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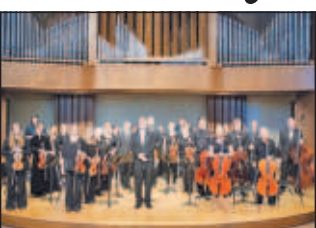
May 4, 2024

\$1



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SLV Today



'Rhapsody in Blue' at Adams State today

ALAMOSA — The San Luis Valley Symphony will present George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" in its 100th anniversary year, under the direction of Dr. William Lipke on Saturday, May 4, at Adams State University.

"Rhapsody in Blue" is one of the great symphonic contributions of the 20th century and combines classical music with jazz.

Soloists will include Lipke on piano, Dr. Brooke Miller on clarinet, Dr. James Lind on trumpet and Dr. Mark Garberich on trombone. Also to be performed is the J. S. Bach: "Concerto in A Major for Keyboard and Orchestra" and G. F. Handel: "Largo" from the opera "Xerxes."

Admission is \$5 adults, \$1 students and free to AS&F.

Vecinos Community Coffee

FORTGARLAND — On May 9, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., meet at the Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center for warm beverages, good platica, and conversation with neighbors.

This is a free event. This event is in the Mess Hall at Fort Garland Museum with parking and an entrance at the building's rear.

SLV WEATHER



Chance of Showers, Breezy 67/35

Sun: Mostly Sunny, Very Windy 71/37

Mon: Sunny, Windy 56/31

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Adre Baroz gets five life sentences

Julius Baroz sentenced to 25 years in DOC

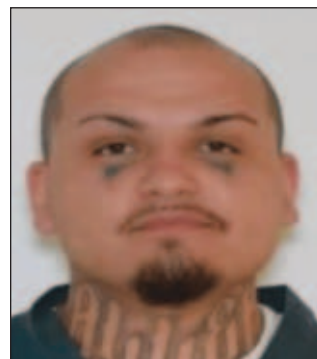
By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter
ALAMOSA — On Friday, District Judge Michael Gonzales sentenced Adre Baroz, 29, to the Department of Corrections where he will serve five consecutive life sentences

without the possibility of parole for the murders of Korina Arroyo, Selena Esquibel, Myron Robert Martinez, Xavier Zeven Garcia and Shayla Hamel.

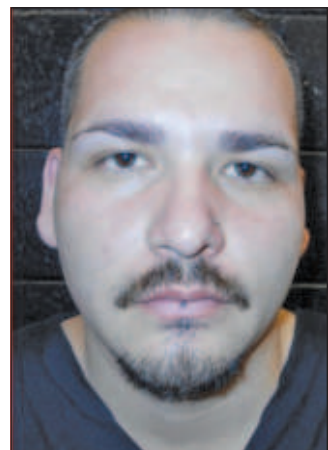
As court documents in each case obtained by the Valley Courier revealed, Baroz brutally murdered the five people — including his youngest victim, Selena Esquibel, who was 19 years old — over a span of seven weeks — Aug. 25, 2020, to Nov. 13,

2020. Gonzales further sentenced Baroz to an additional total of 140 years for two counts of assault, one count of kidnapping and five counts of tampering with the remains of a deceased human body. As with the charges of murder in the first degree, the additional charges will be served consecutively.

"You're going to be locked up for the rest of your life," Gonzales said to Baroz.



Adre Baroz is sentenced to serve five consecutive life sentences.



Julius Baroz is sentenced to the maximum 25 years.

■ See BAROZ page 3

San Luis lands over \$725k in grants

Will be used to improve its Town Plaza



Courier photo by John Waters

The San Luis Museum and Cultural Center was constructed in 1935 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The building became the San Luis Institute of Arts and Crafts, a branch of Adams State College. After World War II, it was converted to the Centennial High School. In 1980, a \$1 million federal project remodeled and expanded the old high school into a cultural center. The town recently received \$725,000 in grants for a Town Plaza.

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor
COSTILLA COUNTY — The Town of San Luis has been awarded \$544,777 from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs and \$181,000 from the Colorado Department of Transportation to improve its Town Plaza.

Town Clerk Teddy Leinbach said of the project, "The plaza is just north of the Town Hall... with this grant, we are going to take out a few trees, redo all the pavement, and make this a much nicer space to enjoy, visitors will be able to enjoy it after walking the Stations of the Cross.

This will be a hub for all of our events, Santana, and Founders Day. We will have pavilions, a fountain, lots of greenery, and spaces for food trucks and other vendors. We envision it to be a focal point of our Main Street."

Leinbach said while there is not yet a specific date for the groundbreaking, he is hopeful it will be within a month or so.

"Susan Sanderford (Town Manager) has been working on this grant for about five years, Covid delayed it a lot. She came up with this, there has been planning and community input and the writing of the grants to get it implemented and constructed," said Leinbach.

The Town of San Luis has also recently received

■ See GRANTS page 3

ASU Commencement Ceremonies May 11

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University 2024 Spring Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 11, in Plachy Hall. Colorado Department of Higher Education Chief Educational Equity Officer Gillian McKnight-Tutein, Ph.D., is the commencement speaker.

McKnight-Tutein plans to provoke thoughts for this year's graduating

class and for all who supported these students on their journey.

"There is benefit and burden in achieving any goal. Both are necessary to thrive," she says.

Her commencement address plans to invigorate a sense of purpose about how the graduates might choose to traverse the next steps on their journey.

"Breaking barriers means making decisions with good information, surrounding yourself with

the right people, and creating a legacy with your own vibe," she says.

McKnight-Tutein's goal as the chief educational equity officer at the Colorado Department of Higher Education is to act as an advocate for educational equity initiatives and systemic change at all of Colorado's institutions of higher education (IHE's) that result in better experiences and outcomes for historically underrepresented

■ See ASU page 3



Gillian McKnight-Tutein will deliver the Adams State 2024 Spring Undergraduate Commencement address.



Adams State Admissions Director Kara Gaffney is the Adams State 2024 Spring Post-graduate Commencement Speaker.

The title may offend, but the play hits the mark

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — The play being performed at the SLV Federal Bank Main Stage Theater on the campus of Adams State University (ASU) in Alamosa. It may have an off-putting title, the with strong performances by a talented cast and the vision of director and Associate Professor with ASU's Theatre Department George McConnell, Ph.D., "Stupid F**king Bird" hits the mark.

Adapted from Anton Chekhov's "The Seagull,"

Aaron Posner's play is, as McConnell puts it, about the "the impossibility of love...that appears at the right time, in the wrong place, and with the wrong person...or the wrong

■ See PLAY page 3

Cast of 'Stupid F**king Bird' on stage at ASU SLV Federal Bank Main Stage Theater. Pictured left to right: Emi Norfolk (Sorn), Javier Rodriguez (Dev), in the back Nate Pixley (Trigorin), foreground Jay Loebeck (Emma), Lizzie Wilson (Mash) and Carson Leaf (Conrad).

Courtesy photo



Chad Spearman

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Record

OBITUARY

Rudy Jaramillo



Loved and cherished, Rudy Jaramillo, 80 years of age, went to be with his Lord and Savior on April 27, 2024. Rudy was born in Center, Colo., on Aug. 2, 1943, to Albert S Jaramillo and Floriada Tafoya Jaramillo.

Rudy graduated from Center High School in Center, Colo. Rudy took courses at Adams State College in Alamosa and later got his associate's degree at the University of Boulder in Boulder Colorado. Then he went on to receive his bachelor's degree at Arapaho State

College in Denver, Colo. Rudy was employed by Logan Mental Institute for 25 years. Rudy resided in Denver, Colo., till his passing. Rudy is survived by his

sister Patty Jaramillo, sister-in-law Cora Jaramillo, his nephew Albert Jaramillo who he loved very much, and many nephews and nieces.

Rudy was preceded in death by his parents Albert and Floriada Jaramillo and his brothers Sammy, Johnny, George, Paul and sister Helen Jaramillo.

Rudy will be missed and forever loved. The family chose cremation per his wishes. His ashes will be buried at the foot of his parents' graves at a later time.

12th Judicial District accepting applications for VALE Board vacancy

CONTRIBUTED ALAMOSA — The 12th Judicial District is accepting applications for one vacancy on the Victims Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) Board serving Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande and Saguache counties.

The five-member board provides grant funds to community and criminal justice agencies providing direct victim services in the district. Board members decide how to allocate funds for grants requested through a competitive application process.

Each of the state's judicial districts has a VALE board whose members

are appointed by the chief judge to a three-year term; each member may serve up to two consecutive terms. In the 12th Judicial District, the preference is for a varied board including representation from each of the counties in the district.

Board members are expected to attend a minimum of four meetings per year, be able to read and understand basic financial reports, and read meeting materials in advance to be able to participate in discussions. Knowledge of community resources and trauma-informed victim services is helpful.

Letters of interest are being accepted through



May 31. Letters should include information about any prior board service and reasons for wanting to serve on the VALE Board.

Letters of interest must be received by Court Executive Kyle Gustafson, 8955 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101, or via e-mail at kyle.gustafson@judicial.state.co.us, by May 31.

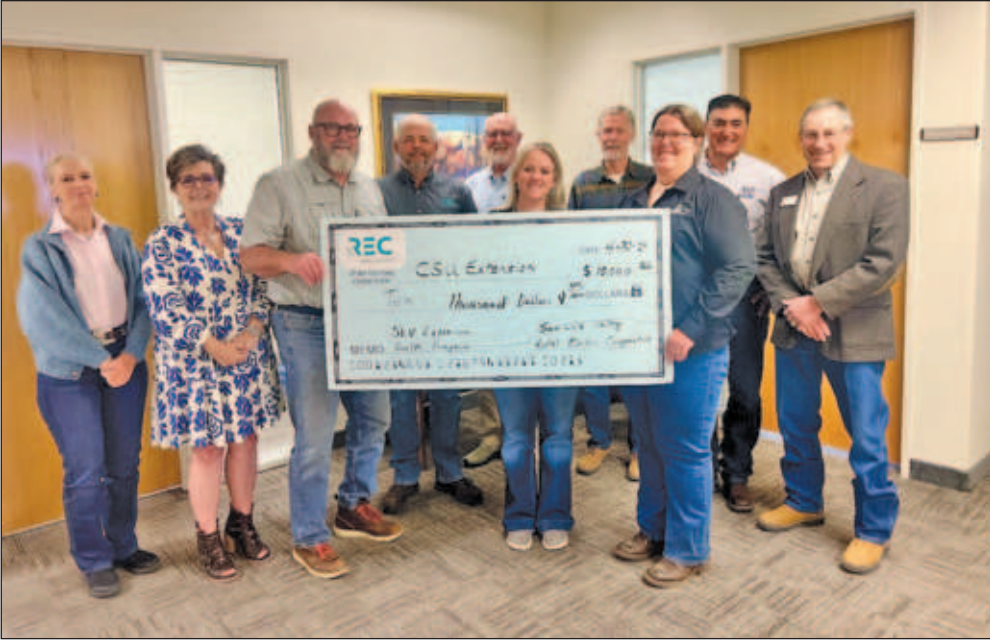


Photo Courtesy of CSU Extension

From left to right, Carol Lee Dugan, Kim Wakasugi, Scott Wolfe, Keenan Anderson, Creede Hargraves, Janea Naranjo, Wade Lockhart, Mollie Wells, Stephen Valdez, Larry Brown.

CSU Extension receives grant from the SLVREC Energy Foundation

CONTRIBUTED MONTE VISTA — The Colorado State University SLV Area Extension office would like to thank San Luis Valley Rural Electric Coop for its donation of \$10,000 to the endowment fund from the SLVREC Energy Foundation.

Beginning in 2021, the SLV Extension office has been in a rebuilding period. After years of instability and a reduction of staff, Larry Brown has stepped into the leadership role to rebuild the extension in the San Luis

Valley. In the last two years, the full-time staff has doubled. Operating now with a Director/Ag Specialist, a Youth Development/4-H Specialist, a Family and Consumer Science Specialist, a Juntos 4-H Specialist, and Office Administrator. Their newest addition, made possible by 3 years of funding from the Outcall Foundation, is a second 4-H Specialist. Brown's team focus now is to secure permanent funding for an additional 4-H agent.

"We are extremely

grateful and appreciative of all who have generously jumped on board and contributed to the project. Once our funding in the endowment fund is secured, this community driven project will leave a lasting legacy for our youth," officials stated.

If anyone is interested in donating to the endowment fund, checks can be dropped off at the SLV Extension office at 1899 E. Hwy 160 in Monte Vista or mailed to PO Box 30 Monte Vista, CO 81144. If you have any questions, call 719-852-7381.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

VALLEY — The San Luis Valley offers many Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous groups.

A.A. and N.A members primary purpose is to

stay sober and help other alcoholics/addicts to achieve sobriety.

There are AA and NA 12-Step Meetings throughout the valley. The 6th Tradition states that we are not affili-

ated with any outside organizations, but in the spirit of cooperation, we list these meeting schedules for friends and family. For information, call 719-937-5083 or see our website:slvaa.org

Creede School District hires Birdsey as superintendent

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**

CREEDE — The Creede School District Board of Education recently announced the hiring of Susan Birdsey as its new superintendent.

She replaces Keith Crispell, who was tabbed to be the next Prentice School District administrator in Wisconsin. PSD made its hire public in early April.

Having lived in the Creede area for several years and owning the Ramble House, Birdsey says she is more than excited to get back to her educational roots and is looking forward to serving the district and community of Creede.

"I worked for the district for about 10 years before moving on and securing an administrative background in education. I am really excited to be coming back home and to serving the community I have grown to love," she said.

Birdsey spent the first half of her educational career in Creede before moving on to Rifle where she worked as principal. After 10 years in Rifle, Birdsey then moved on to serve as interim principal for a district in Grand Junction where she will finish out the school year before heading back to Creede.

"I really enjoyed bringing my experience from a small school district like Creede to the larger districts. It afforded me the ability to be well informed on several educational areas and gave me a unique perspective that I was able to use while pursuing my administrative experience," said Birdsey.

During her time at the Creede District, Birdsey did what many of the teachers and staff do at the school and taught several topics and class-



Susan Birdsey

es. From journalism and English language arts to high school Spanish, Birdsey speaks about her time with enthusiasm and excitement.

"I really enjoyed working for the district and look forward to doing so again," she said.

Birdsey comes to her new position with an undergraduate degree from the University of Texas El Paso, a bachelor's in Education, a master's in Educational Leadership, and a doctorate in Education from Walden University.

Birdsey starts with the Creede School District in July and for the first year is looking forward to getting to know the students, teachers and staff.

"My first goal is to just watch and learn. Things and people have changed since I last taught in this district and I want the opportunity to learn before I commit to any changes big or small," explained Birdsey. "I want to show respect for the district

and learn, build relationships and figure out what the district needs."

In addition to getting to know the district, Birdsey also plans on working with the community of Creede and to have public discussion pertaining to topics like enrollment.

"Every district has discussions on how to increase enrollment. Just like in other communities, enrollment should be a community discussion because it involves so much more than just bringing in new students. You have to talk about housing, transportation and the things that make your district a place where parents want to send their students," she said.

Birdsey is excited to start her new position and is also looking forward to coming home to family.

"I am excited to come back to where I began my educational career and to be home with family," she said.

Laughlin Gulch prescribed burn planned

'Burn window' becoming likely week of May 13

By RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST DEL NORTE — Conditions on the Laughlin Gulch prescribed fire project west of Saguache are becoming favorable for ignitions to begin as early as May 14.

Rio Grande National Forest fire managers have been closely monitoring the site and report that the fine fuels are beginning to green-up, one of the planned control features for the burn. Based on the current weather forecast, they are projecting the other elements of the burn plan will be in alignment soon. Ignitions will take place only if conditions meet treatment objectives.

"The Laughlin Gulch prescribed fire aims to treat approximately 105 acres of slash, designed to improve winter range habitat conditions for area big game," said Tristram Post, Saguache District Ranger. "We are pleased to be working with our Bureau of Land Management and Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control partners on this project."

Part of the La Garita Hills Restoration Project, this Saguache Ranger District burn area is approximately 10 miles west of Saguache, CO. The larger area of the project covers approximately 210 acres and fire will be applied where it has the most opportunity

to provide benefit to the resource. Due to the location of the fire, smoke will be visible from around the San Luis Valley and will be heavier locally. No significant smoke impacts are expected.

Burning will be announced on the Rio Grande National Forest Facebook and X social media platforms.

For information on the Rio Grande National Forest, call 719-850-2374.

School Menu
Monday
May 6, 2024

BREAKFAST
Cereal/Graham Crackers
Fruit & Milk
ELEMENTARY
Tamales/Salsa
Corn
Muffin
Fruit & Milk
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Tamales/Salsa
Corn
Muffin
Fruit & Milk
HIGH SCHOOL
Tamales/Salsa
Corn
Muffin
Fruit & Milk
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Alamosa School District
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Please email obituaries if possible to 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

Mortensen is Alamosa Teacher of the Year



Photo courtesy of ASD

Luis Murillo, assistant superintendent of the Alamosa School District said this about Megan Mortensen, Teacher of the Year, 'Megan embodies ASD's core beliefs through her practice as a teacher. She creates a sense of belongingness for all students by utilizing Capturing Kids' Hearts. She also holds every student accountable to academic growth, achievement, and growth through their skills. ASD is proud to recognize and celebrate Megan for all that she does for students and families.' From left to right, Diana Jones, Heidi Richardson, Michelle Wilson, Megan Mortensen, Ryan Mortensen, Christian DeLaOliva, and Luis Murillo.

ASU

Continued from Page 1 and marginalized students from all backgrounds and experiences.

An award-winning educator, McKnight-Tutein has served in executive roles in academic and student affairs at Colorado Mesa University, Community College of Denver, and Front Range Community College. In over 18 years in higher education, she has focused her equity work on access, closing attainment gaps, concurrent enrollment, assessment, instructional design, curriculum, and funding. McKnight-Tutein received the 2022 Bernice Joseph Leadership Award developed by

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education's (WICHE). In 2023, she was chosen as one of the Top 50 Women Leaders of Colorado and was chosen as an Aspen Rising Presidents Fellow.

First-generation student from Monte Vista, Jovanna Arroyo will convey the message from the Adams State Class of 2024. A sociology major, Arroyo is an active member of the International Sociology Honors Society. She served on the Associated Student and Faculty including as vice president of finance. She appreciates the support from faculty and staff for always encouraging her and believing in her abilities.

During the spring under-

graduate commencement ceremony, Adams State will award 258 undergraduate degrees including 125 Associates; 56 Bachelor of Arts; 72 Bachelor of Science; and 5 Bachelor of Fine Arts. Duane Bussey will deliver a greeting from the Board of Trustees.

Post-graduate Ceremony

The 2024 Spring Graduate Commencement Ceremony begins at 1:30 p.m. Adams State Director of Admissions Kara Gaffney, is the commencement speaker.

Gaffney is a higher education enrollment management leader from Westfield, Massachusetts. She was an associate director of admissions for processing operations at

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Her previous experience as a secondary educator in College Prep and Life Management skills inspired her to pursue a career and degree in Higher Education Administration and Leadership.

During the spring graduate commencement ceremony, Adams State will award 522 degrees including: 460 MA degrees; 21 MS; 35 MBA; and 6 Doctorate degrees. Mark Manzanares will serve as faculty marshal and Duane Bussey will deliver a greeting from the Board of Trustees.

For those unable to attend in person, the events will be livestreamed at adams.edu/live.

Grants

Continued from Page 1 a federal \$500,000 — Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funded through the bipartisan infrastructure law. The funds are all revitalization-focused, with projects ranging from the removal of asbestos, mercury, and other hazardous materials.

EPA officials were in San Luis last month and

in an interview with the Valley Courier, EPA Regional administrator KC Becker said the grant was made possible by working with grant facilitator JSI International, "This is a great thing, they have to handle the burden of all the federal compliance. For these small grants, it is hard to apply, you need a full-time person to do the paperwork. With this, you can reach smaller communities. I love it, we can get dollars all over the place."

San Luis is experiencing a renaissance, since 2011, the non-profit Aequia Institute has received over \$3 million in grants to finance the San Luis Food Sovereignty Initiative to acquire the R&R Market in San Luis, finance farm equipment, conduct outdoor education and other projects.

Regarding the economic benefit the restoration of the R&R Market will have, Town Manager Sanderford said, "This is

really important, it is the heart of our downtown. This has been the gathering place for locals, so it is really important we get this up and going. We are supportive and will do whatever the Town can do to get this functioning again."

Sanderford has been successful in obtaining other grants including those from the Gates Family Foundation and the Colorado Health Foundation.

Play

Continued from Page 1 time, in the wrong place, and with the right person, or..."

It's smart, darkly comedic and punctuated by scenes that are sometimes surprising, sometimes poignant, sometimes tragic but laced throughout with searing lines of insightful dialogue that have the audience laughing while also thinking "ouch" and wondering who has been reading their texts.

The result is a script that's evocative, fast paced, savvy and, on occasion, requires actors to be personally courageous on stage. But McConnell, who teaches acting at ASU, pulls compelling performances from the actors who show they are more than up to the task.

Carson Leaf, who plays Conrad — a young, anguished, raging play-

wright — is bold and athletic with an intensity that would be exhausting were it not matched with a clear command of his character and the ability to shift mood without missing a beat. Jay Lobeck, who plays Emma, Conrad's mother, has a caustic, comedic presence that resonates with the audience.

Livv Huffmaster as Nina, an aspiring actress, personifies an insecure yet deceptive vulnerability that reveals itself when she attempts to seduce Trigorin, a famous, well-respected writer played by Nate Pixley. Pixley exudes confidence on stage, not just as his character but as an actor, with a talent that makes him as believably debonair with Nina as he is believable when dominated by the controlling Emma. Lizzie Wilson, as the black clad, ukelele playing, miserable Mash, imbues her depressive character with

a pragmatic and unintended wit.

Rounding out the cast, Javier Rodriguez provides timely comic relief as Dev, an unassuming, down-to-earth, common-sense foil who voices what some in the audience are undoubtedly thinking. In a theater that seats several hundred, Rodriguez would do well to project better so that none of his well-timed, well-delivered lines are lost. Finally, Emi Norfolk, sporting bushy white eyebrows and mustache, plays Sorn, Emma's elderly brother who, while commenting on the action from a distance, emerges as an amusing yet tragic man.

In an unexpected turn in Act One, the audience is pulled into the play when the fourth wall vanishes and Con sits down on the edge of the stage, asks for advice on how to make Nina love him and waits for a response.

When suggestions finally come, Leaf shows a knack for clever improvisation.

Interaction with the audience was surprising but what would one expect? It was a play about the theatre. And if that wasn't warning enough, the first line delivered by Con, spelled it out. "The play will begin when someone says, Start the f**king play!"

"Stupid F**king Bird" is about two and half hours long and, for those who remain concerned, yes, there's an abundance of f-bombs in the script. But it's an enjoyable two-and-a-half hours that kept audience members in their seats the entire time.

"Stupid Fucking Bird" has two more performances: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 4, plus 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 5. Tickets can be purchased at www.adams.edu/academics/undergraduate/theatre/purchase-tickets/.

Baroz

Continued from Page 1

David Lipka, defense counsel, told the court Baroz takes full responsibility for his actions and entered his guilty plea to

"spare the victims' families the pain of a court trial." Lipka also said that extensive psychological evaluations revealed that Baroz's actions were attributed to methamphetamine induced psychosis.

"That is not an excuse for his actions," Lipka said. "It's just an explanation."

In separate proceedings, Julius Baroz, the 34-year-old older brother of Adre Baroz, was given the maximum sentence of 25 years for pleading guilty to criminal conspiracy to commit murder in the death of Myron Martinez.

According to documents from the court obtained by the Valley Courier, Adre Baroz was attempting to murder Myron Martinez and called for Julius to help him. Documents say that Julius held Martinez down while his younger brother slit his throat.

In sentencing him, District Judge Gonzales said,

"I'll see you're different from your brother. You've supported members of your family. You're this wonderful dad who's done all these things. You've worked. People in your family love you.

"But I'm sentencing you because of what you've done. You made the choice and the decision to hold Myron Martinez down. If there's one person who could have saved some lives in this situation, it was you. You could have saved other people's lives, but you didn't. You made the choice not to, and you robbed Myron's parents

the chance to see him grow up as you will see your children grow up. I understand he's your brother, but you did nothing to stop him.

"To sentence you to anything less than the maximum allowed under the law would be a disservice to Myron Martinez and his family who will never be the same."

Francisco Ramirez, the third co-defendant, had not been sentenced as of press time. A more comprehensive story of the close of the Los Sauces case will appear in the Valley Courier next week.

Important Notice for Landowners: Opportunity to Sell Water Rights to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District

What's Happening? Many areas in Colorado rely on groundwater from wells for their irrigation needs. Through Groundwater Management Subdistricts here in the San Luis Valley there have been efforts to reduce the reliance on groundwater, but there's still work to be done!

What's Funding is Available? The state created the "Groundwater Compact Compliance and Sustainability Fund," to help us address our sustainability issues. With these funds, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District created a program and is offering money to landowners who are willing to reduce their use of their groundwater rights either completely or partially.

How Can You Participate? The Rio Grande Water Conservation District is taking applications from landowners who meet program criteria and are willing to sell their groundwater rights to the District. Successful applicants will receive payment from this Fund.

Details and Application:

- You can find out more and get the program criteria and application form on the District's website at rgwcd.org. You can also visit the District's office at 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO, 81101, or by call the office at (719) 589-6301.
- Applications can be submitted beginning on April 22, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. and will end on May 31, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.
- Completed applications can be emailed to wylie@rgwcd.org or dropped off at the District's Office.

Don't miss this limited opportunity if you're interested in getting paid for conserving groundwater!

ATTENTION ASU STUDENTS!

If you have a pet PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE AND DO NO ABANDON THEM, OR DUMP THEM AS THEY WILL MOST LIKELY PERISH.

When leaving college for the summer. Please be conscious of them, and their care and needs.

If you cannot take your pet with you and find that you are in a bind as to where to place your Pet you can take them to the local shelter Denver Dumb Friends League by the Airport, or contact The Valley Humane League at 719-580-4014.

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY COLORADO

Great Stories Begin Here

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

SUNDAY • 5	MONDAY • 6	TUESDAY • 7	WEDNESDAY • 8	THURSDAY • 9	FRIDAY • 10	SATURDAY • 11
<p>Play: Stupid F**king Bird 2 p.m. Theatre Building 719-587-8499 or adams.edu/theatre</p>	<p>Finals Week - Study Day - No Classes</p> <p>End of the Year Bash: Live Music, Games, Food Trucks 3 p.m. until 8 p.m. North Campus Green Community Welcome</p>	<p>Finals Week</p>	<p>Finals Week</p> <p>Backpack Cooking: 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. CASA Center, located on northwest corner of Nielsen Library parking lot</p> <p>Zacheis Planetarium Shows Closed Through Summer</p>	<p>Finals Week</p> <p>www.adams.edu</p>	<p>Finals Week</p> <p>Cloyde Snook Gallery Closing Reception: We Were Here BFA graduate exhibition 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Visual Arts Building Free and Open to the Public</p>	<p>Spring Undergraduate Commencement: 10 a.m. Plachy Hall Gym</p> <p>Spring Post-graduate Commencement: 1:30 p.m. Plachy Hall Gym</p> <p>Semillas de la Tierra Performance: 8th Annual Baile de Primavera 6 p.m. Richardson Hall Auditorium</p>
<p>Through May 10, 2024</p> <p>Cloyde Snook Gallery: We Were Here Bachelor of Fine Art Senior Exhibit</p> <p>Gallery Hours: 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday</p>						

Opinion

Keeping wildlife wild

We crept through the dense forest as if our life depended on it. The forest floor was soft and silent from the recent spring snowstorm and the vanishing winter's melting snow. Quietly stalking our targets that we had seen from the ridge an hour before, we weaved through the snow drifts and trees, careful not to make any unnatural sounds.

Slowing our pace as we neared the edge of the tree line, the brightness of the open meadow cast an increasing number of dart-like rays of light through the forest. Taking care to remain in the shadows, the last few feet took a painstaking ten minutes to cover.

Moving slow and purposefully, and filled with excited anticipation, we watched as our quarry began moving around in the meadow.

Oblivious to our presence a mere hundred yards away, the calf elk alternated grazing on the green shoots of grass and with what can only be described as childish antics – running, dodging, jumping, and bobbing their heads in a form of play that presumably had a more meaningful purpose arising from deep within their genes.

We slowly set up the tripod in our chosen shadow with tree branches providing the cover we needed to remain undetected. With the camera in position Daryl slowly lowered his head to the viewfinder. After only a couple seconds of looking he turned to me and frowned.

Switching places, I looked for myself and instantly realized Daryl's disappointment. The sun was in our eyes, nearly washing out the entire frame of the camera, rendering our dreams for an awesome photo to remain in dream status indefinitely.

The silver lining was that we were able to watch this small herd of cow and calf elk in their spring habitat. The social interactions within the herd seemed incredibly complex to me, even though I've been watching elk for years.

We took a few photos just to document the situation and backed out as quietly as we had come in. A glance back, just as the forest blocked our view of the elk, led us to believe they still had no clue that we had been secretly observing their family on this fine spring day.

You probably noticed that we paid

Land, Water and People



Gregg Goodland



particular attention to using a stealthy approach as we neared the meadow. The intent was to not frighten the herd and cause them to run, which can cause undue stress on the animals. Especially in the spring.

Their favorite and most productive forage has been buried under the snow for months and is just now starting to become available for grazing, but certainly not in abundance. The cows have been using stored fat to sustain themselves during the long winter months. They have recently given birth to the calves and their bodies need to recuperate from the stress of calving, nursing their new babies, and simply the long winter.

Of course, the calves just need to eat, drink and get bigger and stronger as fast as they can to ensure their survival. Running in a primal fear will burn critical energy that would be better spent on growing up.

This brings up another point. We often hear of well-intended forest users finding deer fawns or elk calves (or any baby animal for that matter) sitting, almost hiding alone in the woods and, much to our dismay, they bring those wrongly considered abandoned babies to the forest or wildlife offices.

This is not recommended by literally every wildlife agency I can think of. If you see a lone young animal, leave it alone and clear the area as quietly and soon as possible. The most likely scenario that is happening is that the mother purposely placed their baby there so they could come back to it soon. Your presence is probably stopping the mother from returning to the baby.

A common myth to dispel is that "if



Photo by Doug Clark, Rio Grande National Forest Wildlife Biologist

The photo is of a calf elk in the San Juan Mountains.

you touch it, the mother will reject it." That's truly not likely to happen and you should just leave it where it is or put it back. It will most likely be fine.

Finally, I want to discourage everyone from feeding these animals. They are wild and need to stay that way. Instinctually, animals will find food and yes, sometimes it is difficult for them. But, by offering food, you risk developing a reliance on you and altering their natural movement patterns, possibly putting them in danger of roads and predators.

Understand that you cannot always be there for them, and they will always

need food and water. Their natural habitat provides it for them. It always has.

The earlier story happened many years ago and, frankly, I can't imagine even trying to quietly sneak around to get a photo now. I know better and it's just not worth the risk to the wildlife. I urge you all to join me in keeping our wildlife wild.

Gregg Goodland is the Public Affairs Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest. As an avid outdoor enthusiast, he encourages individual stewardship and responsible use of our public lands.

Is counseling useless?

vened upon can lead to withdrawal, self-medicating with alcohol and other drugs, and even suicide. I know a lot more now than I did in my teen years and twenties when I was riddled with depression and intruding thoughts. Back then, no one knew what to do with a teen's changing brain.

Psychiatry, psychology, and counseling tools have changed; the infamous psychiatrist's couch (seen in the 60's movies) might now be a chair, or a table, or a bench by the water. Medical treatment might include new and effective prescriptions that help lessen anxiety and are often used with behavioral therapy. Sometimes the therapy includes mindfulness exercises that help the anxious brain to regroup and redirect. Sometimes Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) is administered. This latter is a process of using stimulation of both sides of the brain to help re-process and integrate traumatic memories (from events such as a car wreck, wartime battle, workplace bullying, or marital abuse).

Therapy has been helping me grow as a human being. Therapy helps me re-

make goals after workplace bullying; it helps me see the connectedness to others who experience the ups and downs of a glass half-full or a glass half-empty. The value of forgiving others and moving forward with aspirations of love and trust is always in the work.

Counseling is work, requiring the seeker to engage in new ways of doing and thinking. Depending on the type of therapy, clients in counseling may be expected to practice new skills between sessions. Exercises might include deep breathing, might be Tapping (Emotional Freedom Technique) that helps the seeker cope better. I have found that Tapping equalizes healing, or as the Tapping solution foundation says "uses emotional statements and meridian energy points" (www.tappingsolution-foundation.org).

For many people, psychological distress, clinical depression, anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder, or symptoms of PTSD, to name a few, cause suffering and disruption to daily life and long-term goals. So many people resist counseling because they still perceive these efforts to heal the mind as

quackery. Yet many people who have worked with a counselor/therapist find the counselor as a helpful guide. I am a much better friend since I have explored the 90-degree twists and some of the 180-degree changes I have made along my journey. For me, counseling has enlightened my soul and brought me closer to God.

So be patient with me, be patient with you. God and my/your counselor are not done with me/you yet.

Write them

GOVERNOR

Governor Jared Polis (D), State Capitol Building Room 136, 200 East Colfax, Denver CO 80203; (303) 866-2471; Fax: (303) 866-2003.

STATE HOUSE

Matthew Martinez (D), Colorado State Representative, District 62, 200 E Colfax, Room 307, Denver, CO 80203; phone: 303-866-2916; email:matthew.martinez.house@coleg.gov

STATE SENATE

Cleave Simpson (R), Colorado State Senator, District 35, 200 E Colfax RM 346 Denver, CO 80203 Phone: 303-866-4875 cleave.simpson.senate@coleg.gov

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Movin' On with Nellie



Nelda Curtiss

There's the notion in the Valley, and elsewhere, that counseling is useless. I firmly disagree. This year, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is celebrating Mental Health Awareness Month with the Take the Moment campaign. They encourage everyone to discuss and grow understanding and compassion (www.nami.org/Get-Involved/Awareness-Events/Mental-Health-Awareness-Month/).

As such, counseling, or therapy, used to be associated with psychoanalysis, in the 50's and 60's. Today there are hundreds of different types of therapies, and access through individual and group therapy, in person or online. Groups are addressing specific court requirements for violent offenders, and those with addictions. There are talk, music, art, and play therapies.

Depression unchecked or not inter-

Keith R Cerny
Publisher

Brian Williams
Managing Editor

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Your FIRST Source for Local News

Religion

What happens when an AI avatar is given a priest's collar?

The penitent crafted the perfect sin to confess to a virtual priest: "Bless me, father, for I have sinned. ... I have had anger in my heart about the deployment of AI chatbots in inappropriate places."

"Father Justin," a 3D AI character created by the San Diego-based Catholic Answers network, offered biblical advice for wrestling with anger.

"God is merciful and loving, my child," the bot concluded. "For your penance, I ask you to pray the Our Father three times, reflecting on God's infinite mercy and love. And now, I absolve you of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

On Religion



Terry Mattingly

Legions of cyberspace believers pounced. One tweeted this cry: "HAIEEEEEEE." Susannah Black Roberts of Plough magazine noted: "Hey @catholiccom your AI 'priest' is offering absolution. Might want to kill it with fire and never do anything like this again."

Online detectives found other flaws. The National Catholic Register noted the app struggled

when turning voices into printed words, translating "Eucharist" as "caressed" or even "you, you, you," while "Communion" became "commute." The Pillar asked if it was possible to baptize "my baby with Gatorade in an emergency," and Father Justin affirmed that option.

"I say this with nothing but respect for you guys and your work, but ... this should've just been a plain search engine," tweeted Father Mike Palmer of the Congregation of Holy Cross. "Dressing it up as a soulless AI avatar of a priest does absolutely nothing except cause confusion and invite mockery of your otherwise excellent work."

Catholic Answers President Christopher Check quickly confessed that his team "received a good deal of helpful feedback." Thus, "Justin" lost his clerical collar.

"We won't say he's been laicized," Check added in a public statement, "because he never was a real priest!" The goal now is to "refine and improve the app by identifying any

deficiencies," noting in particular that Catholic Answers "didn't anticipate that someone might seek sacramental absolution from a computer graphic!"

For ministries considering AI work, the big question is obvious: What now?

"To be sure, while I remain convinced there's a good chance the whole AI boom is likely to end somewhere dark and nasty for humanity, I don't think it is going to be Catholic Answers or anyone else working on similar projects that bring us to our Skynet moment," noted Ed Condon in The Pillar newsletter. "Short of that moment coming, I like and can see the use of AI as a kind of 'super Google' application for searching and returning answers from the enormous historical trove of the Church's accumulated teaching and history."

Nothing that happened during this cyber drama would have surprised anyone who paid close attention to the complex high-tech questions that surfaced in ancient faith traditions during the coronavirus pandemic, such as: Does watching an online Mass count as attending Mass? Creating digital "per-

sons" is going to challenge "what Catholics believe technology can do and can't do," said Brett Robinson of the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame. "When you start debating what is 'embodied' and what is 'disembodied,' that takes us straight into questions that are going to make us uncomfortable. ... Catholicism is an incarnate faith, and there's no way around that."

It's one thing to create a computer that understands human speech and then responds with a digitally created voice offering worthwhile mate-

rial drawn from databases containing centuries of printed sources. It is something else, he noted, when machines are empowered to "offer spiritual advice and counseling."

Millions of people -- especially the young -- now suffer from anxiety, depression and loneliness, while spending myriad hours gazing at smartphones, tablets and computers, noted Robinson, the author of the 2013 book "Appletopia: Media Technology and the Religious Imagination of Steve Jobs." Can ministries use AI to rescue the wounded?

"If I talk to a robot

priest, the odds that I am going to get a real spiritual insight and the guidance that I truly need is way lower than if I deal with a real person," he said. "But if you feel anxious about talking to a real priest, then that kind of human contact is precisely what you may be trying to avoid. Can you solve that problem with an app?"

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.

Bible Digest

he calls them all by their names." (Psalms 147:3-4 AKJV)

The Lord is kind and mighty. Put your trust in Him.

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." (Matthew 5:7 AKJV)

Mercy is a blessing to those who give it and to those who receive it.

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

"From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 4:17 AKJV)

Repent means to turn away from sin and fol-

low Jesus. Jesus died to save us from our sins.

Thursday, May 9, 2024

"I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for you, LORD, only make me dwell in safety." (Psalms 4:8 AKJV)

Sleep well. Put your life in

God's Hands.

Friday, May 10, 2024

"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4 AKJV)

Notice that Jesus said every word not just some of God's Word. We must seek to obey God in all matters.

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.

Catholic
Sacred Heart Church
715 4th Street, Alamosa
Saturday, 4:00 p.m. - Mass
Saturday, 8 a.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: 339-9444
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 Lander Dr., South Fork, Co. 81154
Sunday are at 8 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 Santa Fe, Alamosa
Sunday, 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, 6:00 p.m. M.O.S.H. Youth Night
Worship 2:00-3:00

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, 6:30 p.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. - Bible Study
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

Cornestone 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
205 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
Guaulupe 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-Thursdays

Trinity Lutheran Church & School
52 El Rio Drive, Alamosa
Sunday, 8:45 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@valleynaz.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.valleynaz.com for online
bulletins and service information or call the
number above.

Church of Scientology
5111 Main Street, Suite #12, Alamosa
719-587-5554
Monday and Wednesday, 7-10 p.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

Wearing Love

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony" (Colossians 3:14 NLT).

Love is the highest level of spiritual warfare. We are to "wear" it like a garment, or armor. That's why it's so important to learn to love like the Bible says to -- on purpose. But there are so many angry, wounded, unhappy people in the world. Angry people cannot love others because basically, they just don't love themselves... and you can't give away something you don't have.

Don't get me wrong, I understand there are numerous reasons for people's pain. A lot of times people have been mistreated, many from their childhood into adult life. I've shared my story openly about how my father abused me sexually from a very early age. I grew to believe that it must be my fault -- that there was something wrong with me that made him do that. I became ashamed, embarrassed and angry about my life. I didn't like myself, much less love myself.

How I felt about myself certainly became a major part of how I acted and treated others. Even though I gave my life to Jesus when I was very young, it was years before I began to comprehend the power of God's love. So, I understand the fact that hurting people hurt people.

What I had to learn -- and most of us have gone to learn -- is to love self. You need to first receive God's love and then learn to love yourself in a balanced way before you can truly love your neighbor as yourself. So, learn to love what God loves -- YOU!

God's love will change you. It will make you a happier, kinder, more generous person.

I'm reminded of a story about a young boy who came to his mother and presented her with his "bill" for chores he'd done around the house that week. For cutting the grass, his charge was \$5; for cleaning his room, \$1; for running to the store, \$0; \$1 for taking out the garbage; \$5 for a good report card; and on he went until he gave her the grand total of \$14.75.

The mother looked at the bill, turned the paper over to the backside and began to write. For the nine months I carried you while you were growing inside me, NO CHARGE; for all the nights I sat up with

you, doctored, and prayed for you, NO CHARGE; for all the trying times and the tears you've caused through the years, NO CHARGE; for all the nights that were filled with dread and all the worries I knew were ahead, NO CHARGE; for the toys, the food, the clothes and even for wiping your nose, NO CHARGE. She finally said to him, "Son, when you add it all up, the cost of my love is NO CHARGE!

The boy finished reading what his mother had written, and with tears in his eyes, he turned the paper back over and wrote across his bill: PAID IN FULL.

The moral of this story is true love is free. Real love is not something we can "change" people for. We must not try to make someone pay for our love. "If you're nice to me, I'll love you." "If you do things for me, I'll do things for you." That's not the kind of love of God calls us to. To love like God does, we have to make up our mind that we're going to do it on our purpose.

And many times, that will mean choosing to love, regardless of how we feel about a person. There will be times we will be called to love difficult people or people who have hurt us in some way. We must learn to look beyond the person, or what they did to hurt us, to what the enemy is using them to do. Because as long as we are angry or hating someone for what they've done, we will be the one who is being tormented.

I know I said real love is free. But there is a cost involved for the one who loves. It's called sacrifice. As I've studied love in God's Word over the years, I've learned that it is definitely something we must do on purpose, and if we will make the sacrifice to "put on" love and walk in it, our feelings will catch on.

A minister once told a story about a wife who wanted to divorce her husband. She said she hated him, not only wanted to divorce him, but she wanted to hurt him as much as he'd hurt her. The minister suggested she try something before she went through with the divorce. He told her to go home and "act" as if she really loved her husband. He told her to tell him she loved him, to praise him for every good thing she could think of, to go out of her way (sacrifice) to be as kind and generous to him as she possibly could, to spare no effort to please him, to make him believe in her undying love for him. Then,

for more on this topic, order Joyce's four-part teaching resource *Wearing Love's Battles*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting 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.

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



Alamosa High School third baseman Gus West (left) tags out Sanford's Lucas Miller in Friday's game at Ortega Middle School. The Mean Moose defeated the Mustangs 16-4.

Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

Mean Moose roll to 16-4 win over Mustangs

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor
ALAMOSA — The Alamosa High School baseball team defeated Sanford 16-4 Friday at Ortega Middle School.

After a scoreless first inning, the Mean Moose got rolling in the bottom of the second by scoring eight runs. Jayden Mizokami led off with a walk, and Jonah Pittman followed with a double. Kiko Ruybal was hit by a pitch to load the bases, and Xavier Lujan walked to drive home Mizokami. Pittman scored on an error to increase the lead to 2-0.

Brennan Maez also walked to again fill the sacks, and Ruybal came home on a wild pitch. Tony Griego walked to load the bases again, and Carlos Garcia then singled to plate Keenan Mackey, who was courtesy running for Lujan, and Maez.

Nelson Armubula's triple brought home Griego and Evan Anderson, who was courtesy running for Garcia. Arambula scored on a wild pitch for an 8-0 lead.

The Mustangs came back with three runs in the top of the third. J.D. Faucette was hit by a pitch to lead off the inning, and

Jared McCarroll drew a walk. Trason Gartrell reached on an error to fill the sacks, and Cash Caldon doubled home Faucette and McCarroll. Gartrell came home on Lucas Miller's sacrifice fly to cut the deficit to 8-3.

Alamosa answered with four runs in its half of the inning. Lujan singled and Maez walked. Griego was safe on a fielder's choice to again load the bases, and Mackey scored on a wild pitch.

Arambula doubled to score Maez and Griego, and Arambula scored on Gus West's single.

The Mean Moose scored four more runs in the fourth. Pittman led off with a single and Ruybal doubled. Pittman scored on Lujan's sacrifice fly, and Maez singled home Ruybal. Maez scored on a wild pitch.

Griego drew a walk as did Arambula. West doubled to plate Griego for a 16-3 lead.

Sanford attempted one last rally in the top of the fifth. Miller and Rylan Mortensen were both hit by pitches and Miller scored on an error.

The Mustangs could muster no more runs and the game ended on the

10-run rule.

Lujan started on the mound for the Mean Moose and he took the win. He allowed three runs and four hits and he struck out five, walked one and hit three batters. Griego relieved Lujan in the fifth and he gave up one run and one hit with two strikeouts, no walks and one hit batter.

