

Newcomer's Guide to Gardening in the San Luis Valley

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Latest MaxPreps track and field rankings

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VOLUME 98, NO. 62

Valley Courier

FRIDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

April 19, 2024

\$1

Grizzlies celebrate championships



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

The ASU team national championship and individual awards for this year's NCAA Division II women's national championship and the men's third-place team.

ASU track and cross country honored for 60 national titles

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA — Adams State University celebrated the school's track and cross country programs for a milestone in national championships.

With the ASU women's indoor track and field team claiming the NCAA Division II national championships, that makes it

60 for the school.

It was also the women's second straight indoor national title.

"It's incredible," said ASU coach Damon Martin. "When I look back, it's hard to believe that we could have ever dreamed such big thoughts. Yet the kids every year have worked hard, and the university has supported us. With the coaching staff that we have, it's amazing what we have accomplished all of those years."

The breakdown of the national championships by program are as follows:

- Men's cross country — 25 — 12 NAIA and 13 NCAA Division II

- Women's cross country — 23 — 3 NAIA and 20 NCAA Division II

- Men's indoor track and field — 4 — 2 NAIA and 2 NCAA Division II

- Women's Indoor track and field — 7 — 1 NAIA and six NCAA Division II

- Men's outdoor track and field — 1 overall — NCAA Division II

Of the 60 national championships, 42 have been coached by

■ See GRIZZLIES page 3

SLV Today

Alamosa Visitor Center grand opening this afternoon

SAN LUIS VALLEY— The Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge will host an open house of its new visitor center on Friday, April 19 from 4 to 6 p.m. There will be a guided tour of the refuge from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The new visitor center is located in the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters building at 7824 El Rancho Lane, east of Alamosa off Highway 160.

Alamosa bird walk on Saturday

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The Friends of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuges will host a free bird walk on Saturday at 8 a.m. The walk will start at the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center at 7824 El Rancho Lane, east of Alamosa. Be ready to hike, bring binoculars, and dress for the weather. The walk will end at about noon.

SLV WEATHER



Mostly Sunny, Breezy 71/28
Sat: Chance of Showers, Breezy 66/28
Sun: Slight Chance of Showers, Breezy 68/34

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City council tables ordinance banning deadly weapons in open spaces

Issue to be re-examined following additional staff work

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — In Wednesday's meeting, members of Alamosa's City Council had a second reading — and took a second look — at "Ordinance No. 4-2024, an ordinance approving official hours for public use of City of Alamosa Parks and open space and prohibiting deadly weapons in all parks, open space, and recreation facilities".

The ordinance bans anyone — outside of law enforcement and those permitted to do so — carrying deadly weapons in all city parks, recreation facilities and open spaces.

While all were in favor of the ordinance following the first reading during the April 3 meeting, Councilor Jamie Dominguez voiced some hesitation over the banning of individuals, who do not have concealed weapons permits, carrying deadly weapons in more remote areas where they might be walking or running and would be particularly vulnerable.

■ See COUNCIL page 3



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Ribbons of Courage presented to Alamosa County Sheriff's Office in recognition of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Pictured left to right: Brenda Majera, victim advocate; Lani Welch, founder of Ribbons of Courage; ACSO Deputy Shelly Rodman; Jade Garbizo, ACSO victim advocate, and Larry Garner, Board President, Ribbons of Courage.

Alamosa Sheriff's Office supports victim rights

Alamosa Sheriff's Office supports victim rights

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — In what is becoming an annual event, Ribbons of Courage, a local non-profit started by Lani Welch, traveled throughout the Valley this week, meeting with members of law enforcement and presenting them with symbols

of the organization — actual ribbons of courage — in recognition for their hard work in defending victims and victims' rights.

Welch was the first individual in the San Luis Valley to call attention to the victims' rights violations being committed by the previous DA, which prompted the campaign to recall former DA Alonzo Payne.

The event is being held in honor of National Crime Victims' Rights Week that runs from April 21-27. Those who receive the ribbons are being asked to wear them during this time.

On Wednesday, Welch and Ribbons of Courage Board President Larry Garner met with Brenda Majera and Jade Garbizo, victims' advocates working at the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office, prior to presenting them with the ribbons.

Majera, who was a victim of domestic violence herself and has been on the job for about two years, discussed how emotionally challenging it can be at times, but the rewards far outweigh the challenges.

"We try to be there on scene

■ See COURAGE page 3

ASU Chamber Choir Concert and Valley Community Concert Choir will perform in Alamosa tonight

Work by Colorado composer for Valley choral group to be performed

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — The voices of the Adams State Chamber Choir and the Valley Community Concert Choir (VCCC) will take to the stage at Richardson Hall on the Adams State University campus in a concert tonight.

The performance will begin with the Valley Community Choir singing a

■ See CONCERT page 3



Courier photo by John Waters

David Schneider, center, directs the Valley Community Concert Choir in a rehearsal for the Friday, April 19, joint concert with the Adams State Chamber Choir. The concert will be at Richardson Hall at 7 p.m.

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Record

First Southwest Community Fund and First Southwest Bank release 2023 Impact Report

CONTRIBUTED
SAN LUIS VALLEY — The First Southwest Community Fund (FSWCF), in collaboration with First Southwest Bank (FSWB), recently announced the release of their 2023 Impact Report.

The report highlights the deep impact that these organizations continue to make in our region both individually and together.

Since 2015, FSWCF and FSWB have strategically pooled resources to provide inclusive and equitable capital, credit, and financial services to all community members — including those historically unable to access them — so that everyone has the opportunity to prosper and thrive.

Collectively in 2023, FSWCF and FSWB supported 295 businesses in 90 Colorado communities, investing over \$89 million.

FSWCF pioneered new and innovative ways to support diverse entrepreneurs and small businesses, investing \$5.6 million across rural Colorado, up 75% from \$3.2 million in 2022. Of those businesses financed, 77% were women-owned and 55% were BIPOC-owned (Black, Indigenous, Peo-

ple of Color). These investments resulted in 193 jobs created and 160 jobs retained, tangible results that are essential to create thriving rural Colorado communities.

“We take pride in responding to and investing in community needs and priorities, empowering entrepreneurs, fueling small businesses and fostering collaborations and partnerships that will enable sustainable, thriving rural communities resulting in improved social, economic and environmental outcomes throughout Colorado,” stated Rosy Aburto McDonough, Executive Director of First Southwest Community Fund.

FSWB secured grants and formed partnerships to increase investments in schools, healthcare organizations, local governments, libraries, early childhood education centers, environmental causes, affordable housing, and varied nonprofit organizations, furthering the bank’s CDFI mission. The bank can combine grant funds with bank loans, allowing them to provide a packaged loan product that has a lower payment than other loan products on the market, making it easier for people and businesses to access and pay for loans.

“We pool resources to provide inclusive and equitable access to financial services and resources — including those historically unable to access them — so that everyone has the opportunity to prosper and thrive,” said Kent Curtis, Board President of First Southwest Community Fund and CEO and President of First Southwest Bank.

First Southwest Community Fund (FSWCF) was created in 2015 by First Southwest Bank to provide inclusive and equitable access to capital and gap funding, through a range of innovative programs for rural Colorado entrepreneurs and small business owners. Learn more at fswcf.org.

First Southwest Bank (FSWB) is a locally owned, independent, community bank, and one of two Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) banks in Colorado, and the only one serving the Four Corners states. FSWB offers personal and business banking, commercial, agricultural and small business loans. Loan and deposit customer dollars are put to work to improve the social, economic and environmental landscape of Southern and rural Colorado. Learn more at fswb.bank.



Sadie Martinez, left, Coordinator for Colorado Access and Functional Needs Program and Costilla County Public Health Department Director Paul Wertz.

Wertz recognized for leadership and dedication

CONTRIBUTED
COLORADO SPRINGS — The Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (CDHSEM) hosted an Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Conference event in Colorado Springs on April 10-11. During the conference, Paul Wertz, of

Costilla County, received an award for outstanding professional achievements and commitments to support Colorado Communities.

Wertz, Director of the Costilla County Public Health Department was the 2024 San Luis Valley award recipient. Director Wertz’s leadership, hard

work and dedication to excellence supported this well-deserved nomination. Many of Wertz’s colleagues were present to congratulate him on this accomplishment. For additional AFN Conference information, visit <https://dhsem.colorado.gov/2024AFN> Conference.

OBITUARIES

Lucille F. Martinez

Lucille F. Martinez, 96, passed away peacefully on April 15, 2024, surrounded by her loving family at the San Luis Care Center in Alamosa, Colo. Born on Oct. 1, 1927, in San Francisco, Colo., to Edward and Felipita (Mondragon) Medina, Lucy lived a life marked by devotion to her faith, love for her family, and a generous spirit that touched the hearts of those around her.



and inspiration to many.

Lucy’s journey through life was a testament to her strength and caring nature. She found joy in her role as a cook for over 20 years, where she nourished not only the bodies but also the souls of those she served. Her dedication extended beyond her professional life as she embodied the role of caretaker, for the St. James Catholic Church, she was an active and cherished member of the Holy Family Church in Fort Garland, Colo.

Lucy’s interests and hobbies brought joy and color to her life and the lives of others. Her gardens were a testament to her patience and attention to detail, while her love for crocheting created warmth in more ways than one. An avid Raiders fan, Lucy’s enthusiasm for the game was matched only by her excitement during her Bingo nights.

Described as thoughtful and faith-filled, Lucy leaves behind a legacy of love and kindness. She is survived by her daughters, Lorraine (Richard) Tanaka of Yuma, Ariz., Eleanor (Mike) Velasquez of Blanca, Colo., and Betty Arlene (Paul) Velasquez of La Junta, Colo.; six grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild, one great-great-grandchild in the womb and her sister, Sister Mary Conc-

etta Medina of Omaha, Neb.

Lucy was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Fidel Ovidio Martinez, her sons Edward and Anthony Martinez, and her siblings Delfino Medina, Emma Espinoza, Alfonso Medina, Marcos Medina, Arnold Medina, and Eddie Medina.

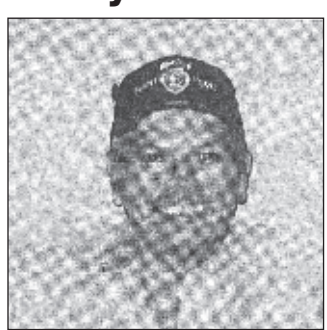
Lucy’s life was a beautiful mosaic of service, love, and unwavering faith. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her. In lieu of flowers, consider donating to the St. Jude Children’s Hospital.

A recitation of the Rosary will be held Sunday evening, April 21, 2024, at 6 p.m. at the Holy Family Catholic Church in Ft. Garland. A Funeral Mass will be Monday, April 22, 2024, at noon also at the Holy Family Catholic Church. Interment will follow the Mass at the Blanca Cemetery. Join the family at the conclusion of the services for a reception at the Fort Garland Museum, 29477 Highway 159 in Fort Garland, Colo.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online words of comfort, remembrances, or condolences for Lucy’s family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

Jerome ‘Jerry’ Mathew Salazar

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of our son and brother, Jerome “Jerry” Mathew Salazar of Monte Vista, Colo.



Nov. 13, 2023, with family at his side.

We will have a Rosary at 10:30 a.m. followed by the Funeral Mass on April 20, 2024, at 11 a.m. at St Joseph Catholic

Church in Monte Vista, Colo.

The interment will be at the Colorado State Veterans Center Cemetery at Homelake, Monte Vista, Colo., following the service with full Military Honors.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. For the full obituary or to leave online words of comfort, remembrances, or condolences for Jerry’s family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

CDOT honors fallen employees on Remembrance Day

CONTRIBUTED
DENVER — The Colorado Department of Transportation held its annual observance of Remembrance Day on Thursday, April 18, honoring the 62 employees who have died in the line of duty since 1929. Joining CDOT were representatives from the Colorado State Patrol, Federal Highway Administration and Colorado Contractors Association.

“Remembrance Day not only honors our fallen colleagues, it also serves as an important reminder to those traveling the state’s roadways to make safety their first priority,” said CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew. “With the road construction season upon us, it’s imperative that those who are constructing and maintaining our highways remain safe while they work. Please remember that a person’s life is priceless, a traffic slowdown is a minor inconvenience.”

Remembrance Day is held in conjunction with National Work Zone Awareness Week. This year’s theme: “Work Zones are temporary. Actions behind the wheel can last forever.”

“According to the Patrol’s citation data, troopers issued at least one speeding ticket in a designated low-speed zone

in 48 out of Colorado’s 64 counties last year,” stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “Our road workers are counting on you to stay alert and slow down so they can go home at the end of the day. Currently, motorists are failing these vulnerable populations.”

In 2023, there were 15 crashes, resulting in 16 fatalities in Colorado construction and maintenance work zones.

“Each of us owe our blue-collar heroes the chance to safely do their jobs in construction zones. We rely on these workers to improve our commutes and make our lives better and these day’s it has become more obvious how much we need those willing to get outside and work with their hands,” said Colorado Contractors Association President and CEO Tony Milo. “These people work hard to provide for their loved ones and to build a better Colorado for all who live here. By slowing down in cone zones, paying attention, and obeying the signs, motorists can help ensure that all these workers get home safely at the end of the day. Speeding and distracted driving causes too many tragic accidents. Every one of these accidents are avoidable and

it takes each one of us to make safety a priority in the cone zones.

Nationally, approximately 106,000 crashes occurred in work zones in 2021 (most recent data available). It included 956 fatalities and an estimated 42,000 injuries. While highway workers are at great risk every day, it is just as critical for motorists to be safe and responsible in work zones. In fact, four out of five work zone fatalities are people driving through work zones, not highway workers.

“Keeping work zones safe is critical for all of us,” said FHWA’s Colorado Division Administrator John Cater. “When driving through work zones, we all have to slow down and pay attention to keep the workers safe and for our own safety as well.” CDOT averages between 175 and 200 projects on its roadways each year, not including maintenance projects. When driving through a work zone, fines for most infractions are doubled.

PENDING OBITUARY

Walter Espinoza

Longtime Alamosa resident Walter Espinoza passed away April 17, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

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.

School Menu
 Friday
 April 19, 2024

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 School

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Valley News

Learn about world hunger and have fun doing it

Annual Crop Walk, Saturday, April 20, Cole Park

STAFF REPORT ALAMOSA— This Saturday, an annual event locally known as the “Crop Walk” (aka the San Luis Valley Crop Hunger Walk) will be held for the purpose of learning more about hunger, not just locally but worldwide. While the battle to fight hunger is a somber and often heartbreaking topic,

the event on Saturday is anything but with activities for people of all ages and interests. Registration begins at 10 a.m. Then, after a few brief speakers, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., families or teams will be walking a solidarity lap and participating in five different activity stations, including story stations, relay races, educational games, face painting (of course!) and live music. All of that will be followed by a free Frito Pie Lunch and prizes at 12 p.m. The event is facilitat-

ed locally by La Puente but in collaboration with Church World Service (CWS), a global organization with 35 participating faith based organizations including — but clearly not limited to — Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Baptists, Catholics, the Society of Friends, Methodists, African Methodist Episcopalian, Lutherans, United Church of Christ and Orthodox communities from Ukraine, Serbia, Syria, Moravia and others. All funds raised will go to CWS, who collectively envision a world

where everyone has food, voice, and a safe place to call home. “We’ve been working to make this a reality for more than 75 years,” reads the website for their organization, “and we know it’s possible.” That same belief is held locally and, as such, all who attend can know that each step that is taken and each dollar that is raised will go toward helping the lives of others around the world. Crop Walk is Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Cole Park and the Senior



Graphic courtesy of La Puente.

Center at 92 Colorado Ave. in Alamosa. To create a team for Saturday’s event, go to <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/>

event/alamosaco. Anyone with questions or who wants to learn more about the event is asked to email community.edu@lapuente.net.

Council

Continued from Page 1

Dominguez made it clear that he would still vote for the ordinance but wanted to voice his hesitation for the record, especially after considering the safety of those individuals who might be on the trails or in other open spaces with no other people around and find themselves in need of self-protection. That prompted an extensive discussion around what exactly constituted an “open space,” and how that definition interacted with certain areas, such as areas along the levy or a trail that are immediately adjacent to parks where events may bring a large number of people, includ-

ing families. After a lengthy discussion, the council ultimately postponed voting on the second reading until members could see areas outlined on a map designating where open carry of weapons would and would not be banned. “All open space,” was too broad of a term; councilors needed a clearer definition of what areas that would impact before voting. Councilor Carson also expressed concern about what type of deadly weapons would be allowed, citing “long rifles” as an example of a weapon that should not be allowed. Ultimately, the issue was tabled until the next meeting. In the meantime, staff was directed to develop a map that visually clar-

ifies what is determined to be an open space so that both council and members of the public have a clear understanding of what the ordinance would look like, once enacted. Staff will also develop language to include in the ordinance that addresses concerns about weapons that would be inappropriate in an open space area. City Manager Heather Sanchez emphasized to the Valley Courier that those with a permit to carry concealed weapons are not impacted by the ordinance. Sanchez was also asked by the Valley Courier for some clarification around why council went into executive session when the topic related to incentives to be made available in

discussions with a developer for a boutique hotel downtown. Sanchez said the executive session was appropriate because it related to negotiations. As the negotiator, she needed direction from the council about what incentives would be appropriate. Making that information public prior to negotiations would obviously weaken the position of the city in any discussions that might be held. However, once an agreement has been reached with the developer, those incentives will be made public. As part of the regularly followed process, members of the public will have the opportunity to voice their opinions at that time.

Concert

Continued from Page 1

rendition of “Ave Verum Corpus,” by W. A. Mozart. Earlier this week, this reporter was invited to attend a choir rehearsal that began with this work composed in 1791. Under the direction of David Schneider, the choir sang an ethereal and transcendental rendition that will uplift the audience tonight. A wide variety of repertoire from the Renaissance period to the modern age, on diverse subjects including the sacred; times of reflection and peace; celebrating joy; contemplating the universe and our place on earth; words of acceptance and self-empowerment; and words of hope and perseverance will be performed. Schneider told the Valley Courier, “The last time the ASU Chamber Choir and the Valley Community Concert Choir sang together was in November of 2019, the last season the VCCC sang concerts. As the VCCC is back to singing again, we are honored to be back with the Chamber Choir for our first concert in four years. This concert is a celebration of what choral music brings to the participant and audience alike, and that choral music belongs to people of all ages, musical interests, and skill levels.” The community group will also sing “Time to Be,” by Bethany Meyer. In a statement to the Valley Courier, Colorado Springs composer Bethany Meyer said, “I am thrilled to hear that the Valley Community Concert Choir will be singing ‘Time to Be’ at their upcoming concert. This piece was written four years ago to honor Valley Chamber Choir’s longtime accompanist Caleb Clark. Written around the idea of time moving forward, it is interesting to note that when this piece was premiered in 2020, it featured a (small but mighty!) skel-

eton crew of singers due to the COVID pandemic. How exciting that time has indeed moved on and that this work will be performed on a much larger scale four years later! I wish the Valley Community Concert Choir the best in their continuing endeavors.” The Adams State University Chamber Choir will present the second portion of the concert under the direction of Beth Robinson, Department of Music Co-Chair and Director of Choral Activities, who will open with “Circa Mea,” a composition by Mark Burrows and includes text from the 12th century Carmina Burana. Robinson said of the concert, “It is so wonderful to have the Valley Community Concert Choir back together again! The ASU Chamber Choir is excited to be performing with them and the program reflects a wide range of styles and perspectives that I think the audience will enjoy. Two pieces of note that the Chamber Choir is singing are ‘Calling from Afar,’ by James Eakin III, which was inspired by images sent back from the James Webb Space Telescope; and ‘All of Me,’ by Kyle Pederson, which talks about being accepted for who we are and not the labels we are given.” The program includes the work “TaReKiTa,” by Indian-American composer Reena Esmail who said of the work, “I wrote ‘TaReKiTa’ as a gift for a choir called Urban Voices Project. They are a choir of people who are or currently have experienced hopelessness on Skid Row in Los Angeles. They are so dear to me, and one day I just decided to teach them about Indian rhythm.” The alliterative work is sung in the Kananda language. The concert is on Friday, April 19, at 7 p.m., in Richardson Hall at Adams State University in Alamosa. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$1 for K-12 students, and seniors.

Courage

Continued from Page 1

when the deputies arrive so we can meet the victim and then be with them through the whole process. Sometimes I may cry when I go home but I’m always aware that it’s been good to show people I care,” she said. “It’s so important for us to be there from the beginning,” says Garbizo, “to let victims know they’re not

alone. And, sometimes, victims will feel more comfortable speaking with one of us than with law enforcement, especially when there has been sexual assault or child abuse.” Victim advocates also provide very real tangible help, including help with relocation, food, shelter and access to VINE LINK, a program that keeps victims updated on any activity related to the offender, including if they have made bail or if a court

hearing is coming up. Welch is grateful to see the progress made since there is greater awareness. “We’ve accomplished so much in such a short period of time,” she says. “Once we raise the funds for Ribbons of Courage to purchase insurance, we’ll be certified as a non-profit 501(c)3, which will be fantastic.” Law enforcement agencies supporting National Crime Victims’ Rights Week include Costilla County Sheriff’s Office,

Manassa Police Department, Alamosa County Sheriff’s Office, Alamosa Police Department, Rio Grande County Sheriff’s Office, Monte Vista Police Department, Del Norte Police Department, South Fork Police Department, Saguache County Sheriff’s Office, Center Police Department, Mineral County Sheriff’s Office, 12th Judicial District Judges, 12th Judicial District DA’s Office and Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center.

Grizzlies

Continued from Page 1

Martin, who is a 35-year veteran of the school. The first 18 were by ASU icon Joe I. Vigil. He coached the first national championship in men’s cross country in 1971. “That’s hard to believe as well,” Martin said. “I’ve been very blessed to work with some talented young men and young women. I can’t take the credit for all of it. My assistant coaches have done an amazing job. I’m really proud of that they have done collectively as a group.” In addition to coaching 42 national championships, Martin coached many individual national champions and All-Americans. “One of the things I’m really proud of over the years is that our little school has produced 12 Olympians. We’ve had countless individual national champions and All-Americans. I’m just really proud of all of their accomplishments.” Martin is looking forward to the future of ASU cross country and track. “This year’s women’s team was a very stellar team. I’m excited about this outdoor season and maybe what possibly they can do. Certainly, they’re going to be one of three or four teams that has a shot at winning the national outdoor title. The men’s program, we’re going to redshirt quite a few of our stellar kids and trying to put our eggs into the basket for next year and try to be really good next year.”



Courier photos by Ken Hamrick

The Adams State University women’s outdoor track team national qualifiers and All-Americans. ASU won the NCAA Division II Championship for the second straight year in March.



The Adams State University men’s indoor track team national qualifiers and All-Americans. The Grizzlies placed third at the NCAA Division II Championship Meet.



Left: ASU coach Damon Martin speaks to the crowd at a reception commemorating the 60th national cross country or track national championship.

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

What’s Happening? Many areas in Colorado rely on groundwater from wells for their irrigation needs. Through Groundwater Management Subdistricts here in the San Luis Valley there have been efforts to reduce the reliance on groundwater, but there’s still work to be done.
What’s Funding is Available? The state created the “Groundwater Compact Compliance and Sustainability Fund,” to help us address our sustainability issues. With these funds, the Rio Grande Water Conservation District created a program and is offering money to landowners who are willing to reduce their use of their groundwater rights either completely or partially.
How Can You Participate? The Rio Grande Water Conservation District is taking applications from landowners who meet program criteria and are willing to sell their groundwater rights to the District. Successful applicants will receive payment from this Fund.
Details and Application:
• You can find out more and get the program criteria and application form on the District’s website at rgwcd.org. You can also visit the District’s office at 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO, 81101, or by call the office at (719) 589-6301.
• Applications can be submitted beginning on April 22, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. and will end on May 31, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.
• Completed applications can be emailed to wylie@rgwcd.org or dropped off at the District’s Office.
Don’t miss this limited opportunity if you’re interested in getting paid for conserving groundwater!

Opinion

Should have prayed first

During World War II, Ernie Pyle, a famous war correspondent, traveled to and from the battlefields to report what was happening. He was quite famous and won a Pulitzer Prize before losing his life during the battle for Okinawa in the Pacific theater.

Trout Republic



by Kevin Kirkpatrick

One of the most famous quotes attributed to him is “there are no atheists in a foxhole,” which means that when a person is under stress of war they tend to get up front and personal with God. Even the most hardened of men and women turn to a higher power for comfort and help.

Now personally I do not care what flavor — or no flavor — religion you may observe but it’s hard for me to look around this world and Universe and conclude there is no God. So Ol’ Dutch follows Him along to the best of my ability and, so far, it’s been a great ride.

There is not one of us who has not tried to make a deal with God if faced with a horrible circumstance. Sometimes things are so pressing that we even promise to go to Africa and convert the native people there if only He will get us out of this scrape we have found ourselves in.

And I have to admit somewhat reluctantly that I too have made a few “battlefield” promises if only God will just this once” rescue my foolish self. Of late, though, I have had quite a different thing going on with the Big Guy



in the sky. And it all involves being in a bind, of course, as needing Him becomes more pressing in a situation we cannot control.

This all started some years ago when one of my cows had a calf who would not or could not nurse. Now to you that may not be an emergency but Ol’ Dutch has a tender heart and it looked bleak. I remember sitting on a bucket in the dark after many attempts to put the calf on a spigot and finally just gave up. In that “foxhole” when all hope was gone, I reached out to God and prayed “if you don’t help this little calf she is gonna die.” And in that moment the calf took one look at me and hooked up on her momma for that life-saving milk.

Shortly after that I lost something in the barn. I looked high and low and finally in a moment of desperation I

asked for heavenly help once again and I swear that it appeared in plain sight right in front of me the next time I glanced down.

You may again ask if there is a moral to this story and I am so glad you did so I can finish this column on time. So I was telling these experiences to the granddaughters and they listened intently and of course from the mouth of babes comes great wisdom if we only take the time to hear.

Grand #1 in her no nonsense, plain spoken and matter of fact manner simply said “Grandpa, you should have prayed first.” It was like a lightbulb suddenly turned on in my old noggin and I got to thinking that maybe, just maybe, God is interested in even the smallest things we need so I began to test Him on that premise.

Every time I “lost” something I would

To submit news, email: news@alamosanews.com

To submit sports, email: khamrick@alamosanews.com

Letters policy

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

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

Sexual trauma and mental health: Concepts to consider

By JENN MCCOY, MSW

Sexual assault, unwanted sexual contact, rape, molestation, sexual violence...these are just a few words that can be used as signifiers of sexual trauma. What do you notice about your body, mind and heart’s response to these words? Is there a tightening in your chest? A dropping sensation in your stomach? Perhaps a resistance to acknowledge these words at all...a desire to read these words no further, an aversion to allow these concepts to sit with you too deeply...or potentially criticisms towards the writer who so boldly positioned them in the opening line to a newspaper article.

Whatever your response to these words may be, reflect on how impactful the acts these words symbolize may be. If the word itself can generate a felt bodily response, consider the intensity of the experience. Chances are, you or someone close to you, does have an experience of sexual trauma; according to the Center for Disease Control, “Over half of women and almost 1 in 3 men have experienced sexual violence involving

physical contact during their lifetimes.”

Often, the devastation of these experiences transcend the assault itself; increasing one’s chances of struggles with anxiety, depression, trust, intimacy, and many other areas of healthy human functioning. And the body’s response to mental health struggles such as these hold potential to manifest in physical health, as illustrated by a quote from trauma expert, Dr. Bessel Van Der Kolk, “After trauma the world is experienced with a different nervous system. The survivor’s energy now becomes focused on suppressing inner chaos...These attempts to maintain control over unbearable physiological reactions can result in a whole range of physical symptoms, including fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue, and other autoimmune diseases.”

Research linking trauma and subsequent mental health struggles to somatic symptoms and ailments is abundant; the Adverse Childhood Experiences study that began in 1995 was one of the first to explore this concept. Since then, the field of mental and behavioral health has been excavating understandings of

trauma, stressors, the nervous system, interpersonal and intrapersonal relationships, and so much more to inform human health and well-being.

With a public health issue this far-reaching, it can become overwhelming or seemingly impossible to consider the thought of conjuring change. While a society where sexual violence is extinguished may be a vision seen through rose colored glasses, your thoughts, feelings and behaviors can embody the spirit of this aspiration. The power that is propagated through compassion and connection is not to be underestimated; Dr. Peter Levine has explained, “Trauma is not what happens to us, but what we hold inside in the absence of an empathetic witness.”

The power of showing up for another through connection and compassion is further supported by author and psychotherapist Jennifer Nurick, LPC, as she shares, “we can learn to self-regulate as adults, but this is only part of the process. The other part is the healing that happens in a two-person system, relationally” and the inspirational

Brene Brown, PhD, LMFW who tells us, “by responding with empathy and compassion, the healing results affect us all”.

The message hopefully conveyed, is to hold space for two truths; the intensity of sexual assault can be significant on the body and mind, and the impact can be countered with the power of humans who demonstrate empathy and care for others’ experiences without judgement. It’s easy to deviate attention from difficult subjects such as sex and violence, particularly the two together, but avoiding will likely increase shame, disconnect and suffering.

In alignment with the nature of this article, it is fitting to end with a quote. Dr. Gabor Mate provides the insight, “All of western medicine is built on getting rid of pain, which is not the same as healing. Healing is actually the capacity to hold pain”. As we reframe the impact of sexual assault on mental health as a community issue rather than an individual’s issue, we hold the burden together and lighten the weight of such heavy happenings.

Growing Latino support for border wall, strict enforcement

By BYRON YORK

A new poll by Axios and Noticias Telmundo finds that 42% of Latino Americans support building a wall or fence along the entire U.S.-Mexico border. When pollsters asked the same question in December 2021, the number was 30%. That’s a significant increase as the border crisis created by President Joe Biden’s policies worsens.

It’s also a more severe action than virtually anyone is now proposing. The border is about 2,000 miles long, but some of that is physically impassable and does not need a wall. Former President Donald Trump proposed building a wall on about 1,000 miles. That was enough for many Democrats to unite in hysterical opposition. Now, the Latino voters polled say they would like to see a wall or fence

along the entire 2,000-mile border.

The new poll also finds that 64% of those surveyed support “giving the president the authority to shut U.S. borders if there are too many migrants trying to enter the country.” And 38% of those surveyed support “sending all undocumented immigrants in the U.S. back to their country of origin.” In 2021, that number was 28%.

In all, the poll marks a real shift in the direction of stricter border enforcement. It’s a significant change. One explanation for the change is that the context in which Latino voters consider the question has changed, too. At various times in the past, the majority of illegal border crossers came from Mexico or Central America, especially the Northern Triangle countries of El Salvador, Guatemala

and Honduras. Now, with Biden’s virtually open border, the situation is much different. People are coming from all over the world, in large numbers, to cross illegally into the United States.

On Feb. 22, Fox News’ Bill Melugin posted on X, “Internal [Border Patrol] data we’ve obtained reveals more Chinese nationals have crossed illegally into Border Patrol’s San Diego sector in recent months than Mexican nationals.” Melugin published the top 10 nationalities apprehended in the San Diego sector since Oct. 1, 2023. Four of them were not from Mexico, Central America or South America — China, Turkey, Guinea and India. In the period Melugin listed, 28,000 people from Colombia crossed illegally into the United States, while 21,000 came from China, 6,100 from Tur-

key, 5,000 from Guinea and 5,000 from India.

Given that, if the point of polling Latino voters is to gauge their views on people coming illegally to the United States from Latin American countries — that’s not the way things work today. These days, illegal crossers are entering the U.S. from everywhere. Perhaps that is contributing to the changing views of Latino Americans toward border security.

In any event, Latino Americans are an important voting bloc, and in the 2024 presidential election, it appears they are moving more toward Trump than Biden.

In 2016, Hillary Clinton beat Trump among Hispanic voters by a whopping 38 points, 66% to 28%. In the 2020 election, Biden beat Trump among that group by 21 points, 59% to 38%. Now, a New York Times-Siena poll in March found Trump leading Biden by 6 points, 46% to 40%. That’s a huge change in eight years.

Of course, the first two examples are actual election results, while at this point in the 2024 race we’re relying on polls that might not be accurate and, in any event, might change before the election. But there have been many, many surveys suggesting movement of Latino voters away from Biden and toward Trump. Shifting Latino views on border security are part of that, but remember that the top issue for Latino voters, as it is for everyone else, is the economy and inflation. Put it all together, and it appears falling Latino support will be a major problem for Biden’s reelection effort.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

Keith R Cerny
Publisher

Valley Courier
(ISSN 1047-1170)

Brian Williams
Managing Editor

The Valley Courier is published daily, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday by San Luis Valley Publishing, 2205 State Ave., Alamosa, Colo. 81101. Web site: www.alamosanews.com. Periodicals Postage: is paid at Alamosa, Colo., Monte Vista, Colo., La Jara, Colo., and Fort Garland, Colo. Phone (719) 589-2553. Postmaster send change of address to P.O. Box 1099.

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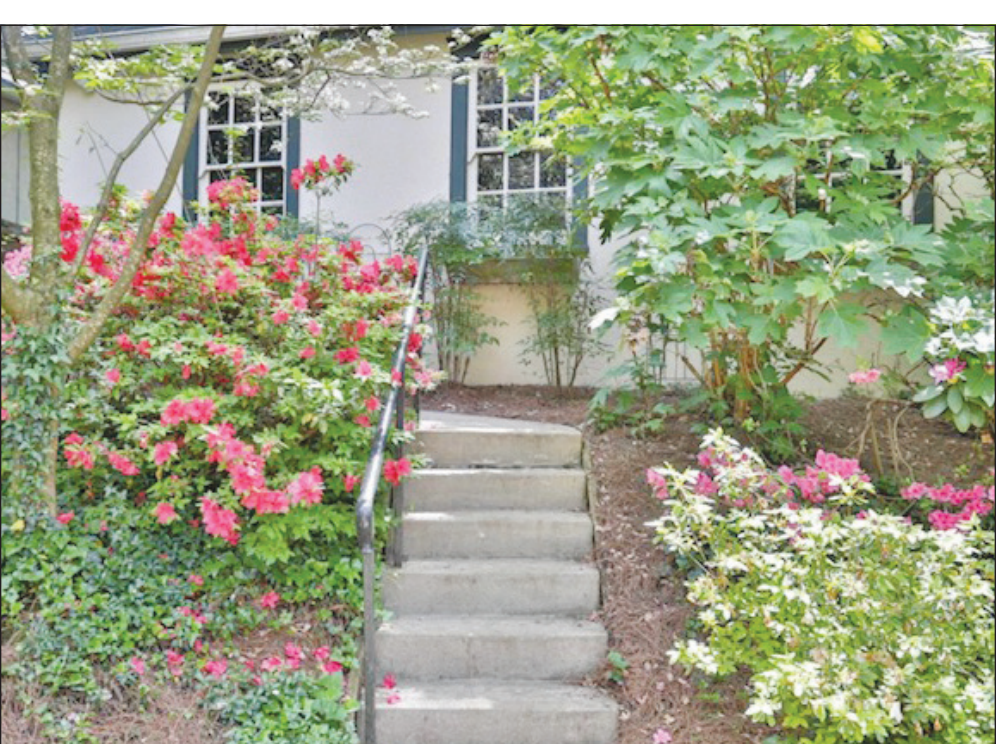


Photo by Emily Folz

This is a photo of my former home in Kentucky in spring. Acidic soil-loving, thirsty rhododendrons, azalea, and a dogwood tree in bloom.

Newcomer's Guide to Gardening in the San Luis Valley

By EMILY FOLZ
CSU Extension —
Colorado Master Gardener

SAN LUIS VALLEY

Welcome to the Newcomer's Guide to Gardening in the San Luis Valley! I'm Emily Folz, a gardening enthusiast and newcomer to the Valley. I'm quickly learning that gardening here has unique challenges I haven't encountered before. I have a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Colorado College. Hailing most recently from Kentucky and North Carolina, I've spent the last few decades gardening in low elevation locations with hot summers, mild winters, long growing seasons, and ample rain. Getting things to grow has been fairly easy!

knowledge base, I completed the Colorado master gardener program last year. As a friend told me when I finished it, "You've got a lot of book knowledge. Now you just need to put something in the ground!"

Working with the great folks at the CSU Extension office in Monte Vista and the very knowledgeable Colorado master gardeners here in the valley, I hope to share the useful information I learn about gardening in beautiful SLV. I also hope to tap into and share the knowledge, experience, and expertise of the many gardeners in the Valley. If you are new to gardening or, like me, new to the valley, this is a place to ask questions to get started on your gardening journey. If you've been gardening here for a while, I'd love to hear about your tricks and tips, your successes, and even your failures. And, best of all, I'd love to see your photos!

But first, full disclosure. I am a lazy gardener. I love planting summer annuals in June, knowing they'll continue to bloom until the first frost. I love to see flowering shrubs come to life despite a bit of neglect. I am surprised each year

when perennials rise from their winter bed and fill my garden with color when I've done nothing to deserve it. Last June, I saw a lilac bush off Hwy 160 in full, glorious bloom. Given its location, I suspect it hasn't been tended to for years. That is my kind of plant! And I was delighted last June when wild iris, golden banner, and lilacs came to life near my house.

I love getting my hands dirty in the garden but only when there are no mosquitoes about. This may pose a bit of a problem....

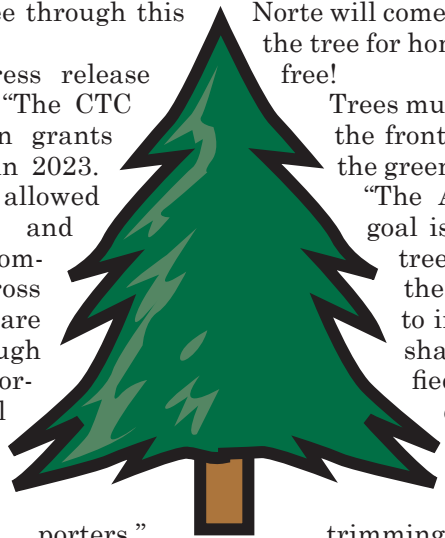
Whether you are just beginning or you've struggled a bit like we all have, gardening is meant to be enjoyable. And whether you spend one afternoon planting annuals or a full summer cultivating vegetables, gardening can fit your lifestyle. I've come to celebrate the fact that I can be a lazy gardener and have a beautiful garden anyway. I'm looking forward to learning more about gardening here with you!

Have a gardening question or comment? Have a suggestion for what I should plant first? Please send me an email at: SLVgardening@gmail.com.

Del Norte community invited to adopt a tree

By LYNDIE FERRELL

DEL NORTE — The Town of Del Norte recently announced that it was awarded funding through the Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) in the amount of \$3,000 and is inviting homeowners to come and adopt a tree through this free program.



According to a press release issued by the town, "The CTC awarded \$113,463 in grants to 29 organizations in 2023. These grant projects allowed recipients to plant and manage trees in the community forests across Colorado. Grants are made possible through the Colorado State Forest Service, the Xcel Energy Foundation, Colorado Public Radio and out CTC members and supporters." The town will be using half of the funding to continue work on their tree trimming program and the other half to purchase 12 trees of varying types. According to the town, they will be buying 12, 15-gallon trees such as Maple, Hackberry, no thorn Honey Locust, Kentucky Coffee Trees and more.

Homeowners who are awarded the tree will need to commit to caring for the tree as long as they own their home. The best part about the program is that the Town of Del Norte will come dig the hole and plant the tree for homeowners! And it is all free!

Trees must be planted either on the front of the property or on the green belt facing the street.

"The Adopt-a-Tree project's goal is to plant a variety of tree species throughout the town's neighborhoods to increase tree diversity, shade and beauty. Qualified homeowners must commit to their tree's ongoing care which will include watering, fertilizing and trimming the tree as necessary."

Through the program, the town hopes to plant four of the trees purchased on April 25 in honor of Arbor Day which is April 26 this year. Homeowners can visit the Del Norte Town Hall, 140 Spruce St., during business hours, which are Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. or call 719-657-2708, for more information.

Here's Your Sign!

We can fill it for you.
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719-589-2553

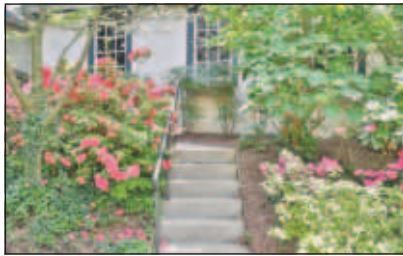


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Newcomer's Guide to Gardening in the San Luis Valley

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Latest MaxPreps track and field rankings

— Page 6



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Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

April 19, 2024

\$1

Grizzlies celebrate championships



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

The ASU team national championship and individual awards for this year's NCAA Division II women's national championship and the men's third-place team.

ASU track and cross country honored for 60 national titles

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA — Adams State University celebrated the school's track and cross country programs for a milestone in national championships.

With the ASU women's indoor track and field team claiming the NCAA Division II national championships, that makes it

60 for the school.

It was also the women's second straight indoor national title.

"It's incredible," said ASU coach Damon Martin. "When I look back, it's hard to believe that we could have ever dreamed such big thoughts. Yet the kids every year have worked hard, and the university has supported us. With the coaching staff that we have, it's amazing what we have accomplished all of those years."

The breakdown of the national championships by program are as follows:

- Men's cross country — 25 — 12 NAIA and 13 NCAA Division II

- Women's cross country — 23 — 3 NAIA and 20 NCAA Division II

- Men's indoor track and field — 4 — 2 NAIA and 2 NCAA Division II

- Women's Indoor track and field — 7 — 1 NAIA and six NCAA Division II

- Men's outdoor track and field — 1 overall — NCAA Division II

Of the 60 national championships, 42 have been coached by

■ See GRIZZLIES page 3

SLV Today

Alamosa Visitor Center grand opening this afternoon

SAN LUIS VALLEY— The Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge will host an open house of its new visitor center on Friday, April 19 from 4 to 6 p.m. There will be a guided tour of the refuge from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The new visitor center is located in the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters building at 7824 El Rancho Lane, east of Alamosa off Highway 160.

Alamosa bird walk on Saturday

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The Friends of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuges will host a free bird walk on Saturday at 8 a.m. The walk will start at the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center at 7824 El Rancho Lane, east of Alamosa. Be ready to hike, bring binoculars, and dress for the weather. The walk will end at about noon.

SLV WEATHER



Mostly Sunny, Breezy 71/28

Sat: Chance of Showers, Breezy 66/28

Sun: Slight Chance of Showers, Breezy 68/34

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Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Ribbons of Courage presented to Alamosa County Sheriff's Office in recognition of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Pictured left to right: Brenda Majera, victim advocate; Lani Welch, founder of Ribbons of Courage; ACSO Deputy Shelly Rodman; Jade Garbizo, ACSO victim advocate, and Larry Garner, Board President, Ribbons of Courage.

Alamosa Sheriff's Office supports victim rights

Alamosa Sheriff's Office supports victim rights

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — In what is becoming an annual event, Ribbons of Courage, a local non-profit started by Lani Welch, traveled throughout the Valley this week, meeting with members of law enforcement and presenting them with symbols

of the organization — actual ribbons of courage — in recognition for their hard work in defending victims and victims' rights.

Welch was the first individual in the San Luis Valley to call attention to the victims' rights violations being committed by the previous DA, which prompted the campaign to recall former DA Alonzo Payne.

The event is being held in honor of National Crime Victims' Rights Week that runs from April 21-27. Those who receive the ribbons are being asked to wear them during this time.

On Wednesday, Welch and Ribbons of Courage Board President Larry Garner met with Brenda Majera and Jade Garbizo, victims' advocates working at the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office, prior to presenting them with the ribbons.

Majera, who was a victim of domestic violence herself and has been on the job for about two years, discussed how emotionally challenging it can be at times, but the rewards far outweigh the challenges.

"We try to be there on scene

■ See COURAGE page 3

City council tables ordinance banning deadly weapons in open spaces

Issue to be re-examined following additional staff work

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — In Wednesday's meeting, members of Alamosa's City Council had a second reading — and took a second look — at "Ordinance No. 4-2024, an ordinance approving official hours for public use of City of Alamosa Parks and open space and prohibiting deadly weapons in all parks, open space, and recreation facilities".

The ordinance bans anyone — outside of law enforcement and those permitted to do so — carrying deadly weapons in all city parks, recreation facilities and open spaces.

While all were in favor of the ordinance following the first reading during the April 3 meeting, Councilor Jamie Dominguez voiced some hesitation over the banning of individuals, who do not have concealed weapons permits, carrying deadly weapons in more remote areas where they might be walking or running and would be particularly vulnerable.

■ See COUNCIL page 3

ASU Chamber Choir Concert and Valley Community Concert Choir will perform in Alamosa tonight

Work by Colorado composer for Valley choral group to be performed

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — The voices of the Adams State Chamber Choir and the Valley Community Concert Choir (VCCC) will take to the stage at Richardson Hall on the Adams State University campus in a concert tonight.

The performance will begin with the Valley Community Choir singing a

■ See CONCERT page 3



Courier photo by John Waters

David Schneider, center, directs the Valley Community Concert Choir in a rehearsal for the Friday, April 19, joint concert with the Adams State Chamber Choir. The concert will be at Richardson Hall at 7 p.m.

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Public Notices

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 1, 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.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Colorado State Statute No. 83-21-1. Storage Units having given proper notice to the parties of the storage unit herein stated at their last known address, shall dispose of all property in said unit. Said disposal shall be any time after the April 26, 2024. Contents of storage units M & M Storages to be disposed is #24 Jerel Valdez #19 Robert Redd, Apple Tree Storage #83 Vernon Mott.

No. 3898.

Published in the Valley Courier on April 12 & 19, 2024.

South Conejos School District is seeking sealed bids for the sale of:

2002 Chevy Suburban 6.0 engine, 4WD w/ Snow Plow, 172,141 miles.

2003 Blue Bird 65 Passenger Bus: DT466e engine and automatic transmission, 202,442 miles.

For Inquiries, please call: 719-376-7007. Sealed bids can be sent to eobrien@southconejos.com. All bids must be received by 2:00 p.m. on April 30, 2024. Bids received after this date and time will not be considered. The South Conejos School District reserves the right to reject any and all bids if deemed to be in the best interest of the District.

No. 3899.

Published in the Valley Courier on April 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, & 30, 2024.

NOTICE

The Town of Antonio is now accepting letters of interest to fill one (1) vacant board seat for a Trustee of the Town of Antonio. The Trustee position will be appointed to fill this seat until the next regular municipal election. To be eligible to serve as a Trustee you must be a registered voter, and have resided in the Town of Antonio for at least 12 consecutive months preceding the date of the last municipal election. Please submit a letter of interest to the Town Clerk at the Town Hall, 515 River St., Antonio, CO or mail to PO Box 86, Antonio, CO 81120 by May 6th, 2024 to be considered.

Stephanie Trujillo Rossi D. Duran
Town Clerk Administrator
(719)376-2355 (719)298-6114
P.O. Box 86 515 River St.
Antonio, CO 81120
No. 3903.

Published in the Valley Courier on April 19, 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-3

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF LA JARA, COLORADO DESIGNATING SITE SELECTION AND CONSTRUCTION OF MAJOR NEW DOMESTIC WATER SYSTEMS AND MAJOR EXTENSIONS OF EXISTING DOMESTIC WATER SYSTEMS AND MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL WATER PROJECTS AS ACTIVITIES OF STATE INTEREST

No. 3907.

Published in the Valley Courier on April 19, 2024.

ORDINANCE #2024-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF LA JARA AMENDING SECTION 34.01 AND 34.02 OF THE LA JARA CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO WRITE IN CANDIDATES AND CANCELLATION OF ELECTIONS

No. 3908.

Published in the Valley Courier on April 19, 2024.

ORDINANCE 2024-2

AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING CODIFICATION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE TOWN CODE, CONCERNING "PUBLICATION BY TITLE ONLY" OF TOWN ORDINANCES

No. 3909.

Published in the Valley Courier on April 19, 2024.

173 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

221 - HELP WANTED

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ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for an ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN III position in the ASU Finance Office. Starting salary for this position is \$4,033 per month. For application or more information, please see <https://www.adams.edu/hr/employment/>. AA/EOE. (4/24/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

MILAGROS IS SEEKING a highly motivated and compassionate individual for the position of **COFFEE SHOP MANAGER**. MILAGROS COFFEE SHOP serves the community quality goods while fostering a comfortable environment for people to spend time and connect with others. Milagros is an interface for the public to learn about and engage in the mission and work of La Puente, as well as local artisans and support other small businesses. Come join this team of amazing and passionate people and contribute to a mission that betters the community. This is a full-time 40hr/week position with benefits and base salary starting at \$42K-\$45K DOE, plus tips, plus a monthly commission. To apply, email your cover letter and resume to: hr@lapuente.net. (99/99/24)

TU CASA, INC. is hiring a VICTIM ADVOCATE. Have you ever wanted to help people and/or serve your community, this may be the position for you. This is a full-time (36 hr./week) position with a starting salary of \$35,800 with the possibility of being more depending on experience and education. We are asking for someone who is willing to commit at least two years or more to the position as it is important to gain the trust of the community. Speaking Spanish is a plus, but is not required. Tu Casa, Inc. offers health insurance, a simple IRA plan, and paid leave. We have an amazing winter break and are flexible to the needs of working parents. This position offers the opportunity to develop and coordinate services throughout the entire San Luis Valley. This position will give you an opportunity to work with other agencies who serve victims and survivors in the San Luis Valley community. This position prefers a BA in a sociology, psychology or related field or at least 3 years' experience (advocacy to those who have experienced traumatic events or abuse). This position offers an opportunity to work with professionals from a variety of fields (law enforcement, social services, medical professionals, other advocacy systems, etc.), while providing vital advocacy support to people who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and stalking. It is a challenging yet rewarding position. If you have experience working with people who are experiencing trauma or are in crisis, then you may be a great fit for the organization. If you are someone who would like to make a difference in your community, then we would like to hear from you. Please visit the Tu Casa, Inc. website; www.slvtcasa.net for a detailed job description. To apply, please send a cover letter and resumé to Theresa Ortega at theresa@slvtcasa.net. If you have any questions, please call (719) 589-2465 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 a.m. Applicants will be accepted until the position is filled. (5/8/24)

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

221 - HELP WANTED

221 - HELP WANTED

FULL-TIME SALES

- Competitive Draw
- Commission
- Benefits

Contact Keith at the Valley Courier

(719) 589-2553

kcerny@alamosanews.com

221 - HELP WANTED

LOOKING FOR A rewarding and fulfilling career? Are you a positive, self-motivated individual? Consider a career with the MONTE VISTA HEAD START. FISCAL OFFICER is responsible for the fiscal management and fiscal reporting to the Office of Head Start and the Grantee Board. Must be proficient in QuickBooks and Microsoft office applications. Qualifications are: Experience in business or fiscal management, BA accounting, Business Management or related field. Salary between \$47,000 and \$52,000 depending on education and experience. Year round position, 5 weeks paid holidays breaks, 10 hours sick/vacation per month, simple IRA, HSA account available. For more information, you may contact the director at director@mtheadstart.org or call 719-852-3215. Positions opened until filled. (4/26/24)

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

ALAMOSASCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for the 2024-2025 School Year. EL TEACHER at ALAMOSASCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL. Applicant must have or be able to obtain a Colorado Teacher License with an endorsement in ENGLISH LEARNER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org/>. For more information, please contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (4/24/24)

ALAMOSASCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for the 2024-2025 School Year. CLASSROOM TEACHER at AES K-2. Applicant must have or be able to obtain a Colorado Teacher License with an endorsement in ENGLISH LEARNER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org/>. For more information, please contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (4/24/24)

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

ALAMOSASCHOOL DISTRICT is now accepting applications for the following position: MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS/RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION COORDINATOR. Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org/> For more information, contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600 or tvigil@alamosaschools.org. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (4/24/24)

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

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

ALAMOSASCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for the 2024-2025 School Year. CLASSROOM TEACHER at AES 3-5. Applicant must have or be able to obtain a Colorado Teacher License with an endorsement in ELEMENTARY EDUCATION K-6. Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org/>. For more information, please contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (4/24/24)

NOTICE

Alamosa School District RE11J
Mailing Address: Ortega Middle School, 401 Victoria Ave, Alamosa, CO 81101
Physical Address: Administration Office, 403 Santa Fe Ave, Alamosa CO 81101
Tel: 719-587-1600
Fax: 719-587-1721

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

PRIME VENDOR/DISTRIBUTOR - SCHOOL FOOD AND PAPER GOOD SUPPLIES 2024-2025 Year

Complete Request for Proposal documents and instructions can be found on the Alamosa School District Website: www.alamosaschools.org under Foodservice Department, Food Bid Folder.

DATE PROPOSALS ARE DUE: Wednesday, April 24th, @ 2:00PM

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotype, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail;
- 2.
- 3.

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or fax:
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or email:
program.intake@usda.gov
No. 3874.

Published in the Valley Courier on April 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, & 23, 2024.

District Court Denver Probate Court

Rio Grande County, Colorado
Court Address: 925 6th Street
Del Norte, CO 81132
In the Matter of the Estate of Sharon Ann Adams
Deceased
COURT USE ONLY
Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address): Eugene L. Farish
739 First Avenue
Monte Vista, CO 81144
Phone Number: 719-852-5101 E-mail: gene@farishlaw.com
FAX Number: 719-852-4833 Atty. Reg. #: 2557
Case Number: 2024PR030003
Division Courtroom
NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-12-801, C.R.S.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Sharon Ann Adams, Deceased Case Number 2024PR030003

All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to X District Court of Rio Grande, County, Colorado or Denver Probate Court of the City and County of Denver, Colorado on or before August 10, 2024(date)*, or the claims may be forever barred.

*Kerry David Adams, Personal Representative
*Type or Print name of Person Giving Notice
1487 E. County Rd. 4 N
Address:
Monte Vista, CO 81144
City, State, Zip Code
No. 3880.

Published in the Valley Courier on April 5, 12, & 19, 2024.

ATTENTION GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

The Saguache County Board of County Commissioners are accepting scholarship applications for graduating seniors who will be graduating high school in 2024.

Commissioners will be awarding graduating seniors' college scholarships that will be paid through the Marijuana Excise Tax funds.

Scholarships may be used at a trade school, college or university but you must reside in Saguache County to apply and possibly receive scholarship funds.

Applications are due by Wednesday, May 1, 2024 and are available through our website at www.saguachecounty.co.gov to download the application or by contacting Wendell Maez at 719-655-2231 or by email at wmaz@saguachecounty-co.gov.

No. 3892.

Published in the Valley Courier on April 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30, & May 3, 2024.

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*Rules apply. Visit Ohkay Winners Club for details.

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(Serving until 9:00 p.m.)

MORE Ways to Win!

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

ALAMOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for the 2024-2025 School Year. HOME ECONOMICS TEACHER. Applicant must have or be able to obtain a Colorado Teacher License with an endorsement in FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE. Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org/>. For more information, please contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (4/24/24)

ALAMOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for the 2024-2025 School Year. BUSINESS INSTRUCTIONAL TEACHER at ORTEGA MIDDLE SCHOOL. Applicant must have or be able to obtain a Colorado Teacher License with an endorsement in CTE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY. Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org/>. For more information, please contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (4/24/24)

ALAMOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT is now accepting applications for the following positions: TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT DISTRICT WIDE. Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org/>. For more information, contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (4/24/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

ALAMOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT is now accepting applications for the 2024-2025 School Year. LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER at ORTEGA MIDDLE SCHOOL. Applicant must have or be able to obtain a Colorado Teacher License with an endorsement in LANGUAGE ARTS. Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org/>. For more information, please contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (4/24/24)

ALAMOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for the 2024-2025 School Year. SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER at ORTEGA MIDDLE SCHOOL. Applicant must have or be able to obtain a Colorado Teacher License with an endorsement in SPECIAL EDUCATION. Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org/>. For more information, please contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (4/24/24)

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

221 - HELP WANTED

ALAMOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT is now accepting applications for the following positions: Assistant TRACK COACH, Assistant VOLLEYBALL COACH, Assistant CROSS COUNTRY COACH, Head CHEERLEADING COACH, Head GYMNASIAC COACH at ALAMOSA HIGH SCHOOL. Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org/>. For more information, contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (4/24/24)

ALAMOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for the 2024-2025 School Year. ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AES 3-5. Applicant must have or be able to obtain a Colorado Teacher License with an endorsement in SCHOOL PRINCIPAL (K-12). Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org/>. For more information, please contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (4/24/24)

CAPULINDITCH CO. is looking for a DITCH RIDER for the 2024 season- approx. Mid April through September. Pay is a set amount per day worked. For more information please contact Joseph Valdez at: 719-274-5109 (La Jara Pharm.) Or 719-588-2585. (4/20/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

221 - HELP WANTED

CONEJOS COUNTY IS seeking a HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR / DRIVER / LABORER. Applicant must be able to operate a loader, grader, belly dump, and drive a semi, must have a class A Commercial Driver's License, clean driving record and pass a pre-employment drug screen. Pay is \$19.91/hr \$41,412.80 annually. County application form required. Applications available at conejoscounty.colorado.gov or via email upon request at criccic@co.conejos.co.us. Inquiries call 719-376-6799. Deadline 04/22/24. (4/20/24)

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

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

221 - HELP WANTED

FULL-TIME MAINTENANCE PERSON needed for apartment complex in MONTE VISTA. Interested persons need to have a minimum 2 years maintenance experience, valid driver's license, clean background check and pass a drug test. Maintenance duties include but not limited to minor plumbing & electrical, grounds keeping, maintaining buildings & common areas, and painting, etc. Interested persons should pick up an application at 551 Monroe Street, Monte Vista, CO 81144. If any questions or further information is needed, please call 719-852-5505 or send resume to mva04@yahoo.com Attn: Alonzo. Equal Employment Opportunity Provider and Employer. (4/20/24)

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

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

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

221 - HELP WANTED

ALAMOSASCHOOL DISTRICT is now accepting applications for the following positions: REGISTRAR/GUIDANCE OFFICE SECRETARY, and ENTRY CONTROL & BUILDING SECURITY at AHS. Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org/>. For more information, contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (4/24/24)

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)

NOTICE OF JOB OPENING FOR STAKING ENGINEER. SAN LUIS VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC., located at 3625 US Hwy 160 W, MONTE VISTA, Colorado currently has an open position for a Staking Engineer. Work hours are Monday - Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., forty hours/week plus additional time as duties require. Responsible for communications with stakeholders, developing best value construction standards, producing accurate 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)

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. FISCAL OFFICER is responsible for the fiscal management and fiscal reporting to the Office of Head Start and the Grantee Board. Must be proficient in QuickBooks and Microsoft office applications. Qualifications are: Experience in business or fiscal management, BA accounting, Business Management or related field. For more information, you may contact the director at director@mvheadstart.org or call 719-852-3215. Positions opened until filled. (4/26/24)

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

221 - HELP WANTED

OUTREACH ASSISTANT, SAN LUIS VALLEY LOCAL FOODS COALITION seeks an LFLP OUTREACH COORDINATOR. Strong communication and computer skills are required. Submit your resume and cover letter to opportunity.slvlocalfoods@gmail.com. Additional requirements can be found at www.slvlocalfoods.org/jobs/. (5/1/24)

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

PART-TIME MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN/PARKS & RECREATION TECHNICIAN: Part-Time Hourly 15-20 hours; Pay rate \$14.42/hour. Job Description: We are seeking a skilled and dedicated Part-Time Maintenance Technician/Parks and Recreation Technician to join our team in maintaining and enhancing the beauty and functionality of our town's parks and recreational areas. As a vital member of our community, you will be responsible for ensuring the upkeep, safety, and cleanliness of our parks, playgrounds, and town buildings and facilities. To apply, submit a resume to townofromeo@gmail.com or come in during office hours Tuesday or Thursday 9 to 3 for application. You can call 719-843-5785 for more information. (4/26/24)

DEPUTY CLERK; PART-TIME Hourly 15-20 hours, Tuesday-Thursday and some Fridays; Pay Rate \$14.42. Position Overview/Job Description: We are seeking a diligent and organized individual to join our team as a Part-Time Deputy Clerk for our small town. The Deputy Clerk will work closely with the Town Clerk and other municipal staff to ensure the efficient operation of administrative tasks and provide support in various municipal functions. This position offers an excellent opportunity for someone who is detail-oriented, community-focused, and eager to contribute to the smooth functioning of local government. To apply, submit a resume to townofromeo@gmail.com or come in during office hours Tuesday or Thursday 9 to 3 for application. You can call 719-843-5785 for more information. (4/26/24)

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for a SPECIAL EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL 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. (4/30/24)

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

221 - HELP WANTED

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26It 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)

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 jtjtimber.com to apply. (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)

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)

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

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

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)

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.com or contact Amy at 719-657-4050. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co. (4/30/24)

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)

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; Referral 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

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

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

SUBSTITUTES TEACHERS NEEDED at the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT in DEL NORTE! Call or email: Sophia at 719-657-4040, x4000 (scruz@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)

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 at 719-754-2043. (4/30/24)

304 - LAWN & GARDEN

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

307 - APPLIANCES

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

324 - SEED & FEED

HORSE & COW HAY: GRASS, GRASS/ALFALFA, ALFALFA. 3x3 bales, various quality and pricing. 719-850-8917. (4/24/24AS-monthly)

341 - GARAGE SALE

GARAGE SALE/ MOVING SALE: 703 Lee Dr., ALAMOSA. 7am-5pm. (4/20/24)

345 - WOOD

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

347 - HOUSEHOLD GOODS

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

353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

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)

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

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

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

500+ VINYL 50'S & 60'S, rock-n-roll and country. \$5 each. Call 719-589-4445. (4/24/24)

SMALL SEARS ROTOTILLER, \$100. Call 719-589-4445. (4/24/24)

368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

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

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

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

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

420 - LOTS & ACREAGES

160 ACRES W/ well, electric, and road. SAGUACHE COUNTY. \$80,000. 719-221-0825. (4/20/24)

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

426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

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

525 - GUNS

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

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)

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



FEEL LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER?

New in town?

Get acquainted with all it has to offer by ordering a subscription to the

Valley Courier
719-589-2553

Where To Shop!
Where To Dine!
Community Bulletin Board!
Professional Services!
...And more!



Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 At the drop of a —
 - 4 Trophy
 - 9 Tax pro
 - 12 Pub pint
 - 13 Appraisal number
 - 14 Sprinted
 - 15 Pirates' quaff
 - 16 Immigrants' island
 - 17 "Name of the Rose" author Umberto —
 - 18 Significance
 - 20 Bit
 - 22 Small amphibian
 - 23 Glove material
 - 24 Old laborer
 - 26 Stains
 - 29 Get more mellow
 - 30 Actor —
 - 31 Football
 - 35 Luke Skywalker's mentor
- DOWN**
- 1 Spy
 - 2 Grad
 - 3 Moderated
 - 4 Ward off
 - 5 Poet —
 - Whitman

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 6 "Jingle — the Way"
- 7 Drive into bankruptcy
- 8 Stop
- 9 Thin pancake
- 10 Walked nervously
- 11 Cell terminal
- 19 "Knock your socks —!"
- 21 "— in Boots"
- 24 Recite
- 25 — ideal
- 26 Trouble— some tot
- 27 Moos
- 28 Do as told
- 32 Appreciative
- 33 Tall bird
- 34 Planter
- 36 Aid and —
- 40 Chooses
- 41 Chinese "way"
- 42 Maxim
- 43 Force back
- 44 Secret info
- 45 Number of Little Pigs
- 47 Ill-boding
- 48 Type style
- 49 Where
- Dublin is
- 50 "Biggest Little City"
- 53 Type of booze

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

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN

"They know it's feeding time in 10 minutes."

Wedding planning shifts to a cousin's appearance

DEAR ABBY: I have a 25-year-old niece, "Meadow," who embraces the hippie lifestyle. She's kind and sweet and loves everyone. She has also opposed "the Establishment." She's heavily tattooed and has several facial piercings and thick underarm hair.

My son is the complete opposite. He is in the business world and is very professional in his manner and dress. He's getting married in three months to a lovely girl. Meadow is invited because she wanted to come. My son is nervous about her coming to the wedding. He doesn't know Meadow that well. They were close as kids but haven't seen much of each other in adulthood.

My son is worried Meadow will wear an outfit that will display the tattoos and her bushy underarm hair. He's afraid she will be a spectacle, and her appearance will become the focus of the wedding and not his lovely bride. He's also worried someone will ridicule or comment about Meadow, and he will then have to defend her, causing a disruption. None of us are close to Meadow or feel comfortable with her appearance. How do we handle her presence at the wedding? -- CONFORMING IN CAROLINA

DEAR CONFORMING: Excuse me. Who invited this counter-culture cousin to the wedding? The time to have raised these issues was before the invitations were sent out. If Meadow is already invited, it would be terrible to disinvite her.

If someone comments on her appearance, I'm sure it won't be the first time she has heard it. If it happens, resist the urge to rush to her defense. Simply explain calmly that Meadow is there because she's family. (It's the truth.) As to her upstaging your son's bride, that won't happen if Meadow is seated at a distance from the altar.

DEAR ABBY: I've been regularly attending exercise classes that are offered with the membership at my gym. One of the classes I particularly enjoy is taught by a very good instructor who is friendly and welcoming. She makes a point of speaking to everyone in attendance.

I have noticed over the last few weeks she has become decidedly unfriendly toward me. She avoids speaking to me, even though she speaks to everyone else in the class. This has been upsetting, and I realize I'm becoming depressed about it. I am not aware of anything



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

I have done to provoke this.

Should I ask her if there was something I did to offend? Should I say nothing and continue attending her classes? Or should I just join other classes that are offered at my gym? I occasionally see her participating in other exercise classes I attend, and sometimes we are in the gym working out at the same time.

-- ALIENATED GYM GUY IN GEORGIA

DEAR GYM GUY: I am a firm believer in the adage, "seek and ye shall find." Because this teacher seems to have cooled to you and you alone, pose that question. Then be prepared for an honest answer.

ALLEY OOP

I GET THE FEELING I SHOULDN'T TOUCH THAT THING.

THAT'S A GOOD INSTINCT, ALLEY. YOU SHOULDN'T TOUCH ANYTHING, EVER.

NOW, I, ON THE OTHER HAND, WITH MY DECADES OF SCIENTIFIC LEARNING, KNOW HOW TO PROPERLY APPROACH AN UNKNOWN OBJECT.

AND THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD LEAVE TECHNOLOGY TO THE EXPERTS.

20 ... 19 ... 18 ...

I'M NO EXPERT, BUT IF YOU WERE TRYING TO MAKE IT COUNT DOWN, MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

ARLO & JANIS

AHCHOO!!

DARU POLLEN!

BIG NATE

WHY DO WE ALWAYS HAVE A STUPID TEAM NAME?

WHY CAN'T WE BE SOMETHING STRONG-SOUNDING, LIKE THE LIONS OR THE GIANTS? WHY THE JELLYFISH?

ONE TIME I WAS TAKING A TEST AND THE ANSWER TO ONE OF THE QUESTIONS WAS "JELLYFISH," BUT I WAS THINKING OF DONUTS AT THE TIME, SO I WROTE "JELLY-FILLED."

I GOT PARTIAL CREDIT!

SUPER HELPFUL, THANKS, CHAD.

THE BORN LOSER

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE OLD, UNCLE TED?

I DON'T THINK OF MYSELF AS BEING OLD...

I PREFER TO SAY THAT I'M FORMERLY YOUNG!

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

I WENT BACK DOWN TO THE RIVER, AND I WRAPPED HIM IN A BLANKET.

ELIZABETH AND I PUT HIM IN THE CAR AND DROVE INTO TOWN.

THE VETERINARIAN SAID IT WAS HIS HEART. HE SAID THAT THE COLD AND THE STRESS WERE TOO MUCH FOR HIM.

FARLEY WAS AN OLD DOG, JOHN.

... BUT I DIDN'T THINK THAT A HEART SO BIG WOULD EVER STOP BEATING.

FRANK & ERNEST

PERSONNEL

WE DON'T HIRE "YES" MEN.

OH! I WOULD NEVER STOOP TO CONCUR!

GARFIELD

BURP! BURP! BURP! BURP!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT EVERY TIME YOU VISIT

BUT IT'S MY WALK-UP SONG!

THE GRIZZWELLS

YOU'VE BEEN ON THAT COMPUTER ALL DAY

I'M TRYING TO FIND A CURE FOR MY MEDICAL CONDITION

WHAT CONDITION?

CARPAL TUNNEL SYNDROME FROM BEING ON THE COMPUTER TOO MUCH

PEANUTS

CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP

CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP

MAY DAY! MAY DAY!