



Center's Potter receives wastewater operator of year award

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Latest MaxPreps track rankings

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

April 26, 2024

\$1

SLV Today

City of Alamosa spring large item pickup

ALAMOSA — To help facilitate spring cleanup efforts, the City of Alamosa will be offering a large item trash pickup Monday, May 13, through Thursday, May 16, for City trash customers. Call the Public Works Office before Thursday, May 9, at 719-589-6631 to schedule a pickup time. Pickup of no more than three large items will be offered during this time.

Tires, hazardous material or electronic devices cannot be accepted. Refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners must have the freon removed and the red tag placed on them before pickup. Lawn debris must be bagged separately for composting.

For questions, contact the Public Works Department at 719-589-6631.

Sarah Zagorski at SLV Life Center April 29

ALAMOSA — The San Luis Valley Life Center will feature the inspirational Sarah Zagorski at an annual fundraiser On Monday, April 29. The event costs \$25 and will be at the River of Life Church, 2602 Clark St., Alamosa. The event begins at 5:30 p.m., with a pulled-pork dinner. Call 719-589-6698 or visit online slvlifecenter.org.

Costilla Creek Compact Commission is May 3

SAN LUIS — The 2024 annual meeting of the Costilla Creek Compact Commission is scheduled to be held on Friday, May 3. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. at the Costilla County Public Health Building, 233 Main St., San Luis. For additional information, contact Roberta Barela, Colorado Division of Water Resources, at 719-589-6683.

SLV WEATHER
Slight Chance of Showers, Breezy 64/33
Sat: Chance of Showers, Breezy 55/31
Sun: Chance of Showers, Breezy 59/31

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Let the paint times roll

By **JOHN WATERS**
Courier News Editor
ALAMOSA — Volunteers took to the walls of the soon-to-be Alamosa Food Bank with paint rollers and brushes to the interior of the building that formally was home to Atencio's Market at 8th and State Avenue in Alamosa. The building is owned by La Puente Homes, which bought the former market last year.

Lance Cheslock, executive director of La Puente said he has a goal of 200 volunteers to help with work on the building and added he is very close to

reaching that goal. Cheslock thanked "the professional classy craftsman," working on the project including general contractor Joe Torres, the team from Andrew's ■ See **PAINT** page 3

Volunteers Tim Blanks, left, and Sherry Overholtzer with the Creede Community Church. They will be volunteering their time for two days of painting. Overholtzer said she heard about the project after their pastor, Dr. Sarah B. Linn said there was a need.

Courier photo by John Waters



'Wonka and Chocolate Factory' a delectable treat



Dress rehearsal of 'Willie Wonka & the Chocolate Factory.' Pictured left to right, Kai Tandberg, Autumn Chacon, Juan Finley Villegas Chaney, director Micaela Fleming, Tyler Cook, Alycia Carpenter Martinez, Alyanna Lucero, Macayla Hastey, Asher Kreps and Gibson Gillespie. The play is on stage at Alamosa High School on Friday and Saturday nights.

AHS production hits stage Friday and Saturday

By **PRISCILLA WAGGONER**
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Alamosa High School (AHS) is putting on a production of "Willie Wonka & the Chocolate Factory," Friday and Saturday night, and anyone looking to spend about an hour watching a fast-paced play with actors prepared for their roles and really enjoying their parts needs to look no further.

During dress rehearsal Wednesday night, each of the actors did an excellent job. Even though some actors had to fill in

■ See **TREAT** page 3

SLV fallen peace officers memorial on May 15

Respect, honor and remember

By **PRISCILLA WAGGONER**
Courier Reporter
ALAMOSA — Continuing with a tradition that is now in its 18th year, the city of Alamosa is holding a memorial service honoring

peace officers of the San Luis Valley who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

In recognition of National Peace Officers Memorial week from May 12 to 18, the service in Alamosa will be held on Wednesday, May 15, at 5:30 p.m. in front of the Alamosa Safety Complex, 425 4th

St. The memorial service will be preceded by a procession of lights with officers instructed to meet at 3110 1st St. at 5 p.m. A dinner will follow the service.

"We would like to take ■ See **MEMORIAL** page 3

Graphic courtesy of City of Alamosa



Celebrating life, a great workout, and ASU cancer survivorship program

By **JOHN WATERS**
Courier News Editor
ALAMOSA — About 22 participants in the Adams State University Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship program were honored at a Celebration of Accomplishment event held at the Alamosa Family Recreation Center in Alamosa on April 25.

The program, now in its fifth year, offers cancer survivors the opportunity to participate in an individualized program conducted in group settings and meets three times a week. Aside from providing benefits to the participants, graduate students with the ASU Department

of Kinesiology receive valuable training through their direct work with those in the exercise classes.

The program is free, and participants are requested to complete the 12-week- ■ See **PROGRAM** page 3

Over 20 participants were honored at a luncheon on April 25 for their participation in the Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship program. From left to right are Adams State University graduate students, Nico Alvarez and Abigale Adion, and Kelly Gurule, director of the SLV Health Foundation.

Courier photo by John Waters



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Record

OBITUARIES

Scott Robert Brownlow

Albuquerque, N.M., resident Scott Brownlow passed away on Saturday, April 13, 2024, from cancer. He was born on Saturday, Aug. 6, 1983, in Monte Vista, Colo. He was a longtime resident of the San Luis Valley, Colo. He was the son of Robert Brownlow and Cristie Brown Taffin.



After graduating from Sangre de Cristo High School in Mosca, Colo., he attended and graduated from Adams State College in Alamosa, Colo. He continued on to receive his Master's at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro, N.M.

Scott married Joyce in 2003 and before separating they had five children: Elizabeth (Lizzy), Zachary (Zee), Nicholas, Joseph and Wesley.

After earning his Master's degree, Scott worked for the U.S. Forest Service up until his passing. Scott started as an IT Project Manager, a role he excelled at, leading many efforts to modernize the IT infrastructure. Throughout his career, Scott worked his way to Chief Information Office collaboration specialist with expertise in Microsoft SharePoint and

enjoyed modifying his Tesla Model Y to be able to share his love of nature and the outdoors with his children, taking them on many camping trips in recent years. Scott's love of nature was clearly on display with his love for plants, propagating many different types to the max capacity of the area available to him.

Scott is survived by his five children, mother Cristie Brown Taffin (Mark Taffin), father Robert Brownlow (Melissa Brownlow), sisters Dawnia Smith, and Liz Robinson, two stepsisters, two stepbrothers, one aunt, seven uncles, and numerous cousins and friends.

Scott was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Art and Thurmma Brown and his paternal grandparents Lonnie and Patricia Brownlow.

You are invited to a gathering to remember Scott Brownlow on:

Thursday, May 2, 2024, beginning at 11 a.m.

Elena Gallegos Open Space

Kiwanis Reservation Area

7200 Tramway Blvd. NE

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87122

Janell Jones Noble

On March 26, 2024, we said "See you later!" to Janell Jones Noble, 62, of Parachute, Colo., after a diagnosis of glioblastoma. Janell grew up in Hooper, the daughter of Jim and Edenia Jones, who preceded her in death. She was a Sangre de Cristo graduate and later graduated from Mesa College.

She was witty, smart, she used words with lots of syllables that the rest of us had to look up, she loved her family fiercely and her grandkids brought her great joy. It was mutual.

She also loved a good competition and beating her was not an easy task. One favorite card game was Phase 10. You must

complete 10 different card combinations to win. Janell lived her life with the one and only "Phase" that mattered.

Phase 1: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself." Mark 12:30-31

She had accepted Christ as her personal Savior. She won!

Janell is survived by her husband, Darin Noble, along with his siblings that loved and accepted Janell as family; her daughter Danielle (James) Bailey, son Dustin, daughter Denie (Jake Swindell) Noble;



her grandchildren Rylee, Carter and Kaylee May; her brother Robert (Beth) Jones of Hooper; and sister Jane (Mark) Arnold of Colorado Springs plus many nieces and nephews.

Janell's Celebration of Life service will be April 27 at 2 p.m. at Grace Bible Church - 755 Spencer Parkway, Parachute, Colo.

Jimmy Loren Sellers

Jimmy Loren Sellers, 89, a cherished husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away peacefully on April 23, 2024, in Denver, Colo. Born on Jan. 28, 1935, in Manassa, Colo., to Don Carlos and Elsie (Sego) Sellers, Jimmy's life was a testament to his loving, kind, and humorous spirit.



(Linda) Sellers, grandchildren Michael and Corrie Sellers and both of his parents.

Throughout his life, Jimmy was not only known for his work as a charismatic car salesman, a career that allowed him to share his passion for automobiles but also as a Water Commissioner for The Division of Water Resources for the State of Colorado where he worked until retirement. His love for the outdoors was evident through his enthusiasm for camping, fishing, and shooting guns.

A devout member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Jimmy served his community with dedication, ful-

filling many callings over the years. His faith was a cornerstone of his life, guiding him in his daily actions and interactions with others.

Jimmy's legacy is one of love, laughter, and service. His presence will be deeply missed, but his memory will continue to inspire all who knew him. Jimmy Loren Sellers lived a full life, and his influence will be felt for generations to come.

A visitation will be held Sunday, April 28, 2024, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Rogers Family Mortuary in Manassa. A funeral service will be held Monday, April 29, 2024, at 11 a.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Manassa, Colo. Interment will follow the service at the Manassa Cemetery.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements, to leave online condolences, tributes and words of comfort for Jimmy's family please visit RogersFunerals.com.

Living Water Car Show to benefit Shop with a Cop

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — Living Water Bible Fellowship in Alamosa is holding a car show on Saturday, April 27, to raise funds for "Shop with a Cop", an annual program where law enforcement officers in Alamosa County pair up with elementary school aged kids to go Christmas shopping for the kids' families.

In past years, the program has been extremely successful with enough funds being raised to provide gifts for more than 100 people in more than two dozen families for the holidays.



Living Water Bible Fellowship is committed to seeing that continue this year.

The car show will be

held Saturday, April 27, from 2 to 5 p.m. at 2910 Clark St., Alamosa. Call 719-588-0121, for more information.