Miller was the Mustangs' starting pitcher and he took the loss. He allowed 12 runs and seven hits and he struck out five, walked five and hit one batter. Caldon went to the mound in the fifth and gave up four runs and four hits. He had one strikeout and two walks.

Alamosa had 11 hits and was led by Arambula who went 2-3 with a double, a triple and four RBIs, Pittman who went 2-3 with a double, Garcia who went 2-4 with two RBIs, and West who went 2-4 with a double and two RBIs.

Sanford had five hits and was led Mortensen who went 2-3. Caldon led in RBIs with two.

Alamosa (6-14, 3-3 Intermountain League) will host Monte Vista on Tuesday beginning at 4 p.m. It will wrap up

High school standings as of Thursday

BASEBALL

Class 3A/2A Intermountain League

Team	League		Overall
	W-L	W-L	
Montezuma-Cortez	3-1	9-8	
Bayfield	4-2	7-12	
Pagosa Springs	3-3	9-9	
Alamosa	3-3	5-14	
Centauri	1-5	7-12	

Class 2A Southern Peaks League

Team	League		Overall
	W-L	W-L	
Monte Vista	9-0	13-3	
Trinidad	6-0	8-7	
Sanford	6-3	11-4	
Del Norte	6-4	7-8	
Sargent	2-6	2-12	
South Park	1-4	3-11	
Center	1-6	2-12	
Custer County	1-8	1-16	

Class 1A Southern Peaks League

Team	League		Overall
	W-L	W-L-T	
Sierra Grande	4-0	13-1-0	
Antonito	2-2	8-8-1	
Centennial	0-4	2-11-0	

GIRLS SOCCER

Class 3A Intermountain League

Team	League		Overall
	W-L-T	W-L-T	
Alamosa	4-1-1	8-5-1	
Bayfield	2-1-3	6-5-3	
Montezuma-Cortez	1-2-3	3-5-3	
Pagosa Springs	0-3-3	6-4-3	

Class 2A Southwest League

Team	League		Overall
	W-L-T	W-L-T	
Crested Butte	4-0-0	10-2-1	
Telluride	2-1-0	4-7-1	
Ridgway	2-2-0	7-5-0	
Ignacio	1-3-0	1-11-0	
Del Norte	0-3-0	1-11-0	

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Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD THURSDAY

Prep baseball
Custer County 10, Center 9

Prep girls soccer
Alamosa 1, Lake County 0

College baseball
Adams State 28, Colorado Mesa 16, 8 inn.

FRIDAY

Prep baseball
Alamosa 16, Sanford 4, 5 inn.

Antonito vs. Dove Creek - no report
Nucla vs. Sierra Grande - no report

College baseball
Colorado Mesa at Adams State (2) - no report

SATURDAY

Prep baseball
Center at Ignacio (2), 11 a.m.

Custer County at Del Norte (2), 11 a.m.
Monte Vista at Trinidad (2), 11 a.m.

Sargent at South Park (2), 11 a.m.

Centauri at Montezuma-Cortez (2), 1 p.m.

Prep girls soccer
Florence at Alamosa, 11 a.m.

Del Norte at Telluride, 4:30 p.m.

Prep track and field
Creede, Monte Vista, Sanford, Sangre de Cristo at Terry Alley Invitational (at Pagosa Springs), 9 a.m.

College baseball
Colorado Mesa at Adams State, noon

College outdoor track and field
Adams State at Colorado State Pueblo Last Chance Invitational, TBA

Adams State at Portland Twilight, 3:45 p.m.

SUNDAY

College outdoor track and field
Adams State at Colorado State Pueblo Last Chance Invitational, TBA

MONDAY

Prep girls golf
Alamosa at Gunnison Invitational (at Dos Rios Golf Club), 8:30 a.m.

TUESDAY

Prep baseball
Center at Sargent (2), 2 p.m.

Trinidad at Sanford (2), 2 p.m.

Monte Vista at Alamosa, 4 p.m.

Prep girls golf
Alamosa, Monte Vista at Monte Vista Invitational, 9 a.m.

Prep track and field
Antonito, Centauri, Center, Moffat, Monte Vista, Sanford at Centauri Invitational, TBA

WEDNESDAY

Prep baseball
Del Norte at Montezuma-Cortez, 4 p.m.

Prep girls golf
Alamosa, Monte Vista at Alamosa Invitational (at Cattails), 9 a.m.

THURSDAY

Prep baseball
Sanford at Walsenburg, 4 p.m.

FRIDAY

Prep girls golf
Alamosa at Rye Invitational (at Hollydott Golf Course), 9 a.m.

Prep track and field
Alamosa, Antonito, Center, Creede, Del Norte, Moffat, Monte Vista, Sangre de Cristo, Sierra Grande at Monte Vista Last Chance Meet, 9 a.m.

Alamosa, Centauri, Sanford at Pueblo West Invitational, 1 p.m.

Sargent at Friday Night Lights (at CSU Pueblo), TBA

Lifestyle

Comprehensive over snow travel management planning project to begin

45-day comment period begins immediately

CONTRIBUTED DEL NORTE — The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, Rio Grande National Forest announced today the beginning of the forest-wide Over Snow Travel Management Planning Project.

A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register on April 30, establishing the official 45-day comment period for the project. The resulting decision from the analysis will set parameters that will guide over-snow travel on forest roads, trails and cross-country use for the next 15-20 years across the 1.8-million-acre Rio Grande National Forest.

The project will require an Environmental

Impact Statement and, when completed, will be an addendum to the Rio Grande National Forest Land Management Plan, which was signed in May of 2020. The Over Snow Travel Management Plan will provide direction for motorized use across the Rio Grande. The direction will likely amend the current direction in the Rio Grande National Forest Land Management Plan.

Interested parties wishing to submit comments on the Over Snow Travel Management Planning Project should submit them online at <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=65529>

"The Over Snow Travel Management planning process will require a great deal of public involvement in order to develop the best product that balances winter motorized travel needs with the appropriate use of our natural resources," said Forest Supervisor Dennis Kuhnel. "We invite and look forward to collabo-

rating with our tribes, interested forest users, our valuable communities, and our partners from other agencies on this important process."

Kuhnel adds that this process will be a long undertaking that will follow the guidelines set forth in the National Environ-

mental Policy Act for an Environmental Impact Statement. Rio Grande National Forest personnel will aim to complete the process in approximately two years.

The next step in process will be to release draft Environmental Impact Statement which will be avail-

able for public comment.

Additional information about the Over Snow Travel Management Planning Project can be viewed at www.fs.usda.gov/detail/riogrande/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd1154726 and in the official project record at www.fs.usda.gov/

project/riogrande/?project=65529.

A copy of this news release will be translated into Spanish and soon available at www.fs.usda.gov/news/riogrande/news-events.

For information on the Rio Grande National Forest, call 719-850-2374.

After-prom receives \$1,000 donation



Courtesy photo

Alamosa High School After-Prom, along with SLV P.R.O.M. and several local emergency responders held a "Mock DUI Crash" at the high school on Thursday, May 2 for the students. Pictured are juniors Dyson Woodward, Tyler Dokus, Zane Zook, Zane Landon Garcia, Parent Kirsten Rendon, Raellee Alonzo, Carlos Garcia, Josh Cline, Brayden Moeller, and Parent Jennifer Alonzo. SLV P.R.O.M. awarded the After-Prom committee with a \$1,000 check to assist in the safe After-Prom event that will be held Saturday night.

Crestone Community Gardening Festival May 18

By MARIE MCCOLM
CRESTONE — On May 18, the Crestone Community Garden will be hosting its annual Gardening Festival beginning at 10 a.m. One of the organizers, Christina Lakish, spoke about the festival.

"The Gardening Festival has been going on for a few years now, not sure how many, but it's been a few. We get together and people sell plants and herbs. People

share their ideas on planting and gardening. It's a lot of fun. It's a big networking opportunity for people who enjoy growing things, for gardeners. There is really something for anyone who enjoys the planting and gardening season.

The community gardeners really look forward to this every year," Lakish said.

Lakish explained that the festival is a celebration for gardeners and planters. There will be

garden-related vendors at the event and guest speakers who talk about a variety of different subjects, including different garden practices.

"The speakers will talk about everything from composting to water conservation, grafting, pollinating, plant rooting. There are so many different garden practices that are spoken about, it gets really interesting," she said.

Lakish said Crest-

one is a harder place to grow plants and crops, but that does not stop serious gardeners from growing every year.

"There are quite a few gardeners, for such a hard area to garden in, there are quite a few people doing it," she said with a chuckle.

Lakish said there is usually a question-and-answer period that occurs with the speakers as well. Crestone Community Garden is where the community can grow

plants and take some of what is grown. Some of what is grown in the garden is donated to the food bank.

"Every year, we also ask gardeners in that area if they have the space, to please plant a row of anything they are planting and harvesting and consider donating to the food bank. A lot of gardeners do donate too," she said.

Lakish said that interested garden-related vendors can reach out

via the Crestone Community Gardens Facebook page to register for a spot at the festival.

Lakish said the goal of the festival is to promote home gardening and allow everyone to network and talk about what works best while gardening and planting.

"We want to promote home gardening in a sustainable and ecological way. The Community Gardening Festival is a really great time to do it," she said.

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Classifieds

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THE BRIDGE AT ALAMOSA has a **PERSONAL CARE PROVIDER** position available. Please come by The Bridge at Alamosa, 3407 Carroll Street, right next to Wal-Mart, to apply. (5/21/24)

CONEJOS COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT is hiring a **PART-TIME LIBRARY CLERK**, 20 hours per week. Please contact Maria De Herrera at 719-274-5858 for further information. (5/8/24)

RUSTIC ROOK IN MOSCA is seeking **TENT CLEANERS** May 20th - October 1st. \$15/HR. Call 719-661-9833 for details. (5/15/24)

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION at **ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY** is seeking a **PROGRAM COORDINATOR/STUDENT ADVISOR**. This is a twelve-month full-time, exempt position. The pay range for this position is \$42,252 - \$48,060 commensurate with experience and education. A BA and/or experience in an education-related field is preferred. This position will report directly to the School Director and will provide advising and support to undergraduate and graduate students, assist faculty and staff with daily operations, and coordinate program processes and events across undergraduate and graduate degree and licensure areas. For more information and to apply, please visit <https://www.adams.edu/hr/employment/>. (5/14/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for a **SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL** at **MARSH ELEMENTARY** for the 2024-2025 school year. This is a full-time classified position. A complete list of desired qualifications and experience may be viewed on the district website. Monte Vista School District operates on a 4-day week (Monday - Thursday) and offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, HSA match, and life coverage. The salary for this position will be paid from the current MVSD Paraprofessional Salary Schedule, which can be viewed on the district website - Employment Opportunities page. Placement on the salary schedule will be determined by education and experience at time of hire. Applications may be submitted through our online employment application <https://www.pirates.monte.k12.co.us/employmentopportunities>, by May 7, 2024, or until the position is filled. For questions, contact the District Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (5/14/24)

POLICE OFFICER FOR THE MANASSA POLICE DEPARTMENT, must be POST certified. Please pick up application at the Town Hall during business hours; Monday - Wednesday 8-4. (5/25/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for a **GENERAL LABOR I** position in the ASU Facilities Services Department. Starting salary for this position is \$3,160 per month. For application or more information, please see <https://www.adams.edu/hr/employment/> AA/EOE. (5/4/24)

