



San Luis Valley's Spring Ag Preview

— Inside today's Valley Courier

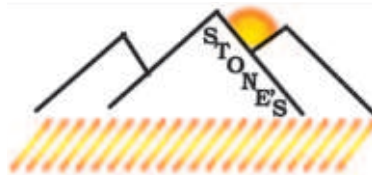


Falcons fly past Farmers in season opener

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

March 13, 2024

\$1

SLV Today

Alamosa Comprehensive Plan public meeting on Thursday

ALAMOSA — The public is invited to participate in a listening session with Alamosa County officials to discuss the Comprehensive Plan for the county on Thursday, March 14, at the Sanctuary, 407 Fourth St., Alamosa, from 8 to 11 a.m.

SLV Regional Airport meeting on Thursday

ALAMOSA — The San Luis Valley Regional Airport Advisory Board will have a regular meeting Thursday, March 14, from 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. The meeting is held upstairs above Centric Aviation.

The public is welcome to attend.

Farwell to Hidden Lake

ALAMOSA — Since 2010, the Friends of the Alamosa Public Library have been collecting art, writing and poetry of the Valley in Messages from the Hidden Lake. This year, they will release the final volume.

A reception will be at Alamosa City Hall Council Chambers, 300 Hunt Ave., on March 15 from 6 to 8 p.m., to celebrate this local publication and all the writers and artists who have contributed to it. Copies will be available for \$10 each. Refreshments provided.

Valley blood drive set for March 16

SOUTH FORK — A Valley blood drive is scheduled for Saturday, March 16, at the South Fork Community Building from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This is open to everybody.

Blood donation can make a monumental impact on the lives of people across the country and especially here locally, organizers stated.

"Alotofyouhavegenerously volunteered your time to come donate and make such a difference," organizers stated.

Sign up now at www.bloodhero.com, sponsor code: southfork, or contact Karen Miller at 720-313-4834 or mkmillermink@aol.com.

SLV WEATHER

Chance of Snow, Breezy 46/24

Thurs: Snow Likely, Breezy 44/22

Fri: Snow 41/19

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Playwright connects with Monte Vista roots in 'Knocking on the Devil's Door'

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Tuesday night was a big night in the life of Anthony Sisneros when the 22-year-old graduating senior from Adams State University (ASU) experienced something he never envisioned when he was younger.

Characters — five of them, who had existed only in his mind — came to life on the Xperimental Stage at ASU, and through dialogue, movement on the stage, and interactions with each other, told a story that was

born solely in Sisneros' imagination but inspired, in many ways, by his life.

The play, titled "Knocking on the Devil's Door," is the story of Tony, "a young Mexican who's reflecting on his past and how to get back the love of his life." Sisneros credits the song "Real Gangsta" with inspiring him to turn his story into a play, but the story itself is based on how Sisneros grew up. "It's about what I saw. What I heard. What I experienced as a teenager."

For as long as he can remember, stories have always played

a crucial role in Sisneros' life. Whether it was reading or watching them, "consuming" stories helped to shape who he is. "There's always been something about it that was magical — being able to experience a story, whether it was non-fiction or fiction."

■ See **ROOTS** page 3

Playwright and ASU graduating senior Anthony Sisneros whose original play 'Knocking on the Devil's Door,' is being performed today through Friday on ASU's Xperimental Stage.

Photo courtesy of Isaac Anthony Sisneros



Hickenlooper, Bennet secure \$2 million for SLVH workforce housing

Funding boosts work already underway

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Colorado U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper have secured \$2 million in funding to further SLV Health's ongoing efforts to provide workforce housing for some of their contract employees.

The award is part of a larger appropriations package that passed 75 to 22 in the Senate with



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Thanks to Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper, SLV Health received \$2 million in federal funding to renovate and update Pike Avenue Apartments. The eleven unit building will provide workforce housing on the hospital's campus.

strong bi-partisan support and is now headed to President Biden's desk. Funding in the bill is slated to bring a total \$129 million to 120 community

projects across Colorado. According to Donna Wehe, Communications Director with SLV Health, the application for funding was to im-

prove the Pikes Place apartment building that SLV Health recently purchased.

"The building is located on our campus," Wehe

says, "and we want to make improvements to the property to bring it up to par for workforce housing."

■ See **SLVH** page 3

Mountainfilm on Tour to screen in Monte Vista April 11

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — Mountainfilm on Tour brings a selection of culturally rich, adventure-packed and incredibly inspiring documentary films curated from the Mountainfilm festival in Telluride. The tour will visit Monte Vista at the Vali 3 Theater on Thursday, April 11, with films that explore themes con-

nected to Mountainfilm's mission of using the power of film, art and ideas to inspire audiences to create a better world.

Mountainfilm on Tour in Monte Vista is hosted by San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLV GO!) and sponsored by the LOR Foundation, San Luis Valley Federal Bank, SLV Health, Colorado Housing and Finance

Authority, The Law Office of Mark Loy, LLC, Sweetgrass Therapeutics, and The Church Project. SLV GO! has been organizing Mountainfilm on Tour for three years and has been working to provide accessible and inclusive outdoor recreation opportunities that balance conservation, connect communities, improve wellness, encourage

stewardship, and contribute to the economic vitality of the region. SLV GO! believes the great outdoors is a place of common ground, a place that transcends societal barriers, and has the ability to bring people together and foster a sense of community, belonging, and shared stewardship for the environment. While

■ See **FILM** page 3

Check out the new Engineering Center at Adams State University

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — No fooling, the Adams State University/CSU Engineering Manufacturing Education Center (EMEC) is complete. An open house will be held from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday, April 1, in Porter Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

The event will include tours of the facility throughout the day; demonstrations of the new jet engine at 12:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.; and machine demonstrations throughout the day; 3D printer displays and free

refreshments. Mechanical engineering students and staff will be available to share their knowledge of the program and instruments and Adams State Mechanical Engineer Director Matt Nehring, Ph.D., and Colorado

■ See **ASU** page 3

Adams State First Year Seminar Engineering students work in the new Adams State Engineering Manufacturing Education Center (EMEC). The public is invited to the EMEC Open House from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday, April 1, located in Porter Hall.

Courtesy photo



Chad Spearman

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Record

OBITUARY

Billie Kathleen Carpenter

Mrs. Billie Kathleen Carpenter, a longtime homemaker known for her dedication to her family, passed away in Del Norte, Colo. She was born in Salida, Colo., to Mildred and Earl Ruggles on Sept. 28, 1941.

In her younger years, she was a member of Mary Martha at Sargent Community Church and taught Sunday School for many years. Billie drove school bus for the Sargent School District for 15 years. She was a talented seamstress and made many of her children, grandchildren and other family members beautiful clothes, including western shirts, bridesmaid dresses and wedding dresses.

Throughout her life, Billie's greatest joys came from caring for her children, grandchildren, lending a helping hand on the family farm, exploring nature; especially wildflowers, mountains and hummingbirds and driving around looking at wildlife with her husband Donald.

Billie is survived by her loving spouse of 64 years, Donald Carpenter, who



stood by her side through thick and thin. She will be deeply missed by her children: Gregory (Kendra Burns) Carpenter, Kenneth (Carrie) Carpenter, and Shawna (Eid) Fakhouri. In addition to her immediate family, Billie leaves behind a legacy of love and kindness for her grandchildren: Nicole (Eddie) Valdez, Cody (Aleisha) Carpenter, Michelle Hathaway, Jessica (Jacob) Hathaway, Stephen Hathaway, Zachary Carpenter, Kameron Carpenter, Savannah Fakhouri, Sophia Fakhouri, Samuel Fakhouri, and her great-grandchildren Jace Quintana, Jayla Quintana, Haylee Carpenter and Kinslee Carpenter as well as numerous nieces, nephews and

extended family.

She is now reunited in heaven with her parents Mildred and Earl Ruggles, as well as her siblings Earl Eugene (George) Ruggles, Francis (Floyd) Parr, June (Clyde) McDowell, Patty (Arnold) Funk, Bob (Sandra) Ruggles, and Glenn Ruggles.

Billie's memory will also be cherished by her surviving brother Jack (Dorothy) Ruggles and sister-in-law Terry Ruggles.

Billie will forever be remembered for the warmth she brought into the lives of all who knew her. Her nurturing spirit, unwavering love and playful personality will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to have crossed paths with her.

Cremation was selected and a Celebration of Life Service will be held Saturday June 22 at Hermit Lakes.

To share condolences with the family or to view a picture tribute of Billie's life, please visit www.mymortuary.com. Mountain Valley Mortuary, 504 4th Avenue, Monte Vista, is in charge of arrangements.



Photo by R. Gonzales/CPW

CPW invasive species specialist inspects the motor on a patrol boat at Highline Lake on Oct. 12, 23. To help expedite the inspection process and minimize impacts to their travel, CPW encourages boaters to plan ahead and ensure their watercraft are clean, drained, and dry prior to arrival at the check station.

CPW's Aquatic nuisance species roadside inspection program to become full-time after two successful pilot years

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

DENVER — Colorado Parks and Wildlife will begin operating two aquatic nuisance species (ANS) watercraft inspection and decontamination stations at the Colorado State Patrol Loma and Trinidad Ports Of Entry on Thursday, March 14. These two check stations are the first to open and operate during the boating season as full-time seasonal roadside inspection stations after two years of a successful pilot program.

Starting March 14 through Oct. 31, any vehicle with a motorized or trailered watercraft entering the state on I-70 east from Utah (Loma Port Of Entry) or I-25 north from New Mexico (Trinidad Port Of Entry) will be required to stop for an inspection Thursday-Monday. Watercraft that are clean, drained and dry will be provided a green seal and white inspection receipt showing they passed inspection. Watercraft found to have mud, water, plants or mussels will be decontaminated. All trailered and motorized watercraft will still be required to go through an ANS inspection at their final destination. Those with a green seal and white receipt from Port of Entry check stations will be expedited.

"Inspecting the highest risk watercraft at ports of entry will serve as a first line of defense and help ensure Colorado's lakes

and reservoirs remain free of highly destructive aquatic nuisance species," said Robert Walters, CPW Invasive Species Program Manager. "The last two years and where we take this program into the future could not have been done without our partners at Colorado State Patrol Port of Entry staff and the Colorado Department of Transportation, and we are looking forward to partnering with them again to protect Colorado's bodies of water."

"We are excited to see this program that helps to protect Colorado's recreational and economic interests through our highly visited lakes, reservoirs and rivers continue," said Yulonda Winterberg, Deputy Director of the Colorado State Patrol Port of Entry. "We appreciate this opportunity to partner with Colorado Parks and Wildlife in such a meaningful way."

After the passage of House Bill 21-1226 which provided authority for the pilot program, CPW launched the pilot program in 2022 with three separate roadside watercraft inspection and decontamination events at the Loma Port Of Entry, west of Grand Junction. CPW staff inspected a total of 95 watercraft at check stations that were open for one day each in May, July, and September. Of those watercraft, 60 were decontaminated and 26 were confirmed to have adult mussels.

After a successful first year, CPW expanded the program in 2023 to operate nine watercraft inspection and decontamination stations at multiple ports of entry and welcome centers across Colorado. ANS staff inspected 21 watercraft, two of which were found to have adult mussels.

"While we did not see the number of watercraft during the 2023 operations, we still prevented two boats with mussels from entering Colorado waters and gained a better understanding of motorized boat travel into the state," said Walters.

Based on the information gathered in 2022 and 2023, CPW determined that the Loma and Trinidad Ports Of Entry would be the highest impact locations for the next phase of the program, as they saw the highest number of high-risk out-of-state motorized boats.

To help expedite the inspection process and minimize impacts to their travel, CPW encourages boaters to plan ahead and ensure their watercraft are clean, drained, and dry prior to arrival at the station. Watercraft found to have mud, plants, water or mussels during inspection will be subject to decontamination.

In Colorado, inspections for aquatic nuisance species are mandatory on all motorized boats. Any motorboat and sailboat entering Colorado waters must have an ANS Stamp prior to launching.

The Tumbler online at Wolf Creek



Courtesy Photos by Scott DW Smith

Wolf Creek Ski Area in Southern Colorado recently debuted its newest chairlift, the Tumbler. The Tumbler Lift has been running successfully for the past four weeks. To ensure all systems were working efficiently, Wolf Creek had a soft opening of the lift on Feb. 10.

Kirkland's Faculty Lecture is March 14

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University Faculty Lecture Series "What Having Adventures Taught Me About Life and Education," by Wil Rickards, assistant professor of kinesiology and health science, begins at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 14, in McDaniel Hall 101. The lecture is free and open to the public.

At a time when we

know significantly less about employment's future fabric than our parents did, imagine what our children are facing. For them to forge a path in this climate, we need to prepare students to work collectively for the common good, be resilient, solve problems, and deal with uncertainty. This will be an anecdotal journey through a lifetime of curiosity, experimentation, and employing adventure to

make a significant difference in my journey; this includes my role as a parent and my work as an educator. Expect to walk away pondering how adventure aligns with the Adams Experience and with some tools to make it happen. For more information on the Faculty Lecture Series, contact Jess Gagliardi at 719-587-8921 or jgagliardi@adams.edu.

March has definitely come in like a lion

By HIGH VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

DEL NORTE — The winds have been crazy in the Valley, but there's been some major fun that blew in with them.

This week, the High Valley Community Center will be going to the Gator Farm on Friday! Come learn all about the reptiles that live at the farm and feed a gator or two with us.

Last week, we learned

all sorts of new things! The kiddos created raised salt paintings and then took off into outer space to make their own UFOs (aliens included). Our teens started learning about coding and how to make all the 0s and 1s work together to form functional code.

To end the week with a bang, we took everyone on a field trip to the Alamosa Arcade! The kids had a ton of fun playing video games and unwind-

ing after a long week at school.

We are excited for another great week! Feel free to stop by and say, "hi." We love seeing our community members!

School Menu
Wednesday
March 13, 2024

BREAKFAST

Breakfast Wrap
Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY

Chicken Alfredo
Steamed Broccoli
WG Roll/Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Chicken Alfredo
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HIGH SCHOOL

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

Valley News

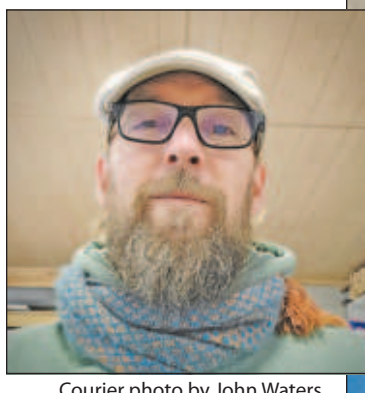
Saguache Democratic caucus picks two for county commissioner primary

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor
SAGUACHE COUNTY — Delegates at the Saguache County caucus on March 5 gave challenger Adam Kinney 30 votes and incumbent Tom McCracken 20 votes, enough to place them both on the June 25 primary ballot.

McCracken of Crestone told the Valley Courier, "There was an impressive turnout at the caucus for both candidates. I appreciate very much those who took time out of their day to attend. I am looking forward to competing in the primary

election."
 Kinney is also from Crestone, "This is how democracy happens, people caring and showing up to participate. And now we have two qualified candidates on the primary ballot, which will push us both to work harder for the residents of Saguache County. I am beyond grateful to my community for coming out to support me in this process of civic engagement, and for representing the future leadership of the county," Kinney said.

County Commissioner Lynne Thompson was



Courier photo by John Waters
Adam Kinney of Crestone will be on the June primary ballot for Saguache County Commissioner running against incumbent Tom McCracken.



Saguache County Commissioner Tom McCracken at a recent Town Hall in Crestone.

unopposed and will be on the November ballot. Thompson is also the Saguache County Democratic Party Chair. Thompson said there

were 51 votes with one unsigned ballot and not valid, leaving 50 votes that resulted in the 30 Kinney, 20 McCracken split.

Film

Continued from Page 1
 hosting an inspiring collection of films, the show is also an opportunity to raise funds that support SLV GO! in ongoing outdoor recreation and conservation projects that improve community wellness and environmental stewardship.

SLV GO! is kicking off the event on Thursday, April 11, with a social hour beginning at 4:30 p.m. at The Pivot Public House at 201 Jefferson St. in Monte Vista. Stop by for appetizers, drinks, good company, and a chance to win local prizes including artwork, outdoor gear, and outdoor experiences. Doors open at 6 p.m. at the Vali Theater and showtime starts at 6:30 p.m. You can purchase your tickets at the door or online at eventbrite.com. The cost for the show is \$15



Image credit: Scott Secco

per adult and \$10 per student. If you have any questions, contact SLV GO!'s Community Outreach Manager, Dani Robben at danirobben@slvgo.com.

Mountainfilm is a documentary film festival that showcases stories about environmental,

cultural, climbing, political and social justice issues. Mountainfilm is held every Memorial Day weekend in Telluride. Along with exceptional documentaries, the festival goes beyond the film medium by bringing together world-class athletes, change makers

and visionary artists for a multi-dimensional celebration of indomitable spirit. Mountainfilm's mission is to use the power of film, art and ideas to inspire audiences to create a better world. To learn more about Mountainfilm, visit www.mountainfilm.org.

SLVH

Continued from Page 1
 Currently, SLV Health is renting between ten and fifteen apartments throughout Alamosa to accommodate those visiting professionals who are working locally and providing needed health care services as well as long term medical students who are doing their residency with the hospital.

"This housing will allow us to keep our workforce nearby and on campus, which is so much more convenient for everyone. It's especially helpful for those people who are part of a couple but have only one vehicle. That can create problems when a spouse needs to go to work and the professional or student needs to come

to campus. Renovating Pikes Place and having people comfortably housed on campus solves that problem."

But, Wehe says, there was another prime motivation to do this, not just for how it benefits SLV Health but also for the benefit it will provide to the Alamosa community.

"We have a serious shortage of affordable housing in Alamosa," she says. "By buying and renovating this apartment building, we can free up those other 10, 12 or 15 apartments we're renting throughout the town and make them available to others who need a place to live. It's just a great deal for everybody involved."

"We're very excited to get this award," Wehe says. "It's really great news."

ASU

Continued from Page 1
 State University Engineering Department Director Christian Puttlitz, Ph.D., will also be available for questions about the program.

Every participant will receive a small giveaway. Large groups are wel-

come, including schools; to accommodate please schedule an appointment by contacting Scott Clayton, CSU Undergraduate Teaching Labs Engineer, at 719-587-7858.

Adams State partnered with Colorado State University to establish the mechanical engineering bachelor's degree. Students have the opportu-

nity to earn the CSU degree, delivered entirely on the Adams State campus. Adams State provides all lower-division coursework for the first two years of the program and CSU provides all upper-division coursework with face-to-face instruction for the last two years by CSU faculty located in Alamosa.

The late William A. Porter, Class of 1951, was founder and chairman of E*TRADE Group, Inc. Porter donated \$4.6 million worth of stock in E*TRADE Group, Inc. in 1998. He received the Adams State Associated Alumni's 1991 Outstanding Achievement Award and the 2005 Billy Adams Award.

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Roots

Continued from Page 1
 tion, and being drawn in."

But writing is an equally important part of Sisneros' own story and is something that, he says, goes all the way back to elementary school. "I love using words that I can arrange to have an effect on the reader."

The creative desire was so strong that it led to Sisneros entering college as an English major with a minor in Creative Writing. Once enrolled, he was guided by Associate Professor of Theater, David Gerke to become involved in the Theatre Program.

But it was Dr. George McConnell, also in the Theater Department who encouraged him to consider playwriting, noting both his talent and love for writing dialogue and creating interactions between characters.

Writing and directing "Knocking on the Devil's Door" marks a major milestone in Sisneros' creative journey but this specific play holds great personal meaning to him, as well.

Sisneros, like his main character, Tony, was raised in Monte Vista. And, like Tony, Sisneros

is loyal to his roots.

"Growing up in Monte Vista definitely exposed me to things I probably shouldn't have been exposed to as young as I was. But it helped me to start seeing the world as it really is. Being exposed to potential dangers and that whole thing...that's part of my connection to Monte Vista."

Writing "Knocking on the Devil's Door" is a way of Sisneros' admitting his loyalty to that past. "Monte Vista is where I'm from. No matter what I do or wish I could do, I can't change that. Since I can't change that, I might as well acknowledge that and embrace it. I think that's where the loyalty comes from."

Sisneros says he didn't directly experience "the potential dangers and... that whole thing". His family moved to Alamosa when he was in high school, so he was "away" by the time he might have had to make some difficult choices.

"I was lucky," he says. "But I watched it happen to people I cared about, people I was close to." Like many writers, Sisneros doesn't define precisely what "it" or "that whole thing" is. Instead, he leaves it up to the per-

son hearing his story to interpret his meaning.

In talking to him, it's clear that writing is more than a desire. It's a passion, a creative outlet that is necessary for his survival at a certain level. "If I didn't write, I'd just be lost. I might have pursued something that was more...traditional... but I would be lost. Basically soulless."

But more than career pursuits, Sisneros sees great value in creativity for people — young Hispanics — who are experiencing some significant challenges in their lives. "Creativity is a healthy outlet for all the frustrations. Whether it's a drawing or a poem or a short skit for Instagram, it's an escape — a healthy escape — where you can dial in and focus on creating a world or getting lost in music that you're making...it's just a way to escape from everything."

Sisneros goes on to make an additional point — not about his work but the work of others.

"There aren't a lot of stories told about the experiences of young Hispanics in the San Luis Valley, especially from, I'd say, 16 to 21 years old. That age where peo-

ple are beginning to be influenced by the world around them."

That lack of stories does not spring from a lack of creativity.

"I know a lot of people who don't follow their creative ambitions. They think they can't do it because they're from the Valley or they're from Monte Vista. So, they kind of give up on things."

"One of the biggest factors in me writing this play is to say hey, even if you're from Monte Vista or somewhere else in the Valley, you can still follow your creative ambitions. I mean, look, I was able to write and direct a play."

This conversation was held just hours before the opening night of "Knocking on the Devil's Door". When asked how he was feeling, Sisneros' voice lightens up for the first time that he's been speaking. "I'm so excited," he says. "Terrified but excited."

And his message to the audience? "Enjoy the show."

"Knocking on the Devil's Door" has performances from today through Friday, March 15. Curtain is at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at theatre.adams.edu or by calling 719-587-8499.

Thursday, March 14

Men's Lacrosse vs Quincy University at Alamosa, Colo.
3:00 p.m.

Friday, March 15

Men & Women's Track at Dr. Dan Caprioglio Early Bird Invitational at Pueblo, Colo.
TBA

Baseball at Colorado Christian University at Lakewood, Colo.
3:00 p.m.

Women's Basketball vs (4) Texas Permian Basin at Denton, Texas
7:30 p.m. (CT) / 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 16

Men & Women's Track at Dr. Dan Caprioglio Early Bird Invitational at Pueblo, Colo.
TBA

Wrestling vs NCAA Division II National Championship - Day 1 at Park City, Kan.
12:00 p.m.

Baseball at Colorado Christian University at Lakewood, Colo.
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Softball at Colorado Mesa University at Grand Junction, Colo.
12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Valley Courier

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Opinion

Who's the greatest loser? We are

By DAVID M. SHRIBMAN

One of them looks old; the other looks younger. One of them faced a nomination challenge from one of his presidential appointees; the other faces continual calls to step away from the campaign. One of them sees a dystopian future; the other seems stuck in a romantic past.

Ordinarily, presidential candidates on the precipice of clinching their party's nomination seem to move from weakness to strength. This time, President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump seem to be moving from weakness to weakness.

All of which prompts the following unusual but unavoidable question: Which of the two presumptive presidential candidates is weakest?

Like everything else in the 2024 presidential campaign, it's a close call.

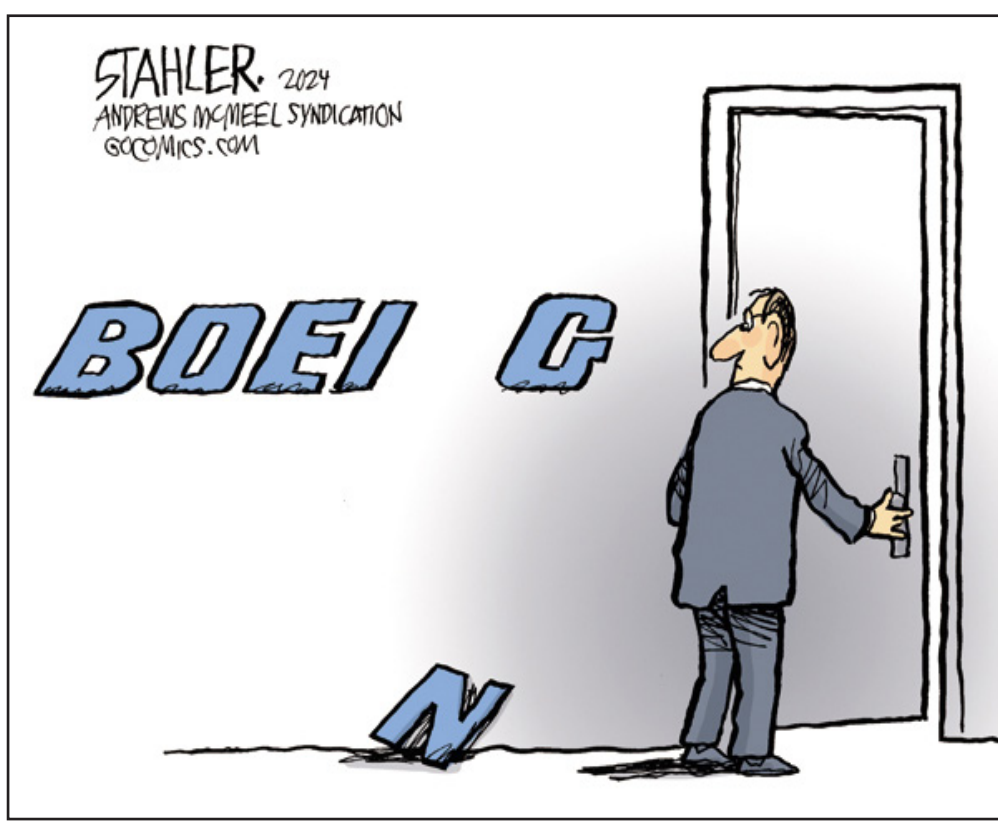
Biden is limping toward the finish line, beset by questions about why he hasn't stepped aside for a new generation of leadership — the very call he made in 1972 when, at age 29, he deftly played the age card in his challenge to an established incumbent, Republican Sen. Caleb Boggs, who was 20 years younger than Biden is now. "To Cale [cq] Boggs, an unfair tax was the 1948 poll tax," read a Biden newspaper ad. "To Joe Biden, an unfair tax is the 1972 income tax."

The tagline that no one but White House loyalists would apply to the Biden 2024 campaign: "Joe Biden. He understands what's happening today."

Trump may have surged Tuesday by winning every state but tiny Vermont — which in any case isn't going to fall into the Republican column in November — but the large number of voters who chose former Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina is a warning sign that, for all the former president's talk about GOP unity, the party is far from unified.

Trump and Biden are running against themselves as much as against each other. It isn't a question of who wins the general election so much as it is a question of who loses.

It's speculative and unrealistic, of course, but it's a good bet that Trump would be defeated easily by Barack Obama and Biden would be defeated handily by Mitt Romney. This is not a



good situation for either of them, or for the country.

It's hard to decide which of the candidates has a bigger problem.

Biden's is the very record — on the economy, on immigration, on the Middle East — that his aides believe is his biggest asset.

Look no further than the recent results in Minnesota, which within living memory propelled three Democratic political figures into national prominence: Hubert H. Humphrey, Eugene McCarthy and Walter F. Mondale.

In a state with a vigorous Democratic tradition — actually the formal name of the party there is the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, an indication of its liberal orientation — one-fifth of those who voted in the party primary chose "uncommitted" over Biden.

The warning signs, which were present also in North Carolina (a potential swing state) and Massachusetts (a dependable Democratic state, at least in presidential elections), came only a week after a similar showing in Michigan, a vital swing state with a large Arab American population. In each place, the qualms with Biden (or the bitter disappointment) were obvious and ominous: The defection came among the young and the progressive, adding their doubts to those of the substantial Muslim opposition to the Biden response to the war in Gaza.

Not that Biden's troubles stand alone. Except in the dark red enclaves of the South, Haley racked up substantial numbers — not nearly enough to deny huge troves of delegates to

Trump, but enough to display deep doubts about him, his temperament and his prospects in coming legal cases. Indeed, there are credible indications in exit polls that Republican support for Trump could leach away if he is actually convicted in a criminal case.

But the Biden team shouldn't breathe easy or count on the courts.

The rate of 2020 Trump voters who told the New York Times/Siena poll they would stick with their man four years later was nearly unanimous (97%). Not so for 2020 Biden voters (83%), with 1 in 10 actually saying they will choose Trump this time around.

Early polls are unreliable, to be sure. But still, they reliably identify vulnerabilities, and the survey finding that the percentage of young voters who will stick with Biden has dropped by half is a bugle blast of crisis for the Democrats. There are similar warning signs in the suburbs, which propelled Biden to victory in 2020 and boosted Democrats in the 2018 and 2022 midterm congressional elections.

Four years ago, Biden won the suburbs by 11 percentage points. His margin now is a paltry 2 points, within the margin of error. And his margin among Blacks, regarded as the most reliable of Democratic constituencies, has dropped by almost half. It was Black votes in 2020 that helped seal his nomination.

Perhaps the most dangerous finding for the Biden team came in a Wall Street Journal poll showing that twice as many voters thought the Trump policies during his presidency ben-

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."

efited them than the rate who felt that Biden's policies aided them.

Then again, look to that Minnesota primary on Super Tuesday. Four-fifths of the Haley voters said they wouldn't support Trump in November. That pretty much puts Minnesota's 10 electoral votes out of Trump's reach, no matter how let down young and Muslim voters feel toward Biden. The same phenomenon showed up in other states.

Haley may have been vanquished on Super Tuesday, but she is unbowed.

In her news conference suspending her campaign, she didn't endorse Trump. Note that she suspended her effort rather than withdrew; that's a customary position, but in the 2024 context not insignificant.

It means that she retains her delegates, which, though her haul represents only about a tenth of those won by her rival, nonetheless positions her to be the leading alternative candidate if Trump suffers a health episode or if a legal conviction puts him in jeopardy.

A stroke or a credible crime accusation is a slender reed on which to base presidential hopes. But — here is a counter argument — those are the very factors that could endanger Biden, whose son Hunter is no asset to the president.

No one will win this presidential race. Someone will lose it. Already the public has.

David M. Shribman is the former executive editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

The 'No Labels' joke

By BYRON YORK

How do presidential candidacies start? Most begin with the ambitions of one person — one governor or senator or, in Donald Trump's case, one real estate mogul and reality TV star who thinks he should be president of the United States. Perhaps they even have a vision for leadership. The ambitious would-be candidate then sets out to win the support of his political party, and the race is on.

That's the usual way. Right now, though, we're seeing a strange variation on the process in which a party — a would-be party, actually — has decided it wants to have a candidate in the 2024 presidential election and is holding a sort of talent search as it looks for the right man or woman for the job.

The No Labels organization was founded in 2010 by a group of Democratic and Republican political operatives. The point of calling itself No Labels was that it would reject the partisanship of the major political parties. Instead, it would focus on centrism and

"getting things done," although it has never been entirely clear what things the No Labels people want to get done.

You'd think it would be easy for the group to find a person to run for president. Many polls show majorities of Americans are unhappy with the prospect of a choice between President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump, so an alternative might be welcome. But finding a No Labels candidate has actually been hard — really hard. At various times in this campaign season, there have been reports that the No Labels group was very interested in a variety of potential candidates. There was retiring West Virginia Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin. There was former Maryland Republican Gov. Larry Hogan. There was just-dropped-out Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley. Problem was, all said no to running under the No Labels label. Others did, too.

Finding a candidate has been so hard that one might expect the No Labels people to just sit 2024 out. But that's not

what they have decided to do. Last Friday, the group got together in a virtual meeting and voted to go forward with a presidential run in 2024. But it still hasn't found anybody to run: No Labels decided to run a presidential campaign without a presidential candidate.

So now No Labels is also No Candidate. There is talk that, with the efforts to lure bigger names ending in failure, former Georgia Republican Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan is under consideration as the new No Labels standard-bearer. But who knows? Maybe he'll get a better offer and turn down No Labels, too.

One interesting aspect of this is that No Labels offers something that is hard for a would-be independent candidate to find. As of now, No Labels has access to the ballot in 14 states and will perhaps win access to another 14 in the months ahead. That is no small feat. By comparison, Axios reported recently that Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is on the ballot in just one state, Utah, but is nearing qualification for six more states. Getting on ballots is a lot of work. If a can-

didate were to run on the No Labels banner, a lot of that work would already have been done.

Some Democrats are angry at No Labels because they believe a No Labels candidate will hurt Biden more than Trump. Politico reported today that MoveOn, the progressive group, has put together a new ad attacking No Labels "urging voters not to support the third-party group." MoveOn has bought time on MSNBC's "Morning Joe," which is President Biden's favorite show, which it apparently thinks will make the president happy.

Why is all this happening? It's hard to say. One reason is that the centrist No Labels appeal does attract some donors, and there are always political operatives ready to jump on board if there is donor money to be had. Another is that the group allows some figures who once played big roles in our politics a way to stay in the game; No Labels is run by former Democratic Sen. Joe Lieberman, former NAACP executive director Ben Chavis and former North Carolina Republican Gov. Pat McCrory. A third possibility is that perhaps there are some people who really believe in the idea.

In any event, the search for a candidate goes on. The problem is, the lack of interest of high-level political players in running on a No Labels ticket means the process has become something of a joke. Perhaps No Labels officials could have an "Idol"-style competition to identify a candidate. Or maybe they could hold a drawing -- you've got to enter to win! Or perhaps they could just auction off the nomination to the highest bidder. In the end, though, who is going to take this seriously?

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

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

Lifestyles

Kamala Harris woos Latino voters while attacking Donald Trump at brief Denver stop

By SANDRA FISH
Special to The Colorado Sun

Vice President Kamala Harris visited Denver on Tuesday where she praised the Biden administration's accomplishments, particularly on behalf of Latino voters, and called former President Donald Trump a threat to their interests.

The Colorado stop was part of a nationwide tour by Harris following last week's State of the Union speech by President Joe Biden, as the presidential general election slate is largely set.

Her appeal to Latinos comes as some polls indicate that some Latino voters are souring on Biden and turning to Trump.

Harris spoke in Denver's River North Art District of accomplishments in reducing the costs of insulin and prescription drugs for seniors, canceling student loan debt and addressing gun violence.

On immigration, she said, "President Biden and I are fighting for a path to citizenship ... and to make our immigration more orderly and humane."

Then she turned to the recent failure of an immigration-border security compromise that died in the U.S. Senate because Republicans wouldn't support the deal.

"Donald Trump told them not to because it is clear that while we want to fix a problem, they want to run on a promise" of fixing it in the future, Harris said.

"They got nothing else to run on," she said to

cheers. "It's on us ... to recognize the threat he poses," she said. "In this election, we each face the question, what kind of country do we truly want to live in? Do we want to live in a country of liberty, freedom and rule of law or a country of disorder, fear and hate? Each of us has the power to answer these questions in so many ways, including at the ballot box."

Ana Temu Otting, owner of Broomfield's Corazón Printing, said she's excited to support the Biden-Harris campaign.

"We clearly know this time around that if we have Trump elected to the White House, our democracy and our foundation will be shaken," she said at the event. "I want to make sure that we are

protecting our future and our democracy and the progress that we've made so far."

Pro-Palestinian protesters chanted outside the ReelWorks event center on Market Street in RINO, but Harris and her entourage entered via the alley behind the venue.

Before her speech and a private briefing at the venue, Harris dropped in at Ratio Beerworks, a 9-year-old Brewery on Larimer Street. She met with the owners, Scott Kaplan and Jason zumBunnen, talking about the Paycheck Protection Program loans the company received during the pandemic (\$526,000 in two loans that were forgiven).

The two told her about how the street shut down during the pandemic and hasn't been reopened, and how the businesses

formed a nonprofit to sponsor events.

"I love stopping by small businesses because ... the people who run and own these businesses are really community leaders," she told the

media outside the brewery. "They're engaging in working with other nonprofits in a way that uplifts this entire area. It's really very special."

Harris left with a six-pack of Ratio's King of

Carrot Flowers Saison, as office workers across the street looked out the windows.

"It's actually an award-winning beer," she said. "And it is actually made with carrots."



Photo by Sandra Fish, Special to The Colorado Sun
Vice President Kamala Harris visited RINO's Ratio Beerworks and left with a six-pack Tuesday, March 12, 2024, before speaking to a crowd of mostly Latino voters about the importance of the 2024 presidential election at an event elsewhere in the neighborhood.

THANK YOU for your AmeriCorps Service!

It's AmeriCorps Week! AmeriCorps is celebrating 30 years of bringing service to communities. At Spark the Change Colorado, we're proud to celebrate and recognize our amazing Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Volunteers in Alamosa County! RSVP Volunteers, aged 55 and over, support the Empowering Aging initiative at Spark and dedicate their time and talents to serving the Alamosa community. Thank you for all you do!

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Visit the project website to register for the events!
www.imaginealamosa.com

Imagine ALAMOSA COUNTY

Center Conservation District receives grant for tree planting

CONTRIBUTED CENTER — The Center Conservation District has received a \$2,575 grant from the Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) for the Center and Rio Grande Conservation Districts' Property Tree Introduction project.

The purpose of the Center and Rio Grande Conservation Districts' Property Tree Introduction project is to introduce trees to the Districts' property at the USDA Service Center, 48 W County Road 10 N, Center, which hosts the USDA Service Center building and 126 acres of irrigated cropland. This project's main desired outcome is to provide wildlife and pollinator habitat to encourage effective crop pollination. Additional benefits of this project include improved soil health, windbreak, shade, and beautification of the property.

A unique combination of tree and shrub species will be planted and showcased on the property. The variety of selected species will not only provide the formerly stated benefits but also introduce local



landowners to a diversity of species that can be grown on their properties in the San Luis Valley.

The Center & Rio Grande Conservation Districts' Property Tree Introduction project will take place in early May with assistance from the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative (RGW-CEI), and students from local schools who will learn about the benefits of trees and proper planting, care, and management. This project is one of the many community forestry projects that the Center and Rio Grande Conservation Districts have and will continue to host.

The Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) is a nonprofit whose mission is to preserve, renew and enhance community forests statewide. The CTC awarded \$113,463 in grants to 29 organizations in 2023. These grant projects allowed recipients to plant and manage trees in community forests across Colorado. Grants are made possible through the Colorado State Forest Service, the Xcel Energy Foundation, Colorado Public Radio, and our CTC members and supporters. Since 1991, the CTC has awarded grants to 235 communities and organizations totaling more than \$1,239,000. These grants have been matched with more than \$8 million in community money and in-kind services.

EXCITING NEWS!

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Alamosa Valley Courier



Sports

Falcons fly past Farmers in season opener

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

LA JARA – The Centauri and Sargent high school baseball teams both opened their seasons on Tuesday with the Falcons defeating the Farmers 14-4 at the CHS field.

Sargent drew first blood with a run in the top of the first inning. Trenton Paskett drew a walk, advanced to second on a balk and he stole third base. A wild pitch brought him home.

Centauri tied the score in its half of the first. Dylan Gallardo received a base on balls and he stole second and he came all the way home on an error.

The Farmers regained the lead with three runs in the second. Corbin Castillo drew a walk, Cadyn Wright was hit by a pitch, and Jace Sierra walked to load the bases with one out. Kaleb Watson was also hit to drive home Castillo, Liam Ellithorpe walked to score Wright, and Kade Temple walked to plate Logan Bieriger who was courtesy-running for Sierra.

The Falcons answered with six runs in the bottom of the second. Ryder Norton led off with a single, and Warren Shelton and Kendrick Martin both walked to load the bases. Norton came home on a wild pitch and Leland Chacon also walked.

Cadon Allen reached on an error to score Shelton. Martin was out attempting to score on another wild pitch, but Chacon and Allen both scored on balks to give Centauri a 5-4 lead.

Dylan Gallardo and Entimio Gallegos both walked. Dylan Gallardo scored on a wild pitch, and Gallegos came home as Drake Gallardo was safe on an error, and the Falcons led 7-4.

Centauri scored six more runs in the third. Martin



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick
Sargent High School's Kade Temple (2) picks off Centauri's Caden Allen with Trenton Lovelace applying the tag. The Falcons defeated the Farmers 14-4.

led off with a walk and he scored on Allen's double. Dylan Gallardo also doubled to bring home Allen. Gallegos singled to put runners at the corners, and Diego Hernandez doubled home Dylan Gallardo and

Gallegos.

Norton's double brought Hernandez home and an error put Norton on second. He stole third and scored on a wild pitch for a 13-4 advantage.

The Falcons scored once in the fourth. Chacon drew a walk and Allen singled to again put runners at the corners. Dylan Gallardo singled home Chacon.

The game ended after five innings on the 10-run rule.

Hernandez started on the mound for the Falcons and he allowed four runs and no hits and he struck out six, walked five and hit two batters. Drake Gallardo went to the mound in the third and he gave up no runs and two hits and he had three strikeouts and one walk. Dylan Gallardo finished the game and surrendered no runs and no hits with three strikeouts and one walk.

Temple started for Sargent and he allowed seven runs and one hit while striking out two, walking seven and hitting one batter. Ellithorpe relieved Temple in the second and he gave up seven runs and seven hits with five strikeouts and two walks.

The Falcons scattered eight hits and were led by Dylan Gallardo who went 2-2 with a double and two RBIs, Norton who went 2-2 with one RBI, and Allen who went 2-3 with a double and two RBIs

Sargent had two hits with Castillo going 1-1 and Paskett went 1-2.

Centauri (1-0) will host a doubleheader with Swink on Friday. The first game begins at 11 a.m.

Sargent (0-1) will travel to Sierra Grande for a doubleheader on March 22 with the opener beginning at 11 a.m.

	Sargent	Centauri 14, Sargent 4
	130	00 - 4 2 6
	166	1x - 14 8 2
		Temple (L), Ellithorpe (2) and Sierra. Hernandez, Dr. Gallardo (W, 3), Dy. Gallardo (5) and Chacon.

Arby's All-Star Games will take place Friday at Plachy Hall

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Arby's All-Star games for boys and girls basketball will take place Friday at Plachy Hall. The girls game starts at 6 p.m. and the boys game begins at 8 p.m.

There will also be a 3-point shooting contest as well as a slam dunk contest. Admission is \$10 with pre-school children admitted for free.

Here are the teams for this year's games.

Boys game
Hot Shots

- Samuel Aguilera, Centennial
- Parker Gilmore, Alamosa
- Riley Heater, Moffat
- Chaz Holman, Centauri
- Brant Jackson, Alamosa
- Jasiah Jiron, Antonito
- Hayden Lester, Sargent
- Orlando Maes, Sierra Grande
- Derek Martinez, Sierra Grande
- Manuel Miranda, Sierra Grande
- Robert Morley, Moffat



Trenton Paskett, Sargent
Ziah Pesqueira, Moffat
Javier Ramos, Center
Lincoln Reynolds, Sanford
Kiko Ruybal, Alamosa
Alex Sittler, Sanford

Kaiden Smit, Sangre de Cristo
Kiler Ullery, Alamosa

Top Shots

- Kaleb Anderson, Centauri
- Cash Caldon, Sanford
- Noble Cole, Moffat
- Zack Crowther, Alamosa
- C.J. Donaldson, Center
- Tajuan Jamestown, Alamosa
- Tyler Kester, Sierra Grande
- Emmit Larsen, Sanford
- Jacob Martinez, Moffat
- R.J. Meis, Alamosa
- Michael Motz, Alamosa
- Martin Navarro, Centennial
- Brian Ontiveros, Sierra Grande
- Jace Pacheco, Del Norte
- William Roden, Creede
- Kallon Russell, Centauri (injured)
- Devon Vigil, Centennial
- Corbyn Wright, Sargent

Girls Game
Hot Shots

- Kevyn Aragon, Antonito
- Mercedes Caldon, Sanford
- Karizma Gallegos, Antonito
- Arazeliz Garcia, Center
- Kayleigh Garcia, Monte Vista

- Yanelli Garcia, Center
- Alexia Gonzalez, Sierra Grande
- Saige Hostetter, Centauri
- Lacey Johnson, Centauri
- Azzy Lister, Sargent
- Stefanie Lopez, Monte Vista
- Kadence McWilliams, Moffat
- Luz Elena Parra, Antonito
- Jazmin Salcido, Centennial
- Jesenia Tafoya Limon, Center
- Marie Velasquez, Moffat

Top Shots

- Zariah Archuleta, Monte Vista
- Bailey Asbell, Sargent
- Alycia Espinoza, Monte Vista
- Alanna Garcia, Center
- Idahlia Garcia, Sangre de Cristo
- Zanita Garcia, Antonito
- Kayleigh Haynie, Del Norte
- Jaelyn Jackson, Centauri
- Jalen Laing, Creede
- Annika Martinez, Antonito
- Kimberly Muro, Center
- Ciara Paiz, Center
- Alicia Rios, Center
- Rhylina Serna, Centennial
- Shay Sidel, Moffat
- NayLani Velasquez, Sierra Grande

DeLaCerde wins twice at season-opening event

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – Alamosa High School's Sarah DeLaCerde won two events at the season-opening CSU Pueblo Early Bird Meet Saturday at the CSU Pueblo Thunderbowl.

It was a non-scoring meet.

DeLaCerde won the 800-meter run in 2:22.95 and the 3,200 meters in 11:28.65.

Elizabeth McQuitty also placed in two events as she took third in the 3,200 in 11:46.23 and seventh in the 800 in 2:28.23.

Also placing in the distance events was Madeline Castillo who placed fourth in the 3,200 in 12:00.74.

Also placing for the Lady Mean Moose was



Courier file photo
Alamosa High School's Sarah DeLaCerde competes in the 1,600-meter run at last year's Class 3A State Meet. DeLaCerde won the 800- and 3,200-meter runs at last Saturday's CSU Pueblo Early Biurd Meet.

Kaidence Boehm who finished eighth in the discus at 89-8.

The Alamosa boys team also had four place winners. Jesse Maestas tied for second in the

pole vault at 12-4, Brant

Jackson tied for third

in the high jump at 6-2,

Ethan Arnoldi tied for fifth

in the pole vault at 11-4,

and Mario Villaba was

fifth in the 3,200-meter

run in 10:01.51.

This week, Alamosa

will return to Pueblo

for the Larry Pickering

Invitational. The meet

will take place Saturday

at Dutch Clark Stadium.

Celebrating National Ag Month and our agricultural community.

Please join us for a free lunch and giveaways, Tuesday, March 19th, 11:30 AM -1:00 PM at our Center Branch, 2060 East Highway 112.

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD

- TUESDAY**
- Prep baseball**
Centauri 14, Sargent 4, 5 inn.
- Prep girls soccer**
Alamosa at Ignacio - no report
- College men's lacrosse**
William Jewell (Mo.) 17, Adams State 7

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY
Prep baseball

Center vs. Las Animas (at Runyon Sports Complex), 4 p.m.
Prep girls soccer
Alamosa at Salida, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY
College men's lacrosse
Quincy (Ill.) at Adams State, 3 p.m.

FRIDAY
Prep boys basketball
Arby's All-Star Game (at Plachy Hall), 8 p.m.
Prep girls basketball
Arby's All-Star Game (at Plachy Hall), 6 p.m.
Prep baseball
Alamosa vs. North Fork (Delta Invitational), 11 a.m.
Swink at Centauri (2), 11 a.m.
Alamosa vs. Gunni-

son (Delta Invitational), 4 p.m.
Monte Vista at Rocky Ford/Fowler Invitational (at Fowler), TBA
Prep track and field
Antonito, Centauri, Center, Sargent, Sierra Grande at Bayfield Invitational, 9 a.m.
College women's basketball
Adams State vs. Texas-Permian Basin (NCAA Division II South Central Region Tournament at Denton, Texas), 6:30 p.m.
College baseball
Adams State at Colorado Christian, 3 p.m.
College outdoor track and field
Adams State at Dr. Dan Caprioglio Invitational (at Pueblo), TBA

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Lifestyle

Celebrating 25 years

A ribbon cutting was conducted by the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday celebrating the 25th anniversary of SLV Transportation/Red Willow. Company management and staff were joined by chamber members and staff, as well as Mayor Ty Coleman.

Courtesy photo



St. Patrick's Day party pointers

(METRO) — St. Patrick's Day is a beloved holiday, and that popularity is reflected in celebrations that take place across the globe. According to World Population Review, more than 200 countries celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Russia, Singapore and Japan are among the nations that celebrate St. Patrick's Day each March, proving that proximity to Ireland is not a prerequisite for partying on March 17. With that in mind, anyone in the mood to celebrate St. Patrick's Day need not hesitate to plan a party this March. The following St. Patrick's Day party pointers can make the festivities even more fun this year.

- Go green. It goes without saying that green is the color of St. Patrick's Day. St. Patrick is the primary patron saint of Ireland, a country known for its rolling green hills. Hosts can decorate party spaces in green, hanging green streamers and green balloons. Encourage guests to wear green and keep the theme going with the menu, serving green baked goods and beverages.

- Curate a St. Patrick's Day playlist. In addition to its rolling green hills, Ireland is known for music. It's hard to find a pub anywhere on the Emerald Isle without a local musician playing traditional Irish music for a captivated crowd. Hosts can keep that in mind when curating their St. Patrick's Day playlist, which can include music from artists and bands such as Finbar Furey, The Dubliners, The Clancy Brothers, The Chieftains, The Pogues, The High Kings, The Dropkick Murphys, Flogging Molly, and more.

- Serve traditional Irish fare. It might take some advanced planning and effort to provide a menu one might find in Ireland. Blood pudding is served in many pubs across the Emerald Isle, but it might be hard, though not necessarily impossible, to find outside the country. Some large chain grocery stores might carry blood pudding in March, and it might be possible to find it in specialty grocery stores around this time of year. Irish soda bread, bacon and cabbage, Irish stew, and boxty are some additional dishes to give

a menu some traditional Irish flavor.

- Cut an Irish rug. Irish dancing is another of Ireland's many exports, as dancers across the globe have embraced traditional Irish dance. Hosts can learn a dance or two and teach guests a few simple steps during the party. Keep it light and fun and allow even non-dancers to tap their toes.

These are just a few of the ways hosts can make their St. Patrick's Day parties more fun this March.

Courtesy of METRO



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SAT. MARCH 30TH ~ 10AM - 5PM
SUN. MARCH 31ST ~ 10AM - 2PM

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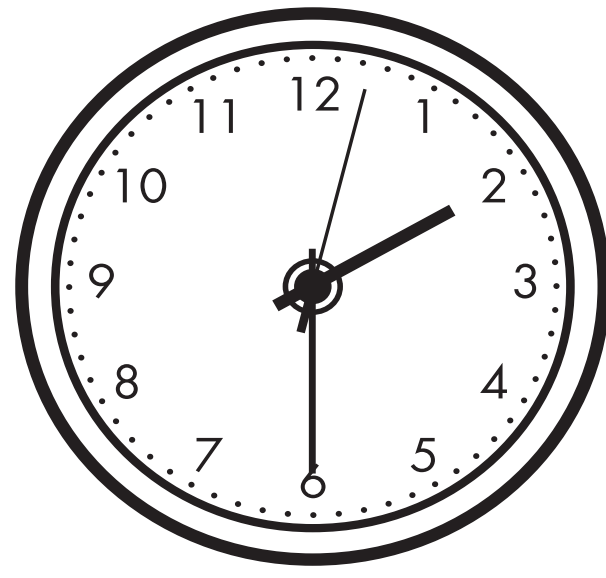
kids' corner

WORLD FACTS

TRUE OR FALSE?
 ONLY ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE
 WORLD'S COUNTRIES PRACTICE
 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME.

ANSWER: TRUE

Creative Coloring
 Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



Double Word Puzzle
 Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

C C L K O
9

M T E I
7

U H O R S
10 11 12 2 1

D H G T A L I Y
8 5 3 4 6

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

10 11 12 2

Answers: Clock, Time, Hours, Daylight, Spring ahead one hour.

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1820:** MAINE IS ADMITTED AS THE TWENTY-THIRD U.S. STATE.
- **1917:** TSAR NICHOLAS II OF RUSSIA ABDICATES THE RUSSIAN THRONE, ENDING THE 304-YEAR ROMANOV DYNASTY.
- **2019:** AROUND 1.4 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE IN 123 COUNTRIES GO ON STRIKE TO PROTEST CLIMATE CHANGE.



ADJUST
 to alter or move something

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Time

SPANISH: Tiempo

ITALIAN: Tempo

FRENCH: Temps

GERMAN: Zeit

Did You Know?

Know!

IN EACH OF THE TIME ZONES WHERE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME IS OBSERVED, PEOPLE MOVE THE CLOCK AT 2 A.M. LOCAL TIME.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SUNRISE ON A FARM

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Public Notices

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION

CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 956-23
 To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:
 On December 20, 2023, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Alamosa records.
 Original Grantor(s)
 Samuel G. Burris
 Original Beneficiary(ies)
 Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Generation Mortgage Company
 Current Holder of Evidence of Debt
 LLACG Community Investment Fund
 Date of Deed of Trust
 April 14, 2011
 County of Recording
 Alamosa
 Recording Date of Deed of Trust
 April 25, 2011
 Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.)
 345355
 Original Principal Amount
 \$210,000.00
 Outstanding Principal Balance
 \$208,038.94
 Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: For reasons including, but not limited to, the failure to pay monthly payments of principal and interest together with all other payments provided for in the Deed of Trust and Note.
 THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.
 THE LAND DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SITUATED IN THE STATE OF COLORADO, COUNTY OF ALAMOSA, AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
 A TRACT OF LAND CONTAINING 3 ACRES DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
 BEGINNING AT THE POINT OF INTERSECTION OF THE WESTERLY R.O.W. LINE FOR S. H. NO. 285 AND THE SOUTH LINE OF THE N.W. 1/4 SEC. 5, T. 36N., R. 10E., OF N.M.P.M. FROM WHICH POINT THE N.W. CORNER OF SAID SEC. 5 BEARS N. 3 DEG. 31' 37" W. A DISTANCE OF 2657.11 FT. THENCE S. 89 DEG. 42' 45" W. ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF THE N.W. 1/4 SAID SEC. 5 AND N.E. 1/4 SEC. 6, A DISTANCE OF 325.00 FT. THENCE N. 22 DEG. 45' E., PARALLEL TO THE WESTERLY R.O.W. LINE FOR S.H. NO. 285, A DISTANCE OF 436.93 FT. THENCE N 89 DEG. 42' 45" E., PARALLEL TO THE SOUTH LINE OF THE N.W. 1/4 SAID SEC. 5, A DISTANCE OF 325.00 FT. TO A POINT ON THE WESTERLY R.O.W. LINE FOR S.H.NO. 285. THENCE S. 22 DEG. 45' W., ALONG SAID WESTERLY R.O.W. LINE FOR S.H.NO. 285, A DISTANCE OF 436.93 FT. TO A POINT OF INTERSECTION WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID N.W. 1/4 SEC. 5, WHICH IS THE POINT OF BEGINNING, ALL IN ALAMOSA COUNTY, COLORADO.
 Also known by street and number as: 12483 US Highway 285 S, Alamosa, CO 81101.
 THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.
 NOTICE OF SALE
 The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.
 THEREFORE, Notice is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, 04/17/2024, at County Office Building, 8999 Independence Way, Alamosa Colorado, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.
 First Publication 2/21/2024
 Last Publication 3/20/2024
 Name of Publication Valley Courier
 IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;
 DATE: 12/20/2023
 Amy McKinley, Public Trustee in and for the County of Alamosa, State of Colorado
 By: Amy McKinley, Public Trustee
 The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:
 Jeremiah B Hayes #34002
 Tahrzadeh, PLLC 15851 N Dallas Parkway, Suite 410, Addison, TX 75001 (469) 729-6800
 Attorney File # Burris 190-00165
 The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.
 No. 3797.
 Published in the Valley Courier on February 21, 28, March 6, 13, & 20, 2024.

NOTICE OF PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE AT TAX LIEN SALE AND OF APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF TREASURER'S DEED

To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having an Interest or Title of Record in or to the said Premises and To Whom It May Concern, and more especially to;
 1. /AK Lonepine Ranch LLC, whose last known address was P.O. Box 129, Capulin, CO 81129-0129.
 N1/2 S1/2 NW1/4 OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 36 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST, N.M.P.M., COUNTY OF CONEJOS, STATE OF COLORADO, LESS THE 30 FEET AS DESCRIBED IN BOOK 345 AT PAGE 992.
 556324200037
 You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 19th day of November A.D. 2020, the then County Treasurer of the County of Conejos, in the State of Colorado, offered for sale at a public tax lien sale the above described real estate situated in the County of Conejos, State of Colorado, to satisfy the delinquent taxes assessed against said real estate for the year 2019.
 That said real estate was taxed or specially assessed in the name(s) of /AK Lonepine Ranch LLC, for the said year 2019.
 That at said sale, said real estate was struck off to Jericho Holdings LLC; whose address is 6000 Liebig Ave, Bronx, NY 10471, and the Treasurer's Certificate of Purchase was issued therefore to Jericho Holdings LLC. And as present holder of the certificate they have made a request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said real estate.
 That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said real estate to said Jericho Holdings LLC at 3:00 P.M. on the 26th day of June A.D. 2024, unless the same has been redeemed.
 Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.
 Witness my hand and seal this 28th day of February A.D. 2024.
 Mack M. Crowther
 Conejos County Treasurer
 No. 3809.
 Published in the Valley Courier on February 28, March 6, & 13, 2024.

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR BIDS

The East Alamosa Water and Sanitation District is accepting bids for a lease on an 80-acre parcel of farm ground located on Road 12 South, Alamosa, CO, along with 2 shares of Commonwealth Water. Bids should include the annual payment in addition to the payment of water assessments. Bids can be mailed to P.O. Box 1092, Alamosa, CO 81101, or hand delivered to 10 Costilla Blvd. Alamosa; CO. Bids will be reviewed by the end of March. The district reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
 No. 3839.
 Published in the Valley Courier on March 13, 15, 16, & 19, 2024.

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. (3/15/24-monthlyAS)

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS ALAMOSA now hiring Room Attendants, Laundry Attendant, Front Desk and Night houseman. Apply in person. (3/22/24)

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for a HS HEAD BOYS' BASKETBALL COACH. The salary for this position will be paid from the current MVSD Extra Duty Salary Schedule, which can be viewed on the district website - Employment Opportunities page. Placement on the salary schedule will be determined by experience at time of hire. Applications may be submitted through our online employment application <https://www.pirates.monte.k12.co.us/employmentopportunities>, by March 28, 2024 or until the position is filled. For questions, contact the District Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (4/3/24)

SARGENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Board of Education is seeking applications for the following positions for the 2024-2025 school year. ELEMENTARY READING INTERVENTIONIST: Full-time position, starting salary Step 0 \$35,845.00, placement on the salary schedule will be based on years of experience up to 10 years. Benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, optional \$1,200 a year toward an HSA, and life insurance coverage. 4-day week, professional learning opportunities, free admission to all home athletic events, mentor program for new teachers, staff wellness room, discount rates to Monte Vista Athletic Club, Sand Dunes Swimming Pool, and Monte Vista Golf Course. Elementary Teaching License and Reading Specialist K-12 required; please complete the certified application and submit with unofficial transcripts, three letters of recommendation and resume. More information concerning job requirements, qualifications, and application process can be found at www.sargent.k12.co.us. EOE. (3/30/24)

THE SLV LANDFILL is accepting applications for a Full-Time ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/SCALE OPERATOR. Working in front office by waiting on customers, weighing loads, processing credit card transactions. Fill in for the Office Manager as needed. Must work in all types of weather and be able to work a fluctuating schedule altering Saturday's. Position open until filled. \$16.00 per hour, 40 hours week. Applications can be mailed to officemanager@slvlandfill.com or returned at the office. Download the application at slvlandfill.com. (4/3/24)

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER needed for the 2024-2025 school year. Lead Teacher qualification preferred. Assistant Director qualified is a bonus. Please pick up an application at TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL, 52 El Rio Drive, ALAMOSA, CO. (3/27/24)

THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.
 TRACT 4, NEWTON SUBDIVISION-EXEMPTION, THE PLAT OF WHICH WAS FILED JANUARY 08, 1979 UNDER RECEPTION NO. 201105, COUNTY OF ALAMOSA, STATE OF COLORADO
 Also known by street and number as: 202 Northwood Lane, Alamosa, CO 81101.
 THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.
 NOTICE OF SALE
 The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.
 THEREFORE, Notice is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, 04/24/2024, at County Office Building, 8999 Independence Way, Alamosa Colorado, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.
 First Publication 2/28/2024
 Last Publication 3/27/2024
 Name of Publication Valley Courier
 IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;
 DATE: 12/27/2023
 Amy McKinley, Public Trustee in and for the County of Alamosa, State of Colorado
 By: Amy McKinley, Public Trustee
 The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:
 Jeremiah B Hayes #34002
 Tahrzadeh, PLLC 15851 N Dallas Parkway, Suite 410, Addison, TX 75001 (469) 729-6800
 Attorney File # Croft 190-00166
 The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.
 No. 3813.
 Published in the Valley Courier on February 28, March 6, 13, 20, & 27, 2024.

NOTICE OF PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE AT TAX LIEN SALE AND OF APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF TREASURER'S DEED
 To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having an Interest or Title of Record in or to the said Premises and To Whom It May Concern, and more especially to;
 1. /AK Lonepine Ranch LLC, whose last known address was P.O. Box 129, Capulin, CO 81129-0129.
 THE W1/2 NE1/4 NW1/4 AND THE S1/2 NW1/4 OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 35 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST, N.M.P.M., COUNTY OF CONEJOS, STATE OF COLORADO, LESS AND EXCEPT A TRACT OF LAND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE SE CORNER OF THE SE1/4 NW1/4 OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 35 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST, N.M.P.M., COUNTY OF CONEJOS, STATE OF COLORADO, AND RUNNING THENCE NORTH ON THE QUARTER SECTION LINE 77 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 83°25' WEST 670.9 FEET TO THE SOUTH BOUNDARY LINE OF THE SAID SE1/4 NW1/4 OF SAID SECTION 12; THENCE RUNNING EAST ON THE SOUTH BOUNDARY LINE 666.5 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.
 A TRACT OF LAND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NW CORNER OF THE SAID NE1/4 SW1/4 OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 35 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST, N.M.P.M. COUNTY OF CONEJOS, STATE OF COLORADO, AND RUNNING THENCE SOUTH ON THE WEST BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID NE1/2 SW1/4 OF SAID SECTION 12, 77 FEET; THENCE NORTH 83°25' EAST 670.9 FEET TO THE NORTH BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID NE1/4 SW1/4 OF SECTION 12; THENCE RUNNING WEST ON THE NORTH BOUNDARY LINE 666.5 FEET TO THE PLACE BEGINNING.
 571712300034
 You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 19th day of November A.D. 2020, the then County Treasurer of the County of Conejos, in the State of Colorado, offered for sale at a public tax lien sale the above described real estate situated in the County of Conejos, State of Colorado, to satisfy the delinquent taxes assessed against said real estate for the year 2019.
 That said real estate was taxed or specially assessed in the name(s) of /AK Lonepine Ranch LLC, for the said year 2019.
 That at said sale, said real estate was struck off to Jericho Holdings LLC; whose address is 6000 Liebig Ave, Bronx, NY 10471, and the Treasurer's Certificate of Purchase was issued therefore to Jericho Holdings LLC. And as present holder of the certificate they have made a request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said real estate.
 That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said real estate to said Jericho Holdings LLC at 3:00 P.M. on the 26th day of June A.D. 2024, unless the same has been redeemed.
 Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.
 Witness my hand and seal this 28th day of February A.D. 2024.
 Mack M. Crowther
 Conejos County Treasurer
 No. 3807.
 Published in the Valley Courier on February 28, March 6, & 13, 2024.

NOTICE OF PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE AT TAX LIEN SALE AND OF APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF TREASURER'S DEED
 To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having an Interest or Title of Record in or to the said Premises and To Whom It May Concern, and more especially to;
 1. /AK Lonepine Ranch LLC, whose last known address was P.O. Box 129, Capulin, CO 81129-0129.
 SE1/4 OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 35 NORTH, RANGE 8 EAST, N.M.P.M., COUNTY OF CONEJOS, STATE OF COLORADO.
 571907400016
 You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 19th day of November A.D. 2020, the then County Treasurer of the County of Conejos, in the State of Colorado, offered for sale at a public tax lien sale the above described real estate situated in the County of Conejos, State of Colorado, to satisfy the delinquent taxes assessed against said real estate for the year 2019.
 That said real estate was taxed or specially assessed in the name(s) of /AK Lonepine Ranch LLC, for the said year 2019.
 That at said sale, said real estate was struck off to Jericho Holdings LLC; whose address is 6000 Liebig Ave, Bronx, NY 10471, and the Treasurer's Certificate of Purchase was issued therefore to Jericho Holdings LLC. And as present holder of the certificate they have made a request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said real estate.
 That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said real estate to said Jericho Holdings LLC at 3:00 P.M. on the 26th day of June A.D. 2024, unless the same has been redeemed.
 Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.
 Witness my hand and seal this 28th day of February A.D. 2024.
 Mack M. Crowther
 Conejos County Treasurer
 No. 3808.
 Published in the Valley Courier on February 28, March 6, & 13, 2024.

Public Notice
 Request for Bids for replacement of interior and closet doors.
 The Center Housing Authority is requesting bids for replacement of interior and closet doors for 2 & 3 bedroom units, for a total of 20 units. Contractors interested may contact Geraldine Martinez at 138 S. Worth Street, Center, CO or you can call at (719) 754-2537 for more information. Deadline for submission of bid will be 03/22/24.
 No. 3832.
 Published in the Valley Courier on March 8, 9, 12, 13, & 15, 2024.



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Offer Ends Wednesday March 24, 2024
*Previous payments do not apply. Cannot combine offers. Prepaid only. Payments must be received by Friday, March 25, 2024. Must keep hard copy edition to receive this price.

Call or mail your payment to:
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squintana@alamosanews.com
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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

SARGENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Board of Education is seeking applications for the following positions for the 2024-2025 school year. **SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:** Salary/Benefits: \$90,000 to \$110,000/Full family medical insurance coverage Negotiable. The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for the general management of the schools of the district under the requirements of the state and the policies of the Board. The superintendent is responsible for guiding the development of the educational objectives and programs of the school district to fulfill the educational needs of all students. The superintendent shall provide overall direction to the activities of the school district and its personnel toward the accomplishment of district goals, administer the policies of the Board, conserve the school district's assets and resources, and maintain and enhance the school district's standing in all its internal and external relationships. The management responsibilities of the superintendent shall extend to all activities of the district, to all phases of the educational program and to all parts of the physical plant. Applicants must hold a current Colorado Professional Administrator License or Master of Arts degree in School Administration. More information concerning job requirements, qualifications, and application process can be found at www.sargent.k12.co.us. EOE. (3/30/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

MAINTENANCE ASSOCIATE (FT). Skilled multipurpose person needed to support on-going repairs/maintenance of facilities, appliances, vehicles etc. Skills needed: (moderate) plumbing/electric, carpentry, general construction, auto maintenance/repairs, appliances. Salary: \$40-42K DOE / full benefit package. Requirements: initiative, good people skills, references. Training and support provided. Join our staff of dedicated professionals and learn the joys and satisfaction of serving others. Send cover letter, resume/request job description to Emily: hr@lapuente.net, 719 589-5909, ext238. www.lapuente.net (3/29/24)

GUNBARREL STATION IS hiring a full-time store ASSISTANT MANAGER. Starting pay is \$16/hour. Must be 18 with high school diploma. Must be willing to work some weekends. Call 719-754-3543 or stop in for an application. (3/27/24)

SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is seeking a SECONDARY SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER for the 2024-25 school year. Applicants must possess a Colorado Teaching License or be eligible to apply for one. Salary schedules are available on the district website. Please submit a district application, resume, cover letter, and transcripts at <https://www.southconejos.com/page/how-to-apply>. (3/15/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

SLV FEDERAL BANK is now accepting applications for MORTGAGE LOAN PROCESSOR in our ALAMOSA OFFICE. Applications and position descriptions are available at www.slvfed.bank or at each branch location. Equal opportunity Employer, including considering individuals with Disabilities and Veterans/Affirmative Action Employer. (3/26/24)

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for a MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN. This is a full-time position with benefits. A complete list of desired qualifications and experience can be viewed on the district website. Monte Vista School District offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, HSA match, and life coverage. The salary for this position will be paid from the current MVSD Maintenance Technician Salary Schedule, which can be viewed on the district website - Employment Opportunities page. Placement on the salary schedule will be determined by experience at time of hire. Applications may be submitted through our online employment application <https://www.pirates.monte.k12.co.us/employmentopportunities>, by March 21, 2024 or until the position is filled. (3/26/24)

MACKEY CONSTRUCTION CO., LLC is looking for a WELDER / FABRICATOR with MIG experience and some field stick welding. Salary will be based on skill and experience. Please call 719-852-3222. (4/3/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26Jt is paying years of service and single health insurance benefits. Apply now to become part of our dynamic district as we are now accepting applications for the position of ELEMENTARY SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER, for the remaining 2024-2025 School Year. Qualifications; Special Education Certification as required by the State of Colorado or such alternative to the above qualifications 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. (4/5/24)

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26Jt is paying years of service and single health insurance benefits. Apply now to become part of our dynamic district as we are now accepting applications for the positions of ELEMENTARY 3RD GRADE & 5TH GRADE 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. (4/5/24)

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

ALAMOSASCHOOL DISTRICT is now accepting applications for the following position: **PAYROLL/HUMAN RESOURCES CLERK**. Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org/> For more information, contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600 or tvigil@alamosaschools.org. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (3/13/24)

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26Jt is paying years of service and single health insurance benefits. Apply now to become part of our dynamic district as we are now accepting applications for the positions of **HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES 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. (4/5/24)

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26JT is looking for a **MIDDLE SCHOOL HEAD TRACK COACH** for the 2024 season. Qualifications: Must be over 18, have a high school diploma/GED and be able to pass a background check, or, such alternative qualifications as the Board may find appropriate and acceptable. Non-Certified 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. (4/5/24)

VEGI GARDEN MANAGER, VEGI, VALLEY EDUCATIONAL GARDENS INITIATIVE is seeking motivated garden enthusiast to manage the program's garden operations, garden / nutrition education efforts, staff and volunteers, and special events. We're looking for someone with knowledge and enthusiasm about gardening, experience working with children, and strong communication and organizational skills. This person will have opportunities to work with their hands both in the dirt and in an office space. Initiative essential; training and support provided. Join our staff of dedicated professionals and learn the joys and satisfaction of serving others. Salary \$38k-44k DOE, full benefit package. Send cover letter, resume/request job description to Emily: hr@lapuente.net, 719 589-5909, ext 238. www.lapuente.net (4/3/24)

1ST SOUTHWEST BANK, a locally owned CDFI community bank, is seeking a **RELATIONSHIP MANAGER** with 3+ years of commercial loan 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](https://www.fswb.bank/about/careers). EOE. (3/20/24)

FULL-TIME MAINTENANCE POSITION in ALAMOSA. SAN LUIS VALLEY FARM WORKER HOUSING CORPORATION is seeking a qualified Full-Time Maintenance Position in Alamosa. Minimum of 3 years' experience. Must be knowledgeable in heating, small appliance repair, plumbing, and minor electrical work, landscaping, painting and cleaning apartments to make ready. Willing to be on call after normal working hours. Must have a valid driver's license. Must be able to pass background investigation and a drug test. Wage is determined upon experience. Job will close on March 15, 2023. Mail resume to 9980 S. Broadway, Center, Co. 81125. Equal Housing Opportunity Employment. (3/15/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

CITY OF MONTE VISTA is accepting applications for the position of **UTILITIES MAINTENANCE WORKER II**. Utilities Maintenance Worker II is a skilled position with a minimum requirement of a Small Systems Wastewater Certification and preferably a Class D Wastewater Treatment Certification. A HS Diploma, and one year of experience working within a treatment facility is required. The hiring range for this position is \$21.00 to \$24.00 per hour DOE. Candidates will need a valid driver's license and be able to pass a pre-employment background check and drug test. Please visit: <https://cityofmontevista.colorado.gov/government/departments/human-resources> for a complete position description and application. (3/19/24)

BOE OF CENTER SCHOOLS is now accepting applications for an **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TO SUPERINTENDENT**. Qualifications: Advanced Degree, Administrative License, or such alternative to the above qualifications as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. This position will assist the Superintendent in the professional organization and administration of the School District. Salary commensurate with experience. For information and application materials please visit the District Website <https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities> (fill out the licensed employee application) or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: April 1, 2024. EOE. (3/30+1/24)

SURGICAL AND INFUSION NURSE (full-time) in DEL NORTE. Bachelor's of Science preferred, Associates Degree in Nursing required. This is a dual role in a small critical access hospital with outpatient surgery and infusions. Primary duties include circulating nurse and outpatient infusions; ability to be flexible and work in a dynamic team environment is central to this role. Preferred minimum of 2 years Circulating Nurse experience for more information, contact Kayla Jordan at 719-657-4160 or complete an application online at <http://rio-grande-hospital.org> Under Contact/ Employment. RGH is an EOE. (3/15+1/24)

PERIOPERATIVE REGISTERED NURSE (PART-TIME) 20-29 hours a week in DEL NORTE. PREOP and PACU RN position. This position offers the option for an experienced nurse to work additional hours on the inpatient unit or emergency department. Must have verbal skills to present information and ideas essential to team participation. Understand general nursing theory and practice; capable of dealing with people and working closely with patients; workable knowledge of safety procedures; must have patience and enthusiasm as well as the willingness and ability to handle difficult situations with good judgment; must be able to work as a team member; must be willing to learn For more information, contact Kayla Jordan at 719-657-4160 or complete an application online at <http://rio-grande-hospital.org> Under Contact/ Employment. RGH is an EOE. (3/15+1/24)

RIO GRANDE HOSPITAL CLINIC has a Full-Time MA position available in our clinic. Must be dependable, have the ability to multi-task, be a self-starter and pay close attention to detail complete an application online at <http://rio-grande-hospital.org> Under Contact/ Employment. Additional question contact Ted Andersen at teda@rio-grandehospital.net or call 719-657-2418 RGH is an EOE. (3/15/24)

SEED SORTERS WANTED: will last two weeks ..job will start soon. Please text or call 719-850-2137. (3/26/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

MAINTENANCE WORKER I. Definition: This position performs skilled and unskilled work in the operation of automotive and light construction equipment involved in the maintenance and cleaning of streets and maintenance utility system (water and sewer.) Direct supervision is required under a foreman. This is an entry-level position to all the functions of the Public Works Department. The Maintenance Worker I position is hourly, 32 hours a week position. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Preferably some knowledge of practices in: Construction, maintenance and repair of water and/or wastewater systems; Knowledge and use of hand tools appropriate to the Public Works tasks; Ability to prepare and maintain simple records; Ability to perform strenuous physical work for extended periods of time in all weather conditions; Ability to follow oral and written instructions; Ability to communicate effectively with other employees, superiors and the public; Ability to recognize and report abnormal operating functions of assigned equipment; Ability to learn to operate various equipment, which may include heavy construction equipment; Requires the ability to exert up to 50 pounds of force occasionally, and/or up to 25 pounds of force frequently, and/or a negligible amount of force constantly to move objects. Physical demands of work require walking or standing to a significant degree. Education: High school or GED and preferred some vocational, high school or equivalent training. **EXPERIENCE:** A minimum of three (3) years manual labor or mechanical maintenance and repair, or an equivalent combination of education and experience is required. **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:** A Class C driver's license and availability for on-call duty is required. Background check is required. Probation: No less than a 90-day period. Applications can be picked up at Blanca Town Hall during normal business hours. (3/13+1/24)

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 to underemployed to stability and independence. The Navigator will work with La Puente's Shelter, Street Outreach, and Adelante programs, as well as local employers and employment programs to help clients overcome barriers and obtain employment. The Navigator also works to build trust, conduct assessments, make referrals, identify resources, and collect data. Ability to problem-solve and collaborate with other agencies is a must. 36k-40k DOE. Send resume: La Puente, P.O. Box 1235, ALAMOSA, CO 81101, 719 589-5909. www.lapuente.net Email: hr@lapuente.net (3/13+1/24)

ELEMENTARY BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONIST / SCHOOL ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR / RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION COORDINATOR needed at DEL NORTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL for the 2024-2025 school year. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team. Applicants must have 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. (3/26/24)

LABORERS AND SORTERS needed for **POTATO WAREHOUSE** in CENTER. Experience not necessary, willing to train. 40+ hours/week. Stop by **MOUNTAIN KING SPUD GROWERS**, 1090 South Miles Street, Center, CO 81125 to fill out an application. (3/22/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

INSTRUCTIONAL COACH NEEDED AT DEL NORTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. Candidate should be proficient in all areas of teaching and learning, with an emphasis on professional practice and the teaching and learning cycle. The coach will be responsible for consulting with and supporting the instructional teaching staff in using resources that impact student learning. The coach will provide support and professional learning to instructional staff as needed. 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. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co. (3/26/24)

DEL NORTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER needed at the URGSD. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, vibrant and fun-loving team for the 2024-2025 school year. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Amy Duda, Principal at aduda@urtigers.co or contact Amy at 719-657-4050. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co. (3/26/24)

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

FOR SALE: CHEROKEE BOOTS size 12 MEN. Like new - \$50. Call 719-256-4058 or 719-429-9900. (2/17/24)

HORSE & COW HAY: GRASS, GRASS/ALFALFA, ALFALFA. 3x3 bales, various quality and pricing. 719-850-8917. (3/20/24AS-monthly)

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

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

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

E & M CUSTOM BUTCHERING is accepting new appointments. 719-992-8334, 8249 CR 13, ANTONITO, CO. 81120. (3/20/24)

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

387 - WANTED TO BUY

TOYOTA TRUCKS ONLY: 4x4 from 80's to early 90's, running or not, wrecked ok. 719-580-8101 call or text. (3/27/24)

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES
Century Property Management & Sales, LLC
Alamosa • 589-5744

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

409 - FARM & RANCLAND

PASTURE FOR RENT: 50 pair in SAN ACACIO. Call 719-580-5767 after 1:00 p.m. (3/15/24)

415 - HOMES FOR SALE

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1900 sq.ft., family room, living room, all appliances, pellet stove, patio between home / garage, 3 car garage, with chicken coup or shed, 6 acres plus fenced, and fenced yard, 15 minutes from ALAMOSA. \$325,000. 719-480-1856. (3/27/24)

420 - LOTS & ACREAGES

5 ACRES FOR sale - \$7,000. Contact Rick 928-277-6140. (4/6/24)

426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

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

525 - GUNS

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

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Accepting applications for 1 bedroom apartments. Must be 62 or older or disabled
Cielo Vista Apartments
166 S. Wills Center, Colo
754-3664
TTY 1-800-659-2656
This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Accepting Applications for 2 & 3 bedroom family units
Valley Grande Apts.
2256 E. Drive Monte Vista, CO
852-4302
TTY 1-800-659-2656
This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Accepting Applications for waiting list for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Family units available
West View Villas
510 Dunham Monte Vista, Colo
852-3949
TTY 1-800-659-2656
This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Accepting applications for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Rent based on income for qualifying households.
Gomez Manor Apts.
804 State St. Antonito, Colo.
376-3388
TTY 1-800-659-2656
This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Accepting applications for 2 bedroom apartments. Family living at an affordable price.
Guadalupe Hacienda Apts.
404 W. 8th Antonito, Colo.
376-2025
TTY 1-800-659-2656
This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Accepting applications for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Family living at an affordable price. Disabled Unit Available.
Casita del Sol
1405 West 11th St. Alamosa, Colo.
589-8663
TTY 1-800-659-2656
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

606 - BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT

RENT COMMERCIAL SPACE SETUP FOR HAIR SALON
888-641-3750 / 719-232-3388. (4/9/24)

611 - HOMES FOR RENT

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

RENT 3 BEDROOM BUNGALOW ALAMOSA 888-641-3750 / 719-232-3388. (4/9/24)

MOFFAT, 2 MILES south of Joyful Journey Hot Springs: Brand new CABIN for rent; \$1,200 per month; 1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH. Text 719-207-6890. (3/13/24)

701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

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

2017 CHEVY TRVERSE SUV: 96,000 miles, new tires, good condition. \$12,000 OBO. 1-832-683-3533. (3/30/24)

715 - 4X4 VEHICLES

2017 POLARIS RZR XP 1000 EPS, top of the line model 2 seater. 110 Horsepower, 14" HD tires with bead lock rims, power steering, full skid plates, winch with 6 1/2' adjustable snow plow blade. Comes with lots of extras and has only 61 ACTUAL MILES. It is LIKE BRAND NEW! Call or text 719-850-2775. (3/27/24)

742 - TRUCKS & TRAILERS

2019 ALUMA 14 1/2' single axle ALUMINUM TRAILER, wood floor, 4' flip up ramp, spare tire and toolbox. The trailer is LIKE NEW with only 90 ACTUAL MILES. Call or text 719-850-2775. (3/27/24)



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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Wheels for hire
 - 4 Criminal group
 - 8 Tiny particle
 - 12 Solemn fear
 - 13 Golf club
 - 14 — record
 - 15 — de mer
 - 16 Gunner's requirement
 - 17 Cross the sea
 - 18 Mast for cables
 - 20 Styling foam
 - 22 Hither and —
 - 23 Goof
 - 24 In flames
 - 28 Hinder
 - 32 Political contest
 - 33 Butter substitute
 - 35 Actress — McClanahan
 - 36 Bat wood
 - 37 Guzzle
- 38 Actress — Gilbert**
- 39 Larceny
 - 41 Ennui
 - 43 Same old thing
 - 45 Illusionist — Geller
 - 46 Melon variety
 - 49 Tub events
 - 52 Sir — Guinness
 - 53 Sizable slice
 - 56 Promissory note
 - 57 Hawkeye State
 - 58 Narrative
 - 59 — Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
 - 60 Promontory
 - 61 Studied
 - 62 Earn as profit
- DOWN**
- 1 Bivouac
 - 2 "And — we go!"
 - 3 Complain
 - 4 Designer — Versace
 - 5 Sleeve

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

6 — de
7 Whimsical garden figure
8 Give confidence
9 Beverages
10 Elevator name
11 Dad or granddad
19 Flow slowly
21 Church calendar
24 Unmanageable child
25 Flog
26 "— you're talking!"
27 Silver-tongued

29 Custom
30 Continental coin
31 500 sheets
34 Conceit
37 Pencil remnant
38 Antitoxins
40 Brawl
42 Chafed
44 Eat a little of
46 Genesis name
47 Lotion ingredient
48 Bastes
50 Use a whetstone
51 Animal fat
54 — of the land
55 Porter

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				61					62	

ALLEY OOP

IT'S TOO MUCH WORK LISTENING TO THE PEOPLE. I'M GOING TO DO WHAT I WANT!

INSTEAD OF ROCKS, OUR NEW MONEY WILL BE GOLD!

WHERE ARE WE GOING TO GET GOLD?

I'LL DIG FOR IT!

YOU'RE GOING TO DIG FOR GOLD?

GOOD POINT! YOU'RE GOING TO DIG FOR GOLD!

ARLO & JANIS

WHICH PAINT SAMPLE DO YOU LIKE BEST?

THE CORAL

THE LIME

THE FUCHSIA

OR THE TEAL?

WHAT IS THIS FOR?

I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU.

I WANT YOUR OBJECTIVE OPINION.

BIG NATE

DAPHNE, DON'T YOU GET TIRED OF NATE GETTING DETENTION ALL THE TIME?

WELL...

IT'S NOT FAIR TO YOU!

IT'S DISRESPECTFUL!

I GUESS IF HE WASN'T IN DETENTION SO MUCH, I COULD SPEND MORE TIME WITH HIM.

SURE...

...IF THAT'S WHAT YOU REALLY WANT.

THE BORN LOSER

THE ROOM I WORK IN IS CALLED A CUBICLE, BUT YOUR WORK ROOM IS CALLED AN OFFICE...

THEY'RE BOTH CUBE-SHAPED. WHY CAN'T MINE BE CALLED AN OFFICE, TOO? WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

I'D SAY ABOUT FOUR HUNDRED SQUARE FEET.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

THIS IS THE MOST RAIN WE'VE HAD IN YEARS! THE RIVER IS ALREADY FARTTIN' BARKS!

I HOPE MICHAEL DOESN'T RUN INTO ANY TROUBLE. DRIVING IN THIS WEATHER CAN BE TREACHEROUS!

I CAN'T WAIT TILL WE GET HOME, MAN. I KEEP THINKING WE'RE GONNA DIE BEFORE WE GET THERE!

YEAH...

MAYBE WE SHOULD LEFT OUR LAUNDRY IN THE DOOR.

FRANK & ERNEST

YOU'RE GUESSING.

25 + 18 = COLUMBUS

GARFIELD

"DEAR ASK A DOG, IF THE DOG IS MAN'S BEST FRIEND, WHO IS DOG'S BEST FRIEND?"

BARK! BARK!

MR. TENNIS BALL

THE GRIZZWELLS

KEEEEEK

NO MATTER HOW MANY CAMPFIRE I RANSACK OR HOW MANY TERRORIZE, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE NEW ONES TO RANSACK OR TERRORIZE

I'M TELLING YOU, PIERPONT... JOB SECURITY IS A BEAUTIFUL THING

IS THIS A GREAT COUNTRY OR WHAT?

PEANUTS

MY NAME IS AUSTIN AND THIS IS RUBY...

WELL, MY NAME IS CHARLIE BROWN, AND I ACCEPT THE OFFER TO BE COACH OF YOUR BASEBALL TEAM...

IS EVERYONE ON YOUR TEAM AS SMALL AS YOU?

WE'RE THE TWO BIGGEST!

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN

"And don't give me any of those local anesthetics. Get me the imported stuff."

Lessons from the past still ring true today

DEAR ABBY: Years ago, I sat over lunch, reading your mom's "Definition of Maturity." It was shortly after my dad died, and reading it made me realize how lucky I had been. Those were all lessons I learned at home from my parents.

Perhaps this item is in your booklet. But could you print it in your column again for other readers to see? It's an important reminder of what to strive for. -- MARY H. IN IOWA

DEAR MARY: I am doing that. I am doing that. I agree that Mama's definition of maturity is a timely reminder -- and perhaps something that people (of all ages) can learn from today.

DEFINITION OF MATURITY

Maturity is:

- The ability to stick with a job until it's finished.
- The ability to do a job without being supervised.
- The ability to carry money without spending it.
- And the ability to bear an injustice without wanting to get even.

You were correct when you guessed that her definition of maturity is part of the "Keepers" booklet. Keepers is a collection of articles that readers suggested be put together

in booklet form, many of which readers had hung onto until they were worn and yellowed with age. What resulted was a booklet that contains clever observations and items on diverse subjects, including parenting, children, aging, animals, forgiveness, and more. It can be ordered by sending your name and address plus a check or money order (U.S. funds) for \$8 to Dear Abby Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Both witty and philosophical, the Keepers booklet is an inexpensive, welcome gift for newly married couples, pet lovers or anyone recovering from an illness and filled with down-to-earth nuggets of wisdom.

DEAR ABBY: In the past, my husband of 22 years traveled often for work. He had an emotional affair with a co-worker he met on one of those trips. He never saw her again. After that, he became distant and sometimes rude toward me. We went to marriage therapy, which helped.

I was recovering when one day a friend of mine told me my husband had called her and said, "I think about you." She called me immediately



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

afterward. I am very hurt. Now it's hard for me to believe him and trust him. He had a problem in the past with pornography, but he is not doing it anymore, and he has changed jobs. Is there hope for our marriage? Can I trust him again? -- HEARTBROKEN IN VIRGINIA

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: There may be hope, if the two of you are able to get to the root of why your husband may be looking for something outside of your marriage. This should be done with the help of a licensed marriage and family counselor. However, you should not trust him again unless you are certain he is TRULY penitent.

Lifestyle

Conour Animal Shelter celebrates installation of new kennels

By MARIE MCCOLM MONTE VISTA — On March 9, the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society Conour Animal Shelter had an open house to celebrate the installation of 14 new outdoor dog kennels. Approximately 15 people attended the event at 2825 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista.

Executive Director David Cleghorn was excited to welcome everyone.

"The previous 10 kennels we had were in poor shape, they had dirt floors, they were 20 years old, and they were falling apart. We are here to celebrate putting these 14 kennels in and thank everyone who helped for all their donations and support," he said.

Cleghorn spoke about how the new kennels came about.

"We had a previous board member named Kathy Ellithorpe, she gave us an idea to do a sponsor a kennel, as she wanted to sponsor one in memory of her sister," he said. "That gave us an idea of what it would cost to build a new kennel. We then advertised and stated for this amount of money you can buy a

kennel; we then put your name on it or in memory of or powered by."

Cleghorn said that after receiving some donations, the LOR Foundation got involved with the cause and donated to the shelter.

Heated concrete was used for the kennels, so that they can be heated in the winter months. Cleghorn said the shelter is working to purchase an outdoor boiler to hook up to run the heat to the concrete.

Cleghorn explained that 13 of the new kennels are all 5 feet by 10 feet. And one is 10 feet by 10 feet.

"We stepped up the plate and got commercial galvanized kennels so that they will last considerably longer. We also have metal in between each kennel, so that the dogs can't see each other, and react to each other. The metal in between was also donated. The whole process from start to finish has been a little less than a year's time," he said.

Cleghorn said that Mathias Concrete donated the concrete that was laid, and Owsley Con-

crete laid the foundation.

"We had people donating money, work, and items to the shelter," he said. "This is a win, win day. A celebration of these kennels being put in for us. We are thankful to everyone who has helped us get where we are today."

Board member for Conour Animal shelter Brittany Harlan said, "My husband and I own Owsley Construction. They are the ones who came and poured in all the concrete with assistance from Mathias. I have always adopted dogs, so this is near and dear to my heart. We decided that this was something that we wanted to help the community with. I have been on the board for about 4 years now. We are happy to help turn this around and bring better facilities and improvements for the animals and the community."

Harlan mentioned that in time they are also hoping to add a dog run to the shelter, so that the dogs will not always have to be in kennels.

Board member Tracy Simon said, "I am so excited to see the shelter improving. I am excited

to see new facilities for dogs. We want the dogs to have the best experience they can have here and hopefully get them out into some good homes."

Board member Jerene Wilkinson said, "We are so appreciative of everyone who has donated. We

could not have done any of this project without the LOR Foundation and without the community that has helped us."

According to their website, the Upper Rio Grande Animal Society Conour Animal Shelter is a no kill shelter

and serves Rio Grande, Saguache, and Mineral counties, and does receive dogs from Alamosa, Conejos, and Costilla counties.

For more information on the shelter or to donate, call 719-852-3366 or email shelter@urgasconouranimalshelter.org



Photo by Marie Mccolm

Upper Rio Grande Animal Society Conour Animal Shelter celebrated the addition of 14 new kennels on March 9. Executive Director David Cleghorn stands next to a banner recognizing the community donors to the project.

CPW warns public on dangers of feeding wildlife

By LYNDISIE FERRELL

SOUTH FORK — Local District Wildlife Officer with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Jeremy Gallegos took a moment to speak with this reporter about the recent complaints the office has received about people feeding wildlife in the South Fork area.

Gallegos said feeding wildlife is dangerous for the animals and for the public.

"Wildlife that are fed can quickly become habituated to people and lose their natural fear of people," Gallegos said. "They can then become aggressive, expecting to be fed. This can be dangerous when wildlife approach people expecting a handout. A couple years ago, a woman on the Front Range was mugged by a buck that had been fed, and possibly raised by her neighbor. More recently, a small dog in South Fork was trampled in the homeowner's yard by a deer. Several people in the neighborhood have been feeding deer. Fortunately, the dog made a full recovery, after being treated by a vet."

Gallagos explained that some species of wildlife can be harmed by human food.

"Most of the food that people feed wildlife isn't good for them either. This is definitely the case when it comes to deer," said Gallagos.

"Deer are ruminants, and have a complex, four-chamber stomach that serves as a fermentation vat" that thoroughly digests the vegetation that they eat," he said. "Many of the items that people feed deer aren't good for them and can be fatal. For example, a few years ago, a large buck in South Fork either got into, or was fed a large amount of bird seed, and it caused the buck to bloat and was fatal."

In addition to the health the wellbeing of wildlife, feeding wildlife can cause other issues, including bringing predators to a home, business, or location where the wildlife is fed.

"Another unintended consequence of feeding is that it can artificially concentrate the animals, which could lead to higher prevalence of disease, as well as attracting predators," Gallegos said.

If anyone encounters a hungry animal, it is best to leave it alone.

"If you happen to encounter a hungry animal, people should leave it alone, and call your local CPW office," he said.

"Officers do not intervene unless it appears that the animal is suffering. CPW does not feed big game unless there is a potential for a large winter kill event, such as what happened in the NW part of the state in the winter of 2022-2023."

Beyond the health and safety issues of feeding wildlife, it is also illegal.

"It is illegal to feed big game, which includes deer," Gallegos said. "Violators can be cited, and in some cases, animals have to be euthanized if they pose a threat to human safety. People can feed birds, but they must do it in a manner that the food is not available for deer or big game species."

South Fork, like many towns in the San Luis Valley, has a healthy population of wildlife that is part of what makes the Valley a great and unique place to live but it is also the duty of the residents and guests who come here to enjoy wildlife from a distance.

"Enjoy them from a distance, let them stay wild," Gallegos said. "The vast majority of the time, they do not need our help finding something to eat."

If someone wants to learn more, they can visit Colorado Parks and Wildlife, cpw.state.co.us, and click on the "Learn" tab."

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San Luis Valley's

2024

Spring Ag



Preview



Valley Courier

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

We salute the dedicated men and women of the agriculture industry, who play such an important role in keeping our nation's economy strong. We thank the San Luis Valley's farmers and ranchers for bringing so much to the table.

SLV farmers paid \$27 million for purchase of water rights

One step in reducing groundwater usage

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Senate bill SB22-028, sponsored by Colorado Senator Cleave Simpson (R-D6), accomplished something few bills do: it was passed by unanimous vote in all committees who reviewed the bill and both houses of Colorado's state legislature, largely

due to a growing acknowledgement among legislators regarding the importance of reducing water usage in Colorado.

Titled the "Groundwater Compact Compliance and Sustainability Fund", the bill called on the state legislature to allocate \$60 million to help finance groundwater use reduction and sustainability efforts in the Rio Grande and the Republican River Basins with each basin receiving \$30 million toward that effort. The funding was

made available through President Biden's American Rescue Plan Act. The river basins were responsible

for developing their own procedures in selecting and allocating funding. In the San Luis Valley, that involved

the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) coming up with

■ See **WATER** page 4



Courier file photo

San Luis Valley farmers took advantage of a groundwater use reduction program that purchased water rights. According to officials, \$26.9 million (90%) has been allocated with \$3.1 million remaining from the funding pool.



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ENTRY DEADLINE MARCH 29, 2024

WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED APRIL 1, 2024 AT MVCOOP.COM & MVC SOCIAL MEDIA.

ELIGIBILITY:
• Child must be between the ages of 3-17 yrs and adults 18 yrs +.

COLORING CONTEST GUIDELINES
• The picture provided by the Monte Vista Coop should be used as the official entry into the coloring contest.
• Coloring must be the original work of the child/ adult submitting the entry.
• The artists name, age, address, phone number, and email (opt), parent/guardian name(s) should be written on the entry form.
• Age categories will include: 7 and under, 8-10, 11-13, 14-17, and 18 +.
• There will be one winner from each age category.
• Only one entry per child/ adult.

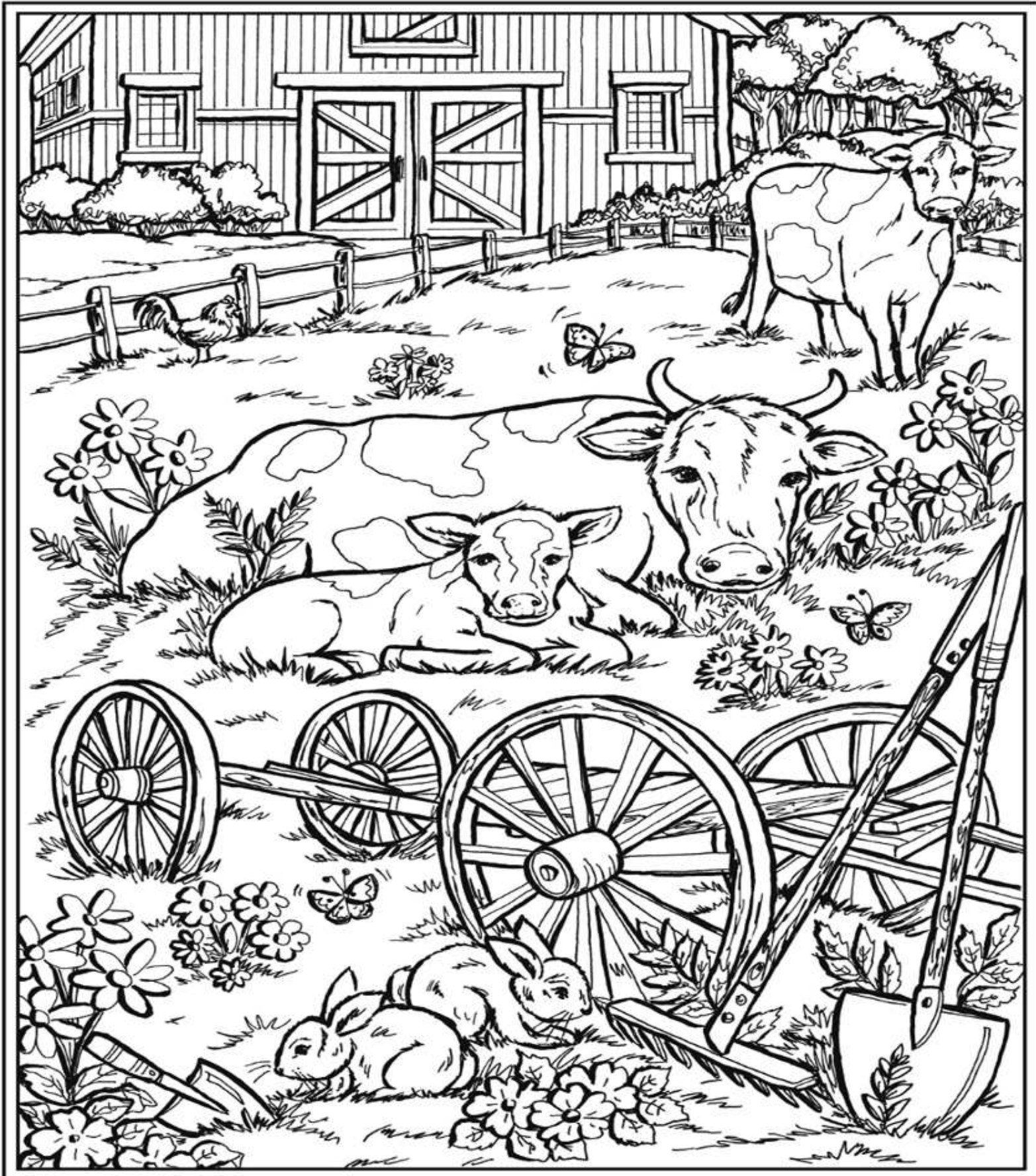
QUESTIONS?
Stephanie Schaefer, MVC Marketing Director
Phone: 719-852-5181 Ext. 1034
Email: mvcads@mvcoop.com

TIMELINE
• The coloring contest is in correspondence with the Monte Vista Coop National Agriculture Month celebration - March 2024.
• Deadline to submit entries will be March 29, 2024.
• Winners will be announced April 1, 2024 at mvcoop.com and MVC social media.
• Entries submitted to the Monte Vista Coop can be submitted in hard copy form via mail, dropped off at the Monte Vista Coop main office, or electronic format (email), and must be received by the March 29, 2024 by 5:00 pm.

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Ag conference in Monte Vista supports the local economy

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

MONTE VISTA — For the Past 42 years, the Southern Rocky Mountain Agricultural Conference has brought farmers, ranchers, educators, and vendors to Monte Vista.

The conference is unique among agricultural shows in that it began as an educational event and while it remains an agricultural event, it has grown and now incorporates trade show elements into the gathering.

True to the origins of the show, attendees can learn from educational topics at the conference on water-saving production practices, research practices, updates on legislative and market updates, financial management, soil health, and farm family health.

Last year, agricultural economists and other staff from Colorado State University (CSU) extension set out to study the economic benefits the show has on the region. The authors, Rebecca Hill, Matt Burkard, Larry Brown, and Jim Clare, published their findings in a report, Economic Impacts of the Southern Rocky Mountain Agricultural Conference 2023.

According to the report, non-local attendees to the annual conference had an economic impact on the region of \$181,216 in 2023 and 2.1 jobs. The

economic benefit to Monte Vista in 2023 was \$39,118.

The group size of people coming to the region was on average, two persons, and groups varied in sized from one to 15 travelers.

Over 40 % of conference attendees sampled for the report were directly involved in production agriculture, over 25% were in agriculture support, 15% were general public, about 7% CSU students, and about 3%, were Adams State University students or staff.

About 70% of the conference attendees from out of the area spent the night in Alamosa, 20%, Monte Vista, and 10% spent the night elsewhere. These stays contributed to the local economy by the amount paid for hospitality, sales tax, hotel tax, and meal expenditures.

The study, not surprisingly, found that the agriculture conference contributes significantly to the economy of the San Luis Valley, particularly to the economy of Monte Vista. The study analyzed the economic benefit the conference had on the region in 2023. The 2024 conference had a total registration of about 675 attendees versus 380 in 2023 and should have a comparable increase in the economic contributions to the Valley.

In a March interview with the Valley Courier, Larry Brown with CSU Extension and Co-chair of the conference attributed part of the spike in attendance to having CSU Distinguished professor Dr. Temple Grandin at the gathering and give the keynote address: Visual Thinking: The hidden gifts of people who think in pictures, patterns, and abstractions.



Photo by Brian Williams

James Henderson, a fifth-generation farmer and rancher and Vice President of the Colorado Farm Bureau, gives the Colorado Legislative Update on Feb. 6, the opening day, of the 2024 Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference and Trade Show at the Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski-Hi Complex in Monte Vista.

“A large portion of that increase is

having Grandin give the keynote and the two other education sessions. I think we also had an increase in registrations given the breadth of the education sessions that we offered,” said Brown who added that he doubled the size of the education committee this year.

“We had the goal of getting better

geographic representation throughout the Valley and better representation of the different types of crops, livestock, and agricultural enterprises in the variety of sessions we offered. There are still some people who call it the potato and grain conference but it is way beyond that now,” Brown said.

Water

Continued from Page 2

criteria of eligibility that would be applicable to producers equally across the Valley while also making sure that any funding provided to farmers or ranchers would result in clearly definable reduction of water usage. In a sign of how seriously they took the project, board members spent significant time in determining criteria that would deliver the maximum amount of benefit while also including eligibility requirements that were fair and equitable. They finally settled on a relatively straightforward program where, after a determination of how much water was being used for irrigation in previous years, water rights were purchased for around \$2,500-\$3,000 per acre-foot.

The Valley Courier reached out to Amber Pacheco, deputy general manager of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, for an update. Approximately 25 applications

submitted to the board for consideration met the requirements set by the RGWCD Board of Directors.

According to Pacheco, \$26.9 million (90%) has been allocated with \$3.1 million remaining. Of that \$26.9 million, \$13 million has been approved by the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the office of the State Engineer, both of whom have served in oversight roles related to distribution of funds. A total of \$6 million in funding has been “closed on” with the purchase of water rights. The water rights were associated with wells irrigating 10,500 acres of land, which translates into a reduction of 10,500 acre-feet of groundwater usage annually.

When asked if there are plans for the remaining \$3.1 million, Pacheco said they will likely go through all the applications they’ve received to make sure that none remaining are eligible. After that, they will probably reopen up the program and begin taking new applications until the remaining money is gone.

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Mattive of Monte Vista elected National Potato Council President

Council installs 2024 Executive Committee during NPC Washington Summit

CONTRIBUTED

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Potato Council (NPC) installed its 2024 roster of Executive Committee members this week at the organization's annual Washington Summit. During the Annual Meeting of the Voting Delegates, Bob Mattive, of Monte Vista, was elected to serve as the Council's President for the next 12 months.

Having grown up on a small farm in Brighton, Mattive began taking on leadership roles in high school — as class president and president of the 4-H Club. Now, the partner of Worley Family Farms, LLLP, in Monte Vista, will continue to serve the industry in his newly appointed role as President of the National Potato Council.

Mattive, who most recently served as NPC's First Vice President and Vice President of Environmental Affairs, was elected to a one-year term on Feb. 26.

"I've always been interested in environmental issues and legislative affairs," said Mattive, who was initially introduced to NPC as a delegate from Colorado. His involvement with the federal policy-focused organization brought about a national perspective and he served on different NPC committees throughout the years. Mattive also serves on several Colorado agricultural committees and boards. "I've learned a lot and I know we have to work hard and work together to keep relevant, educate the next generation, and continue advocating on behalf of our growers and industry partners."

Mattive became a part of the fourth-generation Worley Family Farms when he and his wife Gail (Worley) were invited by her father to join the operation in 1982. When he started farming with his father-in-law, the operation raised about 500 acres of potatoes. Today, the farm raises

around 1,800-1,900 acres of potatoes and 2,000 acres of other crops. The business is now also co-managed by their sons Grant and Reid and nephew Matthew Smartt.

For Mattive, environmental stewardship is second nature. "As with most industries, technology has

■ See **MATTIVE** page 7

Bob Mattive, of Monte Vista, was elected to serve as the National Potato Council's President for the next 12 months.

Photo courtesy of the National Potato Council / Bill Schaefer Photography



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Honoring the 'face of Colorado potatoes' — Jim Ehrlich

By CHRISTINA HERRICK
The Packer

WASHINGTON — When presented the award as the 2024 Potato Person of the Year, Jim Ehrlich was speechless — well, almost.

"I'm extremely humbled," he told *The Packer*, which presented the award Feb. 26 in conjunction with the National Potato Council during the 2024 NPC Washington Summit. "I have been so blessed to work for the potato industry and the wonderful people in the industry. I've made great friends from all across the country. There's nothing more noble than producing food for people to eat."

Potato Person of the Year recognizes an individual who has gone above and beyond the call of duty during the past year to further the potato industry. Award winners have devoted a significant amount of time promoting potatoes to consumers and representing the industry on trade missions and in front of regulatory agencies.

Ehrlich, dubbed the "face of Colorado potatoes," has served as the executive director of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee for the past 18 years after the late Tom Ford approached him to take over the post. Ehrlich announced his plan to retire this year.

While he plans to step back, Ehrlich said he intends to stay connected to the industry.

"My roots are in agriculture deep," he said.

Bob Mattive, NPC's incoming president, said he's known Ehrlich for a long time, having somewhat similar paths to a career with potatoes. Mattive said Ehrlich is a selfless person whom many consult about for anything from marketing to legislative issues on state and national levels.

"He's worked hard for our potato industry in Colorado and also on the national scene," Mattive said. "He's been very proactive. ... People look to him as a resource if they need to find out something about potatoes in Colorado. Jim is their go-to person."

Mattive said Ehrlich was instrumental in organizing a tour of Colorado packing facilities for a delegation from Mexico, which was a critical moment to build relationships as U.S. potato exports to Mexico grew. Ehrlich also helped organize tours for the EPA and

Colorado legislators to help them better understand the concerns and needs of the potato industry, Mattive said.

"Jim has really been good about bringing those people to the [San Luis Valley in Colorado] to get a firsthand view of some of the things that we do to produce potatoes," he said.

Ehrlich held previous roles with Coors Brewing Co. and JDE Farms. He also gives back to the community as vice president of San Luis Valley Health Hospital's board of directors and as the current president of the San Luis Valley Overall Extension Advisory Board, where he has served as a board member for more than 20 years.

When asked what his favorite memory of his time with the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee, Ehrlich said he fondly enjoyed his time in Washington, D.C., over the years at NPC's Washington Summit, as well as some of the things he and his fellow Colorado delegates experienced.

"We actually left one of our fellow growers at the airport one day on our flight back. And then we had another grower that was sick on the plane, and we kept downplaying it, and he had to have his gallbladder removed the next day," he said. "It's just the friendships you make and the experiences you have. They've been awesome."



Photo courtesy of National Potato Council

Christina Herrick, produce editor for *The Packer*, presented Jim Ehrlich, at left, with the 2024 Potato Person of the Year award at the National Potato Council's 2024 Washington Summit. Outgoing NPC President RJ Andrus, right, thanked Ehrlich for his nearly two decades of service to the potato industry.



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Crop and Livestock Enterprise Budget Workshop offered by CSU Extension

CONTRIBUTED

MONTE VISTA — Colorado State University SLV Area Extension is hosting an Ag Business Management workshop Tuesday, March 26, and Wednesday, March 27, at the Rio Grande Water Conservation District conference room, 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa.

Any ag producer interested in breakeven and risk analysis for alfalfa, barley, potatoes, seed potatoes, cow calf, and forage cover crops is

invited and encouraged to participate. Ag lenders and ag consultants are also invited and encouraged to participate. The workshop will include lunch on March 27, and the registration fee is \$20.

The Tuesday evening program runs from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The topic will be digging deeper into alternative forage crops, including production practices and financial feasibility.

The Wednesday program runs from 10:30 a.m. to noon with cow-

calf enterprise budgets, lunch from 12-12:30 p.m., and the various crop enterprise budgets from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

All budgets presented and discussed will be baseline enterprise budgets developed using 2023 actual financials from SLV producers. In addition, a CSU spread sheet budgeting tool, which is available free to all participants, is set up for producers to

put in their own figures right next to the baseline numbers. It can be used to calculate your own projections and actuals, and it automatically generates a risk analyses chart.

Jeff Tranel, CSU Ag Economist and state Extension Ag Business Management Specialist, and Larry Brown, SLV Area Extension Ag Business Agent will be conducting this educational workshop. Prereg-

istration by March 21 is required if you want lunch. For questions or to register, call 719-852-7381, or email L.Brown@colostate.edu.

CSU Extension programs are available to all without discrimination, and all SLV Area Extension programs are designed to foster healthy youth and families, prosperous farms, ranches, and businesses, and strong, resilient, proud communities.

Mattive

Continued from Page 5

become a large part of our organization. We irrigate all of our acreage with computerized center pivot irrigation systems and utilize GPS operating systems in most of our tractors and other equipment," said Mattive.

The full NPC Executive Committee roster includes:

- President – Bob Mattive, Monte Vista
- First Vice President and Vice President, Trade Affairs – Ted Tschirky, Pasco, Wash.
- Vice President, Legislative Affairs – Dean Gibson, Paul, Idaho
- Vice President, Environmental Affairs – Ben Sklarczyk, Johannesburg, Mich.
- Vice President, Finance and Office Procedures – TJ Hall, Hoople, N.D.
- Vice President, Grower Outreach and Industry Relations – Chris Olsen, Othello, Wash.
- Immediate Past President – RJ Andrus, Idaho Falls, Idaho

As a grower-led organization, NPC is managed by an Executive Committee and Board of Directors, which oversees its operations and provides guidance on its policy activities. Board members are appointed by the Executive Committee from recommendations submitted by state potato grower organizations and hold office for one calendar year.

NPC is the voice of U.S. potato growers and industry members in our nation's capital. NPC protects potato growers' interests in Washington, D.C. by addressing issues that affect the potato industry, from policy issues debated in Congress to regulatory issues proposed by federal agencies.

The NPC 2024 Washington Summit is a forum for potato industry members to discuss, define, and advocate for the policy priorities impacting their businesses and protecting their ability to farm. From Feb. 26 – March 1, growers and industry stakeholders took the results from its latest economic impact study, "The Current and Potential Impact of Expanded Potato Exports," to Members of Congress and the administration to advocate for issues such as keeping potatoes in federal nutrition programs, promoting free and fair-trade agreements, and protecting tax policies that support the long-term health of family-owned farming operations.



Bob Mattive

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Farms that feed migrating sandhill cranes in Colorado are in it for the long haul

By JERD SMITH
Colorado Sun

Mike Schaefer and his family have spent a lifetime adoring the sandhill cranes that swoop into the San Luis Valley each spring and fall, crowding the sky and luring thousands of tourists.

"We just like to watch them fly," he said. "It's something about the way they circle and circle, and then they catch a current and they're gone."

His family's two farms lie in what conservationists call the Goldilocks zone, a 10-mile radius around the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge. Farms within this circle, many of which produce barley or alfalfa, offer important services to the cranes that stop there for weeks at a time, providing additional lands and feed to supplement what they find on the refuge.

These cranes, which live for about 30 years and mate for life, have been coming to the valley for some 7,000 years, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The valley is a key stopover as the tall gray birds with a 6-foot wingspan migrate from winter habitat in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and northern Mexico on their

way to places such as Montana and Wyoming to nest and breed. They stop in the valley again on their way south in the fall.

Sandhill cranes are not threatened or endangered, but their habitat in the San Luis Valley and elsewhere is under pressure due to climate change, dwindling water supplies and changes in agricultural crops on which they rely for food, according to the Audubon Society.

Schaefer is among a handful of growers in the San Luis Valley who have preserved or are considering preserving their lands for future generations. His family's farms, along the Rio Grande north and west of Monte Vista, have been placed under a conservation easement, a legal tool that prohibits use of the lands for almost anything other than farming, and in this case, requiring that the farms' water rights be tied to the land.

The easements are part of an ongoing effort by the conservation group Colorado Open Lands to ensure that the revered cranes continue to have access to the land and water they need.

And the Schaefer family is happy to

■ See **CRANES** page 9

help. "We love the cranes," Schaefer said. "You don't have to do anything special for them because what we do normally, they like. None of them have ever complained. They like

the bugs and insects. And there is water here."

Cranes feed in different ways in the valley. Some eat grain that is left for them, unharvested in the field. Others feed off the insects and bugs

associated with alfalfa fields, and some pick barley fields after they're harvested.

In its Grain for Cranes program, Colorado Open Lands hopes to build a network of growers intent



Photo by Brian Williams

Sandhill cranes in a grain field on the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge on March 7.

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Hugh Carey, The Colorado Sun

Mike Schaefer on his 638-acre farm north of Monte Vista on Feb. 6.

Cranes

Continued from Page 8

on farming and conserving water and improving the wetlands, which could benefit the cranes and everyone else.

"It's a long game for us," Colorado Open Lands president Tony Caligiuri said. "The Schaefer family are in the sweet spot of where the cranes feed. If cranes have to travel more than 10 miles a day from the refuge to eat, they will burn more energy than they eat."

The cranes' lives can be arduous and their future may be equally so, Caligiuri said.

"Yes we need to reduce water use and find more water efficient crops, but wildlife depends on these crops," he said. "It is a tricky balance. How do you achieve water conservation without decimating the species?"

Because of ongoing water shortages, some farms are being sold just for their water, leaving the land to go dry, a scenario that could harm the cranes and the community, Caligiuri said.

The visiting birds get nearly 90% of their food from waste grain left on barley fields after harvest and major roosting areas are located in wetlands on private land, a 2020 study of the economic impact of the annual Monte Vista Crane Festival reported.

"Our concern is that they are so dependent on barley, when before

they depended on wetlands. But there are almost no wetlands left," Caligiuri said. "So they've adapted to subbing grain for the bugs and insects they would have found in the wetlands. If that crop goes away, it could be catastrophic."

Historic wetlands gave the birds shelter and food

More than a century ago, water was plentiful in the San Luis Valley, with aquifers so full that water rested on the surface of the land, creating shimmering wetlands as far as the eye could see, according to Suzanne Beauchaine, manager of the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, south of Monte Vista. But as the valley's modern farm economy grew, and high-powered irrigation pumps began drawing water out of the aquifers that lie below the valley, wetlands began disappearing.

Now as water supplies in the valley continue to shrink, there is a broad-based effort to help farmers find new crops that use less water, such as a hybrid grain known as triticale, while remaining tasty enough to lure the cranes to the table, Beauchaine said.

"Before settlers, there was a lot of water," she said. "But because the groundwater table has been so impacted by all of us pumping, I can't keep water in places where it used to be 5 feet deep all of the time."

Beauchaine arrived at the refuge 12 years ago, and it was evident even then that the wetlands on the refuge property were holding less water.

See FEED page 10



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- A letter from Thomas Jefferson to George Washington (1787)

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Feed

Continued from Page 9

"The things we built 50 years ago aren't working anymore," she said. The refuge has its own water rights and groundwater pumps that it uses to water the wetlands and grow crops. But climate change has rendered the valley hotter and drier, with little relief in sight. And costs to pump water in the valley have risen dramatically as groundwater tables have fallen. But it's not just farmers and conservation groups who are hoping to help the cranes adapt to a drier world.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working on multiple fronts at the sprawling, 14,800-acre Monte Vista refuge to ensure cranes have enough to eat now, and that the transition to less thirsty crops will also provide them with new future food sources. In addition, it is rebuilding its crane habitat at the refuge, taking out old levees that were once used to artificially hold back water, creating deep wetlands. In place of the old levees, new shallow pathways are being built that use much less water, but still provide safe haven for cranes throughout the day and night.

"We're trying to mimic, to a point, what was there prior to European settlement" in the 1600s, Beauchaine said.

Apparently the cranes have noticed. According to the annual bird count, cranes are thriving in the valley this year. More than 25,000 cranes have been counted, where traditionally their numbers have fluctuated around 22,000.

Still Beauchaine and others are concerned that the valley's darkening water picture and big changes in crops will threaten the birds. Barley has long been a staple in the valley, but it, and alfalfa and potatoes, are water-intensive crops. So growers are looking for alternatives.

What to do? In addition to enlisting private landowners, there is also an effort to boost the crane-based tourist economy, something that benefits farmers and their families, Caligiuri said.

According to the study of the crane festival in 2020, some \$3.5 million was generated, with

\$118,000 in tax revenue collected from thousands of people visiting from 15 states, hoping to view the dusky birds as they dance and preen in the wetlands and circle overhead, their otherworldly calls echoing from high in the sky. The study was conducted by Colorado Open Lands and funded, in part, by the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

"There is a huge potential for farmers, if they want to deal with tourists," Beauchaine said, by doing such things as putting up structures for bird watching.

Before the Monte Vista Crane Festival, Beauchaine is driving the roads of the refuge, watching and listening to the birds that have been coming here for centuries and hoping they will continue their great migration.

If the cranes were to die out, she said, "It would be like losing a cog in the wheel, and then everything would fall apart."



Hugh Carey, The Colorado Sun

Schaefer's farm seen from above. His family has placed two farms into conservation easements.

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Court case stalls implementation of sustainable management of water in aquifer for 2 years

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — As a result of three objections filed in water court that has resulted in the need to schedule a trial estimated to last five weeks, implementation of the plan that would restore water in the Rio Grande Water Conservation District's (RGWCD) Subdistrict No. 1's unconfined aquifer and ensure its viability long into the future has been delayed by at least two years. According to Taylor Chick, Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) Program Manager for Subdistrict No. 1, the reason for not setting the trial until January 2026 was to accommodate "the lawyers' schedules."

In the meantime — as temperatures rise, the amount of moisture received in the area decreases and levels in the unconfined aquifer continue to decline at a concerning rate — producers with access to finances substantial enough to pay current fees charged for "overpumping" water can continue with business as usual and the result will be a further decline in the aquifer.

The unconfined aquifer, the shallow aquifer in the San Luis Valley with water that is closest to the surface and the most easily accessed by groundwater wells, is managed by RGWCD's Subdistrict No. 1. According to Chick, as of April, 2024, there are 3,617 groundwater wells in Subdistrict No. 1.

Starting back in 2002, in the midst of one of the worst droughts on record, the subdistrict was formed by an unusually progressive, forward-thinking group of ranchers and farmers who realized that unlimited pumping of groundwater without deliberate attempts to replace what was taken out was simply not sustainable in the long term.

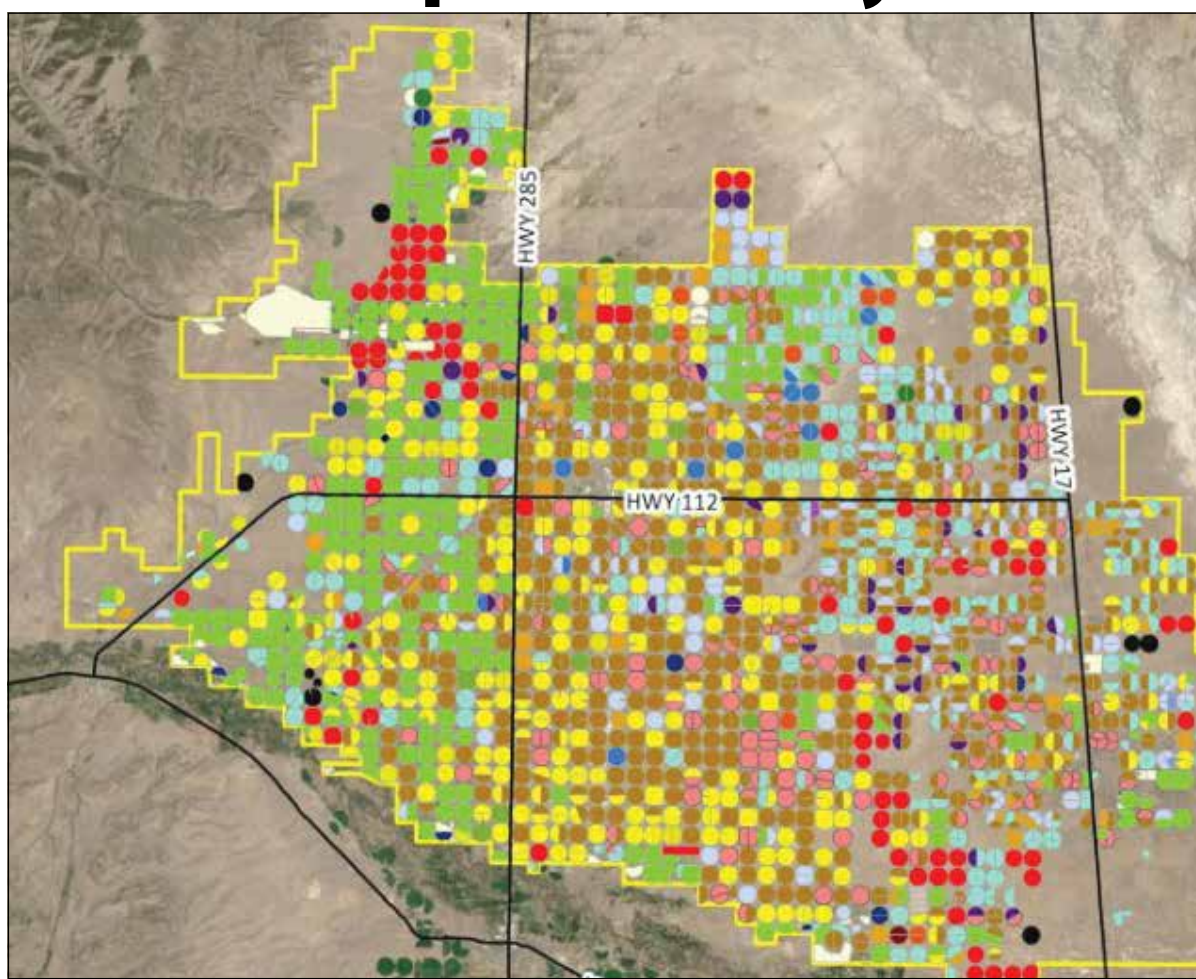
Since the approval of the 1st Annual Replacement Plan by the state legislature in 2012, Subdistrict No. 1 has taken increasingly aggressive steps to reduce depletion of the aquifer, as required by state law. Some of those steps included incentives to

producers to use less water or retire their land in production while others were designed to disincentivize the withdrawal of water that wasn't replaced. Part of that disincentive involved assessing a fee for every acre foot of water not replaced to the aquifer. The amounts of those fees have increased from, in the first year, \$45 to the current \$150 per acre foot of water.

A growing number of farmers have employed practices that are saving water and reducing usage, such as improving soil health and regenerative farming techniques. But there are other farm operations that are willing pay the fees for "overpumping" presumably because the revenue generated in the current economy by the crops they're growing more than offsets the fees payable to RGWCD. As the former program manager for Subdistrict No. 1, told the Valley Courier in 2022, some operations were paying over \$150,000 in a single growing season.

Meanwhile, persistent drought, climate change and excessive pumping have caused levels in the aquifer to

■ See COURT page 13



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Challenging year ahead for SLV potato growers

By JIM EHRLICH
CPAC Executive Director

MONTE VISTA — 2024 will be a very challenging year for San Luis Valley potato growers. Besides the normal risks of producing a potato crop, there are three daunting challenges facing them this season; market prices, Potato Virus Y, and irrigation water supplies.

What a difference a year makes! Last year potato growers experienced some of the best potato prices ever. Today prices are down 57 percent with growers barely breaking even. Growers in Idaho planted an additional 35,000 acres in 2023, and they had good yields for the first time in three years. This resulted in approximately a 10 percent increase in potato supplies for 2024 and crashed prices.

On Feb. 1, national fresh potato stocks were up 12 percent compared to 2022. This was the largest February supply inventory since 2001. This is bad news for prices and this large inventory will carry over into the 2024 new crop harvest. The outlook is tough at best.

Keeping your potato crop healthy is the top priority for growers. A critical input, maybe the most important input, is the seed that growers plant. In the San Luis Valley, potato growers have traditionally purchased high-quality certified seed to plant and retained a portion of their crop at harvest to plant the following year. Because the local growing environment normally does not have high levels of disease pressure this has worked well.

Growers have saved money compared to other states where planting certified seed every year is the standard practice. But now San Luis Valley potato growers are facing an epidemic of Potato Virus Y.

Potato virus Y (PVY) was first recognized in 1931 as an aphid-transmitted member within a group of viruses associated with potato degeneration, a disorder known since the eighteenth century. It was first reported in the Valley in the late 1970's.

PVY is important because it causes economic damage to the crop by reducing yields, affecting the size profile of tubers, and may cause necrotic blemishes to tubers preventing them from being marketable. PVY is seed borne making it particularly hard to control unless you can plant certified seed with very low levels of PVY.

Over the last decade, PVY levels within the San Luis Valley have escalated out of control. Producing high-quality certified seed has become very difficult and has resulted in a very tight seed supply for growers.

PVY is a problem worldwide. It was estimated that over \$100 million was being spent in the Pacific Northwest to control viruses 15 years ago.

A 2014 research study in Idaho determined that PVY was costing growers \$19.5 million annually, and this spring Wisconsin potato growers are currently unable to purchase crop insurance for a portion of their potential crop due to a shortage of certified seed.

Local research has confirmed that PVY is costing our growers economically by reducing yields and quality. Valley growers are debating how to address this problem. How growers can attempt to solve the issue with the least economic and regulatory impact possible is very challenging. It will require creative ideas and cooperation as we continue to work on potential solutions.

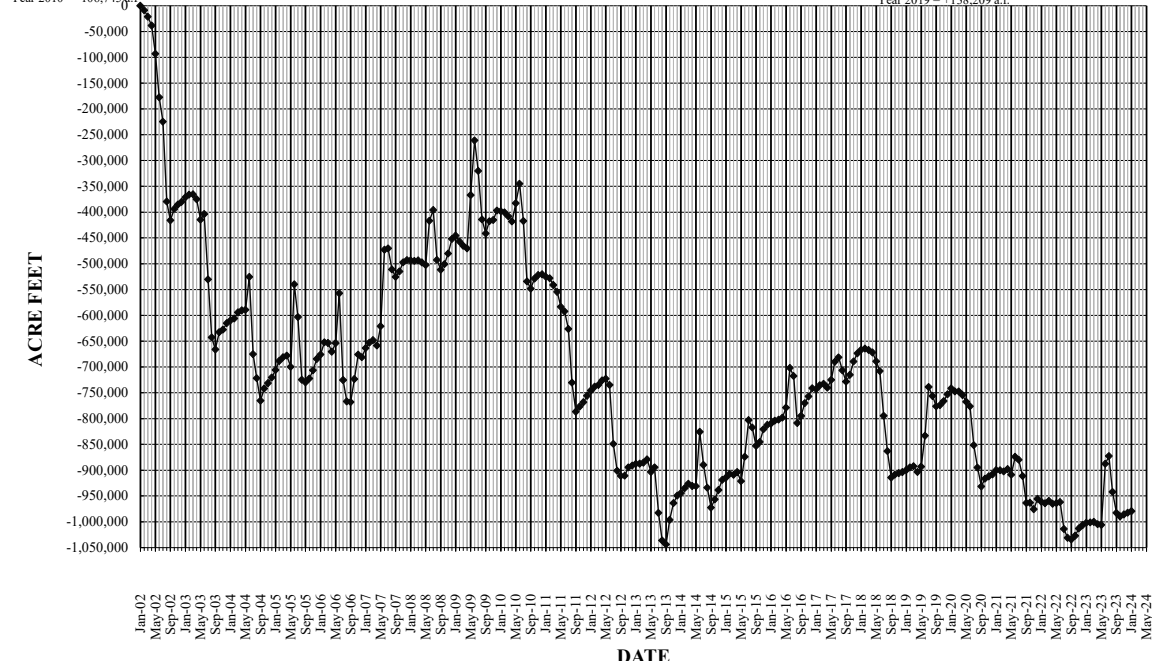
Today the Rio Grande basin snowpack is hovering in the 84 percent of average range. The unconfined aquifer level is nearly 600,000 acre-feet below the minimum sustainability target set by the state water engineer and the clock is ticking toward the deadline to meet the sustainability target. Very hard decisions are coming fast for all farmers in sub-district No. 1.

These challenges will be met because farmers are some of the most resilient and toughest people on earth and the San Luis Valley has some of the best and most progressive farmers you will ever meet.

Changes: Comparing September of each year
Year 2002 = -439,816 a.f.
Year 2003 = -250,214 a.f.
Year 2004 = -99,285 a.f.
Year 2005 = +35,612 a.f.
Year 2006 = -38,228 a.f.
Year 2007 = +242,380 a.f.
Year 2008 = +14,057 a.f.
Year 2009 = +69,864 a.f.
Year 2010 = -106,745 a.f.

CHANGE IN UNCONFINED AQUIFER STORAGE
YEARS 2002 - 2024

Changes: Comparing September of each year
Year 2011 = -238,480 a.f.
Year 2012 = -123,126 a.f.
Year 2013 = -133,066 a.f.
Year 2014 = +71,440 a.f.
Year 2015 = +119,469 a.f.
Year 2016 = +58,083 a.f.
Year 2017 = +66,608 a.f.
Year 2018 = -186,046 a.f.
Year 2019 = +138,209 a.f.



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Colorado CattleWomen announce new scholarship

CONTRIBUTED

COLORADO — The Colorado CattleWomen announce the first Legacy Scholarship. The Heather Hays Stinnett Memorial Scholarship honors Colorado CattleWomen Past President Heather Stinnett and will be awarded to a woman pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree.

Stinnett was a staunch advocate for the beef industry and a proud fifth generation Coloradoan who traced her cattle industry heritage to early Colorado statehood and ranches homesteaded by ancestors on both sides of her family. Stinnett's agricultural credentials include serving as Colorado FFA Reporter, judging livestock at Seward Community College and graduating

from Oklahoma State University with degrees in animal science and agricultural communications. She and her family owned a feed store, raised commercial cattle, and operated a custom grazing enterprise. Stinnett served as the president of the CCW from 2017 to 2019. She then served as the chair of the board of directors for the American National Cattlewomen in 2019.

Applications are being accepted for the scholarship until April 1, and the scholarship will be awarded in June at the 2024 Colorado CattleWomen annual meeting in Colorado Springs. Women who are a Colorado resident, a junior, a senior, or a graduate student at an accredited four-year university or college, majoring in agriculture or an

agricultural related major aspiring to work in or advocate for the beef industry are encouraged to apply.

More information on the Heather Hays Stinnett Memorial Scholarship can be found on the Colorado Cat-

tleWomen's website at <https://coloradocattlewomen.org/colorado-cattlewomen-legacy-scholarships/>.

Court

Continued from Page 11

continue to decline at an alarming rate, prompting Subdistrict No. 1's creation of the (4th) Amended Plan of Water Management (POWM).

PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Developed over the course of several years with extensive input from hydrologists, the Division 3 engineer with Colorado's Division of Water Resources (DWR), the State Engineer, members and board members of Subdistrict No. 1 and board members of the RGWCD, the POWM is a 41-page document that outlines the most aggressive plan yet.

Under the new POWM, for those who continue to "overpump", the fee is raised to \$500 an acre foot. Should reduced pumping not be accomplished with a \$500 fee, Subdistrict No. 1 reserves the right to increase it until water usage matches replacement.

That fee is at the heart of the complaint filed in court by three groups: Sustainable Water Augmentation Group (SWAG), Northeastern Water Users Association (NEWUA) and Farming Tech.

In June of 2023, the State Engineer approved the groundwater management plan included in the POWM. He did not – nor was he asked to

– approve the increase to a \$500 fee, as that was outside the scope of his approval.

In July, both the Subdistrict No. 1 board, comprised of farmers, and the RGWCD board approved the plan.

At that point, the last step prior to implementation involved going to water court where it's ultimately up to Judge Gonzales, presiding, to approve.

That "last step" was prevented from being taken because the three groups – SWAG, NEWUA and Farming Tech – filed objections against both RGWCD for the \$500 fee and the Division of Water Resources for approving the groundwater management plan.

At a status hearing in January, Judge Gonzales agreed to delay the trial for two years because of "lawyers' schedules." As a consequence, for the next 21 months, farmers in those groups will be able to continue to use water as they have been and paying the \$150 fees they've been paying for depleting the aquifer before any action can possibly be taken.

When asked for his response to the delay, Craig Cotton, Division Engineer for Division 3 of Colorado's Division of Water Resources, said, "We will be defending our approval of the plan. We believe that the new plan is appropriate, and the sooner that new plan is in place, the better. I'm concerned that the level of water in the aquifer continues to drop."



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Is it worth your time to do enterprise analysis on your farm or ranch?

By LARRY BROWN

SLV Area Extension Ag Business Agent
Do you do financial analysis on the different enterprises that make up your farm or ranch operation? Or do you only look at the whole farm or ranch bottom line without breaking it down into the different components that make up the whole? I believe strongly in the management value we gain from analyzing each component enterprise, as well as analyzing the operation, so you will continue to hear a lot from me about enterprise analysis and the resulting enterprise budgets.

What tends to happen is that we keep books and run reports for taxes. We pull information from those books to project cash flow to present to our lenders to secure our loans. But neither tax accounting nor bank loan packages give us the financial information in the form we need to make the best management decisions. We need to use our information to know which components of our operation are profitable, and which may be losing money. One of the powerful and relatively simple ag business management tools is enterprise analysis. And while most ag producers I know have a real good idea of the financial strengths and weaknesses of their operation even without doing enterprise analysis, almost every time we have assisted a producer go through the analysis, they have discovered hidden and very helpful information they had been missing.

The process is to list all the revenues generated by each specific enterprise separately, list the production costs that are directly related to just that enterprise, and then allocate an appropriate portion of the operation's general overhead costs to the enterprise. If you move your potatoes from storage to your own processing or value-added marketing, we credit the production enterprise with the regular market value and charge that same value to the processing enterprise. If you raise your own replacement heifers, we credit the cow-calf enterprise with the market value of those heifers at weaning and charge that same value to the heifer development enterprise. This is how we determine the actual value and profitability of each separate component that makes up the whole operation.

The resulting analysis gives you more realistic breakeven prices, which becomes an extremely valuable marketing tool. It makes it easier and more accurate

to forecast projections and to run a risk analysis. For example, what would happen if my costs ended up 5 or 10 percent higher than I project? What would happen if my revenues ended up being five or ten percent lower? What would happen if both of those things happen? And, on the other hand, what would happen if my costs were five percent lower than I projected and revenues were five percent higher? From the enterprise analysis, we automatically calculate this type of sensitivity chart which helps you assess risk. But my personal favorite benefit of completing an enterprise analysis is that once the base analysis is complete, in a matter of a few minutes you can start asking "what-if" management questions and project scenario after scenario to see the financial implications of making management changes.

In SLV Area Extension, everything we do is designed to foster healthy youth and families, prosperous farms, ranches, and businesses, and strong, resilient, proud communities. When I took on this job with Extension in May of 2021, it was to rebuild the Extension program and to provide Ag Business management education. If you are interested in learning the process of enterprise analysis, and if you would like some guidance in doing an enterprise analysis on your operation, call me and set up an appointment so we can get started on the first few steps. Also plan to participate in our third annual Ag Business Management Workshop March 26 in the evening and March 27 during the day. We will be presenting composite enterprise budgets, which protects the confidentiality of any specific producer, developed from actual, 2023, San Luis Valley financial numbers provided by SLV producers. We will be presenting and discussing budgets for potatoes, seed potatoes, malting barley, alfalfa, black oats or a similar forage cover crop, and cow-calf enterprises. The workshop will be held at the Rio Grande Water Conservation District conference room in Alamosa. For more information on doing your own enterprise analysis, or for more information on the enterprise budget workshop, call Larry or Jennifer at the SLV Area Extension office.

Larry Brown is the CSU Extension Ag Business Agent and Area Director for the San Luis Valley. You can contact him at 719-852-7381, 719-850-2139, or L.Brown@colostate.edu.

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