Alamosa County organizes online surplus auction

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA - Beginning on Thursday, April 25, Alamosa County will be having an online surplus auction for the sale of Alamosa County vehicles, electronics, equipment, furniture, and miscellaneous items that are no longer needed. The Public Surplus auction site address is: www.publicsurplus.com/sms/alamosaco/list/current?orgid=190969 and to register to bid: www.publicsurplus.com/sms/register/user. Buyers can also access the website by first going to the Alamosa County Website and clicking on the auction flyer on the homepage.

Pick-up hours are by appointment only. Appointments to pick up items can be made by email or a phone call to the person on the auction item list-

ing. The sale of all surplus property is, as is and where is, without warranty. The description of surplus property offered for sale has been compiled from available data, but there is no guarantee or warranty on the part of Alamosa County as to condition or quality of surplus property.

Inspection of vehicles will be available by appointment only. Contact the contact number or email listed on this auction. All payments are made through Public Surplus. Alamosa County will not take payments of any kind. Bring paid receipt when picking up your item(s).

Be advised certain items are by Dutch Auction. Dutch Auctions are not

supported with the Public Surplus Buyer's App. To bid on certain auction items, access Public Surplus through a browser to ensure that you can select the quantity. Your bid amount will be multiplied by the quantity selected. If you do not understand how this type of auction works, contact Public Surplus buyer support on chat to discuss before placing a bid. Lack of understanding of this type of auction will be no excuse for failure to pay. Buyers that fail to pay will be blocked and marked as defaulted.

For technical questions about the Public Surplus site as well as questions about individual auction items, please go to the Public Surplus site, www.publicsurplus.com.

Newly named LEAD is fresh approach to educational leadership

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — When the first cohort begins next fall, what type of person might best fit the Leadership and Education Administration and Development (LEAD) program at Adams State?

"Someone who wants to change the world," said Melissa Freeman, Ph.D., assistant professor of HEAL. "Someone who will roll up their sleeves and do the difficult work of equity in education."

Channeled correctly, Freeman said, that kind of passion can spark a more effective, inclusive educational future for students, including those in rural communities and historically underprivileged groups. To gain a seat at the table, though, leaders must acquire the right skills, knowledge and credentials.

That's why Freeman fought to win a grant in 2010 to help launch Adams State's dynamic, flexible Higher Education Administration and Leadership (HEAL) program. Working professionals had two options: a two-year M.A. program with rigorous courses transferable at the graduate level, or a one-year Executive Leadership Certificate post-graduate program. All courses are online.

HEAL was a resounding success. Just three years into its existence, it was recognized by Excelencia in Education for making a positive difference in the higher-education achievement of Latino students. Today, many graduates are flourishing, receiving accolades and influencing decisions as college deans, directors of financial aid, leaders of Hispanic Serving Institutions, grant administrators, principals, award-winning research-

ers and more.

Their career trajectories and feedback have helped to guide HEAL's transformation into LEAD. The repackaged program has three main modifications, all designed to make education leaders stronger and better suited for workforce and economic changes.

The most significant change is expanding the program's focus to include educational leaders in grades K-12, rather than just post-secondary. It's more common now for professionals to bounce back and forth between the two. To address the crossover and prepare leaders for both levels, LEAD will include core courses for all students when the first cohort begins next fall.

"Here's an example of a need that's come up: We're still figuring out how to address career and technical education in an area that's now taking off all over the country," says Adams State School of Education Director Curtis Garcia, Ph.D., (M.A. '11). "It requires people who have the knowledge and skills to work across both the K-12 system and the higher-education system. You're talking about getting kids to high school graduation, but also getting them on a path to a career and a credential."

Garcia enjoys studying those kinds of educational shifts. He's a San Luis Valley native who earned his bachelor's degree from Yale University, then returned home to work as an educator. Garcia is collaborating with Dr. Freeman to finalize details for LEAD.

The second change that makes the LEAD program different is empowering cohorts to achieve "stackable" certificates. Doing so better supports career

pipelines in three areas: educational policy, data/analytics and decision making, and leadership. While LEAD students will navigate a breadth of courses—finance and budgeting, policy and politics, planning and assessment, and much more—they also can dive deep into a specialty and boost their professional credibility.

The third change for the program is starting a special cognate of students looking to achieve a K-12 superintendent license in Colorado.

"The future of the industry is going to require people who are innovative and creative, and who really have a passion for driving systems change," Curtis said. "The leaders we're hoping to train in this program are people who are driven to be deeply engaged, and we're going to be there to support them."

Those who are interested in the LEAD program are encouraged to email Freeman at mfreeman@adams.edu.

School Menu
Friday
April 26, 2024

No
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Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students
Alamosa School District
To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553

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

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

Valley News

Valley Roots Food Hub launches 2024 Fresh Box CSA program

CONTRIBUTED MOSCA — Valley Roots Food Hub (VRFH) will be launching the Summer 2024 Fresh Box Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program on June 20. The 13-week program runs alongside the fresh harvest season to bring shareholders fresh and local produce from growers across the Colorado bio-region.

The Fresh Box is a multi-farm CSA, which means we aggregate produce from a handful of different farmers within our extensive Colorado bio-region each week. Every Thursday, share-

holders will receive a box with a specially curated menu ranging from stone fruits and root vegetables to leafy greens and melons.

The Fresh Box is an easy way to supplement family meals (2-3 people) with farm fresh produce. With each share, you will receive a weekly newsletter filled with Valley happenings, producer bios, creative recipes, warehouse highlights, and how to store produce. We understand that a program like this is not ordinary, but we will be a part of your food journey every step of the way!

Other program offerings include a weekly egg share from Yoder Farms in Monte Vista and 12 lb ground beef bundles from either Rancho Largo Customer Beef in Fowler, or Blue Range Ranch in Saguache. In addition to the weekly Fresh Box, we encourage shareholders to shop the online market, www.valleyroots-foodhubcsa.localorbit.com, a la carte style for pantry staples, frozen meats, cheeses, add-value products, and more!

A 2023 shareholder summed up their experience with this state-

“We have decided that spending our food money locally is a top priority in our family. It is such a gift to our community to have your [Valley Roots Food Hub] services!”

At Valley Roots Food Hub, supporting your local food economy has never been easier. By letting us do the shopping and delivery for you, shareholders save precious time and spend it doing what they love with those they hold close. The VRFH Fresh Box multi-farm CSA program is a direct investment in our local economy, agricultur-



al producers, and the health of regional soils & waterways.

Throughout the San Luis Valley and beyond, we have several pick-up locations that are available to our customers: Alamosa, Del Norte, Creede, Crestone, Del Norte, Leadville, Saguache, and Salida. We also have home delivery options available for an additional fee.

With limited spots available each season, we highly encourage interested folks to sign up sooner rather than later! You can register with the online market and purchase a 2024 share at <https://valley-rootsfoodhubcsa.localorbit.com>. If you have any questions regarding the Fresh Box CSA program or how to become a regular/weekly shopper with us, please contact our CSA Coordinator & Operations Manager: Maria Karahalios at 719-378-4593 or maria.valleyroots@gmail.com.

Treat

Continued from Page 1

for others who were not there (a conflict with the band schedule) such that even the director, AHS English teacher Micaela Fleming, had to be on stage and reading a part, the rehearsal went off without a hitch.

“I think they did a fantastic job,” Fleming told the Valley Courier after dress rehearsal was over. “Especially as we were missing cast members. They did a good job filling in and putting a lot of energy into the roles. I think we’re ready for tomorrow.”

Fleming knows what she is talking about. Although some years (sadly, not this year) she gets to teach a “theater elective,” class, she is known as an English teacher teaching freshman through junior English. But Fleming is also an AHS alumni, who grew up on the school district stages in middle school and high school.

“The high school doesn’t have a theater department,” she says. “It’s just me. About two years ago, I took over from the old English teacher when he left, and I have a passion for theater. I grew up doing it here, in Alamosa.”

So, after teaching a full schedule during the day, Fleming does not choose to go home as others might. Instead, she heads for the theater where she has been working with the students doing set design, coaching the students running the lights and rehearsing with a relatively large cast of students



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Gibson Gillespie as Grandpa Joe and Asher Kreps as Charlie Bucket.

ranging from freshmen to graduating seniors. When asked why she does it, her answer is simple and, yes, passionate.

“I love the creativity. I feel that it’s one of the few things the high school offers for students that is a creative outlet. And it incorporates so many things – acting, set design, technology with the lights. And the kids feel free to be themselves. They don’t always feel free to do that in the classroom, but they feel free here.”

And this is no simple production. With actors on stage the entire time, there are five different set changes and 16 actors playing a total of 27 different roles. Not all 27 characters speak but many of them involve costume changes from one scene to the next, and some of the non-speaking parts (played by actors who play other roles with lines) are in scenes that are choreographed.

“It definitely makes it more complicated. There’s more to juggle and more people for me to direct,” she says. “But I chose

[Willie Wonka & the Chocolate Factory] for a reason.

“I was hoping that such a big cast would open it up for more people to feel like they could audition. And doing such a familiar story might grab more of the students’ attention because Willie Wonka is so well known. Last semester, we didn’t get enough kids to fill the musical I wanted to put on so I was hoping, since this play is so popular, that the students would feel more willing to audition.”

Apparently, the gamble paid off. Everyone who auditioned got a role. And, while Fleming lost a few students who decided to drop out of the production, the students who stayed were up for the challenge.

AHS senior Tyler Cook simply thrives in the role of Willy Wonka and struts on stage with a confidence not often found in younger actors. Alyanna Lucero, another AHS senior, pulls off the role of little tough boy, gun toting Mike TV beautifully.

In a conversation with the Valley Courier prior to

the beginning of rehearsal, Autum Chacon (playing Veruca Salt) and Alcyia Carpenter Martinez (Violet Beauregarde) were quiet and soft spoken, but, once on stage, they transformed into bickering, foot-stomping little girls.

Gibson Gillespie, a freshman in his first AHS performance, plays a wonderful Grandpa Joe with all the mannerisms and moves of an old man. And Asher Kreps, a GOAL student who was welcomed into the cast, was the perfect choice for the quiet, thoughtful but watchful Charlie Bucket.

And all the other characters, including Kai Tandberg, Juan Finley Villegas Chaney, Macayla Hastey, and others, were just as much fun to watch.

So, the lights are set, the actors are prepared and confident, the director is sure they are ready. All they need now is the audience.

The production is Friday and Saturday night on the stage at Alamosa High School. Curtain is at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$8 for adults.