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for an anticipated opening for an **ELEMENTARY SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER** at **BILL METZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**. The district will consider providing tuition assistance for a qualified teacher interested in pursuing a Special Education Endorsement. A complete list of desired qualifications and experience may be viewed on the district website. Monte Vista School District offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, HSA match, and life coverage. Applications may be submitted through our online employment application <https://www.pirates.monte.k12.co.us/employmentopportunities> by May 7, 2024, or until the position is filled. For application questions, contact the District Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (5/14/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

MOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT has the following **COACHES POSITIONS** open for the 24-25 season: **HS FOOTBALL; MS FOOTBALL; HS WRESTLING; HS VOLLEYBALL; MS VOLLEYBALL; ASSIST POSITIONS** for HS coaching also open. Send inquiries/resumes to Mr. Stagner @ Stagnerb@valley.k12.co.us or call 719-655-2578. (5/28/24)

MOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT has the following openings for the 24-25 school year: **KINDERGARTEN, K-12 ART, MS SCHOOL TEACHER, HS ELA, HS SOCIAL SCIENCES, K-12 PE, HS SCIENCE, K-12 PRINCIPAL**. Send inquiries/resumes to Mr. Stagner @ Stagnerb@valley.k12.co.us or call 719-655-2578. (5/28/24)

SEEKING AN ENERGETIC, compassionate MANAGER for **RETHREADS COMMUNITY THRIFT STORE**, located at 511 6th Ave., ALAMOSA. Ability to work independently with people from diverse backgrounds and circumstances required. Organizational skills and friendly customer service is desired. Position is 20-25 hours per week, starting at \$15 per hour. Send resume and letter of interest to: hr@lapuente.net. (5/11/24)

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VALLEY EDUCATIONAL GARDENS INITIATIVE (VEGI), SEASONAL SUMMER ASSISTANT – Seeking a motivated individual to contribute gardening expertise and teaching experience to a community garden space! Assistant will assist with various aspects of VEGI's programming throughout our main growing season. Assistant will work alongside the AmeriCorps member(s) to teach garden-based educational lessons focused on nutrition and environmental awareness with our partner sites, help maintain our 3 growing spaces, harvest vegetables, and provide general program support during the busy summer months. Part-time; Mid-May/June to Mid October. \$17.00/hr. Send resume/cover letter to hr@lapuente.net.(5/10/24)

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is seeking applications for a knowledgeable, energetic, creative, and collaborative MUSIC TEACHER at BILL METZ ELEMENTARY. A complete list of desired qualifications and experience is posted on the district website. The District operates on a 4-day week (Monday – Thursday) and offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, HSA match, and life coverage. The salary for this position will be paid from the current MVSD Teacher Salary Schedule, which can be viewed on the district website – Employment Opportunities page. Placement on the salary schedule will be determined by education and experience at time of hire. Applications may be submitted through our online employment application https://www.pirates.monte.k12.co.us/employmentopportunities by May 2, 2024 or until the position is filled. For application questions, contact the District Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (5/8/24)

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for an ADVISING COORDINATOR for its UPWARD BOUND MATH & SCIENCE PROGRAM. The salary for this position starts at \$46,476 per year. A minimum Bachelor's Degree in science, technology, engineering, math, or related field is required for this exempt position. For application details and more information, please see https://www.adams.edu/hr/employment/AA/EOE.(5/8/24)

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. Application deadline is until position is filled. Please call Brian Riccatone with questions at 719-274-4301. 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 Mr. Darren Edgar, Superintendent. EOE. (5/7/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

IST SOUTHWEST BANK, a locally owned CDFI community bank, is seeking a RELATIONSHIP MANAGER with 3+ years of commercial loan experience and a BRANCH MANAGER with 5+ years of banking experience. FSWB offers competitive compensation, generous benefits, & career development. Join FSWB's award-winning team dedicated to supporting rural Colorado's agricultural, nonprofit and small businesses. For details and to apply, visit fswb.bank/about/careers.EOE.(5/11/24)

SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is seeking anticipated ELEMENTARY TEACHERS 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.(5/11/24)

ARE YOU PASSIONATE about making a positive impact on people's lives? SIERRA GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT is currently accepting applications for BEHAVIOR HEALTH COUNSELOR/MTSS COORDINATOR for the 2024-2025 School Year. Our school has a reputation as being a great place to work. We currently have a state of the art facility, supportive administration, paid health insurance, free lunches, 4 day school week. A current license/state certification in counseling is highly recommended to apply. Application forms are located at 17523 Hwy 160 Blanca, CO 81123 or on the district's website at www.sierragrandeschool.net. Applications may be submitted electronically to Mr. Kevin Jones at kjones@sierragrandeschool.net or Mrs. Maria Atencio at matencio@sierragrandeschool.net, or can be turned in at the district office. For more information please contact the district office at 719-379-3259. (5/11/24)

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26jt is paying years of service and single health insurance benefits. Apply now to become part of our dynamic district as we are now accepting applications for the position of ELEMENTARY PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER, for the 2024-2025 School Year. Qualifications: Must hold a valid State of Colorado Teacher's License or, such alternative as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. Applications can be found on the District Website https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employmentopportunities or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (5/15/24)

TOWN OF MOFFAT, COLORADO, WATER OPERATOR / WATER CONSULTANT. Job Description WATER OPERATOR DUTIES: 1. The Operator Responsible in Charge (ORC) shall have a Small Systems (DI) certification in good standing. 2. Identify CDPHE's Monitoring Schedule for Moffat and complete all tasks needed for compliance including sampling, reporting, and maintaining programs such as backflow prevention. 3. Records and communications will be public information. 4. Requires independent contractor insurance. 5. Estimated hours per month: 5-12. 6. Certification training may be provided. 7. Estimated pay range \$25 - \$30 per hour depending on experience. WATER CONSULTANT DUTIES: 1. Interface with town attorney and engineer regarding water system installation. 2. Complete tasks for Division of Water Resources (DWR) compliance requirements. 3. Serve as point person for public outreach and education regarding new municipal water system connections, including number of population and costs involved. 4. Perform tasks as they arise in developing a new municipal water system. 5. Establish and maintain Fee Schedule. 6. Requires independent contractor insurance. 7. Estimated hours per month: 10-30. 8. Estimated pay range \$40 - \$50 per hour depending on experience. (5/15/24)

THE CITY OF MONTE VISTA is accepting applications for a SEASONAL PARKS MAINTENANCE WORKER. This position is approximately 16 weeks, 40 hours/wk. Duties include mowing, trimming, watering parks and trash pickup. Wage is \$16.00-\$17.00 per hour. Applications and job description are available at www.cityofmontevista.colorado.gov or pickup/return applications to the City of Monte Vista, Human Resources, 95 West First Ave., Monte Vista, CO. 81144. Open until filled. (5/31/24)

MOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1 in SAGUACHE is looking for a Highly Qualified K-12 PRINCIPAL. Candidates should have a current Colorado Principal License, have a good working knowledge of all areas of public education, and have a great ambition to help all students and staff in delivering/receiving a high-quality education. Applications are available in person or on our website. All inquiries should be sent to Mr. Stagner at Mountain Valley Schools, 403 Pitkin Ave. Saguache, Colorado 81149. (5/11/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

OUTREACH ASSISTANT. SAN LUIS VALLEY LOCAL FOODS COALITION seeks an LFLP OUTREACH COORDINATOR. Strong communication and computer skills are required. Submit your resume and cover letter to opportunity.slvlocalfoods@gmail.com. Additional requirements can be found at www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/.(5/11/24)

ACCOUNTANT. THE SLV LOCAL FOODS COALITION seeks an ACCOUNTANT to oversee finances for our local nonprofit. Send resume and cover letter to opportunity.slvlocalfoods@gmail.com. Additional requirements can be found at www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/.(5/11/24)

MECHANIC: JT TIMBER FALLING is hiring a full-time HEAVY EQUIPMENT & TRUCK MECHANIC in BLANCA, CO. \$25-\$45/hr depending on experience. Monday – Friday schedule. Benefits are available. Call 719-379-4066 or visit jttimber.com to apply. (5/8/24)

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for a SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAPROFESSOR at BILL METZ ELEMENTARY for the 2024-2025 school year. A complete list of desired qualifications and experience may be viewed on the district website. Monte Vista School District operates on a 4-day week (Monday – Thursday) and offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, HSA match, and life coverage. The salary for this position will be paid from the current MVSD Paraprofessional Salary Schedule, which can be viewed on the district website - Employment Opportunities page. Placement on the salary schedule will be determined by education and experience at time of hire. Applications may be submitted through our online employment application https://www.pirates.monte.k12.co.us/employmentopportunities by April 23, 2024, or until the position is filled. For questions contact the District Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (5/14/24)

SANFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications 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@mtknkng.com. (6/5/24)

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

SANFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for a HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTOR. Must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent, or such alternative to the above qualifications as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. All candidates must pass background checks. Applications can be downloaded at www.sanfordschools.org. Sanford School is an EOE&E. (5/4/24)

WORKING TOGETHER FAMILY ADVOCATE - LA PUENTE SEEKS a motivated, qualified person to improve parent/child education, increase family self-sufficiency and build community partnerships. We will train the candidate with the best written and oral communication skills. Join our staff of dedicated professionals and learn the joys and satisfaction of serving others. Salary Range - \$37,000.00 - \$42,000.00 DOE, full benefits package. Send resume/work references to hr@lapuente.net. (5/11/24)

SANFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for a HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER. Applications can be downloaded at www.sanfordschools.org. Sanford School is an EOE&E. (5/4/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

HEAD JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL COACH needed at DEL NORTE JR. HIGH SCHOOL. Experience as a coach or assistant coach at the MIDDLE SCHOOL and/or HIGH SCHOOL level is preferred. Must possess: effective coaching techniques and a thorough knowledge of the rules of the sport; and have the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with school administrators, parents, and students. Please contact Gibbs Sanchez, Athletic Director, at: gsanchez@urtigers.co 719-657-4020; or Annie Hardy, Principal, at: ahardy@urtigers.co , 719-657-4020. (5/11/24)

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED at the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT in DEL NORTE! Call or email: Sophia at 719-657-4040, x4000 (scrutz@urtigers.co) for more information, go on-line: urtigers.co, or stop by the district office at: 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO to pick up an application. You do not have to hold a college degree or be a certified teacher to substitute; however, you must be a high school graduate and have a substitute license from CDE (Colorado Department of Education). (5/11/24)

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

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POWDER RIVER CALF BRANDING SHUTE for sale; excellent condition. 719-580-5745. (5/14+1/24)

304 - LAWN & GARDEN

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. (5/24/24-monthly)

307 - APPLIANCES

PAT SOLD HER ELECTRIC STOVE IN JUST 3 DAYS THROUGH THE VALLEY COURIER'S CLASSIFIED ADS. (AS)

324 - SEED & FEED

HORSE & COW HAY: GRASS, GRASS/ALFALFA, ALFALFA. 3x3 bales, various quality and pricing. 719-850-8917. (5/29/24-monthly)

341 - GARAGE SALE

ESTATE SALE: 703 Lee Drive, ALAMOSA, 8am-2pm. Nikon spotting scope, 7-piece bedroom set, futon, lots of furniture, Vitamix 64oz & 32oz, Cabela's camping gear, western hats, oilskin coat, western boots, gardening tools, & equipment, nurse tack, bridles, raines, & saddle blankets. (5/4/24)

YARD SALE SATURDAY, 5/4, 8:30am-2, 230 Calle Buena, ALAMOSA. Tools, housewares. (5/4/24)

5TH ANNUAL 3 FAMILY SALE! Friday & Saturday, May 3rd & 4th. 56 Meadow Lane, MONTE VISTA. Lots of stuff, including a kitchen sink and Kirby vacuum! See you there! (5/4/24)

HUGE YARD SALE Friday & Saturday, May 3rd and 4th 8AM-5PM at 8346 Cool Sunshine Cir, ALAMOSA. Small kitchen appliances, kitchen table, living room furniture, TVs, bedroom furniture, gun cabinet, 2 desks, office chairs, art, decor, collectibles... much more!! (5/4/24)

NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE. Friday 5/3, Saturday 5/4, 8:00AM. Starts at 204 Bonney Drive; BONNEY EDITION behind Loaf'n'Jug. Come join the fun! (5/4/24)

345 - WOOD

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

350 - FARM EQUIPMENT

FOR SALE: 1) 8245R JD 1704 hrs; **2)** 4450 JD 10715 hrs; **3)** 4455 JD 10279 hrs; **4)** 2270 3x3 Baler 15205 bales; **5)** 2-Siyrex Hdr Rakes; **6)** JD Drill 455 HdyDown 25'; **7)** Packer Brillan 25'; **8)** Windrow Rock 4 row; **9)** 2 Chopper 14'-22'; **10)** KuHn 8' Rake; **11)** 2- Pequea Fluffers. Call 719-588-1542 for more info & pricing. (5/15/24)

353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

I SOLD MY HORSE IN 2 DAYS TO A GOOD HOME. THANKS VALLEY COURIER! Rick. (AS)

REGISTERED BLACK ANGUS BULLS for sale. Low pap scores, calving ease and grove. OLD-EST ANGUS HERD IN COLORADO. Smalley's Angus. 719-588-4664 or 719-378-2459. (6/4/24)

TNT BULLS for Sale! ANGUS, BALANCER & CHAROLAIS. 719-850-1923 or 719-850-9056. (5/7/24)

ATTENTION FARMERS & RANCHERS. Show special. Seal leaking stock tanks, ponds, or reservoirs with BENTONITE. 719-580-6652. (5/24/24)

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

SOLD MY WHEELCHAIR IN 2 DAYS. WONDERFUL. HEARTWARMING EXPERIENCE. A WIN-WIN FOR BOTH OF US! Yolanda. (AS)

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

368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

FREE TO GOOD HOME! Med. size GOLDEN RETRIEVER/PITT mix. 1 yr. old, spayed, & vacs, female. LOVING FAMILY DOG, full of energy. Kennel/leash trained & obedient. Potential parents will be vetted. Leave message @ 719-379-5236. (5/4/24)

REGISTERED TOY AUSSIE PUPPIES for sale, Black Tri Chocolate Tri, Blue Merle. 8 weeks old on 4-24-24. UTD on shots. 719-849-1877. (5/7/24)

387 - WANTED TO BUY

WANTED TO BUY: Good condition BACKYARD DISCOVERY or similar WOODEN SWING SET with slide and monkey bars. Leave message: 719-589-2909. (5/4/24)

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

Century Property Management & Sales, LLC
Alamosa • 589-5744

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE
For all your rental needs please call 719-589-5744 or stop by 823 Main St. Alamosa, CO 81101
www.alamosarentals.com

409 - FARM & RANCLAND

80 ACRES OF FARMLAND FOR LEASE: Location along Highway 15 in LA JARA, CO. Contact owner for details: 719-274-5805. (5/15/24)

420 - LOTS & ACREAGES

ACREAGE FOR SALE - \$2,000/ACRE. Contact Rick 928-277-6140. (5/11/24)

426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

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

525 - GUNS

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

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

SMALL 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT for rent. \$610 month. 7306 Adams Lane, ALAMOSA. 720-202-9734. (5/10/24)

Accepting applications for 1 bedroom apartments. Must be 62 or older or disabled
Cielo Vista Apartments
166 S. Wills Center, Colo
754-3664

TTY
1-800-659-2656
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

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 & 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 & employer

Accepting applications for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Family living at an affordable price. Disabled Unit Available.
Casita del Sol
1405 West 11th St. Alamosa, Colo.
589-8663

TTY
1-800-659-2656
This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer.

611 - HOMES FOR RENT

KUDDOS TO THE VALLEY COURIER FOR RENTING OUR HOUSE IN 2 DAYS!! Thanks, Gerry. (AS)

2 STORY HISTORIC RENOVATED 4 BEDROOM, 2.5 BATH. Appliances furnished. Deck, shop, garage, large fenced in backyard. Excellent neighborhood; 416 2nd Ave., MONTE VISTA. \$1850/month, plus utilities. Yearly lease; available 6/1/24. Contact 719-852-5101 or 719-852-5350. (5/28/24)

701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

1 DAY ADVERTISED IN THE VALLEY COURIER. SOLD MY CAR! GREAT SERVICE! Samuel. (AS)

AWESOME GRADUATION GIFT! NISAN MURONO SE 2003, V6 3.5L, dual exhaust, AWD, Sun Roof, Leather & Heated Seats, to name a few. Extremely Well Maintained; mechanically & cosmetically (have the invoices to back it up). Garage Kept. Only 2 owners. \$5,000. Text or call 719-369-4941. Must see & drive to appreciate! She'll love it! (E-TFN)

2009 BUICK ENCLAVE CXL, \$4,250. Call or Text 719-480-0502. (5/3/24)

Accepting applications for 1 bedroom apartments. Must be 62 or older or disabled
Cielo Vista Apartments
166 S. Wills Center, Colo
754-3664

TTY
1-800-659-2656
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

FEEL LIKE A FISH

OUT OF WATER?

New in town?
Get acquainted with and all it has to offer by ordering a subscription to the

Valley Courier
719-589-2553
Where To Shop? Where To Dine? Community Bulletin Board. Professional Services! And more!

Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pet's fur
 - 5 List-ending abbr.
 - 8 Exploit
 - 12 Language of Pakistan
 - 13 Slime
 - 14 Thomas — Edison
 - 15 Boston, affectionately
 - 17 Banister
 - 18 Gen. — Bradley
 - 19 Perfume ceremonially
 - 20 Head of hair
 - 22 Mire
 - 23 Fearless stuntman
 - 27 — and far between
 - 30 Jewish month
 - 31 — Plaines
 - 32 Use a sponge
 - 33 Believed
 - 34 Tiny colonist
- DOWN**
- 1 Young animal
 - 2 Cookie brand
 - 3 Not know from —
 - 4 Hot sandwich (2 wds.)
 - 5 Conceit
 - 35 Eye part
 - 36 Pipe fitting
 - 37 Mental power
 - 39 Skill
 - 40 Reel's partner
 - 41 Invigorating
 - 44 Talon
 - 47 Luxuriant
 - 48 Labor-saving devices
 - 52 Lazy
 - 53 Big bird
 - 54 Do an office job
 - 55 Hammer end
 - 56 Likely
 - 57 She, in Chartres

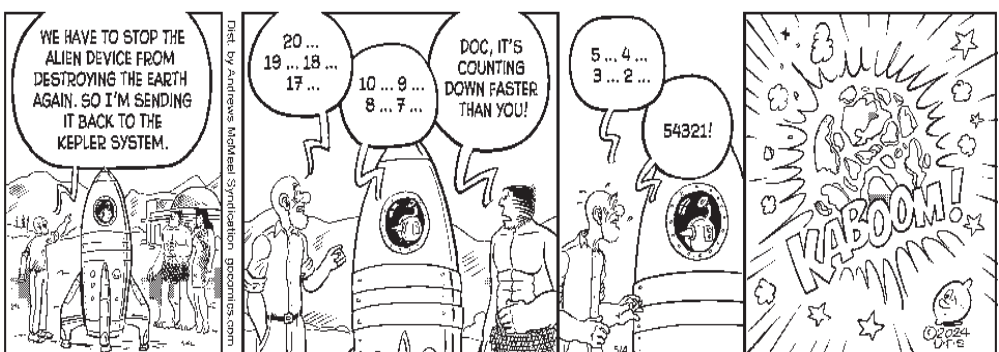
Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

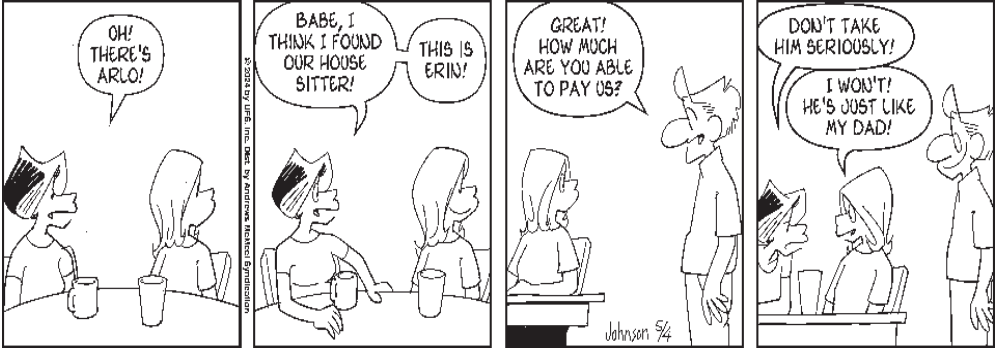
- 6 Haul
- 7 Chili — carne
- 8 Got along
- 9 Ardor
- 10 Hertz competitor
- 11 Short story
- 16 Walked on
- 19 — de-sac
- 21 Know-it-all scholar
- 22 Spray bottle
- 23 Skillful
- 24 To shelter
- 25 Govern
- 26 Make known
- 27 Discharge
- 28 Narrative poem
- 29 Toward sunset
- 32 Safari sighting
- 37 Annoy
- 38 — Ness
- 39 Not ruddy
- 41 Radar image
- 42 Impolite
- 43 — of Wight
- 45 Dye plant
- 46 Healthy
- 48 — culpa
- 49 Elec. unit
- 50 Director's cry
- 51 Observe

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13			14				
15				16			17				
	18						19				
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23	24	25				26			27	28	29
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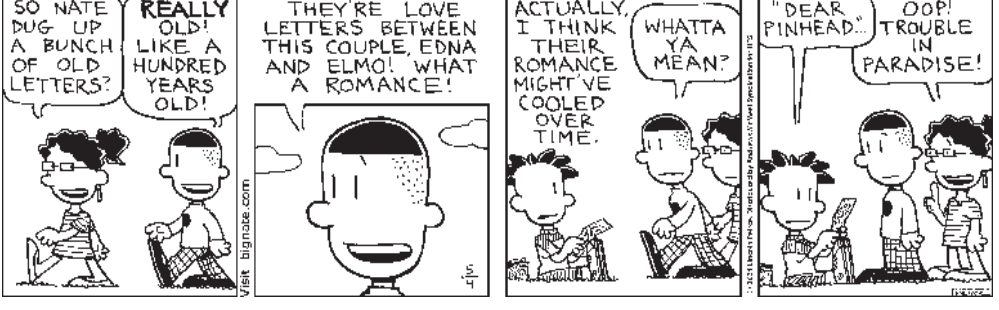
ALLEY OOP



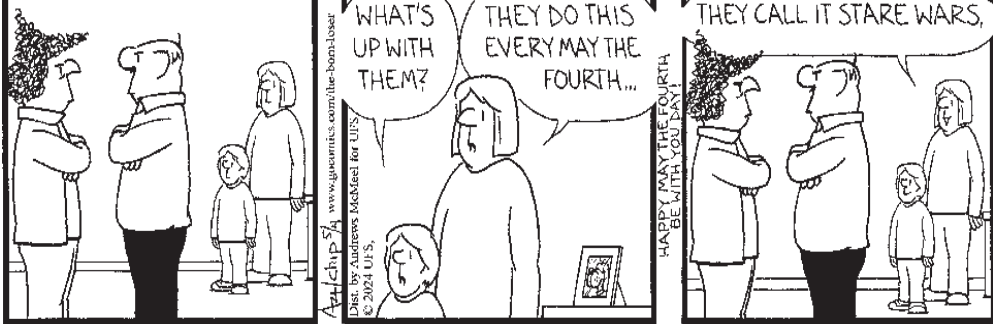
ARLO & JANIS



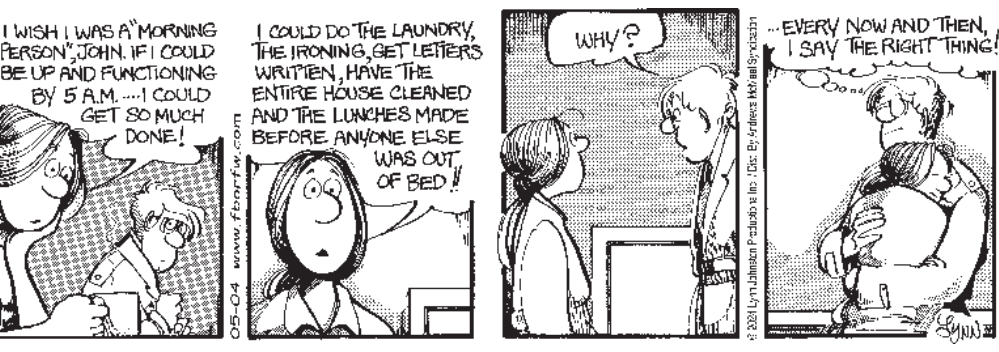
BIG NATE



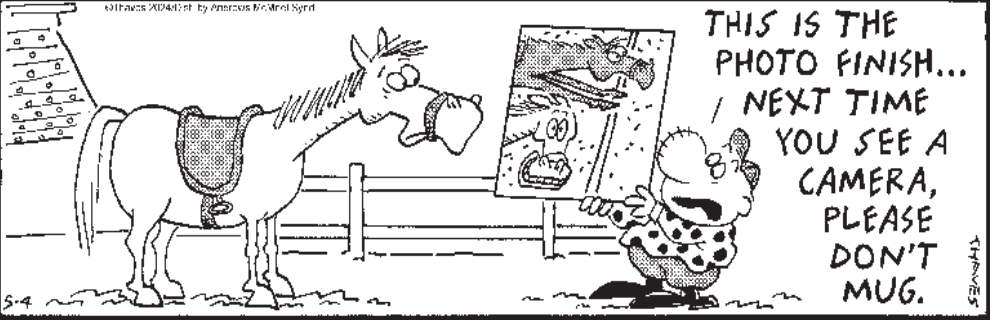
THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



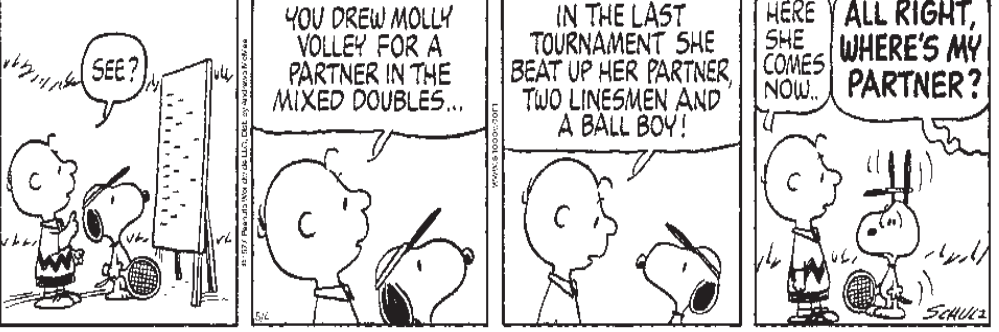
GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



Felon's impending release sparks angst among family

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Will," and I have been together for seven years. We get along great. I love his close-knit family and adore his parents. He's the youngest of five brothers, most of whom I get along with great. The only brother I don't know is the oldest. "Rick" has been incarcerated for the better part of 30 years for rape. I've always known about him and the "sugar-coated" circumstances surrounding his incarceration. Recently, Rick has been letting the family know that he has been rehabilitated and will be released with extensive supervision. He told my boyfriend he would like to meet me and also connect with the nieces and nephews he's never met (not my children). Upon hearing this, I did some research, and I found the NON-sugar-coated details of his crimes. Will has made clear to me he will support his brother's release and is excited to see him. This is the same feeling most of the other family has. Abby, the thought of being in Rick's presence terrifies me. I don't believe a person who commits a crime of this magnitude can be rehabilitated. (A few others feel the same as I do.) I'm worried about

the backlash I may receive from family members, as well as his parents, who wholeheartedly believe Rick's release is warranted. Help, please. -- APPREHENSIVE IN MINNESOTA

DEAR APPREHENSIVE: I understand your apprehension. However, Brother Rick will have served his time when he's released, and it won't be without strings attached. If you want a relationship with Will, you are going to have to meet his brother. Of course, it will be under supervised conditions -- with your boyfriend and other relatives, so you won't be alone with him. As you get to know Rick (it will happen in stages), you may become less fearful of him. Your intuition will guide you. However, if you are still uncomfortable after that, you may have to end your relationship with Will.

DEAR ABBY: My stepdaughter gave her daddy (my husband) concert tickets -- for just him, her husband and herself, and excluded me. I was given no warning that she planned to do this, and all the tickets were all sold out when I went online and looked -- not that I would've gone anyhow. It would've been pushing my way in where I felt I



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

wasn't wanted. How should I handle this? I know my husband is struggling with it, and I'd like to talk to him about it. I feel like he's being put in the middle and feels he must go because his daughter bought the ticket. Should he not go and make his daughter mad, or go and make me mad? How would you handle this? What should I say to my husband so I'm not the bad guy? -- OUT OF THE ARENA IN ALABAMA

DEAR OUT: What you should say to your husband is the TRUTH. Tell him, "Go to the concert, Honey, and have a good time. I'm just confused about why your daughter didn't include me."

Lifestyle



Photo courtesy of CPW

State Forest State Park

Show love for the outdoors this spring by recreating responsibly

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

DENVER — With warmer weather in the forecast, outdoor enthusiasts are flocking outside to see what's blooming in nature on Colorado's colorful landscapes. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) encourages state park visitors to act as stewards for the state's land, wildlife, and water by balancing outdoor recreation with mindful conservation.

Coloradans and out-of-state visitors play an integral role in keeping our state parks clean, living in harmony with wildlife, and making the outdoors safer to explore.

Below are a few tips from our experts on how to recreate responsibly and show respect to our great outdoors.

Know Before You Go

Colorado spring weather is unpredictable, and conditions change constantly. Spring in Colorado brings melting snowpacks, muddy trails, thinning ice, cold water temperatures, and strong currents on rivers and streams.

- Check the weather where you plan to explore and change your outdoor plan based on the forecast. Follow travel advisories to avoid hazardous conditions and a search and rescue operation.

- Check the CAIC avalanche forecast (www.colorado.gov/avalanche). Avalanches occur year-round anywhere there's snow on steep slopes. Start early and end early to help avoid wet snow problems, and watch out for wind-drifted snow at high elevations.
- Be aware of seasonal closures of public lands extended in April.
- Stay hydrated. Bring more water than you think you (and your pet) will need.
- Bring layers of clothing for elevation and changing weather conditions.

Boating and River Safety

Last year, most water-related fatalities occurred because people did not wear a life jacket.

- Wear a life jacket.
- Dress accordingly and protect yourself from the dangers of cold water shock. Regardless of your age or experience level, cold water can quickly create a drowning emergency.
- Paddle boards and kayaks are considered vessels, and life jacket requirements apply.
- Heavy rain or snow

melting in nearby mountains can raise water levels quickly and without notice. Check river flows at <https://dwr.state.co.us/Tools/Stations>.

- Don't boat or paddle in conditions you are not comfortable and confident paddling in.
- Boat and raft with a buddy and avoid floating alone, especially during high flows.

- For recreationists who want to go rafting but are uncomfortable navigating more challenging water conditions, CPW recommends hiring a Colorado-licensed river outfitter guide to help facilitate the outdoor opportunity.

"On the surface, rivers and streams can seem calm, warm, or shallow. But even the most experienced outdoor enthusiasts can become victims to deceptively strong currents, cold water temperatures, and unexpected changes in depth," said Michael Haskins, River Outfitter Licensing and Swiftwater Investigator. "You should always wear a life jacket, paddle with a buddy, know your limitations, and scout rapids before floating them."

Stick to Trails

Melting snow leaves trails and vegetation more vulnerable to damage. Be sure to stick to trails and walk in the middle of them — even if wet, muddy, slushy, or icy — to avoid erosion and damage to trailside plants.

- Yield to uphill hikers and bikers, be considerate when needing to pass, and keep control of your pets on the trail.

- Use the CPW Park Finder Tool to find trail maps at each Colorado state park and to learn about trail closures.
- Download the free COTREX app to find recreational trails in Colorado for public use and closure alerts.
- Wear sturdy footwear to stay on trails in wet and muddy spring conditions.

"Our trails wear down over time and require upkeep," said State Trails Program Coordinator Joe O'Brien. "Going off trail is one of the big causes of erosion on trails, and that erosion can harm surrounding vegetation and all the life that lives in the nearby streams and rivers."

Leave it as you Find It

Colorado is beautiful all on its own. Leave plants, rocks, and historical items as you find them so others experience the joy of discovery.

- Don't pick wildflowers

so they can help the bees and other ecosystems.

- Carving or hacking plants and trees may kill or disfigure them.
- Park in designated areas — undesignated parking can destroy vegetation and block outdoor first-responder vehicles in an emergency.

- **Trash the Trash**
- Throw all your trash away in trash cans and help leave our outdoor spaces clean.
- Pack it in, pack it out. Whatever you bring into the outdoors, take it out with you.
- Don't leave a pet waste bag on the trail.
- Bring plastic grocery bags to carry trash when trash cans are not available or full.

Be Careful with Fire

Although parts of Colorado have received high moisture levels this year, drought conditions still impact whether campfires are allowed or restricted this winter.

- Check fire restrictions or bans at www.co-emergency.com.
- Use designated campfire areas when allowed and available.
- Put fires out with water until you can touch the embers.
- Never leave a campfire unattended.

Keep Wildlife Wild

Spring can be a particularly sensitive time for wildlife since many species are nesting, having their young, or coming out of hibernation.

- Colorado is home to big game species, including elk, mule deer, moose, and bighorn sheep. Human disturbance can cause stress for wild animals and reduce females' chances of successfully raising offspring.
- Do not feed or approach young wildlife.
- Be bear aware on trails and while camping to help reduce human-bear conflicts.
- Keep dogs leashed on trails to prevent them from chasing wildlife.
- If you see wildlife that appears sick or injured, leave it alone. Call your local Colorado Parks and Wildlife office and ask a trained wildlife officer for guidance.

Share our Trails and Parks

Join us in keeping Colorado, Colorado. Get a \$29 Keep Colorado Wild Pass with your next vehicle registration and support wildlife conservation and outdoor education across the state. Learn more at cpw.info/keepcoloradowild and cpw.info/keepcoloradowildpassspanish.



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