

Grizzlies are National runner ups; Finish 2nd with 72 points at 2024 Outdoor Track Nationals

— Page 6



New technology may help find missing people in Colorado's backcountry within minutes

— Page 7



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# Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

May 29, 2024

\$1

## Summerfest returns this weekend



### STAFF REPORT

**ALAMOSA** — Live music, craft and food vendors, games for kids and more return to Cole Park this weekend for the annual Summerfest on the Rio, opening at 4 p.m. on Friday, May 31, and continuing through 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 2. There is no admission charge.

"Low Key", a local acoustic duo, opens the stage performances at 4 p.m. on Friday, followed by one of the featured acts, "Innastate" from 7-9:30 p.m. Saturday's entertainment includes David Mensch, "That 90's Bank" and "Ol Scratch."

Alamosa Live Music Association (ALMA)

**Live music will again be a highlight of the Summerfest on the Rio celebration in Alamosa's Cole Park beginning at 4 p.m. Friday and continuing through 4 p.m. Sunday.**

Courier file photo

will present a "Battle of the Bands" on Saturday from 4-7 p.m. with five competing groups and "Finaleyes" will complete the day from 8-9:45 p.m. The winner of the Battle will be decided by a combination of audience voting and judge ranking.

On Sunday, "Lenny Martinez" takes the state from 12-1:15 p.m. followed by "Sol Boyz." Light Shine Music provides a sound crew for all performances.

As usual, a wide variety of vendors will be on hand offering arts and crafts and other handmade offerings, as well as a great selection of food and the popular beer garden.

For the kids, miniature train rides, water hamster ball fun, a bungee trampoline, bouncy house, castle maze and knocker balls may be available.

For more information, go to [www.summerfestontherio.org](http://www.summerfestontherio.org).

### SLV Today

#### Farmers market vendor meetings

**ALAMOSA** — The Alamosa Farmers Market 2024 season will run July 6 through Oct. 12, on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the corner of 16th and Ross.

All vendors should plan on attending one of the vendor meetings this season. They will be held at "The Hub," 516 San Juan Ave., Alamosa, and will help new and returning vendors prepare for the 2024 season. Current dates are Wednesday, May 29, 5:30 to 7 p.m. or Saturday, June 1, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Contact the Alamosa Farmers Market with questions, [alamosafarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:alamosafarmersmarket@gmail.com) or 719-849-1083.

#### Fundraiser for St. Francis of Assisi Church

**7 MILE PLAZA** — A fundraiser for St. Francis of Assisi Church and Holy Name of Mary Parish will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. on Friday, June 7, at the Rio Grande Council Knight of Columbus Hall, 595 Pine St., Del Norte.

DJ Rock N Rob will be playing music. Food and soft drinks will be available for purchase. Donation of \$10 per person, \$15 per couple and \$5 per child.

#### SLV WEATHER

Slight Chance of Showers, Mostly Sunny 78/36

**Thurs:** Chance of Showers, Breezy 77/39

**Fri:** Chance of Showers, Mostly Sunny 76/41

#### INSIDE

Record ..... Page 2  
Valley News ..... Page 3  
Opinion ..... Page 4  
Lifestyle ..... Pages 5, 7, and 12  
Sports ..... Page 6  
Public Notice ..... Page 8  
Classifieds ..... Pages 9 and 10  
Comics ..... Page 11

## Hope has opened its doors

'Hope in the Valley' now accepting clients

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER  
Courier Reporter

**ALAMOSA** — In the fall of 2022, the Valley Courier reported that founders Justin Riley, Kim Reed and Paul Reed of "Hope in the Valley," a new treatment and recovery center, had signed the dotted line to purchase the 6,700 square foot building that would ultimately become the site of their facility from Alamo-

■ See HOPE page 3



Courier photo by John Waters

The Hope in the Valley treatment and recovery center in Alamosa.

## Teacher Recognition Awards for McQuitty and Ramirez

**CONTRIBUTED ALAMOSA** — The Boettcher Foundation has a tradition of recognizing outstanding teachers who contribute to their students' success. Each student who is selected as one of our Boettcher Scholars is given the opportunity to honor a teacher who contributed significantly to their success. This year Alamosa teachers, Jen McQuitty and Sarah Ramirez are recipients of the Boettcher Foundation Teacher Recognition Award.

Earlier this spring Alamosa students Brock Benton and Jaymi Gile were named as Boettcher Scholars for the 2024 Boettcher Scholarship. Brock and Jaymi were selected as Scholars from a pool of nearly 2,000 qualified applicants who exhibited excellence in academics, leadership, service, and extracurricular involvement.

"This honor reflects highly on you and your school. We congratulate you for creating an environment where excellence is encouraged, and we appreciate the efforts you have made on behalf of your students," organizers stated.

Brock and Jaymi chose to honor McQuitty and Ramirez

■ See AWARDS page 3



Courtesy photo

**Pictured left to right is Alamosa teacher Sarah Ramirez, students Jaymi Gile and Brock Benton, and teacher Jennifer McQuitty. Gile and Benton were Boettcher Scholars and they chose their teachers Ramirez and McQuitty to receive Boettcher Foundation Teacher Recognition Awards.**

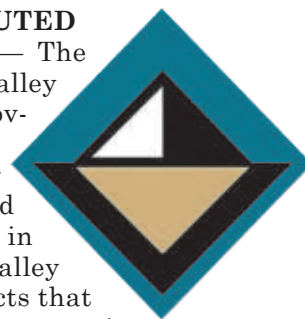
## Mini-grants make small improvements happen in SLV

**CONTRIBUTED ALAMOSA** — The San Luis Valley Council of Governments is offering funding to counties and municipalities in the San Luis Valley for small projects that benefit their communities. The funding is available through SLV COG Mini-Grants program and is open to any town, city, or county that is a member of the San Luis Valley Council of Governments.

Applications and guidelines for the 2024 SLV COG Mini-Grants are available online at [www.slvdr.org/slv-cog-mini-grants/](http://www.slvdr.org/slv-cog-mini-grants/). The deadline to apply is June 30.

Since 2016, the program has contributed over \$388,000 assisting with a wide range of projects that have enhanced communities and provided benefit to public services. Projects funded in recent years include replacing the gazebo in Creede's town square; a new boiler for the South Fork Visitor Center; lighting for La Jara's Main Street; playground equipment in Center; and security improvements for the Alamosa

■ See GRANTS page 3



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# Record

## OBITUARIES

### Myriam (Mimi) Aracely Cooke

Myriam (Mimi) Aracely Cooke (née Celada), 52, suddenly passed away on March 7, 2024. Mimi was born on Nov. 11, 1971, to Marco and Maria Celada in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

She was one of three children: Marco and Roberto. After graduating from Centauri High School in La Jara, Colo., in 1990, she attended the University of Colorado



where she met her future husband, John Cooke.

She went on to have three children: John, Ana, and Bethany. Her chil-

dren were her pride and joy. She will be remembered by her kindness and contagious smile.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in La Jara on June 1, 2024, at 10 a.m. followed by a reception.

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

### Mary Louise Nelson

Mary Louise Nelson, 61, of Moffat, Colo., passed away on May 24, 2024. She was a beloved sister, aunt, and great aunt. Mary was known for her love of the outdoors, particularly the mountains, and she spent much of her life in Colorado. She was fiercely independent and lived life on her own terms, with a contagious energy that lit up any room.

Mary was a Forester at the Saguache Ranger District in the Rio Grande



National Forest. She dedicated her career to preserving and caring for the natural beauty she cherished. Mary's passion for her work was evident

to all who knew her. She is survived by her brother David (Barbara), nephew Michael (Mary-Ann), niece Amy (Jeff), great-niece Riley Jean and her loveable companion Chica.

Mary was preceded in death by her father Louis Nelson, mother Carol (Christianson) Nelson and her beloved dog, Picasso Moon.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Tuesday, June 4, at 3 p.m. at Mary's house.

### Marie H. Fleming

**SANFORD** – Maria H. Fleming, 92, of Sanford, passed away peacefully on May 26, 2024, in Alamosa, Colo. Born on Jan. 5, 1932, in Manassa, Colo. Marie's life was marked by her passionate spirit and the joy she brought to those around her.

Marie's early years in Manassa were filled with the simple pleasures of rural life, which she always held dear to her heart. She met and married the love of her life, William Clyde Fleming Jr. Together, they built a life together. After his passing she was filled with memories that she cherished and shared with all who knew them.

Marie was a woman of many talents. Her artistic endeavors were not only a source of personal fulfillment, but also a gift to those she loved.

