



Mineral County Sheriff receives Shield616 vests



Several SLV track athletes ranked by Max Preps



Today's Issue Sponsored By:



SLV Transportation Red Willows, INC.

VOLUME 98, NO. 58

Valley Courier

FRIDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

April 12, 2024

\$1

SLV Today

Construction of several Southwest CO chain stations to begin April 15

SOUTHWEST COLORADO — The Colorado Department of Transportation, with its contract partner, Williams Construction, will begin work on the region-wide chain station improvements project to help ensure that commercial drivers have a safe location to chain up or down while traveling in the high country. Work will begin in mid-April along several mountain passes in Archuleta, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, San Miguel, and Mineral counties. The traveling public can expect daytime shoulder closures. The project is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2024. Project work consists of chain station improvements on:

- CO 145: Lizard Head Pass (Mile Points 67 -69)
- CO 145: Lawson Hill near Telluride (MP 70 - 72)
- US 160: Wolf Creek Pass (MP 172 - 174)
- US 160: La Veta Pass (MP 275 - 277)
- US 50: Monarch Pass (MP 208 - 210)
- CO 17: Cumbres Pass (MP 0 - 1)

"During adverse winter driving conditions, commercial drivers will now have a safe retreat to put chains on their tires," said Regional Transportation Director Julie Constan. "Additionally, these critical safety features along our mountain passes will encourage driver to use chains and be in compliance with Colorado's chain law."

In addition to chain stations, two new permanent electronic message signs (VMS boards) will be installed in Saguache near the junction of US 285 and CO 114.

Traffic Impacts
Motorists and area residents can expect the following impacts during construction:

- Work will occur during daytime hours, Monday through Friday
 - Single lane closures and shoulder closures will take place within the work zone
 - Reduced speeds in the work zone
 - Plan ahead and expect brief delays
 - Construction schedules are weather dependent
- Project Information
For additional information about this project:
- Webpage: www.codot.gov/projects/swcochainstations
 - Information hotline: 970-368-3819
 - Email: us160chainstation@gmail.com

SLV WEATHER

Sunny, Breezy 71/32

Sat: Sunny, Breezy 69/29

Sun: Sunny, Breezy 68/30

INSIDE

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

Kathy Park Woolbert: A tribute to an extraordinary woman

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

On Monday, April 8, at 5:30 p.m., Kathy Park Woolbert passed away at home in her bed with her best friend, partner, collaborator, soulmate and husband, Henry, at her side. It was the day of the solar eclipse, which somehow seems so fitting.

"Kathy Park has gone over to the other side to join the herd," says Henry.

■ See **TRIBUTE** page 3

Photo Kathy Park took of herself on Panamint Overlook in California, circa 1981. First appeared in "Fifty years of sculpture: A retrospective from 1969 to 2021" exhibit at ASU.

Courtesy Henry Woolbert



Alamosa named nation's 'Best Small Town Cultural Scene' by USA TODAY

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — After a month of community involvement in casting daily votes preceded by a rather stunning and highly competitive nomination process, USA TODAY announced that Alamosa has been named the winner of the "2024 USA Today 10BEST Readers' Choice award for Best Small Town Cultural Scene".

"We're definitely excited," says Kale Mortensen, executive director of Visit Alamosa who was informed of the victory. "We're also not surprised. We're proud of our website and proud of our team and what we're able to accomplish. But we're also given such great resources with the community that we're able to showcase — all these partners and the non-profits, like Society Hall and the Rio Grande Farm Park and too many others to name. This really is a community win. And that's why we think this is really the best category — Best Small Town Cultural Scene. It's everyone in the community who creates this sense of place and this culture."

■ See **BEST** page 3



Courtesy of Visit Alamosa

Alamosa was named the nation's 'Best Small Town Cultural Scene' by USA TODAY. Criteria used to nominate towns included a population of under 25,000 and outstanding examples of cultural attractions such as museums, art galleries, performing arts and a strong collection of local events.

Fort Garland Museum receives reaccreditation

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

FORT GARLAND — History Colorado and its six venues, including the Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center have been reaccredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

The prestigious distinction is made to only about three percent of museums nationally, and History Colorado has been accredited since 1972.

In a statement History Colorado said, "This is a

■ See **MUSEUM** page 3

The Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center has been reaccredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

Courier photo by John Waters



Emergency services dispatch employees celebrated

By REYNA MARTINEZ

USA — April 14-21 is National Public Safety Telecommunications Week, also known as Dispatch Week.

On April 10, Alamosa County Commissioners presented a proclamation to local Colorado State Patrol Dispatchers. The team is unique as they are one of the few in Colorado that dispatch for EMS, law enforcement and fire departments. They dispatch for six counties and multiple agencies of first responders.

■ See **CELEBRATE** page 3

Left to right, Commissioner Vern Heersink, Commissioner Van Ry, Melanie Teem, Dispatcher, Sean Garcia, Dispatcher, Cameron Decker, Communication Director Sandra Youngs, Emergency Supervisor, Commissioner Lori Laske, Reyna Martinez — SLV RETAC coordinator.

Courtesy photo



ALAMOSA STATE BANK
A Real Community Bank®
Local Ownership. Local Commitment.

SERVING THE SLV FOR 117 YEARS!

589-2564 | www.alamosastatebank.com



Record

OBITUARIES

Ivin Jake Chavez

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

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

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

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

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

Described by those who knew him as kind, loving, and thoughtful. Ivin was a quiet, soft-spoken young man whose beautiful smile could light up a room. His caring spirit and gentle ways left a lasting impact on the hearts of those fortunate enough to have crossed his path. Ivin's gentle presence and warm smile were a



blessing to all who knew him throughout his 24 years of life.

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

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

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

Shawna Rae (Varner) Jones

On April 1, 2024, Shawna Rae (Varner) Jones passed from this world into her heavenly home where she will now watch over all those she loved and treasured. Shawna had a personal relationship with Jesus and this brings much comfort to us all as we know we will be together again.

Shawna was born in Monte Vista, Colo., on May 25, 1975, to John and Sandra (Bryant) Varner, where she was welcomed home by her sister, Christy (Varner) Brady (Bert).

Her maternal Grandparents were Pete and Becky Bryant and her paternal Grandparents were Warren and Julia Varner.

Shawna was married to Mark Edward Jones, who remained her friend. Shawna was the very, very proud mother, friend, and confidant of her children, Tucker Lee Jones and Payton Makenzie Jones. They were the pride and joy of her life. Shawna also had a special relationship with Ethan, Emily, and Avery Ellithorpe and Baylor Phenix. All of whom she loved dearly. Her home was always open to kids who needed a little chill time, a little encouragement, a lot of fun, and unconditional acceptance.

Shawna also leaves behind her aunts and uncles, Tom and Sallie Hibbs; Virgil and Doris Varner; Elaine Varner; and Charles Bryant Jr., many adored nephews and nieces, cousins, a great family of in-laws, a slew of friends and her very loved Great Dane, Maddie.

Shawna was fun loving and full of energy from the start and would make friends wherever she went. She marched to the beat of her own drums while always reaching out to help others however she could. What she and her sister, Christy, could not think of to do, she and her friends certainly did.

Shawna would defend and stand behind those she loved, even when no one else did. Anyone who knew Shawna quickly learned that she was a hard worker, gen-



uine, friendly and openly welcoming to others, sincere, very mischievous and ornery. Even her nurses and doctors got to experience the twinkle in her eye, a wink, and an ornery little smile as she teased them about something, even in the last days of her life.

Shawna excelled in gymnastics in school. She loved riding horses, especially her horse, Mr. Tibbs. She was always strong and could not wrestle many of the boys in her classes. Her love for sports was passed on to her children and one of their greatest pleasures was in watching and cheering on their favorite teams.

Shawna was a fighter and overcame many challenges throughout her life and then recently conquered cancer. She valiantly fought a genetic disease, hemochromatosis for the past several years that eventually destroyed her liver. In December Shawna learned that she needed a liver transplant and she was first in line at Anshutz Hospital. While at Anshutz Shawna found that she had contracted a drug resistant bacteria that caused her body to go into sepsis. She was known for being stubborn and continued to be so through the end, fighting to not pass away on Easter but to wait until April Fools Day.

Shawna worked at Mountain Meadows Nursing Home as a teenager. As an adult, she worked as a nanny in Denver, Colo., at San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center as a Dialysis Technician, at the Monte Vista Animal

Clinic as a Vet Tech, at Rocky Mountain Homes in charge of warranty and maintenance, Sargent Schools as a beloved substitute teacher and secretary, at Miller Coors as a Barley Purchaser, all in Monte Vista, Colo., and then at Golden Plains Insurance in Springfield, Colo.

Shawna's cousin Charles Bryant III, summed it up perfectly: "The only comfort we have in sorrow is knowing that such a powerful feeling was only made possible by the joy that we have experienced. While immense, the gorge of sorrow is in direct proportion to the bounty of joy and love that Shawna selflessly gave. What feels like a void in our hearts with her departure is actually the inverse; she gave us so much that we struggle to carry forward or contain the weight of the love that was hers. As we regain our strength, we must carry this love and joy on to others. Sustaining that flame of love is one of the few tributes that would be worthy enough for such an angel as Shawna. Thank you for being the embodiment of sunshine, my dear cousin. I love you."

Shawna did not want a funeral service. Instead, she wanted a celebration of life party, not only celebrating her life but each other and life itself. She lived life to the fullest, as should we in her honor. The party will be held April 27, 2024, at the Ski Hi Stampede Complex from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Shawna left a legacy of love. Please come and share your memories and stories of this most special soul.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been set up to help Shawna's kids with expenses. If you would like to donate, please make checks out to Christy Brady with the memo of Shawna Memorial Fund and mail or bring to Frontier Bank at 808 Main Street or to Christy Brady at 209 West 4th Avenue, Springfield, CO 81073. You can also Venmo a donation to @Christy-Brady-15.



Photo courtesy of South Fork Town Clerk Melanie Hart

The 2024 municipal election in South Fork was held on Tuesday, April 9. Preliminary results were announced just after 7 p.m. South Fork voters backed an increase to the town's sales tax by 2 percent. Pictured are Town Administrator Hank Weber, left, Trustee Michele Cruze, front, election officials Laurie Bratton, back, Ashlee Bratton, back, and Jo Ann Morgan, front, and Mayor Tyler Schmidt, back.

South Fork voters approve sales tax increase

By LYNDSIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — South Fork voters approved a measure that increased the town's sales tax by 2 percent and in the trustee election, Kevin Stickens held a slim lead, based on preliminary results released by South Fork Town Clerk Melanie Hart. The municipal election was held Tuesday, April 9.

Stickens received 109 votes and was closely fol-

lowed by Lisa Butcher with 107 votes and Susan Austin with 101 votes. These are preliminary results and will not be finalized until the election has been certified.

As for the tax increase ballot issue, the town voted in favor of the 2 percent increase — 102 yes and 62 no — bringing the town's sales and use tax percent to 4 percent. The increase will be used to increase town staff and police department wages, infra-

structure projects and other town improvements.

The town has been discussing the tax increase issue for several years looking for ways to increase revenue without having to introduce a property tax. The Town of South Fork was incorporated in the early 1990s and was done without including a property tax on homes and is one of few municipalities in the state that do not have a property tax.

ALAMOSA SHERIFF'S REPORT

Alamosa County Sheriff's Report April 4

Arturo Garcia of Alamosa was cited for violation of a protection order in the 100 block of Conejos Avenue.

Adeline Acosta, 48, of Alamosa was cited for driving when license was revoked and driving a vehicle without lights when headlights are required in the 100 block of Broadway Avenue.

Jeffrey Gonzales, 43,

of Alamosa was cited for cruelty to animals at 6103 County Road 105 South.

Ethan Lincoln, 20, of Antonito was cited for exceeding safe speed for conditions in the 20000 block of Highway 160.

Isabelle Cooper, 32, of Alamosa was cited for unlawful possession of a controlled substance at 366 Santa Fe Avenue.

Tiffany Ortiz, 23, of La Jara was cited for possession of drug parapherna-

lia at 366 Santa Fe Avenue.

Gerald Ziegler, 62, of Alamosa was cited for passing on the right when not permitted in the 6000 block of Highway 160.

Angelique Romero, 28, of Alamosa was cited for driving vehicle when license was revoked as a habitual traffic offender and failing to stop as required at a stop sign at County Road 6 South and Highway 17 South.

BIRTHS

Xylen Adonis Stephen Romero

Xylen Adonis Stephen Romero was born on March 21 and weighed 8 pounds and was 20 inches at birth.

Parents are Krista Trujillo and Anfernee Romero of Monte Vista. Sibling is Xyrie Romero.

Maternal Grandpar-

ents are Maggie and Steve Trujillo of Monte Vista. Paternal Grandparent is Joyce Romero Paulson of Monte Vista.

Amari Rainn Zepeda

Amari Rainn Zepeda was born to Noel and Victor Zepeda of Alamosa on April 5 and weighed 7 pounds 2 ounces and was 19.5

inches at birth. Siblings are Josh, Victor, Zavier, Tatiana and his guardian angel Devonte.

Paternal Grandparents are Victor and

Diana Zepeda of Fort Garland. Maternal grandparents are Carol Charley of Alamosa and the late Richard Chacon.

OBITUARY

John I. Maestas

ANTONITO — John I. Maestas, a longtime resident of Antonito, Colo., passed away April 9, 2024, at Rio Grande Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center. John was the son of Esmael and Doloritas Maestas of La Jara, Colo. He was born on May 15, 1931.

He was married to Eva Gonzales, their son was Eugene Maestas, both Eva and Eugene preceded John in death.

John married Lowella Atencio and they have a daughter Tara Maestas.

John is survived by his wife and daughter, and his siblings: Frances Hall, (Roy Hall) and Berna Maestas (Connie).

He was preceded in death by parents Esmael and Doloritas Maestas, brothers Gilbert Maestas,



Samuel Ben Maestas, Floyd Maestas, Trinidad Maestas, Eddie Maestas, Adelmo Maestas, and sisters Sarah Valdez, and Ernestina Mondragon.

John was a longtime fan of the Broncos, and he loved playing the guitar. John enjoyed the time he spent with his wife Lowella and daughter Tara who he loved very much.

We want to thank the staff of Rio Grande Re-

habilitation Center and the hospice staff for their great care.

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

PENDING OBITUARY

Michael Joseph Milbourn

Monte vista resident Michael Joseph Milbourn passed away March 31, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

School Menu
Friday
April 12, 2024

No
School

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

Valley News

Museum

Continued from Page 1
 recognition that we welcome as an affirmation of our community-centered work, our award-winning exhibitions, and diverse educational programming.”

The fort was built as a U.S. Army base in 1858 and was a military post until 1883. Kit Carson became the commander of the fort in 1866. In the 1920s, a proposed demolition of the fort spurred the creation of the Fort Garland Historical Fair Association in 1924 to preserve the historic site. After the Colorado Historical Society (now History Colorado) and the National Park Service rebuffed offers to assume control of the fort, local fundraising enabled the association to buy it in 1929.

The fort changed hands in 1945 when the Colorado Historical Association bought it and the remaining five original structures and began restoration. In 1950 the site

opened as a museum. In a 2015 interview with Rocky Mountain PBS, Jack Rudder, Adjutant with the Fort Garland Memorial Regiment described the importance of the fort in the Valley with this, “A lot of settlements in the area began with FG. Without the Fort, perhaps nothing would have been here.”

In recent years the museum has hosted several outstanding exhibits. In 2021, Unsilenced: Indigent Enslavement in Southern Colorado drew national attention including a feature article in the New York Times.

The Buffalo Soldier’s reVision exhibit that ended recently, told the story of formally enslaved black men who served in the army at Fort Garland in all Black Army regiments and were stationed there from 1875 to 1879.

Currently, ¡Viva La Causa! Long Live the Cause! is on display and highlights artwork created at the peak of two social justice movements: the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and



Courtesy of History Colorado

George Floyd, I Am the Golden Straw that Broke the Back of Injustice by Jodie Herrera is on display at the Fort Garland Museum.

’70s and the Black Lives Matter movement in the early 2020s to explore themes of identity and empowerment in Colorado. The exhibit runs through May 27.

The Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center is located at 29477 CO-159 and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 719-379-3512, for more information.

Tribute

Continued from Page 1
 ry. “Horses were such a part of her life — this is how Kathy saw her passing.”

What follows is reprinted in tribute. It first ran in the Oct. 17, 2020, edition of the Valley Courier.

ALAMOSA — Kathy Park is, in every sense of the word, an artist. Her paintings reveal a world that is both real and surrealistic, familiar yet mysterious. Her exquisite sculptures emerge from a block of wood or a slab of stone as if they’ve been there all along, waiting for a master’s touch to bring them to life.

Art is not something Kathy does; it is who she is and is as intrinsic to her being as the steps she takes, the stories she tells or the incredibly huge tomatoes she grows along the wall of her house.

Park is also a uniquely profound writer — of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, occasionally raucous limericks, plays and musings with three published titles to her name.

Yet, there’s still more, for she’s also an adjunct professor at Adams State University in Extended Studies and the Prison College Program where she teaches, via mail, college level writing courses to people incarcerated in prisons across the country.

She’s an accomplished horse trainer as evidenced in her symbiotic relationship with her mare and longtime companion, Esperanza.

Park is also half of a partnership with Henry Woolbert, her husband of 40 years and, clearly, best friend, soulmate, collaborator, artist and, since her diagnosis, caregiver.

She is also a second-degree black belt Aikido instructor with forty years of experience on a journey reflected in the very meaning of the word.

Ai means harmony. Ki means universal life force. Do means the way or the path.

Those are important, possibly difficult concepts for many to grasp, she says. But they’re especially profound for Park at this time in her life.

“In July of 2019, I was diagnosed with glioblastoma.” Her quiet voice somehow robs the words of their cruelty. Yet, a woman so embracing of life, talented at express-

ing its beauty and celebratory of the people, experiences and lessons that life has to offer saying those words is an affront to everything we want so very much to believe.

But none of that changes the fact that it’s true. Equally true? Park receiving that kind of diagnosis is going to...look a little different.

Getting the diagnosis was rough, largely due to the aggressive way the doctor (whom she calls “Dr. Doom”) broke the news. “He interrupted me every time I spoke. He pulled his chair right up in my face and said, ‘Glioblastoma always comes back, always.’”

“I walked out of the office and said to Henry... what just happened?” She shakes her head. “I was being silenced, as a woman and a patient. It took me a week, but I decided right then — at three o’clock in the morning — that’s not how this is going to go. I decided to do it differently.”

“I also decided that doctor needed to take some time off and go fishing. I want to encourage anyone who finds themselves in a similar situation to pay attention to those messages and to stop it, right then. If your doctor doesn’t have a sense of humor, find one who does.”

In that story, Park foreshadows how she chose to continue to live her life, which brings us back to Aikido.

When speaking of Aikido, Park’s language is absent of words like “strike” or “hit.” The underlying philosophy is “defend yourself without hurting the attacker.” Someone who is attacking has offended the balance of the universe, so you simply “take” their balance. Don’t try to stop the hit. Direct it away from yourself without hurting the other person, keeping them off balance and unable to be more powerful than you.

This way of the “peaceful warrior,” has governed Park’s philosophy more than half of the time she’s been alive. Like art, like writing, like teaching and riding horses and growing tomatoes, Aikido is an intrinsic part of who she is and how she deals with brain cancer.

“Sensei is a word that means teacher. It’s honorific. It communicates respect for the tradition



Courtesy of Dreampower Artworks

‘Reunion’ by Kathy Park, Colorado 1998

and for the person who’s going up through the ranks. But sensei can also mean something else. It also refers to those situations that teach us something we need to learn, something that changes who we are.”

She’s briefly quiet.

“That diagnosis was an instant reality check,” she says. “My life was going in one very clear direction and, suddenly, I was told no, your life is going this other way instead. I could have been very angry. I could have felt cheated. I could have said, why me? But that’s not an option. There’s no way to move forward when you tie yourself up in resistance. It’s like driving over La Veta Pass with your emergency brake on. How far are you going to get? Not very far,” she says, laughing. “No, I have to blend with it. I have to change.”

Park envisions wrapping a black belt — a symbol of her proficiency and strength in Aikido — around the glioblastoma. “I tell it that, if I die, it will die, too. So it must not kill me.” She then smiles and speaks of the letter she wrote...to the glioblastoma.

“I said I promoted myself in rank. I haven’t complained, and I’ve taken everything you’ve taught me.” And for this reason only, she calls it sensei glioblastoma — not in gratitude to the

disease but in gratitude for what the disease has taught her about what is important and what is not, what meaning can be found in life, what joy and what lessons there are to be learned. The importance in practicing “not knowing”, waiting for an “attack” to happen while also being in a state of relaxation.

“I don’t know what’s going to happen. I know life wants to keep moving and to flow through us. I want to be both the vessel and the conduit, so I’m going to try to blend with this and hope I continue to live into my dying. If you practice acceptance, in whatever form, you’ll be able to deal with what comes. Christians do that. And I’m so glad for whatever authority I have, and it works for me to...go with it and make the best of it that I can.”

Meanwhile, Kathy Park continues with her art that is saving her life, giving her a reason to live. Her art that is both what she does and who she is. And she’s taken off the emergency brake. “It’s not the end of the road.” And then she smiles, and the smile is followed by a laugh.

A celebration of life will be held in honor of Kathy Park Woolbert at a time to be announced by her husband, Henry Woolbert, at some point in the future.

Best

Continued from Page 1
 Winning this award was far from an easy accomplishment, starting with the fact that towns played no role in being nominated.

Instead, 20 nominees were selected by a panel of journalists, editors from USA TODAY and 10Best.com, expert contributors and sources from other Gannett properties.

Criteria used to nominate towns included a population of under 25,000 and outstanding examples of cultural attractions such as museums, art galleries, performing arts and a strong collection of local events.

Once the panel finalized the nominees, towns were notified.

“Sometime around March, we just got an email from USA TODAY that said, ‘hey you’ve been nominated in this category for this award’ and when the voting started,” Mortensen says. “We found out that USA TODAY’s journalists and editors put up the nominations. So, I’m not exactly sure how that happened but we certainly felt it was well-deserved for the community. We were excited and thought about how can we make the best of this? We definitely wanted to win, so we pulled in the community and started a campaign.”

Once notified of the nomination, voting started and lasted over the next 30 days.

“This campaign was truly a team effort,” says Samantha Bogle, Visit Alamosa Communications Specialist. “We all pulled together to make it possible. Beth (Sumner, destination development) and Savannah (Schlaufman, director of marketing) are rock stars and their insights, passion, and commitment to the team are truly valuable.”

“It was wire to wire,” Mortensen says, “and we watched the leader board every day. But then they took it down the last week and that’s when we got kind of anxious.”

All the work paid off. While the top 10 nominees are allowed to call themselves winners by virtue of the fact that they were nominees, Alamosa actually came in with the highest number of votes. The final tally has not been shared with Mortensen.

When it comes to what he thinks makes Alamosa so worthy of the honor, Mortensen says, “I can’t really showcase one thing

over another because it’s really a collection of everything. There’s the Heritage Area and Cinco de Mayo but also just the people who are here. We always get comments on google or yelp, it’s about the warm hospitality. It’s the people. There isn’t just one thing we can point to and say, ‘this is why we’re so great.’ It’s a million little things that truly make this such a great place.”

“As a Valley Native, I feel pride and excitement and I hope others do too,” says Bogle. “I think that sometimes Alamosa gets the cold shoulder in the media so to be recognized on such a big platform for such a special reason warms my heart. We wouldn’t have been able to do this without the community’s voice.”

“I feel so grateful to be a part of such a vibrant and dynamic community,” says Elizabeth Sumner. “This recognition, on this scale, is something I hope the entire community is incredibly proud of. Community is what makes the culture and we have a truly amazing community.”

“This is such a big win for the community, to have a national spotlight on the rich culture of Alamosa,” says Schlaufman. “Our team at Visit Alamosa is so lucky that we get to see and experience how unique and special the culture here is every day. It’s moving to see how many more people also recognize how special Alamosa truly is.

“You can bet on the fact that Visit Alamosa will be making the most of this incredible opportunity! We are already such huge proponents of Alamosa’s culture and heritage, so this win aligns beautifully with our marketing plans for 2024.”

“Growing up here...I know the younger mentality,” Mortensen says. “You can’t wait to get out and see what the rest of the world has, but you find yourself always wanting to come back here. This is the community where I grew up. This is where I met my wife who has come to love Alamosa. The sense of community you have — you just don’t get it anywhere else.”

“Unfortunately, sometimes it takes someone from outside of here to make us realize what we have, which really comes down to the diversity of people — those who have lived here for generations and those who come here from someplace else...all come to love Alamosa. And there’s a lot here to love.”

Celebrate

Continued from Page 1
 This was the first time this team has been recognized locally.

Our Dispatchers are our lifeline!

They are our eyes in the dark, our calm voices during a storm, the first and last voice we hear during a 911 call, and our guardians who watch over our

heroes.

Just because they do not respond on scene doesn’t mean they don’t feel the pain when hearing the cries, the fear when hearing the screams and the joy when a life is saved.

Our dispatchers are part of our first responder family, uniting as one team with one mission in mind; to protect and service our community. Without them, we would be lost.

CLEARY BUILDING CORP. Farm, Homes & Cabins, Commercial, Horse, Garage, Wood Shop

Custom Designed & Value Engineered

Get started at ClearyBuilding.com

- Financing available
- Digital Floor Planner
- Customized, in-house Engineering and manufacturing to suit your needs

Stop in or contact us for a FREE consultation.

6750 Cramer Rd. • Alamosa, CO
719-589-2112

Featuring: 800-373-5550 • ClearyBuilding.com

A&M WINDOWS & DOORS, L.L.C.

We manufacture windows right here in the Valley. Any size you need.

Doors • Screens • Storm Doors
 Insulated Glass Units
(719) 589-9952

Opinion

Total eclipse of the heart

This month finds Ol' Dutch and Miss Trixie still in Texas building on the house, going to grandkids' ball games, selling cattle and yes, you guessed it, seeing the total eclipse of the Sun.

I read somewhere last week there was going to be an eclipse of "the sin" and got all excited thinking a new wave of morality was coming around finally. Alas, people prefer sinning, I do believe.

The Ponderosa where we abide our winters in Texas is smack dab in the middle of the full eclipse set to occur today. As I am writing this on Monday and you won't get it until Thursday, it will be too late for you to come down to see it. Others, however, did.

It's the most amazing thing to Ol' Dutch that things that were once tidbits of interest are now blown up by the news media into a gargantuan event. It's been advertised so much and for so long that people were making hotel reservations last fall to be here for the four minutes of darkness.

Not only that but local governments went into a tizzy and shut down schools and other facilities and called in extra emergency responders in a panic that hundreds of thousands of Sun worshippers were going to flood into their small towns.

Because we are the highest point in the county, Miss Trixie was thinking about renting out viewing spots here at the farm. Viewers would have the opportunity to be closest to the Sun in all of Hunt County. Selfishly, though, we're keeping it between us, Cooper and the cows.

It's been such a huge lead up to this eclipse that yesterday we even saw a guy out in the country practicing his camera set up for today. Now that's dedication. Or insanity, I am not sure which.

Alas, there are kids out of school, people off work, governments in a panic and emergency responders sitting around just waiting for a mass panic to set in later today.

Now Ol' Dutch has long been a believer in the "smoke and mirrors" theory that governments use to keep us occupied while they are up to something else behind our backs. And I can't help to think this is just another one of those sleight of hand moves by them.

For while everyone is waiting around for the sun to go dark like it does every day at sundown, they are up to some shenanigans that they do not want you to know about. I guarantee you that someone is getting rich off of our tax dollars somewhere while people stand around like Chicken Little looking up at the sky.

The blessed event is supposed to happen about 1 p.m. and here we sit in Texas with overcast skies which will prevent seeing the Sun go dark at least today. But, we are still being told to be outside looking up as the skies are to clear suddenly at the moment of best viewing.

And not to be outdone, the retailers rushed special viewing glasses out to the mindless public but anyone that would trust their eyesight to a cardboard pair of glasses with plastic lenses that cost about 29 cents to produce needs to line up for a mental evaluation, too. Remember that this marketing is being done to a people who are now 29 boosters into shots for COVID.

In lieu of a real miraculous event similar in scope to the Resurrection and clearing skies, we are not going to see anything but darkness. One writer covering the dark day asked people where they will be when the Sun goes dark and all I could think to say was "in the dark." Been there, done that. It ain't that great.

If you missed the experience, you can still tune up Bonnie Tyler singing her 1983 hit song, "Total Eclipse of the Heart" with me and sit in the dark and reminisce about better days.

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

Trout Republic



by Kevin Kirkpatrick



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."

The reality of migrant crime

There's been an ongoing political debate lately about crimes committed by migrants who entered the United States illegally. Actually, there's not much to debate about their first unlawful act — entering the United States without authorization — but much disagreement about how many illegal border crossers commit crimes after that.

In recent weeks, Republicans have publicized the murder of Laken Riley, the Georgia nursing student who police say was abducted and killed by Jose Antonio Ibarra, a Venezuelan migrant who entered the United States illegally in September 2022, only to be quickly released into the country. Ibarra was one of millions of illegal crossers who rushed into the United States after the implementation of virtually open-border policies by President Joe Biden. In response to Republicans highlighting the murder, some Democrats argued that the "immigrant crime narrative is racist," in the words of California Democratic Rep. Robert Garcia.

The issue popped up in the State of the Union address, when some Republicans tried to goad Biden into saying Riley's name. Biden did say the name — although he got it wrong — and then referred to the alleged killer, Ibarra, as an "illegal." Democratic activist groups reacted in anger, not at the murder but at the use of the word "illegal" to describe an illegal immigrant. Biden swiftly apologized, saying he should have called Ibarra "undocumented" instead.

Now there is another migrant crime in the news, this time in New York City. Last week police raided a house in the Bronx that had been taken over by migrant squatters who had entered the U.S. illegally. In addition to arresting eight of them, police confiscated several firearms, extended magazines, ammunition, plus the drugs ketamine and cocaine. The cops moved in, the New York Post reported, after one of the migrants "allegedly flashed a pistol at someone on the property March 27, leading to a 911 call and the discovery of the squatter gang."

In true New York fashion, a judge quickly freed most of the suspects without bail. At that point, the Enforcement and Removal Operations office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested three of them. How did they do that? Officers just went back to the house in the Bronx, where the suspects had returned to keep doing what they were doing before their arrests. Now, it appears four others have also been picked up by ICE.

In response to inquiries by Fox News' indefatigable reporter Bill

Melugin, ICE has released some background information on each suspect. According to ICE, Suspect No. 1, Yoessy Pino Castillo, entered the U.S. illegally near Brownsville, Texas, on May 6, 2023, and was "released into the United States as an alternative to detention." On Jan. 6 of this year, she was arrested for shoplifting. Then, on March 27, at the house

in the Bronx, New York police arrested her for "criminal possession of a weapon, second degree; loaded firearm on school grounds; criminal possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell; and acting in a manner to injure a child." She was immediately released without bond. Suspect No. 2, Yojairo Armando Martinez, entered the United States illegally near El Paso, Texas, on Sept. 22, 2022. He was immediately released into the country "as an alternative to detention." He never reported to immigration authorities, as his release required.

Suspect No. 3, Hector De Sousa Villalta, entered the United States illegally near Brownsville, Texas, on May 3, 2023. He was given a notice to appear before immigration authorities at a later date and was immediately released into the country. On Aug. 28, 2023, he was arrested in Yonkers, New York, and charged with attempted murder and assault with intent to cause serious injury. He was released from jail again. Last week, he was arrested at the Bronx house and charged with various gun and drug charges. He was released yet again and was later picked up by ICE.

Suspect No. 4, Javier Jose Albornoz Marchan, entered the United States illegally near El Paso, Texas, on May 6, 2023. He was immediately released into the country "as an alternative to detention." He soon had multiple arrests, including for shoplifting in both New York and New Jersey. On Sept. 26, 2023, he was arrested in New York for criminal possession of a loaded firearm and "ammunition feeding devices." He was quickly released. On Jan. 6, 2024, he was arrested again for shoplifting. And on March 27, he was arrested at the Bronx house.

Suspect No. 5, Yerbin Benjamin Lozado Munoz, entered the United States illegally near Eagle Pass, Texas, on Oct. 3, 2022. He was immediately released "as an alternative to detention." The March 27 arrest at the Bronx house, for gun and drug crimes, was apparently his first arrest in the United States. Suspect No. 6, Johan Jose Cardena Silva, entered the United States illegally near Del Rio, Texas, on Oct.

3, 2022. Exactly what happened then is not clear, but he was ultimately ordered removed from the country. Then, he either was removed and got back in, or he never left, because he ended up in the Bronx house on March 27, facing gun and drug charges. Less is known about the last two suspects, but you get the idea. All the suspects entered the United States

during the frenzied rush across the border that began when Biden took office. Nearly all were quickly released into the country. It is fair to say that the problems they are now causing are directly attributable to the president and his policies. Millions of illegal crossers responded to Biden's policy changes. Among them were all the suspects above, plus the man who is accused of murdering Laken Riley. There have been many reports of other crimes, too, being committed by those who crossed illegally into the U.S. in the last three years.

Nevertheless, many Democrats and their allies in the press argue that Republicans are exaggerating the problem. Recently, Fox News' Guy Benson responded to an NBC report that claimed, "The data does not bear out the fact that undocumented immigrants kill Americans at any greater rate than legal Americans." That is true, Benson noted, but: "Whether that holds up after we get our arms around the impact of the 10 million illegal border crossings during the Biden crisis remains to be seen."

Also: Illegal immigrants don't have to be disproportionately criminal or violent as a group in order for Americans to feel extra, righteous disgust over violent crimes being committed by perps who have no right to be in the country in the first place — many of whom have amassed significant rap sheets before committing their most serious attacks.

In New York, we are seeing the results of the confluence of two Democratic policies — one, the arrival of large numbers of illegal border crossers who were allowed, unvetted, to remain in the United States, and two, the practice of releasing many suspects accused of serious crimes without bail. It's a mess, and it will continue to be a mess. And that is on top of all the other social dislocations and financial burdens created by massive influx of unvetted illegal crossers. It's an issue that is not going away, especially in a presidential election year.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

Keith R Cerny
Publisher

Brian Williams
Managing Editor

Valley Courier

(ISSN 1047-1170)

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.



Debbie Sowards Advertising Manager
John Waters News Editor
Priscilla Waggoner Staff Writer
Ryker Alonzo Editorial Assistant

Ken Hamrick Sports Editor
Shasta Quintana Circulation
Richard R. Quintana ... Mailroom Supervisor/Press



Your FIRST Source for Local News

Editor's Note: The views expressed in individual columns on this page do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Valley Courier.

Lifestyles



Photos courtesy of Mineral County Sheriff's Office

Mineral County Sheriff Terry Wetherill and his team were presented with the vests and surrounded by their community during the ceremony at the end of March.

Mineral County Sheriff receives Shield616 vests

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

MINERAL COUNTY — Mineral County Sheriff Terry Wetherill gave a brief update to Mineral County Commissioners during their first of the month meeting on April 3, and spoke to them about the recent Shield616 ceremony that took place at the end of March.

Wetherill, like other law enforcement officials throughout the Valley, was fortunate enough to receive an anonymous sponsor for four Kevlar vests that were donated to the Mineral County Sheriff's Department the last week of March. Wetherill stated that the ceremony lasted about 45 minutes and was well attended by residents and county officials.

"We received four vests and purchased one for our deputies. It was an honor to have the founder of Shield616 present us with the vests and to have a chance to hear him speak about why and how he started the Shield616 organization," said Wetherill.

During the summer of 2023, Wetherill and his wife Amy took time to help escort the Shield616 bike-a-thon across the

state of Colorado, showing their support for the organizations and all they have done for law enforcement officials across the state. "We had a lot of fun and it was a great experience to support this organization."

In addition to the Shield616 ceremony, Wetherill also updated commissioners on his continued efforts to secure the school in case of emergencies, stating that the district has been doing a great job looking at safety protocols and working with students and staff to be prepared for an emergency should one ever occur.

Wetherill stated that he and Emergency Manager Clint Leggitt worked with the school to complete a drill and that he was more than pleased with how it turned out.

"I just can't tell you what a big success that is after years of pushing to have those things in place at the school. All of the students were so responsive, so happy to know they have the opportunity to make some decisions for their own selves and it really was a neat opportunity," Leggitt said.

Wetherill stated that as they worked through the exercise, the students had great questions and were fully engaged.

"They had a lot of really good questions, good perspectives and it really turned out well," Wetherill said.

Mineral County Administrator Janelle Kukuk spoke up and stated that she was pleased with how Wetherill and Leggitt approached the situation stating, "You have to know from a student's perspective that they hear all this stuff on the news, they hear the adults in their lives talking about it and then they are completely left out of the conversation that all that does it create fear. But to have someone come in say yes this can happen and this is what we are going to do if it does, it has to take a load off of their shoulders."

Wetherill has been working diligently with the district over the last year to enhance safety protocols throughout the school and will continue to work with the district in the future to make sure the school is secure in the event of an emergency.



Mineral County Sheriff Terry Wetherill was pleased to announce that his office was the recipient of four Kevlar vests from Shield616.

Here's Your Sign!

**We can fill it for you.
Call Keith or Debbie,
719-589-2553**

9 Reasons to Shop Local

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



Sports

Several SLV track athletes ranked by MaxPreps

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – Many high school track and field athletes from the San Luis Valley are in a position to qualify for the state meet next month in Lakewood as they are in the MaxPreps rankings as of last weekend. The Top 18 athletes in each event in Classes 5A, 4A, 3A and 2A will qualify for state. In Class 1A, the Top 9 in sprints and hurdles, the Top 10 in field events and the Top 12 in distance events are state qualifiers.

Class 3A Alamosa

Eleven Lady Mean Moose athletes are ranked and they are led by Sarah DeLaCerde who has the best time in the 3,200-meter run in 10:49.85. She is also second in the 800 in 2:22.95, and seventh in the 1,600 in 5:21.92.

Also ranked in three events is Madeline Castillo who is fifth in the 1,600 in 5:21.19, sixth in the 3,200 in 11:21.10, and 18th in the 800 in 2:31.58.

Ranked in two events are Elizabeth McQuitty who is fifth in the 3,200 in 11:06.53, and 13th in the 800 in 2:28.23, and Kaidence Boehm who is 16th in the shot put in 30-0 ¼ and 18th in the discus at 89-8.

Also ranked for the Alamosa is Lily Heersink who is 13th in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in 51.43 seconds.

For the Alamosa boys, Brant Jackson is tied for second in the high jump at 6-4, Jesse Maestas is fourth in the pole vault at 13-9, Mario Villaba is ninth in the 3,200 in 10:01.51, Ethan Arnoldi is tied for 13th in the pole vault at 11-6, Jeremiah DeLaCerde is 14th in the 3,200 in 10:17.57, and Brayden Moeller is 15th in the 100 in 11.57 and 17th in the 200 in 23.41.

Centauri

Centauri has three individuals and three relay teams in the rankings.

For the Falcon boys team, Troy Sowards is tied for second in the high jump at 6-4, and Carson Bagwell is tied for 11th in the same event at 5-10.

The Falcons' 4x200-meter relay team is 16th in 1:35.41.

For the Lady Falcons, Analynn Dwyer is tied for 11th in the high jump at 4-10.

The Centauri girls are 14th in the 800 sprint medley in 2:03.24, and 17th in the 4x400 in 4:44.95.

Class 2A Center

One Center boys and one girl are in the Class 2A rankings.

Andree Meraz is 10th in the boys discus at 124-7, while Ciara Paiz is 12th in the triple jump at 30-7 and 15th in the long jump at 14-11.

Del Norte

Del Norte has one individual in Damon Ledford-Vigil who is tied for ninth in the pole vault at 10-6 and tied for 13th in the high jump at 5-6.

The Tigers are ranked in two boys relays. They are 17th in the 4x400 in 3:53.95 and 17th in the 4x800 in 9:32.65.

Monte Vista

Monte Vista is 18th in the boys 4x200 relay in 1:39.68.

Sargent

Sargent has one individual in the rankings as Bailey Asbell is 12th in the girls 100-meter high hurdles in



Alamosa's Sarah DeLaCerde.

17.89.

Class 1A Antonito

Antonito has yet to begin its season.

Creede

Creede has two individuals in the girls high jump rankings as Lila Fairchild and Jasmine Laing are both tied for eighth at 4-8.

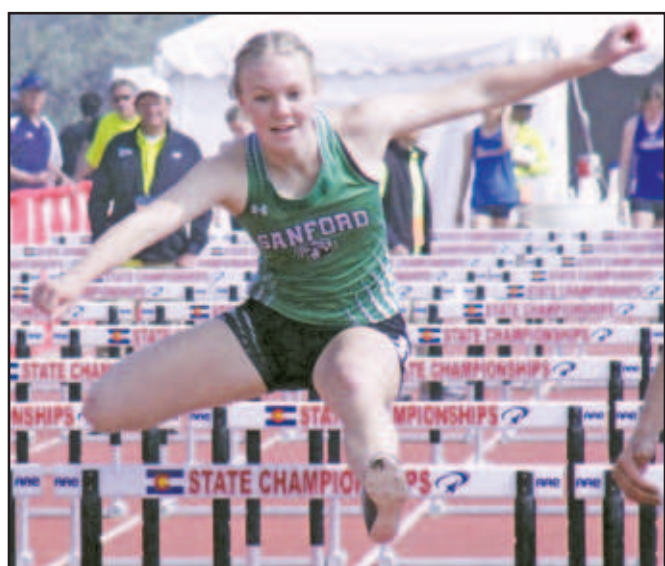
Moffat

Moffat has not started its season yet.

Sanford

Sanford has for individual in the rankings. For the boys, Lincoln Reynolds is second in the 100 in 11.48 and fourth in the 400 in 54.58.

For the Lady Mustangs, Holly McDaniel has the best time in the 100 hurdles in 17.43 and the best mark in the long jump at 15-3 ¼. She is also second in the 300 hurdles in 52.83.



Sanford's Holly McDaniel.



Alamosa's Brant Jackson.

Erica Miller is fourth in the 400 in 1:05.50 and ninth in the 800 in 2:50.69. Kate McDaniel is eighth in the 100 hurdles in 20.02.

Sanford is ranked in three girls relays. It has the best time in the 800 sprint medley in 2:00.45, and it is also sixth in the 4x100 in 55.74 and eighth in the 4x800 in 14:33.19.

Sangre de Cristo

Sangre de Cristo is ranked fifth in the boys 4x800 in 10:13.34.

Sierra Grande

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

This week

All of the local high school track and field teams will compete at the Del Norte Invitational on Saturday. The first events begin at 9 a.m. at the Tigers' stadium.

Courier file photos by Ken Hamrick

Grizzly Youth Basketball Tournament is later this month

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA—Adams State University will host the First Grizzly Youth Basketball Tournament at the end of this month at Plachy Hall.

The Tournament will take place on April 26-27 in the main gym and the field house and there will be four courts. There will be five divisions in boys

and girls play. The divisions are third-fourth grade, and fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

The cost is \$200 per team and there is a three-game guarantee.

For more information or to register contact Katelyn Smith at ksmith@adams.edu or Max Ruybal at mruybal@adams.edu, or call (719) 587-7401.

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD TUESDAY

Prep baseball
Antonito 11, Centennial 1, 5 inn.
Centauri 15, Del Norte 9
Sanford 17, Sargent 8
Sierra Grande 21, Custer County 12
Prep girls soccer
Alamosa 8, Del Norte 0

WEDNESDAY Prep baseball

Las Animas 17, Center 7, 5 inn.

THURSDAY Prep baseball

Sargent at Sierra Grande – late
Prep girls soccer
Del Norte at Crested Butte – late
College men's lacrosse
Tusculum (Tenn.) 17, Adams State 13

SCHEDULE FRIDAY

Prep baseball
Custer County at

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

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

Prep girls soccer
Alamosa at Montezuma-Cortez, 11 a.m.

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

College outdoor track and field
Adams State at Bryan Clay Invitational (at Azusa, Calif.), TBA

SATURDAY Prep baseball

Bayfield at Alamosa (2), 11 a.m.
Del Norte at Center (2), 11 a.m.
Gunnison at Centauri (2), 11 a.m.

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

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

College women's softball

Colorado State Pueblo at Adams State (2), noon

College outdoor track and field
Adams State at Bryan Clay Invitational (at Azusa, Calif.), TBA

SUNDAY

College baseball
Metropolitan State-Denver at Adams State, noon

College women's softball
Colorado State Pueblo at Adams State (2), 11 a.m.

MONDAY

Prep baseball
Sanford at Monte Vista, 4 p.m.

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

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

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

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

\$140,000
BIGGER BUCKS
MORE WAYS TO WIN

Saturdays, be one of ten (10) players drawn to win \$250 cash* and \$250 Bonus Cash*, and two players will qualify for the **BIGGER BUCKS** grand prize drawing of \$50,000*.

*Rules apply. Visit Ohkay Winners Club for details.

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING ON JUNE 29, 2024

HARVEST Buffet
NOW OPEN

Breakfast Buffet
Wednesday-Saturday
6:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Breakfast
6:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Dinner Buffet
Wednesday - Sunday
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
(Serving until 9:00 p.m.)

OHKAY HOTEL-CASINO
TATATAT
MORE Ways to Win!

(505) 747-1668 | 1-877-747-1668 | ohkay.com | Follow us

Public Notices

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

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 § 15-12-901, 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.

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.

221 - HELP WANTED

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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 mvha04@yahoo.com Attn: Alonzo. Equal Employment Opportunity Provider and Employer. (4/20/24)

163 - LOST & FOUND

221 - HELP WANTED

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

TOWN OF MOFFAT, COLORADO, WATER OPERATOR / WATER CONSULTANT. Job Description WATER OPERATOR DUTIES: 1. The Operator Responsible in Charge (ORC) shall have a Small Systems (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)

173 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

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)

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

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.

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 Marjuana Excise Tax funds. Scholarships may be used at a trade school, college or university but you must reside in Saguache County to apply and possibly receive scholarship funds.
 Applications are due by Wednesday, May 1, 2024 and are available through our website at www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov to download the application or by contacting Wendy Maez at 719-655-2231 or by email at wmaez@saguachecounty-co.gov.
 No. 3892.
 Published in the Valley Courier on April 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30, & May 3, 2024.

ALAMOSA COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing before the Alamosa County Land Use Administrator will be held on Monday, May 13 at 2:00 PM, at the Alamosa County Annex Building, 8999 Independence Way, Suite 100, Alamosa, Colorado, for the purpose of considering an application for a Replat submitted by Laura Pochardt. The applicant is proposing to replat tracts currently identified as 2265 N Hwy 17 (parcel 513722101001) and Parcel 513722300056 located in Section 22, Township 39 North, Range 10 East of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, County of Alamosa, State of Colorado.
 The legal description is:
 Lot 1 Block 5 Sangre de Cristo Estates Unit 16, according to the plat recorded April 21, 1972 at Reception No. 170820 and the SW 1/4 of Section 22, Township 39 North, Range 10 East, N.M.P.M., County of Alamosa, State of Colorado.
 Details regarding this application are available for public inspection in the Alamosa County Land Use Office at 8999 Independence Way Suite 100 during regular office hours or by calling (719) 589-3812.
 Richard Hubler
 Land Use Administrator
 Alamosa County
 No. 3894.
 Published in the Valley Courier on April 12, 2024.

NOTICE OF REGULAR ELECTION CERTIFICATION
 TOWN OF HOOPER
 Notice is hereby given that a Regular Election was held by the Town of Hooper Colorado on Tuesday April 2, 2024. Results are as follows:
 Trustee: Mimi Dolan 41 votes, elected to a 4-year term;
 Samuel D. Hernandez 26 votes, not elected;
 Amber Najera 33 votes, elected to a 2-year term;
 Sandra (Sandy) Bond 27 votes, elected to 2-year term;
 Jan E. Smith 43 votes, elected to a 4-year term.
 Referred Issue A:
 Ballot Title: A Measure Adopting A New Special Tax On Retail (Recreational) Marijuana In The Town Of Hooper, Colorado.
 Ballot Issue:
 SHALL THE TOWN OF HOOPER'S TAXES BE INCREASED BY \$75,000 IN THE FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025, AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF A RETAIL MARIJUANA STORE TAX AT A RATE OF UP TO 5% ON THE PRICE PAID FOR THE PURCHASE OF RETAIL MARIJUANA AND MARIJUANA PRODUCTS, WITH THE TAX RATE CAPABLE OF BEING INCREASED, LOWERED OR REVOKED AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF HOOPER SO LONG AS THE RATE OF TAXATION DOES NOT EXCEED 5%, WITH THE RESULTING TAX REVENUES TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE TOWN OF HOOPER'S GENERAL OPERATIONS; AND SHALL ALL REVENUES DERIVED FROM SUCH RETAIL MARIJUANA STORE TAX BE COLLECTED AND SPENT AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE, NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REVENUE OR EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?
 Yes 32 votes
 No 16 votes
 Referred Question B:
 Ballot Title: A measure Authorizing Retail (recreational) Marijuana Stores In The Town Of Hooper, Colorado, Subject To Colorado Law And The Town's Ordinances.
 Ballot Question: Pregunta de la Boleta:
 Shall the establishment and operation of retail (recreational) marijuana stores be permitted in the Town of Hooper, Colorado, subject to Colorado law and ordinances to be adopted by the Town of Hooper?
 Yes 18 votes
 No 34 votes
 Referred Question C:
 Ballot Title: A Measure Authorizing Medical Marijuana Stores In The Town Of Hooper, Colorado, Subject To Of Colorado Law And The Town's Ordinances.
 Ballot Question:
 Shall the establishment and operation of medical marijuana stores be permitted in the Town of Hooper, Colorado, subject to Colorado law and ordinances to be adopted by the Town of Hooper?
 Yes 18 votes
 No 34 votes
 Referred Question E:
 Ballot Title: A Measure Regulating Ground Fowl in the Town of Hooper, Colorado.
 Ballot Question:
 Shall the Town of Hooper regulate ground fowl (namely, chickens, geese, ducks, quail, turkey, and grouse) within the Town's limits, by setting a maximum number of ground fowl at thirty-five (35) per property, by requiring at least four (4) square feet for each animal, by requiring adequate housing, by requiring that manure be addressed immediately by adopting other regulations, and by allowing the Town of Hooper to amend these regulations and adopt additional regulations in the future.
 Yes 26 votes
 No 24 votes
 LeAnn Ledbetter, Town Clerk and Election Official
 Post at Hooper Town Hall on April 10th, 2024
 And published in the Valley Courier Newspaper on April 12th, 2024
 No. 3896.
 Published in the Valley Courier on April 12, 2024.

ALAMOSA COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held before the Alamosa County Land Use Administrator Monday, May 13, 2024 at 2:00 PM, at the Alamosa County Annex Building, 8999 Independence Way, Suite 100, Alamosa, Colorado, for the purpose of considering an application for a Replat submitted by Loves Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc. The applicant is proposing to replat tracts currently identified as 138 Broadway Ave (parcel 5413112104003), 51 Costilla Blvd (parcel 541311211003), Parcel 541311211004 and Parcel 541311212001 located in Section 10, Township 37 North, Range 10 East of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, County of Alamosa, State of Colorado.
 The legal description is: Lots 1-6 Block 1, Lots 1-5 & 11-20, Block 2, and all of Block 3, Godfrey & Boyd's Addition, County of Alamosa, State of Colorado.
 Details regarding this application are available for public inspection in the Alamosa County Land Use Office at 8999 Independence Way Suite 100 during regular office hours or by calling (719) 589-3812.
 Richard Hubler
 Land Use Administrator
 Alamosa County
 No. 3897.
 Published in the Valley Courier on April 12, 2024.

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, audiotape, 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-0508-002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.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.

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

FULL-TIME SALES

- Competitive Draw
- Commission
- Benefits

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

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY GRIZZLY CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT

All proceeds benefit ASU student athlete scholarships

SATURDAY MAY 4, 2024

CATTAILS GOLF CLUB

SCRAMBLE - TEAMS OF 4

SHOTGUN START - 9:30 A.M.

FUN PRIZES AUCTION

\$80 PER PLAYER W/LUNCH

REGISTER IN THE PRO SHOP OR EMAIL KATELYN SMITH athletics@adams.edu

Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

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

221 - HELP WANTED

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for a 6th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER at **MONTE VISTA MIDDLE SCHOOL** for the 2024-2025 school year. A complete list of desired qualifications and experience is posted on the district website. The District operates on a 4-day week (Monday - Thursday) and offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, HSA match, and life coverage. The salary for this position will be paid from the current MVSD Teacher Salary Schedule, which can be viewed on the district website - Employment Opportunities page. Placement on the salary schedule will be determined by education and experience at time of hire. Applications may be submitted through our online employment application <https://www.pirates.monte.k12.co.us/employmentopportunities> by April 25, 2024 or until the position is filled. For application questions contact the District Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (4/30/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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 staking sheets including material lists and costs estimates, obtaining easements and permits, contributing to economic development with best value electric and fiber service opportunities, and interpreting maps, surveys and electric drawings. Education requirements include a degree in engineering, land surveying, construction management, journeyman lineman certification, or equivalent. Additional testing will be required. Visit our website at www.slvrec.com 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)

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

Always the Last to Know?

If you keep finding out about local events after they happen, it's time to subscribe to the Valley Courier.

Subscribe today and stay connected to your world.

Valley Courier
719-589-2553

You'll find it all in the ... Business & Service Directory

• Easy to Read Format • Affordable • Seen 4 Days a Week
To Place Your Ad Call (719) 589-2553

APPLIANCE REPAIR

All Major Brands of Kitchen & Laundry Appliances
• Trained and Certified Technicians

ALTITUDE APPLIANCES
Open 10-6 Mon-Sat
611 Main • Alamosa
(719) 206-2844

dylan brown agency

Local Medicare Help

719-350-6941
2415 Mullins Avenue
Alamosa, CO 81101
Dbrown1@farmersagency.com
Katrina.dbrown1@farmersagency.com

Dylan Brown Katrina Brown

*Medicare Advantage *Supplements *Part D Prescription Plans

STORAGE

ALAMOSA STORAGE

5929 Road South 106
Alamosa, CO 81101

Call us today or visit our website
alamosastorage.com
(719) 992-3440

HEATING & GAS

RMHG
Rocky Mountain Heating & Gas Service

Installation, Service & Repair
Heaters, Fireplaces,
Wood & Pellet Stoves Sales
Stason Gomez 719-628-9310
RMHGENT@gmail.com

Attorney

ATENCIO LAW
719.589.6005

- Civil Litigation
- Real Estate • Water Law
- Business Law
- Wills & Probate

• Unbundled Legal Services steve@atenciolaw.net
(call for more information) www.atenciolaw.net

STEVE ATENCIO
PROUDLY SERVING CLIENTS THROUGHOUT THE SAN LUIS VALLEY

Architecture

Your Local SLV Architecture Firm for Residential, Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural Projects

SPENCER architecture studio

Don Spencer, A.I.A.
Licensed in Colorado, Texas and New Mexico
719-696-5783

Steve Copley
Sr. Project Manager, E.I.T.

spencerarchitecturestudio.com

CONSTRUCTION

Cerro Colorado Construction LLC
Commercial and Residential

- Snow & Water
- Basins
- Re-Straps
- Signs
- Patches
- Electrical/Interior Fin.
- Floors
- Drywall
- House Remodeling and more

Call or Text
(719) 589-8006 (719) 589-8023 (719) 589-2477

CerroColoradoConstruction@gmail.com
CerroColoradoConstructionLLC.com

FREE ESTIMATES

Electrical

ALPINE ELECTRIC INC.

82 CONEJOS ALAMOSA
719-589-9144

Earth Moving

Earthworks of Southern Colorado LLC
Troy Geringer 719-480-1756

- Trenching
- Backfilling
- Site Cleaning & Prep
- Driveway Construction & Grading
- Landscaping
- House Pads
- Stream Bank Restoration
- Irrigation Welding & Fabrication
- Tractor Moving
- Dirt Work
- Demolition
- Snow Removal

Taxidermy

Ask about our 6 month guarantee!

Jay's Taxidermy Est. 1995
719-480-9300

Real Estate

Greg & Jeni Goodwin

PORTER REALTY, INC.
503 Main Street, Alamosa CO
719-589-5899
www.PorterRealty.com

greg@porterrealty.com (719) 580-5395
jeni@porterrealty.com (719) 580-2636

♦ Excellent Service ♦ Expert Advice ♦ Exceptional Results

AUCTION

CONSIGNMENT AUCTION
Last Saturday of the month from April 27 until November 30. At the Community Building next to Quality Timbers on Hwy. 285. Taking consignments on Fridays. Sale starts at 10:00 am. Lunch available.

FOOD TRUCK

SUAVECITO Follow us on Facebook
719-588-7185

GRILL

Catering located in the parking lot in front of Little Caesars

TREE SERVICE

Thomas Trees Services & Lawn Care

719-480-1821

Residential and Commercial Tree removal, trimming, topping, stump removal pruning, lawn care, we put gravel etc.
Free estimates

LOCKSMITH

Locked Out? Lost Your keys? Just Need a spare? We've Got You Covered!
• Smart Keys • Transponders • Fobs
Serving The San Luis Valley And Surrounding Areas
Call or Text us Today 719-Mrk-Lock (719-675-5625)
MrKLock.com

Mr. K Lock & Key
LOCKSMITH
Commercial • Residential • Automotive
719-Mrk-Lock • (719-675-5625)

Plumbing & Remodeling

DEREK'S
Plumbing & Remodeling
Licenses: PC-3198 - Licenses: MP-450181

Derek Marquez
Master Plumber, Plumbing Contractor
(719) 588-0682
dereksplumbing@outlook.com
1110 Alamosa Ave. • Alamosa, CO

We Buy Cars

FREE Estimates
We Welcome Insurance Claims

L&M
Paint & Body Shop

8425 Rd. 8 South • Alamosa
589-9205

Construction

ZTEC
Construction

5" & 6" SEAMLESS RAIN GUTTERS
Free Estimates
Mervin Fisher 719.992.1396
14972 CR 13 • La Jara, CO 81140

Stucco

Sanchez Plastering & Masonry

Synthetic Traditional Patches Interior Exterior Paint
Fully Insured & Bonded Fully Licensed Work Guaranteed
(719) 486-6781

Tires

Jim's Tire Store

711 1/2 State Ave. • Alamosa
719-589-9690
NEW • USED • RECAPPED
Great Service!

Advertising

Advertise Your Business in this **SPACE**
Only \$99 per month*
*3 month commitment

Classifieds

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

221 - HELP WANTED

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26ft 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 jt timber.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 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)

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

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

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)

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

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.com 719-657-4020; or Annie Hardy, Principal, at ahardy@urtigers.com 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.com. (5/1/24)

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

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

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)

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)

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

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

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

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

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)

DEL NORTE BANK is seeking a candidate to fill a SEASONAL POSITION for a TELLER at our CREEDE BRANCH. Duties will be to accept deposits, loan payments, and process withdrawals while maintaining a balanced cash drawer. Must be personable and pleasant answering the phone and greeting customers. Many other duties will be assigned as needed. The position is seasonal, full time with a hourly range of \$14.42 to \$17.00. Please send your resume or application to postmaster@truelocalbank.com by April 12, 2024. Application is available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers or call 719-657-3376 and ask for Dawn. EOE. (4/12/24)

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

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

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

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

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

267 - WORK WANTED

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

304 - LAWN & GARDEN

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

307 - APPLIANCES

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

324 - SEED & FEED

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

345 - WOOD

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

353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

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

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

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

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)

368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

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

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. SA-GUACHE 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 FORSALE

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

525 - GUNS

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

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Now Taking Applications



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

Affordable Multi Family Housing



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

High Valley Manor
503 Batterson, Monte Vista
719-852-5711 • M-F, 8-Noon
This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.

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)



FEEL LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER?

New in town? Get acquainted with and 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!

One Man's Junk is Another Man's Treasure. Try Our Classifieds!

Valley Courier 589-2553



Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 "How — I to know?"
 - 4 Catchall abbr.
 - 7 Run
 - 11 Unfriendly
 - 12 Entreaty
 - 13 "— was I ere ..."
 - 14 Party mem.
 - 15 Criminal group
 - 16 Rain cats and dogs
 - 17 — de corps
 - 19 Holy Roman —
 - 21 Smog
 - 22 Old English lengths
 - 23 Bunny hill
 - 25 Conduct
 - 27 Free electron
 - 28 "— John"
 - 30 Antenna type
 - 34 Wall Street orders
 - 36 Lip sync
 - 38 Actress — Farrow
 - 39 Transport
- DOWN**
- 1 Broad
 - 2 Holes-in-one
 - 3 Concert piece
 - 4 Cream of the crop
 - 5 Sawbuck
 - 6 Bird housing

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 7 Spotted
- 8 Seething
- 9 Slanderous words
- 10 "— Comes the Sun"
- 12 Cherished
- 18 Tap
- 20 Actress — Ryan
- 23 Bro. or sis.
- 24 TV's "— Grant"
- 25 Howl
- 26 Supply guns
- 29 Down Under bird
- 31 Copycat
- 32 Wrong-doing
- 33 "I've — it up to here!"
- 35 Stunned
- 37 Exit
- 40 Tailless primate
- 42 Massage
- 43 Actress — Channing
- 44 Cat — -tails
- 45 Engender
- 46 Unhearing
- 47 Ready to eat
- 49 Uproar (hyph.)
- 50 Black — pea
- 53 Actor — Diesel

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: ★★★★★

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN

© LaughingStock Licensing Inc. Dis. by Andrews McMeel Syndication 2204

"He hates taking a bath."

New mother refuses to let her grandma hold the baby

DEAR ABBY: My oldest daughter, "Kate," is 22. Her baby is now 6 months old. She is the first grandchild and great-grandchild. Kate refuses to allow my mom to hold her baby. My mom has held the baby a couple of times, but my daughter immediately swooped in and took the baby from her. During the last family gathering, Kate wouldn't let me hold the baby either, because she said I might let my mom hold the baby.

It hurts my heart to watch Mom treated this way. I know my mom. We haven't always been close, and sometimes Mom says the wrong things, but she is a good person and would never hurt the baby. Because I let Kate know my feelings, she is now refusing to come to any family gathering where Mom might be present, and she won't talk to me, either.

I'm struggling and emotional over this. Mom has done some very kind things for my daughter. She owns a timeshare and let Kate use it for graduation and her honeymoon. I feel Kate is using the baby as a weapon. Is there anything I can do? If not, how do I try to move on? -- THWARTED IN UTAH

DEAR THWARTED: Kate may -- or may not -- be using her child as a weapon to punish you and your mother for some perceived slight. She may also legitimately be worried that her grandmother might accidentally drop the little one. You stated that you and your mother weren't close for a period of time. If you and your mother weren't close, it would follow that your daughter wouldn't be all that close to her grandmother.

Of course, a solution to this problem won't be possible until you understand what has caused it, and that won't happen until your daughter is willing to give you some straight answers. Start there. If she refuses, you will have to live your life and hope that as your grandchild grows up, the dynamic will change.

DEAR ABBY: When a daughter is getting married, how do divorced parents sit, walk down the aisle and conduct themselves? -- ALMOST THERE IN NEW YORK

DEAR ALMOST THERE: First and foremost, the divorced parents should act like adults and bury their hostilities (if there are any) on their



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

daughter's special day. Tact and diplomacy should be paramount. Depending upon the circumstances, the "person of choice" should accompany the bride down the aisle. If there is a stepfather, some brides ask each gentleman to walk halfway down the aisle with her.

If the parents are cordial, Emily Post says they can share the first row. If they aren't (and I am shortening this), the mother sits in the front row with her relatives behind her. The father and his relatives are seated behind his ex-wife's family. (If the bride is estranged from her mother, the father and his family occupy the first rows.)

ALLEY OOP

© 2024 UFS. Dis. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

ARLO & JANIS

© 2024 UFS. Dis. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

BIG NATE

© 2024 UFS. Dis. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

THE BORN LOSER

© 2024 UFS. Dis. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

© 2024 UFS. Dis. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

FRANK & ERNEST

© 2024 UFS. Dis. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

GARFIELD

© 2024 UFS. Dis. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

THE GRIZZWELLS

© 2024 UFS. Dis. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

PEANUTS

© 2024 UFS. Dis. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS