



Creede Animal Clinic to welcome new 'Doc'

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Lady Moose trampoline Lady Tigers 8-0

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

April 10, 2024

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SLV Today



Great Stories Begin Here

Adams State hosts creative writing events

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Creative Writing program invites the campus and community to "Write It Out! Learn, Create, Write." The events are free and open to the public. Snacks, notebooks, and pens will be provided.

Erasure Poetry, with Paul Tunis, M.F.A., assistant professor of communication, begins at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10, on the second floor of Nielsen Library. Artist and professor Tunis will present the invention of a personal poem, gleaned from an existing page and markers.

Natasha Noel Liebig, Ph.D., will lead Writing Trauma, at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17, on the second floor of Nielsen Library. Counselors will be present to assist, if needed.

Walk/Write Meditation begins at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30. Will Rickards, adventure program director, will guide a walking and writing meditation in preparation for finals. Meet outside Rex Activity Center.

After a 30-minute program, writers will have 90 minutes of writing time and space to employ the strategies or work on any other writing.

For more information, contact Michelle Le Blanc, assistant professor of English, at mleblanc@adams.edu.

SLV WEATHER

Sunny, Windy 61/20
Thurs: Sunny, Breezy 65/27
Fri: Sunny, Windy 69/32

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Adams State University celebrating 60 national championships April 17

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — The community is invited to celebrate the Adams State University men's and women's track and field and cross country programs. Bringing home the second consecutive Women's Indoor Track and Field Division II National Championship, the programs have now won 60 team national championships. A reception will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, in the Richardson Hall

■ See ASU page 3



Photo courtesy of Adams State University.

Celebrate 60 national championships in track and field and cross county on April 17, at the Adams State University Richardson Hall front lobby.

Alamosa Family Recreation Center offers personal training

'I start with people where they are'

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Chris Lock is a personal trainer at the Alamosa Family Recreation Center (AFRC). Lock, 35, clearly has the physical appearance of a personal trainer. And he certainly has the skills and the knowledge to be a personal trainer. But he also is big on encouragement and having fun while getting into shape, which is emphasized by the Spiderman shirt he occasionally wears while training clients.

When asked about what is available at the recreation center, Lock says, "We have two different options for people who want to get into fitness. We offer a Power Hour class from noon to 1 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays — not on Sundays."

That class is free for those who have an AFRC membership.

"The Power Hour is broken up with exercises for general fitness," he says. "Somedays we do cardio. Other days we pick up heavy rocks and



Photo courtesy of Chris Lock

Personal trainer Chris Lock with two of his clients, Thomas and Samuel.

put them back down. Sometimes we're doing a lot more stretching and calisthenics. It's just designed to kind of keep people generally fit."

The fee for an individual hour-long session with Lock is \$25 an hour with a membership, a fee that is significantly less than other trainers may charge. "The price should be set so that exercise is accessible."

When asked what kind of clients he works with — in terms of age or general

level of fitness — Lock says he works with all types and welcomes that diversity. It's during those sessions that Lock tailors his training to "meet people where they're at" and encourages his clients to evaluate themselves not in comparison to others but in comparison to where they were the day before.

"At the recreation center we're open and available to everyone at every ability level. I have people — both

■ See LOCK page 3

Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area receives grant to enhance youth programs

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (SdCNHA) has received a grant from the National Park Foundation's ParkVentures program to provide new supplies and equipment for both of its annual youth programs and to enhance the activities and sites students will be taken to in each program.

These programs include their Caminos del Valle Youth Walking Tours and the SdCNHA

Heritage Camp. Both of SdCNHA's programs take place in the spring and early summer every year. ■ See GRANT page 3

The Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area (SdCNHA) has received a grant from the National Park Foundation's ParkVentures program to provide new supplies and equipment for both of its annual youth programs.

Photo courtesy of Alina Marquez with Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area



Chad Spearman

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Lee Crowther

Record

OBITUARIES

Ivin Jake Chavez

Ivin Jake Chavez passed away on April 4, 2024, in his hometown of Alamosa, Colo. Ivin was born on Dec. 10, 1999, to Chasity Espinosa and Ismael Chavez.

Ivin will be greeted in heaven by his Father Ismael Chavez, his maternal grandparents Sharon Espinosa and Amarante Archuleta, his paternal grandmother Gloria Chavez, his uncles Shawn Chavez and Oscar Chavez.

Ivin is survived by his mother Chasity Espinosa and stepfather Daniel Garcia, sisters Ebony Chavez, Devyn Sisneros, his brothers Daniel Michael Garcia and Christian Moreno, his maternal great grandparents Efrén (Mary Ellen) Gomez, paternal grandfather Dave Chavez and step grandmother Teresa Chavez, Step grandparents Abel (Vera) Garcia, his uncles and aunts Tara Espinosa, Steve (Mindy) Chavez, Isaac Chavez, Lea Chavez, Trish (Jason) Rogers, Charles Benskin, Sarah (Augustas) Quintana, Ja-



beza Chavez, Amber Garcia and Arron, cousins Mya Espinosa, Nolan Bonney, Josiah (Tausha) Chavez, Quiel Chavez, Zydon Chavez, his Niece Ellena Marquez and many more family and friends.

Ivin was a dedicated employee at Mortensen's Landscaping, where he contributed his skills and work ethic with quiet pride. His interests were as kind and genuine as his character, he loved exercising, fishing, and bowling. Ivin had a special bond with his family and cherished the time they spent with them, especially his little brother Daniel.

Described by those who knew him as kind, loving, and thoughtful. Ivin

was a quiet, soft-spoken young man whose beautiful smile could light up a room. His caring spirit and gentle ways left a lasting impact on the hearts of those fortunate enough to have crossed his path. Ivin's gentle presence and warm smile were a blessing to all who knew him throughout his 24 years of life.

Ivin's memory will be cherished and kept alive by the many lives he touched. His absence leaves a void that cannot be filled, but his spirit will continue to inspire kindness and love in the hearts of his family and friends.

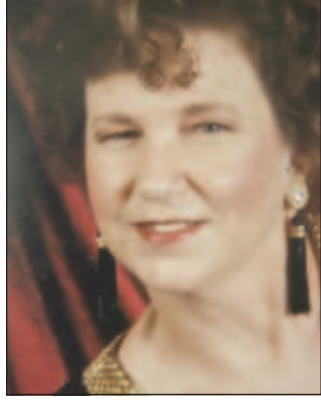
Cremation has been chosen and a memorial service will be held Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 2 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 514 Fourth St., Alamosa, Colo.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online words of comfort, remembrances, or condolences for Ivin's family, please visit www.Rogers-Funerals.com.

Jo Anna Swift

On Aug. 12, 1942 Jo Anna's journey began in Springfield, Ohio. She had many enjoyable memories of her childhood growing up and playing near the family quarry. Through high school she began her lifelong creative pursuits. She achieved many accolades for her numerous projects in fashion design and fashion shows throughout Ohio. Her love of music and a beautiful voice impelled her to audition for a part with a local music singing group, of which she earned her place with the group.

Later in life she found herself in Lebanon, Ind., where she began to draw close to God through her close examination of the Bible. As a result, on July 30, 1960, she dedicated her life to serve Jehovah, the God she had come to know and love. From that moment on she devoted her entire life to doing God's will. She served as a full-time evangelist and volunteered many hours to the construction of Kingdom Halls and Assembly Halls throughout Indiana, Texas, California, Mexico, and Colorado.



Another life defining event came on March 2, 1962, when she wed Howard L Swift. They shared a family and spiritual life together of 62 years, raising daughter, Christian Michaels, and son Eric Swift.

Jo Anna had the ability to make people feel at ease under any circumstances and enjoyed helping people. She was a talented painter, seamstress, and really a jack of all trades. She could fix anything, and loved being creative. She just really enjoyed working with her hands. Music also became a lifelong pursuit, with many hours either playing the piano or quite often practicing her singing. Her personal talents ran very deep.

She was such a sharp

dressed lady, who loved to coordinate her entire outfit into a classy ensemble of matching hats, shoes, purse and jewelry. She really did know how to dress the part and strut her stuff.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Howard, and her daughter Christian Michaels and many beloved and dear friends she considered her extended family.

Cremation was selected and a discussion will be held to explain her bible-based hope on Saturday, April 13, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses at 28 Trospen Drive in Monte Vista starting at 1 p.m. For those not able to attend the discussion will be available via Zoom: Meeting code: 872 2602 6433 Passcode: Ps8410.

Joanna will forever be remembered for the example she set for others and the joy she brought to their lives. She will be missed.

To express condolences to the family, please visit www.mvmortuary.com. Mountain Valley Mortuary is assisting the family with arrangements.

PENDING OBITUARY

Twyla Zittle

Twyla Zittle, 75, passed away on April 5, 2024. For full obituary see the Dove Witt Family Mortuary website.

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Thomas E Blunt

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

COURIER OBITUARY POLICY

The Courier charges \$75 for each obituary per day. Pending arrangements or death notices are free. This charge affects funeral homes, family or other representatives that place obituaries. All paid obituaries are published on www.alamosanews.com, 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.



Photo courtesy of Creede Animal Clinic

The Creede Animal Clinic is pleased to welcome a new 'Doc' to their wonderful team of veterinarians. Dr. Adam Lusk is a longtime lover of Creede and is eager to begin work for the Creede community.

Creede Animal Clinic to welcome new 'Doc'

CONTRIBUTED

CREEDE — Creede Animal Clinic is excited to announce the upcoming association of Dr. Adam Lusk with our veterinary practice in Creede. Dr. Lusk will join the practice in late June 2024. In addition to his general knowledge of veterinary medicine with pets, Dr. Lusk brings 15 years of intensive experience in equine medicine. Doc Howard has almost stopped doing any horse work, so this will be a welcome addition that will enable us to offer quality equine medicine once again.

Dr. Lusk has long-term ties to Creede and Mineral County. His grandfather, Truman Lusk, had a cabin in the Box Canyon of the Rio Grande and purchased the Spring Creek Ranch from Charles and Irma Dabney. Adam often accompanied his grandfather to this area, and this led to a life-long appreciation for our southwestern Colorado mountains. His work as a guide and wrangler for Lost Trail Ranch helped

shape his love for horses.

Dr. Lusk did his undergraduate college work at Taylor University where he met his wife, Lynn, and received a bachelor's degree in Environmental Biology with an emphasis in medicine. After graduation, Adam and Lynn moved to Denver with plans for Adam to become a forest ranger. Adam was exposed to equine medicine and decided that this was where his future should be. He enrolled in the Veterinary College at Kansas State University where he received his DVM in 2009. He and Lynn were blessed with their first two boys, Noah, and William, during this time.

Adam and his family then moved to Ocala, Fla., and joined Ocala Equine Hospital as an intern, eventually becoming an associate and then a partner in that practice. The Lusk family expanded to six children, adding Truman, Eleanor, Theodore and most recently Edith.

We are not sure what we will call Adam here at the

Creede Animal Clinic, but we suspect that we might wind up with "Doc Adam." Dr. Howard has been known as "Doc" for so long that he does not answer to anything else.

Doc Adam has had the privilege of providing veterinary service to a variety of horses. Among those are Kentucky Derby winners, Olympic Jumpers, NFR Barrel Racers and roping horses. Doc Adam is looking forward to helping animal owners of all kinds with their animal's veterinary needs.

We are anxious to have Doc Adam come to be a part of the Creede Animal Clinic, and in having our clients get to know him and his brand of veterinary medicine. We expect this addition to our staff will help us continue to provide quality veterinary medicine to the animals in Mineral, Hinsdale and Upper Rio Grande counties. As a reminder, our regular office hours are 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. We have an answering service and are available for out-of-hour emergencies.

New 'Terrain Hoppers' will make Cheyenne Mountain State Park more accessible

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Guests with physical limitations will find it easier to access Cheyenne Mountain State Park riding on two new "Terrain Hopper" electric vehicles.

The \$30,000 vehicles are designed to carry mobility challenged people at walking speed across a variety of surfaces from flat trails to dirt, gravel and even on rocky inclines up to 35 degrees.

They were purchased for the park by the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park using grants received from Hoppers for Heroes, Partners in the Outdoors, the Mesara Family Foundation and a generous donation from the Kern family.

"We are excited to get our guests out on trails that they've been unable to hike due to mobility limitations," said Park Manager Jason Hagan. "We recently took delivery of them and soon we'll be offering guests the option of using them on guided hikes with one of the park's outstanding volunteers."

The Terrain Hoppers are similar to tracked vehicles used at other Colorado Parks and Wildlife properties except these are wheeled vehicles allowing for more clearance on the rocky trails at the park. Terrain Hoppers offer traditional handlebars for steering or a joystick that can be used by the rider or by someone hiking alongside the hopper. Acceleration and stopping is controlled by hand or joystick.

The Terrain Hoppers



Photo courtesy of Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Cheyenne Mountain State Park has two 'Terrain Hoppers' that will allow mobility-challenged guests to take guided hikes in the park, by reservation, beginning Memorial Day Weekend.

will be available for online reservation beginning with the Memorial Day weekend. Each hike is guided by a park volunteer. Everyone using a Terrain Hopper is required to be accompanied by a companion.

To learn more or to find out how to volunteer to help lead hikes, contact the park at 719-576-2016.

If you're interested in volunteering to help lead hikes, contact the park at 719-576-2016.

"This is just one of the innovative tools CPW is using to make our properties more widely accessible to all guests," Hagan said.

Another new amenity Cheyenne Mountain State Park is offering its guests this summer is the free use of colorblindness-correcting Enchroma sunglasses.

"These glasses will allow visitors with a variety of colorblindness types to enjoy the park's stunning beauty," Hagan said.

A variety of the glasses are available for check out at

the Visitor Center. There are two basic types of colorblindness and the park will have adult and child sizes available to check out depending on an individual guest's type of colorblindness.

School Menu Wednesday April 10, 2024

BREAKFAST

Pancake On A Stick

Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY

Colorado Burrito/Salsa

Broccoli

Veggie Bar

Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Colorado Burrito/Salsa

Broccoli

Veggie Bar

Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL

Colorado Burrito/Salsa

Broccoli

Veggie Bar

Fruit & Milk

Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students

Alamosa School District

To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553

Valley News

Trump says abortion policy should be left to the states, backing away from national ban

By JENNIFER SHUTT
Colorado Newswire

WASHINGTON — Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump announced a shift in his views on abortion laws Monday, releasing a video advocating for state legislatures to make those decisions, not Congress — and was immediately met with strong criticism from an influential anti-abortion group that said it should remain a national debate. “My view is now that we have abortion where everybody wanted it from a legal standpoint, the states will determine by vote, or legislation, or perhaps both, and whatever they decide must be the law of the land. In this case, the law of the state,” Trump said in a nearly five-minute video he posted to social media. “Many states will be different, many will have a different number of weeks, or some will have more conservative than others, and that’s what they will be,” he added. “At the end of the day, this is all about the will of the people. You must follow your heart, or in many cases your religion or your faith.” Trump said he supports

exceptions to abortion bans to allow pregnancy terminations in cases of rape, incest and the life of the pregnant patient. Trump’s video is a departure from comments he’s made on the campaign trail that he would support a 16-week nationwide ban. The shift in his policy platform less than seven months before Election Day could be viewed as an effort by Trump to appeal to centrist Republicans and swing voters, especially women, as Democrats have sought to rally supporters behind reproductive rights. In the last two years, voters in a number of states have approved ballot questions that bolstered support for abortion access, including those in Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio. Several other states, including Arizona and Florida, are likely to have abortion access questions on this November’s ballot, alongside the choice for president and representation in both chambers of Congress. Abortion access is protected in Colorado state statute, and a measure that would protect abor-

tion access in the Colorado Constitution could appear on the November ballot. President Joe Biden wrote in a statement released by his reelection campaign that “Trump once said women must be punished for seeking reproductive health care — and he’s gotten his wish.” “Women are being turned away from emergency rooms, forced to go to court to seek permission for the medical attention they need, and left to travel hundreds of miles for health care,” Biden wrote. “Because of Donald Trump, one in three women in America already live under extreme and dangerous bans that put their lives at risk and threaten doctors with prosecution for doing their jobs,” Biden added. “And that is only going to get worse.” Anti-abortion organizations immediately expressed frustration with Trump’s most recent campaign stance, while reproductive rights organizations questioned its truthfulness. Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America President Marjorie Dannenfelser wrote in a statement the organization is “deeply

disappointed in President Trump’s position” and reiterated the Supreme Court’s “Dobbs decision clearly allows both states and Congress to act.” “Saying the issue is ‘back to the states’ cedes the national debate to the Democrats who are working relentlessly to enact legislation mandating abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy,” Dannenfelser wrote. “If successful, they will wipe out states’ rights.” South Carolina Republican U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham also broke with Trump on the issue, writing in a statement that “the pro-life movement has always been about the wellbeing of the unborn child — not geography.” Graham, ranking member on the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, said he would continue to press for a 15-week nationwide abortion ban with exceptions for rape, incest and the life of the pregnant patient. Until he can garner the votes to move that bill through Congress, Graham wrote, he would press for a law “requiring abortion providers to administer anesthesia to

an unborn child at fifteen weeks.” Trump rebuked Dannenfelser and Graham later Monday afternoon, writing on social media that they “should study the 10th Amendment and States’ Rights. When they do, they should proudly get on with helping Republicans to WIN ELECTIONS, rather than making it impossible for them to do so!” Trump wrote in another post: “I blame myself for Lindsey Graham, because the only reason he won in the Great State of South Carolina is because I endorsed him!” In another post, Trump wrote: “We cannot let our Country suffer any further damage by losing Elections on an issue that should always have been decided by the States, and now will be!” Abortion rights supporters were highly critical. Reproductive Freedom for All President and CEO Mini Timmaraju wrote in a statement that she didn’t believe Trump’s comments in the video, calling him a “liar.” “He knows that publicly supporting bans loses voters, so he deployed dangerous disinformation about abortion in order to distract from the truth about what he will do if elected,” Timmaraju wrote. “He’s responsible for the harm and chaos caused

by Republicans’ abortion bans in the states, and all he is saying is that he wants more of it,” Timmaraju added. “The stakes couldn’t be higher, and we need to elect reproductive freedom majorities in Congress and send President Biden and Vice President Harris back to the White House to restore the federal right to abortion and expand access.” Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat, cast doubt that Trump would hold the stance for any length of time, writing in a statement, “Let’s wait a few weeks and see what his new position will be.” Biden-Harris 2024 Campaign Manager Julie Chavez Rodriguez said on a call with reporters Monday afternoon that Trump’s video shows “his support for those extreme bans and made clear he will support these bans in all 50 states.” “Make no mistake, leaving it to the states is an endorsement of the cruel and dangerous abortion bans across the country made possible only by Donald Trump,” Rodriguez said. The abortion bans currently in place in Republican states sometimes exclude exceptions for rape and incest, and can take effect before a woman knows she’s pregnant, Rodriguez said.

Lock

Continued from Page 1
in class and individual sessions — who have all kinds of restrictions. Problems with knees are pretty common — almost everybody, as the years starting coming on — I have knees that aren’t be happy as they used to be and sometimes there’s scar tissue we might have to work through.” But he’s also had clients who are “cancer survivors and others who just want to get incredibly strong or want to lose some weight.” Ages can also vary. “I had a teenage client yesterday right after a mother and son combo where the mother was in her fifties and her son in his early twenties.” He has another client in her mid-30s and another who’s in his 60s.

In conversation, Lock sounds like, basically, a nice person and not one who is prone to yelling things like “suck it up!” When asked if a nice guy trainer is an accurate description of his style, he laughs. “It’s my job to push people to their limit and find out where that limit is, but I do my best to do that in a kind and sort of jovial way. You get more flies with honey, as they say. So, adding a smile and a nod and letting people know ‘you’ve actually got a little more in you — let’s try for two more’ can re-

ally work. I find that most people are very happy to have learned their limits. Even though it was hard to get there or a brief but somewhat painful experience, most people walk away feeling very content like ‘Wow, I’m stronger than I thought I was.’” Perhaps one of the things that makes Chris Lock relate so easily to his clients is that he made the decision some years ago to concentrate on becoming fit on his own, doing so at the Recreation Center as the membership was something he could afford. As he describes it, he initially didn’t really know what he was doing but remained committed to his goals, eventually becoming serious enough that he became a certified trainer. He got his feet wet by teaching the general fitness classes first before trying the individual training sessions, wanting to make sure that it was “a good fit” for him, something that not only he was good at but also something where he could see that his approach made visible differences in people’s lives. “My background is that I write for a living, so I came in looking like the anti-thesis of what people expect,” he says, referring to his Spiderman shirt. “I try to be a little weird and a little silly because, really, the whole point of exercising is feeling better about yourself and your health and your body. We



Photo courtesy of Chris Lock
Personal trainer Chris Lock with Thomas, one of his clients. Lock does personal training at the Alamosa Family Recreation Center.

do that a whole lot better when we’re having a good time with it.” When asked about what’s involved in signing up for individual sessions, Lock says there’s some paperwork involved with some questions about physical conditions. “If there are a lot of questions where people answer yes, I’ll probably ask for a release from their doctor. But most people in most cases are ready and able to do general exercise without much hesitation.” “The first few sessions involve some experimentation and testing what they’re capable of. Teaching them new things, seeing what they can handle and also seeing what they enjoy. I can sit down and talk with somebody for about thirty minutes to set some goals and get

things aligned but, until we’ve worked together for a few times, I don’t really know what people are really interested in and, a lot of times, they don’t know that either. “Coming in and doing exercises and moving in different ways and doing things they didn’t know they could do is really eye opening for people sometimes. It can shift what their interests and desires are.” In the meantime, it’s his goal to get people “a little sweaty” and, eventually, train someone to the point that he’s no longer needed. “That’s when I know I’ve done the job I wanted to do.” To schedule an initial conversation or a personal training session with Lock, call the Alamosa Family Recreation Center at 719-589-2105.

Classes

Continued from Page 1
ended. A more complete list of topics, along with the name of the attorney teaching the class, can be found below. The attorneys who are presenting the information are associated with law offices including Colorado Legal Services; Burke, Holguin and Smith, P.C.; Rider and Quesberry, LLC; and the Law Offices of Brown and Brown, P.C. in collaboration with the Area Agency on Aging in Northwest Colorado, Region 10. All the classes are virtual — that is, taught online — and participants have two options to watch the class. Those with computer access who are familiar with watching a class via Zoom will be given a link to the class sessions after registering for the series. For those who may prefer a different setting, Shooting Stars Cultural and Leadership Center has agreed to be a site where people who may not have computer access or may have access but are not familiar with logging on via Zoom can watch the classes online as a group. Shooting Stars is located at 900 Ross in Alamosa. People living in or near Del Norte can view the classes at River Valley Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, 1335 6th Street, Del Norte. That site is being made

available thanks to a collaboration between River Valley and SLV AHEC. To be clear, SLV AHEC, Shooting Stars nor River Valley Rehabilitation are sponsors of the program. The management of the organizations are simply offering up their facilities as a place for people to attend the classes, should they wish to do so. All participants must pre-register for the classes by going to <https://tinyurl.com/yc283wd4>. Note that the sessions will not be recorded for viewing at another time. Topics to be covered in class include:
• Friday, April 12, 10 to 11 a.m.: Wills and Trust presented by Heather Frank, Esq.
• Friday, April 19, 10 to 11 a.m.: Long Term Medicaid presented by Lloyd Quesberry, Esq.
• Friday, April 26, 10 to 11 a.m.: Long Term Care Choices: Assisted Living or Skilled Nursing Home presented by Shauna Clemmer, Esq.
• Friday, May 3, 10 to 11 a.m.: SSI and SSDI Colorado Legal Services Lindsey Watson, Esq.
• Friday, May 10, 10 to 11 a.m.: Probate presented by Marilyn Richardson, Ombudsman
• Friday, May 17, 10 to 11 a.m.: Grandparent Visitation presented by Stephanie Rubenstein, Esq.
• May 24, 10 to 11 a.m.: Gray Divorce: What to Expect in Marriage Dissolution of Marriage Proceedings presented by Stephanie Holguin, Esq.

ASU

Continued from Page 1
front lobby. At the heart of the success is Head Coach Damon Martin, who brought home his 42nd national team championship title. No other college or university in the country, at any level, can boast of such a legacy of excellence. Adams State has been doing our state, and the San Luis Valley, proud since 1971 when men’s cross country team won the first national championship. The Adams State programs have a history of harness-

ing potential in athletes overlooked by larger programs, building on the University’s mission of serving as an engine of opportunity. Coach Martin first accepted the position as women’s cross country and track and field programs 35 years ago and accepted the same position for the men’s running program in 1996. Coach Martin developed the successful program first established by the legendary Coach Joe I. Vigil, Ph.D., who took over as track-and-field coach in 1965 and established the cross country program a year later.

Grant

Continued from Page 1
year. The organization will be expanding their numbers to ten students for the Youth Walking Tours this year. Applications are still open for students interested in participating in the Heritage Camp. The organization hopes that these increased funds

will be able to provide more students with access to the history in their home communities and get them interested in a possible future career in historical and environmental preservation. The National Park Foundation’s Park Ventures program awards grants to equity-focused outdoor leaders and organizations for projects and activities that promote

access, eliminate barriers, and offer positive, memorable experiences to engage individuals and communities that have historically been excluded from national parks and outdoor recreation. The program’s goal is to help people create and strengthen life-long relationships and national parks. SdCNHA was designated to promote, rehabili-

tate, and interpret unique historical, geographic, cultural, and natural resources. They endeavor to preserve and protect the integrity of our area and encourage stewardship for all generations through community collaboration. To learn more about the work SdCNHA does, follow them on social media or visit their website at www.sangreheritage.org

Opinion

Pepper Trail: There's so much worth saving

By JONATHAN ROMEO

For a long time, climate change was largely perceived as a distant threat. But Oregon biologist Pepper Trail, 70, who often writes for the opinion service Writers on the Range, said he and other close observers have noticed climate shifts for decades.

He's seen it in the premature blossoming of flowers, the diminishing snow caps on mountains, and, most strikingly, the increasing frequency of wildfires scorching the landscapes around him.

"I'm a naturalist," Trail said, "and like many who have been sounding the alarm for years, I'm increasingly frustrated and struggling to avoid pessimism."

Trail has also investigated wildlife crime. Before retiring in 2021, he served as a senior forensic scientist in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Forensics Laboratory in Oregon, investigating about 100 crimes a year, usually involving bird smuggling.

From an early age, Trail said he had an affinity for birds and knew he wanted to pursue ornithology — once he learned that was a "thing." His studies in animal behavior and evolution led to field research in South America. Later, chance placed him in Oregon with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Forensics Laboratory.

"I'm proud of the work I did in my career" he said, "but the problem with anything in conservation is that there



are no permanent victories. We may save a place, or we may solve a crime, but there's always tomorrow and new challenges."

One major win during his career was exposing an illegal trade in which dead hummingbirds were marketed as charms believed to attract love. This illicit practice, which posed a significant threat to hummingbird populations, was prevalent in Mexico and was spreading in the United States.

"It was really something not known at all before, so we raised a lot of people's awareness of that issue," he said.

One major source of frustration to this day, however, was a failed attempt to secure protections in Africa for hornbills, a tropical bird whose skulls, called casques, are collected for traditional medicine and as decorative items.

"Although we documented that the trade of these skulls was threatening survival of that species, that was an example where I wasn't able to do what I wanted to do," Trail said.

In light of the ongoing and escalating threats to nature, Trail said he is no Jane Goodall, the ecologist who is "seemingly able to maintain a bottomless source of optimism and share that with people." Yet he finds ways to hold onto hope himself.

"Where I find solace is my personal connections with the natural world, and how much beauty and diversity remains," he said. "That's why I travel, to confirm to myself there are still so many places worth saving; so many places of incredible beauty and natural vitality."

Jonathan Romeo is a Western news

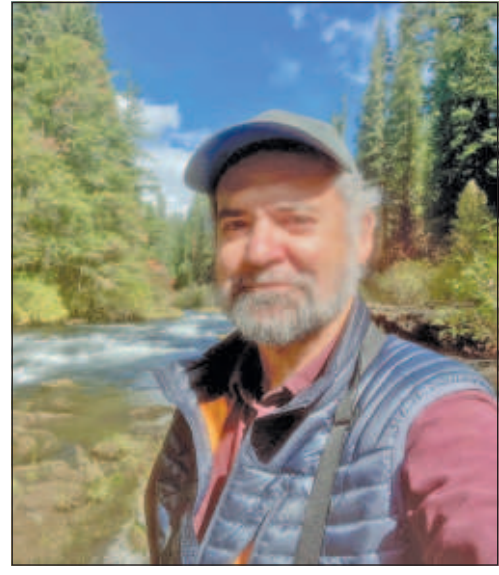
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Letters policy

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

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



Pepper Trail

reporter for Writers on the Range, writer on the range.org. He lives in Durango.

Taking third parties seriously

By STEVEN ROBERTS

The recent headline in the Washington Post read: "Democrats are taking third-party threats seriously this time."

Well, better late than never. Twice already in this century, in 2000 and 2016, Democrats won the popular vote but lost the White House because third parties sank their candidates in key states.

This year, if Democrats want to defeat Donald Trump, they have to thwart third parties in every possible way — challenging their place on state ballots, attacking them as spoilers, drowning them in negative ads.

Even more critically, they must make clear to wavering voters that elections have consequences. They have to pound home the message to disaffected Democrats — specifically youths and Blacks and Latino Americans — that no matter how much they might disdain Joe Biden, Trump would be worse for their own self-interest.

The best example of those consequences is the Supreme Court. It can be difficult to crystalize the impact of any president. Their influence on the economy, for example, is always limited. But judgeships are often the most visible, the most tangible legacy of any president. And that's clearly true of Trump, since he appointed the three justices

who helped overturn Roe v. Wade and repeal the national right to have an abortion.

The Democrats' core message should be: You might not like Biden, you might think he's old, you might hate his Middle East policies, but a vote for a third party is a vote for Trump. And a vote for Trump is a vote for more judges who will restrict your personal rights and choices.

Third parties often don't matter in national elections, but this year is an exception, mainly because both major candidates are so unpopular. In national polls, both Biden and Trump have favorable ratings stuck in the low 40s.

"History suggests disaffected voters gravitate back toward the main two party candidates, but we've never had two party candidates that are this unpopular where their negatives are higher than the positives for both of them," Republican pollster Whit Ayres told the Post. "It would not be surprising to see a larger proportion of voters pick somebody other than the two major candidates."

Moreover, this election, like the last two, is likely to be very close. In 2016, 6% of the electorate backed third-party candidates. Many were liberals who had supported Sen. Bernie Sanders and

were disillusioned with Hillary Clinton and the Democratic party. And their selfish shortsightedness helped defeat her. In all three states that decided the outcome — Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Michigan — the third-party vote far exceeded Trump's margin of victory. After four years of Trump, many of those dissidents returned to the Democratic fold. The third-party vote nationally dropped from 6% to under 2% — perhaps the single biggest reason Biden won. Just look at Michigan: Trump won the state by 11,000 votes in 2016, as 250,000 Michiganders backed third parties. In 2020, the third-party vote plummeted to 85,000, and Biden won the state by 154,000. Right now, there are three significant third-party contenders in the race. Anti-vaccination activist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and left-wing professor Cornel West are running as independents. Jill Stein, who garnered almost 1.5 million votes in 2016, is running again on the Green Party line. Polls at this stage are notoriously unreliable. But in national averages compiled by RealClearPolitics, Trump leads Biden by 1 point in head-to-head matchups, but by 2.5 points when the other three candidate are included. Together, Kennedy, Stein and West attract about

14% of the vote, with Kennedy accounting for 10.8%. And by naming zillionaire Nicole Shanahan as his running mate, Kennedy will have the financial resources to get his name on many state ballots. Kennedy is a quirky figure, with a gold-plated Democratic name but many Republican policies, and his eventual impact remains uncertain. But there's mounting evidence that he would hurt Biden more than Trump, and Kennedy recently attacked Biden on CNN as being a "much worse threat to democracy" than his Republican rival. Trump has called Kennedy's candidacy "great for MAGA" and adds, "I love that he is running." Team Biden agrees that Kennedy poses a major threat, and recently organized a group of supporters to denounce him. "All he can do is take away votes from President Biden and make it easier for Donald Trump to win. And we simply can't afford to let that happen," said Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. Austin Davis. If Democrats want to beat Trump, they have to crush Kennedy — and the other third-party candidates as well.

Steven Roberts teaches politics and journalism at George Washington University. He can be contacted by email at stevecokie@gmail.com.

SANE program is steadily growing and expanding

By KHRYSTYNN CANO

SANE Nurse

Tu Casa, Inc. is proud to announce that it is Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program is steadily growing and expanding. The program's main purpose is to provide compassionate and customized services to victims of sexual assault here in the San Luis Valley. Without this local service, survivors would need to travel outside of the valley for care.

Tu Casa, Inc. is staffed with two sexual assault nurses currently, Sarah Herrera and Khrystynn Cano, who are on call and

available 24 hours a day. These nurses have specialized training in forensic, psychosocial, and medical treatment of patients after a sexual assault. They can treat patients' medical needs and gather forensic evidence for patients who have been sexually assaulted using trauma informed care. Trauma informed care focuses on the patient as a whole and cares for patients with compassion. This care considers both the survivors' acute care needs and the possible long-term effects of a sexual assault to guide treatment and evidence collection.

The SANE program at Tu Casa, Inc. enables sexual assault survivors to get treatment customized and tailored to them with discussions between them and the nurse present. Many people are not aware that there are several options to report sexual assault crimes, which include reporting to law enforcement, focus on medical needs, or not reporting and just focusing on medical needs. There are also options for delayed reporting with evidence collection. Some patients might only want a medical exam or medication to prevent pregnancy or a sexually transmitted in-

fection. Other patients may opt for a full head-to-toe physical examination while some might want to collect complete forensic evidence with supportive documentation for prosecution. The beauty of this customized care is that it is patient driven and can include whatever the patient is seeking as we are here to support them in this time of crisis. The SANE nurses are trained to guide and assist survivors through this very tough process.


After an exam is completed by our SANE nurse, our team at the Tu Casa Program and the SLV CAC continue care by ensuring the patients have the resources and follow-up care they require. The beauty in this collaboration for continued care is that together, our staff can care for victims of sexual assault from the beginning onward using a multi-disciplinary team approach.

If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual assault or abuse, please reach out to Tu Casa, Inc. for support. We offer a 24/7 hotline, 719-589-2465. A person will answer, speak to you about your situation, and reach out to the necessary resources in the event of sexual assault or child sexual abuse.

Tu Casa, Inc. is here to serve people who have experienced sexual assault and child sexual abuse. All services offered at Tu Casa, Inc. are confidential and free to anyone who has experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, stalking, and human trafficking.

Keith R Cerny
Publisher


Brian Williams
Managing Editor



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Lifestyles

Rio Grande Hospital offers state-of-the-art wound care

April is Limb Loss Awareness Month

CONTRIBUTED

DEL NORTE — April is Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month, a time to educate the community about limb preservation and emphasize the importance of early evaluation and treatment to prevent amputations.

Of the estimated 150,000 lower limb amputations performed in the U.S. each year, approximately 82 percent stem from a diabetic foot ulcer. When a patient with diabetes fails to keep blood glucose levels under control, a lack of blood flow to the lower limbs can result in the development of ulcerations or open sores. Symptoms include redness, increased warmth, or firmness around the wound, swelling, extra

drainage, pus, or odor. Some patients with diabetes can also develop peripheral neuropathy or a loss of sensation in the lower limbs and feet. A simple cut or scrape can remain undetected and quickly develop into a severely infected wound. Patients often find themselves in the ER with a systemic infection and need urgent treatment.

Anyone with diabetes or cardiovascular disease must examine their feet and legs daily. If a wound does not heal on its own within 30 days, the risk of amputation and early death increases. A recent study shows that lower limb amputations have a three-year mortality risk of 71 percent.

“A chronic diabetic foot ulcer is one of the most common conditions we treat, and early evaluation is critical to help avoid limb loss,” said Dr. Thompson, Rio Grande Hospital Wound Care Center. “With proper

intervention, our certified staff, and equipment, most wounds can be healed, and in many cases, amputation can be avoided.”

Wound treatment typically includes debridement or the removal of dead tissue; management of the infection with the application of advanced wound care dressings or medications the RGH has; off-loading or taking pressure off the area; and keeping blood glucose lev-

els under control. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy or cellular tissue products (skin substitutes) may be recommended when a wound does not respond to standard treatment.

It is essential to be proactive and examine your feet and legs daily. Here are four tips for limb preservation, particularly for individuals with diabetes:

Be on the lookout for early warning signs of a diabetic foot ulcer, includ-

ing cuts, sores, or blisters on the feet or toes that will not heal.

Because diabetic neuropathy can prevent you from feeling hot pavement or other items that could injure the feet, it is important not to walk around barefoot and wear properly fitted footwear.

Keep your feet clean, moisturized, and covered! Trim your toenails safely, and if you have difficulty caring for them, seek help.

Manage blood glucose levels. For diabetics, the best way to prevent foot problems is to keep glucose levels under control. It will also help wounds heal more quickly.

Rio Grande Wound Care Center consists of a multidisciplinary team of specialists dedicated to healing wounds, saving limbs, and improving the lives of our patients. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 719-657-3277.



How to find a tax prep pro

(METRO) — The deadline to file 2023 tax returns is Monday, April 15, 2024. Tax returns can be complicated, particularly for adults who own their homes and have dependents. Though it's not impossible for individuals to fill out and file their own returns, the complexity of the process and the stakes involved underscore how beneficial it can be to work with a tax accountant.

Advertisements promoting the services of tax preparation professionals are hard to miss between January and April. Though it's great to have options, it can be hard for taxpayers to find the right tax pro for them. The following tips can make that process a little easier.

- Ask around. Neighbors, family and friends can be a great resource when looking for a tax preparation service. Ask people you trust who does their taxes and inquire about fees and additional services if they recommend a certain individual or firm.

- Look local. Tax laws differ from state to state, and taxpayers typically must file both state and federal returns. While an out-of-state tax preparation professional may be qualified to work on your return, it might be easier to pick a local tax pro.

- Ask for a preparer tax identification number. The Internal Revenue Service notes that all tax return preparers who are compensated for preparing, or assisting in the preparation of, all or sub-

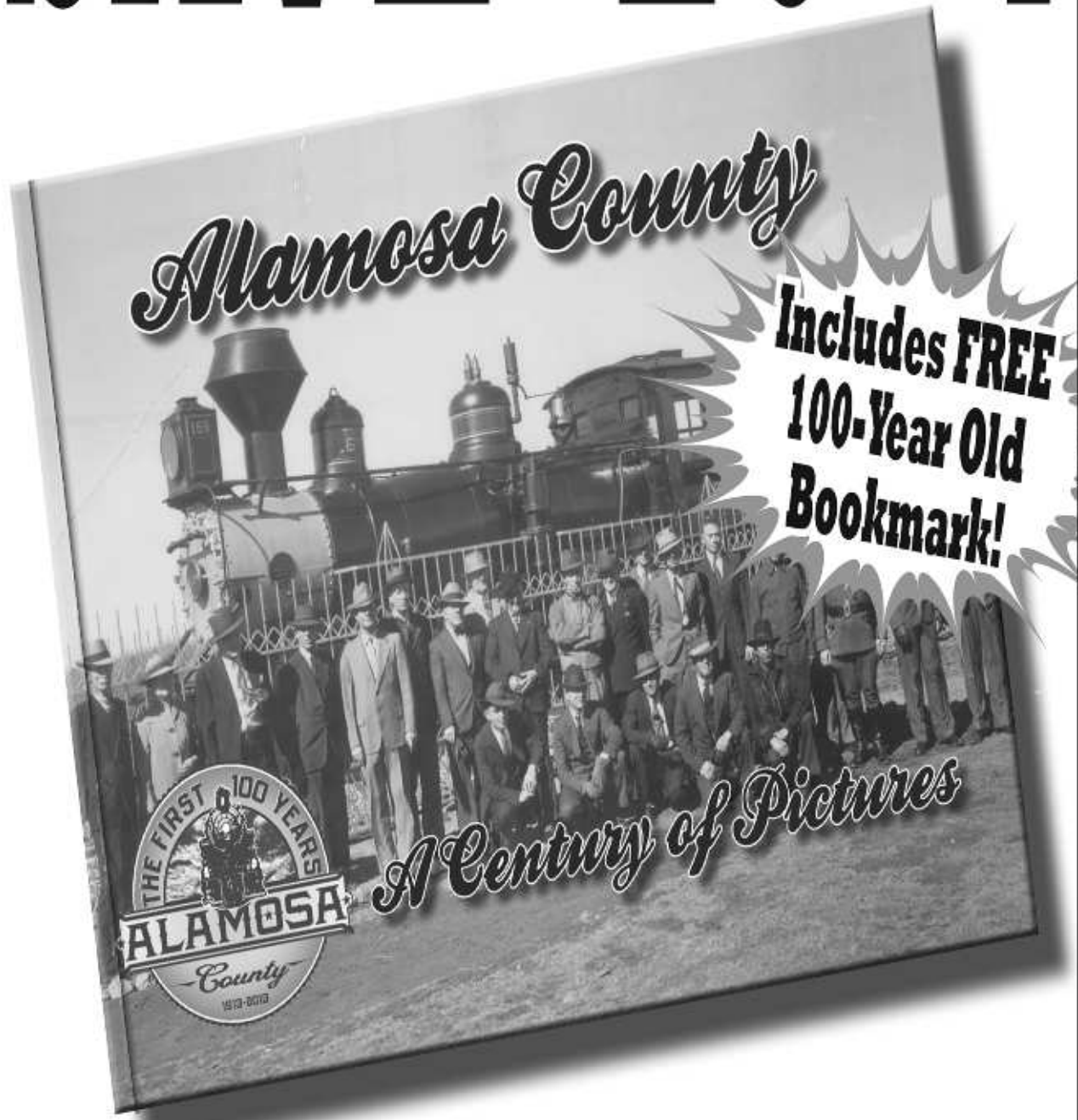
stantially all of any United States federal tax return, claim for refund, or other tax form submitted to the IRS are required to obtain a Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN). Though there are exceptions to that rule, taxpayers should recognize that anyone they pay to prepare their return must have a PTIN. Ask for this and ensure the PTIN is listed on your return.

- Check a tax preparer's credentials. The IRS maintains a Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers with Credentials and Select Qualifications (<https://irs.treasury.gov/rpo/rpo.jsf>) to help taxpayers find preparers in their area whose credentials are recognized by the IRS or who hold an Annual Filing Season Program Record of Completion. Taxpayers can utilize that directory to find professionals, and such an approach can ease some of the concerns they may have about working with someone new.

- Compare fees. When shopping around for a tax preparation professional, ask each about their fees. A 2023 survey from Drake Software found that tax preparers expected to charge between \$250 and \$300 per return. Taxpayers can compare fees and then choose a tax preparer who fits into their budget.

These are just a handful of strategies taxpayers can employ to find a tax prep pro. More information about filing tax returns is available at irs.gov.

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Alamosa

Sports



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

Alamosa High School's Lexany Heredia (16) pushes the ball up field while Del Norte's Monse Gutierrez (6) plays defense in Tuesday's game at Del Norte. Heredia scored three goals in the Lady Mean Moose's 8-0 win over the Lady Tigers.

Lady Moose trample Lady Tigers 8-0

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor
DELNORTE—Alamosa High School's Lexany Heredia recorded a hat trick and Jayden Wubben and Emmy Tibbitts both added two more goals as the Lady Mean Moose continued its winning streak at three games with an 8-0 win over Del Norte Tuesday at the Lady Tigers' stadium.

It was also Alamosa's third straight shutout.

Heredia scored the first goal in the 18th minute off an assist by Araceli Molina. Tibbitts left the goalkeeper position for this game and went on offense and she scored the second goal just two

minutes later.

Heredia scored her second goal in the 31st minute and Alamosa led 3-0 at halftime.

Wubben extended the lead early in the second half with a penalty kick just two minutes into the half.

Tibbitts scored her second goal three minutes later for a 5-0 advantage.

Wubben's second goal came in the 56th minute with Kennedy Hillis getting credited with the assist.

Ada Pence pushed the lead to 7-0 off an assist by Kynlei Curtis in the 63rd minute. Heredia wrapped up the hat trick in the 74th minute.

Curtis, Pence, Molina, Hillis and Heredia all had one assist.

Alamosa outshot Del Norte with 30 shots on goal compared to none for Del Norte.

Myissa Duran was in goal for the Lady Mean Moose and did not face a shot on goal. Peyton Neal was the Lady Tigers' goalkeeper and she had 22 saves.

Alamosa (4-3) returns to Intermountain League action on Friday as it will travel to Montezuma-Cortez. Game time is at 11 a.m.

Del Norte (0-6) will also resume Southwest League play on Thursday as it will play at sixth-

ranked Crested Butte. The opening kickoff is at 4 p.m.

Alamosa 8, Del Norte 0

Alamosa 3 5-8
Del Norte 0 0-0

Scoring

A - Heredia (Molina), 18:00.

A - Tibbitts, 20:00

A - Heredia, 31:00

A - Wubben, 42:00

A - Tibbitts, 45:00

A - Wubben (Hillis), 56:00

A - Pence (Curtis), 63:00

A - Heredia, 74:00

Shots on goal - Alamosa 13-17-30,

Del Norte 0-0-0. Corner kicks - Alamosa 4-3-7, Del Norte 1-0-1. Goal-

keepers - Alamosa: Duran (saves 0-0-0); Del Norte: Neal (saves 10-12-22).

High school spring sports standings as of Saturday

BASEBALL

Class 3A/2A Intermountain League

Team	League		Overall
	W-L	W-L	
Bayfield	2-0	5-6	5-6
Pagosa Springs	0-0	4-4	4-4
Montezuma-Cortez	0-0	5-7	5-7
Alamosa	0-0	1-11	1-11
Centauri	0-2	4-5	4-5

Class 2A Southern Peaks League

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

Class 1A Southern Peaks League

Team	League		Overall
	W-L	W-L-T	
Sierra Grande	0-0	3-0-0	3-0-0
Antonito	0-0	3-3-1	3-3-1
Centennial	0-0	1-2-0	1-2-0

GIRLS SOCCER

Class 3A Intermountain League

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

Class 2A Southwest League

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

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD

TUESDAY

Prep baseball

Centauri 15, Del Norte 9

Centennial at Antonito - no report

Sanford at Sargent - no report

Sierra Grande 21, Custer County 12

Prep girls soccer

Alamosa 8, Del Norte 0

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY

Prep baseball

Center vs. Las Animas (at Runyon Sports Complex), 4 p.m.

THURSDAY

Prep baseball

Sargent at Sierra Grande, 4:30 p.m.

Prep girls golf

Monte Vista at Canon City Invitational, 9 a.m.

Prep girls soccer

Del Norte at Crested Butte, 4 p.m.

Prep track and field

Alamosa at The Classical Academy Invitational, 4 p.m.

College men's lacrosse

Tusculum (Tenn.) at Adams State, 3 p.m.

College outdoor track and field

Adams State at Bryan Clay Invitational (at

Azusa, Calif.), TBA

FRIDAY

Prep baseball

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

Sanford at Antonito (2), 11 a.m.

Questa (N.M.) at Centennial, 3 p.m.

Prep girls soccer

Alamosa at Montezuma-Cortez, 11 a.m.

College baseball

Metropolitan State-Denver at Adams State, 3 p.m.

College outdoor track and field

Adams State at Bryan Clay Invitational (at Azusa, Calif.), TBA

SATURDAY

Prep baseball

Bayfield at Alamosa (2), 11 a.m.

Del Norte at Center (2), 11 a.m.

Gunnison at Centauri (2), 11 a.m.

Branson/Kim JV at Sierra Grande, 1 p.m.

Trinidad at Sargent (2), 1 p.m.

Prep track and field

Alamosa, Antonito, Centauri, Center, Creede, Del Norte, Moffat, Monte Vista, Sanford, Sangre de Cristo, Sargent, Sierra Grande at Del Norte Invitational, 9 a.m.

College baseball

Metropolitan State-Denver at Adams State (2), noon

College women's softball

Colorado State Pueblo at Adams State (2), noon

College outdoor track and field

Adams State at Bryan Clay Invitational (at

an Clay Invitational (at Azusa, Calif.), TBA

SUNDAY

College baseball

Metropolitan State-Denver at Adams State, noon

College women's softball

Colorado State Pueblo at Adams State (2), 11 a.m.

MONDAY

Prep baseball

Sanford at Monte Vista, 4 p.m.

Centauri JV at Sierra Grande, 4:30 p.m.

Prep girls golf

Alamosa, Monte Vista at Durango Invitational (at Hillcrest Golf Course), 9 a.m.

Monte Vista at Pueblo West Invitational, 9 a.m.

Prep girls soccer

Del Norte at Dolores Huerta, 4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

Prep baseball

Buena Vista at Centauri, 3 p.m.

Del Norte at Pagosa Springs (2), 3:30 p.m.

Alamosa at Salida, 4:30 p.m.

Antonito at Centennial, 4:30 p.m.

Sargent at Sanford, 4:30 p.m.

Prep girls golf

Alamosa at Montezuma-Cortez Invitational (at Conquistador Golf Course), 9 a.m.

Monte Vista at Fowler Invitational, 9 a.m.

Prep girls soccer

Alamosa at Rye, 4 p.m.

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Lifestyle

A whirlwind of a week

By HIGH VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER
DEL NORTE — April came in beautifully with lots of sunshine and fun days.

Soccer season is in full swing — HVCC played their first games this last Saturday. The kids had a blast and had the chance to let their competitive side come out.

Baseball Registration is open until April 15, so make sure to sign up before the deadline! Ages 7-10 will need to register for Machine-Pitch and ages 10-12 will need to register for Fast-Pitch.



Registration can be done online at the hvcc.org.
 Last week, the kiddos had the opportunity to learn how the trout are raised and nurtured at the Trout Farm. They had lots of fun getting to see all the trout and experience feeding them.

This week, we will be taking everyone on a field trip to the Gator Farm (weather permitting)! Keep an eye out for updates on our social media. As always, please feel free to stop by and say hi! We would love to hear from our community.

New state office would be barrier-breaking hub for Coloradans with disabilities

By SARA WILSON
Colorado Newswire

As he faces the last eight months of his time as a Colorado lawmaker, Rep. David Ortiz is looking to ensure the continuation of disability rights advocacy when he is no longer in the Capitol.

"Disability rights aren't on everyone's radar because they don't live that way, or they don't have someone that they love or know live that way. And so the world continues to be inaccessible in a real detrimental way," the Littleton Democrat told Colorado Newswire.

Ortiz, who was first elected in 2020, is the first Colorado lawmaker to use a wheelchair. During his time in the Capitol, he has championed legislation to strengthen state discrimination laws for people with disabilities, allow people the right to repair their own wheelchairs and require insurance to cover prosthetics for recreation, among many other bills related to disability and accessibility issues.

He consistently brings access-related amendments to other legislation, reminding lawmakers to consider every potential law through an accessibility lens.

Now, as he prepares to leave the chamber — he decided not to seek a third term — he wants a permanent presence in state government to weigh in on these topics.

"(Most people) don't understand the barriers that we have to live with and that we have to navigate, and it's past time to get rid of them. This office is going to be a focal point, or a hub, to making sure that we're coordinating efforts to do that," he said. "It's not tied to any one administration or any one legislator. This is something that is going to continue in perpetuity, hopefully."

House Bill 24-1360, which Ortiz is sponsoring, would establish the Colorado Disability Opportunity Office within the Department of Labor and Employment to serve as a wide-ranging resource around disability issues in the state, from helping people obtain benefits to submitting policy recommendations to the governor.

Additionally, the office would be tasked with envisioning and implementing a statewide strategy to promote economic stability and social integration for people with disabilities.

"Our goal is, as this office is built out and grows to what it has been envisioned in the legislation, that the office is equipped with the tools, the time and the knowledge to really convene effective and deep stakeholder meetings on the variety of topics that impact people with disabilities across all of the government agencies," said Jack Johnson, the public policy liaison at Disability Law Colorado, a nonprofit that specializes in civil rights and discrimination cases.

There are times, Johnson said, that the disability community is included in conversations only after a bill is introduced or when there is a major budget adjustment, rather than being a participant from the start. That can result in a lot of defensive, reactionary policy work.

The bill outlines an ambitious, wide directive for an office. Supporters think of it as a clearinghouse for the current, sometimes overlapping, efforts on disability issues in the state. The office

would absorb, for example, the Colorado Disability Funding Committee.

"We identified many, many years ago that there was a need for a coordinated disability response, because disability touches so many of the different state agencies," said Julie Reiskin, the co-executive director of the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition, an advocacy group for disability rights.

That coordination would affect how people with disabilities interact with the state — right now, Reiskin said there is often confusion about where to go for certain questions, such as with benefit assistance — but it could also streamline the many disability-related commissions, task forces and other advisory bodies in the state.

"We need people with disabilities and with a disability lens inside the government. You can't expect a bunch of state agency directors to understand our community and know our issues, as much as they have great intentions," she said.

Ortiz thinks the office would be instrumental in shifting how Coloradans think about people with disabilities — from a "paradigm of poverty" to a "paradigm of opportunity." That means clearing the path for people with disabilities to earn a livable wage at a fulfilling job, have stable housing and use public transportation without barriers. It also means opening up Colorado's recreation and outdoor culture.

"We're looking at being able to tap into the opportunities that able-bodied Coloradans take for granted and already get to enjoy it," he said.

CDOO would be funded with money from the Disability Support cash fund, not the general fund. That could be crucial as lawmakers, who only have about \$20 million for new programs this year, consider bills with high price tags over the next months.

"We deserve that general fund money. But because we have to fight tooth and nail for every piece of disability rights legislation that has a fiscal note, I'm

glad we can bypass that by making sure we're self-funded," Ortiz said.

The cash fund is supported by fees from historic license plates: the all black, blue or red plates with white lettering, or the reverse of the current standard green-and-white plate called "Greenie" that have become increasingly popular on Colorado roads. To date, the fund has raised about \$6.4 million, according to the governor's office.

The creation of CDOO has been a long time coming, Reiskin said. Cuts to disability programming during the Great Recession made the need more salient to the disability advocacy community, but even as task forces and commissions formed, there was always a funding issue. The license plate funding mechanism is key to starting the office, as is the presence of Lt. Gov. Dianne Primavera, who bill supporters say has been a champion for accessibility issues.

Primavera added a senior policy advisor on disability issues to her team in 2020. She also moved the Disability Funding Committee to her office, and since then revenue has grown from \$100,000 in ten years to \$500,000 on a monthly basis, she said.

"This office is intended to help support the incredible work of the agencies through collaboration and coordination, not alter or remove their authority. It will also support agencies as they work towards shared goals of prosperity and independence of Coloradans with disabilities," she said during the bill's first committee hearing last month. "HB-1360 will ensure disability policy efforts continue long into the future."

HB-1360 passed unanimously out of the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee. It needs to be signed off by the House Finance Committee before being considered by the entire chamber. It is also sponsored by Rep. Chad Clifford, a Centennial Democrat, in the House. It does not yet have a Senate sponsor.

The legislative session ends May 8.

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UPCOMING GRIZZLY ATHLETIC EVENTS

Thursday, April 11

Men & Women's Track at Bryan Clay Invitational at Azusa, Calif.

TBA

Men's Lacrosse vs Tusculum University at Alamosa, Colo.

10:30 a.m.

Friday, April 12

Men & Women's Track at Bryan Clay Invitational at Azusa, Calif.

TBA

Baseball vs Metropolitan State University of Denver at Alamosa, Colo.

3:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 13

Men & Women's Track at Bryan Clay Invitational at Azusa, Calif.

TBA

Baseball vs Metropolitan State University of Denver at Alamosa, Colo.

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Softball vs Colorado State University Pueblo at Alamosa, Colo.

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

Women's Golf at Colorado Mesa University at Grand Junction, Colo.

TBA



Public Notices

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

COSTILLA COUNTY CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
SAN LUIS, CO
GUADALUPE SANCHEZ DITCH PROJECT
 General Notice
 Costilla County Conservancy District (District) in conjunction with the landowner, ditch, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project. These bids will be reviewed and approved by the District as a special district and the financial agent for the project.
 Guadalupe Sanchez Ditch Project
 Construction of the Project will be received at the Costilla County Conservancy District located at 324 Main Street, PO Box 42, San Luis, Colorado 81152 until 2:00 p.m., April 12, 2024 at 4:00 PM local time. On April 26, 2024, at 12:30pm the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.
 The Project includes the following Work:
 Construction of the Guadalupe Sanchez Ditch Works of Improvement The District anticipates that the Project's total bid price will be approximately \$300,000. The Project has an expected duration of approximately 6 months with a goal deadline of completion of October, 2024.
 Obtaining the Bidding Documents
 For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents. Prospective Bidders may obtain or examine the Bidding Documents at the Costilla County Conservancy District Office on Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM.
 Costilla County Conservancy District
 324 Main Street, San Luis, CO 81154
 Pre-bid Conference
 A pre-bid conference for the Project will be held on Tuesday, April 16th at 1pm at Costilla County Conservancy District, 324 Main Street, San Luis CO 81152. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is encouraged but not required.
 This Advertisement is issued by:
 Owner: Costilla County Conservancy District
 By: Ronda Lobato as Secretary of the Board of Directors
 No. 3848.
 Published in the Valley Courier on March 26, 27, 29, 30, April 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, & 13, 2024.

Request for Proposal for Audit Services

Purpose
 The purpose of this request for proposal (RFP) is to engage the services of a qualified firm of certified public accountants to provide auditing services to Alamosa School District RE-11J.
Services Required
 The scope of the prospective engagement will be to perform a financial and compliance audit of the District for the year ended June 30, 2024, with the option to audit the District's financial statements for each of the four (4) subsequent fiscal years. The firm selected will be expected to provide consultation and assistance in the preparation of its basic financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The audit and resulting accountants' reports must be in accordance with the Single Audit Act.
Description of Entity to be Audited
 The District serves approximately 2,000 students in Alamosa, Colorado. Funds included in the financial statements to be audited will be the General, Capital Projects, Special Revenue, and Internal Service Funds. More detailed information on the District, as well as the District's finances can be found in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 Audited Financial Statements which is posted on the District's website under financial transparency.
Inquiries
 This request for proposal (RFP) is issued by the District. All proposals should be mailed to: Alamosa School District, 209 Victoria Ave., Alamosa, CO 81101 Attention: Amanda Hensley, Chief Operations and Financial Officer, 719-587-1600 or hand delivered to 403 Santa Fe, Alamosa, CO 81101.
Qualifications Required
 In order to be considered, the firm presenting the proposal must be a firm of certified public accountants eligible by law to practice public accounting in the State of Colorado.
Proposal Content
 Proposals must include the following information:
 1. Firm's Name; the name, address and telephone number of the contact person; and the proposal date; include the firm's license to practice in Colorado
 2. Letter explaining the understanding of work to be done, commitment to the calendar and a statement why the auditing firm is in the best position to perform the auditing services
 3. Has the local office performed school district, or government, audits in Colorado? List names of school districts, dates of audits and whether a single audit was required. Include any other statements related to qualifications and experience.
 4. List the personnel of your local organization who are likely to be assigned to the engagement. Indicate whether Partner, Principal, Senior Accountant, etc. Provide information on Colorado licensure for each person and whether the individual has school district, or governmental, auditing experience.
 5. What is the firm's standard for continuing professional education, for certified staff and non-certified staff? How many hours of continuing professional education (CPE) are required in governmental accounting and auditing? If required, are individual staff members meeting the minimum requirements as defined by the Yellow Book?
 6. What percentage of the external auditors who would be assigned to the audit have at least six months experience in governmental accounting? Please give details.
 7. Submit a copy of the most recent completed external quality control review (i.e., peer review). If available, a review of a specific government engagement.
 8. Please quote a not to exceed audit fee for each of the next four years, which must include out-of-pocket expenses.
 Firms are requested to provide the written proposal to the District by April 30, 2024.
Time Requirements
 The following deadlines are presently anticipated:
 * RFP released April 11, 2024
 * Prospective bidder's inquiry deadline April 15, 2024
 * Proposal deadline April 30, 2024
 * Notifications of bid selection May 15, 2024
 * Engagement of successful firm May 31, 2024
 * End of accounting period June 30, 2024
 * Submit audit report to Board of Education for approval December 12, 2024
 * Submit audit report to the Office of the State Auditor December 31, 2024
Evaluation Process
 The District will judge the merits of proposals received in accordance with the criteria discussed below. The bidder is responsible for providing all information requested in this RFP and failure to do so may result in disqualification of the proposal. During the evaluation process, the District may request firms to complete an oral presentation or answer further questions about their proposal.
Criteria:
 1. Certified public accounting firm licensed to practice in the State of Colorado.
 2. A peer review completed within the past three years.
 3. The adequacy and completeness of the proposal.
 4. The experience of the firm.
 5. The experience and qualifications of staff to be assigned to the audit.
 6. The proposed cost of the audit (number of hours and hourly rate).
Right to Reject Proposals
 This is not a competitive bid. The RFP process allows the District to select the vendor that best meets the needs of the District, taking into consideration firm qualifications, price, and service capabilities. The District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and accepts no responsibility for the cost of proposal preparation.
 No. 3869.
 Published in the Valley Courier on April 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, & 23, 2024.

Request for Proposal

Request for Proposal
 Conejos County Board of Commissioners are seeking:
 * Redesign services and construction for the front exterior doors at the Conejos County Courthouse.
 * Retrofit entrance and courtroom doors to ADA Accessibility Standards.
 * Protection for Security Officer
 * Protection for Security Officer
 * Modernize entryways ingress and egress to the building for visitors, employees and courts.
 Project may be seen at the Conejos County Courthouse located on 6683 County Rd. 13 Conejos, CO.
 Any question please call Tressesa Martinez, Administrator at (719)376-6796
 Please mail to PO Box 157 Conejos, CO 81129 or turn information into the Commissioners office attention Tressesa by April 19th 2024. Publish on April 5th through the 12th 2024
 No. 3882.
 Published in the Valley Courier on April 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 2024.

NOTICE

County Court
 CONEJOS County, Colorado
 COURT Address:
 6683 COUNTY ROAD 13, P.O. BOX 128, CONEJOS, CO 81129
 In the Matter of the Petition of:
 Parent/Petitioner: TIFFANY GONZALES
 for
 Minor Child: ADRIAN GILBERT MARTIN VIGIL
 To Change the Child's Name to: ADRIAN JONATHON GONZALES
 Case Number: 2024C11
 Division B
 NOTICE TO NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT BY PUBLICATION
 Notice to: GILBERT VIGIL, non-custodial parent.
 Notice is given that a hearing is scheduled as follows:
 Date: May 6, 2024
 Time: 10:00 A.M.
 Location: 6683 COUNTY ROAD 13, CONEJOS, COLORADO
 for the purpose of requesting a change of name for
 ADRIAN GILBERT MARTIN VIGIL
 At this hearing the COURT may enter an order changing the name of the child.
 To support or voice objection to the proposed name change, you must appear at the hearing.
 Date: APRIL 3, 2024
 TIFFANY GONZALES
 P.O. BOX 595, ROMEO, CO 81148
 No. 3889
 Published in the Valley Courier on April 6, 9, and 10, 2024.

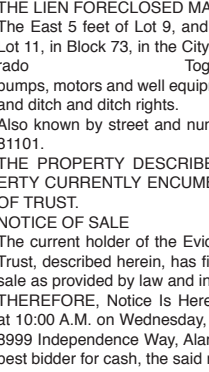
NOTICE

County Court
 CONEJOS County, Colorado
 COURT Address:
 6683 COUNTY ROAD 13, P.O. BOX 128, CONEJOS, CO 81129
 In the Matter of the Petition of:
 Parent/Petitioner: TIFFANY GONZALES
 for
 Minor Child: RONNIE LLOYD VIGIL III
 To Change the Child's Name to: RONNIE JOSE GONZALES
 Case Number: 2024C9
 Division B
 NOTICE TO NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT BY PUBLICATION
 Notice to: GILBERT VIGIL, non-custodial parent.
 Notice is given that a hearing is scheduled as follows:
 Date: May 6, 2024
 Time: 10:00 A.M.
 Location: 6683 COUNTY ROAD 13, CONEJOS, COLORADO
 for the purpose of requesting a change of name for
 RONNIE LLOYD VIGIL III
 At this hearing the Court may enter an order changing the name of the child.
 To support or voice objection to the proposed name change, you must appear at the hearing.
 Date: APRIL 3, 2024
 TIFFANY GONZALES
 P.O. BOX 595, ROMEO, CO 81148
 No. 3890
 Published in the Valley Courier on April 6, 9, and 10, 2024.

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION

CRS §38-30-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 958-24
 To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:
 On February 5, 2024, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Alamosa records.
 Original Grantor(s). Jarenda L. Martinez
 Original Beneficiary(ies). Rio Grande Savings and Loan Association
 Current Holder of Evidence of Debt. Rio Grande Savings and Loan Association
 Date of Deed of Trust. July 06, 2010
 County of Recording. Alamosa
 Recording Date of Deed of Trust July 07, 2010
 Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.). 342665
 Re-Recording Date of Deed of Trust. February 14, 2020
 Re-Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.) 375899
 Original Principal Amount. \$58,500.00
 Outstanding Principal Balance \$50,252.52
 Pursuant to CRS §38-30-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Payment
 THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.
 The East 5 feet of Lot 9, and all of Lot 10, and the West 10 feet of Lot 11, in Block 73, in the City of Alamosa, in Alamosa County, Colorado Together with any and all wells, well rights, pumps, motors and well equipment. Any and all well and water rights and ditch and ditch rights.
 Also known by street and number as: 514 8th Street, Alamosa, CO 81101.
 THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.
NOTICE OF SALE
 The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.
 THEREFORE, Notice is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, 06/05/2024, at County Office Building, 8999 Independence Way, Alamosa Colorado, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.
 First Publication. 4/10/2024
 Last Publication. 5/8/2024
 Name of Publication. Valley Courier
 IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;
 DATE: 02/05/2024
 Amy McKinley, Public Trustee in and for the County of Alamosa, State of Colorado
 /s/
 By: Amy McKinley, Public Trustee
 No. 3869.
 Published in the Valley Courier on April 10, 17, 24, May 1, & 8, 2024.

101 - MEMORIALS



Mary Maestas
 2nd Anniversary
May the winds of Heaven blow softly and whisper in your ear, how much we love and miss you and wish that you were here.
Love and Miss You!
Josephine, Jim, Bev, P.A. Akacia and Et'kah

163 - LOST & FOUND

LOST BRACELET IN WALGREENS parking lot. Bracelet has silver etched rounded beads. \$50 REWARD for safe return. Linda 719-580-4463. (4/12/24)

173 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

LICENSED PLUMBER DOES all types of plumbing & plumbing repairs. Quick service! Call anytime, weekends & evenings: 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (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)
OUTREACH ASSISTANT.SANLUIS VALLEY LOCAL FOODS COALITION seeks an LFLP OUTREACH COORDINATOR. Strong communication and computer skills are required. Submit your resume and cover letter to opportunity.svlocalfoods@gmail.com. Additional requirements can be found at ww.svlocalfoods.org/jobs/. (99/99/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

FULL-TIME SALES

- Competitive Draw
- Commission
- Benefits

Contact Keith at the
Valley Courier
(719) 589-2553
kcerny@alamosanews.com

Kristi Mountain Sports is now seeking retail sales staff to join their team. Please email resume to jobs@kristimountain.com

Alamosa Bicycle Coalition is hiring two positions! Reach out to info@alamosabicyclecoalition.org for more information and to apply.

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)

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)

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)

LOOKING FOR A rewarding and fulfilling career? Are you a positive, self-motivated individual? Consider a career with the MONTE VISTA HEAD START. VISTA 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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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 towndfomeo@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)

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 towndfomeo@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)

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 with stakeholders, developing best value construction standards, producing accurate stating sheets including material lists and costs estimates, obtaining easements and permits, contributing to economic development with best value electric and fiber service opportunities, and interpreting maps, surveys and electric drawings. Education requirements include a degree in engineering, land surveying, construction management, journeyman lineman certification, or equivalent. Additional testing will be required. Visit our website at www.slvrec.com to complete the job application. Applications will not be accepted after close of business on Monday, April 22, 2024 at 6:30 AM. EOE. (4/20/24)

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

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 www.jttimber.com to apply. (5/8/24)

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. (4/24/24)

SANGRE DE CRISTO SCHOOL DISTRICT has the following positions available for the 2024-2025 school year: HS GIRLS BASKETBALL COACH & FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR. Please visit our website www.sangreschools.org to apply. If you have any questions, please call 719-420-1422. (4/19/24)

DATA ANALYST - LA PUENTE HOME INC., seeks a Data Analyst for its Adelante Family Resource Center Program. This position is responsible for overseeing Adelante's Data Systems and reporting frameworks to ensure the timely and accurate recording of data, transforming raw data into structured information and reports, and supervising performance and quality assurance processes to pinpoint areas for enhancement. Other duties include training new staff and providing ongoing data entry support to program staff, overseeing the Working Together program reporting requirements, and implementation of team meetings. Salary \$37,800 to \$40,000, DOE. Submit resumes and cover letters to HR@lapuente.net. Resumes without phone numbers and email will not be considered. (4/19/24)

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26t 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)

NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for (1) HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER for the 2024-2025 school year. Applicant must hold a current Colorado teaching license or be willing to work toward certification. NCSD offers a competitive salary, great discipline and environment for staff and students, and up to \$915 monthly towards health insurance. Application deadline is until position is filled. 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. (4/24/24)

NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for (1) full-time SECONDARY EDUCATION TEACHER at North Conejos Alternative Program for the 2024-2025 school year. Contact Susan Hamilton for details at 719-580-5864. Applicants must hold a current Colorado Teaching License or be able to obtain proper endorsement. NCSD offers a competitive salary, great discipline and environment for staff and students, and up to \$915 monthly towards health insurance. 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. Application deadline is until position is filled. EOE. (4/24/24)

SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is seeking a PRESCHOOL AIDE. Preferred qualifications include a Level I or II in Colorado Shines or a teaching assistant certificate. 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>. (4/10/24)

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 www.jttimber.com to apply. (5/8/24)

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. (4/24/24)

NOTICE

The City of Alamosa is soliciting proposals for the procurement of a new agenda management creation and platform to be utilized for City Council meetings and other boards and committee meetings run by the City. For additional information, please visit www.cityofalamosa.co.us. Deadline: 04/15/2024 by 5:30 p.m.
 No. 3883.
 Published in the Valley Courier on April 5, 6, 9, 10, & 12, 2024.

Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

RIO GRANDE HOSPITAL an opening for an **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**; Manage the CEOs calendar, including making appointments, arranging appointments as necessary and needed, and prioritizing the most sensitive matters. Present highly professional and warm image to staff, public, and clients, organizing meetings, scheduling, sending reminders, organizing catering (when necessary), agenda preparation, meeting minutes, maintaining integrated files. Responsible for ensuring that Rio Grande Hospital providers are fully compliant with all state and federal regulations. Must also ensure that every member of medical staff is legally licensed and/or credentialed and up to date with the latest medical policies and procedures. Monitor license and credential expiration dates and advise staff members of required renew. RGH is an EOE, complete an application online at <http://riograndehospital.org> under CONTACT, EMPLOYMENT. Additional questions: Call Paula Pacheco email paupal@riograndehospital.net or call 719-657-4111. (4/17/24)

POOLE CHEMICAL SEASONAL TRUCK DRIVER: Now-August, (local deliveries). Must have a CDL Class A and pass drug screen. Apply in Person 2060 S. Rd. 5E, MONTE VISTA. (4/17/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

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)

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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 (scrutz@urtigers.co) for more information, go on-line: urtigers.co, or stop by the district office at: 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO to pick up an application. You do not have to hold a college degree or be a certified teacher to substitute; however, you must be a high school graduate and have a substitute license from CDE (Colorado Department of Education). (5/1/24)

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. (5/1/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

LA PUENTE IS seeking a self-starting individual for the position of **EMPLOYMENT NAVIGATOR** as the front line worker in our Employment Readiness program. This program engages clients experiencing barriers to employment to support their journey from unemployed or underemployed to stability and independence. The Navigator will work with La Puente's Shelter, Street Outreach, and Adelante programs, as well as local employers and employment programs to help clients overcome barriers and obtain employment. The Navigator also works to build trust, conduct assessments, make referrals, identify resources, and collect data. Ability to problem-solve and collaborate with other agencies is a must. 36k-40k DOE. Send resume: La Puente, P.O. Box 1235, ALAMOSA, CO 81101, 719 589-5909. www.lapuente.net Email: hr@lapuente.net (4/17/24)

HELP WANTED: SOMEONE TO CLEAN the TOWN HALL OFFICE, MUSEUM HELP: Must be 16 yrs of age or older for museum, must have some knowledge of Jack Dempsey history. Also, CHIEF OF POLICE & POLICE OFFICER. Please pick up application at the Town Hall office during business hours. (4/8/24)

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

CSU-SAN LUIS VALLEY RESEARCH CENTER is seeking **TEMPORARY** hourly employees to work M-F 8:00am to 4:30pm, 30 to 40 hours per week. Aids in the preparation of research field experiments and crops. Provides planting, irrigating, cultivating, harvesting, storing crops and various tasks important to the research initiatives at this station. Please apply at <https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/141377> or contact Sharon at (719) 754-3594 x17. (4/17/24)

SHIPPING CLERK NEEDED for a **POTATO WAREHOUSE** in CENTER, CO. Hours are generally 8am-6pm Monday thru Friday, and possibly a few hours Saturday mornings. FAMOUS software experience and knowledge a must. Salary is negotiable. Please inquire at MOUNTAIN KING SPUD GROWERS, 1090 South Miles Street, Center, CO or email resume or application to tluna@mtknk.com. (5/1/24)

STEFFENS QUALITY PLUMBING & HEATING is looking for a **LICENSED PLUMBER / HEATING TECHNICIAN**. We offer an amazing benefit package with 401(k), paid vacation, and holidays. Licensed/experienced persons only. Please send resume or job experience to alamospumber@gmail.com. Or call 719-589-0257. (4/16/24)

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)

CDL B TRUCK DRIVER: Earn Up to \$83k+. Join Us, Grow with Us! At **WORLD FUEL SERVICES**, our drivers are the key to our success. Tank Wagon drivers operate a straight truck carrying petroleum products to our customers. We are currently seeking experienced CDL drivers to join our team in **ALAMOSA, CO**. This is a **DAYSHIFT POSITION**. **EARNINGS!**: \$5,000 sign on bonus; Starting pay \$23/hr. For day shift; Additional \$1.00/hr. with one year of fuel experience; Performance Bonus \$5,000; Earn Your First Year; Day Shift Average (with 1 year fuel experience) - \$1,320 Weekly / \$76,640 Annually. **WHAT YOU WILL LOVE ABOUT US!**: Home Daily! Health Benefits from day one! Medical with HSA and FSA options; three plans to choose from to fit your needs; Dental, Vision, Teladoc, Employee Assistance Programs; \$0 Premium Medical Insurance Option; Prepare for the Future with 401K Retirement Plan with company matching, no vesting period; Rest and Relaxation 120 hours PTO, 7 paid holiday, and 4 floating holidays; Financial Peace of Mind: Company paid Short-Term Disability, Life, and AD&D Insurance; Additional Perks We Offer: Long Term Disability Insurance, Accident & Critical Illness Insurance, Legal & Identity Theft Protection, Paid Uniform and Boots, Satellite Radio; Learning and Development, LinkedIn Learning; Fleet of modern vehicles with the latest in cab technologies; Referred bonus program. **WHAT YOU WILL NEED!**: Current CDL; HazMat & Tank endorsements; Two years of recent Class CDL driving experience required; Pass required MVR and DOT pre-employment testing and background check. Apply Today! Questions 707.761.7671. (4/24/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

LOCAL DRIVER - METZ POTATO COMPANY is looking for a year-round full-time **POTATO TRUCK DRIVER** who will be responsible for loading and unloading trucks along with stacking or other duties in the warehouse. Wage of \$14.42-16/hr plus potential to earn bonus annually. Overtime eligible. Simple IRA matching after 6 months. Must have a valid driver's license and clean MVR. Applications can be completed at 971 E County Rd 6 N. MONTE VISTA. (4/10/24)

1ST SOUTHWEST BANK, a locally owned CDFI community bank, is seeking a **RELATIONSHIP MANAGER** with 3+ years of commercial loan experience and a Regional 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. (4/10/24)

DEL NORTE BANK is seeking a candidate to fill a **SEASONAL 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 seasonal, full time with a hourly range of \$14.42 to \$17.00. Please send your resume or application to postmaster@truelocalbank.com by April 12, 2024. Application is available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers or call 719-657-3376 and ask for Dawn. EOE. (4/12/24)

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)

1/2 TIME TIGER CONNECTION COACH (attendance & family connection) needed at **DEL NORTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**. This will be a 2-year part time classified position paid for with the Stronger Connections Grant. For more information please contact Principal Amy Duda at 719-657-4050 or aduda@urtigers.co. Applications may be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co. (4/17/24)

JR. HIGH CHEER COACH needed at **DEL NORTE JR. HIGH SCHOOL**. Experience as a coach is preferred. Please contact Gilbert "Gibbs" Sanchez, Athletic Director, at: gsanchez@urtigers.co, 719-657-4020; or Nancy Hardy, Principal, at: ahardy@urtigers.co, 719-657-4020. Applications may be found on our website: www.urtigers.co. (4/17/24)

HOSPICE DEL VALLE is currently seeking an **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**. A part time to full time position available. Knowledge in payroll and QuickBooks preferred but not necessary. Please call or stop by Hospice del Valle for further information: 514 Main Street, ALAMOSA, CO 81101 or 719-589-9019. (4/17/24)

HOSPICE DEL VALLE is currently seeking a **REGISTERED NURSE PRN** or part time with a possibility of full time. We are a great team looking for someone special to fill this position. Competitive wages and among other benefits. Please call or stop by Hospice del Valle for further information. 514 Main Street, ALAMOSA, CO 81101 or 719-589-9019. (4/17/24)

267 - WORK WANTED

FREELANCE DRIVER FOR HIRE. Will drive any vehicle across town or state. Call 719-580-5745. (4/13/24)

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. (4/24/24AS-monthly)

345 - WOOD

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

353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

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)

REGISTERED BLACK ANGUS BULLS for sale. Low pap scores, calving ease and grove, oldest Angus herd in Colorado. Smalley's Angus. 719-588-4665 or 719-378-2459. (4/19/24)

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360 - MISC. FOR SALE

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

368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

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

387 - WANTED TO BUY

WANTING TO BUY high power rifle 416 Rigbe bolt action or single shot. Remington Winchester Ruger No. 1 or CZ. Call 785-475-3107. (4/10/24)

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

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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)

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS



Alamosa's elderly disabled apartment community is open. Spacious 2 bedroom apartments. Rent is based on income. Must meet eligibility criteria. **Applications may be picked up at: 1410 W. 11th St. • Alamosa or call 589-4970** (behind Valley Athletics) This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.

Affordable Multi Family Housing



Multi-family apartment complex with affordable 1 & 2 bedroom units available, with rental assistance for those who qualify

Apply Today!

High Valley Manor
503 Batterson, Monte Vista
719-852-5711 • M-F, 8-Noon
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Accepting applications for 1 bedroom apartments. Must be 62 or older or disabled

Cielo Vista Apartments
166 S. Wills Center, Colo
754-3664

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

Accepting Applications for waiting list for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Family units available

West View Villas
510 Dunham Monte Vista, Colo
852-3949

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

Accepting applications for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Rent based on income for qualifying households.

Gomez Manor Apts.
804 State St. Antonito, Colo.
376-2388

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

Accepting applications for 2 bedroom apartments. Family living at an affordable price.

Guadalupe Hacienda Apts.
404 W. 8th Antonito, Colo.
376-2025

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

Accepting applications for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Family living at an affordable price. Disabled Unit Available.

Casita del Sol
1405 West 11th St. Alamosa, Colo.
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TTY 1-800-659-2656
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525 - GUNS

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

BLACK POWDER MORTAR with ammo. 69 caliber **BLACK POWDER CANON** with ammo. Call 719-850-1032. (4/24/24)

611 - HOMES FOR RENT

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

701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

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



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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ungainly fellow
 - 4 Wild hog
 - 8 NaCl
 - 12 Simian animal
 - 13 Broccoli
 - 14 Performing group
 - 15 Roofing material
 - 16 God of war
 - 17 Culture medium
 - 18 Rawboned animal
 - 20 Misshape
 - 22 Turn a blind
 - 23 "Fledermaus"
 - 24 Move up and down
 - 26 Take legal action
 - 27 Gas flame
 - 30 "Shrek" princess
 - 32 Sty
 - 33 Common contraction
- DOWN**
- 1 Nosebag filler
 - 2 Swiftly
 - 3 Altar constellation
 - 35 Illusionist — Geller
 - 37 Observed
 - 39 Court divider
 - 40 Prohibition
 - 41 Hgt.
 - 42 "Me to the Moon"
 - 43 Pasture
 - 45 Dominant
 - 49 — Polo
 - 51 Blade for fencing
 - 52 Greek peak
 - 54 Roll
 - 55 Mud
 - 56 Hardware item
 - 57 Sporty truck
 - 58 Readies the presses
 - 59 Desert feature
 - 60 Part of Eur.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 3 Commuter vaucraft
- 4 Vaunt
- 5 Scull
- 6 Under the covers
- 7 What remains
- 8 Condition
- 9 Jason's ship
- 10 Perjurer
- 11 Legal wrong
- 19 Long time
- 21 Reddish pigment
- 25 Toy
- 26 Twirl
- 27 Old swing dance
- 28 "All About —"
- 29 Spread to dry
- 30 Enthusiast
- 31 Wrath
- 36 "Everybody Loves —"
- 38 — podrida
- 42 Unshackles w Sharp
- 45 Tractor-trailer
- 46 Go — smoke
- 47 Benefit
- 48 Birthright seller
- 49 Father or son
- 50 Humdinger
- 53 Do wrong

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
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51				52		53			54	
55				56					57	
58				59					60	

ALLEY OOP

WE MUST FIGURE OUT WHAT THIS DEVICE IS. WHAT IF I PUSH THIS BUTTON?

WHY?

DON'T BE SCARED, YOU TWO. IT'S OFTEN DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE INTENT IN UNKNOWN LANGUAGES.

4/10

ARLO & JANIS

WHATCHA DOIN'?

MAKING A LIST.

A LIST OF WHAT?

A LIST OF THINGS I NEED TO DO TODAY.

HIGHLY COMMENDABLE!

HERE'S YOURS.

BIG NATE

WHITEY! MY MAN!

HOLD UP, YO. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

JUST COMIN' IN FOR A HUG, BRO! YOU'RE A HUGGER, RIGHT?

BUT YOU'RE NOT! WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY ALL HUGGY?

DUDE, BECAUSE I VALUE OUR FRIENDSHIP! AND A HUG IS... LIKE... A SYMBOL OF... UH... ITS... UH...

YOU HAVE A MATH TEST.

I HAVE A MATH TEST.

THE BORN LOSER

WITH ALL THE NEWS ABOUT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LATELY, I THINK WE NEED TO RESEARCH HOW IT MAY AFFECT OUR BUSINESS.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW YOU CAN RELY ON ME TO DO THAT RESEARCH ON AI.

THORNAPPLE, I'M NOT SURE I COULD RELY ON YOU TO CORRECTLY SPELL AI.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

BOWOW! BARK! OW-BARK!

SCRATCH SCRATCH BARK BARK BARK!

WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE, EDGAR. COME ON IN!

FRANK & ERNEST

I.R.S.

8

GARFIELD

WANNA SPLIT AN ORDER OF ONION RINGS?

NAH

LET'S SPLIT TWO ORDERS INSTEAD

THE GRIZZWELLS

WHERE ARE YOU GOING ON VACATION, POPS?

TO A CARIBBEAN BEACH RESORT

IT'S CALLED CLUB MEDICARE.

LAST CALL IS 5 PM

PEANUTS

IS READING IMPORTANT? YES!

IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO READ, HOW COULD YOU READ "WAR AND PEACE"?

IF YOU DON'T READ "WAR AND PEACE," LEO TOLSTOY WILL HATE YOU!

DO YOU WANT TO BE HATED BY LEO TOLSTOY?

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

HERMAN

"You'd look a lot better if you didn't wear a striped shirt."

Quarter-century marriage is an intimacy-free zone

DEAR ABBY: I'm in a sexless 25-year marriage. It was not always this way, but any intimacy has been over for more than a decade. My wife's libido has waned, which I understand. What she does do is continually bring up issues about me from years ago as if they were yesterday.

I have my faults, like lack of communication and shutting down, which I have objectively thought about a great deal and tried to make things right. I'm not violent, I don't use drugs or abuse alcohol. She remains adamant in her distrust of me and punishes me by withholding all forms of intimacy.

We attended marriage counseling, where I listened to her and acknowledged my issues for redress. She, on the other hand, justifies her actions and behaviors. She has her own failings but doesn't want to hear how much her actions have hurt me. She also didn't listen to the counselor and will not hold herself accountable.

I feel so lonely. She thinks a lack of intimacy is fine for a marriage, and this is frustrating to me. I have brought this up to her numerous times, but she will not be moved. I could use your counsel on this. -- LONELY MAN IN GEORGIA

DEAR LONELY MAN:

You tried counseling; counseling failed. Lack of intimacy (of any kind) is not "fine" for a marriage. Call an attorney and set yourself free.

DEAR ABBY: During my 30s (I am now mid-70s), I did some nude modeling for several reputable photographers, which resulted in some lovely portraits. A few of them have been framed and hang on my bedroom wall.

My family members are aware of them, but they are very religious (which I am not), so I don't know how to dispose of them. Should I try to sell them, and if so, how? Should I bequeath them to someone, or should they be left for my estate executor to deal with? What to do? -- PORTRAITS IN THE SOUTH

DEAR PORTRAITS: Definitely discuss this with your executor well before the need arises. If the photographers are well-known, go online and find out if there's a market for their work. Offer the portraits for sale and see if there is any interest. You could also bequeath them to an "open-minded" relative or friend. I wish you luck.

DEAR ABBY: In a response to "Ganged Up On" (Dec. 23), you stated that it is against the law to hit a child in California. It was in response to a wom-



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

an whose mother-in-law spanked her grandchild. I was born in California and lived there more than 50 years, and I believe you misinterpreted the penal code.

It is not illegal to spank in California. It IS illegal to use excessive force, or to cause traumatic injury when doing it. I don't personally believe that a child should be hit, but it is not "illegal." In fact, corporal punishment, not abuse, is legal in every state in the U.S. -- DENISE E. IN NEVADA

DEAR DENISE: Mea culpa. I stand corrected. You are not the only reader I heard from after printing that answer. Thank you for straightening me out about this.

Lifestyle

What does the future of Colorado school funding look like?

By ERICA BREUNLIN and BRIAN EASON
The Colorado Sun

For many school districts across Colorado, much of this year's legislative session has come with swells of emotion, starting with a long-awaited moment of celebration when lawmakers and Gov. Jared Polis committed to funding districts to the level required by the state constitution for the first time since the Great Recession.

Even while fulfilling that promise, lawmakers still won't meet the full funding needs of school districts, but many education advocates and leaders have echoed one another in saying it's a significant step in the right direction.

Now, in the final weeks of the session, some of the excitement shared by districts is turning into something else: angst.

Serious questions about the long-term future of school funding are weighing heavily over education organizations and district leaders, who have been waiting for legislation that could significantly change how Colorado schools are funded and how much they receive.

Colorado's school funding formula has distributed billions of dollars to Colorado districts the same way for 30 years, despite regular legislative attempts to modify it. The school funding formula largely doles out funding to school districts based on the number of students they educate and the number of kids with additional needs they serve, including students with disabilities, kids who come from low-income households and those learning English.

The funding formula will likely remain in place next year as lawmakers consider a bill introduced last month that carries few changes — apart from increasing base funding per student by about \$420, up to \$8,496 and designating a permanent source of additional funding for rural districts.

The legislation cleared the Senate on Friday and is up for consideration next by the House.

But there has been more reason to believe lawmakers could finally move forward with revisions this year that would take effect beginning in the 2025-26 school year. After a task force released 60 pages of recommendations on ways to more effectively fund schools, lawmakers including House Speaker Julie McCluskie, a Dillon Democrat, began trying to figure out how to realistically implement some of their suggestions within the constraints of state funding.

McCluskie has not yet released legislation that would redesign how the state sends money to schools, but she told The Colorado Sun she plans to before the end of the session May 8.

"My formula, while it will certainly drive more dollars to the students that need it the most, I also want to make sure that all districts continue to see the current funding levels and that they don't move backwards," she told The Sun.

McCluskie has not spelled out specific details of the formula she plans to propose, but she said she wants to shift to a formula that will be "more student-centered," in line with the task force recommendations. That means prioritizing state funding for students living in poverty, kids with special needs and students learning English.

"Our resources should match the needs of our students," she said. "I am excited to bring forward a formula proposal that will make sure that we're lifting up these students through our funding and driving more dollars again to our neediest kids in some of the neediest districts in the state."

She also wants to consider a district's size in the

school funding formula, segmenting more funding for small districts across the state as well as account for how remote a district is since rural districts lack access to the same breadth of resources as districts in denser areas.

McCluskie has offered little information on how she would piece together additional funding needed to pull off her proposal: She says districts will receive no less funding than the amount they receive for the 2024-25 school year. She also aims to implement funding changes gradually, over four to six years.

Recommendations put forth by the task force call for an additional \$539 million for education spending. McCluskie said she is looking at a dollar amount less than that. She wants to pull money from the state's K-12 education fund and rely on increasing local revenues through a mechanism known as mill levy equalization, which has increased the amount of local tax dollars communities pump into their public education systems.

Education advocates and district leaders say that they won't know how individual districts will fare until they see the full details of McCluskie's legislation. But some are worried.

McCluskie has met with

school district leaders in recent weeks after drafting at least three school funding proposals. One of her proposals sparked more questions than answers for some districts, prompting a group of 11 superintendents to band together to voice their concerns to McCluskie with a letter penned March 25.

"Each and every student in Colorado is worthy of a high-quality education with the best teachers, and that requires, first and foremost, adequate base funding, as well as funding that reflects the needs of each learner," the district leaders wrote. "As superintendents, it is our responsibility to advocate for each and every one of our children and their futures. However, without a sustainable funding source and adequate base funding, we fear that your proposal will have a negative impact on the very students you wish to support."

Colorado continues to fall behind other states with the amount of funding it devotes to education, trailing the national average by \$2,000 to \$2,500 in recent years, according to Tracie Rainey, executive director of the nonprofit Colorado School Finance Project.

Early next year, the state will have a better understanding of exactly how

much money it takes to educate a Colorado student after results of two adequacy studies are released.

McCluskie is confident that Colorado has enough money in its K-12 education fund — a record \$1.5 billion — to contribute part of it to her new funding formula as she introduces funding changes incrementally.

"I think the balance in the state (education) fund, well over \$1 billion, ensures that we have got the space in there to be able to use these dollars now to ensure that all kids have a better opportunity at a world-class education," she said.

But education advocates and district leaders are wary of relying too heavily on the K-12 education fund, questioning whether it can sustain funding changes long term. Rainey said that the viability of the K-12 education fund for formula changes will depend on how many other lawmakers are eyeing that same fund for other education priorities, such as filling a funding deficit with the state's Healthy School Meals for All program. Plus, McCluskie can't obligate future lawmakers to stick with any kind of funding plan she crafts.

"The big question is, what kind of revenue is going to be available?" Rainey

said. "And if you aren't really looking at a sustainable revenue stream, then are you setting districts up for a surprise a couple years down the road that could be a major revenue loss for them?"

The K-12 education fund is made up of income taxes, which tend to grow from year to year. But under one forecast from state economists, they won't grow enough in the next few budget cycles to maintain the expected growth in school funding requirements. As a result, the education account's large balance could be nearly depleted over the next four years unless the state chips in more money from the general fund.

That happened repeatedly in the wake of the Great Recession, leading to persistent school funding shortfalls.

In the letter to McCluskie, superintendents call the K-12 education fund "a limited, one-time funding source."

"Without an ongoing funding source, this sets all Colorado districts up to fall off a fiscal cliff," the superintendents wrote. "In fact, the districts you are seeking to benefit with your proposal will have the most significant impact once the one time funding source runs out."

That's a particularly

alarming prospect since districts are already approaching another funding cliff as federal relief dollars deployed to districts throughout the pandemic wind down this year, said Wendy Birhanzel, superintendent of Harrison School District 2 in Colorado Springs.

"Districts this year are falling off kind of the COVID cliff, and so this would be another cliff of falling off," Birhanzel said.

Other education leaders worry about districts being held to 2024-25 levels of funding.

That approach would violate Amendment 23, said Scott Smith, chief financial and operating officer of Cherry Creek School District. That constitutional amendment requires the state to increase base per-pupil school funding by at least the rate of inflation each year.

Holding districts to 2024-25 funding levels would also handicap districts as their costs rise every year, including to address the mental health needs of students and provide services for students with special needs — both of which "are exploding," Smith said.

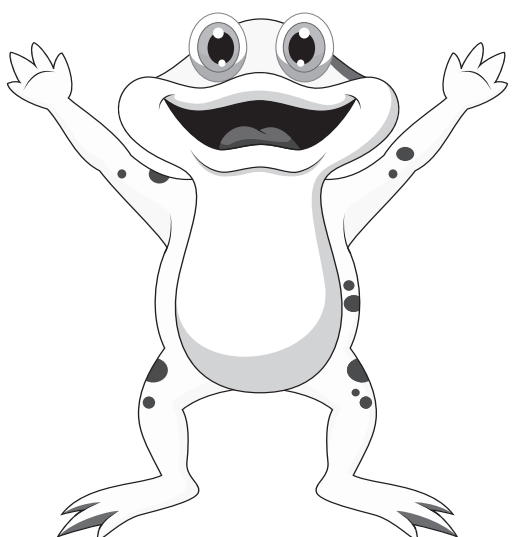
"Our costs are going to continue to escalate and escalate, quite frankly, much faster than the rate of inflation," he said.



ANSWER: AMPHIBIAN

Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

M J P U

O R F G
1 2 4

S K E L A
5 8

D P T E O L A
6 9 3 10 7

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

Y .
1 10

Answers: Jump, Frog, Lakes, Tadpole; Frog catches a fly.

THIS DAY IN...



- 1606: THE UNION FLAG IS ADOPTED AS THE FLAG OF ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH SHIPS.
- 1900: PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY SIGNS THE FORAKER ACT INTO LAW, GRANTING PUERTO RICO LIMITED SELF-RULE.
- 1980: CANADIAN RUNNER AND ATHLETE TERRY FOX BEGINS HIS MARATHON OF HOPE RUN IN ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.



TOAD
a tailless amphibian with a stout body and short legs

How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Frog
- SPANISH:** Rana
- ITALIAN:** Rana
- FRENCH:** Grenouille
- GERMAN:** Frosch



A FROG COMPLETELY SHEDS ITS SKIN ABOUT ONCE A WEEK. AFTER IT SHEDS THE DEAD SKIN, IT USUALLY EATS IT.

GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: FROG



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