Marie is survived by her sister Colleen Crowther



of Sanford, Colo. Her legacy continues through the lives of her cherished nieces and nephews including: Shirley (Larry) Buhr of La Jara, Colo., Bill (Marilyn) Crowther of Aitkin, Minn., Maurice (Tammie) Crowther of La Jara, Colo., and Blake (Kami) Crowther of La Jara, Colo., each one carries a piece of her spirit, her teachings, and her unconditional love.

Marie was preceded in death by her parents William Milton Holmes and May Rhue Smith Holmes,

her beloved husband W.C., and her brother-in-law, Norman Crowther.

Marie's absence will be deeply felt by all who were fortunate enough to experience her warmth and generosity. She had a remarkable ability to see the beauty in the world and in the people around her.

A short service and viewing will be held on Thursday, May 30, 2024, at 6 p.m. at Rogers Family Mortuary 205 State Ave., Alamosa, CO 81101. A graveside service will be held on Friday, May 31, 2024, at Bloomfield Cemetery, 312 N. Valley View, Bloomfield, N.M., 87413, at 2 p.m.

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

## New solar will help keep power on during scorching summer, report says

By **ROBERT ZULLO**  
Colorado Newsline

With some parts of the country already facing heat waves, the organization in charge of setting reliability standards for the American electric grid is warning that a scorching summer could lead to a shortage of power generation in some regions.

The warning comes as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says there's a 99% chance that 2024 will rank among the five warmest years on record and 55% chance it will be the hottest on record.

Overall, though, the analysis by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation painted a rosier picture than last year's report, in part because of a surge in solar power development.

The nation has enough energy supply to handle normal peak demand, called "load" in the electric industry, largely because of 25 gigawatts of new solar power capacity — at full capacity that's the rough equivalent maximum output of 25 large fossil or nuclear power plants. (The number of homes that can be powered from one gigawatt of solar can vary widely across the country). But the new panels have helped move some areas from what NERC calls "elevated risk" of power shortfalls in last year's analysis to "normal risk" this year.

"Resource additions are providing needed capacity to keep up with rising peak demand in most areas," Mark Olson, the organization's manager of reliability assessments, told the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Thursday. New power transfer agreements, growth in demand response programs, which incentivize customers to reduce power usage during times of grid stress, and delayed power plant retirements "are also contributing to an overall improved resource outlook for the upcoming summer," NERC says.

A solar surge A separate FERC staff presentation said solar will make up 10% of overall national electric generation capacity by the end of this summer, with natural gas providing 42%, coal providing 14% and wind power at 13%.

Solar power is growing fast across the country, with the U.S. hitting five million total solar installations (most of them residential), per the Solar Energy Industries Association. Reaching that milestone took 50 years, but the industry group projects that hitting 10 million solar installations will only take six years. Solar power for the first time accounted for more than half of new electric

generation capacity added in 2023, the group noted. The U.S. Energy Information Administration expects "a record addition" of new utility-scale solar power this year, with about 36.4 gigawatts projected to be installed. More than half of that new capacity is planned for Texas, California and Florida. The Gemini facility scheduled to begin operation this year near Las Vegas, with a planned solar capacity of nearly 700 megawatts and battery storage capacity of up to 380 megawatts, is expected to become the nation's largest solar project. Battery storage is also growing rapidly, with more than 14 gigawatts expected to be added this year, according to the EIA. Batteries complement solar generation well, since solar's peak production doesn't generally line up with peak demand on the grid, which happens later in the day. Batteries allow excess solar power to be banked for when it's needed.

But a changing power mix also comes with new challenges and risks, NERC warned.

In his presentation to FERC, Olson said that while the overall summer electric reliability outlook has improved, some regions are seeing what he described as growing risks during extreme weather.

"Shortages could occur when demand is high and solar, wind or hydro output are low," he said.

Those regions include parts of the Midwest and South in the grid area managed by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, New England, Texas, much of the Southwest and California. Grid operators, though, are becoming increasingly adept at planning and running electric grids with large amounts of intermittent resources.

"It's refreshing to finally get the recognition that renewables can help with reliability," said Simon Mahan, executive director of the Southern Renewable Energy Association.

Shifting seasons and climate change

While most of the country has historically been "summer-peaking," meaning regions hit their highest demand for electricity during the summer months, some areas are increasingly seeing demand spike in winter, a trend that is expected to continue as result of heating electrification, other decarbonization policies and more extreme, protracted cold weather events. Indeed, the majority of recent electric grid failures have been during severe winter weather, such as Winter Storm Elliott in 2022, which caused blackouts in several southern states and

Uri in 2021, which caused a catastrophic collapse of the Texas electric grid that caused an estimated 246 deaths.

But summer heat still poses risks, NERC says, contributing to both high demand and power plant outages, such as at natural gas power plants.

"Last summer brought record temperatures, extended heat waves and wildfires to large parts of North America," the organization said. And though energy emergency alerts were few and no electricity supply interruptions happened as a result of insufficient power resources, grid operators "faced significant challenges and drew upon procedures and protocols to obtain all available resources, manage system demand and ensure that energy is delivered over the transmission network to meet the system demand." Utilities and state and local officials in many areas also "used mechanisms and public appeals to lower customer demand during periods of strained supplies," NERC added.

Christy Walsh, a senior attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council's Sustainable FERC Project, said the reliability reports show how climate change is central to the pressures facing the electric grid.

"And it needs to be at the center of our solutions too," she said in a statement to States Newsroom. "Earlier and more intense hurricanes brought on by increasing sea temperatures are a new and noteworthy concern, and this underscores the need for more large-scale transmission and connections between regions. Most of the new additions were wind, solar and storage, and last summer especially we saw just how crucial these resources can be during extreme heat events. We need to make sure we have a grid that can withstand the weather and move resources around during times of stress."

### Esperanza 'Hope' Madril

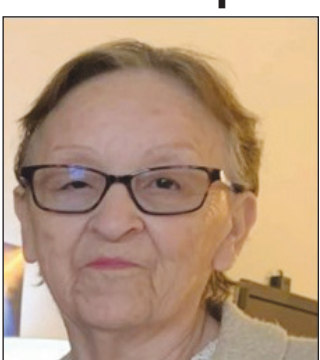
Esperanza "Hope" Madril, 82, of Canon City, Colo., went home to be with the Lord on May 4, 2024, at Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs.

She was born Oct. 19, 1941, in Ortiz, Colo., to Victoriano and Jesusita Salazar and was united in marriage to Alonzo "Al" Madril on Nov. 25, 1960. Together they raised three children, Johnny, David and Carloyn.

Hope was preceded in death by her husband, Al and her son, Johnny.

Survivors include her children, David (Holly) Madril of San Antonio, Texas, and Carolyn Madril of Canon City, Colo.; grandchildren, Corey and Melissa (Chance); and great-granddaughter Marlowe all of San Antonio, Texas. Also surviving are her sister, Alice Candy of Antonito, Colo., and brother, Ernie (Naomi) Salazar of Alamosa, Colo.; and special niece, Vera Domingez and family of Denver, Colo.

Some of her hobbies included spending time with her cat Tabby, embroidery, sewing, and working on her house and yard. She especially enjoyed



spending time caring for her loving family.

Hope grew up in a family of 12 children and was the 8th child. She went to work at the age of 8 washing dishes to help the family and worked her whole life until retirement. She was always feisty and daring.

She spent 32 years working for City Market in Canon City. She was a dedicated employee and spent her career in the Bakery from which she retired. She enjoyed her work at City Market, liked helping customers, training employees and made many friends throughout her career.

Hope was a beautiful and caring person. She loved her children, grandchildren and great granddaughter Marlowe very much. She often enjoyed

looking at pictures of Marlowe and talking to her on the phone. She especially loved her cat Tabby who followed her everywhere she went. Hope had a kind and gentle heart and often helped others when they were in need. Her close friends were Elan Mestas, Vangie Casias, Chris and Doug Lee, Bernice Juarez, Lucille Perea and Sierra of Oregon. She enjoyed spending time with and talking to them over the phone. As special to Hope as her friends were, she loved her sister Alice and niece Vera who were always there for her. Hope had a fun-loving personality and the true definition of Live, Laugh and Love. She was a strong individual and took pride in all that she did throughout her life. She enjoyed life and loved those in her life with all her heart and always made time to laugh.

She will be dearly missed by all who knew her. Services will be announced and held at a later date.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Esperanza "Hope" Madril, please visit our floral store.

## PENDING OBITUARIES

### Leola Roberts

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

Services are pending and will be announced through Rogers Family Mortuary of Monte Vista. To leave online condolences, words of comfort, or tributes for Leola's family, visit [www.RogersFunerals.com](http://www.RogersFunerals.com).