Program

Continued from Page 1

program to provide accurate information to the graduate students. Those in the class develop a camaraderie. About

10 of the 22 participants at the celebration have been in the program for three years.

The San Luis Valley Health Foundation funds the program, Kelly Gurule, Director of the foundation said, “We

are really honored to be a part of the program and help manage the funds that support the program. We couldn’t do it without our donors and the community’s support. We are proud of how this program

helps our cancer survivors, their families, and friends.”

The program will begin another class in the fall and those interested should contact Peggy Johnson at pjohnson@adams.edu.

Paint

Continued from Page 1

Plastering, the employees of Hogue’s Glass, and all the volunteers.

Volunteer Coordination Director David Schneider at La Puente said, “We wanted this to be a community event and have people volunteer in painting. This is a fun way to get folks together. There has been this amazing thing that has happened that really fits with who we are as La Puente. Just in the last day and a half, we have three new people who are volunteering with La Puente for the first time. We have had La Puente employees here, we have had folks who have received La Puente services and who have moved on and they have come back saying,



Courier photo by John Waters

Shiele Martinez, left, and Rachael Gurule, both of Alamosa were busy painting the front of the market.

“Hey, I want to be a part of this.” It really mirrors the La Puente experience.”

Schneider added, “We have made this a true community project, a true community experi-

ence.” Cheslock said he is optimistic the food bank will open by July.

Memorial

Continued from Page 1

this opportunity to invite law enforcement and the public, as well, to join us during this time to recognize and honor all of the Fallen Police Officers in the San Luis Valley, as well as those officers across the state and nationwide who have fallen in the line of duty,” reads the press release from the city.

According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, there were 136 law enforcement officers in federal, state, county, municipal, military, tribal and campus agencies across the nation who lost their lives in 2023, representing a 39% decrease from the 224 officers who died in the line of duty in 2022.

The organization’s website also states that,

of those 136 law enforcement officers who died in 2023, 47 were firearms-related fatalities. That is a 25% decrease from the 63 officers killed by gunfire the previous year, but firearms-related fatalities are still the leading cause of death.

“There is no such thing as ‘good news’ when reporting even a single officer being killed in the line-of-duty,” states National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund CEO Bill Alexander on the organization’s website. “Yet we are encouraged to see fewer overall officer deaths across all major categories in 2023. Using and reporting on this data allows us to highlight the continuing dangers faced by our law enforcement professionals, particularly the number of officers who are shot and killed each year.”

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

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

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

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

Details and Application:

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

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

Opinion

LETTERS

We must re-elect Commissioner McCracken

Editor

Two months ago, I began "Zooming" into Saguache County Commissioners' meetings. This was the beginning of my education in the scope and complexity of a county commissioner's responsibilities. It's mind-boggling.

An effective county commissioner routinely considers issues ranging from legislation of water rights, to how to structure grant requests for affordable housing. He needs a working knowledge of 1,600-line items in the budget, and working relationships with hundreds of employees, contractors, heads of nonprofits, and other legislators. To say this is a demanding job is an understatement.

Saguache County is extremely lucky to have Tom McCracken as a commissioner. With 37 years of experience as an organic farmer, McCracken understands agriculture. That means water rights, regenerative practices, pesticides, noxious weeds, land use regulations, and the critical need for re-vegetation once farmland is "retired."

McCracken has a long list of accomplishments as commissioner, including spearheading a new kind of inter-governmental agreement, mandating that jurisdictions of six counties consult on any potential sale of Valley water to other regions. Creating this agreement required reviving the council of governments (COG), with McCracken as chairperson.

The commissioner's job obligates McCracken to attend all-day meetings on Tuesdays in Saguache. Those meetings alone could keep an administrator busy. A typical Meeting might involve interviewing for new staff, reviewing pending legislation, authorizing funding requests, and updates on everything from road maintenance to emergency medical services.

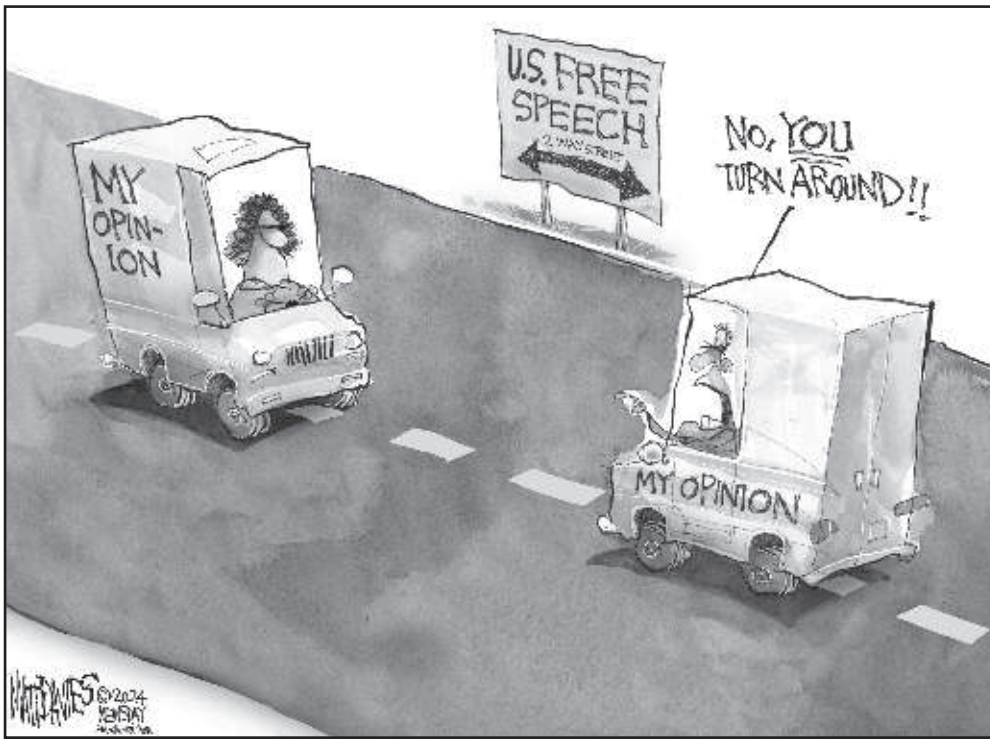
Not only does McCracken ask good questions and make considered choices in these meetings, but he also takes on abundant additional responsibilities. He travels to Denver monthly to attend meetings of Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI) and Counties and Commissioners Acting Together (CCAT). McCracken's participation gives Saguache County a voice in statewide legislation. McCracken is also on the Saguache State Noxious Weed Advisory Board. As mentioned, he is also Chairperson of the Council of Governments (COG), an agency uniting six counties and all the municipalities in the Valley.

One area where McCracken does not excel: self-promotion. He believes that if he works hard to forward the best interests of the citizens, voters will reward him with four more years as commissioner. Logically, this makes sense, and I hope he is right. McCracken's opponent promotes himself as a younger, more relatable version of McCracken, with similar views.

McCracken says the learning curve for this job is steep. Listening to commissioners' meetings, I am frequently lost in the acronyms thrown around. I call this language: commissioner-eaze. I am trying to catch on, but there is no substitute for experience.

Great leadership does not just happen. It takes a lot of hard work and commitment. McCracken has proven himself to be the right man for the job. We are lucky to be in such capable hands. Please choose McCracken as Saguache County Commissioner in the June primary and keep Saguache County moving in the right direction.

Trish Toney
Crestone



To submit news, email:
news@alamosanews.com

To submit sports, email:
khamrick@alamosanews.com

Letters policy

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

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

Groupthink chorus emerges at Trump Trial

Covering former President Donald Trump's trial on television is a difficult job. There are no cameras in the courtroom,

so TV news has to rely on quick messages from staffers watching the trial in an overflow room in the Manhattan courthouse where Trump is being tried for making false bookkeeping entries concerning a nondisclosure agreement he had with the porn actress Stormy Daniels.

Without being able to televise the proceedings, some news networks that are committed to wall-to-wall coverage of the trial -- primarily CNN and MSNBC* -- are reduced to filling the time with talk. A lot of talk. Judging by the first day's coverage, they're not satisfied with devoting hours of airtime to a discussion of bookkeeping minutiae, so they have moved on to expansive theorizing about how Trump might have "interfered" with the 2016 election by allegedly paying Daniels to keep quiet about their alleged sexual encounter.

If you're following the trial, you might notice that a lot of the commentary sounds alike. Many pundits have jumped on to the false bookkeeping "election interference" train and tend to say the same things that their colleagues are saying. There's a reason for some of that uniformity.

On Tuesday, Politico published a story revealing the existence of a weekly Zoom call that includes "some of the country's most well-known legal and political commentators." The call is "an exclusive weekly digital salon," wrote Ankush Khardori, "whose existence has not been previously reported, for prominent legal analysts and progressive and conservative anti-Trump lawyers and pundits. Every Friday, they meet on Zoom to hash out the latest twists and turns in the Trump legal saga -- and intellectually stress-test the arguments

facing Trump on his journey through the American legal system."

The key phrase is "anti-Trump." When group members stress-test arguments, they're trying to find the arguments that will be most effective in bringing down Trump. That's what it is about.

The group includes names you will recognize if you watch CNN or MSNBC a lot: Andrew Weissmann, George Conway, Bill Kristol, Norm Eisen, Laurence Tribe, Barbara McQuade, Joyce White Vance, Jennifer Rubin, Mary McCord, Harry Litman, Elliot Williams, Asha Rangappa, Norm Ornstein, Renato Mariotti, Shan Wu, Ryan Goodman, Karen Agniflo, Jeffrey Toobin and more.

Some are famous. Weissmann was the notorious "pit bull" working for Russia-gate special counsel Robert Mueller who was frustrated by the investigation that in the end did not get Trump. Conway is a high-end lawyer who has been dabbling in lawfare for years, most recently in offering assistance to E. Jean Carroll in her case against Trump. Kristol is a Democratic activist and fundraiser who targets his former conservative colleagues. Toobin was a longtime New Yorker and CNN legal analyst before he famously blew up his career on a Zoom call with colleagues in October 2020.

And so on. Khardori, a former federal prosecutor, called the group "the perfect emblem of today's Trump-media-legal-industrial complex." The long effort to topple Trump has become a career for some. "For them, this is a unique opportunity to ... obtain a level of public recognition and stature that few lawyers can ever attain," Khardori wrote. "The people on this call ... are essential cogs in that system, helping to generate and

shape content for Trump-hungry consumers."

In other words, the call is a strategic tool that can help participants bring down Trump and get famous, too. Win-win! But it's not something participants want to talk about. Indeed, Khardori said he reached out for comment to everyone whose name was mentioned in the story, and "none spoke on the record." Some apparently talked off the record, but they had to remain anonymous because they had promised the group to keep the Zoom sessions a secret.

One darkly amusing aspect of this is that a major reason the participants don't want the call to become public knowledge is that it would tend to support Trump's contention that he is being targeted by what he calls the "fake news" media. "As I was reporting this story, I learned that some members of the group were understandably anxious about its publication," Khardori wrote. "Trump has claimed that there is a legal conspiracy against him, and there is a risk that news of a group such as this could give Trump and his allies an attractive target."

Imagine that. Of course Trump and his allies will criticize the group. In the case of the current Trump trial and its attendant TV talkathon, the participants are doing precisely what the earlier Russia-Trump collusion groupthink chorus did -- trying to convince millions of viewers and readers that Trump is guilty of a serious crime when, in fact, the evidence against him is flimsy and the case against him is ill-conceived. And it does not matter whether Trump loses or wins the Manhattan trial -- the groupthinkers will just move on to the next case.

*Note: I am a Fox News contributor.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for *The Washington Examiner*.



By Byron York

A firm foundation

As you all know, Miss Trixie and I are in the middle of building a house. When most people say that it means they are having workers come and do it for them, but for us, we are literally building a house.

We are nailing the nails and screwing the screws, the last part of that really sounding a tad perverse. But anyhow we are in the middle of that process also known as "testing your relationship."

Why just yesterday Miss Trixie remarked that we work together so well, and I had to admit we are like two peas in a pod. A cow pea and a sweet pea. Two totally different and opposite things.

To give you an example this is how our day generally goes. Ol' Dutch will decide on what project to undertake and having done it a thousand times before or perused Youtube for instructions starts the process.

I get the materials and tools and start in. It's at this point that Miss Trixie starts asking questions. Which goes on non-stop for the rest of the day. And I am not sure if she really wants to know as the tone is somewhat accusing in nature.

That question-and-answer period is followed up by her perusing the Internet to prove I am wrong and then if that does not work she calls up an "expert" to see if they can add anything to fuel that fire.

It's at this point that the rhubarb begins. Also known as "a fight." For if there is one thing that men cannot stand when working its conversation let alone corrective conversation. I mean really ladies. Just look at how we drive. We would rather drive around lost for two hours than ask for directions. So just leave us alone in our ignorance.

I would admit that she does see mistakes that I am making and is helpful in so many ways but I am too tired today to admit that. It used to be that when I got into a fight with my significant other it meant that there was sure to be a make-up session to follow but now it just means we are both tired, shake hands and go to bed.

I actually did the foundation to this house myself and it was difficult at best.

The two grands and son #1 came and helped and we got the cement in the forms and it seems to be holding up at this point. Which is good because a good foundation is paramount to success in any endeavor.

Whether it be buildings or women's bodies, a good foundation is the key to looking good. For just as a good base keeps a building nice and tidy so women's foundation wear keeps shapes and lifts to support her upper stories.

Ol' Dutch got to thinking about such things -- a dangerous proposition according to Miss Trixie -- and I thought about the leaning tower of Pisa in Italy. That leaning pile of stones has been doing so for some time and they even went in and did some work on the foundation to help slow that process.

But something must be amiss over there as just last week another famous tower started to lean precariously and is in danger of falling now too. Some people are shocked and amazed that such things can happen but what else can you expect from a person who eats round pizza from a square box served in triangle shapes. It just doesn't make sense.

Thinking such as that can lead to failures all across society I think and so we here in America have come up with square Pizzas in square boxes served in square pieces. And you don't see our towers leaning either. Point taken and proven all in one quick paragraph.

So, say a prayer today for Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie as we are going to try and install another large door which if not for my long suffering patience would surely end up with her and I coming unfixed.

Kevin Kirkpatrick and his Yorkie, Cooper, fish, hunt, ATV or hike daily. His email is Kevin@TroutRepublic.com. Additional news can be found at www.troutrepublic.com.

Trout Republic



by Kevin Kirkpatrick

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Your FIRST Source for Local News

Lifestyles

Center's Potter receives wastewater operator of year award

By MARIE MCCOLM
CENTER - The Town of Center's Water-Wastewater Supervisor, Rebecca Potter, recently received the Colorado Rural Water and Wastewater Operator of the Year award. Potter also recently received her Class B Wastewater Treatment Operator Certification.

Potter said, "I was really surprised to receive this award, but I also felt very honored. The award is from the State of Colorado, for me this is a pretty big deal, so I am very honored. It's been a struggle being in the industry as a woman, because it can be male dominant. I only know of a handful of other women in the industry. The fact that I am in it, and I am doing it, and I have been appreciated for what I have accomplished, I am really honored and very surprised."

Potter said Town of Center has a unique and different wastewater system.

"I am the Water-Wastewater Supervisor for the Town of Center. I run the wastewater treatment plant which is on a Bio Code System. It's the first of its kind in the country. It's technology that is widespread through Germany and Austria, and its finally making its way to the US."

Potter said the system used in the Town of Center uses two distinct types of treatments. Potter said the treatments are combined because of efficiency.

Potter is no stranger to the wastewater industry, having been involved in the field for 8 years now. She said she first started with the industry as a simple need for a job, but then she fell in love with the in-



Courtesy photo

The Town of Center's Water-Wastewater Supervisor, Rebecca Potter, recently received the Colorado Rural Water and Wastewater Operator of the Year award.

dustry because it was so interesting. Potter was also excited about obtaining her job in Center and moving into a higher position.

"I started off at Baca Grande in Crestone, and I also worked for the City of Monte Vista for Wastewater. I heard about the opening here in Center; that they were going to need somebody to run their plant and be at that level, so I saw the opportunity for growth and a challenge, and I took it," Potter said.

Potter stated that her favorite part of her job is that it is different every day, and it is a big challenge.

"Whether you are troubleshooting the pumps, or the different treatments. I think it's interesting to learn about microbiology and how all that works. There is a lot that I like but my favorite thing is, I love the different chal-

lenges every day," she said.

Potter stated that when she received the award for doing what she loved it was wonderful. She thanked Dave Diss at the Colorado Rural Water Association for nominating her, and for all he has done to help her. She also thanked everyone who voted for her and her family for being so supportive and understanding.

"In order to do this job, you have to be state certified, so you have to put in a lot of study hours for testing," Potter said. "I sacrificed many hours at home to study, instead of spending time with my family and kids, it was important to me to be successful. I also want to thank the crew behind me for helping me be so successful by working together. We are just a great team. It's a great job, and I am very honored by the award."

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission to meet May 1-2

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

MONTROSE - At a hybrid meeting on May 1-2 in Montrose, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission will open for consideration changes to allow the use of artificial light for wolves causing damage, allowing pooled grazers to apply for wolf permits and compensation, and defining domestic bison as livestock.

The Commission will also consider the adoption of all limited license numbers for black bear, deer, elk, pronghorn and moose for all game management units in the state that have limited licenses for these species for the 2024 big game seasons. The second step of a three-step process considering changes to the 5-year big game season structure for 2025-2029 is also on the agenda.

The Commission will also consider adopting regulations for disqualification factors when

participating in the Landowner Preference Program under CRS 33-4-103 and adopting regulations to implement SB23-059, Local Access Funding to State Parks and Wildlife Areas.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. on May 1 and recess at 2 p.m. The Commission will reconvene at 8 a.m. on May 2 and adjourn at 5:20 p.m. The meeting will be streamed live on CPW's YouTube page.

Additional agenda items include:

- Department of Natural Resources Update
- Department of Agriculture Update
- Financial Update
- Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian Tribes - Brunot Treaty Area and Tribal Hunting
- Wolverine Update
- Wolf Update
- Ridgway State Park Update
- 2025 OHV Grant Recommendations
- Discussion of Commission Officer Elections

• Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program

• Draw Process Workshop

A complete agenda along with all materials for this meeting can be found on the CPW website for public review. The public is encouraged to email written comments to the commission at dnr_cpwcommission@state.co.us. Details on providing public comments for hybrid meetings are available on the CPW website.

The Commission meets regularly and travels to communities around the state to facilitate public participation. Anyone can listen to commission meetings through the CPW website. This opportunity keeps constituents informed about the development of regulations and how the commission works with Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff to manage the parks, wildlife and outdoor recreation programs administered by the agency.

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- 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.

Sports

Latest MaxPreps track rankings

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The latest high school track and field rankings are posted on the MaxPreps web site with several athletes from the San Luis Valley in a position to qualify for the state meet.

The Top 18 in each event in Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, and 2A will qualify for their respective state meets, while in Class 1A, the Top 9 in sprints and hurdles, the Top 10 in field events and the Top 12 in distances will qualify.

Class 3A Alamosa

Alamosa has 10 ranked athletes in individual events.

For the boys, Brant Jackson is third in the high jump at 6-5, Jesse Maestas is fifth in the pole vault at 13-9, Ethan Arnoldi is tied for 13th in the pole vault at 12-0, Mario Villalba is 15th in the 3,200-meter run in 10:01.51, and Erick Celis-Alvarez is 17th in the shot put at 42-9.

Another Mean Moose athlete, Brayden Moeller is close to qualifying as he is 19th in the 100-meter dash in 11.47 seconds. He is 0.6 seconds off the No. 18 athlete.

Alamosa is also ranked in three boys relays. It is 13th in the 4x800 in 8:48.03, 16th in the 4x100 in 45.25 and 18th in the 4x400 in 3:38.54.

For the Lady Mean Moose, Sarah DeLaCerde is ranked in four events. She has the best time in the 3,200 in 10:49.85, and she is also second in the 1,600 in 5:07.25, third in the 800 in 2:19.60 and tied for 7th in the 400 in 1:00.29.

Elizabeth McQuitty is ranked in three events including fifth in the 1,600 in 5:16.17, fifth in the 3,200 in 11:06.53 and 17th in the 800 in 2:28.23. Madeline Castillo is in two events as she is sixth in the 3,200 in 11:21.10 and eighth in the 1,600 in 5:21.19.

Also ranked for the Alamosa girls are Kaidence Boehm who is 12th in the shot put at 32-5 3/4, and Lily Heersink who is 16th in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in 50.99 seconds.

Kaylee Gonzales-Moore is close in two events. She is 20th in the 200 in 27.49 which is 0.08 seconds off, and 23rd in the 100 in 13.26, 0.06



Courier file photo by Ken Hamrick
Sanford's Erica Miller is ranked in two events.

seconds off. The Lady Mean Moose are ranked in two relays. They are fifth in the 4x800 in 10:20.64 and eighth in the 4x400 in 4:21.12.

Centauri

Centauri has three athletes in the rankings. For the boys, Troy Sowards is tied for the best height in the high jump at 6-8.

Carson Bagwell and Carson Shawcroft are both tied 19th in the same event at 5-10, one inch short.

The Falcons are ranked in two relays. They are 14th in the 4x400 in 3:37.86, and 17th in the 4x100 in 45.43. They are close in one more relay as they are 20th in the 4x200 in 1:33.95 (0.31 seconds off).

For the Lady Falcons, Alyvia Norton is fifth in the high jump at 5-0, and Analynn Dwyer is tied for 16th in the same event at 4-10.

Class 2A

3, 3 inn.
 Walsenburg 14, Sierra Grande 5
Prep girls soccer
 Alamosa 5, Ignacio 0

THURSDAY

Prep girls soccer
 Del Norte at Trinidad – late

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

Prep baseball
 Sanford at Custer County, 9 a.m.
 Antonito at Sierra Grande (2), 11 a.m.
 La Veta at Centennial, 5 p.m.

Prep girls soccer
 Montezuma-Cortez at Alamosa, 11 a.m.
 Dolores Huerta at Del Norte, 4:30 p.m.

Prep track and field

Monte Vista at Coronado Invitational (at Garry Berry Field), 9 a.m.
 Alamosa, Del Norte at High Altitude Challenge (pole vault) (at Del Norte), TBA

College baseball

Adams State at Colorado-Colorado Springs (2), noon

College men's lacrosse

Adams State at Colo-

Center

Center has two ranked athletes. Andree Meraz is 12th in the boys discus at 124-7, and Ciara Paiz is fifth in the girls long jump at 15-11.

Del Norte

Del Norte has two ranked athletes. Damon Ledford-Vigil is tied for 10th in the pole vault at 11-9, and Caleb Cowett is 18th in the 400 in 53.47.

Monte Vista

Monte Vista currently has no ranked athletes.

Sargent

Sargent has one athlete in the rankings in Bailey Asbell who is 15th in the 100 hurdles in 17.83.

Class 1A

Antonito

Antonito has no ranked athletes.

Creede

Creede has two athletes ranked in the girls high jump. Jasmone Laing is third at 5-1, and Lila Fairchild is tied for seventh in, 5-9.

Moffat

Moffat has no athletes in the rankings.

Sanford

Sanford has five ranked athletes. For the boys team, Lincoln Reynolds has the best time in the 200 in 23.00, and he is also second in the 400 in 52.38 and third in the 100 in 11.48.

The Mustangs are fourth in the boys 4x200 in 1:39.09.

The Lady Mustangs are led by Brecken Crowther who has the best mark in the long jump at 16-2 1/4. Holly McDaniel is ranked in four events as she is second in the 100 hurdles in 17.15, second in the triple jump at 33-10 1/2, fourth in the 300 hurdles in 49.95, and fourth in the long jump at 15-8. Erica Miller is in two events as she is second in the 800 in 2:34.71 and third in the 400 in 1:00.92. Also ranked for the Sanford girls is Kate McDaniel who is eighth in the 300 hurdles in 53.63.

Sanford has the best time in the 800 sprint medley in 1:58.33.

Sangre de Cristo

Sangre de Cristo is 11th in the boys 4x800 in 10:13.34.

Sierra Grande

Sierra Grande has one ranked athlete in Nehemiah Wilson who is tied for ninth in the high jump at 5-6.

High school standings as of Wednesday

BASEBALL

Class 3A/2A Intermountain League

Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Montezuma-Cortez	3-1	9-8
Bayfield	3-1	6-11
Pagosa Springs	2-2	8-8
Alamosa	2-2	4-13
Centauri	0-4	6-11

Class 2A Southern Peaks League

Team	League W-L	Overall W-L
Monte Vista	7-0	10-3
Trinidad	6-0	8-7
Sanford	5-1	9-2
Del Norte	4-2	5-6
Sargent	2-6	2-10
South Park	1-4	3-11
Center	0-5	0-10
Custer County	0-7	0-12

Class 1A Southern Peaks League

Team	League W-L	Overall W-L-T
Sierra Grande	2-0	10-1-0
Antonito	2-0	5-5-1
Centennial	0-4	2-7-0

GIRLS SOCCER

Class 3A Intermountain League

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

Class 2A Southwest League

Team	League W-L-T	Overall W-L-T
Crested Butte	4-0-0	9-1-1
Ridgway	2-2-0	6-4-0
Telluride	1-1-0	2-5-1
Ignacio	1-2-0	1-8-0
Del Norte	0-3-0	0-9-0

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD

TUESDAY

Prep baseball
 Centauri 9, Sanford 5
 Pagosa Springs 14, Del Norte 4, 5 inn.
 Pagosa Springs 18, Del Norte 3, 4 inn.
 Rocky Ford 20, Center

3, 3 inn.
 Walsenburg 14, Sierra Grande 5
Prep girls soccer
 Alamosa 5, Ignacio 0

THURSDAY

Prep girls soccer
 Del Norte at Trinidad – late

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

Prep baseball
 Sanford at Custer County, 9 a.m.
 Antonito at Sierra Grande (2), 11 a.m.
 La Veta at Centennial, 5 p.m.

Prep girls soccer
 Montezuma-Cortez at Alamosa, 11 a.m.
 Dolores Huerta at Del Norte, 4:30 p.m.

Prep track and field

Monte Vista at Coronado Invitational (at Garry Berry Field), 9 a.m.
 Alamosa, Del Norte at High Altitude Challenge (pole vault) (at Del Norte), TBA

College baseball

Adams State at Colorado-Colorado Springs (2), noon

College men's lacrosse

Adams State at Colo-

rado Mesa (RMAC Tournament), 7 p.m.

College women's softball

Adams State at Colorado School of Mines (2), noon

College outdoor track and field

Adams State at RMAC Championships (at Grand Junction), TBA

SATURDAY

Prep baseball

Centauri at Alamosa (2), 11 a.m.
 Center at Custer County (2), 11 a.m.
 Ignacio at Sargent (2),

11 a.m.

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

Prep track and field

Alamosa, Antonito, Centauri, Center, Creede, Del Norte, Moffat, Sanford, Sangre de Cristo, Sargent, Sierra Grande at High Altitude Challenge, 9 a.m.

College baseball

Adams State at Colorado-Colorado Springs (2), noon

College men's lacrosse

Adams State/Colorado Mesa winner vs. Concordia-Irvine (Ca-

lif.) / Westminster (Utah) winner (RMAC Tournament), 5 p.m.

College women's softball

Adams State at Colorado School of Mines (2), 11 a.m.

College outdoor track and field

Adams State at RMAC Championships (at Grand Junction), TBA

SUNDAY

College outdoor track and field

Adams State at RMAC Championships (at Grand Junction), TBA

come celebrate

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Public Notices

ATTENTION GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS
The Saguache County Board of County Commissioners are accepting scholarship applications for graduating seniors who will be graduating high school in 2024.
Commissioners will be awarding graduating seniors' college scholarships that will be paid through the Marijuana Excise Tax funds.
Scholarships may be used at a trade school, college or university but you must reside in Saguache County to apply and possibly receive scholarship funds.
Applications are due by Wednesday, May 1, 2024 and are available through our website at www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov to download the application or by contacting Wendi Maez at 719-655-2231 or by email at wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov.
No. 3892.
Published in the Valley Courier on April 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30, & May 3, 2024.

South Conejos School District is seeking sealed bids for the sale of:
2002 Chevy Suburban 6.0 engine, 4WD w/ Snow Plow, 172,141 miles.
2003 Blue Bird 65 Passenger Bus: DT466e engine and automatic transmission, 202,442 miles.
For Inquiries, please call: 719-376-7007. Sealed bids can be sent to ebrien@southconejos.com. All bids must be received by 2:00 p.m. on April 30, 2024. Bids received after this date and time will not be considered. The South Conejos School District reserves the right to reject any and all bids if deemed to be in the best interest of the District.
No. 3899.
Published in the Valley Courier on April 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, & 30, 2024.

NOTICE OF ACCEPTING BIDS
The Center Fire Protection District is accepting bids for a 1995 International tanker truck, sold as is. Bids shall be a minimum of \$2,500. Sealed bids will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on May 10, 2024. Bids may be mailed to Center Fire Protection District, P.O. Box 845, Center, CO 81125. Bids will be opened at the Board's regular meeting on May 14, 2024. To view the above truck, please call John Anderson at 719-588-8005 for an appointment. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
No. 3914.
Published in the Valley Courier on April 24, 26, 27, 30, May 1, 3, 4, & 7, 2024.

NOTICE
Town of Hooper, Ordinance No. 3-2024: An Ordinance Of The Town Of Hooper, Colorado, To Adopt Guidelines And Regulations For Water Projects For Export Outside The San Luis Valley As Designated As Matters Of State Interest Of Hooper And Amending The Town Of Hooper Municipal Code To Include A New Title X And Appendix C.
No. 3915.
Published in the Valley Courier on April 26, 2024.

NOTICE
Town of Hooper, Ordinance No. 5-2024: An Ordinance Setting The Tax Rate For Retail Marijuana Stores, Authorizing The Imposition Of A Different Tax Rate, Up To Five Percent (5%) At A Later Time.
No. 3916.
Published in the Valley Courier on April 26, 2024.

NOTICE
Town of Hooper, Ordinance No. 6-2024: An Ordinance Regulating Ground Fowl In The Town Of Hooper, Requiring Permits, Creating Procedures For Permits, And Establishing Penalties For Violations. This Ordinance adds the following penalties to the Town of Hooper Municipal Code:
Section 5-3-301: "Violation of this Chapter 3 of Title V shall be subject to fines and penalties, any remedies allowed for nuisances to the extent that they apply, and revocation of the permit. Any owner who violates Chapter 3 of Title V shall be subject to the following fines: (a) 1st Violation - Warning (b) 2nd Violation - \$25.00 per animal (c) 3rd Violation - \$50.00 per animal (d) 4th or more - \$100.00 per animal."
No. 3917.
Published in the Valley Courier on April 26, 2024.

NOTICE
Town of Hooper, Ordinance No. 6-2024: An Ordinance Prohibiting Public Nuisances, Defining Public Nuisances, Listing Examples, And Providing A Procedure For Addressing Public Nuisances. This Ordinance adds the following penalties to the Town of Hooper Municipal Code:
Section 6-1-204(a)(7): "Any violation of any injunction or order issued by the Municipal Court in an action to abate a public nuisance may be punished as a contempt of court or by a fine not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300.00). Unless the violation by its nature cannot be corrected, each day's failure to comply with an injunction or order to abate shall constitute a separate violation for which an additional penalty may be imposed."
Section 6-1-303: "Any person in the Town who violates this Chapter 6 of Title VI shall, in addition to the civil remedies and costs provided herein be subject to a fine in an amount not exceeding Three Hundred (\$300.00). Every person violating or contributing in any way to the violation of any provision of this Chapter 1 of Title VI shall be deemed guilty of a separate offense for each day during which such violation continues and may be punished for each such violation as provided in this Section."
No. 3918.
Published in the Valley Courier on April 26, 2024.

NOTICE
County Court
Conejos County, Colorado
Court Address:
6683 County Road 13, Conejos, CO 81129
Case Number: 2024C18
Division B
In the Matter of the Petition of:
Adult: Hunter Riley DeHerrera
For a Change of Name to:
Hunter Riley Madril
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Public Notice is given on 04/22/2024 that a Petition for a Change of Name of Adult has been filed with the Conejos County Court.
The Petition requests that the name of
Hunter Riley DeHerrera
be changed to
Hunter Riley Madril.
By Brooke Valdez
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk
No. 3919
Published in the Valley Courier on April 26, 27, and 30, 2024.

NOTICE IS GIVEN
That pursuant to the Colorado State Statute No. CRS 38-21.5-104, C&R Storage Facility has given proper notice to the parties of the storage unit herein stated at their last known address, shall dispose of all property in said unit. Said disposal shall be any time after May 4th, 2024. Contents of lockers to be disposed of are:
Linda Munoz, #20;
Jeff Mills, #N.
No. 3920.
Published in the Valley Courier April 26 & May 3, 2024.

NOTICE
District Court
CONEJOS County, Colorado
Court Address: 6683 County Road/PO Box 128, Conejos, CO 81120
COURT USE ONLY
In the Matter of the Estate of
ALBERT NICOLAS GARCIA aka ALBERT N. GARCIA aka ALBERT GARCIA aka RAY RUYBALID
Deceased
Gordon J. Bosa
202 Edison Avenue/PO Box 58
Alamosa, CO 81101
Phone Number: (719)589-6603
E-mail: bosalaw@gmail.com Atty. Reg. #: 8905
Case Number: 2024PR30001
Division. Courtroom
NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO §15-12-801, C.R.S.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Albert Nicolas Garcia aka Albert N. Garcia aka Albert Garcia aka Ray Ruybalid, Deceased Case Number: 2024PR30001
All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to X District Court of Conejos County, Colorado or Denver Probate Court of the City and County of Denver, Colorado on or before August 15, 2024 (date), or the claims may be forever barred.
Judy Lucero PO Box 336
Antonito, CO 81120
No. 3924.
Published in the Valley Courier on April 26, May 3, & 10, 2024.

173 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

PRIVATE HOME HEALTH: I can help keep your loved one at home. CNA 20+ years experience, excellent references, reasonable rates. 512-293-1448. (5/21/24)

LICENSED PLUMBER DOES all types of plumbing & plumbing repairs. Quick service! Call anytime, weekends & evenings: 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (5/24/24-monthly)

221 - HELP WANTED

WE GOT THE HELP WE WERE LOOKING FOR WITH THE HELP OF THE VALLEY COURIER. Smokin Spuds. (AS)

CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH is looking for Part-time ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. Pay determined by experience. Contact Hannah Metzger 719-989-0987. (5/4/24)

SANGRE DE CRISTO SCHOOL DISTRICT has openings for the school year 2024-2025: Elementary PE Teacher / ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, BOOKKEEPER, Middle School FOOTBALL COACH, Middle School WRESTLING COACH, High School VOLLEYBALL COACH, High School WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH, and NUTRITION DIRECTOR. Please visit our website, www.sangreschools.org to apply. If you have any questions, please call 719-378-2321 or 719-420-1422. (5/15/24)

ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST - LA PUENTE SEEKING SPECIALIST TO assist in efforts to maintain relationships and coordinate with members of the Homeless community and homeless services providers through La Puente's Street Outreach program. Looking for the unique individual committed to ongoing understanding of La Puente programs with a focus on clients residing at formal and informal homeless encampments located in ALAMOSA. Join our staff of dedicated professionals and learn the joys and satisfaction of serving others. Salary \$38k-\$40k. DOE; comprehensive benefits package. Send resume/work references to hr@lapuente.net. (5/15/24)

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

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

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

221 - HELP WANTED

FULL-TIME SALES

- Competitive Draw
- Commission
- Benefits

Contact Keith at the Valley Courier

(719) 589-2553

kcerny@alamosanews.com

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

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

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

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

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

ALAMOSA BICYCLE COALITION is accepting applications for the following two positions: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Salary Range: \$48,000 - \$55,000 (DOE). This position may range between a 20-35 hour week depending on applicant's skills and interests, with the salary pro-rated accordingly. Organizational Leadership, Financial and Grants Management, Program Implementation skills required. BICYCLE WORKSHOP AND PROGRAM MANAGER Salary range: \$21,500 - \$23,500 (DOE) for a 20-hour week. Workspace Management and Program Facilitation; conversational Eng/Sp skills required; experience repairing bicycles preferred. Applicants can apply for both positions. Positions open until filled, with applications being reviewed starting April 19. Email info@alamosabicyclecoalition.org for job descriptions and application. (4/30/24)

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

221 - HELP WANTED

MILAGROS IS SEEKING a highly motivated and compassionate individual for the position of COFFEE SHOP MANAGER. MILAGROS COFFEE SHOP serves the community quality goods while fostering a comfortable environment for people to spend time and connect with others. Milagros is an interface for the public to learn about and engage in the mission and work of La Puente, as well as local artisans and support other small businesses. Come join this team of amazing and passionate people and contribute to a mission that betters the community. This is a full-time 40hr/week position with benefits and base salary starting at \$42K-\$45K DOE, plus tips, plus a monthly commission. To apply, email your cover letter and resume to: hr@lapuente.net. (4/27/24)

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

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. Salary between \$47,000 and \$52,000 depending on education and experience. Year round position, 5 weeks paid holidays breaks, 10 hours sick/vacation per month, simple IRA, HSA account available. For more information, you may contact the director at, director@mvheadstart.org or call 719-852-3215. Positions opened until filled. (4/26/24)

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

NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for the 2024-25 school year for (1) CENTAURI MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH TEACHER. Applicants must hold a current Colorado Teaching License or be able to obtain proper endorsement. Application deadline is until position is filled. Please call Brian Riccatone with questions at 719-274-4301. Applications are available at the District Administration Office, 17887 US Hwy 285, LA JARA, CO 81140 or can be downloaded at www.northconejos.com Submit application to Mr. Darren Edgar, Superintendent. EOE. (5/7/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

TOWN OF CENTER, COLORADO Seeks a TOWN MANAGER. General Statement of Duties: Supervises 22-25 employees of varied departments such as Utilities, Public Safety, Streets and Parks and Administration. Position Overview - As the Town Manager, you will serve as the chief executive officer of our municipality, responsible for overseeing all aspects of municipal operations and administration. You will work closely with elected officials, department heads, to implement policies, manage resources, and foster sustainable growth and development. Key Responsibilities: Provide visionary leadership and strategic direction to achieve the town's goals and objectives. Collaborate with elected officials to develop and implement policies that reflect the needs and priorities of the community. Manage the day-to-day operations of the Town's departments. Ensure efficient use of resources and adherence to budgetary constraints. Foster effective communication and engagement with residents and businesses. Represent the Town's interests in regional, state, and federal forums. Have some knowledge of Human Resources. Promote transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct in all town activities. Education and Experience: The Board will consider, on a case by case basis, a combination of education and experience that shows capacity to perform the essential functions of the job. Qualified candidates should submit their resume to Rose DeHerrera, Town Clerk at rose@centercolorado.gov or Town of Center, PO Box 400, Center, CO 81125. The Town of Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity at all levels of its workforce. Closing: Open until filled. Salary: DOE with benefits. Job Type: Full Time/Exempt. Location: Town Hall, 294 S. Worth Street, Center, CO. (5/3/24)

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

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

DEL NORTE BANK is seeking a candidate to fill a permanent position for a TELLER at our CREEDE BRANCH. Duties will be to accept deposits, loan payments and process withdrawals while maintaining a balanced cash drawer. Must be personable and pleasant answering the phone and greeting customers. Many other duties will be assigned as needed. The position is full time in the summer and part time in the winter, with an end of season bonus and an hourly rate range of \$14.42 to \$17.00. Please send your resume or application to postmaster@truelocalbank.com by April 30, 2024. Application is available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers or call 719-657-3376 and ask for Dawn. EOE. (4/30/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

1ST SOUTHWEST BANK, a locally owned CDFI community bank, is seeking a RELATIONSHIP MANAGER with 3+ years of commercial loan experience and a BRANCH MANAGER with 5+ years of banking experience. FSWB offers competitive compensation, generous benefits, & career development. Join FSWB's award-winning team dedicated to supporting rural Colorado's agricultural, nonprofit and small businesses. For details and to apply, visit fswb.bank/about/careers. EOE. (5/1/24)

