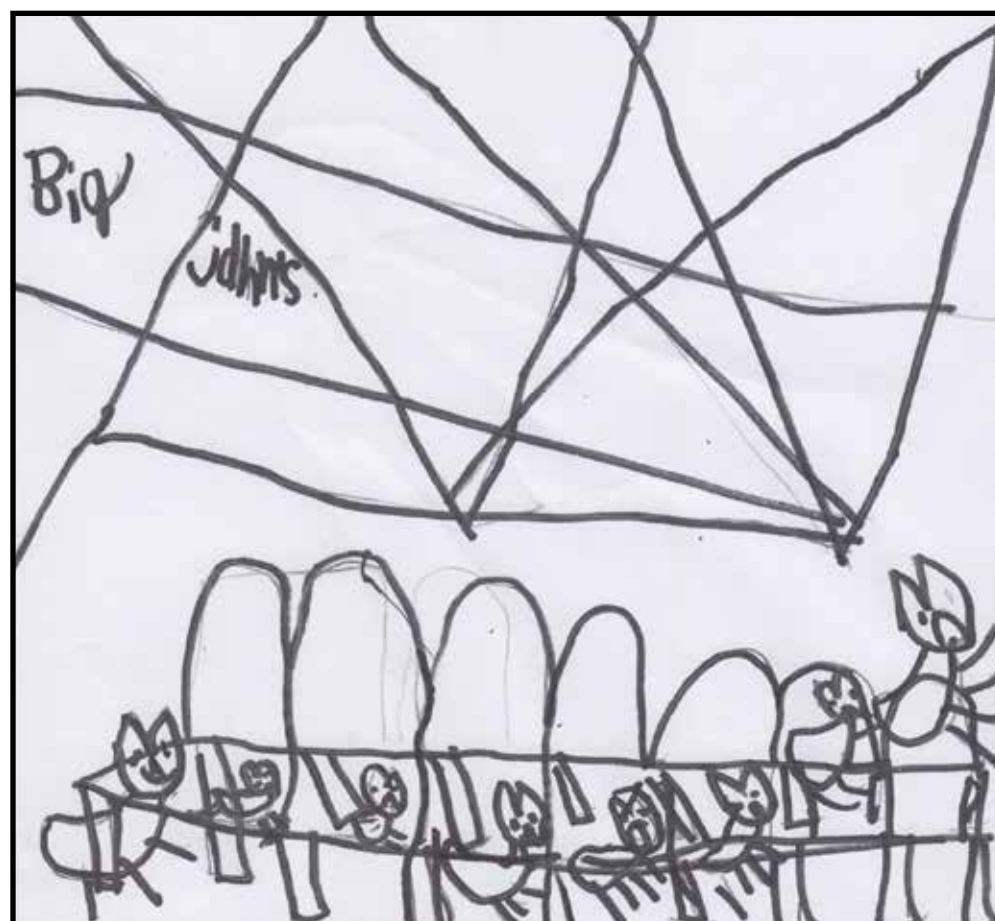
Becky Medina - 3rd Alamosa Elementary School



Brentley - 1st Alamosa Elementary School



Amanda Tomas - 7th Alamosa Elementary School



Cadence Meder - 2nd Alamosa Elementary School



Caden Dorsey - Kindergarten Alamosa Elementary School



Delilah Clutts - 3rd Alamosa Elementary School



Adriel Valdez - 2nd Alamosa Elementary School

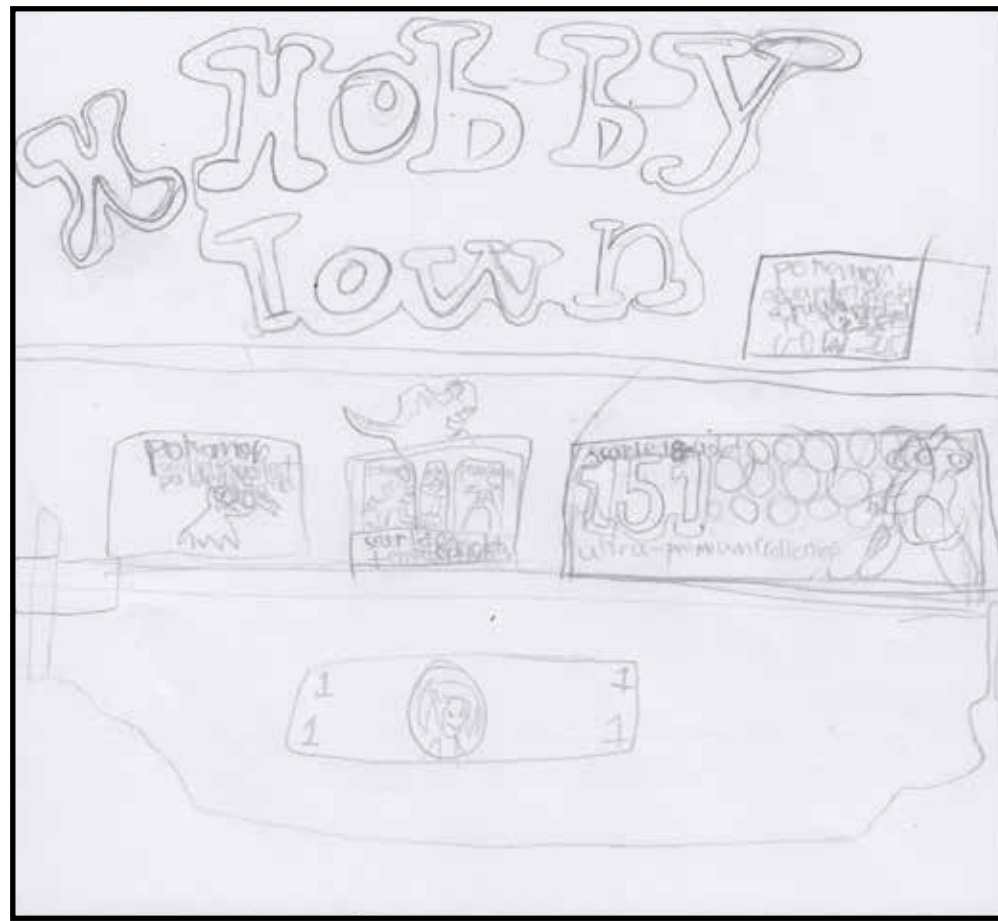


Danney G - Ortega Elementary School

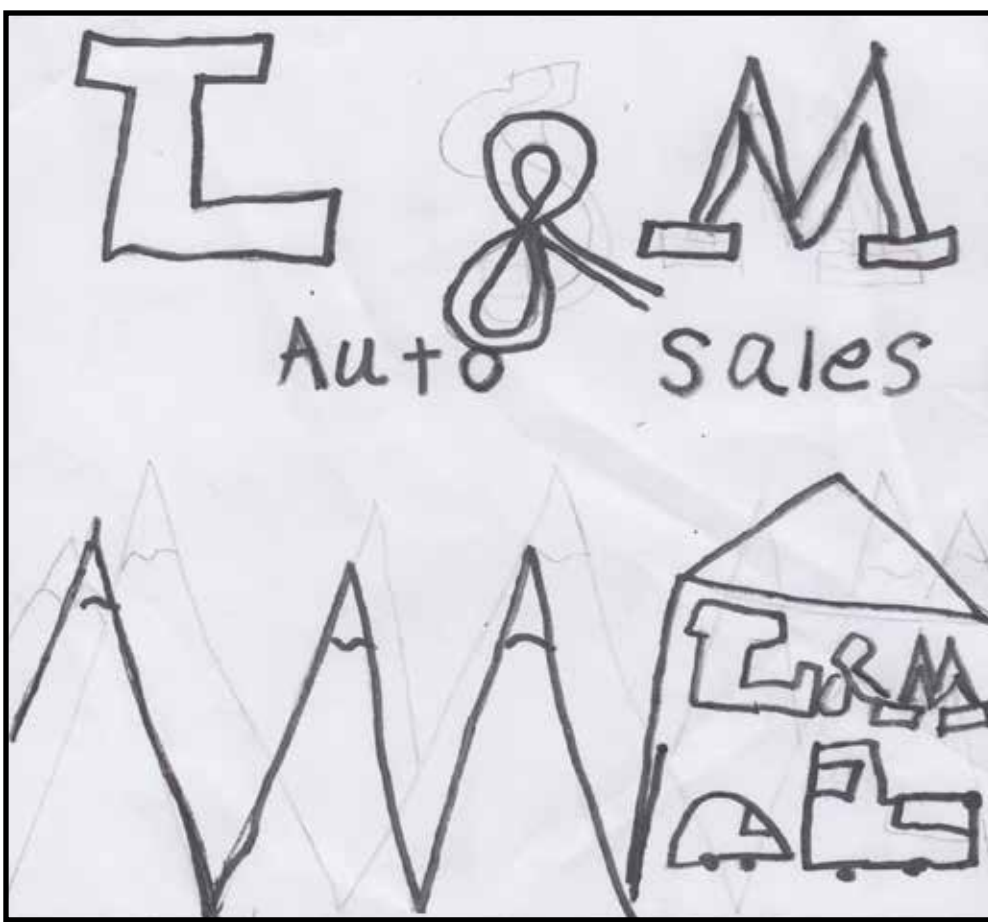




Gaspar H. Antonio - 7th Ortega Elementary School



Connor Hensley - 2nd Alamosa Elementary School



Angelica - 1st Alamosa Elementary School



Alan - 2nd Alamosa Elementary School



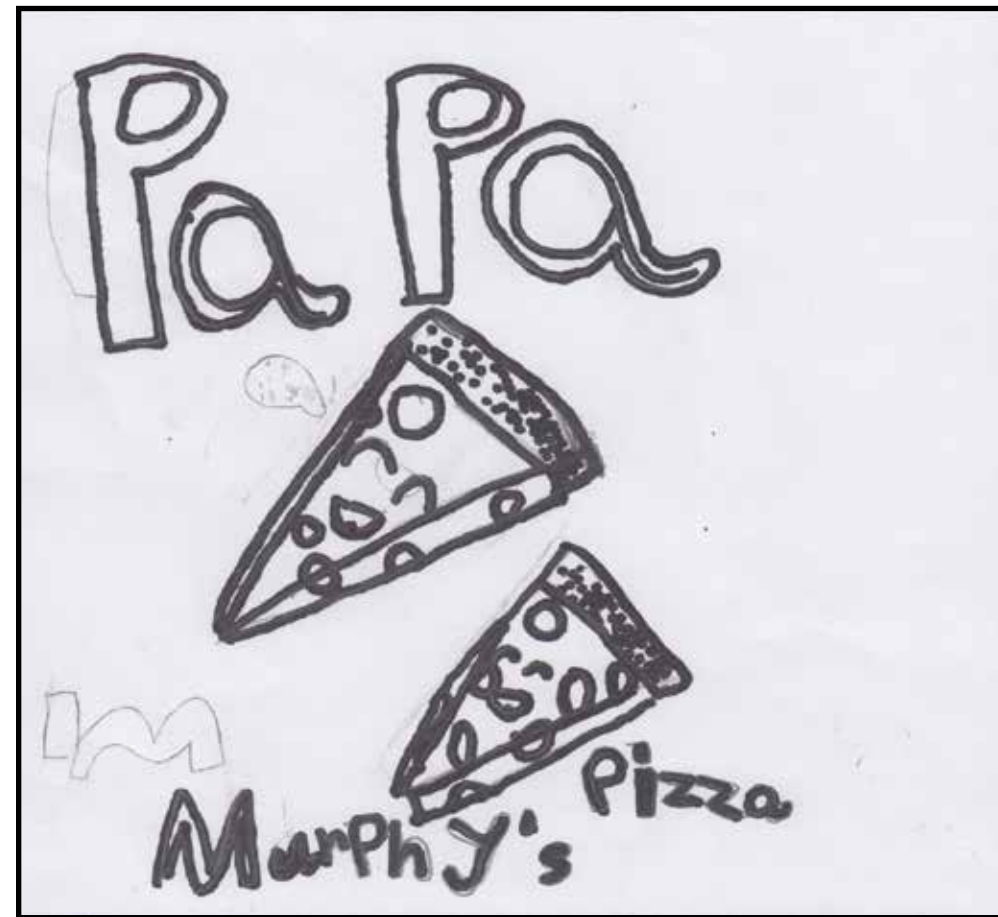
Brianne Russell - 6th Ortega Middle School



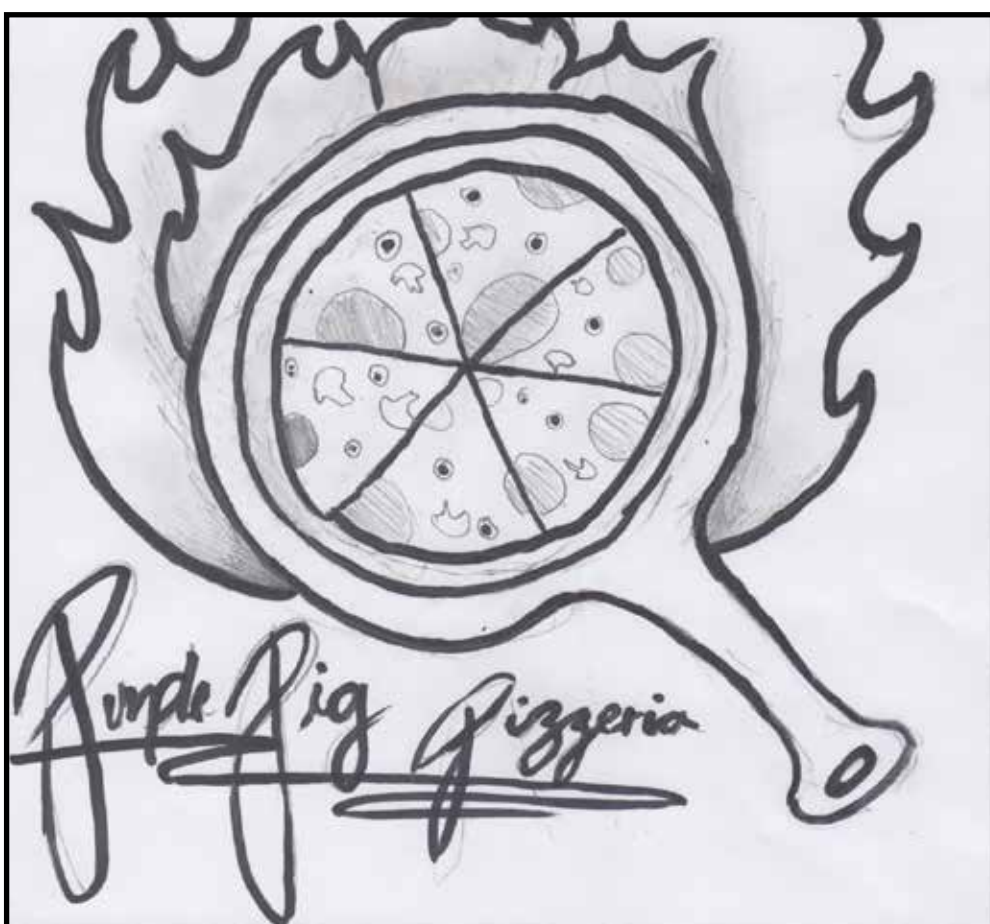
Anaya Mendoza - 6th Ortega Middle School



Aramais Sobrepena - 2nd Alamosa Elementary School



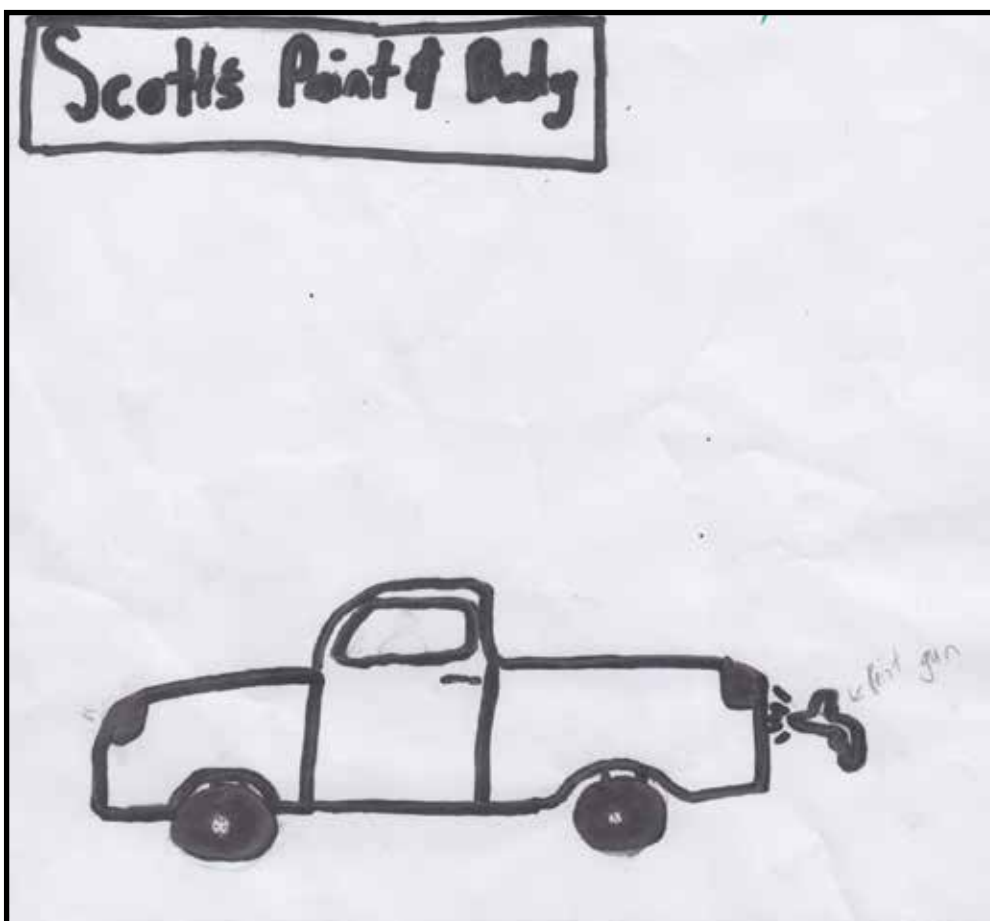
Deon Arellano - 2nd Alamosa Elementary School



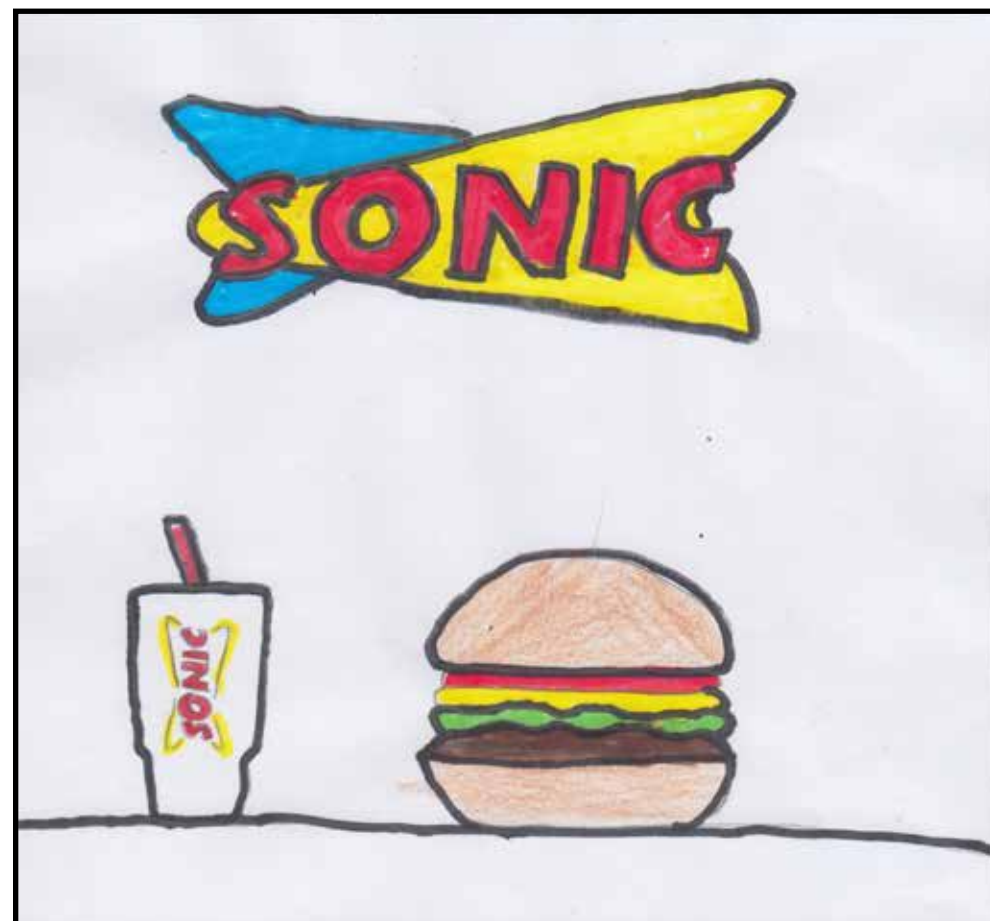
Alexa Sisneros - 6th Ortega Middle School



Analy - 8th Ortega Middle School



Davion Rodriguez - 6th Ortega Middle School



Derick Sandoval - 7th Ortega Middle School



Star Kuhns/Estrella Kuhns - 7th Ortega Middle School



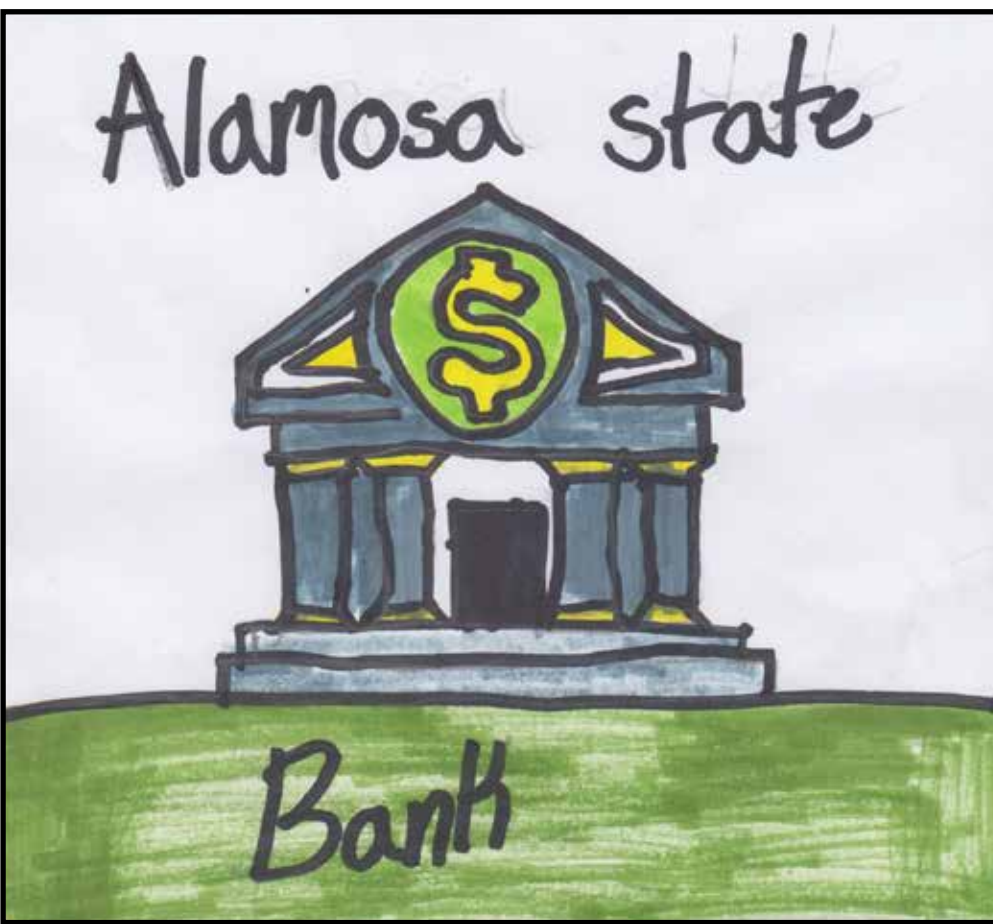
Ariya Trujillo - 7th Ortega Middle School



Elijah Garcia - 3rd Alamosa Elementary School



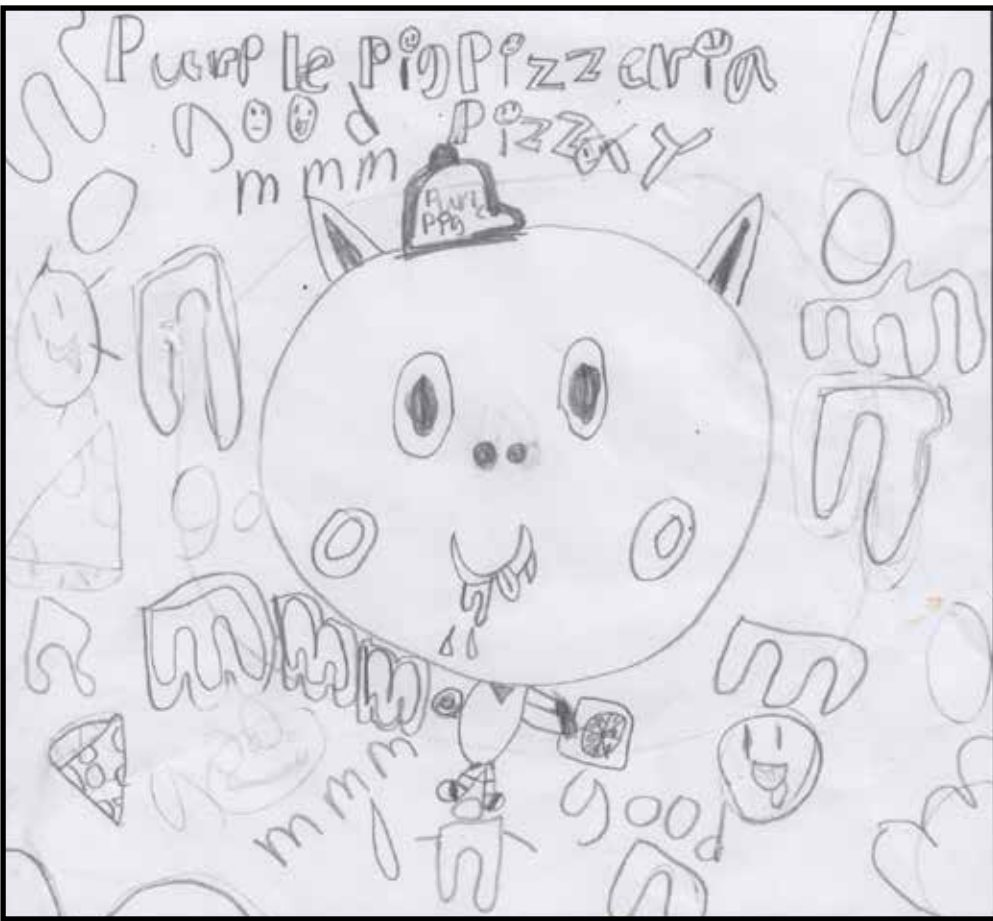
Kiana Buriaga - 2nd Alamosa Elementary School



Nausica Meyer - 6th Ortega Middle School



CC - 8th Ortega Middle School



Jacob Abachiche - 3rd Alamosa Elementary School



Easton Ruybal - 1st Alamosa Elementary School



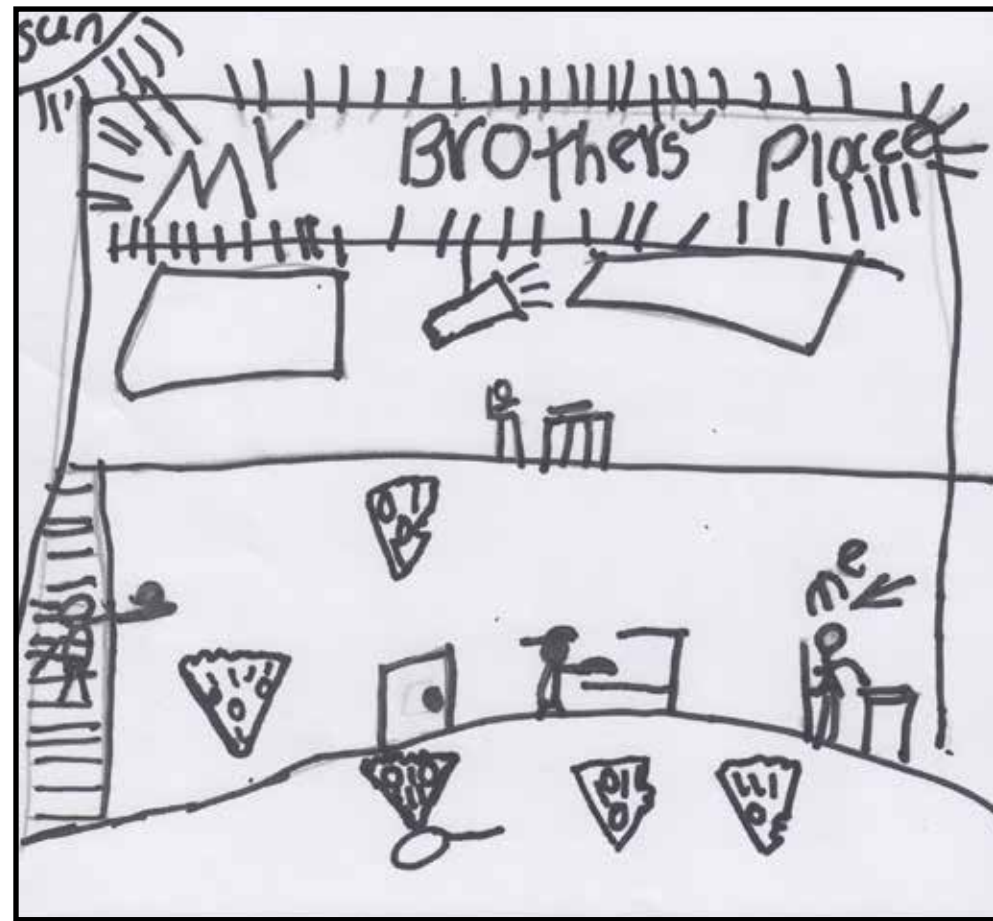
Noah Ruybal - 1st Alamosa Elementary School



Genna Moshier - 1st Alamosa Elementary School



Maria Perez Pascual - 3rd Alamosa Elementary School



Bryson Lukondi - 3rd Alamosa Elementary School



Jaelynn Martinez - 6th Ortega Middle School



Demarcos G. - 7th Ortega Middle School



Ira Dellett



Hendricks Mortensen - 3rd Alamosa Elementary School



Erika Atencio - 7th Ortega Middle School



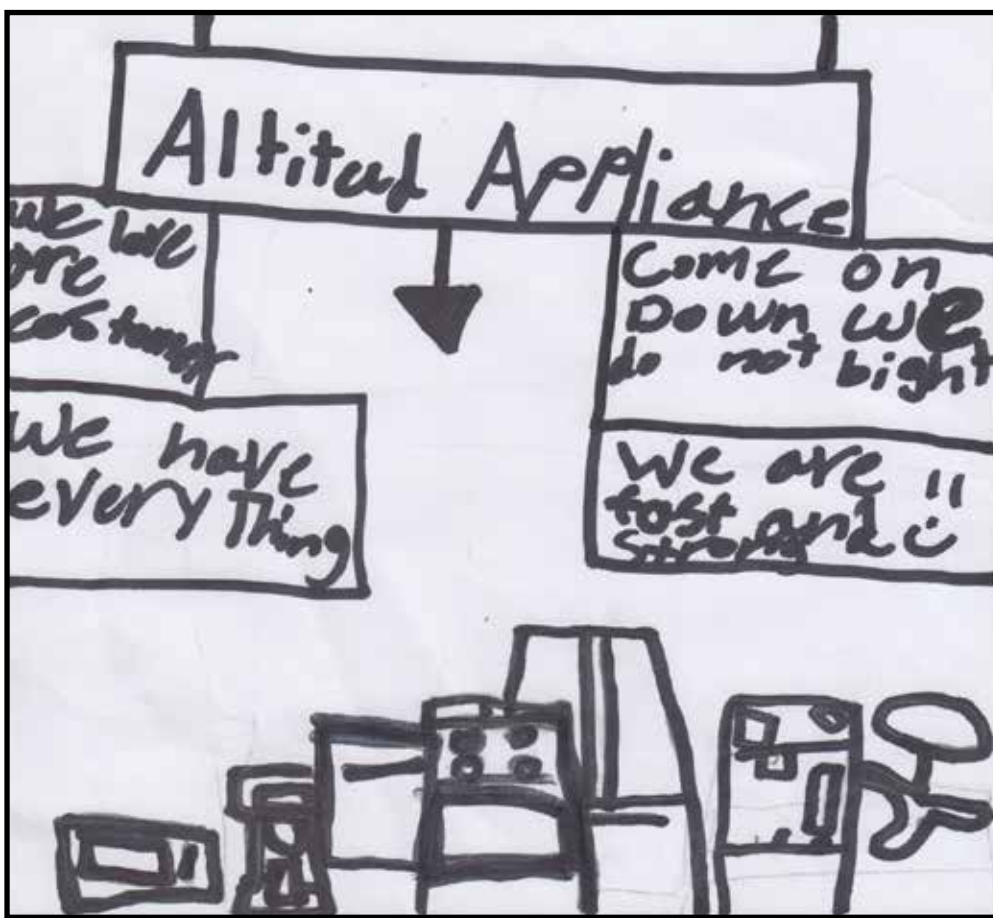
Varius Martinez Anthony - Ortega Middle School



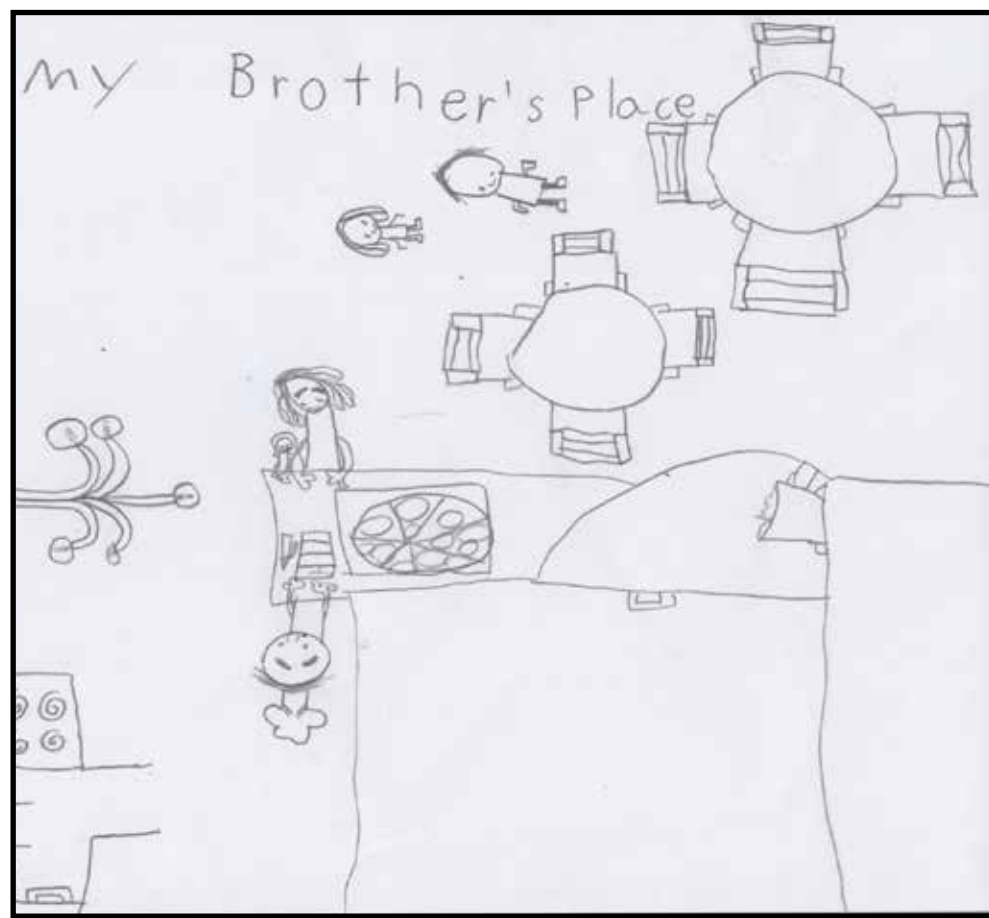
Natalia Guadace - 2nd Alamosa Elementary School



Lily Sullivan - 1st Alamosa Elementary School



Markeeta Martinez - 6th Ortega Middle School



Etta Eaton - Kindergarten Alamosa Elementary School



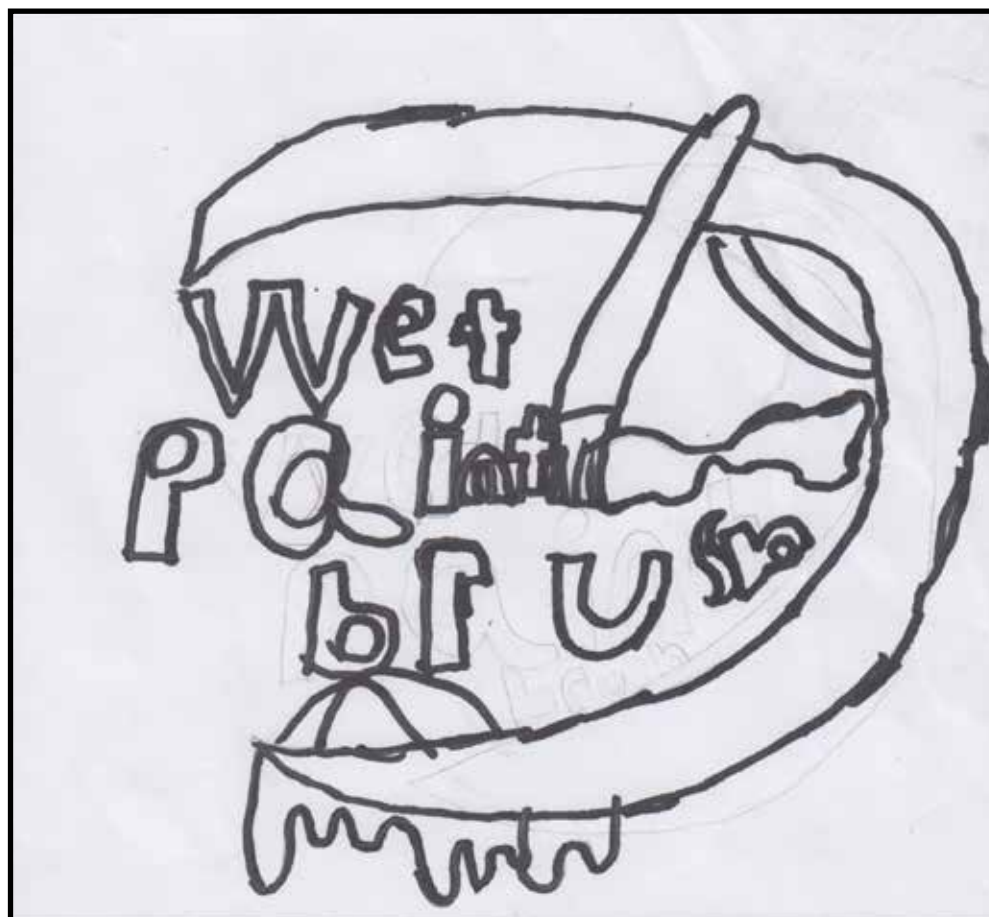
Elise Cardenas - 2nd Alamosa Elementary School



Xyliana Martinez - 6th Ortega Middle School



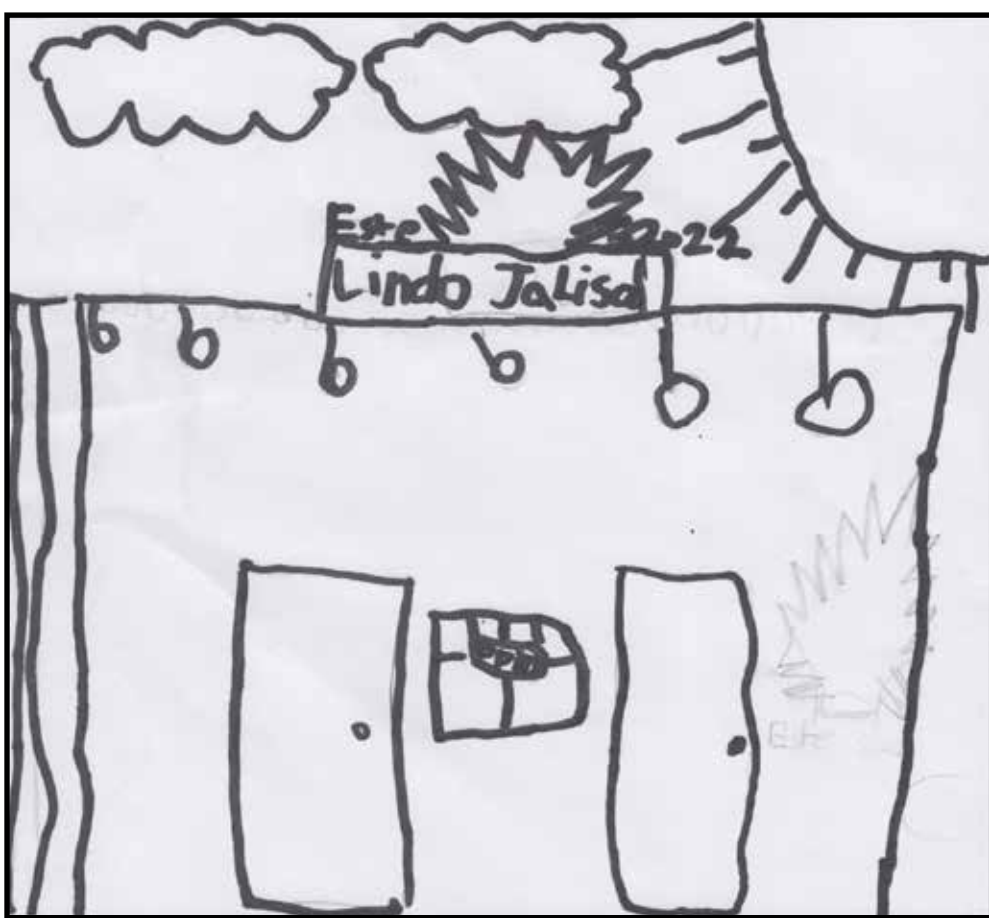
Riley - 1st Alamosa Elementary School



Wilhelmina Miles - 2nd Alamosa Elementary School



1st Alamosa Elementary School



Nevaeh Martinez - 1st Alamosa Elementary School



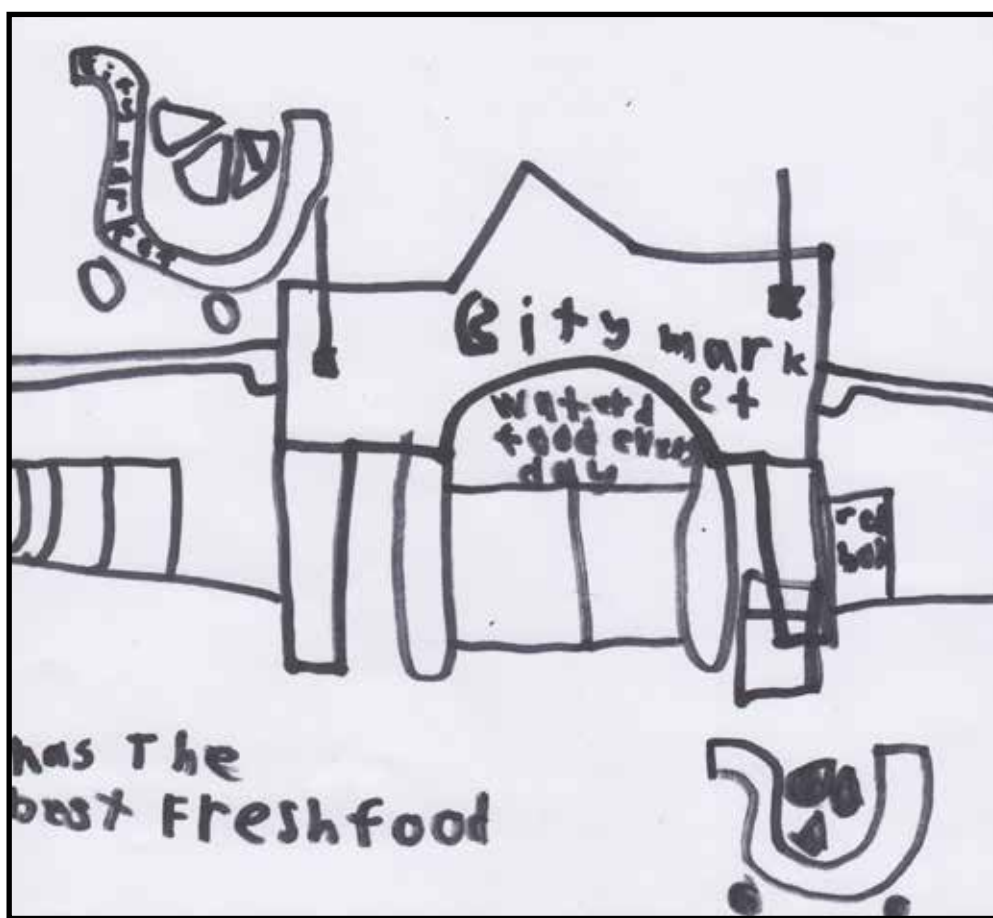
Rosi Jose - Juan - 2nd Alamosa Elementary School



Kalli Higgins - 6th Ortega Middle School



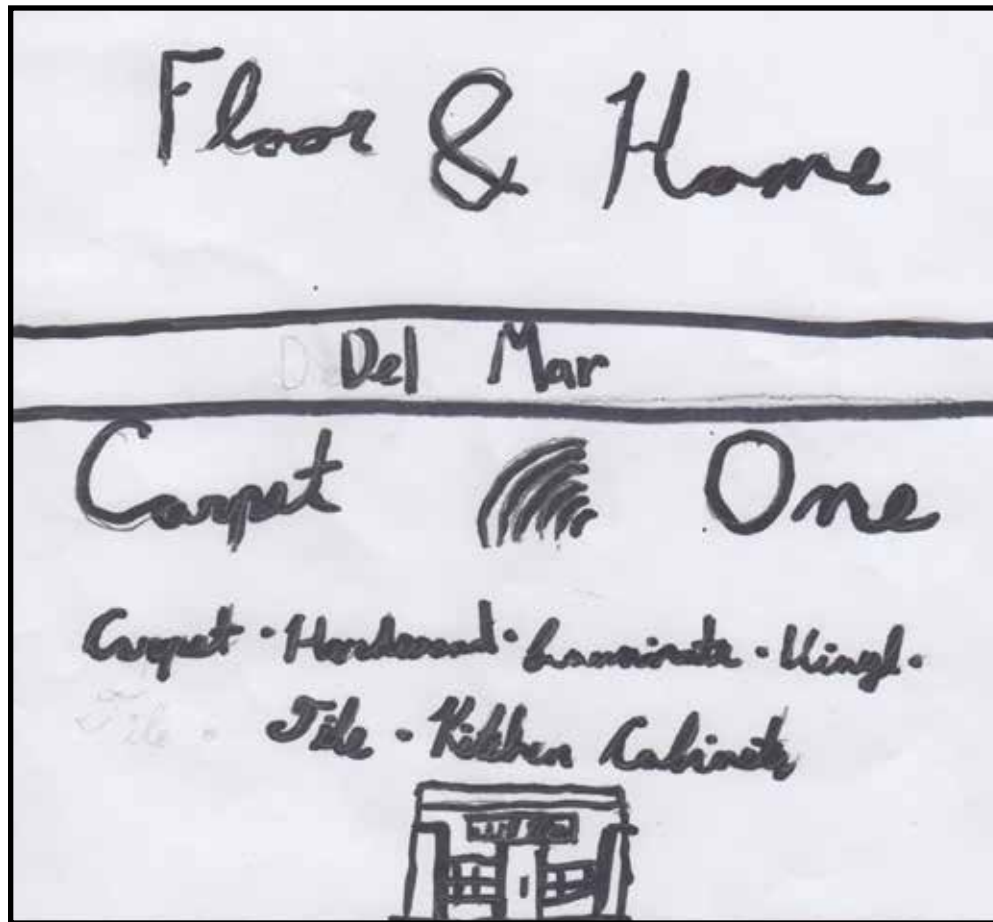
Alica Merriman - 3rd Alamosa Elementary School



Tresten Pleasley - 6th Ortega Middle School



Eliza Baker - 2nd Alamosa Elementary School



Kiley Cantu - 7th Ortega Middle School



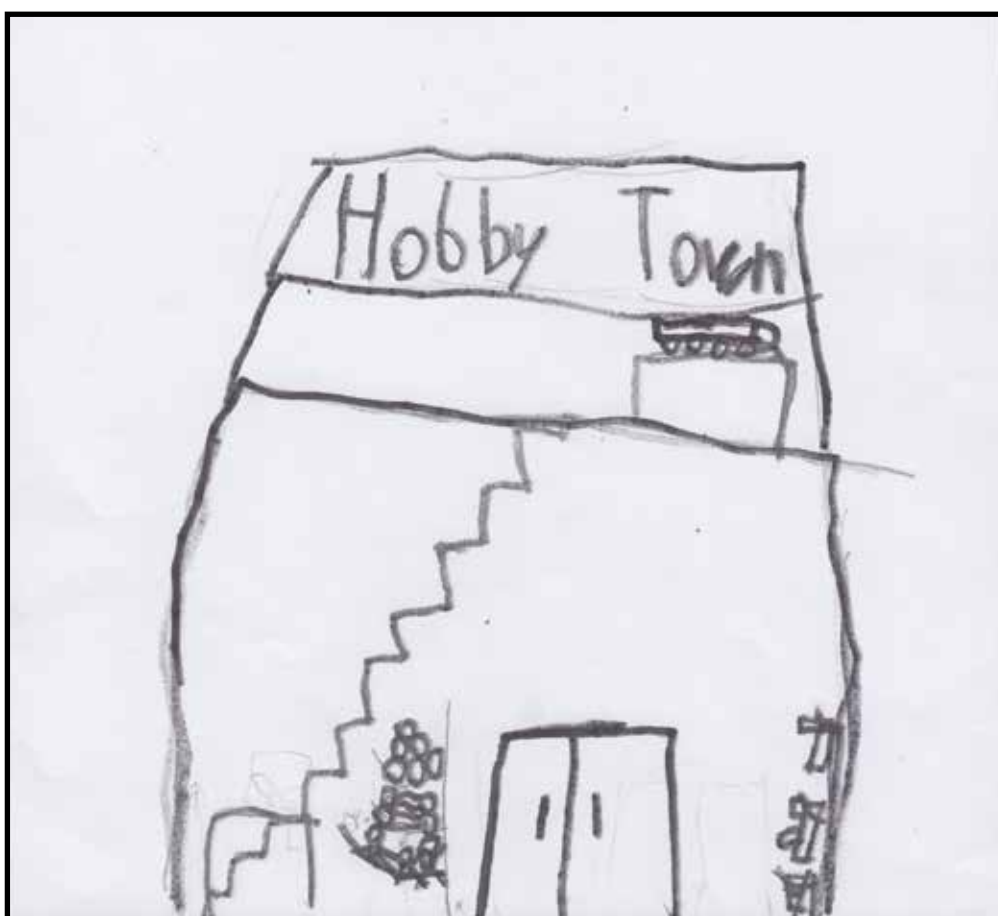
Sydney Estrada - 3rd Alamosa Elementary School



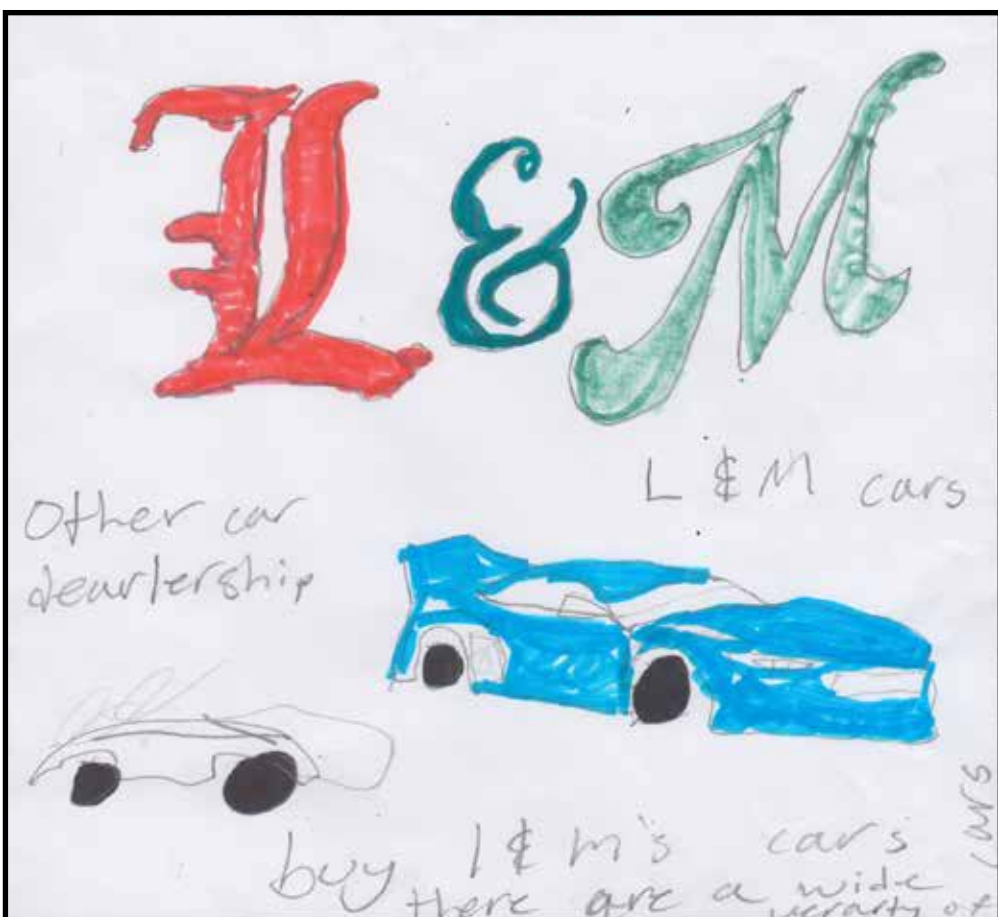
Lilly Bea Burris - 1st Alamosa Elementary School



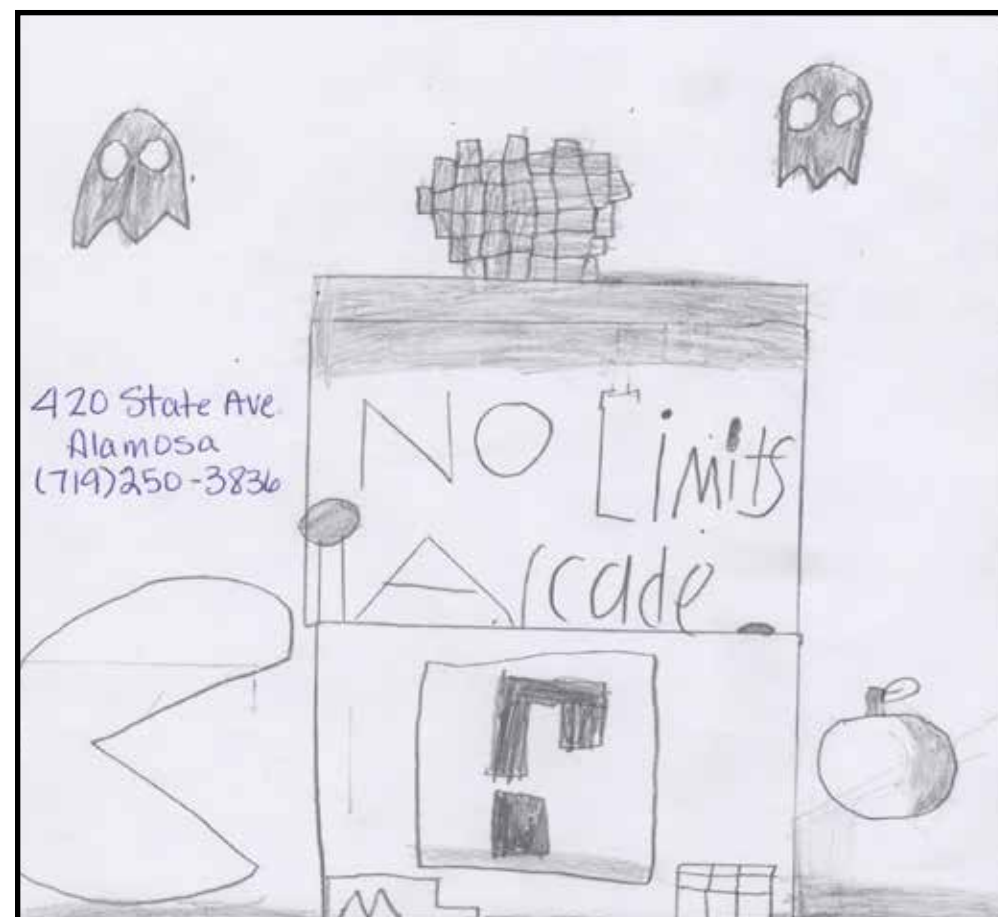
Yelitza Salvio - 6th Ortega Middle School