### Jayne Martinez

San Luis resident Jayne Martinez was called home May 28, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

## 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](http://slvaa.org)

**School Menu**  
**Wednesday**  
**May 29, 2024**

#### BREAKFAST

Waffle

Fruit & Milk

#### ELEMENTARY

Hot Dog

French Fries

Fruit

& Milk

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL

Hot Dog

French Fries

Fruit

& Milk

#### HIGH SCHOOL

Hot Dog

French Fries

Fruit

& Milk

Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students

Alamosa School District

To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553

# Valley News

## Battle of the Bands is Saturday in Cole Park

**CONTRIBUTED ALAMOSA** — Come out to Cole Park for a fantastic Battle of the Bands presented by the Alamosa Live Music Association (ALMA) on Saturday, June 1, from 4-7 p.m. at SummerFest on the Rio in Alamosa.

Five artists will compete in this order: The Audience, Epistemon, The Arcane Ramblers, Rhythms and Red, and 1000 shadows. These local and regional performers offer various sounds including experimental indie rock, electronica, bluegrass, garage rock, and alternative rock.

Your vote, along with five expert judges, will help decide the winner, who will perform at a Sundays at Six concert in Cole Park on Aug. 18.

The Audience is an experimental rock group of mostly human-based instrumentalists formed in Crestone in early 4032 CE. The group left the future, narrowly escaping the long-winded demise of A.I. and its meager attempts to erase all human memory through its artificially created music. But thanks to deep rooted emotions, a few dreams and muscle memory, The Audience, Benny Roman, Carl Swett, Holly Ray, and Robin Chestnut, successfully escaped 4032 and have arrived now to craft an organic human experience to, also perhaps, experiment on their ancestral specta-

tors. With the help of both mostly functional instruments and brain tissue they scavenged from the ruins of civilization at that time, the music and vibrational frequencies that The Audience exchanges may leave you wondering who the audience really is.

Epistemon is the Trip hop, Trip rock, Down-tempo, Electropop musical brainchild of singer-songwriter-producer Paul David. Epistemon is making the attempt to fill the airwaves with colorful rifts and a mosaic of atmospheric sounds and electro pop, trip hoppy melodies, and hooks. Lyrically driven and experimental with sound, Epistemon is electronically heavy yet poised to push a blend of EDM rhythms and hip-hop elements sampling and looping, juxtaposed as a backdrop for provocative lyrics with glimpses that reminiscence the vocal grunge era. Pushing to bring philosophical ideas into the fray of the current music environment, Colorado based Epistemon is a journey into a head bopping ride of colorful sonic ideas. Lyrically intense, emotional yet haunting, and always with the elements of hope. Epistemon brings some bounce to the pensive in the quest for the elusive masterpiece.

The Arcane Ramblers present traditional music in fresh and original



Courtesy photo

Pictured is the Battle of the Bands winner from 2023 – Absolution from Antonito.

ways. They draw inspiration from the likes of Bill Monroe, Dock Boggs, Doc Watson, John Hartford, Tim O'Brien, John Reischmann and Norman Blake; and they search out tunes that are unusual and seldom played, putting the "Arcane" in The Arcane Ramblers. Robert Quijano masterfully holds down the bass runs on guitar, along with supplying brilliant lead. Bud provides crisp licks on both banjo and mandolin, and Tom Robison holds forth on fiddle, rid-

ing that delicate balance between authenticity and innovation. In addition, these players sing everything from old ballads to light-hearted novelty tunes in sweet three-part harmony. You really don't ever know what to expect from them. Their sound is spontaneous, and tight as a banjo head!

As the Valley's newest and only Garage Funk Duo, Rhythms and Red is comprised of local musicians Alex Youngbird (Percussion, Vocals) and Marc Albion

(Guitar, Vocals). With each of them having roots in Classical Music, Rock n' Roll, Funk, and Jazz, the duo's originals blend The Black Keys, Bootsy Collins, and The Grateful Dead – Rock n' Roll aesthetics, funky guitar accompaniment and extended improvisation – while their covers span as many decades as they do genres! Their marriage of novel arrangements, on stage abilities, and eclectic song choices ensures Rhythms & Red will

always be greater than the sum of its parts!

1000 shadows was formed in 2022 in Pueblo, consisting of co-workers and longtime friends taking pride in writing original alternative rock music. Playing several venues in Pueblo and improving their style, they are ready to have fun. Band members are Jim Miller, lead vocals, Edward Dennis, rhythm guitar and backing vocals, Shaw Harrison, lead guitar, Jon Conley, bass, and Brett Pavlik, drums.

## Alamosa – Home of School Desegregation



The Zapata Historic Park in Alamosa.

Courier photo by John Waters

By DON THOMPSON

**ALAMOSA** — It has been 70 years since the Supreme Court found in a 9-0 decision in Brown vs. Board of Education that segregation was unlawful. Alamosa beat that decision by 50 years when District Court Judge Charles Holbrook ruled in the 1914 Maestas Case, that segregation was unlawful. In that opinion Holbrook stated, "the only way to destroy this feeling of discontent and bitterness which has recently grown up, is to allow all children so prepared, to attend the school nearest them."

Just recently, and in conjunction with May as Historic Preservation Month, Alamosa Parks

& Recreation installed the sign pictured showing that Alamosa City Council had officially changed the name of Zapata Park to read Zapata Historic Park.

The park had been the site of the Mexican School which was so central to the court decision in 1914 to integrate the public schools in Alamosa. The Maestas Case was brought by a group of citizens that formed the Spanish American Union to protest that a student had to pass his closest school to attend the Mexican School. The student in question had to cross not only Main St. but the rail yards.

In 1914 crossing Main St. was not a problem with probably as much horse and buggy traffic as automobile traffic, but the rail yards were another matter. At that time there were five passenger trains arriving and leaving Alamosa daily, and more of a factor, the numerous freight movements since Alamosa was where narrow gauge met standard gauge. Freight movements were frequent because freight had to be transferred between the two different gauges.

Don Thompson as a member of the Alamosa Historic Preservation Committee.

## Grants

Continued from Page 1  
County Clerk and Recorder.

Potential projects may receive funding up to \$5,000 and the proj-

ect cost may not exceed \$20,000. Grants also require a one-to-one cash match and are paid on a reimbursement basis. Counties or municipalities may apply for more than one project.

The SLV COG Mini-

Grant program is funded by a grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Program.

Potential applicants may contact Alliyah Garcia with the SLV

COG at (719) 589-6099 if they have questions about SLV COG Mini-Grants.

For more information about the San Luis Valley Council of Governments, visit [www.slvdrg.org](http://www.slvdrg.org).

## Awards

Continued from Page 1  
with 2024 Teacher Recognition Awards. The awards recognize the significant role they played

in shaping the educational experience and development of a Boettcher Scholar.

The honor consists of a digital certificate (sent to the teacher), a special tribute from Brock and

Jaymi, and a \$500 grant to be mailed in late August which is to be used at McQuitty's and Ramirez's direction for an educational project, activity, professional development, or piece of equipment that

they feel will benefit students and the school.

Additionally, Brock and Jaymi's counselor(s) will receive a \$100 grant for each student through the same check to be used for similar purposes.

## Hope

Continued from Page 1  
sa County.

Last week, less than two years later, an announcement signed and sent out by Kim Reed, also serving as development director, notified the public that they have accomplished what they said they would do.

"It is with great excitement and profound gratitude that we announce the official opening of Hope in the Valley, a new treatment and recovery center dedicated to serv-

ing individuals battling addiction and mental health challenges," Kim Reed's announcement reads.

"As of today, our doors are open to providing much-needed support to those in need. At Hope in the Valley, we are proud to offer 10 detox beds for immediate assistance, along with intensive outpatient therapy and partial hospitalization programs.

"While our ribbon-cutting ceremony opening is scheduled for July 11, we are already actively helping those in need. It

is truly heartwarming to see the community's overwhelming response, with a waiting list already in place.

"We are honored to announce that Attorney General (Phil) Weiser will be joining us for the ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 11. Until then, we urge anyone who knows someone struggling with addiction to reach out to our facility without delay.

"Our location behind the sheriff's office in Alamosa, 1317 17th St., Alamosa, serves as a beacon of hope for those seeking help.

"As we embark on this journey, we humbly ask for your prayers, support, and continued assistance in making Hope in the Valley a shining light of hope for the entire San Luis Valley.

"Together, we can make a positive impact and provide much-needed resources to those who need it most.

"Thank you for your unwavering support!"

More information about Hope in the Valley can be found on their website at <https://hopealamosa.org> or by calling 719-206-HOPE (4673).

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# Opinion

## What Aspen can teach us

Back in the '90s, when writer Hunter S. Thompson held court at the Woody Creek Tavern just outside of Aspen, he'd often rail against the "greedheads."

I grew up in Aspen, and sometimes my dad took me there to look at all the dollar bills on the wall. He made sure a picture of me and my first bull elk joined pictures in the bar of ski bums in head-to-toe denim.

Nowadays the bills are \$100s and the pictures on the walls look like fashion shoots. What would Hunter Thompson think? Likely that the greedheads had won. Most of the West's resort towns have undergone something of an Aspenification, and that includes Aspen's bedroom communities of Basalt, Carbondale and Rifle that send workers to the ski lifts and restaurants.

When I was young, my family bounced around Aspen-area trailer parks, and even lived in the office of a horse-stable at the base of Aspen Highlands Ski Resort. The cabin had no running water, and the only heat was a wood stove. We'd sled down the hill hanging on to our groceries and water jugs.

When I was 8, my mom was able to buy a deed-restricted condo in Aspen. Even then we needed to add a roommate to afford our 740 square foot, two-bedroom apartment, one of us sleeping on the day-bed in the living room.

Dad called it "condo-bondage," and a love of horses, hunting and open spaces pushed him farther down-valley before he settled in Silt, over an hour from Aspen.

I spent my middle-school years there, living with my dad in the early 1990s, and it felt like a different world. Decades later I remember the first Sotheby's "for sale" sign I saw outside of a ranch near Silt.

A feeling of dread swept over me. The same dread I felt as a senior in Aspen High School with a job, basic math skills and a sinking realization that I couldn't afford to live in my hometown. I thought, "My dentist commutes from over 70 miles away, how could I afford to live here?"

Twenty years ago, I moved to Grand Junction, a historically blue-collar town, the biggest in Western Colorado with

### Writers On The Range



Jacob Richards



65,000 people. Now, even humble Grand Junction is undergoing Aspenification despite being over two hours from the glitz of Telluride or Aspen.

It's a long way from the town's history of milling uranium and then stashing its tailings — still containing high amounts of radioactivity — along the Colorado River, not to mention meth epidemics and an ongoing homelessness crisis.

But these days you can ride a zip-line across the Colorado River, rent an electric scooter or buy a luxury condo downtown, built by Aspen-based developers.

The downsides of this Aspenification are hard to ignore. A 2019 study found that the Grand Valley surrounding Grand Junction was short some 3,736 units of affordable housing. Since then, housing costs and homelessness have both risen about 45%, according to Grand Junction Housing Manager Ashley Chambers.

"Seniors are getting creamed, service workers are getting creamed, and it's adding to the homelessness crisis," said Scott Beilfuss, Grand Junction City Councilman.

"If we remain a healthcare, service and retail-based economy, wages will never catch up with housing costs," Beilfuss said. "This has consequences for the entire Western Slope."

But here's what I've learned from growing up in Aspen. The perpetrator of this rural transformation has lessons to teach us. The town has run a robust and affordable housing program for years, and a recent study found that two-thirds of occupied housing units in Aspen were affordable.

Additionally, Aspen has long invested



Photo courtesy Jacob Richards

Jacob Richards with his dad and first bull elk.

in a world-class public transit system so workers can commute from miles away.

There are glitches. My mother, who still lives in her deed-restricted condo, learned that her basement often fills with leach water collected from Aspen's toxic mining heritage. Repair estimates are \$10 million — a sum she and the 79 other households can't begin to afford.

What Aspen's success teaches us is that the greedheads can't be stopped, but they can be pressured to build or subsidize affordable housing, something that's in the resort town's inter-

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### Letters policy

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

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## Why debates matter

By STEVEN ROBERTS

Joe Biden and Donald Trump have agreed to debate twice — on CNN in June, then on ABC in September. Both think they can win, or at least gain an advantage over the other. But both can't be right.

Political scientists agree that debates seldom have a decisive impact on any election, and this year, there are even fewer swing voters than usual. As polling analyst Nate Silver told Politico, "Almost nothing moves the polls these days because the candidates are so well known and everybody is so partisan. So, they (debates) don't matter that much."

But there's a flip side. Since this election, like the last two, is likely to be very close, even a small shift in public sentiment could have major implications. Debates often command huge audiences — 73 million watched the first Biden-Trump clash — and that's not the whole story. Debates create content that can be shaped and shared up until Election Day.

So debates do matter. Or at least they

can. As Alan Schroeder, who authored a book on the subject, told CNN: "The beauty of debates is it's the only time during these lengthy, two-year-long campaigns where you see the candidates next to each other and confronting each other. ... I think that's a really important piece of any election, because it's so different from everything else."

Like TV ads, debates seldom change minds or preferences. What they can change, says Schroeder, is motivation and the willingness to act on your choices: "Maybe you've already decided you prefer one candidate over the other. But does that mean you actually go out and vote? If you watch the debate and you're fired up by a strong performance or scared by what the other candidate is saying, then the debate could conceivably lead you to vote."

The question then is how candidates galvanize their supporters. Sure, issues matter. Trump will stress inflation and immigration. Biden will emphasize abortion rights, infrastructure spending and climate change.

But voters are often even more in-

terested in personal traits — character, temperament, judgment. And debates provide a rare moment in any campaign when candidates have to perform live, under maximum stress, without teleprompters or advisers or even bathroom breaks.

Frank Fahrenkopf Jr. is chairperson of the Commission on Presidential Debates, and while his panel has been sidelined by the candidates this year, he's presided over 33 previous debates. Fahrenkopf told Ryan Lizza of Politico: "I've learned that the American people would really like to like their president. So I think that they're not only making decisions based upon the answers that are given, but how they handle themselves."

His comments illuminate why both candidates agreed to debate this year: They think that in any comparison of character, they'll come out ahead.

For Trump, the decision was easy. As the New York Times reports: "The Trump campaign believes, almost to a person, that Mr. Biden has declined significantly since 2020 and would be ex-

posed in a debate against Mr. Trump." Aaron Blake adds in the Washington Post: "The debates certainly risk confirming people's concerns about Biden's age if he can't volley with an opponent who loves to interrupt and goad. But it's a test that Biden, in particular, needed to take and pass."

Yes, Biden needs to pass that test of energy and endurance, but the president took the risk of debating for another reason, as well. Inflation remains so indelibly irritating to so many Americans that if the election becomes a referendum on Biden's tenure, he's likely to lose. He has to reframe the question that voters ask themselves. Instead of "Are you happy with the economy?" he wants and needs them to ask: "Would Trump be even worse?"

"The Biden campaign has been trying to remind voters of why a majority removed Mr. Trump from office in 2020," writes the Times. "People close to the president have said they're worried about so-called Trump amnesia — that voters are nostalgic about Mr. Trump and have forgotten how divisive he was — and some of the recent polling underscores that point. A side-by-side debate, which could have a large viewing audience, is the most dramatic way for the Biden campaign to give Mr. Trump more exposure, in their view."

So both sides are making similar bets — that the other guy will falter. That the debates will expose their opponent's flaws. Trump hopes Biden will look old and feeble. Biden wants Trump to appear unhinged and unstable.

One candidate could be making a bad bet. But we won't know which one until after the debates.

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# Lifestyles

## A veterinarian's top tips for a safe, fun summer

By **DR. WHITNEY MILLER, DVM, MBA, DACVPM**  
Chief Veterinarian at Petco

(NAPSI) — Longer, warmer days often mean pets and pet parents are spending more time together outside. Whether you're hosting a pool party, traveling or exploring the great outdoors together this summer, there are a few important things to keep in mind to ensure your pet is happy and healthy all season long:

Keep up with routine care and protect against pests: No matter their age, pets should see their veterinarian for routine wellness exams for preventative care, early detection and intervention. More time outside means a higher chance of bug bites and exposure to tick-borne illnesses. Maintaining a consistent flea-and-tick prevention routine is essential all year long but particularly during warmer months. Your veterinarian can help you choose the best preventative medications, shampoos and tools for your pet. For diseases such as heartworm, a single bite from an infected mosquito can transmit the disease to your pet. To help identify, treat and prevent heartworm in pets, from June 2 through 29 Petco is offering a free heartworm test with the purchase of select flea, tick and heartworm protection prescription medication at Vetco Vaccination Clinics and

Vetco Total Care hospitals nationwide.

Be aware of surroundings: Warmer weather also means animals such as snakes are more active. Consult your veterinarian to determine if your pet should receive the rattlesnake vaccine. Particularly in high-risk areas, keep dogs on a non-retractable leash so they remain close by and stay aware of your surroundings. Positive reinforcement-based training can help teach your pet to be alert and stay by your side. In the event of a bite or other emergency, be sure to know where the closest emergency veterinary hospital is located and how to get there as fast as possible. Treatment plans vary based on the severity and location of the snake bite, so call ahead to ensure the hospital has the availability and proper tools to care for your pet.

Beat the heat: It's always important to look out for and prevent overheating and dehydration in pets, especially during the summer. Keep pets protected from the sun with a hat or tent and ensure they always have access to fresh, clean water. When out on walks, remember that hot asphalt can burn your pet's paws — if it's too hot to hold your hand on the ground for seven seconds, it's too hot for your pet. On hot days, I recommend changing your route to include cooler surfaces such as dirt or grass or invest in

a pair of booties for extra protection. To prevent your pets from getting a sunburn, avoid excessive sun exposure and apply a pet-safe sunscreen to their ears, nose and anywhere else they have bare skin or thin fur. In addition, pets with thick coats should have a regular grooming schedule to remove excess fur. Petco offers grooming add-ons to a full-service bath or groom including the summer grooming package now through July 6, featuring a tropical-scented spritz, shampoo, seasonal bandana and more.

Include pets in summer fun: For many, a summer pool party or barbecue is not complete without furry friends. Supplies such as a pet pool, cooling vest, splash pad, ice tray, slushy treats and cooling toys help keep pets cool all summer long. For pets that enjoy splashing around, suit up in a stylish swimsuit or flotation vest. Always supervise pets around the pool, especially if they cannot swim or are older and tire easily.

Travel safely: Pet parents planning to bring their pets along on travel and adventures should make sure they have everything they need for the journey. An airline-approved carrier or seat belt extender will keep your pets safe and secure, while a travel bowl and calming chews and toys will help make sure they are happy and comfortable while in transit. Petco's fash-

ion and lifestyle brand, Reddy, brings a new "On-the-Go" collection with a trendy lilac crossbody bag, complete with a waste bag dispenser and carabiner that can be easily attached to a matching lead, collar and treat bag.

Plan for the unthinkable: One in three pets becomes lost at some point in their lifetime. Pet parents should keep pet ID tags and microchips up to date and register their pets on Petco Love Lost, a free national lost-and-found da-

tabase that uses patented image-recognition technology to help reunite lost pets with their families.

For more information on summer tips, products, services and savings, visit a Petco pet care center, petco.com or the Petco app.



Courtesy graphic

It's important to take steps to ensure your pet stays cool, happy and healthy all summer long.

## Agrivoltaics Research and Demonstration Grant now open

By **COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**BROOMFIELD** — To help promote multi-faceted uses of agricultural land, the Colorado Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications for the Agrivoltaics Research and Demonstration Grant Program. Open for the second year in a row, the program funds projects that demonstrate and research the use of solar generation on agricultural land.

"The first year of these grants was a tremendous success. Awardees have explored groundbreaking methods to effectively develop energy on the same land that is used to grow food and fiber," said Cindy Lair, Deputy Director of the Conservation Services Division. "We can't wait to see the new, innovative proposals that will be submitted for this next round of funding."

Up to \$500,000 is available for projects that study the potential,

benefits, and tradeoffs of agrivoltaics in Colorado.

The Agrivoltaics grant program is part of CDA's Agricultural Drought and Climate Resilience Office (ADCRO), which helps Colorado producers mitigate and respond to drought and a changing climate.

Applicants can find the Grant Guidelines as well as instructions for submitting an application on the ADCRO website, at [ag.colorado.gov/adcro](http://ag.colorado.gov/adcro). The maximum grant award is \$249,000 for a single project application. Eligible project types include construction or expansion of agrivoltaics systems and demonstration projects, outreach and communication efforts focused on agrivoltaics benefits or obstacles, and research projects that focus on understanding the benefits, incremental costs, and tradeoffs of agrivoltaics systems.

Applications should be submitted via email to [Rosalie.Skovron@state.co.us](mailto:Rosalie.Skovron@state.co.us) by July 21.

ADCRO staff will host a webinar on the application process on June 18. Anyone interested in applying for the grant can participate. A recording will be available on the CDA YouTube channel.

In the Fiscal Year 2023-24, seven different projects received grant funding to showcase diverse ways of generating electricity from solar arrays on Colorado farms and ranches. One of the projects, completed by Longboard Power, included installing solar wind breaks on a farm and monitoring soil benefits and energy output. Another, through the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust, is creating template conservation easement language that would allow for solar power generation while maintaining ag production and applying conservation values.

The other five projects were by Namaste Solar, Colorado State University, American Farmland Trust, Sandbox Solar, and Summit Cellars.

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# Sports



Courtesy photo by Adams State sports information

The Adams State University women's track and field team took second place at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Championships last weekend in Emporia, Kan.

## Grizzlies are National Runner ups; Finish 2nd with 72 points at 2024 Outdoor Track Nationals

By ASU sports information

**EMPORIA, Kan.** - The Grizzlies continued to compete at the 2024 Outdoor Track Nationals in Emporia, Kansas, and at the end of the three days, the women scored 72 points which resulted in a second-place finish behind the champions of the meet, Pitt State.

### Day 1

The Grizzlies Track & Field Team started off strong at the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships Thursday.

The night began with the Women's 1500m prelims where Gracie Hyde, Elena Carey, Maggie McClesky and Vienna Lahner all competed in the event. Gracie auto qualified by running a 4:35.79 and Elena also auto qualified with a time of 4:31.02. Vienna who ran a 4:31.84 qualified by time.

Women's Steeple was up next and was well represented by the Grizzlies. Ava O'Connor, Emily Schoellkopf, Gracie Hyde and Morgan Hykes were all representing the highlighter green in the event. From that, three Grizzlies made the finals. Ava auto qualified with a time of 10:30.86, Gracie auto qualified with a time of 10:39.95 and Morgan qualified with a 10:40.98 time.

Victoria Amiadamen ran the 400meter Hurdles and ran a 59.54 which was good for the 7th best time for finals.

As the 10k was about to start, all the athletes and spectators were asked to leave the track due to lightning in the area. After the delay, Dayton Brown took this mark at the start of the 10k under the lights. After an impressive race, Dayton finished 9th overall.

The last event of the say was the women's 10k and both Brianna Robles and Precious Robinson made their way to the starting line. After a long battle, Bri finished 3rd, and received All American status, with a time of 34:22.00, while Precious finished 15th with a time of 36:41.62.

### Day 2

The day started with the 800-meter run where three Grizzlies represented in the event. Jessica Simon, Lieke Hoogsteen and Nicole Lawrence. Simon and Hoogsteen secured their spots in the finals by finishing first and second in each of their heats. Lawrence competed and ended 19th overall in the event.

Next up was the 3000m Steeplechase where Gracie Hyde continued to dominate and shattered both the meet record and the facility record with a blazing time of 9:36.95. Teammate Ava O'Connor was not far behind and secured second place in the event by running a 10:08.07. Morgan Hykes gave it everything and finished 10th overall. With that, the Grizzlies secured 18 points in this event.

The day ended once again under the lights for the women's 4x400. The school record breaking team of Alesé Sartain, Isila Apkup, Jessica Simon & Victoria

Amiadamen made their way to the track. After three fast heats, the team was unable to secure a spot in the finals and ended up 13th overall in the event.

### Day 3

Day 3 included huge performances and finishes from the Grizzly Track & Field team. Gracie Hyde continued her success by securing another National title and securing a facility record in the 1500m run by running a 4:16.80. Elena Cary and Vienna Lahner were not far behind and all three Grizzlies made it to the podium. Cary securing 4th place and Lahner securing 7th. The finishes put another 17 points on the board for the Grizzlies.

Next up for the team, was the women's 800m. A tight race through both laps that resulted in Jessica Simon finishing second overall. Simon was .07 seconds behind the first-place finisher of the even from Tiffin. Teammate Lieke Hoogsteen was not far behind and came through the finish line with a 2:10.03 mark and secured the 4th place spot. The two women dominated here and secured another 13 points for the Grizzly squad.

Under the heat of the sun came the heat of the 400m hurdles and Victoria Amiadamen was ready for the challenge. A great start and strong finish from Amiadamen allowed her to cross the finish line with the 5th best time and scored another 4 points to the total tally.

The last event of the day for the Grizzly squad was the much anticipated 5k. Romain Legendre, who is no stranger to the event took the starting line. A tight pack initially turned into a stretched-out field and Legendre could not be stopped. He took off and crossed the finish line with a time of 14:36.13 and at that moment, became a National Champion.

Five Grizzlies took the line for the start of the women's 5k. Brianna Robles, Maggie McCleskey, Tristian Spence, Morgan Hykes & Emily Schoellkopf. Robles led the way in an intense and competitive field. The pack was tight and fierce and as a result, Hykes and Spence had to exit the race. Schoellkopf came in 19th overall and Robles secured the second-place spot with a time of 16:37.66. Teammate Maggie McCleskey was not far behind as she edged two other runners by .27 seconds and .33 seconds. The race for third place could not have been any tighter and the Grizzlies prevailed and secured another 14 points.

Although the Grizzlies scored 72 points as a team, it was not enough to surpass Pitt State and their 100 points. This was the most points scored in an outdoor National event in almost 20 years.

As the Track and Field Season ends, the success of the Adams State University Track and Field/Cross Country team cannot go unnoticed. Securing two runner up finishes in both Cross Country and Outdoor Track and Field and a National Championship, there is no doubt the future is bright.

## Four locals named to play in Kansas-Colorado Kickoff Classic

By KEN HAMRICK  
Courier sports editor

**ALAMOSA** - Four six-man football players have been selected to play in the Kansas-Colorado Kickoff Classic which will take place Saturday in Dodge City, Kan.

Two of the locals are graduates of Sierra Grande High School while the remaining two are from Mountain Valley. All will play for the Colorado South team.

The Panthers selected are Tyler Kester and Brian Ontiveros.

Kester was an All-State selection and he was also the San Luis Valley's 6/8-man Player of the Year this past season. He was the second-leading rusher with 530 yards on 83 carries and he scored 13 touchdowns. He also completed his only pass of the season for 45 yards and a touchdown, and he had 17 receptions for 284 yards and four touchdowns.

On defense, he was the Panthers' leading tackler with 148 including 121 solos. He also had three sacks, 11 hurries, five interceptions and three fumble recoveries.

Ontiveros was Sierra Grande's leading receiver with 25 catches for 429 yards and nine touchdowns. He also ran for 383 yards on 49 carries and he scored six touchdowns, and he completed one of two passes for nine yards.

Ontiveros had 36 tackles and three interceptions on defense.

Sierra Grande won seven games and lost four in 2023 and it went 3-2 in league play. The Panthers qualified for the state



Riley Heater



Tyler Kester



Jacob Martinez



Brian Ontiveros

playoffs and advanced to the quarterfinals.

Representing the Wolves are Riley Heater and Jacob Martinez.

Heater was Mountain Valley's quarterback and he completed 81 of 143 passes for 1,292 yards and 17 touchdowns. He also ran for 212 yards on 51 carries and scored three touchdowns, and he had two receptions for 63 yards and one touchdown.

On defense, Heater had 58 tackles, two fumble recoveries and one blocked field goal.

Martinez was the leading rusher with 702 yards on 94 carries and seven touchdowns. He also completed eight of 19 passes for 129 yards and four touchdowns, and he caught 20 passes for 316 yards and five

touchdowns.

Defensively, Martinez led the team in tackles with 128 including 90 solos. He also had three interceptions, four fumble recoveries and two blocked field goals.

The Wolves were 4-5 overall and 1-4 in league play.

There are two games in the Kickoff Classic. First, the Colorado North team will play the Kansas North team, followed by the Colorado South playing the Kansas South.

**No representatives in the 8-man All-State game**

There will be no local players in this year's eight-man All-State Game which will also take place on Saturday at Gilpin County Stadium in Blackhawk.

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

Contributed

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

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

Jack Dempsey Park.

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

Race officials encourage runners to register online to help make the race-day experience go more smoothly. Those who register in advance can pick up their race packet

in Jack Dempsey Park during the afternoon of July 21, or between 7-8 a.m. on July 22.

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

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



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## GENERAC

# Lifestyle



Photo courtesy of Brandon Laird, CHH Chief Pilot

**Colorado Highland Helicopters is testing new technology that would allow search and rescue teams in helicopters detect missing and distressed people in Colorado's backcountry within minutes and communicate with them. During a recent test in La Plata Canyon, rescuers found two missing people within two minutes and 14 seconds, said Tim Durkin, a search and rescue program coordinator for the Durango-based company.**

## New technology may help find missing people in Colorado's backcountry within minutes

By OLIVIA PRENTZEL  
*The Colorado Sun*

A Durango-based helicopter company is testing a new tool that could help search and rescue teams in helicopters detect missing and distressed people in Colorado's backcountry within minutes and communicate with them, even if they are stuck in an area without cellphone service.

The technology, akin to a miniature cellphone tower, attaches to the outside of a helicopter and allows rescuers to pinpoint the locations of any cellphones within a 3-mile radius using a map on a tablet, Dr. Tim Durkin, a search and rescue program coordinator for Colorado Highland Helicopters.

"As we detect the phone, basically a blotch shows up on the map and as we fly around that area, that blotch gets smaller and smaller and smaller until we can see exactly where they are," Durkin said.

"That process of detecting, focusing on one specific location takes about a minute — not really very long at all."

Depending on the situation, search and rescue teams can then send in ground crews with the person's location or land the helicopter if there's a clearing nearby and conditions allow for a safe landing, Durkin said.

During a test mission in La Plata Canyon northwest of Durango, search crews found the two people they were looking for within two minutes and 14 seconds, Durkin said.

The technology, called Lifeseeker, was developed by Spain-based company CENTUM research & technology and is in the process of being approved by the Federal Communications Commission before it can be sold to the state or counties hoping to use it for their SAR efforts, he said.

La Plata Canyon is bordered by several 12,000- and 13,000-foot peaks on either side with a dense forest at the bottom. There have been several high-profile search and rescue missions to look for missing hikers and ultrarunners in the remote, mountainous area.

The rugged terrain, similar to many areas of Colorado, makes it extremely challenging for searchers to spot people from the air or ground. Some missions in the past lasted weeks before searchers called off ground missions without finding the person they were looking for.

"Even two grown adults standing under the tree cover there, even when we can look on the screen and say, 'we know exactly

where they are,' and we're orbiting 100 feet off the trees in a helicopter, you can't see them because the tree cover is that dense," Durkin, an emergency medicine doctor said.

"Trying to find a person without some adjunct technology to see them is really quite, quite difficult, if not nearly impossible."

The radio-based technology needs a clear view of the terrain without interference to pick up the signal of the cellphone. If the conditions and terrain are favorable, it can detect a cellphone up to nearly 20 miles away.

It takes about three minutes to attach the Lifeseeker unit inside a helicopter when needed for a search and rescue mission, Durkin said.

SAR can also use the tool to send text messages to the missing person, for example, advising them to stay in one area if they are hurt or move to a clearing for a helicopter to pick them up.

The tool also has a broadcast function that allows SAR to send out a message to a group of people within a certain range, similar to an Amber Alert for a missing child, to warn them of a wildfire or flood, Durkin said.

The new technology could be another life-saving tool for the roughly 2,500 search and rescue volunteers around the state who respond to calls from distressed people in the backcountry, said Jeff Sparhawk, the executive director for the Colorado Search and Rescue Association, which represents the state's teams that operate under county sheriffs.

Finding a person with dementia or a missing child without a cellphone, for example, may require a different approach from a search for a missing hiker last seen on the windy summit of a 14,000-foot peak.

Airborne rescuers use a variety of technology to search for people, like high-resolution video that is filtered through software that can identify colors not typically seen in nature, like royal blue. SAR also has access to the state's airplanes that use infrared sensors to detect temperature differences on the ground.

Even so, search and rescue teams' success rate searching visually from helicopters is not very high, Sparhawk said.

"Searching in our valleys, in our mountains, it just is very, very difficult. It is also difficult when people are wearing muted colors — to find somebody wearing gray amongst 10 billion

gray rocks is really hard," he said.

The Lifeseeker technology could make a huge difference for searchers looking for someone in an area outside of cellphone range, but only if the person's phone has power, Sparhawk said.

"It's a balancing act. From our perspective, cellphone batteries are a concern for us — if somebody goes for a hike, we've been teaching people to turn your phone off, put it in airplane mode or preserve the battery however you can. Typically that means disconnecting from the network," Sparhawk said.

"So if they're preserving their cellphone battery, and they don't hear a helicopter and they don't turn it back on, it's not going to make a difference for them. But obviously, if they get lost, they need to turn their cellphone on and try to get into coverage," he said.

A task force designed to better support search and rescue operations across the state listed improving field communications as a way to keep rescuers in the backcountry without passing any costs on to those who call for help.

The 111-page report published in 2022 recommended providing sheriffs and backcountry search and rescue teams with funding to purchase and improve communication technologies, as well as studying the value of helicopters dedicated to rescue needs.

Many of the search and rescue teams across the state have been overwhelmed with a dramatic increase in calls in the past several years.

"How successful our tourism industry has been is a blessing and a curse for us," Sparhawk said. "We support the tourism economy to the degree that we can and don't want to harm that at all, but I think that the increase in population and the increase in tourism just makes us really, really busy."

Most calls come in during the summer, while winter missions typically take more energy, requiring searchers to go into precarious avalanche-prone terrain, he said.

Colorado Search and Rescue advises people to recreate in the backcountry as safely as possible, by following the three T's: trip planning, training and taking the essentials.

"Most people go out on an adventure, not expecting to need help, of course, and so they're gonna go enjoy their day. They should do that," Sparhawk said. "This is the what-if situation that not everybody thinks about."



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- 3 Local businesses sell a wide range of great products at affordable prices and cater to the needs and wants of the community.**
- 4 Shopping Local saves you money and time!** Travel expenses and personal time make the overall cost of items higher.
- 5 Shopping Local retains our community:** Without the support in the local community, restaurants, shops and services are forced to close.
- 6 Shopping Local retains our distinctiveness:** Local businesses respond quicker to the needs of the customers and stock products to meet the core community's needs.
- 7 Shopping Local encourages community growth.** By choosing to do business locally you help maintain Alamosa's diversity, charm & appeal. Which in turn, attracts new community members.
- 8 Shopping Local invests in community services and city economy.** Your dollars spent in locally-owned businesses have three times the impact on your community as dollars spent outside of Alamosa.
- 9 Local shops value you more:** Local businesses survive by their reputation & repeat business which means you get a higher standard of service.





# Classifieds

**221 - HELP WANTED**

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

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

**221 - HELP WANTED**

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

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

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT** is currently accepting applications for LA JARA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL. Applicants must have a principal license/certification or be in the process of obtaining one. NCSD offers a competitive salary with a \$915 health benefit. Interested applicants may download an application at www.northconejos.com or pick one up at North Conejos School District Central Office. Applications may be submitted to Superintendent Darren Edgar at dedgar@northconejos.com or delivered to the NCSD Central Office. Application deadline is Monday, June 3rd at 4:00 p.m. (5/29/24)

**MAINTENANCE ASSOCIATE: LOCAL, WELL-RESPECTED** non-profit agency hiring a PART-TIME MAINTENANCE ASSOCIATE. Responsibilities include varied landscaping, grounds keeping and maintenance/repair projects, special projects, support for Maintenance Supervisor and maintenance team. We're looking for a motivated, values-driven individual with experience in maintenance and repair and excellent interpersonal skills. Initiative essential; training and support provided. Join our staff of dedicated professionals and learn the joys and satisfaction of serving others. \$18.00 hourly wage, 21 hours a week. Send resume: hr@lapuente.net, 719 589-5909, ext238. www.lapuente.net (5/29/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

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

**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)

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# Classifieds

### 221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

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

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

### 221 - HELP WANTED

**ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY** is looking for candidates to fill the position of **BUDGET ANALYST** within the **BUSINESS & FINANCE DEPARTMENT**. You can apply [https://adams.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/ENUS/ASU/details/Budget-Analyst\\_R188](https://adams.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/ENUS/ASU/details/Budget-Analyst_R188). We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions please reach out to our Human Resources department 719-587-7990. (6/8/24)

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

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

### 304 - LAWN & GARDEN

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

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### 324 - SEED & FEED

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

### 345 - WOOD

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

### 353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

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

### 360 - MISC. FOR SALE

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

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### 426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

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

### 525 - GUNS

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### 601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

**MODERN & SPACIOUS APARTMENT** for Rent in **PRIME CRESTONE LOCATION.** Welcome to your new home! Nestled in the heart of Crestone, this beautifully appointed apartment offers both comfort and convenience in every square foot. Key Features: Location: Prime Crestone location, offering easy access to local amenities and attractions. Size: Approximately 1,250 square feet of living space. Rent: \$1600 per month (inclusive of electricity, trash disposal, propane, sewer, and water services). Deposit: \$500 (plus first and last month's rent). Pets: Unfortunately, no pets allowed. Application Process: All potential tenants are required to undergo an interview and background check. Schedule a Viewing:

**DON'T MISS OUT** on this opportunity to call this apartment home! Contact us today to schedule a viewing and start the application process. PO Box 64, Crestone, CO 81131; (719) 256-4313; [crestonetownoffice@gmail.com](mailto:crestonetownoffice@gmail.com) (6/19/24)

Accepting applications for 1 bedroom apartments. Must be 62 or older or disabled

**Cielo Vista Apartments**

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### 630 - ROOMS FOR RENT

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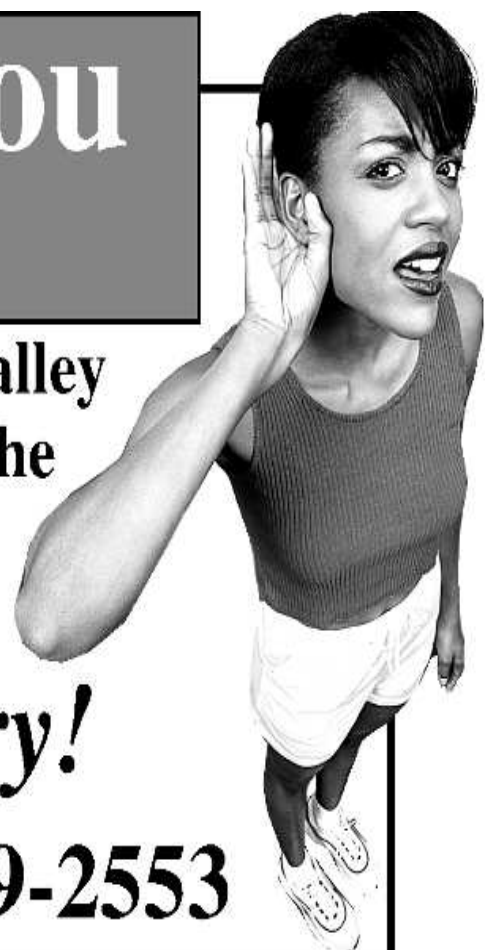
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# Comics

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Scottish cap
  - 4 No-sleeves garment
  - 8 Chessman
  - 12 In the style of
  - 13 Fall line
  - 14 Actor — Arkin
  - 15 Snapshot
  - 16 Small case for small items
  - 17 Yesteryear
  - 18 In that case
  - 20 Bits of grass
  - 22 Actor — McKellen
  - 23 Health resort
  - 24 How-to books
  - 28 Peepers
  - 31 Mineral
  - 32 Pitcher
  - 34 Take it on the —
  - 36 Exclude
  - 37 Money for release
  - 38 DDE's nickname
- DOWN**
- 1 Strike gently
  - 2 Dismounted
  - 3 Equipment
  - 4 Austria's capital
  - 5 Med. specialty

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

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

- 6 Bump a toe
- 7 Works
- 8 Busy time at the bank
- 9 — vera
- 10 "Star —"
- 11 Opposite of SSW
- 19 — de cologne
- 21 Mimic
- 24 Mafia
- 25 Elegant horse
- 26 Pasture
- 27 Big swallow
- 29 Do away with
- 30 "For Pete's —"!
- 33 Annex
- 35 Mal de —
- 37 Crooked
- 40 Mutilate
- 42 Standards of perfection
- 43 Old TV's "— Squad"
- 45 Domesticates
- 47 Actress — Sorvino
- 48 Author — Bagnold
- 49 Wash
- 51 Cain's victim
- 52 Uncle —
- 54 Actress — Farrow
- 56 Engine part

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

## ALLEY OOP

WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS WHY THE EARTH DIDN'T EXPLODE. I DID EVERYTHING CORRECTLY.

IT'S BECAUSE OF ME! I SABOTAGED THE DEVICE YOU SENT TO EARTH, CAUSING IT TO RESET THE TIMELINE WHEN THE EXPLOSIVES WENT OFF!

WOW! THANKS! DID YOU DO THAT FOR ALL THE OTHER PLANET-DESTROYING DEVICES THAT KEETH SENT OUT?

UH, LET'S JUST FOCUS ON THE POSITIVES. EARTH IS SAVED, RIGHT?

## ARLO & JANIS

I LOVE THIS COTTAGE! IT HAS SO MUCH OF WHAT WE WANT!

WHAT IF WE BUILT SOMETHING LIKE IT, JUST A BIT BIGGER?

WE CAME HERE TO GET THE LAY OF THE LAND, TO SEE IF WE LIKE IT! THIS IS OUR FIRST MORNING!

AND WHAT'S SO AWFUL ABOUT BEING A LITTLE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE?

## BIG NATE

NICE HIT, NATE. THANKS, MR. STAPLES.

IF I'D LET MRS. GODFREY STRIKE ME OUT, I COULDN'T LIVE WITH MYSELF.

AH, YOU DON'T CARE FOR MRS. GODFREY?

ARE YOU ASKING ME THAT AS A TEACHER OR A SECOND BASEMAN?

A SECOND BA—

I DESPISE HER WITH THE RAGING INTENSITY OF MOLTEN LAVA.

## THE BORN LOSER

WHY DO PEOPLE THINK I AM A SELFISH MONEY-GRUBBER?

WELL, CHIEF, YOU'VE OFTEN GIVEN THE IMPRESSION YOU WANT IT ALL.

THAT IS NOT TRUE! I DO NOT WANT IT ALL... I JUST WANT MORE THAN EVERYONE ELSE!

## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

ISN'T IT NICE TO HAVE OUR BOYS BACK FROM COLLEGE, ELLY?

UH-HUH!

BUT WE DON'T SEE MUCH OF MICHAEL. HE WORKS ALL NIGHT, SLEEPS DURING THE DAY — AND THE REST OF THE TIME HE'S OUT WITH HIS FRIENDS!

WELL, AT LEAST YOU KNOW HE'S THERE, EL! AT LEAST YOU KNOW HE'S HOME!

YEAH...

—THERE'S FOOD MISSING.

## FRANK & ERNEST

M.D.

NO, NO, FRANK!... "PREVENTIVE MEDICINE" MEANS YOU LET ME EXAMINE YOU!

## GARFIELD

BELIEVE IT OR NOT...

ODIE OCCASIONALLY ENJOYS A GOOD BOOK

KETCHUP?

## THE GRIZZWELLS

I HAVE GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

THE BAD NEWS IS, I DROPPED MY PHONE IN THE GIRLS' BATHROOM TOILET

WHAT'S THE GOOD NEWS?

FOR ONCE, THE SCREEN DIDN'T BREAK

## PEANUTS

JOE SKATEBOARD!

## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

**PREVIOUS SOLUTION**

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

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

## HERMAN

JEWELRY STORE

"You gonna be long? I'm double-parked."

# Mother doesn't want son's girlfriend at every event

DEAR ABBY: My son is a sophomore in college. He has been dating a girl he met at school for almost a year. Her family no longer speaks to her for reasons I don't know. I have included her in our family holidays, but she later tells my son that she thinks I don't like her.

It causes problems for me when I visit him at school, which is often because it's my alma mater. When I'm there, she attends all dinners and family events whether she's invited or not, and I am expected to pay for her as well. My son has invited her to our house without my permission, and I do not want her to come. How do I tell him I don't want her here without causing major problems in my relationship with him? -- OPPOSED MOM IN OHIO

DEARMOM: Teach your son good manners by telling him you don't want anyone joining you for every family event and dinner without first being asked to include her. As much as he may like the girl, she is not (yet) a family member. Be sure to point out that you do not dislike her, but this is a formality you would like observed. The two of them are not a package deal.

P.S. The fact that her family doesn't talk to her is a red flag that should not be ignored. Broach that subject with your son now.

DEAR ABBY: I'm concerned that my son-in-law is emotionally abusing my daughter. She was always a bit shy but was able to stand up for herself.

Recently, we were driving to a new destination and she was using Google Maps. It said we had arrived at our destination, but we couldn't see it. After backtracking, her husband was able to find it. He then berated my daughter for "being unprepared and not knowing where it was"! No one had been there before, and we were following an effective app. She apologized to him.

I wanted to say something, but when I have in the past, she became upset with me. I see her confidence ebbing away. She needs to stand up to him. There have been many more instances. How can I help her return to being the strong and confident woman she was? I don't think counseling would work. She doesn't recognize what is happening to her. -- MOM WHO SEES IT IN CALIFORNIA

DEARMOM: Talk to your daughter privately. Explain that you are worried about her because she's no longer the person she once was. Give her examples of her husband's verbal abuse that you have observed and ask if she thinks she really deserved it. Offer to (quietly) pay for her to talk with a licensed counselor if she would be willing.



**ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**

Then cross your fingers that she will accept your offer and act on it without spilling the beans to her husband.

DEAR ABBY: Unfortunately, I was involved in a traffic accident. (The other party was found liable.) After the crash, the other driver was bleeding and had gashes. I experienced a couple broken ribs. Would it be OK to contact the other driver to see how he is? He was so polite to me at the accident scene. I really feel like he was a nice person. -- BROKEN IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR BROKEN: I know you mean well. However, before contacting this nice person, you would be wise to discuss it with an attorney to make sure there will be no legal ramifications you might later regret.

# Lifestyle

## 'Enjoy the journey' Centauri grads

Nearly 80 receive diplomas on May 25

**STAFF REPORT**  
**LA JARA** – It was standing-room-only for the Centauri High School graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 25, inside the CHS gymnasium. North Conejos School District Board of Education trustees proudly recognized 77 graduates in a student-centered ceremony that finished in less than an hour as promised by CHS Principal Katie Montague. The top four students of the class were the featured speakers at the ceremony – Diego Chavez, Riley Valdez, Julia Patigdas, Tayden Montoya.

Chavez kept his speech lighthearted and concluded by thanking everyone. "Thank you everybody from the bottom of my year," said Chavez, wearing a red cap and gown with light blue stole signifying he is a National Honor Society member and a gold cord signaling high academic honor of a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or above over their four years of high school. "Friends, family, students, staff, so many people have invested their time, money, effort, love, anything I could ask for, I really appreciate it, and that goes for all of us. We have all been invested into, let's show everyone that invested in us that it was not taken for granted."

Patigdas, Valdez, and Montoya are also NHS members and wore gold cords. Patigdas, wearing a white cap and gown, reminded her classmates to "enjoy the journey" ahead. "As you look forward to the next stage of our lives, whether it is college, a career, or another path entirely, let us vow to enjoy the journey and not just the destination," she said.

Valdez inspired his classmates to be the catalyst of change. "We can inspire change in our communities, workplaces and homes, not by force by the strength of our character, the consistency of our actions," he said. "As we embark on this new chapter of our lives let us lead with compassion, integrity, and the unwavering belief that we can change the world."

Montoya looked forward to hearing about all that the Class of 2024 would accomplish in the years ahead. She received 12 scholarships, second most in the class, that totaled nearly \$300,000.

"You are all capable of shooting for the stars and beyond," she said. "I know you will do incredible things in this world, and I cannot wait to hear about them."

Twenty-four graduates were National Honor Society members and 32 wore gold cords.

Montague, wearing a long, flowing red dress, gave the Welcoming Address and read off a list of Class of 2024 accomplishments inside and outside of the classroom.

During the entire ceremony, candid photos past and present of the graduates were shown on a large screen above the



Centauri High School's Diego Chavez was the first student speaker during the commencement ceremony at CHS on May 25. The top four students of the class in order of rank spoke at the graduation.



Centauri High School's Julia Patigdas was one of four student speakers at the graduation ceremony on May 25.

Photos by Brian Williams

speakers. The class, as of the ceremony, had received nearly \$3 million in scholarships and Montague said that number could rise as more were expected to be announced. Seventy-three students received scholarships. Saige Hostetter

received 13 scholarships, totaling nearly \$300,000. School district Superintendent Darren Edgar thanked two retiring staffers – Krista Middlemist and Ester Sowards – for their decades of service. Middlemist, a La Jara Elementary Special Education teacher, had

30 years of teaching. Sowards, a Centauri Middle School custodian, had 20 years with the district. The parents of Logan Smith accepted his honorary graduate diploma. Smith, 15, died in tragic dirt motorcycle accident in August of 2021. Graduates Camry Mill-

er and Aundre Chavez provided opening and closing prayers, respectively. Miller received eight scholarships that totaled nearly \$380,000, including \$132,000 Chancellor's Scholarship from the University of Denver, and a \$100,000 Daniels Scholarship.

Jaelyn Jackson was the senior class president. Nikolai Pawloski was the class sponsor. Montoya concluded her speech with the following quote by Dr. Seuss, "You're off to great places. Today is your day. Your mountain is waiting, so... Get on your way."

THIS IS THE PRACTICE OF SPENDING TIME IN A FOREST OR IN NATURE TO REAP HEALTH BENEFITS.

ANSWER: FOREST BATHING

### Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

20		10	38
1	16		19
	3	17	25
26	27	29	

17	3	5
2	16	1
10	8	20

Solution

### Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

H E T E R G T A U D T O O S R O

Answer: The Great Outdoors

### THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

- 1654: LOUIS XIV IS CROWNED KING OF FRANCE.
- 1905: NORWAY'S PARLIAMENT DISSOLVES ITS UNION WITH SWEDEN.
- 1946: THE UNITED KINGDOM'S BBC RETURNS TO BROADCASTING ITS TELEVISION SERVICE, WHICH HAS BEEN OFF AIR FOR SEVEN YEARS DUE TO WORLD WAR II.

### New Word

#### NATURE

the physical world, including plants, animals and the landscape

### How they SAY that in...

**ENGLISH:** Breeze  
**SPANISH:** Brisa  
**ITALIAN:** Brezza  
**FRENCH:** Brise  
**GERMAN:** Brise

### Did you know?

WHEN ENJOYING CAMPING OR OTHER OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES THAT INVOLVE FIRE, IT IS VITAL TO MAKE SURE THAT THE FIRE IS COMPLETELY EXTINGUISHED BEFORE LEAVING THE SITE.

### GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SWAN



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