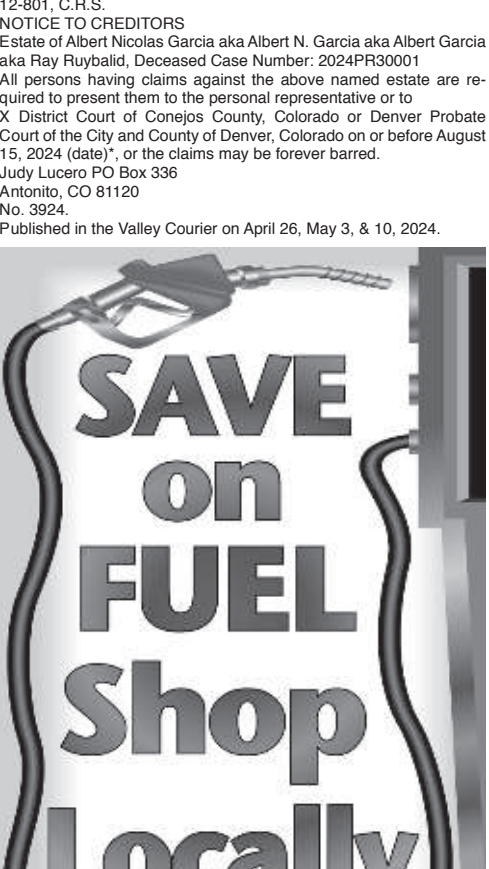
SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is seeking anticipated ELEMENTARY TEACHERS for the 24-25 school year. Applicants must possess a Colorado Teaching License or be eligible to apply for one. Salary schedules are available on the district website. Please submit a district application, resume, cover letter, and transcripts at <https://www.southconejos.com/page/how-to-apply>. (5/1/24)

ARE YOU PASSIONATE about making a positive impact on people's lives? SIERRA GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT is currently accepting applications for BEHAVIOR HEALTH COUNSELOR/MTSS COORDINATOR for the 2024-2025 School Year. Our school has a reputation as being a great place to work. We currently have a state of the art facility, supportive administration, paid health insurance, free lunches, 4 day school week. A current license/state certification in counseling is highly recommended to apply. Application forms are located at 17523 Hwy 160 Blanca, CO. 81123 or on the district's website at www.sierragrandeschool.net. Applications may be submitted electronically to Mr. Kevin Jones at kjones@sierragrandeschool.net or Mrs. Maria Atencio at matencio@sierragrandeschool.net, or can be turned in at the district office. For more information please contact the district office at 719-379-3259. (5/1/24)

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

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

DEL NORTE BANK is seeking a candidate to fill a permanent position for a TELLER at our CREEDE BRANCH. Duties will be to accept deposits, loan payments and process withdrawals while maintaining a balanced cash drawer. Must be personable and pleasant answering the phone and greeting customers. Many other duties will be assigned as needed. The position is full time in the summer and part time in the winter, with an end of season bonus and an hourly rate range of \$14.42 to \$17.00. Please send your resume or application to postmaster@truelocalbank.com by April 30, 2024. Application is available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers or call 719-657-3376 and ask for Dawn. EOE. (4/30/24)



Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for an **INSTRUCTIONAL COMPUTER/LIBRARY PARAPROFESSIONAL** at **BILL METZ ELEMENTARY** for the 2024-2025 school year. A complete list of desired qualifications and experience is posted on the district website. Monte Vista School District operates on a 4-day week (Monday - Thursday) and offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, HSA match, and life coverage. The salary for this position will be paid from the current MVSD Paraprofessional Salary Schedule, which can be viewed on the district website - Employment Opportunities page. Placement on the salary schedule will be determined by education and experience at time of hire. Applications may be submitted through our online employment application <https://www.pirates.monte.k12.co.us/employmentopportunities>, by April 23, 2024, or until the position is filled. For questions contact the District Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (4/30/24)

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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 or call 719-852-3215. Positions opened until filled. (4/26/24)

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

LOOKING FOR YEAR ROUND HELP ON POTATO GRAIN FARM, starting immediately, contact 719-850-2137. Must have experience around machinery and farming practices. (5/1/24)

ACCOUNTANT. THE SLV LOCAL FOODS COALITION seeks an **ACCOUNTANT** to oversee finances for our local nonprofit. Send resume and cover letter to opportunity.slvlocalfoods@gmail.com. Additional requirements can be found at www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/. (5/1/24)

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 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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Dylan Brown Katrina Brown
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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

PART-TIME MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN/PARKS & RECREATION TECHNICIAN: Part-Time Hourly 15-20 hours; Pay rate \$14.42/hour. Job Description: We are seeking a skilled and dedicated Part-Time Maintenance Technician/Parks and Recreation Technician to join our team in maintaining and enhancing the beauty and functionality of our town's parks and recreational areas. As a vital member of our community, you will be responsible for ensuring the upkeep, safety, and cleanliness of our parks, playgrounds, and town buildings and facilities. To apply, submit a resume to 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)

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)

DEPUTY CLERK: PART-TIME Hourly 15-20 hours, Tuesday-Thursday and some Fridays; Pay Rate \$14.42. Position Overview/ Job Description: We are seeking a diligent and organized individual to join our team as a Part-Time Deputy Clerk for our small town. The Deputy Clerk will work closely with the Town Clerk and other municipal staff to ensure the efficient operation of administrative tasks and provide support in various municipal functions. This position offers an excellent opportunity for someone who is detail-oriented, community-focused, and eager to contribute to the smooth functioning of local government. To apply, submit a resume to 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)

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

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 K-12 ART 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. (5/8/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

ADELANTE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER DATA ANALYST - Seeking a team oriented person to oversee our data systems to ensure timely and accurate data collection. This person will transform the raw data into program reports, help identify and implement quality improvement of data collection, train new staff on data systems, and provide ongoing data entry support to program staff. This person will oversee the Working Together program reporting requirements and organize the monthly meetings. Salary \$39,000 - \$42,000 DOE plus benefits. Submit cover letter and resume to HR@lapuente.net. (4/30/24)

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

CITY OF MONTE VISTA is accepting applications for KIDS CONNECTION SUMMER PROGRAM LEADERS. Duties include, planning, scheduling, and implementing youth program activities. \$15 per hour. Job Description and applications are available at <http://www.cityofmontevista.colorado.gov> or City of Monte Vista, Human Resources, 95 West First Ave, Monte Vista, Co. 81144. (5/1/24)

HEAD JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL COACH needed at DEL NORTE JR. HIGH SCHOOL. Experience as a coach or assistant coach at the MIDDLE SCHOOL and/or HIGH SCHOOL level is preferred. Must possess: effective coaching techniques and a thorough knowledge of the rules of the sport; and have the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with school administrators, parents, and students. Please contact Gibbs Sanchez, Athletic Director, at: gsanchez@urtigers.co 719-657-4020; or Annie Hardy, Principal, at: ahardy@urtigers.co 719-657-4020. (5/1/24)

CAFETERIA STAFF NEEDED at UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. Must have a high school diploma and some knowledge of working in a kitchen or a willingness to be trained. Pay is dependent on prior experience. Please contact Leslie Martinez at 719-657-4040, x1100 or email her at lmartinez@urtigers.co. (5/1/24)

SUBSTITUTES TEACHERS NEEDED at the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT in DEL NORTE! Call or email: Sophia at 719-657-4040, x4000 (scrz@urtigers.co) for more information, go on-line: urtigers.co, or stop by the district office at: 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO to pick up an application. You do not have to hold a college degree or be a certified teacher to substitute; however, you must be a high school graduate and have a substitute license from CDE (Colorado Department of Education). (5/1/24)

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@mtking.com. (6/5/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

DEL NORTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER needed at the URGSD. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team for the 2024-2025 school year. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Amy Duda, Principal at aduda@urtigers.co or contact Amy at 719-657-4050. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co. (4/30/24)

HOME HEALTH AIDE for individual needed near LA JARA. CNA helpful but not required, on the job training. Good pay, flexible hours, must pass background check. Call or Text 719-580-9633. (4/26/24)

SKYLINE POTATO CO. in CENTER, CO is looking for a SHIPPING CLERK/ ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR for their bulk division. Applicants must be Bilingual (English/Spanish) and capable of using Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word and able to learn other computer/shipping programs. Work week consists of Monday-Friday and some Saturdays. Responsibilities will be the following: Weigh in and out incoming trucks, ship out trucks with outgoing product and produce paperwork for the truck, coordinate incoming and outgoing trucks with supervisor and shipping/loading crew, help supervise employees. For an application please contact Margaret Limon @ 719-754-2043. (4/30/24)

304 - LAWN & GARDEN

SPRINKLER REPAIR & INSTALLATION. Quick Service! Call evenings & weekends: 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (5/24/24-monthly)

307 - APPLIANCES

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

324 - SEED & FEED

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

341 - GARAGE SALE

YARD SALE: SATURDAY, April 27, 8am-2pm, 12868 Rd 5S, ALAMOSA. Tools, furniture, freezers, vintage. 3 miles E on 5S. Watch for signs! (4/27/24)

GIANT ESTATE SALE. Lots of amazing stuff. Friday and Saturday April 26th and 27th, 9:00 am sharp. Log furniture, stained glass, couches, freezer, antiques, tools, fishing, dog kennels, decorative items, yard art, kitchen stuff, office, ship models, crafts and sewing, artwork, outdoor stuff, antler chandeliers and antler racks, garden cart, motorcycle jackets and helmets, lamps, bikes and more and more and more. This sale is in CREEDE but it's worth the drive. 145 Rio Grande Drive, about 7 miles west of Creede, follow the signs. Rain or shine. (4/27/24)

345 - WOOD

THANK YOU, VALLEY COURIER. I SOLD MY WOOD SPLITTER! Frank.

347 - HOUSEHOLD GOODS

ALMOST NEW GE WASHER. TABLE with 5 chairs. BRASS SHELF with glass. Call 719-852-2151. (4/27/24)

353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

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

POWDER RIVER CALF BRANDING SHUTE for sale; excellent condition. 719-580-4745. (5/1/24)

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

TNT BULLS FOR Sale! Angus, Balancer & Charolais. 719-850-1923 or 719-850-9056. (5/7/24)

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

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

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

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

368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

AKC ROTTI'S FOR sale. Excellent temperament. 719-480-4940. (4/26/24)

FREE TO GOOD HOME! Med. size GOLDEN RETRIEVER/PITT mix. 1 yr. old, spayed, & vacs. female. LOVING FAMILY DOG, full of energy. Kennel/leash trained & obedient. Potential parents will be vetted. Leave message @ 719-379-5236. (4/27/24)

387 - WANTED TO BUY

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

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

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409 - FARM & RANCLAND

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

420 - LOTS & ACREAGES

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

426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

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

525 - GUNS

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

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

611 - HOMES FOR RENT

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

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


701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

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

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

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

2008 YUKON 200,000 mi, runs great, new tires, \$6,500.00 will negotiate, MUST SELL. Call-text 719-298-8207. (4/26/24)



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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bovine animal
 - 4 Bambi, for example
 - 8 City in Hawaii
 - 12 "Yuck!"
 - 13 Isle of exile
 - 14 Norse god
 - 15 Football's — Manning
 - 16 Opening
 - 17 Relocate
 - 18 Irish Gaelic
 - 20 "Jack be — ..."
 - 22 Household god
 - 23 Scull
 - 24 Spellbind
 - 28 Denomination
 - 31 Seed appendage
 - 32 Solemn promise
 - 34 Uncooked liquor
 - 37 Angry
 - 38 Queen of Olympus
 - 39 Brink
- 41 Fourth president**
- 43 Cash dispenser, for short**
- 45 Curved path**
- 46 Understand**
- 49 Measure of time**
- 51 Hedge**
- 52 Related**
- 54 Never before seen**
- 56 "Got it" (2 wds.)**
- 57 Pitcher**
- 58 Actress — Wallace**
- 59 Approach**
- 60 Solar plexus**
- 61 Province in Can.**
- DOWN**
- 1 Stage hint
 - 2 Eye
 - 3 Fast and intense
 - 4 Arid area
 - 5 Annex
 - 6 Black

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 7 Mathematical proportion
- 8 Man from Mexico
- 9 "American —"
- 10 "— and Let Die"
- 11 Dollar bill
- 19 Go by boat
- 21 Make pulpy
- 24 Sack
- 25 Pennsylvania port
- 26 Dove's cry
- 27 Damage
- 29 Gradual increase in volume
- 30 Poi source
- 33 Light meal
- 35 Pallid
- 37 Son of Adam
- 38 Put on the payroll
- 40 Glean
- 42 Be slow
- 44 Engine
- 46 Melt together
- 47 On the Atlantic
- 48 "Encore!"
- 50 Sharp
- 51 Storage container
- 53 Allow
- 55 Water-logged

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

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

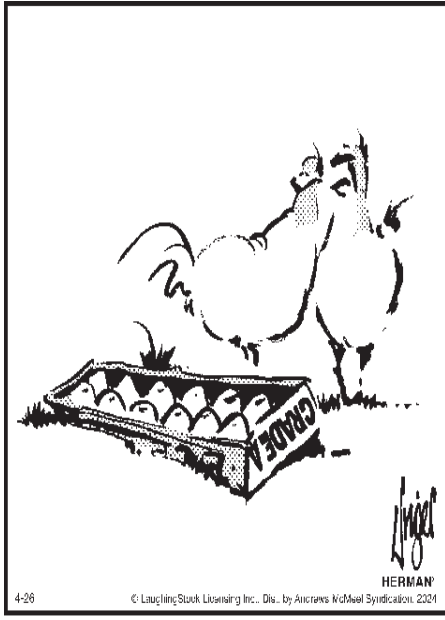
8				4	7	6		
	6						3	7
5		7		2		1		
	2	4		1				
			4		8			
				9		4	5	
		9		5		8		6
2	3						7	
		8	9	7				2

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



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Three's more than a crowd for this tiny apartment

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend is 18 years younger than I am. Our relationship hasn't been perfect, but I love him to death. Unfortunately, I'm going through menopause and have all the side effects. Long story short, he found another girl. It was just supposed to be for sex, and he told me he wouldn't get into another relationship or marry anyone but me. Well, he fell for her, which I warned him he was going to do.

They are both at my apartment. I'm trying to make him happy by allowing this, but he can be so mean to me, and he's so nice to her. He tells me how nice she is, etc. I told him it's because he hasn't hurt her yet. He won't have sex with me now. He claims he isn't favoring her, but he is. I love him so much, and don't want to lose him. I'm in so much pain because I can't please him in every way. I don't know what to do. Should I allow this and try to make it work, or should I give up since it seems like he has given up on me? -- CAN'T STOP CRYING

DEAR CAN'T STOP: Let me get this straight. Your much-younger boyfriend and his new girlfriend live in your apartment (rent-free), and he no longer makes love with you. What are you getting out of this charade besides pain?

If I thought it would help, I'd advise you to stick it out and hope his romance will blow over. But I can't -- because whatever respect and gratitude he felt for you is gone. The pain you are experiencing will end only when you find your self-respect and usher the two lovebirds out the door. For your own sake, please do it soon.

DEAR ABBY: I am SUPER outgoing! Always have been. I can walk up to anyone and start a conversation. As I've gotten older, I've noticed that many people have no personality. During the pandemic it became exponentially worse. Neighbors don't speak. People look at their phones every waking minute and have lost their conversational skills. It is pathetic.

I don't know people's backgrounds or interests just by looking at them. I'm smart, but I'm not telepathic. If people don't know how to simply say "hi" or "good morning," something is wrong! COVID shut things down. But if you weren't friendly before the pandemic, how are you going to be five years from now? Humanity is doomed if we don't interact. -- FRIENDLY IN THE EAST

DEAR FRIENDLY: The COVID disruption may have contributed to what

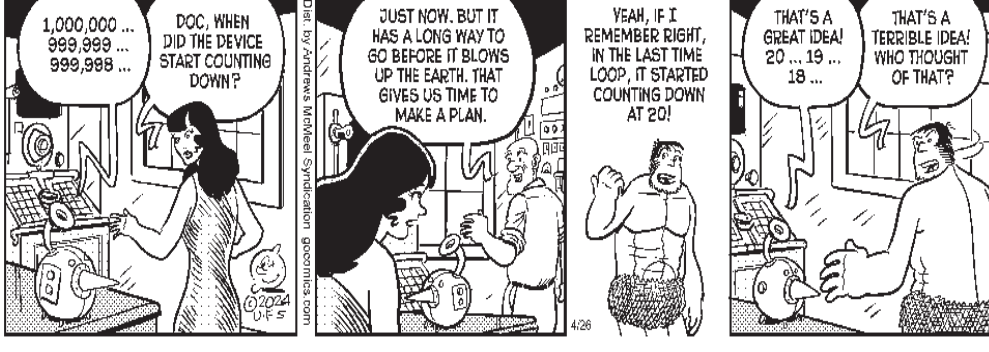


ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

you are describing, but it had been building for at least the past 20 years. As people became more and more fixated on their electronic devices, the ability to look someone in the eye and converse withered.

If you don't look someone in the eye and communicate in person, the ability to read social cues withers and is eventually lost. I believe this has caused much of the isolation and loneliness we are experiencing in our society. If we are going to fix this, people will have to teach themselves to unplug and reach out to the people around them. Making the time to exchange social amenities as simple as smiling and saying, "Good morning," is an easy place to start.

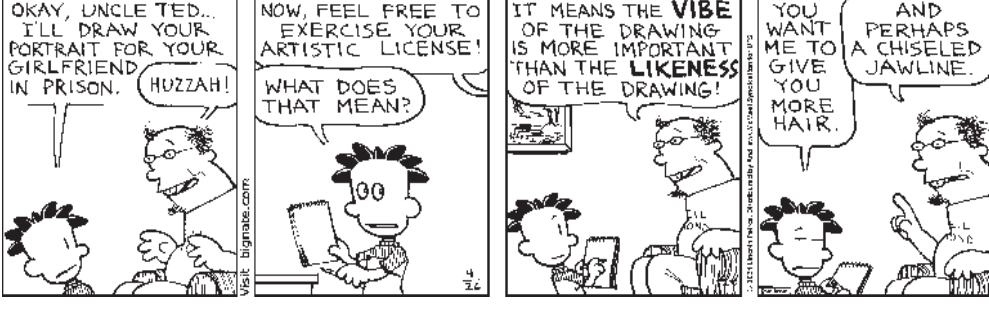
ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



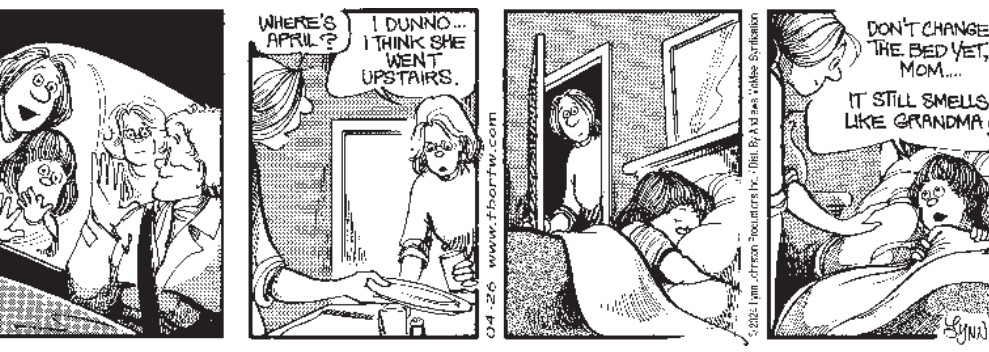
BIG NATE



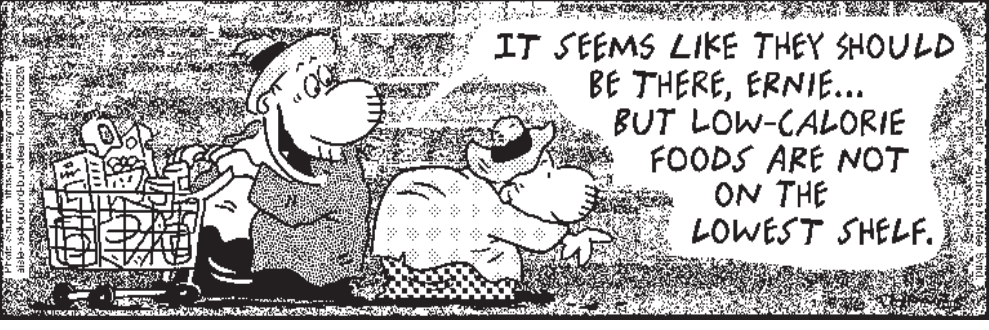
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FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



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THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS