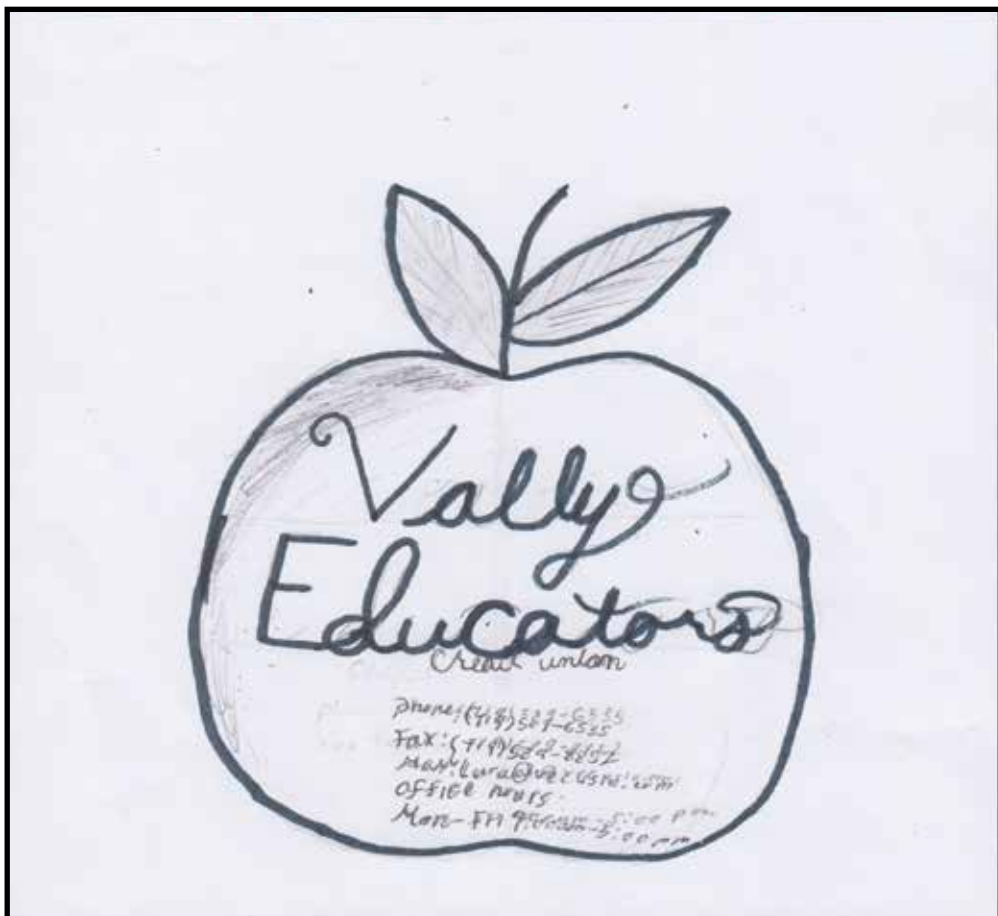
John - 1st Alamosa Elementary School



Ivan Ibarra - 7th Ortega Middle School



Quinn Pietsch - 3rd Alamosa Elementary School



Jasmine Kela - 7th Ortega Middle School



Neriah Atencio - 7th Ortega Middle School



Uriah Navves - 7th Ortega Middle School



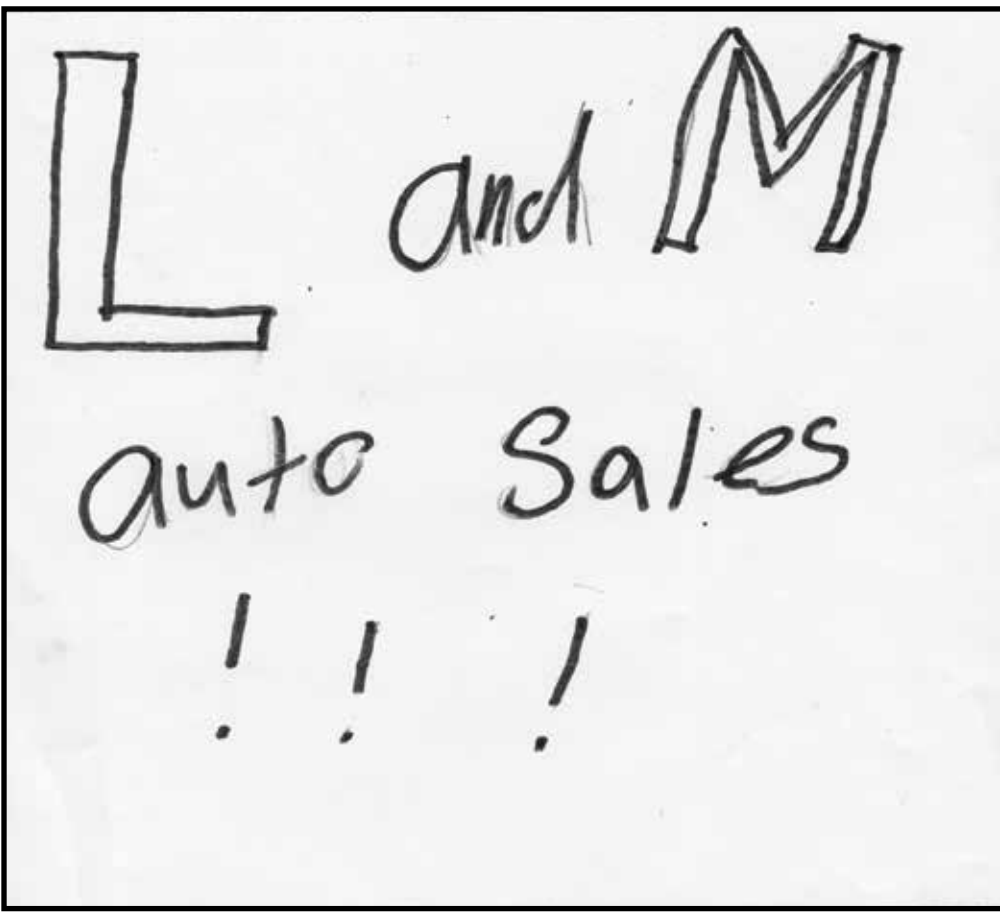
Zacarias Sanchez - 7th Ortega Middle School



Peyton Harmon - 6th Ortega Middle School



Deon Arellano - 2nd Alamosa Elementary School



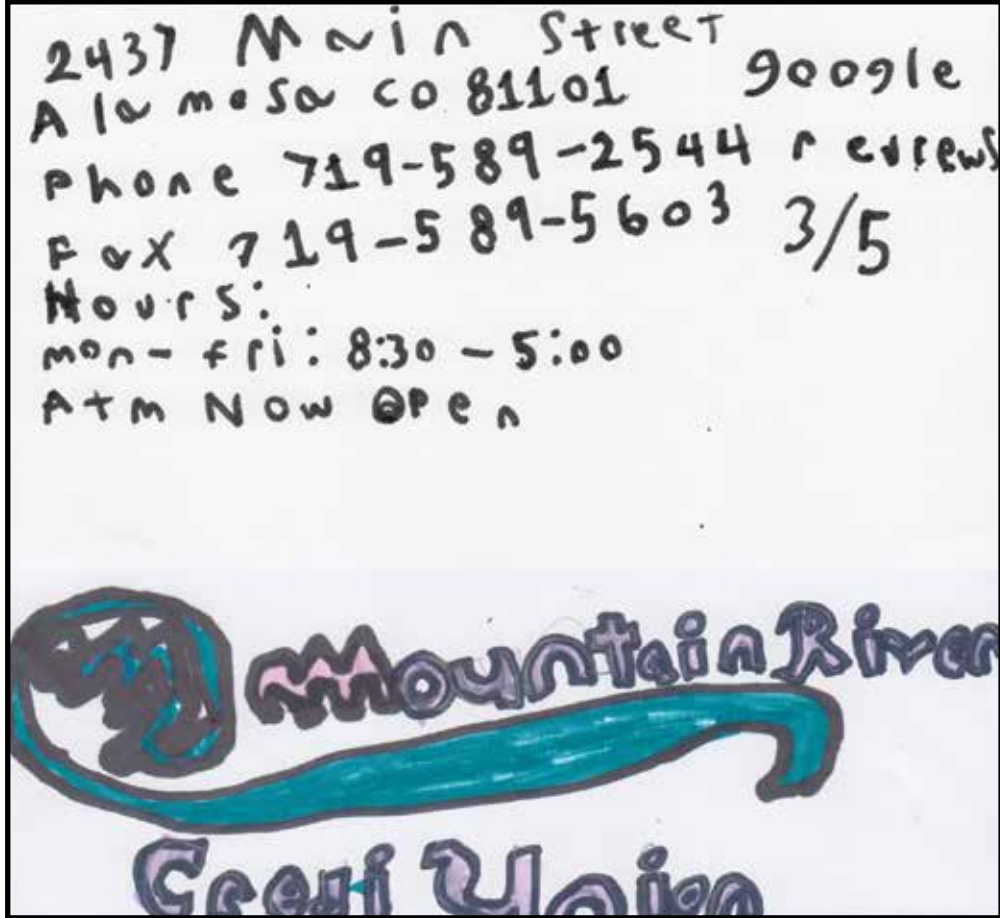
Jaelynn Martinez - 6th Ortega Middle School



Seth Werner - 6th Ortega Middle School



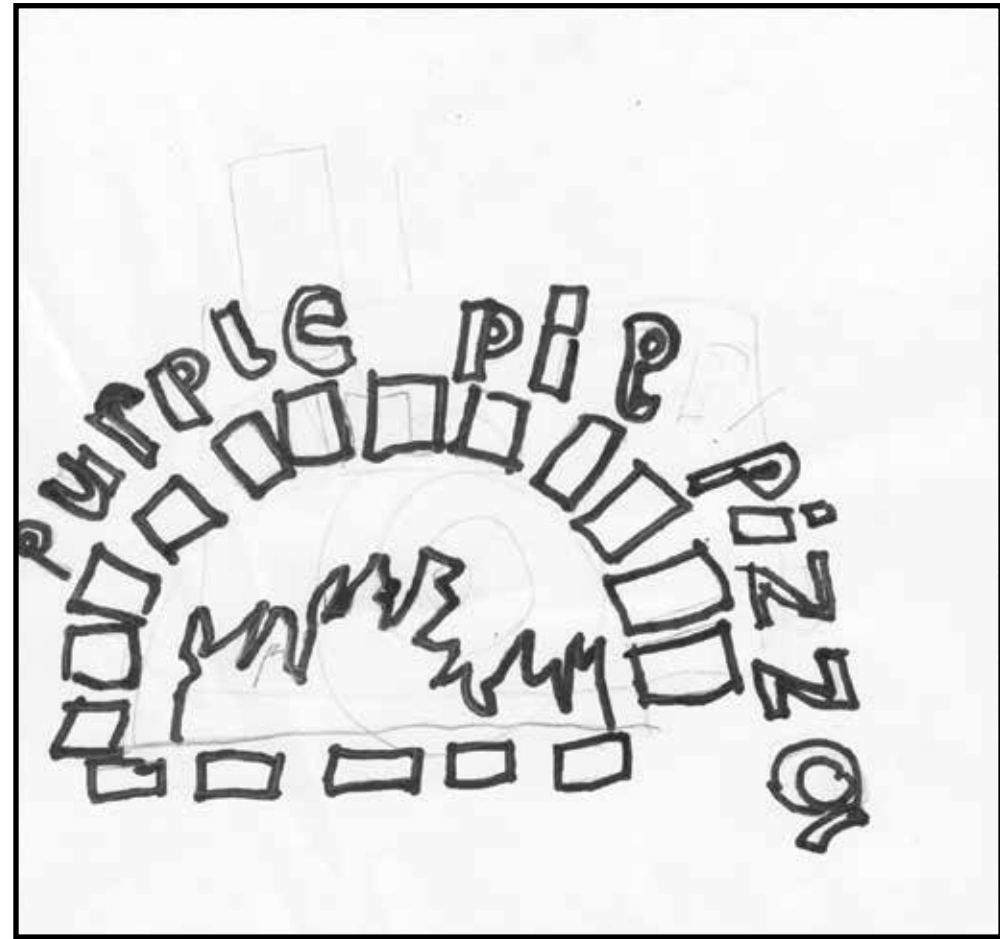
Oscar Villalobos - 1st Alamosa Elementary School



Rayne Vragon - 6th Ortega Middle School



Kole Wilkinson - 6th Ortega Middle School



Jenna Lujan - 1st Alamosa Elementary School