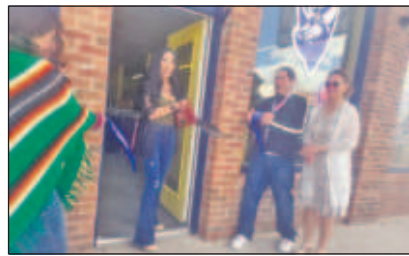




Alamosa A.D. gets Distinguished Service Award

— Page 6



Rainbow's End in Center holds ribbon cutting and grand re-opening celebration

— Page 7



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# Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

April 17, 2024

\$1

## SLV Today

### Property tax payments at Alamosa County Treasurer's Office

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa County Treasurer's Office is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to take your cash, check or credit card payments for property taxes. The full payment deadline is April 30. The office can also take payments over the phone or at alamosacounty.org. A service fee will be charged by the credit card company. Call the treasurer's office at 719-589-3626, if you have any questions.

### Costilla County Health Fair is April 20

SANLUIS — Costilla County Public Health and SLV Health will hold a County Health Fair on Saturday, April 20, from 8 to 11 a.m., at the Centennial School in San Luis. Free Health screenings and affordable lab work will be available.

### Wildfire season is focus of RGNF series April 24

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Wildfire season is upon us here in the San Luis Valley. Join Doug Currie, Forest Fire Management Officer for the Rio Grande National Forest as he talks about the local fire season outlook and how he is preparing for it. Currie has nearly 30 years of experience in wildfire response, prescribed fire and incident management throughout Alaska, the southern and western U.S.

The online program will be held Wednesday, April 24, at 5 p.m. in partnership with the San Juan Mountains Association. Visit the Rio Grande National Forest website or Facebook page, for event information.

This event is part of the Rio Grande National Forest's Forest Specialist Series, a once monthly online presentation to share information with our community.

### SLV WEATHER

Sunny, Breezy, Gusty 69/31

Thurs: Mostly Sunny, Windy 71/36

Fri: Mostly Sunny, Breezy, Gusty 71/33

### 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

## City council voting on hours in the parks tonight

Also on agenda, is ordinance governing water export

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER  
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — The slate of items on the agenda for Alamosa City Council's Wednesday

night meeting doesn't seem to hold any significant surprises in that votes will pertain to two ordinances that have already been discussed in the previous session of council.

Following public comment and a review of the ordinance, members of the council will be asked to vote on a city ordinance that sets specific hours for city parks, trails and open spaces and also bans the pres-

ence of deadly or dangerous weapons. Those who have permits to carry concealed weapons are not impacted, although the city discourages anyone outside of law enforcement bringing weapons to events largely populated by families.

The only other ordinance on the agenda relates to the second reading of Ordinance 6-2024 The Code Of Ordinances Of The City Of Alamosa to

Include a new Chapter 17 titled "Guidelines and Regulations for Water Projects for Export Outside The San Luis Valley as Designated as Matters of State Interest of the City of Alamosa."

As described in information distributed to council members when the ordinance first came up for consideration, local government bodies in the

See HOURS page 3

## Alamosa river restoration plans

By JOHN WATERS  
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — The Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP) is making progress with plans to invigorate the riparian corridor of the Rio Grande in Alamosa. The plan includes recreational opportunities along the river at Cole Park, improving aging and hazardous agricultural diversion infrastructure, and improving aquatic habitat.

The RGHRP is a non-profit based in Alamosa with the mission of restoring the Rio Grande for all users, recreational, agricultural, and wildlife.

According to Cassandra McCuen, Project Manager with the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project, "We have \$310,000 of funding for planning and design for the project this includes community outreach/engagement events, near-final designs, and permitting. Final construction costs will be determined based on the final designs."

Funders for the plan-



Photo courtesy RGHRP

The Rio Grande in Alamosa is the site of improvements planned by the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project. Increased recreational aspects of the plan include a river put-in to facilitate access.

ning and design phase include Colorado Health Foundation, Trinchera Blanca Foundation, Colorado Water Conservancy Board, City of Alamosa, SLV GO, Rio Grande Farm Park, Alamosa County, San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District, and Westside

Ditch water users. McCuen said Jub Engineering and River Restoration have been hired to work with the community during the planning and design process. RiverRestoration has worked on a portfolio of aquatic projects in both restoration and recreation. The firm was retained

by the Bend (Oregon) Parks and Recreation Department in 2010 to replace a hazardous dam on the Deschutes River and transform the area into a recreational paradise. The firm was also hired by the Town of Vail to improve the performance of the Vail Whitewater Park. Both

See RIVER page 3



Courtesy photo

Sheela Bringi will perform at the Baca Colorado College near Crestone on Sunday, April 21, at 2 p.m.

## Sheela Bringi in Baca-Crestone concert

CONTRIBUTED SAGUACHE COUNTY — Hindustani harpist, vocalist and bamboo flautist Sheela Bringi will bring her crossover music artistry to Crestone on Sunday, April 21, at the Baca Colorado College "amphitheater."

Bringi is a classically-trained Indian musician

See BRINGI page 3

## SLV IRC honors donors and hosts a community celebration

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER  
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — The Barn at La Manzanilla in Alamosa was standing-room only on Saturday night when staff, board members and a crowd of supporters of the San Luis Valley Immigration Resources Center (SLVIRC) gathered for the organization's annual Donor Appreciation and Community Celebration event.

Alejandro Jimenez, a commanding spoken word/performance poet living in Santa Fe, N.M., transfixed the audience with the power of his po-

etry. A two-time Emmy nominee, Jimenez was the subject of a May 2023 episode on PBS' American Masters and gives frequent TEDx talks.

Board member Eric Carpio followed, expressing strong praise for the work of the resources center, and gratitude to the donors for their support throughout the year. He shared his appreciation for those who made their voices heard at the recent Alamosa County Commissioners' meeting where a non-sanctuary resolution failed to be voted on.

Mariachi San Luis

See IRC page 3



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

In performing his poetry, Alejandro Jimenez evoked powerful, lasting images and feelings during SLVIRC's event at the Barn at La Manzanilla on Saturday.



Chad Spearman

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Lee Crowther



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# Record

## Creede Hotel announces hiring of new executive chef

**By CREEDE HOTEL**  
CREEDE — The Creede Hotel and Restaurant is excited to announce that it has hired a new executive chef for the summer.

“We had quite a few great candidates but finally decided on Kristen Zagranski,” ownership stated.

Zagranski, boasts an impressive 36-year tenure in the culinary industry, with 23 of those years serving as an Executive Chef. She holds a diploma from the esteemed Le Gordon Bleu Culinary Academy and has garnered experience across the United States, including a notable 5-year stint as the Director of Dining Services at Adams State University.

Her culinary journey extends internationally, having spent the past 2 years in New Zealand as a Corporate Executive Chef, overseeing four restaurants in Rotorua, a bustling tourist hub.

“With her extensive global culinary expertise, innovative approach, unwavering drive, and charming wit, we are confident that this season will be nothing short of exceptional. Watch out for her handmade pastas and use of our local foods,” ownership stated.



**Kristen Zagranski**

“We invite you to join us in extending a warm welcome to Chef Kristen as she returns to the United States and to the San Luis Valley.”

The Creede Hotel and Restaurant will now be 100% run by women with more than 50 years restaurant experience altogether.

## Mountainfilm on Tour makes annual stop in MV

**By MARIE MCCOLM**  
MONTE VISTA — Mountainfilm on Tour made its annual stop in Monte Vista on Thursday, April 11.

Mountainfilm on Tour in Monte Vista is hosted by San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO!) and sponsored by the LOR Foundation, San Luis Valley Federal Bank, SLV Health, Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, the Law Office of Mark Loy, LLC, Sweetgrass Therapeutics, and The Church Project. SLV GO! has been organizing Mountainfilm on Tour for three years.

The short films are a collaboration of breathtaking views, along with personal deep relationships of working people, people who believe in certain things, people of all cultures and ethnical backgrounds, people who overcome obstacles despite having special needs, but most importantly people who enjoy and love the mountains and outdoor areas, and hold something specific and true to their hearts in these areas, this year’s tour of films was no exception.

SLV GO! kicked off the event on Thursday, April 11, with a social hour at the Pivot Public House in Monte Vista. The shorts were shown at Vali 3 Theater in Downtown Monte

Vista. About 80 people attended this year’s event. There were many different independent films in the lineup this year including “School of Fish,” “Wading for Change,” “Soundscape,” “Tear Down the City,” and “Miles to Go.” Each film carried its own personal message.

“School of Fish,” offers the intimate perspective of a family’s struggle to preserve their fishery, rituals and rights, against a mining company, who would bring pollution and possible destruction to a family’s peaceful fishery area where they live in Bristol Bay, Alaska.

“Wading for Change,” offers a look at culture, creed, and acceptance. In a world where some people don’t believe that hiking, biking, and fishing are sports for everyone, the people in this documentary prove that people of different cultures, ethnics, colors, and backgrounds are capable of enjoying the same things that others enjoy as well.

“Soundscape,” is the documentary of a man who is blind but can climb and ascend mountains by relying on his other senses to assist him in the navigation of the climb. The film provides amazing views, as you watch this man with incredible

courage and perseverance make these climbs, and thoroughly enjoy every climb that he conquers. This movie is an amazing testament of what anyone can do, if they really want to, despite their special needs.

“Tear Down the City,” is the picturesque testament of a man that loves to travel everywhere on a mountain bike. In the film, you see him traveling on streets, through parks, through subways, and even up flights of stairs, all on a mountain bike.

“Miles to Go,” is about a team of transgender men, who are all about competition and enjoying the ride. The team enjoys trail racing and each other’s company while riding and enjoying the beauty and freedoms of being one with nature and being free to be themselves.

“You could tell people really enjoyed them. People left the theater smiling and talking about the films,” Mark Renshaw, a Vali 3 Theater employee, said.

Mountainfilm on Tour that takes place once a year in many different towns and locations. The tour is part of the Mountainfilm Festival that takes place yearly in Telluride.

For more information, visit [online.mountainfilm.org](http://online.mountainfilm.org).

## Spring prescribed fires planned

**CONTRIBUTED**  
DEL NORTE — Fire managers on the Rio Grande National Forest plan to conduct several prescribed fires this spring. Continued snowmelt and drying are still needed on all units to meet our anticipated burn dates which will begin in mid-May. Ignitions will only take place if conditions are favorable, and the fire will remain within the burn plan parameters.

“The timeframes for the prescribed burns are carefully balanced with fuel moistures, wind speeds, relative humidity and aspect,” said Doug Currie, Rio Grande National Forest Fire Management Officer. “We watch the conditions and weather closely and it is possible that only some or none of these projects will

be conducted this spring.” These beneficial burns include:

- Bighorn/Stateline Units 4, 5 and 5NM: These three units, totaling 889 acres, are located approximately six miles southwest of Mogote. Two units are on the Conejos Peak Ranger District in Colorado and one 192-acre unit is on the Carson National Forest in New Mexico.
- Conejos Canyon Unit 1: This 200-acre fire area is located on the Conejos Peak Ranger District one mile north of the Fox Creek subdivision.
- Hot Creek/Piedrosa: The 1090-acre project area is approximately 11 miles northwest of Capulin and 20 miles south of Monte Vista on the Conejos Peak Ranger District. Two units will be targeted this spring; Piedro-

sa North and Piedrosa South. These are natural stands of mixed conifer with no previous treatments.

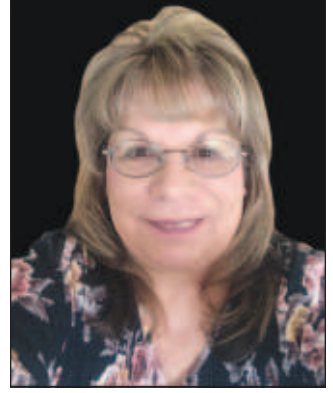
• Laughlin Gulch: This Saguache Ranger District project area is approximately 10 miles west of Saguache. Three units totaling 205 acres will be targeted. The units have been previously thinned, and the burn will target residual slash and surface fuels.

Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. For more information, see [www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health).

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

## OBITUARIES

### Emily Quintana



It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of our beloved Emily E. Quintana. Emily was called home to be with the Lord on March 18, 2024. She passed at her family home in Fountain after losing her battle to cancer. Her loving family was by her side every step of the way. She was a warrior who through all the trials and tribulations of her illness never lost hope or faith. She was an inspiration and showed her family the true definition of strength.

Emily was welcomed into the world on Dec. 31, 1952, in Espanola, N.M., she was the daughter of Jose David and Ernestine (Trejo) Garcia. Emily was a Monte Vista High School Class of 1970 graduate. After graduation, she went on to attend Adams State College from 1970-1972. She worked and retired from Penrose St. Francis Medical Center as a Patient Access Registrar and Safety Coordinator. She devoted years of faithful service and made countless friends from the work she did there.

In her free time, Emily enjoyed listening to music, watching her favorite TV shows, going gam-

bling, gardening/flowering, cooking delicious meals and spending as much time as she could with her family.

She was a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in Colorado Springs, she belonged to the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Green River, Wyoming as well as being a member of the American Legion Post No. 38 in Fountain, Colo. Emily will always be remembered for her kind, caring and compassionate nature. She will be dearly missed.

She will live on through her husband Eshedor Quintana, daughter Melissa (Chris) Luceo of Rock Springs, Wyo.; sons Eshedor Johnny Quintana, David Martin Quintana both of Fountain Colo.; grandchildren Cruz Lucero, Aspen Lucero, Dominik Quintana, Isabella Quintana, broth-

ers Cruz Garcia of Monte Vista, Colo.; Bonifacio (Joann) Garcia of Monte Vista, Martin (Gina) Garcia of Alamosa, Colo.; Steve (Mary) Quintana of Price, Utah; sisters-in-laws Estella Vigil of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Bessie Vigil of Canon City, Colo.; Patsy (Sam) Bishop of Jackson Tenn.; Erma Ayers of Gillette, Wyo. She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Emily was preceded in death by her parents Jose David and Ernestine Garcia, in-laws Manuel and Emilia Quintana, brothers David, Ernest and Michael Garcia, brothers-in-laws Macario (Frances), Leroy, William (Delia), Augustine Quintana, Leonard and Arnold Vigil.

Cremation was chosen and a Memorial Mass will be held on April 19, 2024, at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church located at 2030 W. Colorado Ave., Colorado Springs, Colo. Inurnment will follow at the Memorial Gardens Cemetery at 3828 Airport Rd., Colorado Springs, Colo.

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

### Josie L. Camren (Russell)

Colorado Springs Resident Josie Russell passed away on Feb. 6, 2024, surrounded by her family at Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs after suffering a pedestrian/vehicle accident. Josie was born on May 17, 1945, in Alamosa, Colo., the daughter of Joe and Amelina Lopez (Juan and Aurora Lopez).

Josie loved people and enjoyed connecting with others. Her diverse professional background brought her great pride and friendships that she maintained throughout her life. Josie worked at the Antler’s Hotel, Cheyenne Mountain Conference Resort, Phil Long Ford, Shield Realty and Abba Eyecare. Her hobbies included gardening, cooking and her time

spent with her loving family and friends. Josie was a social butterfly.

Survivors include her loving partner Paul Francis, son’s Clifford Lopez, Earl Russell, Ben (Aranda) Russell and daughter’s Toni Russin and Cindy Russell, grandchildren: Ramon Ortega, Jovan Ortega, Adam Russell, Tony Madrid, Aspen Madrid, Sierra Madrid, Karissa Russell, Amelina Russell, Mary Alice Russell, Zachary (Jasmin) Russell and Jared Russell, great-grandchildren: David, Elizabeth, Branson, Jacob, Isabel, Shane, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Malachi, Elias and Ayla, sisters: Virginia Sumpter and Clara Haas, brothers: Manual Frank (Emily) Lopez, Reggie (Maxine) Lopez and Johnny Lo-



pez. Also survived by several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Josie was preceded in death by her parents and sister Jenny Nily.

Funeral Services will be held Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 10 a.m. with a reception following at 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church at 2030 W. Colorado Ave. in Colorado Springs.

### Pauline H. Beckner



Alamosa resident Pauline H. Beckner, 95, died April 16, 2024, at the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center in Alamosa.

Pauline’s life began on March 25, 1929, in Covington, Ohio, the daughter of Willis Angle and Ollie Rapp Angel. She met her future husband Myron B. Beckner at a young people gathering at church and they soon married on February 7, 1948.

Pauline worked for many years as a Beautician in Ohio and later in Arizona. She always supported her husband in his endeavors by assisting in any way, whether driving a potato truck, or wherever she was needed. Pauline was an accomplished seamstress; she had a knack for art and enjoyed painting. She also enjoyed playing card games, especially Bridge. Above all, Pauline loved the time she spent with her family, and always had a big hug ready.

Pauline is survived by

her children Terry (Connie) Beckner and Linda (Steve) Cheney; her grandchildren, Benjamin (Jenny) Beckner, Matt (Brandi) Beckner, Jonathan (Marissa) Beckner, Todd (Theresa) Cheney, Krista (Cole) Cheatham, Ryan (Autumn) Dyer, Dewey (Lacey) Dyer, Gil (Tyson) Martinez-Dyer and numerous great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and extended family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her siblings Marion, Delmar, Glenna, Thelma, Kenneth, Lois, Luther, Mary Ellen, Clinton, her twin Paul, Betty, and Jean; as well as her granddaughter Kacey Mortensen, and great-

granddaughter Lacy Dyer.

A Funeral Service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 19, 2024, at the Rogers Family Mortuary in Alamosa. Interment will follow services in the Alamosa Cemetery, VFW section, next to her husband Myron.

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

## SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Thomas E. Blunt

Graveside service for Thomas E. Blunt will be held at Homelake Cemetery on April 26, at 2:30 p.m.

**School Menu**  
**Wednesday**  
**April 17, 2024**

**BREAKFAST**  
Mini Pancakes/Turkey Sausage  
Fruit & Milk

**ELEMENTARY**  
Chicken Fajita Salad Bowl  
Chipotle Dressing  
Veggie Bar  
Fruit & Milk

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Chicken Fajita Salad Bowl  
Chipotle Dressing  
Veggie Bar  
Fruit & Milk

**HIGH SCHOOL**  
Chicken Fajita Salad Bowl  
Chipotle Dressing  
Veggie Bar  
Fruit & Milk

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

# Valley News

## First Southwest Community Fund welcomes Jeannie Beier as Director of Lending

**CONTRIBUTED**  
**ALAMOSA** — First Southwest Community Fund (FSWCF), a non-profit that provides inclusive and equitable access to capital for rural Colorado entrepreneurs, nonprofits and small business owners, is recently announced that Jeannie Beier has joined the team as Director of Lending.

FSWCF has experienced significant growth over the past few years. The Director of Lending is a new role in response to this growth. This senior management position was created to ensure that impact goals of key organiza-

tional program initiatives are met, with a focus on delivering loan products and development services to target markets through bank and community partner marketing channels.

“I am excited to join FSWCF and help our communities in Southwest Colorado. We not only provide access to the tools and resources they need to build their small business, but we also help them build

generational wealth,” said Beier.

As Director of Lending, Beier will be responsible for designing and implementing financial products and services that are responsive to target markets; lending production, underwriting and closing, marketing and outreach to target markets, relationship-building with community partners and referral sources and tech-

nical assistance advisors. Her primary responsibility will be to deploy capital and technical assistance resources in an active, healthy loan program that is responsive to the needs of the community.

“Jeannie’s expertise and deep understanding of lending principles, risk management, and customer centric strategies brings the knowledge and skills that First Southwest Community Fund needs to align our team to the next level of service within the commercial and consumer lending fields,” stated Rosy Aburto McDonough,

FSWCF’s executive director. “We are excited to welcome Jeannie to the FSWCF team!”

Beier was born and raised in Omaha, Neb., and moved to Virginia after meeting her husband. Once her husband, Nate, retired from the U.S. Navy, they moved to Florida and then to Pueblo West, where they currently reside. They have three beautiful daughters, three crazy dogs, and a heckle of chickens. Outside of work, Beier enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, and volunteering in her community.



## CSP arrests two for DUI during SLV saturation April 12-14

**CONTRIBUTED**  
**SAN LUIS VALLEY** — Colorado State Patrol conducted 94 contacts and made two DUI arrests during saturation patrols through the San Luis Valley area, which includes the counties of Alamosa, Costilla, Conejos, Rio Grande, and Saguache. The enforcement event was

from Friday, April 12, through Sunday, April 14.

“We consider this to be very positive. People are learning to drink responsibly. The State Patrol will continue to strictly enforce impaired driving laws and drive down the senseless loss of life on Colorado roadways,” officials stated.

This region has experienced 65 fatality crashes and an additional 235 serious injury crashes over the last five years. The majority of these incidents occurred late Friday and into Saturday nights. The leading causal factor for these crashes is impaired driving.

State troopers were

dedicated to the detection and apprehension of drivers who may have been impaired by or otherwise under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of these substances.

Participating agencies were Colorado State Patrol – Statewide DUI Team, and Colorado State Patrol – Troop 5B.

## Judge to rule on La Sierra issues in week-long hearing

**CONTRIBUTED**  
**ALAMOSA** — The “special master” appointed by Judge Kenneth Plotz to settle disputes between access holders to La Sierra and its owner has scheduled a week-long hearing for May 13-17 in the Alamosa District Court.

The purpose of the hearing is to settle three issues, including the right of access holders with land abutting La Sierra to keep their gates that directly open into the ranch for personal access. The hearing will also settle the right of access holders to fix and maintain roads

for better access. Finally, the issue of the right of the owner to fence around any structures within the ranch will be addressed.

The court-appointed “special master” has indicated that he may want to hear from every landowner with abutting land with gates so they can

justify their need for such gate(s). Currently, there are 27 identified gates.

Landowners with direct gates to La Sierra should contact Joseph Quintana at quintanajc60@gmail.com or 719-48-9483 to ensure everyone has an opportunity to present their case.

## River

Continued from Page 1

of these sites are tourist destinations.

The plan will increase community access to river-based recreation including a put-in. The improvements will be similar to the work ARGHRP did along the Rio in Del Norte to increase recreational opportunities there.

Included in the project are improvements to the aging infrastructure for the Westside Ditch, just east of HWY 160.

Aquatic and riparian habitats will benefit from the construction of a low-flow channel, fish habitat structures, and the removal of invasive species.

Alamosa Mayor Ty Coleman told the Valley Courier, “This is an



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

In this 2021 photo, recreational uses of the Rio Grande celebrate the additions made to the river by the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project in Del Norte. One goal of the enhancements was to increase connectivity between the community and the river. Similar improvements are planned for the river in Alamosa.

exciting planning process and we are grateful for the community partnerships that make this project possible. The 2017 Comprehensive

Plan lists the activation of the Rio Grande as the number one community priority, so this project helps us move that effort forward.”

The Valley Courier will have news of the public meetings regarding the restoration project along the Rio Grande when they become available.



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

The talent and enthusiasm of Mariachi San Luis was on full display at SLV IRC’s event.

## IRC

Continued from Page 1

wrapped up the evening with another invigorating performance.

Since it was first formed

in 1987, the SLVIRC has been fulfilling its mission to connect and empower immigrants with resources to achieve legal documentation, fulfill their economic needs and integrate into the community.

Even with a small staff and a relatively limited budget, the SLVIRC manages to offer a wide range of important services, meeting — and sometimes anticipating — needs that are, liter-

ally, not met by any other resource in the Valley. Donations to this long-time cornerstone of the community can be made by going to the website <https://slvirc.org> or calling 719-587-3225.

## Bringi

Continued from Page 1

who reimagines traditional melodies, seamlessly weaving them into vibrant modern compositions.

Experience lush modern renditions of Indian classical songs, North Indian musical modes (ragas), spiritual ballads, and Indian folk melodies. Sheela will be accompanied on the harmonium and bass by Brent Kuecker.

During her live performances, her skill on the raga harp, harmonium, and Indian classical bamboo flute, combined with her Hindustani-inflected vocals, creates a captivating and transcendent experience for listeners. A review in Yoga Chicago said that “Sheela’s classically trained voice and slightly avant-garde energy create magic.”

Her two solo albums, “Shakti Sutra” and “Incantations,” have received critical acclaim from media outlets like NBC News, NPR, and Public Radio International, highlighting her

versatility and cultural impact.

Bringi is also an educator committed to sharing the transformative power of sacred sound and music. She is an adjunct faculty member at Naropa University in Boulder and a co-founder and lead teacher in the Sacred Sound Lab, an online school educating a global community of students in sacred Indian music. Her sound lab is hosting a training retreat at the Lindisfarne “Dome” in Crestone on Aug. 11-18.

Organized by Performances at Baca, tickets for the 2 p.m. concert are \$20 for adults, \$15 for youth/students (ages 7-21), and \$10 for floor seating in front of the stage. Tickets are available at the door starting at 1:30 p.m., but reservations are recommended — as space is limited — by emailing [bacaperformances@gmail.com](mailto:bacaperformances@gmail.com) stipulating the number of adult, youth, or floor tickets requested. Access to the Baca Colorado College campus is off the T-Road near Crestone in Saguache County.

Hours

Continued from Page 1

San Luis Valley, working through the SLV Council of Governments (COG), have been working on a template set of 1041 regulations to be consistently applied across the valley to address the potential for water projects exporting water. Those efforts have resulted in the creation of a uniform template for 1041 regulations to be adopted by all local governments in the Valley.

Alamosa has participated in these efforts to draft the template regulations in meetings hosted by the COG.

While it’s not likely that the city of Alamosa would be a target for those wishing to export water for projects elsewhere, the ordinance was created to both stand in solidarity with the other local governments and to also guar-

antee Alamosa a place at the table, so to speak, if a proposal to export water were to be presented.

As was made in that same coversheet of information to counselors, this would not be the first IGA Alamosa has agreed to as all the communities in the valley are interconnected at a variety of levels.

In addition to votes taken on those two ordinances, the council will be hearing updates from outside funding partners, including the Boys and Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley, Visit Alamosa and South Central Colorado Seniors.

The meeting will conclude with council members going into executive session, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e), to determine positions, develop strategy, and instruct negotiators concerning development incentives for a downtown boutique hotel.

## 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 affiliated 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)

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 Alamosa Valley Courier

# Opinion

## In Wyoming, tormenting a wolf is not a big deal

It's legal in Wyoming to chase coyotes and run over them with snowmobiles, but recently, a man used his snowmobile to run down a wolf until it was disabled. Then he taped the wolf's mouth shut and paraded the animal around a local bar, taking photos to commemorate the event. Finally, he killed the wolf.



By Wendy Keefover

According to news reports, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department fined the man \$250. His only crime: possession of a live wild animal. The more we learn, the worse this disturbing story gets. Most recently, one news outlet released video footage from the state game department showing the muzzled wolf splayed out on the bar floor.

The single upside to this incident is that it has brought scrutiny to the state of Wyoming's bureaucratic indifference to wolves and other wildlife.

We now know that the responsible management agency can't effectively punish one of the worst acts of cruelty ever exposed in the state. But is that any wonder when we consider that the state funds ineffectual predator-control programs that kill wolves and other wild animals indiscriminately?

This failure stands out starkly when compared to neighboring Colorado, now hosting reintroduced wolves. Although Colorado Parks and Wildlife reported recent wildlife-rancher conflicts, two state agencies, which held many meetings with the public before wolves came back to the state, are already working with those ranchers to prevent and mitigate losses and to provide generous compensation funds.

The new Born to be Wild specialty license plate has already generated more than \$60,000 toward Colorado wildlife department's nonlethal-conflict prevention fund for wolves. If a wolf, bear or mountain lion causes a livestock loss, the producer is eligible for compensation, as in a case in early April, where wildlife staffers reported that wolves had killed two calves.

Most states have limits on "manner of take," defined as what methods are permitted to kill wildlife. But in what Wyoming calls its "predator zone" that's a whopping 85% of the state where wolves, coyotes, red foxes, raccoons, porcupines, jack rabbits and stray cats can be killed using any method.

Methods include hounding, baiting, neck snares, leg-hold traps, shooting wildlife from aircraft and M-44 "cyanide bombs," courtesy of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services.

This is all usually undertaken to protect sheep and cattle and grow mule-deer herds for hunters. But conservation biologists find otherwise.

We know that livestock losses attributable to wolves and other native carnivores are rare. Using government data, the Humane Society of the United States found that losses to cattle and sheep caused by wolves, cougars and grizzly bears amounted to less than 1% of those domestic animal inventories in every state containing those wildlife species.

Recent reports have indicated that the Sublette County Sheriff's office has opened an investigation into the killing of the wolf, and we hope officials will move forward with new charges.

Meanwhile, "wildlife advocates in Wyoming, energized by the wolf torture allegations, plan to push for policy reform," reports the news outlet Wyofile. In Wyoming now, it is legal and routine to pursue coyotes by running them down with snowmobiles. The "sport" even has a name: "Chasin' fur."

The plight of wolves in Wyoming, along with those in neighboring states Montana and Idaho where similar practices are allowed, highlights the need for increased protection for these animals. On April 8, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was sued by several wildlife organizations to restore protections for wolves in the Northern Rockies.

In the meantime, a case as shocking as this must never recur. At the least, Wyoming lawmakers need to eliminate its predator zone and strengthen animal cruelty laws. In Colorado, wild animal or not, such an incident would be classified as "aggravated cruelty to animals."

That is the decent thing to do for animals, and when we take into account the links between cruelty to animals and interpersonal violence, we should see it as essential for a civil society as well.

Wendy Keefover is a contributor to *Writers on the Range*, [writersontherange.org](http://writersontherange.org), an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring conversation about Western issues. She works for the Humane Society of the United States as senior strategist for native carnivore protection.



## The beautiful humanity on death row

By ANN COULTER

The New York Times is weeping over the death penalty again, publishing a glowing review of Nashville reporter Steven Hale's book "Death Row Welcomes You." Obviously, it's an important book, since only 1 million journalists have already written about their touching and personal relationships with men sentenced to death.

Although I am generally a hate-reader — having, for example, at least skimmed nearly every book about Trump (he's a Russian asset, a threat to democracy, a conman and sociopath) — I can't in good conscience contribute to an author who waxes on about his "friends" on death row, their "beautiful paintings," and how supporters want to "celebrate" the life of men who just happened to mercilessly torture and kill helpless human beings.

So this will be a review of the Times' review, with supplementary information from Amazon's book sample, plus news reports and court records about the crimes that put Hale's friends on death row.

Hale, the Times writes, gives an insider's account of death row — a place "shrouded by myths of monsters and abominations."

Myths?

Yes. For example, the Times starts with three paragraphs on Billy Ray Irick, such as the "abuse" he suffered as a child. (If you've ever been spanked, the media will turn you into the star of "Mommy Dearest.") We also get Hale's description of Irick's response to lethal injection: "He jolted ... His face turned almost purple."

Hey, does anybody know what landed Irick on death row? The Times says, "Irick raped and murdered a girl."

A girl.

Her name was Paula Dyer, and she was 7 years old.

While babysitting Dyer, Irick raped her — anally and vaginally — then suffocated her, busting blood vessels in her face and eyes. When the police arrived, she was lying on the living room

floor with blood pooling between her legs. She was still alive, so we know she suffered.

Lead investigator Don Wiser told The Knoxville News Sentinel: "I saw her body at the hospital that night — just a beautiful little girl. You had to wonder who could do something like that to a 7-year-old child."

Irick's only explanation: "I lost it."

I stand corrected. It's totally a myth that death row is full of monsters.

Suggestion for the one-millionth and one reporter to write about his pals on death row: If you're going vomit out prose like this, please don't:

"I heard far more about the grace of Jesus Christ growing up than I did the state's duty to repay killing with killing. I suppose this is why, at some point in my teenage years, I came to the belief that an earth as it was in heaven would not include the execution of prisoners if it had any prisoners at all."

But as long as Hale has graced us with that paragraph, we absolutely do not "repay killing with killing." We repay unimaginably hideous murders with 30 years of free room and board, including time for exercising, reading, socializing, making friends, dating, getting married, having children and telling your life story to gullible reporters — all while your victims are in the ground being eaten by worms — and then, being delivered a quick and merciful death.

Hale says his book will reveal "the true horror of executions and the full beautiful and painful humanity of the condemned."

How about the painful humanity of Lee Standifer and the horror of her execution? In 1981 — yes, that's how swift and certain the death penalty is — this 23-year-old mentally disabled girl was on a date with David Earl Miller, whom she'd met at the library. He got her drunk, took her home and smashed her head with a fireplace poker so hard it fractured her skull and burst one of her eye sockets. He then

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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.

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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:cleave.simpson.senate@coleg.gov)

### U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Lauren Boebert (R)**

Pueblo Office: 503 N. Main, Suite 426, Pueblo, CO 81003 (719) 696-6970;

Washington Office: 1609 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

Phone: (202) 225-4761

Fax: (202) 226-9669;

Contact: <https://boebert.house.gov/>

### U.S. SENATE

**Michael Bennet (D)**

SLV Regional Office: 609 Main Street, Suite 110, Alamosa 81101; Phone: 587-0096; Fax: 587-0098;

Washington office: 458 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510; DC Phone: 202-224-5852;

Contact: [bennet.senate.gov](mailto:bennet.senate.gov)

**John Hickenlooper (D)**

Washington office: B85 Russell Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510 (202) 224-5941

Contact: [www.hickenlooper.senate.gov](http://www.hickenlooper.senate.gov)

**Keith R Cerny**  
Publisher

**Brian Williams**  
Managing Editor

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## Your FIRST Source for Local News

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# Lifestyles

## U.S. Rep. Massie joins move to oust Speaker Johnson, who vows: 'I am not resigning'

By JENNIFER SHUTT  
*Colorado Newsline*  
WASHINGTON — Republican Rep. Thomas Massie of Kentucky called on U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson to resign during a closed-door meeting of GOP lawmakers on Tuesday, throwing more uncertainty into that chamber just months before the November elections.

Massie told reporters after the meeting and just before a Johnson press conference he believed the votes exist to remove Johnson as speaker when a vote is called. He didn't say when that would happen or who he thinks could secure the votes needed to become speaker.

"The motion will get called," Massie said, referring to a floor vote on Johnson. "And then he's going to lose more votes than Kevin McCarthy. And I have told him this in private, like weeks ago."

Johnson, a Louisiana Republican who was unanimously elected to the leadership post in October after a small group of GOP lawmakers ousted former Speaker McCarthy, rejected Massie's call to quit, as did several Republicans.

"I am not resigning. And it is, in my view, an absurd notion that someone would bring a vacate motion," Johnson said "We're simply here trying to do our job."

Removing Johnson from the leadership position less than six months into his tenure comes shortly after the House passed two government funding packages on broadly bipartisan votes in March and just as the House prepares to vote on emergency aid for Ukraine, Israel and

Taiwan later this week. Israel is engaged in a war with Hamas in the Gaza Strip and was attacked by Iran over the weekend, while Ukraine continues to defend itself from a Russian invasion.

Johnson, speaking at a press conference during which he only took one question, said removing him as speaker would throw a wrench into a chamber that needs "steady hands at the wheel" to address domestic and global issues.

"Look, I regard myself as a wartime speaker. I mean, in a literal sense," Johnson said. "I knew that when I took the gavel. I didn't anticipate that this would be an easy path."

Johnson repeated comments from former GOP House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who he said posted on his social media that "this is the hardest challenge that's faced a speaker probably in the history of the country."

"He said, arguably, maybe comparable to the Civil War, but maybe worse," Johnson said, referring to the period between 1861 and 1865 when Southern states seceded from the United States in an attempt to preserve slavery of Black people. The death toll from the war is estimated at 620,000.

Johnson then spoke about the narrow margin that GOP leaders have in the House, which currently holds 218 Republicans and 213 Democrats.

"A single-vote margin at a difficult time when the nation is terribly divided," Johnson said. "The way we get through that is we show unity and we explain how we have answers to all these great challenges."

Former President Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee for president this fall, is on trial in a New York state criminal courtroom facing charges of falsifying business records. Trump would oppose President Joe Biden this fall in what has been so far a bitter campaign.

Johnson appeared with Trump at Florida's Mar-a-Lago on Friday and appeared to get the backing of the former president, possibly insulating him from efforts to remove him as speaker.

Georgia Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene filed a motion to vacate the speaker post in March, just before the House left on a two-week break.

Unlike the motion to vacate that Florida GOP Rep. Matt Gaetz filed against McCarthy last fall, this one was not intended to be "privileged," meaning that it didn't force a vote within two days. Greene has not said when she may push for a floor vote.

Massie said that Johnson's actions as speaker, including advancing bipartisan bills that have been able to move through the Democratically controlled Senate and garner Biden's signature, are key reasons he wants to remove him from power.

Massie said that Johnson should publicly announce that he would resign once the conference decides on a successor, or that he should announce a future date for his resignation. That would allow the House GOP Conference to have a smooth transition without the weeks of stalemate and drama that marked the that followed the ousting of McCarthy.

## Colorado has a new Google-built calculator to help find energy rebates

By MICHAEL BOOTH  
*Colorado Sun*

Paul Bousquet's first attempt at finding all the government and utility incentives to help him afford a clean-heat overhaul in his Boulder home took him two frustrating hours.

Then a kindly official told him of a new online tool that had just gone live, developed by Google fellows and the nonprofit Rewiring America, that put all of Colorado's available federal, state, local and Xcel incentives into one easy search.

"What took me two hours takes five minutes," Bousquet said of the Rewiring America site. He can get \$2,200 in subsidies for each of two cold-climate heat pumps and another \$1,500 Boulder incentive, as well as long-term, low-cost financing for a major home renovation that includes solar panels.

"This tool is like AI for incentives," Bousquet said, describing the new site at a launch by Gov. Jared Polis, and state energy and nonprofit leaders, held at a distributor of Mitsubishi clean-energy heat pumps near Denver International Airport.

Polis and others said the tool will be one key to linking consumers and contractors with lucrative appliance rebates and tax incentives for giving up natural gas-powered machinery in favor of electric versions that can be powered by renewable energy.

"This will be a major selling tool for contractors," Polis said after watching Google research fellows demonstrate the calculator for some home projects at hypothetical Colorado locations. Colorado is the second state site to be launched by Google and Rewiring America, with another 11 states coming online soon.

"It was a hard state to do, because there are so many incentives," Rewiring America CEO Ari Matysiak said.

The Colorado site also collects information on electric vehicle incentives, and Polis noted that by stacking up all the federal and Colorado credits and rebates, some

Coloradans could save as much as \$21,000 on a single qualifying electric vehicle. After Polis asked during the demonstration, Google's coding team said Colorado's extensive state and local e-bike incentives would also be added to the site, as well as incentives for replacing gas-powered lawn equipment with electric.

The site is bilingual for Spanish.

During the demo, researchers plugged in an example of a family of five in Parker making less than the average median income for the area. Using the ZIP code and income levels, the site calculated there are incentives up to \$20,000 for electrification options such as new solar panels and wiring, fast chargers, heat pumps, on-demand hot water heaters and more.

Polis and other state officials have lately been advertising the newest state incentive, a \$450 tax credit

for e-bike purchases that can be claimed at tax time without trying to win local incentive lotteries like Denver's that have been overwhelmed with demand.

Google.org's fellows spent six months on the pro bono effort to build the Colorado calculator, said Bhavna Chhabra, senior director of software engineering. Generative artificial intelligence was used to help speed up gathering incentive and other information, she said.

Educating homeowners and contractors is a key to success for the electrification efforts, which are backed by billions of dollars in spending from federal infrastructure, stimulus and clean energy laws promoted by the Biden administration. Many homeowners say they've had to search for contractors who are familiar with all the incentives and can explain how they are claimed.

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**UPCOMING GRIZZLY ATHLETIC EVENTS**

**Friday, April 19**

*Men & Women's Track at Don Kirby Tailwind Invitational at Albuquerque, N.M.*

TBA

*Baseball at Colorado State University Pueblo at Pueblo, Colo.*

7:00 p.m.

*Men's Lacrosse vs Colorado Mesa University at Alamosa, Colo.*

3:00 p.m.

**Saturday, April 20**

*Softball vs Chadron State College at Alamosa, Colo.*

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

*Baseball at Colorado State University Pueblo at Pueblo, Colo.*

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, April 21**

*Softball vs Chadron State College at Alamosa, Colo.*

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

*Baseball at Colorado State University Pueblo at Pueblo, Colo.*

12:00 p.m.

*Men's Lacrosse vs Westminster University at Alamosa, Colo.*

11:00 a.m.



*Women's Golf at Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Championships at Las Vegas, Nev.*



# Sports

## Alamosa A.D. gets Distinguished Service Award

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

**ALAMOSA** – Alamosa High School athletics and activities director Greg King was awarded the Don Descombes Distinguished Service Award by the Colorado High School Coaches Association at the DCSD Legacy Campus in Parker on Monday.

King has been at Alamosa for the past two years. He was previously a coach and an administrator for several schools.

The Award is named for one of the CHSCA's founders and the association's first president. The award is considered the most distinguished award given by the CHSCA and is presented yearly in recognition of exceptional leadership and service to the CHSCA Board of Directors.

This is the second year in a row in which an Alamosa High School individual has received the award. Last year, the award was posthumously awarded to Erik Melgoza, the former AD and girls basketball coach.

*Courtesy photo*

**Alamosa High School athletics and activities director Greg King (left) is awarded the Don Descombes Distinguished Service award. The award was presented Monday in Parker.**



## High school spring sports standings as of Monday

**BASEBALL**  
**Class 3A/2A Intermountain League**

| Team             | League W-L | Overall W-L |
|------------------|------------|-------------|
| Montezuma-Cortez | 2-0        | 7-7         |
| Bayfield         | 3-1        | 6-7         |
| Alamosa          | 1-1        | 2-12        |
| Centauri         | 0-2        | 5-7         |
| Pagosa Springs   | 0-2        | 4-8         |

**Class 2A Southern Peaks League**

| Team          | League W-L | Overall W-L |
|---------------|------------|-------------|
| Trinidad      | 6-0        | 8-5         |
| Monte Vista   | 5-0        | 8-3         |
| Sanford       | 4-1        | 8-1         |
| Del Norte     | 2-2        | 3-4         |
| South Park    | 1-4        | 1-8         |
| Center        | 0-3        | 0-7         |
| Custer County | 0-5        | 0-8         |
| Sargent       | 0-5        | 0-9         |

**Class 1A Southern Peaks League**

| Team          | League W-L | Overall W-L-T |
|---------------|------------|---------------|
| Antonito      | 1-0        | 4-5-1         |
| Sierra Grande | 0-0        | 7-0-0         |
| Centennial    | 0-1        | 2-4-0         |

**GIRLS SOCCER**  
**Class 3A Intermountain League**

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

**Class 2A Southwest League**

| Team          | League W-L-T | Overall W-L-T |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Crested Butte | 4-0-0        | 8-1-1         |
| Telluride     | 1-1-0        | 2-3-1         |
| Ignacio       | 1-1-0        | 1-4-0         |
| Ridgway       | 1-2-0        | 2-4-0         |
| Del Norte     | 0-3-0        | 0-8-0         |

## Girls golf update

By **KEN HAMRICK**  
*Courier sports editor*  
**ALAMOSA** – Both the Alamosa and Monte Vista high school girls golf teams were in action earlier this week.

### Durango Hillcrest Invitational

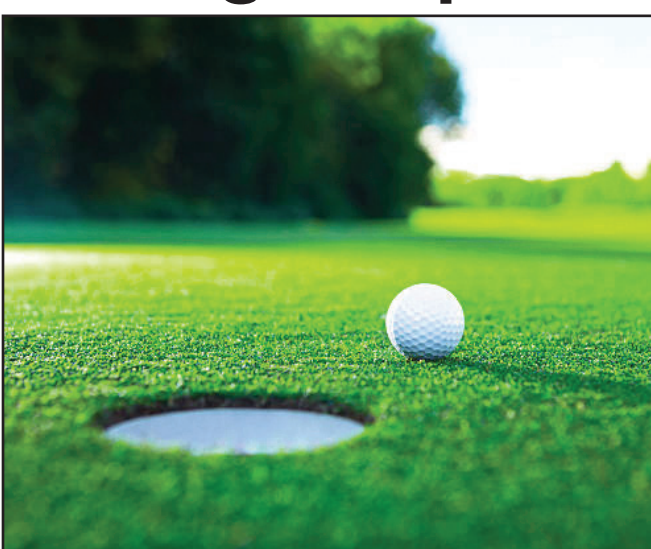
The Lady Mean Moose opened their season at Hillcrest Golf Course in Durango on Monday and they finished in fifth place with 303. Leading Alamosa was Taybor Wiedeman who finished 16th with a 98 and Hallie Henry who was 17th with a 99. Jayla Quintana was 22nd with a 106, and Kiara Gallegos was 26th with a 109.

Monte Vista was also at Durango and it finished seventh with 328. Ellaree Rockey and Brooke Hoffstaetter both shot a 108 for a tie for 36th, followed by Kaitlynn Roberts who tied for 48th with a 124, and Zariah Archuleta who was 65th with a 142.

Pueblo West won the tournament with 271, followed by Pine Creek with 293 and Rye with 294.

Pueblo Central's Sofia Contreras was the medalist with an 80.

**Team scores**  
 Piedra Vista (N.M.) 234, Durango 246, Montezuma-Cortez 252, Montrose 302, Alamosa 303, Farmington (N.M.) 320, Monte Vista 328, Central Grand Junction NS.



### Pueblo West Lady Cyclone Invitational

Monte Vista sent a second team to the Pueblo West Invitational at Desert Hawk and it placed 15th with 372.

Krissa Padilla led the Lady Pirates with a 118 to finish in a tie for 36th, followed by Kaitlynn Roberts who tied for 48th with a 124, and Zariah Archuleta who was 65th with a 142.

Pueblo West won the tournament with 271, followed by Pine Creek with 293 and Rye with 294.

Pueblo Central's Sofia Contreras was the medalist with an 80.

**Team scores**  
 Pueblo West 271, Pine Creek 293, Rye 294, Pueblo County 301, Pueblo Central 305, Pueblo West 2 305, Swallows Charter Academy 324, Cheyenne Mountain 327, Pueblo South 344, Pueblo East 353, Trinidad 357, Pueblo

Centennial 360, Pueblo West 3 364, La Junta 373, Monte Vista 372, Pueblo West 4 402, Rocky Ford NS, Swink NS.

### Montezuma-Cortez Lady Panther Invitational

Both Alamosa and Monte Vista were at the Montezuma-Cortez Tournament at Conquistador Golf Course on Tuesday.

The Lady Mean Moose placed fifth with 321 and they were led by Wiedeman who was 17th with a 103. Henry placed 20th with a 107, Gallegos was 23rd with a 111, and Quntana was 31st with a 123.

The Lady Pirates took sixth with 331 and were led by Sanchez who was 20th with a 107, Hoffstaetter who was 23rd with a 111, Futrell and Rockey who tied for 25th with a 113,

## Sports Bulletin

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

### SCOREBOARD MONDAY

**Prep baseball**  
 Monte Vista 19, Sanford 1, 4 inn.  
 Sierra Grande 24, Centauri JV 14, 5 inn.  
**Prep girls soccer**  
 Del Norte at Dolores Huerta – postponed

### TUESDAY

**Prep baseball**  
 Alamosa at Salida – late  
 Antonito at Centennial – late  
 Buena Vista at Centauri (2) – late  
 Del Norte at Pagosa Springs (2) – late  
 Sargent at Sanford – late  
**Prep girls soccer**  
 Alamosa at Rye – late

### SCHEDULE WEDNESDAY

**Prep baseball**  
 Sierra Grande at Monte Vista JV, 4:30 p.m.  
**Prep track and field**  
 Del Norte, Sanford

at Bayfield Invitational, 1:30 p.m.  
 Moffat at Montrose Mid-week Invitational, TBA

### FRIDAY

**Prep baseball**  
 Sierra Grande at Centennial (2), 11 a.m.  
**Prep girls soccer**  
 Pagosa Springs at Alamosa, 4 p.m.  
**Prep track and field**  
 Antonito, Centauri, Center, Sangre de Cristo, Sierra Grande at Rye Invitational, 9 a.m.  
 Monte Vista, Sanford, at La Junta Tiger Relays, 9 a.m.  
 Alamosa at Douglas County Invitational, 1 p.m.  
**College baseball**  
 Adams State at Colorado State Pueblo, 7 p.m.  
**College men's lacrosse**  
 Colorado Mesa at Adams State, 3 p.m.  
**College outdoor track and field**  
 Adams State at Don Kirby Tailwind Invitational (at Albuquerque, N.M.), TBA

### SATURDAY

**Prep baseball**  
 Alamosa at Montezuma-Cortez (2), 11 a.m.

Custer County at Sargent (2), 11 a.m.

Monte Vista at Center (2), 11 a.m.

Pagosa Springs at Centauri (2), 11 a.m.

South Park at Del Norte (2), 11 a.m.

**Prep girls soccer**  
 Banning Lewis Academy at Del Norte, noon

Alamosa at Bayfield, 1 p.m.

**Prep track and field**  
 Alamosa, Creede, Del Norte at Ron Keller Invitational (at Durango), 9 a.m.

**College baseball**  
 Adams State at Colorado State Pueblo (2), 1 p.m.

**College women's softball**  
 Chadron State (Neb.) at Adams State (2), noon

**SUNDAY**

**College baseball**  
 Adams State at Colorado State Pueblo, noon

**College men's lacrosse**  
 Westminster (Utah) at Adams State, 11 a.m.

**College women's softball**  
 Chadron State (Neb.) at Adams State (2), 11 a.m.

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# Lifestyle



Photo by Marie Mccolm

La Puente Enterprises Director Jessica Ornales cuts the ribbon at the grand re-opening of Rainbow's End in Center as food bank volunteer Anita Rodriguez and store manager Samuel Salazar hold the ribbon on the right.

## Rainbow's End in Center holds ribbon cutting and grand re-opening celebration

By MARIE MCCOLM  
CENTER — On Saturday, April 6, downtown Center had about 25 smiling people who entered the freshly painted Rainbow's End building laughing and excited to enjoy the newly re-opened thrift store and food bank.

The store was rocking with a live DJ playing lots of music for the celebration. Tamales and other delicious food were laid out on a table at the store, for all the attendees to enjoy. People walked up and down the aisles purchasing items and enjoying the event that marked the grand re-opening of the store after it had closed while it was being revamped and remodeled.

The ribbon cutting for the store took place about 11:30 a.m. shortly after La Puente Enterprises Executive Director Lance Cheslock arrived. La Puente Enterprises Director Jessica Ornelas used a big pair of red scissors to cut the ribbon in front of the store, marking the official grand re-opening of the store.

Ornelas was excited about the project that she had been overseeing. She walked into the store, after cutting the ribbon, and danced the cumbia in one of the aisles with store manager Samuel Salazar, as both enjoyed the music

that was playing.

Ornelas said, "This is truly exciting, and I feel so blessed to be here today, and witness the opening of something that is going to help this community so much. We are so happy that we are able to finally reopen and help the community with so many great resources. There are so many people that helped with this, Lance, Sam, Shirley Garcia, Anita, Lalo Marquez, and Gabby, it wouldn't have been possible without them. Here's to helping the community. We are here for the community. We want to help the town of Center flourish and thrive."

Executive Director Lance Cheslock was also excited about the celebration.

"Of course, I am extremely excited to be here today," Cheslock said. "All the profits and everything stay in this community. The generosity of the stuff that is given to the community will get converted into dollars here, or to giving things away, or to the food at the food bank. Whatever it is, it stays right here. It's just a fantastic feeling. Jessica, Sam, and so many volunteers have put so much love into this place. I am on cloud 9. I love the graphics. I love all of it. We have a lot of new inventory coming in too. Hats off to

Jessica, Sam, and everyone that has worked hard for this. We love the community of Center."

Salazar spoke about the dedication and hard work that had been put into the final touches and finishing the store.

Salazar pointed at Cheslock and said, "We of course could not have done any of this without that man right there, he is wonderful and really made this happen. Without him pushing us we probably wouldn't be here. This last month has been crazy. We had a couple of people come down from our Alamosa store to help with painting. Anita, from the food bank, and her family, and the elders from her church really got the painting done for us. This is an example of the community coming together for the community. It feels good to see the people come together and help here. I feel excited and amazed. I feel like all the hard work me and Jessica, and everyone else that helped is definitely paying off in big ways. Honestly, we just opened, and I have never made this much money in an hour. I am truly excited to be here today and see this."

For more information about the Rainbow's End store in Center, contact Ornelas or Salazar at 719-589-8778.

## Saguache County Museum to celebrate 65 years

By MARIE MCCOLM  
SAGUACHE — The Saguache County Museum is proud to announce 65 years of service to the community. The museum is kicking off the celebration on Sunday, May 26, Memorial Day.

The museum will be open with free admission beginning at 9 a.m. that day. There will also be a traditional parade beginning at 11 a.m., with the theme "Just Like We Used To." The Mountain Valley School Lifestyles Class has chosen to direct the parade. They will be providing the emcee for the parade and putting together all the fine details for it. The Grand Marshall for the parade will be Judy Bunker.

The excitement does not stop there. There will also be vendors in Otto Mears Park all day, along with a car and antique tractor show all day. There will also be barrel train rides for the kids following the parade. The antique tractor club will be hosting the rides for the children. Awards will be handed out to winners in vari-

ous categories of the parade, car show, and other events that will be taking place that day, including vehicles, float entries into the parade, dancing, and a children's bike decorating contest.

Food will be chosen, and lunch will be served at noon, along with a community play. Both will be held at the Community Building in Otto Mears Park with the play beginning at 1:30 p.m., after lunch. The play is titled "Valley Echoes." The play will portray historical people of Saguache County and is under the direction of Virginia Drake.

The Saguache County Museum began in 1959 as a municipal improvement venture, in celebration of Colorado's Centennial Anniversary. Saguache County had just finished building a new jail, and the old one was set to be demolished. Members of three different clubs who collaborated on the idea for the museum, asked Saguache County not to demolish the jail, so that the site could be used as a "historical place."

The establishment was saved and became the Saguache County Museum. It was collaboratively decided that the little museum would be opened as a celebrated display of history, in Saguache Town Hall.

The museum is celebrating 65 years this year. There are volunteers who make up the board of directors for the museum. The museum is completely non-profit and is also separate from the Saguache County government.

The museum opens annually on Memorial Day and closes for the season on Labor Day.

Everyone is invited to enjoy the fun events and partake in all the festivities that are planned to honor the 65 years that the museum has been opened, the anniversary of the Saguache County Museum.

There is also still time to sign up to be a part of the parade. The last day to sign up will be May 15.

For more information on the parade, contact Laura Abeyta, Chair of the Parade Committee at lauraabeyta01@gmail.com.

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# Classifieds

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT** is accepting applications for a 6th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER at MONTE VISTA MIDDLE SCHOOL for the 2024-2025 school year. 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 April 25, 2024 or until the position is filled. For application questions contact the District Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (4/30/24)

**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/](http://www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/). (5/1/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**NOTICE OF JOB OPENING** for STAKING ENGINEER, SAN LUIS VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., located at 3625 US Hwy 160 W, MONTE VISTA, Colorado currently has an open position for a Staking Engineer. Work hours are Monday - Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., forty hours/week plus additional time as duties require. Responsible for communications with stakeholders, developing best value construction standards, producing accurate staking sheets including material lists and costs estimates, obtaining easements and permits, contributing to economic development with best value electric and fiber service opportunities, and interpreting maps, surveys and electric drawings. Education requirements include a degree in engineering, land surveying, construction management, journeyman Lineman certification, or equivalent. Additional testing will be required. Visit our website at [www.slvrec.com](http://www.slvrec.com) to complete the job application. Applications will not be accepted after close of business on Monday, April 22, 2024 at 6:30 AM. EOE. (4/20/24)

**SANFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT** is accepting applications for a ONE ON ONE PARAPROFESSIONAL. Applications can be downloaded at [www.sanfordschools.org](http://www.sanfordschools.org). Sanford School is an EOE&E. (4/27/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**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>. (5/1/24)

**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/](http://www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/). (5/1/24)

**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. (4/27/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**LOOKING FOR A** rewarding and fulfilling career? Are you a positive, self-motivated individual? Consider a career with the MONTE VISTA HEAD START. FISCAL OFFICER is responsible for the fiscal management and fiscal reporting to the Office of Head Start and the Grantee Board. Must be proficient in QuickBooks and Microsoft office applications. Qualifications are: Experience in business or fiscal management, BA accounting, Business Management or related field. For more information, you may contact the director at, [director@mvheadstart.org](mailto:director@mvheadstart.org) or call 719-852-3215. Positions opened until filled. (4/26/24)

**WATER/SEWER OPERATOR: PART-TIME;** Pay based on experience; Job Title: Water and Sewer Operator. Job Description: The Water and Sewer Operator plays a vital role in ensuring the efficient and safe operation of the town's water and sewer systems. Responsibilities include monitoring, maintaining, and repairing water treatment and distribution systems, as well as sewer collection and treatment facilities. To apply, submit a resume to [townofromeo@gmail.com](mailto:townofromeo@gmail.com) or come in during office hours Tuesday or Thursday 9 to 3 for application. You can call 719-843-5785 for more information. (4/26/24)

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# Lifestyle

## How families can show their appreciation for teachers

(METRO) — Great teachers go above and beyond for their students. Students benefit from those efforts in the classroom, but many adults also can name one, two or even more educators whose lessons and enthusiasm for learning has benefitted them long after the final bell rang on their academic careers.

The efforts of teachers who go the extra mile for their students are worthy of recognition and appreciation. Families who want to express their gratitude to teachers can do so in any number of ways.

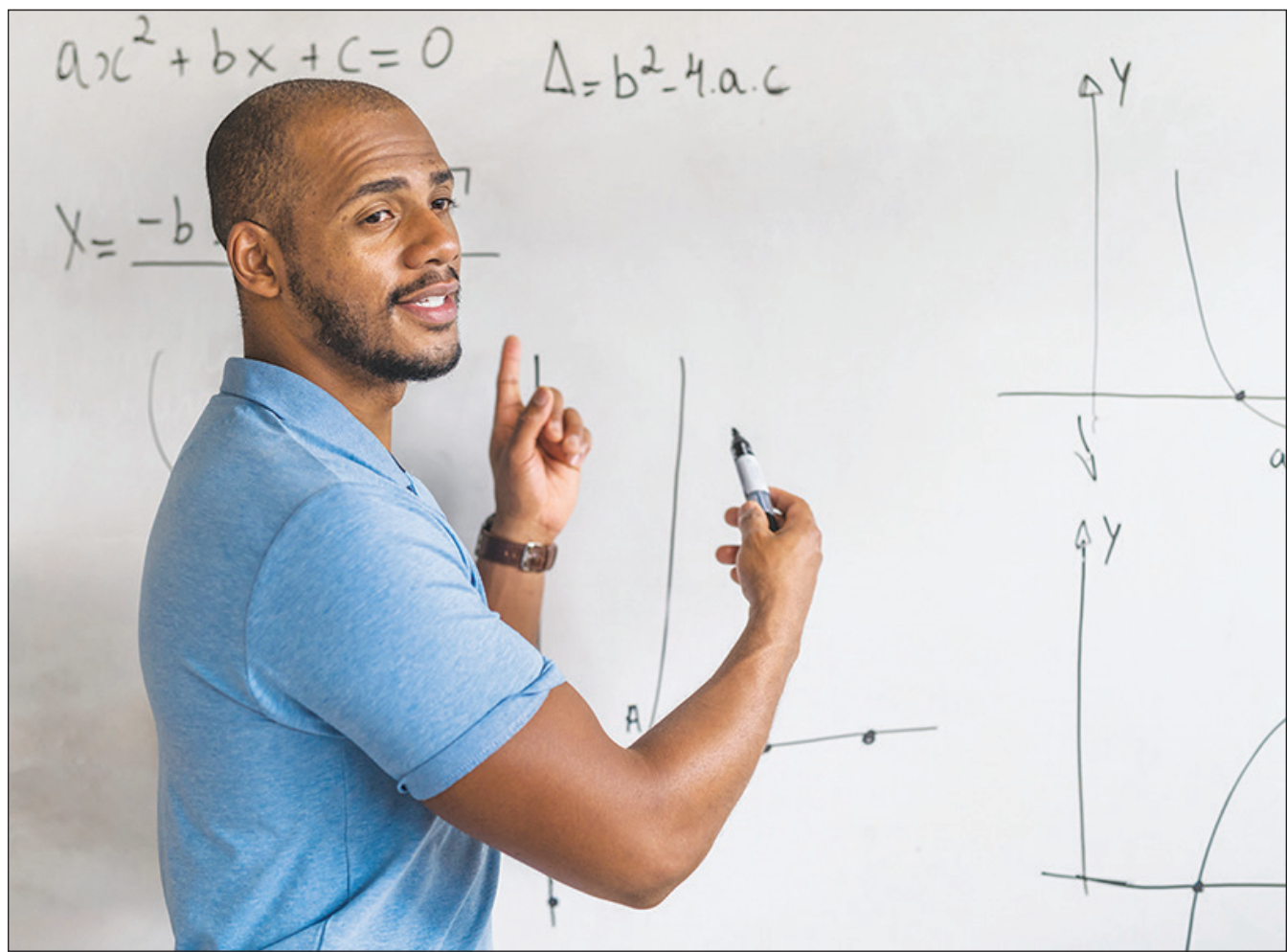
- Write a note. A personal note from a student or parents or both can warm the hearts of teachers. Personal letters may not be as common as they once were, but they remain a thoughtful way to express gratitude and appreciation to people who have had a positive impact on a person's life. That makes a personal, handwritten note an ideal and meaningful way for families to show their appreciation for a teacher.

- Pitch in at school when the opportunity presents itself. Teachers seek a helping hand at various points in a given school year. A teacher might ask for volunteers to assist with holiday parties or special school events or even request help coming up with extra school supplies or items needed for a particular project. In fact, a recent survey from the Association of American Educators found that public school teachers spend an average of \$673 per year of their own money on school supplies. Parents can express their appreciation for teachers by responding with enthusiasm

to requests for supplies. When responding, parents can ask teachers if there's anything else they can do to help and offer to volunteer their services during class parties.

- Organize a class gift. A gift from the class around the holiday season and/or at the end of the year can let teachers know their efforts have not gone unnoticed. By pooling their resources, parents can give teachers an especially nice gift. A night out at a local restaurant or tickets to a show can make for a well-deserved excursion for educators who often work long past the school day to help students learn.

- Contact higher-ups at the school. An email or phone with a school principal or another higher-up in the local school system is another way for parents to ensure the efforts of a teacher are recognized. Let the higher-ups know when a teacher has made a positive impact on a child and how much their efforts are appreciated.



Many teachers go to great lengths to support their students. Families can recognize those efforts in many meaningful ways that will tell educators how much they're appreciated.



THIS ACTIVITY CAN RELIEVE STRESS AND DECREASE BLOOD PRESSURE, RESULTING IN A RELAXED FEELING.

ANSWER: LAUGHING

### This week has been a blast

By HIGH VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

**DEL NORTE** — Soccer is in full swing, and the kids are having so much fun learning to play as a team on the field. Games are every Saturday at Chapman Park in Monte Vista. We would love to see you there in support of our teams!

Adult Open Field Soccer is every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Voss Field (3rd and Columbia). Anyone 18 and older is welcome to come join a rousing pick-up game of soccer. There is no fee to play. Join us for some fun community building on the soccer field!

The kids were able to practice their math and science skills in an engaging way! From combining the right ingredients to create slime to calculating angles and circles to build paper rollercoasters, they had so much fun learning in a way that they enjoyed.

We also took an invigorating trip to the Gator Farm on Friday! We got to see all the cool reptiles and throw food to the gators. The kids were thrilled to be able to interact with the animals and learn about their ecology.

Make sure to check our website to see the updates on activities for this week! We can't wait to jump back into all the fun.

### Crossword Puzzle

|    |  |   |    |   |  |   |
|----|--|---|----|---|--|---|
| 1  |  | 2 | 3  |   |  | 4 |
|    |  | 5 |    |   |  |   |
|    |  | 6 |    |   |  |   |
| 7  |  |   |    | 8 |  | 9 |
|    |  |   |    |   |  |   |
|    |  |   | 10 |   |  |   |
|    |  |   |    |   |  |   |
| 11 |  |   |    |   |  |   |

#### ACROSS

- Silliest, craziest
- Account of (abbr)
- To a great extent
- Smiles slightly
- Either \_\_\_
- Not any
- Response to a situation

#### DOWN

- Happy sound
- Calm, pleasant place
- Midday
- Unlucky number
- Boy child

Answers:  
 Across  
 1. Looniest 5. AO 6. So 7. Grins 9. Or  
 Down  
 1. Laughter 2. Oasis 3. Noon 4. Thirteen  
 8. Son

### THIS DAY IN...



### HISTORY

- **1849:** HUNGARY DECLARES ITSELF INDEPENDENT OF AUSTRIA.
- **1894:** THE FIRST EVER COMMERCIAL MOTION PICTURE HOUSE OPENS IN NEW YORK CITY.
- **1986:** THE HEAVIEST HAILSTONES EVER RECORDED FALL ON THE GOPALGANJ DISTRICT OF BANGLADESH. THEY WEIGH 1 KG (2.2 LBS).



### JOKE

something someone says to cause laughter

### How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Laugh
- SPANISH:** Reírse
- ITALIAN:** Ridere
- FRENCH:** Rire
- GERMAN:** Lachen



APRIL FOOL'S DAY FALLS ON THE FIRST DAY OF APRIL. IT IS A DAY WHEN MANY PEOPLE PULL PRANKS ON OTHERS OR TRY TO MAKE THEM LAUGH.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: WOMAN LAUGHING



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