



37th Annual Arby's All-Star Games coverage

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Governor Polis and Colorado Parks and Wildlife announce new State Wildlife Area at Collard Ranch

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

March 16, 2024

\$1

SLV Today

Saguache County Commissioners to meet on Tuesday

SAGUACHE — The Saguache County Board of County Commissioners will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 19 at 9 a.m. in the county courthouse. The public is invited to attend in person or via Zoom. Meeting ID: 823 7485 1681

Passcode: 793384
The commissioners will conduct business and discuss the following items that appear on the preliminary agenda:

Executive session for discussion of a personnel matter under CRS Section 24-6-401(4)(f)(l) for discussion concerning code enforcement officers.

Veterans Service Officer job advertisement approval.

Road and Bridge Supervisor job advertisement approval.

Museum tree removal bid acceptance.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife letter of support request – Earl Duane Davey Trust Acquisition – Russell Lakes area.

Weed Manager job description review and approval.

Discussion on possible CDS funding for housing.

Free dump day – possibly schedule a date.

US 160 Wolf Creek Pass to close Saturday a.m.

WOLF CREEK PASS — The Colorado Department of Transportation has scheduled critical winter maintenance operations on US Highway 160 Wolf Creek Pass for this morning at 5:30 a.m. Motorists traveling between South Fork and Pagosa Springs are urged to plan ahead, allow for extra travel time, or arrive and drive through the gates before the designated closure time.

US 160 Wolf Creek Pass Closure Locations:

Both eastbound and westbound motorists will encounter full stops and one extended delay of up to two hours.

West Closure Point: Treasure Falls (Mile Point 157), 13 miles east of Pagosa Springs

East Closure Point: Wolf Creek Pass Ski Area (Mile Point 167), 19 miles west of South Fork

Delay times are estimated and dependent on weather conditions as well as the extent of snow removal required to make the road safe for travelers. Visit COtrip.org, for the latest information on road closures and conditions.

SLV WEATHER

Chance of Snow & Rain 45/24

Sun: Chance of Snow 44/18

Mon: Sunny 48/19

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City conversation on Dark Skies to continue

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Members of Alamosa's City Council held a work session Wednesday night to discuss the feasibility and impacts of the city committing to participate in the creation of the Sangre de Cristo Dark Sky Reserve.

The creation of a Dark Sky Reserve only occurs by meeting criteria designed to reduce light pollution as established by Dark Sky International (DSI).

Meeting that criteria is a vigorous process involving strong community support

■ See **SKIES** page 3



Dark Sky photo, courtesy of SLVGO.

Photo by Mike Pach



Courtesy photo

This area in Saguache County is the site of a proposed 1,000-acre solar production facility. The developers will hold a public meeting at the Saguache Community Center on March 19 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

New solar development planned for Saguache County

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

SAGUACHE COUNTY — Horus Energy, a London-based company, has partnered with the American subsidiary of Denmark-based European Energy to develop a 1,000-acre solar energy production farm in Saguache County, east of Moffat.

The proposed solar farm will produce 170MW of electricity, enough to power the equivalent of 34,000 homes.

In an interview with the Valley Courier, Georgi Velkov with Horus, said the company owns about two-thirds of the 1,000-acre site and the remainder will be leased from a private owner. The total investment is about \$250 million and will employ a peak of about "1,500 jobs

at least with construction and operation," according to Velkov. He added the company hopes to break ground in 2026 and if everything goes according to schedule it will be operational in 2028.

The ground-mounted solar generation facility may be built to facilitate agrivoltaics and is something under consideration said Velkov who added the company has employed agrivoltaics at a solar farm in Texas. Agrivoltaics combines traditional agriculture with solar panels above plants or grazing on the land below.

Horus Energy states it, "Has one of the best track records in the renewable energy sector with expertise ranging from greenfield development to construction and operation of solar assets." The com-

pany is owned by Horus Capital, a London-based private equity firm.

As part of its business model, EE Energy company documents state, "each step involves interaction with various stakeholders, such as local communities, investors, etc."

The project will employ up to 1,500 workers during construction. The proposed project will be built in rural Saguache County, where the workers will live is a mystery. Velkov told the Valley Courier, "This is something that will be discussed as the contractor who will be engaged to construct the asset, too early to say at this stage." It remains unknown how many employees will remain after construction Velkov said, "Jobs will be created for

■ See **SOLAR** page 3



Courtesy photo

Dr. Temple Grandin's guest lecture at the Society Hall and sales from her book signings helped raise just over \$8,000 for the SLV Area Extension's second 4-H Specialist Endowment fund.

Grandin helps raise over \$8,000 for 4-H Specialist Endowment

By CSU SLV AREA EXTENSION MONTE VISTA

Dr. Temple Grandin's guest lecture at the Society Hall and sales from her book signings helped raise just over \$8,000 for the SLV Area Extension's second 4-H Specialist Endowment fund.

Grandin was the main speaker of the Southern Rocky Mountain Agricultural Conference and Trade Show in Monte Vista and while in the area spoke at Society Hall in Alamosa.

"Temple, who participated in 4-H as a child, enthusiastically supports the SLV Area Extension office's mission which fosters healthier kids and families, more prosperous farms, ranches and businesses, and stronger, more resilient communities with more pride," officials stated.

Beginning in 2021, the

SLV Extension office has been in a rebuilding period. After years of instability and a reduction of staff, Larry Brown has stepped into the leadership role to rebuild the extension in the San Luis Valley. In just two short years, the full-time staff has doubled. Operating now with a Director/Ag Specialist, a Youth Development/4-H Specialist, a Family and Consumer Science Specialist, a Juntos 4-H Specialist, and an Office Administrator.

"Our newest addition, made possible by 3 years of funding from the Outreach Foundation, is a second 4-H Specialist. Our team's focus now is to secure permanent funding for a second 4-H agent," officials stated.

Historically in the San Luis Valley Area Extension Program, there have

■ See **GRANDIN** page 3

Holy Tuesday to be observed with sacred concert in San Luis

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

SAN LUIS — The Sangre de Cristo Parish in San Luis will host a concert in the hilltop La Capilla de Todos los Santos, or Chapel of All Saints in observance of Holy Tuesday.

The concert will be a poignant and profound Holy Week remembrance, depicting the Passion of Christ through scripture and song with "It is Finished," a Tenebrae Service, on Holy Tuesday, March 26, at 2 p.m.

The musical service will be presented by the Sangre de Cristo Vocal Arts Ensemble, a community choir based in La Veta. Kalima Masse, founder, and music director of the ensemble said the musicians are excited to perform at the chapel for this special Holy Week remembrance. Tenebrae is Latin for darkness and the service becomes darker with the extinguish-

■ See **TUESDAY** page 3



Courtesy photo

A Holy Tuesday Tenebrae service will be performed by the Sangre de Cristo Vocal Arts Ensemble at La Capilla de Todos los Santos, or Chapel of All Saints in San Luis.



Chad Spearman

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Lee Crowther



Record

OBITUARIES

Herbert Wayne Dean

Herbert Wayne Dean, 86, passed away on Dec. 30, in Del Norte, Colo.

Son of Walter and Louise Dean, Herb was born Feb. 28, 1937, in Monte Vista, Colo. He graduated Sargent High School in 1955, and soon after, married the love of his life, Helen Grooms of Center. Together, they raised five children: Edith (Pete), Eric (Amy), Odin (Sharon), Walt (Tara), and Jake.

In his younger years, Herb enjoyed hunting and fishing with his boys. They chased elk and deer all over the San Juans, but spent a lot of their time on Trickle Mountain. Herb enjoyed coon hunting as well, and raised his own dogs.

Herb was quite a musician, playing guitar and fiddle most of his life. He spent a large part of his life in Georgia and became involved with local venues that gave him the opportunity to sing and play the old country and bluegrass tunes he loved.

Herb also enjoyed rais-



ing a large garden every year.

Herb wasn't afraid of hard work, and he wore many hats, doing whatever it took to keep food on the table. Some of the work he did consists of: running bees, logging, agriculture and lineman work; he was a police officer for the town of Center, and planted trees for a time in Georgia.

There's no doubt that Herb's greatest joy was coaching and watching his boys wrestle. He pushed them hard, but up until the time of his death he talked

about their successes and how tough they were. He forgot many things, but still remembered countless stories in great detail about the wrestling and boxing days. When he shared these stories, it always brought a smile to his face. He was very proud of his children.

Herb is survived by his sister Shirley Wilson of Monte Vista, Colo., his children, nine grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and many step grand and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents, stepmother Eldora, his brother Leon, ex-wife and the mother to his children Helen, grandson Michael Williams, brother-in-law Dale Wilson, son-in-law Pete Colclasure, and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Herb was well thought of, and will be greatly missed. Cremation was chosen, and a celebration of life will take place later in the spring.

Elvin Johnny Rufus Jack

Johnny's life began on Oct. 30, 1925, in Manassas, Colo., born to James Rufus Jack and Leola King Jack. He married his longtime sweetheart Marie Hicks on Jan. 19, 1946, in Merced, Calif. They enjoyed more than 61 years together until her death on March 11, 2007.

Johnny was a proud member of the US Navy who survived the torpedoing of the USS Honolulu on July 13, 1943.

One of Johnny's favorite pastime activities was supporting his wife Marie on her hunting and fishing expeditions.

Johnny owned and operated Quality Packing Company and M&J Corals for many years. Due to his generosity, many of the less fortunate in the community did not go hungry. His kindness provided comfort for countless people. He

was a wonderful spouse, father, and grandfather and loved spending time with his family.

Johnny was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served in numerous positions, including Fox Creek Branch President, Stake President in Sunday School, and Single Adult Coordinator, among others.

Johnny is survived by his children Eileen Meyers of Alamosa, Colo., and Robert Jack of La Jara, Colo.; three grandchildren, Nathan (Renae) Haslett of Alamosa, Chad (Belinda) Haslett of Arkansas, Robin (Delbert) Rivera of Farmington, N.M.; numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and extended family and friends.

Johnny was preceded in death by his parents, James Rufus and Leola Jack, his wife Marie, and his siblings Eloise Dosch, Carl Jack, Leon Jack, and an infant sister Debra Jack.



A Visitation will be held Monday, March 18, 2024, from 9-9:45 a.m., followed by a Funeral Service at 10 a.m., all at the Manassas Stake Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Interment will follow services in the Fox Creek Cemetery.

The family would like to thank the remarkable nurses and staff at Evergreen Nursing Home for the exceptional care that was given to Johnny. You will not go unmentioned in our prayers.

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

Mary Ann Valdez

Beatrice, N.E., and lastly Albany, NY.

She earned a Bachelor's degree in Education/Spanish and became a first grade elementary school teacher for 30 years in Colorado until retirement.

Artistically gifted, Mary Ann enjoyed embroidery, computer puzzles, gardening, bird watching and spending time with her family. She was a member of the Lariat Community Baptist Church for many years and held her faith close to her heart.

She was the loving mother of: Arthur (Tammy) Valdez and Venus Jo Valdez.

Cherished grandmother of: Anika Moe, Anthony Peek, Genesis Fielder, Javier Fuentes, Raquel Fuentes, Amberly Valdez and Annabelle

Valdez, and great-grandmother of: Lila Peek, Sophia Peek, Karsen Peek, Logan Benkufsky, Talia Moe, Adrian Fuentes and Legend Fielder. Dearest sister of: Roger (Pauline) Archuleta, Jake Archuleta, Fred Madril and the late Patricia Chavez (Rene).

Mary Ann's family is forever grateful to: George Fielder, Laura Sanson and Brittany Peek for their compassion and care.

Cremation has taken place through the care of Simple Choices, Inc. The Valdez Family has chosen to honor Mary Ann's memory and mourn their loss in private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Mary Ann's memory may be directed to: the Lariat Community Baptist Church in Monte Vista, Colo.

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

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

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

ALAMOSA SHERIFF'S REPORT

Alamosa County Sheriff Office Report week of March 8 to March 15, 2024

Christopher Peasley, 37, of Alamosa was cited for speeding 20-39 mph over the limit in the 5000 block of Hwy 17 South.

Amiee Poole, 37, of Alamosa was cited for speeding 10-19 mph over the limit at Hwy 17 South MM 73.

Kaleth Fierro, 23, of Center was cited for speeding 10-19 mph over the limit in the 2000 block of Hwy 17 South.

Seth Nunez, 23, was cited for speeding 10-19 mph over the limit in the 17000 block of Hwy 160.

Alexander Glover, 19, of Alamosa was cited for speeding 10-19 mph over the limit on Hwy 160 Mile Marker 224.

Justin Payne, 33, of Crestone was cited for speeding 10-19 mph over the limit in the 17000 block of Hwy 160 North.

Martin Crawley, 25, of Monte Vista was cited for speeding 20-39 mph over the limit in the 100 block of Hwy 160.

James Smalley, 66, of Walsenburg was cited for speeding 20-39 mph over the limit in the 11000 block of Lane 6 North.

Alexander Barone, 31, of Crestone was cited for speeding 20-39 mph over

the limit in the 3000 block of Highway 17 South.

Katherine Webster, 72, of Boulder was cited for speeding 20-39 mph over the limit in the 3000 block of Highway 17 South.

Jessica Steiner, 34, of Albuquerque, New Mexico was cited for speeding 20-39 mph over the limit at Mile Marker 74 Highway 17 North.

Tyler Esslinger, 30, of El Paso, Texas was cited for speeding 20-39 mph over the limit in the 8000 block of Highway 17 North.

Kristie Martinez, 34, of Alamosa was cited for displaying expired tags in the 200 block of Northwood Lane.

Brandon Navares, 32, of Alamosa was cited for speeding 20-39 mph over the limit in the 6000 block of Highway 17 North.

Brianna Bradford, 26, of Alamosa was cited for speeding 20-39 mph over the limit in the 20000 block of Highway 160.

Khrystyne Ferrerri, 33, of Monte Vista was cited for speeding 20-39 mph over the limit in the 6000 block of Highway 160.

Allen James King of Alamosa was cited for three counts of violation of a protection order at 6868 Highway 17 South.

Janessa Martinez, 21,

of Capulin was cited for possession of a controlled substance at 6868 Highway 17 South.

Alison Wade, 36, of Boulder, was cited for speeding 10-19 mph over the limit in the 5000 block of Highway 12.

Danny Cruz, 30, of Alamosa was cited for 2nd degree trespass at 6868 Highway 17 South.

Janet Cordingley, 20, of Albuquerque, New Mexico was cited for violation of registration provisions in the 11000 block of Highway 160.

Sabrina Martinez, 44, of Alamosa was cited for possession of a controlled substance and defective vehicle at Highway 160 and Trinchera Lane.

Katherine Jo Libby of Alamosa was cited for violation of a protection order at 2633 Balderama Court.

Danny Cruz, Junior was cited for 2nd degree burglary of a dwelling, theft less than \$300 and possession of drug paraphernalia DPO at 333 Santa Fe.

Chanel Gutierrez of Alamosa was cited for violation of a protection order.

Dakota Blackmon of Alamosa was cited for harassment and domestic violence at 6625 CR 107 South Unit B.

Baca Grande Library to host an open house with Smokey the Bear

By MARIE MCCOLM CRESTONE — The Baca Grande Library will be hosting an open house with Smokey the Bear from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 23.

The open house will feature a bouncy house and crafts, and people will also have the chance to meet Smokey the Bear and have cake with Smokey.

On Aug. 9, Smokey the Bear is celebrating his 80th birthday. According to the Smokey the Bear website, 9 out of 10 forest fires are caused by people. The Baca Grande Library is celebrating Smokey's birthday with a Smokey the Bear Reading Challenge. Readers can sign up for the challenge during the open house celebration.

Children and adults can help Smokey prevent forest fires by joining the challenge. There are children's books that have been added at the Baca Grande Library in honor of the Smokey the Bear Reading Challenge. People can take the Smokey the Bear Pledge at the open house. Children can write Smokey a letter and get a free sticker.

The Baca Grande Library has reading challenge paperwork. The challenge is set up for children ages 4-10, but anyone can participate in the challenge. Participants earn Smokey Swag for completing the reading goals, and following Smokey's exclusive pledge.

The Northern Saguache County Library District has two libraries within



Courtesy photo

The Baca Grande Library in Crestone is celebrating Smokey the Bear's birthday with a reading challenge. People can learn more at an open house on Saturday, March 23.

the district that are open and available to the public, the Baca Grande Library, and the Saguache Public Library. The two libraries cover many areas including Moffat, Crestone, and Saguache. The libraries aid in helping the community learn and thrive with many educational resources that are available through the libraries.

The Baca Grande Library offers great books, videos, magazines, and free Wi-Fi along with public computers available for use.

The Baca Grande Library is at 67487 County Road T, in Crestone. For

more information on the open house event or the Smokey the Bear Reading Challenge, contact The Baca Grande Library at 719-655-2551 or visit smokeybear.com. The Baca Grande Library currently has a Smokey the Bear Reading Challenge display up in the library with challenge forms.

School Menu
Monday
March 18, 2024

Spring Break!

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

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

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

Valley News

Solar

Continued from Page 1
the operation of the asset, again too early to confirm if those will be local employees but all options will be considered when that stage approaches.”

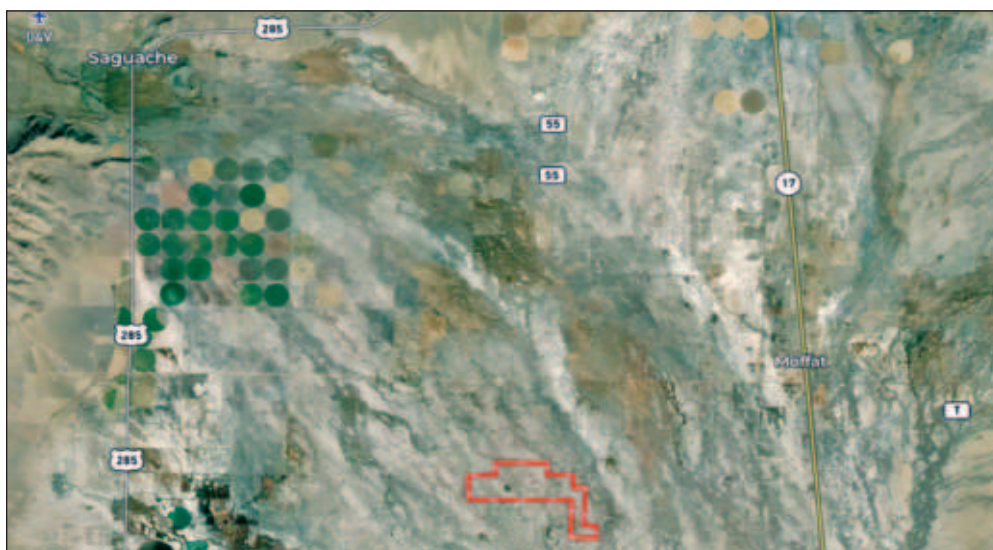
When asked how much tax revenue this will bring into Saguache County over the next decade, Velkov said, “We have just commissioned the economic impact analysis for this project, and that will likely form part of our submission to the county. Once that is submitted it will be available for the public as well.”

According to the company, the project is called the Sand Dune Solar Project, and it would be the first of its kind within Saguache County, a Photovoltaic Solar farm with panels similar to those many people place upon their homes.

Company documents claim “These are not large or tall panels, with their height ranging from 5 feet to 8 feet at max tilt. Additionally, the panels will be connected to battery energy storage systems to preserve the electricity created on high sun days for times when the production would be low. This project will tie into the local grid and will benefit the greater community’s electrical efficiency and resiliency.”

“Features and benefits of this project include:

- Road improvements agreed upon with the county around the project site for construction;
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife recommended wildlife-friendly fencing;



Courtesy of Horus Energy

This map shows the area of the proposed Sand Dunes Solar Project in Saguache County.

Short panels that will not be visible once outside a 2-mile radius;

Preservation of native vegetation, through pile driving, non-invasive construction practices (such as no grading), and reseeding of areas disturbed;

Exploring options to design a wildlife corridor to continue to preserve the migration movements of local wildlife such as Elk;

High tax income to the county to continue local improvements;

Donations and support to local organizations;

Economic benefits include putting money back into the economy during construction and operation with local employment and use of local businesses for lodging and food;

Room for grazing to continue within the project for cattle and/or sheep;

Clean energy for the County.”

Last fall, Denver-based Korsail Energy announced a 135 megawatt (MW) solar energy facility that will in-

clude a 72 MW storage facility located on 730 acres about 2.5 miles west of Alamosa.

According to the company, “Korsail Energy develops innovative community-oriented renewable energy projects from start to finish. Our mission is to provide inexpensive, carbon-free energy to rural communities.”

That project, known as the Cornfield Solar, is expected to create at least 600 jobs during the estimated 16-month construction phase slated to begin in June 2025; pending regulatory approval.

Horus Energy held a neighborhood meeting on Feb. 22 regarding the Sand

Dunes Solar Project in Saguache and will hold a community informational meeting on March 19 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Saguache Community Center at 525 7th St. in Saguache. The goal of the meeting is to share information about the project and to hear feedback from the community. The meeting will include a presentation from the company and a Q&A session with company representatives.

Geogri Vellow can be reached by the public at Geogri.vellow@hourscapital.co.uk and the project website is www.Sanddunesolarproject.com.

Grandin

Continued from Page 1
been two full-time Youth Development/4-H Specialists on staff.

Serving the youth of six counties can be overwhelming for even two Specialists, officials stated. Because of limited funding, it has been 12 years since they had two Youth Development/4-H Specialists. In those 12 years, they had a single Specialist on staff for 6 years and the other 6

years they did not have a Youth Development/4-H Specialist at all.

“The overall enrollment and quality of the program has suffered because of this inadequate staffing,” officials stated. “We are extremely grateful and appreciative of all who have generously jumped on board and contributed to the project. Once our funding in the endowment fund is secured, this community-driven project will leave a lasting legacy for our youth.”



Courtesy photo

Temple Grandin was the main speaker of the Southern Rocky Mountain Agricultural Conference and Trade Show in Monte Vista and while in the area spoke at Society Hall in Alamosa.

Tuesday

Continued from Page 1
ing of candles to symbolize the darkness of Jesus’ death.

Masse added the service, with about 22 voices will leave one candle lit to commemorate the everlasting message of Jesus.

The chapel was dedicated in 1990 and is located on a mesa above the town of San Luis, the “La Mesa de la Piedad y de la Misericordia” or The Hill of Piety and Mercy.

Attendees can reach the chapel by car via a dirt road, or walking the spectacular Stations of the Cross path that includes 15 bronze sculptures by San Luis artist Huberto Maestas. The three-quarter mile path offers stunning views, and for many it is a spiritual and contemplative experience.

Gary Flanders, a fan of the ensemble said the Stations of the Cross is path is an ecumenical experience for Christians, Catholic and Protestant alike. The Roman Catholic crucifix has Christ on it, and the Protestant one does not, and that at the end of the stations, the sculpture on the mesa near the chapel is without Christ and has spiritual relevance to all

Christians.

Masse said she has walked the Stations of the Cross many times and that meditating and praying at each station is a profound spiritual experience.

If you wish to walk the Stations of the Cross before the musical presentation, give yourself an extra half hour. With this beautiful, deeply moving musical presentation, the ensemble promises a new and profound understanding of the meaning of the Passion of Christ.

The musical program includes: Our Father, music by Craig Courtney, Ride on King Jesus, arranged by Joseph M. Martin, Wondrous Love, words by Emma Booth-Tucker; music by Wes Cameron, It Is Finished, A Tenebrae Service, by Mary McDonald (consisting of 5 songs) Jesus in the Garden, by Joseph M. Martin, O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High, by Lloyd Larson, Kyrie, music by Antonín Dvořák; arranged by Ruth Schram.

The concert will be at the La Capilla de Todos los Santos, or Chapel of All Saints in San Luis on Tuesday, March 26 at 2 p.m. Call or text 719-635-3000, for more information.

Skies

Continued from Page 1
as it includes changes in land use regulations governing new construction, existing light fixtures, lighted signs, light infrastructure such as streetlights and other codes.

As presented to the council by Deacon Aspinwall, Alamosa’s city planner, the proposed reserve would cover more than 6,000 square miles and parts of eight counties. The area includes the core of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, and Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, plus a periphery of surrounding areas that must contain within its borders 80% of surrounding population, including Alamosa. Should Alamosa decline to participate, creation of the Sangre de Cristo Dark Sky Reserve will not be possible.

In 2019, the national park and preserve was officially designated as a Dark Sky Park by DSI. In 2020, the Town of Crestone became a DSI recognized Dark Sky Community.

SLVGO was approached by several organizations in the San Luis Valley asking for their support in creation of the larger and more inclusive Sangre de Cristo Dark Sky Reserve.

Since its designation, the park has experienced notable growth in its nighttime programming. As Dani Robben, San Luis Valley Great Outdoors (SLVGO) community outreach manager who’s been charged with largely spearheading the Dark Sky initiative, told the Valley Courier, data indi-

cates that dark sky communities correlate with a significant boost in local tourism with increased impact on the local economies due to tourists staying overnight. She also cites other benefits to personal well-being and positive impact on wildlife populations.

Acting on that request from others, the outdoors group met with the city of Alamosa and were told, at that time, such an effort needed to begin in the community at the grassroots level instead of originating with the city. The group has been active in community outreach.

As Aspinwall told the council, it has only been in the last eight months that the city has become actively involved and, even then, only as facilitators in gathering input from the community, including meetings with SLVGO, lighting experts, the Alamosa Police Department and others in hopes of presenting a course of action that “makes sense”.

That approach continues today. As Aspinwall made clear, city staff is neutral, guided by questions related to enforceability, achievability and does committing to the effort further local government and community interests. City staff are not recommending what steps the city of Alamosa should take, if any. It is the job of staff to simply present the information to the council who will ultimately make the decision.

Key to understanding is, first, the concept “dark skies” does not equal “dark ground.” The fundamental objective is reduction of light pollution,

and that light is directed where it needs to be at the intensity and time that is appropriate.

In general terms, city staff have drafted suggestions that, for the most part, don’t impact existing businesses. New standards would apply to new developments or significant changes in existing developments such as large expansions or changes in use of property. Streetlights would not be removed and when new streetlights are installed, they will be updated to new LED-style lights, which has been the city’s practice for several years. String lights and holiday lights are exempt and there would be no change to existing regulations.

City staff recognize public concerns about safety, but studies on the issue are inconclusive.

Discussion in the work session went beyond those basics and brought up areas that have sparked more controversy, specifically among members of the business community and related to signage and curfews that DSI criteria requires be imposed to receive designation.

At the end of the work session, it became clear that Wednesday night was the beginning of a conversation that will take place over a stretch of time for a comprehensive consideration of all the impacts to be considered.

When asked what takeaways there are for the public at this point, Alamosa City Manager told the Valley Courier, “The City will be looking into these items. My impression is that Council wants us to investigate every

possible way for this to be a win-win situation balancing the value of certification and the concerns of businesses. The City is still very much considering the possibility of becoming a part of the DSI preserve, but some items might be insurmountable.”

When asked for her take on the work session, Robben said that, in her discussions with members of the community, everyone is in favor of preserving the wonderful dark skies we have in the valley. The question comes down to what impact the steps required for designation may have on businesses. “But any steps we take now toward reducing light pollution is a step in the right direction in preserving our dark skies,” she said.

Alamosa is the lynchpin to the creation of the Sangre de Cristo Dark Sky Reserve, with a number of different municipalities waiting to see what Alamosa will decide before going forward.

When asked about the next steps, Sanchez said that it is too early to tell. “Council has not made a decision on if any changes will be made to the ordinances. There is a chance that they will enact everything that is required, a portion of the recommendations, or none of the code changes. I doubt another work session will be held. I anticipate that this will go before them at a regular meeting, that date being driven by any deadlines we uncover [to be certified under less stringent requirements than could be imposed in the future].”

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Great Stories Begin Here

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

SUNDAY • 17	MONDAY • 18	TUESDAY • 19	WEDNESDAY • 20	THURSDAY • 21	FRIDAY • 22	SATURDAY • 23
	Spring Break - No Classes	Spring Break - No Classes	Spring Break - No Classes	Spring Break - No Classes	Spring Break - No Classes	
<p>Through April 2, 2024</p> <p>Cloyde Snook Gallery: <i>hum/swell - a meditative multimedia journey</i> Lares Feliciano and Bothe Kretsinger</p> <p>Hatfield Gallery: <i>Bizarre</i> Adams State Art Faculty & Students</p> <p>Gallery Hours: 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday</p>			Zacheis Planetarium Closed for Spring Break	Zacheis Planetarium Closed for Spring Break	Lacrosse vs Concordia University Irvine 3 p.m. Lacrosse Field	www.adams.edu
					Baseball vs New Mexico Highlands University 3 p.m. Baseball Field	

Opinion

Learning is more memorable with laughter

My sister and I used to sit on top of the bedspread and challenge each other to a no-giggle game. One of us would start with a slow VW Bug sort of giggle engine, not too noticeable, not too loud. Then we'd move the snicker to second gear, and then third gear. By the fourth belly-full of humor gear, we would both be boisterously laughing.

I did the same thing with my friends. "She sells seashells by the seashore." Connecting eye to eye, tears dribbled down our cheeks as we volleyed the verse back and forth until we laughed out loud. We'd look away and back again; and the rush of laughter would break the silence.

Laughter is a good medicine. And like Mary Poppins in the 1964 Disney movie, sang about sugar helping the medicine go down, laughter in spoonfuls or bowlfuls can relax the shoulders, stomach, and the brain. In the news, we've all seen the articles that point to lower blood pressure and lower stress when engaging such trickle-down laughter. I've been to seminars on laughter in the classroom and how laughter attached to learning is more memorable.

I know that if we can laugh together, we can be friends like Lucy and Ethel were in the 40's and 50's on the TV show, "I Love Lucy." From 1959 to 1972, was it Quick Draw McGraw and his side-kick Baba-Louie who taught me to laugh and

Movin' On with Nellie



Nelda Curtiss



repeat: "Ok, Baba Louie?," and the response: "S'allright?" Watching for Mr. Ed's horsey snicker was a high point every episode with the famous talking horse.

In the 60s, humor changed as it changed our culture. We saw ourselves and laughed with Archie and Edith Bunker and Meathead in the CBS series, All in The Family, and George Carlin on The Tonight Show. Two generations collided in front of our eyes in that box by Magnavox; and we learned to listen in new ways.

And recently a Facebook post caught us all laughing out loud. It sports Charlie a Border Collie mix with his stuffed buddy watching King Kong (2005). He ran at King Kong when he roared and sometimes the ape caught the canine off guard and sent him running back for safety. It made my stomach jiggle as I watched the surprise antics. <https://fb.watch/qPoIGw6fSS/>.

As a writing teacher, I used humor to bring stories alive. Sometimes I would ask students, "What is an unexpected

moment in your life?" Then, I'd share one I had: I was having lunch with a friend at Hunan's. I felt self-assured because I had dressed in a classy sweater outfit, skirt, and jacket. It was just my color—a soft pink. I excused myself for the ladies' room; and as I walked, I noticed my skirt's hem tapping below my knee and then on my calf. Then as I turned the knob and opened the door, I stepped out of my whole skirt as it fell to the floor! I was so startled I jumped into the bathroom, grabbed the skirt, shut the door, and hoped that no one had seen my demise. I was so thankful my slip stayed put. I laughed all the way to the table after that.

I look for humor every day and see it in the animals I have rescued. Sometimes I just look at Alpie or Harley (the fattest cats), and not recognizing me in a hat, they scatter like the Roadrunner on Saturday Mornings. Rooroo just looks at me to see if I'm going to feed her and when she senses I'm about to pick her up, she shuttles away.

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."

When I took a male cat to Dr. Deal, he explained, "Neutering male cats often calms the fighting instinct – but then again, sometimes it doesn't change a thing." The latter is true of Tigger who sleeps on my lap or curls up beside my head on the bed. If he ventures out, he sometimes comes back with battle wounds that he licks for a while. Sometimes I just look at him and tell him, "I told you to play nice!"

The New York Times reported on a humor study: Besides reducing stress and relieving pain, belly-jiggling laughter increases endorphins and dopamine. "The muscle action triggers the brain chemicals known for their feel-good effect."

So, go ahead and laugh at yourself, laugh at a joke, laugh with your children, and watch your pets for the next laughable shenanigan. Have a hoot and be a healthy too.

Nelda Curtiss is a retired college educator and long-time local columnist. Reach her at columnsbynellie.com or email her at columnsbynellie@gmail.com.

Colorado Democrats are no longer the party of free speech

By MARK HILLMAN
Capitol Review

Remember when Democrats fiercely defended freedom of speech and freedom of expression with few limitations? That was when Colorado Democrats still had to compete with Republicans for statewide elected offices and legislative majorities.

Having grasped the political upper hand, Democrats are now sadly in thrall to Progressivism and its requisite censorship of dissenters. Instead of proclaiming, "I may disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it," Democrats at our State Capitol now practice "free speech for me, but not for thee."

Consider the prevailing limitations on debate in the Colorado House of Representatives. Once called "The People's House," the chamber majority now shows little regard for core constitutional rights. Today's Progressives tolerate dissent only if they can keep it contained in an airtight box where it cannot be heard.

In a recent week, the House members spent several hours debating two bills of utmost priority to Progressives but of dubious importance to Coloradans at large.

House Bill 1039 would allow students

to force classroom teachers and other school personnel to call them by whatever name they wish to be identified. If Mike wants to be known as Michelle, everyone at school must say, "Michelle." Mike/Michelle's parents need not be informed or approve of this decision because some parents don't think their teenagers possess sufficient life experience to make life-altering decisions like changing gender. Progressives obviously know better.

Every school in Colorado would be required to adopt a governing policy declaring use of a student's legal name to be illegal discrimination if the student prefers a non-legal "chosen name." A teacher or administrator who does not comply violates the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, so calling a student by the name used by his or her parents could land a teacher in court.

This bill passed the House 41-19. On the same day, representatives also passed House Bill 1071 to make it easier for convicted felons to legally change their name if they change their gender. (Notice the theme?)

In a further tilt toward the bizarre, proponents sought to name the bill "Tiara's law" after a convicted felon formerly known as Duane Antonio Powell but now known as Tiara Latrice Kelley,

who has a lengthy criminal record and now performs in "all ages drag shows" that sometimes include children.

During public hearings and in debate, opponents were forbidden by Democratic leadership from using certain words deemed offensive by Progressives, such as:

- "Deadnaming," using the former name of someone who later changed their gender and name.

- "Misgendering," referring to someone by actual biological sex or former gender rather than by present gender identification or preferred pronouns.

Tiara (she) was Duane (he) when convicted, so quoting the court record verbatim is both deadnaming and misgendering.

- Using specific words, like "grooming" or "groomer" (to refer to gaining a child's trust to later abuse the child). This is especially odd since these same Democrats sponsored a bill (now law) which also referenced grooming.

The remedy seems obvious: Don't name bills after criminals and drag queens who perform with children.

In a public hearing where citizens can testify, Progressives directed Capitol staff to remove an opponent who didn't recite the required Progressive incantations. That's a disgraceful violation of

the people's right to petition their government.

Let's be clear: this isn't simply a matter of being polite. This is about political speech codes which demand that everyone genuflect to Progressive icons.

The core purpose of our First Amendment is to protect political speech, not stifle it.

Justice Louis Brandeis, a great defender of freedom of speech, understood "that repression breeds hate; that hate menaces stable government; that the path of safety lies in the opportunity to discuss freely supposed grievances and proposed remedies."

Bottom line: The answer to speech you don't like is speech you do like.

Imagine the outrage had a former Republican majority sought to prevent Democrats from illustrating arguments with comparisons to fascism, Nazi Germany or the KKK or from recklessly calling any gun they want to ban an "assault weapon."

Free, open and robust debate are the safety valves of our democratic institutions. Sacrificing them to satisfy Progressive sensibilities is profoundly misguided.

Mark Hillman served as Senate Majority Leader and State Treasurer.

LETTER

Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper: A first response thank you

Editor,
We are so overwhelmed and appreciative of the news that SLV Health was

awarded the \$2 million in Congressional Directed Spending Appropriation for workforce housing.

We are almost speechless. I am humbled and grateful. I have started this thank you note several times

over the last few days, and I simply can't find the right words — but I finally just decided that I had to write to you. Please share with the entire team that we are beyond thankful for this support.

This type of investment into our health-care system is a game changer. With this workforce housing, we will be able to secure team members who can join us in delivering care to this community.

As you know, in rural Colorado we work hard to solve our problems, care for our community, keep lifting ourselves up one patient at a time. This type of investment tells everyone here that our national leaders see us as worthy of a big investment and trust that we will turn it into the right kind of win for everyone here.

Please share our sincere gratitude for the trust and faith that you put into us with this investment. We will make you proud of what we achieve.

Konnie Martin
CEO San Luis Valley Health

Keith R Cerny
Publisher

Brian Williams
Managing Editor

Valley Courier

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Your FIRST Source for Local News

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Religion

The difference between 'good men' and 'real men'

The 18-foot granite culinity," her latest work of Christian apologetics. "That principle seems to be built into men's created nature."

However, Pearcey noted that sociologist Michael Kimmel has offered clues as to why many activists now condemn "traditional masculinity." Kimmel asked West Point cadets to describe a "good man," and he heard "honor," "duty," "integrity," "sacrifice," "do the right thing," "be a protector" and similar responses. When he asked what it means to "man up" as "a real man," cadets said, "tough," "never show weakness," "win at all costs," "suck it up," "get rich" and "get laid."

Pearcey calls the "good man" credo the "software of God's creation," while the "real man" stereotype reveals the "virus of sin." The Houston Christian University professor believes this conflict is wrecking many marriages and families.

In her book, Pearcey quotes the work of sociologists who have discovered that "active churchgoing evangelical men have the LOWEST rates of divorce and domestic violence" of any major group. However, the "nominal" men who "identify as Christians" because of their cultural roots "but rarely, if ever, attend church ... have the HIGHEST rates of divorce and domestic violence -- even higher than secular men."

Often, these "nominal Christian men" internalize the "real-man script" while defending their behavior by "pinning Christian language" on abusive beliefs, she said, reached by telephone. Thus, Pearcey urges church leaders to:

- Stress the reality of emotional and physical abuse. "Although committed, churchgoing Protestant family men are the least violent of any group in America, that rate is not zero." It's especially important for clergy to address marriage issues from the pulpit, teaching that all abuse -- verbal and physical -- is sin.
- Build ministries to men that go deeper than prayer breakfasts and the occasional barbecue. She asked if most churchgoing men know each other well enough to genuinely "rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn." Is there any sense of accountability there?

This includes fighting a rising tide of loneliness. Pearcey quoted Judith Shulevitz of The New Republic: "Emotional isolation is ranked as high a risk factor for mortality as smoking."

-- Develop networks of trusted counseling services, recovery groups and accountability partners. Women may need temporary safe houses and help interacting with police or medical professionals. Pastoral staff will need professional advice about how to handle risky, even dangerous, conflicts.

"The most common mistake pastors make is to assume that domestic violence is a marriage problem and to offer marital counseling -- bringing both spouses into the office together," wrote Pearcey. "The wife may be afraid to reveal any serious mistreatment."

When it comes to real issues in the lives of real men, far too many religious leaders are looking the other way, she said.

Meanwhile, stores are selling books such as "I Hate Men," "The End of Men," "Are Men Necessary?", "Boys Adrift," "Why Boys Fail" and "Why Men Hate Going to Church."

"On Mother's Day, we hand out roses and praise mothers," said Pearcey. "On Father's Day, we tend to scold men and tell them to do better. ... We need to talk about the positive things men are doing while also trying harder to find ways to reach out to the nominal men and speak the truth about what it means to be a good man."



Terry Mattingly

Terry Mattingly is Senior Fellow on Communications and Culture at Saint Constantine College in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and writes Rational Sheep, a Substack newsletter on faith and mass media.

Once a year, at the precise time on April 15, 1912, when the liner was declared doomed, the Men's Titanic Society gathers at this statue, which is hidden behind Fort McNair after being moved to make way for the Kennedy Center. Members wear tuxedos to honor the passenger who donned evening clothes in order to "die like a gentleman."

A toast in the rite includes: "Chivalry, gallantry, bravery and grace. ... To the young and old, the rich and the poor, the ignorant and the learned, all who gave their lives nobly to save women and children. To those brave men."

No one debates the values that inspired that sacrifice.

"Men seem to instinctively treat masculinity as the call to die so that others may live -- the highest form of sacrifice," noted Nancy Pearcey in "The Toxic War on Mas-

need as you depend on Him and obey Him.

Tuesday, March 19
"For bodily exercise profits little: but godliness is profitable to all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." (1 Timothy 4:8 AKJV)

Don't forget to get your spiritual exercise. Read your Bible and pray.

Wednesday, March 20
"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned to fables." (2 Timothy 4:3-

4 AKJV)

Love the truth. Read your Bible. Don't fall for the lies of the devil.

Thursday, March 21
"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7 AKJV)

I pray that this would be our desire. Keep your eyes on Jesus.

Friday, March 22
"Before the LORD: for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth." (Psalms 96:13 AKJV)

Are you ready for His coming? Get right with God now. Don't delay.

Bible Digest

Saturday, March 16
"Ah Lord GOD! behold, you have made the heaven and the earth by your great power and stretched out arms, and there is nothing too hard for you." (Jeremiah 32:17 AKJV)

God is awesome. Put your faith in Him.

Sunday, March 17
"And they have turned to me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not listened to receive instruction." (Jeremiah 32:33 AKJV)

Don't turn your back to the Lord. He loves you and He can help you.

Monday, March 18
"Call to me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you know not." (Jeremiah 33:3 AKJV)

God is able to meet your

need as you depend on Him and obey Him.

Tuesday, March 19
"For bodily exercise profits little: but godliness is profitable to all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." (1 Timothy 4:8 AKJV)

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Bearing Good Fruit When Hard Times Come

The Bible talks about bearing good fruit and how that is God's purpose for our lives. For example, in John 15:5, Jesus says, "I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for [otherwise] apart from Me [that is, cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing" (AMP).

And Psalm 1:3 (AMP) says that the person who follows God's ways is "like a tree firmly planted [and fed] by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season; its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers [and comes to maturity]."

When we understand what it means to bear good fruit, then we can fulfill our destiny as ambassadors of Christ in this world (2 Corinthians 5:20). There are two ways this happens: by working with the Holy Spirit to develop the fruit of the Spirit in our lives (Galatians 5:22-23), and by displaying that fruit as we help others.

Many people want the "fruit" of more money, more opportunities in their career, more material possessions, or to be more well known. It's certainly not wrong to have these things. But these things alone won't fulfill us or make us permanently happy and peaceful.

We need to go deeper than that! The good fruit God wants us to have in our lives is peace, joy and mental and emotional stability when the storms of life come. And the Bible teaches that we can grow to the point where we are so deeply planted in the love of Christ that when the storms of life come, we still bear good fruit (Psalm 1:1-3 and Ephesians 3:16-19!).

The real fruit of Christianity is seen in your life when you can bear good fruit when hard times come—and we all have difficulties in life. It may be an unexpected illness, the stress of financial debt, or being betrayed by someone you thought you could trust.

God wants us to be peaceful under pressure and have a good attitude in the midst of pain because when others see us behaving differently, they'll want to know why we can be that way and want to have what we have, too!

Colossians 3:12-15 (AMP) gives us a detailed list of genuine, acceptable Christian behavior, and it should be our goal to live this way every day. Verse 12 says that "as God's chosen people, who are holy [set apart, sanctified for His purpose] and well-beloved [by God Himself]," we should "put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience [which has the power to endure whatever injustice or unpleasantness comes, with good temper."]

Now, I want to say here that we can't just live this way in our own strength, without God. I remember when I would decide in the morning: "I'm going to be nice to everyone today" and I succeeded while I was home alone. But when the people came home, that's when I had trouble with my attitude.

I had to pray for God to help me put on the right attitude and mindset so I could treat others with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, "which has the power to endure whatever injustice or unpleasantness comes, with good temper." I had to put my faith in God to give me His grace—His strength to do what I could never do in my own effort—believing that He would do it because of who I am in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17, 21).

These verses in Colossians should be our number one goal as believers in Christ. As new creations in Christ, saved by faith, we have a desire to do good things. And as we grow in our relationship with Him, we learn new ways to act and respond to others.



Moving Up Higher with Joyce Meyer

I know from personal experience that this is not always easy. It won't always feel good to obey God and you may have to sacrifice something to do it. But when we choose to trust God and do what He tells us to do no matter how we feel about it, what we think about it, or what others think we should do, then we'll have the amazing life Jesus died for us to have!

We don't have to settle for anything less than God's best for us. Make a decision today to trust God to change you and help you do what's right in every situation. Remember John 15:16 (AMP), which says He has chosen you and "appointed and placed and purposefully planted you, so that you would go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit will remain and be lasting" at all times of your life!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource *Busy Going Nowhere*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (FaithWords)*. She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

All-Denominational
Emmanuel Chapel - Independent Bible Church
0432 Hwy 149, South Fork
719-573-5411
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.
Church of the Living God
11611 2nd Avenue, Hooper
719-378-2080
Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship
Sunday, 6 p.m. - Book of Acts Study
Monday, 7 p.m. - Youth
Thursday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study
San Luis Valley Christian Center
305 S. Broadway (3rd & Broadway), Monte Vista
719-852-6168
Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship
Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - Bible Study
Prayer House Church
410 Main Street, La Jara
Pastor Jaime Flores - 719-298-0007
Sunday Morning Service, 10:30 am
Wednesday Family Ministry, 6:30 pm
Friday Night Bible Study, 7:00 pm

Sargent Community Church
6967 N. County Rd. 2 E., Monte Vista (across from Sargent School)
Pastor Stephen Burns • 719-852-2980
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Back Row Church - Church Community
In the Alamosa Presbyterian Church Building
Alamosa
www.backrowchurch.com
Kim Nipple • 303-532-9342
Worship Service - Wednesday Evening at 5:00 pm

Apostolic
Alamosa Apostolic Church
510 First St., Alamosa
Meets Sundays 1-2 p.m.
2-3 p.m. - Lunch
3-5 p.m. - Worship Service
Antonito Apostolic Church
710 Main St., Antonito
Meets sundays
11-12 p.m. - Sunday School
12-1 p.m. - Worship service

Apostolic Pentecostal
Church of Champions, Acts 2:38
9056 Hwy 285 South, Alamosa - 719-587-3351
Dan Dawning Pastor, 719-588-7307
Sunday, 1:00 p.m. - Service

Assembly of God
River of Life Church
2602 Clark Avenue, Alamosa
Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship
Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Service

Center Assembly of God
7th & Miles • P.O. Box 507, Center, CO 81125
Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

Assembly of God
Sons And Daughters Of God Ministry
677 Madison Street, Monte Vista
Pastor Leonard Sandoval, 719-849-0212
Sunday 10:00 a.m Service
Wednesday 7:00 p.m Prayer

New Life Fellowship
520 7th St., Del Norte, 81132
719-657-3360
Adult Sunday School - 9:00
Services - 10:00

Bahai Faith
meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m on Zoom.
Email hartline@gojaoide.org for a Zoom invite

Baptist
Grace Community Baptist Church
431 Lincoln Ave., Monte Vista
Rev. Bill Walstrom, 719-937-1451
Worship: 9:30; Sunday School: 11:00 am
Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 pm

Living Water Bible Fellowship
2910 Clark Street, Alamosa
719-589-6351
Sunday, 9:00 & 10:45 am Worship Services**
Sunday, 10:45 am Children's Ministry (PreK-5th grade)
Sunday, 10:45 am Teen Bible Study (6th-12th grade)
Tuesday 7:00 pm Young Adults College Group
Wednesday 6:30 pm Bible Quizzing (1st-6th grade)
Wednesday 6:30 pm Reign Youth Group (6th-12th grade)
Wednesday 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study**
Saturday 5:00 pm Worship Service**
Small Groups meets throughout week, please call for info
** Nursery is available (tuks-prek)

College Heights Baptist Church
Pastor Anthony Bowden
2045 Church Avenue, Alamosa
Sunday, 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Morning Worship

San Luis Valley Baptist Church
930 State Avenue, Alamosa
719-589-5938
Pastor R.L. McDonald
Wednesday 7 p.m. - Worship
Saturday, 2 p.m.
Sunday, 10:20 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Worship
Sunday, 6 p.m. - Evening Worship
Spanish Ministry- Iglesia Bautista Rehobot
Pastor Sal Garcia, 589-3020

Calvary Bible Chapel
7160 Brush Lane, Alamosa
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Worship
Sunday, 10:20 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Ministry of the Word
Small group studies meet during the week.

Calvary Blanca
Pastor Matthew Leonard - 719-379-3317
Sunday, 9:30 am - Bible Study
Sunday, 11:00 am - Service
Wednesday, 6:30pm - Community Get to Know You

Calvary Baptist Church
2160 Sherman Ave., Monte Vista
Sunday, 9:45 a.m. - Bible Study
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Worship
Tuesday, 6 p.m. - C.L.A.Y. Youth
Thursday, 6:30 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study

South Fork Baptist Church
0130 Four Seasons Dr.(Old Chizum Bldg), South Fork
(East side near laundrymat & car wash)
Sunday School, 9:30am
Sunday, 10:30am - Worship
For more information - Pastor Paul Moon - 719-496-7702

United Presbyterian Church of Antonito
P.O. Box 665, Antonito
Office Hrs. Tues, 9:00am-12:00

Sunday - 9:45am - Sunday School
10:45am - Service

Catholic
Sacred Heart Church
715 4th Street, Alamosa
Saturday, 4:00 p.m. - Mass
Saturday, 6:00 p.m. - Spanish Mass
Sunday, 8 a.m. - Mass
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Mass

Hooper Church
3rd and Adams, Hooper
Sunday, 9 a.m. - Morning Worship

Meditation, Kriya
Mountain Institute
Alamosa - (575)758-5876

United Church of La Jara
522 Walnut, La Jara
719-274-5250
Terry Buckman, Pastor
Cell Phone: 339-8444
Office Hours: Mon, 9:00 am - 12:00
Sunday 9:00 am - Contemporary
Coffee Fellowship 10:00 am

Christian Science Services
400 Ross Avenue, Society Hall, Alamosa
Services - Sundays at 10:00 p.m.
The second Wednesday of each 4 p.m.
Thanksgiving Day 10 a.m.

Pioneer United Church in Del Norte, Colorado
A Congregation of Evangelical Covenant Order
Presbyterians
630 Spruce St. (1.5 blocks south of Hwy. 160)
Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Worship Service - 11:00 a.m. Sunday

Church of the South Fork
0116 Landon Dr., South Fork, Co. 81154
Sunday are at 9 am - Services
School Room. Choir is held on Wednesday
at 6pm during the summer months
with a final practice at 8:15am on

Sunday

Christian
Bethel Christian Church
Pastor Erik Lira
Worship Service Sunday 3:00 p.m.
Bible Study Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Bilingual Services
Monday Free Music Classes
Instrumental Classes 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Voice & Bass Guitar 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Word of Faith Christian Center
401 Sante Fe, Alamosa
Sunday, 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, 6:00 p.m. M.O.S.H. Youth Night

The Peak Community Church
510 San Juan, Alamosa
Sundays, 6 p.m. - Fellowship
Sundays, 7 p.m. - Worship & More

Pentecostal
Alamosa Pentecostal Church
184 East 2nd St., Alamosa - 719-589-0475
Pastor Carl Sutter
Bible Study Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Sunday School Sunday 1:00-1:45
Worship 2:00-3:00

Christian Fellowship Church
The Door
1300 West 12th St., Alamosa
Pastor Martin Montoya • 719-587-6197
Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Worship
Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Victory Service
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. - Revival

Christian Independent
Alamosa Christian Church
410 McQuerry, Alamosa
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. - Family Night & Youth Group

Christian Reformed
Alamosa Christian Reformed, 719-589-3493
1861 Rd 10 S., Alamosa
Pastor Philip VanderWindt
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - Worship

Churches of Christ
Alamosa Church of Christ
408 Victoria Avenue, Alamosa
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Classes
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Bible Study
Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study
Healing Hearts, a Bible-based 12 step group meets, every Friday at 7 p.m.

South Fork Church of Christ
205 Birch St. South Fork, 719-873-1259
Nathan Wheeler Pastor
Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Central Church of Christ
200 Franklin Street, Monte Vista, 719-852-3811
David L. Baker Preacher
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Class
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Worship
Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study

San Luis Valley Church of Christ
704 Del Sol, Alamosa, 719-589-2114
Sunday Bible Study 9 am
Sunday Worship 10 am
Wednesday Bible Study 6 pm

Cornerstone Community Church
Hwy. 160 Del Norte next to Rio Grande Medical Clinic
Pastor Mark 719-657-9107
Sunday 9:50 a.m. free breakfast
Sunday 10:20 a.m. Contemporary
Worship & Children Sunday

Episcopal
Saint Thomas Episcopal Church
607 4th Street, Alamosa
Sunday, 9 a.m. - Service

Saint Stephen the Martyr
729 3rd Avenue, Monte Vista
Sunday, 10 am Service

First Christian Church
518 First St. (First & State) Alamosa
589-6805
Sunday, 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - Church Service
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - Bible Study

Valley Fellowship
240 East 5th Street, Center - 719-754-3904
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary
Worship, Prayer and Bible Study

*Bible Studies during the week, call for information.

First United Methodist
First United Methodist Church
2005 Mullins Ave., Alamosa - 719-589-2243
"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"
Morning Worship - Sunday, 11:00 am
Children's Church - Sunday, 10:30 am

Community Churches
United for Christ Community Church (SBC)
"Community Centered Around Love"
7th & Broadway in Blanca - 719-379-3317
Sunday School 9:30-10:30
Worship Service 11am

Bible Believer's Community Church
11762 E US HWY 160, Alamosa, Co 81101
719) 206-3239
Sunday worship 10:30
Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm
www.bbcchurch.co

Presbyterian
Alamosa Presbyterian Church
330 San Juan Avenue, Alamosa
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship

Hispanic Pentecostal
Iglesia Pentecostal Unida L.A.
907 Tenth St. Alamosa - 719-587-3546
Guadalupe Salazar Pastor
Wed. 7:00 p.m. Service
Sat. 7:00 p.m. Youth Service
Sun. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
Sun. 5:00 p.m. Worship

New Hope Church
"The Church on the Hill"
25258 Hwy 160, South Fork, Co. 81154
Pastor John Jayne • 719-873-1202
www.newhopest.com
Morning Worship - 10:00 am
Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 - 9:45

Anabaptist Fellowship of Alamosa
330 San Juan Ave., Alamosa, CO 81101
alamosafellowship@gmail.com
Sunday 4:30 PM Worship in the north wing of the Alamosa Presbyterian Church

Independent, Fundamental Baptist
First Baptist Church of Costilla County
9717 County Rd H, Mesita - 719-206-0011
Pastor Paul Jones
Sunday, 9:45 am - Sunday School
Sunday, 10:45 am - Morning Worship
Sunday, 12 Noon - Potluck Dinner
Sunday after dinner - Afternoon Worship
Thursday, 7:00 pm - Mesita, Bible Study and Prayer meeting

DEAF MINISTRY FOR ALL SERVICES
Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Alamosa YSA Ward
300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa
Sunday, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Alamosa Second Ward
927 Weber Drive, Alamosa
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Alamosa Third Ward
300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Alamosa Fourth Ward
927 Weber Drive, Alamosa
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Sierra Vista Branch (Spanish Language)
300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa
Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Lutheran
St. Peters Lutheran Church & School
Church: 1821 Grande Avenue, Monte Vista
School: 330 Faraday Street, Monte Vista
Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - Services
School: K-8, Monday-Thursdays

Trinity Lutheran Church & School
52 El Rio Drive, Alamosa
Sunday, 8:45 a.m. - Bible Study
Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship

"Small Bible Study Groups Throughout the Week"
-Pre-School through 5th grade
Church: 589-4611, School: 589-3271

Conejos Canyon Community Chapel
20062 Slate Hwy. 17 (between mile posts 21 and 20)
Fellowship Sunday, 8:30 am
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - Worship Service

Mountain Valley Church
408 State St., 17, Alamosa
Pastor: Richard Pinkerton
589-2899 or 588-7662
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

Presbyterian Church of Monte Vista
702 Second Avenue, Monte Vista
(719) 852-2555
Sunday, 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Sunday Worship

Seventh-day Adventist
Seventh-day Adventist Church
315 Craft Drive, Alamosa
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study
Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - Worship

United Methodist
Mosca United Methodist Church
538 Barker Street, Mosca
970-270-3078
Pastor Steve Dunkel
Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m.

Unitarian Universalist
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
330 San Juan Ave., Alamosa
"North Wing of Alamosa Presbyterian Church
719-587-5529
Service & Youth Programs at 10:30 am
Sunday.

Valley Church of the Nazarene
Pastor: Chris Yocom
228 Madison, Monte Vista - (719) 852-5858
churchoffice@valleymaz.com
Sunday
Sunday Morning Worship 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School Classes 9 a.m.
Wednesday
Dinner at 6 p.m.
Small Group Classes at 7 p.m.

Teen Activities (beginning at 6:30 p.m.)
*Nursery is available during all services
Visit website at www.valleymaz.com for online
bulletins and service information or call the
number above.

Church of Scientology
511 Main Street, Suite #12, Alamosa
719-587-5554
Monday and Wednesday, 7-10p.m. - Services

Grace Assurance Ministry
Church without Religion
9851 CR 4 S., Alamosa, CO
Sunday Mornings - 10:30
Randy Brown - 719-588-7004
Eric Wolf - 719-480-3977

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Sunday Service 10:15am
1861 Rd 10 S
www.alamosacr.org
719-589-3493

See you at Sunday School

Sports

Top Shots win high-scoring boys All-Star game

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor
ALAMOSA – Three players scored in doubles figures for the Top Shots as they won the 37th Annual Arby's All-Star Game Friday at Plachy Hall.

Sanford's Cash Caldon and Centauri's Kaleb Anderson gave the Top Shots an early 4-0 lead. But Ziah Pesqueira hit a jumper and Alamosa's Brant Jackson made a 3-point basket to give the Hot Shots a 5-4 lead.

Anderson came back with a layup and a free throw, but Jackson drove for a dunk to tie the score at 7-7.

Caldon buried a three, but Jackson, Sierra Grande's Derek Martinez, and Centennial's Samuel Aguilera all scored for a 14-10 Hot Shots lead. Alamosa's Tajuan Jamestown cut the lead



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

Alamosa High School's Brant Jackson (3), who was playing for the Hot Shots, drives to the basket against Mean Moose teammate Jajuan Jamestown (24) who was playing for the Top Shots. Jackson scored 15 points, and Jamestown 16 as the Top Shots defeated the Hot Shots 90-84 in the 37th Annual Arby's All-Star Game Friday at Plachy Hall.

to 14-12, but Sanford's Lincoln Reynolds and Sargent's Trenton Paskett scored to increase the lead

to 18-12. Alamosa's R.J. Meis made a layup and Centennial's Martin

Navarro drained a trey to bring the Top Shots within 18-17. Alamosa's Kiler Ullery answered with a three of his own, but Navarro scored five more points to put the Top Shots back into the lead at 24-21.

Paskett drove for a layup, but Navarro scored five more points to increase the lead to 29-23.

Sanford's Alex Sittler ended the run, but Meis scored again. Sierra Grande's Manuel Miranda made a 3-pointer and Pesqueira made a layup to cut the deficit to 32-30.

Caldon scored in the paint, but Alamosa's Parker Gilmore and Center's Javier Ramos both scored to tie the score at 34-34.

Center's C.J. Donaldson but the Top Shots back into the lead, but Jamestown scored a layup and Sargent's Hayden Lester

made a three for a 39-37 Hot Shots lead.

Alamosa's Zack Crowther answered with a trey, but Ullery made another 3-pointer, and Sangre de Cristo's Kaiden Smit made a layup. Jamestown drove for a layup, but the Hot Shots led 44-42 at halftime.

Anderson began the second half with a layup to tie the score at 44-44. Miranda drained another three, but Caldon came back with two straight jumpers for a 48-47 Top Shots lead.

Antonito's Jasiah Jiron gave the lead back to the Hot Shots, but that would prove to be their final lead. Caldon scored five points, and Anderson and Sargent's Corbyn Wright both scored two for a 57-49 Top Shots lead.

Centauri's Chaz Holman scored back-to-back layups to bring the

Hot Shots within 57-53.

The teams then exchanged baskets before Jamestown and Meis both scored for a 70-62 lead.

Smit, Sierra Grande's Orlando Maes and Jiron all scored to cut the deficit to 70-68. Caldon scored five more points, and Alamosa's Michael Motz scored two for a 77-70 lead.

Lester and Aguilera both scored to cut the lead to 77-74. Russell hit a three, but Aguilera split at the line and Martinez hit a 3-pointer to bring the Hot Shots within 83-81.

Jamestown scored five points and Motz two to push the lead to 90-84. Reynolds wrapped up the scoring with a three.

Caldon led all scorers with 22 points, followed by Jamestown with 16 and Navarro with 13.

Jackson was the Hot Shot's top scorer with 15 points.

Top Shots defeat Hot Shots in girls game 54-34

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The 37th Annual Arby's All-Star girls game saw the Top Shots defeat the Hot Shots 54-34 Friday at Plachy Hall.

Center High School's Alicia Rios put the Top Shots on the board, and Monte Vista's Zariah Archuleta increased the lead to 4-0. Monte Vista's Stefanie Lopez split at the free throw line for the Hot Shots' first point, but Center's Ciara Paiz and Sargent's Bailey Asbell both made 3-point baskets for a 10-2 lead.

Centennial's Jazmin Salcido made back-to-back jumpers, and Antonito's Luz Elena Parra drained a three to help the Hot Shots cut the deficit to 12-10. But Asbell made two baskets and Rios buried a trey to push the lead to 19-10.

Center's Jesenia Tafoya Limon hit a three for the Hot Shots, but Monte Vista's Alycia Espinoza drove for a layup for the Top Shots. Lopez and Moffat's Kadence McWilliams both scored for the Hot Shots to cut the Top Shots' lead to 25-17 at halftime.

Marie Velasquez made two baskets to open the second half and bring the Hot Shots within 25-21. Centennial's Rhylina Serna answered with a 3-pointer. Rios then split at the line, and Asbell drove for a layup and the Top Shots led 31-22.

McWilliams brought the Hot Shots within 31-24, but Creede's Jalen Laing scored for the Top Shots. Center's Arazeliz Garcia made two free throws, but Archuleta



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

Center High School's Ciara Paiz (4), who was playing for the Top Shots, drives against teammate Yanelli Garcia (20) and Moffat's Marie Velasquez (12), who were playing for the Hot Shots. The Top Shots defeated the Hot Shots 54-34 in the 37th Annual Arby's All-Star Game Friday at Plachy Hall.

made two straight layups for a 38-26 Top Shots lead.

Parra made a three, but Antonito's Annika Martiez hit a short jumper, and Asbell and Sierra Grande's Naylani Velasquez both scored layups for a 44-29 Top Shots lead.

Asbell scored two more baskets and Espinoza scored one. Paiz drove for a layup, but Center's Yanelli Garcia drained a three.

Archuleta wrapped up the scoring with a layup. Asbell led all scorers with 15 points for the Top Shots. Paiz scored nine, and Espinoza and Rios both scored six.

Yanelli Garcia led the Hot Shots with seven points, followed by Parra with six.

Russell, Jackson win All-Star contests

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Arby's All-Star Games also featured a 3-point shooting contest and a slam dunk contest Friday at Plachy Hall.

The winners of the 3-point contest

were Centauri High School's Kallon Russell for the boys and Monte Vista's Alycia Espinoza for the girls.

The final showdown between the two of them went to a tie-breaker, but Russell was the overall winner.

In the slam dunk contest, the

finalists were Alamosa's Brant Jackson, Moffat's Noble Cole, Sangre de Cristo's Kaiden Smit and Sargent's Hayden Lester.

Jackson was the winner of the contest.

Lady Grizzlies advance in regional

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Adams State University women's basketball team defeated Texas-Permian Basin 96-83 in the NCAA Division II South-Central Region Tournament Friday at the Kitty Magee Arena in Denton, Texas.

The Lady Grizzlies took a 23-20 lead after the first quarter and they increased it 50-44

at halftime and 74-57 after three quarters. ASU outscored UTPB 22-16 in the fourth quarter.

Four ASU players scored in double figures. It was led by Riahana Davis with 23 points, followed by Harmanie Dominguez with 21, Alaina Watson with 16, and Kiiyani Anitelu with 14.

Davis also led in rebounding with six, and Angeline Nageak led in



assists with five.

Alexus Quadman led UTPB in scoring with 23 points, followed by Kamryn Lemon and Holly Hemmeline both with 11.

Adams State (25-8) will play the host team, Texas Woman's University, in the regional semifinals today at 6:30 p.m. The Lady Pioneers defeated the Colorado School of Mines 81-72 also on Friday.

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD FRIDAY

Prep boys basketball
 Top Shots 90, Hot Shots 84
Prep girls basketball
 Top Shots 54, Hot Shots 34
Prep baseball
 Alamosa vs. Gunnison – canceled
 Alamosa vs. North Fork – canceled
 Monte Vista at Crowley County – postponed

Monte Vista vs. Limon – postponed
 Swink at Centauri – canceled
College women's basketball
 Adams State 96, Texas-Permian Basin 83

SCHEDULE SATURDAY

Prep baseball
 Monte Vista vs. Limon (Fowler/Crowley County Invitational at Ordway), noon
 Monte Vista at Crowley County (Fowler/Crowley County Invitational), 3 p.m.
 Alamosa vs. Liberty – canceled
Prep track and field
 Alamosa, Sargent at Larry Pickering Invitational (at Dutch Clark Stadium, Pueblo), 9

a.m.
College women's basketball
 Adams State at Texas Woman's (NCAA Division II South Central Region Tournament at Denton, Texas), TBA
College men's wrestling
 Adams State at NCAA Division II Championships (at Park City, Kan.), TBA
College baseball
 Adams State at Colorado Christian, 3 p.m.
College women's softball
 Adams State at Colorado Mesa (2), noon
College outdoor track and field
 Adams State at Dr. Dan Caprioglio Invitational (at Pueblo), TBA

SUNDAY
College men's wrestling
 Adams State at NCAA Division II Championships (at Park City, Kan.), TBA
College baseball
 Adams State at Colorado Christian (2), noon
College women's softball
 Adams State at Colorado Mesa (2), 11 a.m.

MONDAY
Prep baseball
 Questa (N.M.) at Antonito (2), 2 p.m.
College baseball
 Adams State at Colorado Christian, noon

TUESDAY
Prep baseball
 Pueblo Centennial at Alamosa, 1 p.m.

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Contact Erin Keck
 719-589-3681
 ceo@alamosachamber.com

Lifestyle

Governor Polis and Colorado Parks and Wildlife announce new State Wildlife Area at Collard Ranch

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

DENVER — Today, Governor Polis and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), in partnership with Western Rivers Conservancy and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), announced a new State Wildlife Area at Collard Ranch. This 1,860-acre state wildlife area (SWA) in Park County preserves an important elk migration corridor and five miles of excellent fishing habitat along Tarryall Creek, increasing hunting and fishing opportunities for Coloradans. Since Governor Polis took office in January 2019, CPW has acquired for both Parks and Wildlife purposes more than 558,000 acres of public access, in the form of fee title, public access easements and public access leases.

“The Colorado way of life is deeply rooted in protecting and enjoying the great outdoors. By purchasing and protecting this land we are expanding fishing and hunting opportunities for all Coloradans, safeguarding and enhancing the Colorado we love. I look forward to enjoying all the Collard Ranch State Wildlife Area will have to offer once it opens

to the public,” said Governor Polis.

“Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s acquisition of the Collard Ranch property marks a significant conservation success for our state,” said CPW Director Jeff Davis. “The purchase underscores CPW’s mission to preserve land for outdoor enthusiasts. With the support of partners like Western Rivers Conservancy and Great Outdoors Colorado, we are proud to take this crucial step in preserving Colorado’s natural heritage for generations to come.”

The Parks and Wildlife Commission approved the purchase of the property in November 2023 using GOCO and capital development funding. The final fee title purchase was signed on Friday, March 8, with Western Rivers Conservancy officially transferring the ownership to CPW.

CPW purchased this new SWA with \$2 million in revenue generated through the sale of the \$12.15 Habitat Stamp, which Colorado hunters and anglers purchase with a hunting or fishing license. Since the stamp requirement was put into place in 2006, the program has helped to secure public access for hunting

and fishing to 146,300 acres of land and conserve more than 316,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat in the state.

While the property will not open as Collard Ranch State Wildlife Area until infrastructure needs and accessibility enhancements are completed, hunters and anglers will eventually be able to access the SWA with a hunting or fishing license or the purchase of a State Wildlife Area pass.

“Tarryall Creek is a special area to so many people in Colorado, with easy access for Park County residents and folks living on the Front Range,” said Allen Law, WRC’s Interior West Project Manager. “We are proud to partner with CPW to forever protect this stretch of the creek, especially given its importance to a critical wildlife corridor and its iconic views of Kenosha Pass.”

“We developed our Centennial Program to invest in once-in-a-generation opportunities that protect some of our most valuable places and create meaningful access to the great outdoors for Coloradans,” said GOCO Executive Director Jackie Miller. “Western Rivers Conservancy and Colo-

rado Parks and Wildlife have given us exactly that kind of opportunity with the Collard Ranch project, and we are proud to help make it a reality for

Colorado with our \$6.25 million investment.”

CPW manages more than 350 wildlife areas for the benefit of hunters, anglers and wildlife

statewide. These lands are specifically dedicated to sportspeople. Recreation opportunities and regulations may differ in each SWA.



Photo courtesy of Christi Bode, Western Rivers Conservancy

State of Colorado Property Tax Deferral Program enrollment is open in all 64 counties

Program provides tax deferment for homeowners impacted by increases in property taxes

By STATE OF COLORADO TREASURER'S OFFICE

COLORADO — The Colorado Department of the Treasury reminds homeowners the Property Tax Deferral Program is open for enrollment until April 1.

“Expanding this program provides both short- and long-term financial relief for homeowners, while also providing an equitable statewide tax-relief measure to taxpayers,” Colorado State Treasurer Dave Young stated. “Anytime we can keep folks in their homes and help them find tax relief at the same time is a win for Coloradans.”

Colorado’s Property Tax Deferral Program has traditionally helped seniors and active military personnel continue to afford to live in their homes by deferring the payment of their property taxes, and was expanded last year to provide relief to homeowners affected by increased property taxes in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023.

“Due to the special legislative session, counties are sending out tax bills a few weeks later than previous years,” Treasury spokesperson Sheena Kadi stated. “All 64 counties have submitted their tax bill information to the State, and homeowners are ready to see if they qualify now.”

Homeowners can check eligibility at colorado.propertytaxdeferral.com.

In 2023, 52 homeowners applied under Active Military, 171 under Tax Growth, and 958 under Seniors, for a total of \$3,685,648 in deferred tax payments for 2023. The State Treasurer paid tax deferrals of approximately \$2.6 million in 2021 and \$3.6 million in 2022.

Previously managed by counties, the expanded program will allow homeowners to defer all or a portion of property taxes depending on the category. For eligible seniors and active military, it defers the total property tax owed; for eligible tax growth cap applicants, it defers a portion of their property taxes, up to \$10,000, cumulative.

The expanded deferral program does not exempt taxes; it is a loan to assist Coloradans with the payment of property taxes if an application is submitted and the applicant is eligible. The deferral loan is recorded as a junior lien against a partici-

pant’s property and does not have to be repaid until a later date.

What Homeowners Need To Know

1. The property claiming the deferral must be owner-occupied.
2. All property taxes for years before 2024 must be paid.
3. These are deferrals and not exemptions.
4. For Growth Cap deferrals, the property must not be income producing.

“New this year, seniors who rent a room or a portion of their home and active-duty military renting while they are out of the country or stationed elsewhere are able to participate,” Vanda Howell, Property Tax Deferral Program Administrator, stated. “New eligibility requirements have changed for active military with VA backed loans. These changes allow more homeowners more opportunities to participate.”

Applications for 2024 are open from Jan. 1 to April 1. Claims must be filed after January and on or before April 1 of each year in which the taxpayer claims the deferral. Applicants must reapply each year to determine eligibility and continue using the program.

Homeowners can visit colorado.propertytaxdeferral.com, to learn more about Colorado’s expanded Property Tax Deferral Program.

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.



Contact a member of our ag lending team today!



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genessa.sorensen@fswb.com



OSCAR MARTINEZ
Loan Associate
719.587.4231
oscar.martinez@fswb.com



ALICIA PALMER
Loan Associate
719.587.4214
alicia.palmer@fswb.com



DENISE MARTINEZ
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Public Notices

NOTICE

District Court
Alamosa County, Colorado
Court Address:
8955 Independence Way
Alamosa, CO 81101
In the Matter of the Estate of
Gilbert Daniel Ortega
Deceased
Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name & address:
Sherrie Ortega
16331 Ross Oak St., San Antonio, TX 78247
Phone Number: 210-845-3957 E-mail: slo9365@gmail.com
FAX Number: Atty. Reg. #:
COURT USE ONLY
Case Number: 2024PR2
Division C, Courtroom C
NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO 15-12-801, C.R.S.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Gilbert Ortega, Deceased Case Number 2024PR2
All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Alamosa County, Colorado on or before July 4, 2024 (date), or the claims may be forever barred.
Sherrie Ortega
Type or Print name of Person Giving Notice
16331 Ross Oak St.
Address
San Antonio, TX 78247
City, State, Zip Code
No. 3823.
Published in the Valley Courier on March 2, 9, & 16, 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.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:

The Center Consolidated School District is seeking proposals for an integrated project delivery method utilizing construction management /general contracting (CM/GC) services for a new auxiliary gym and additional classrooms project. The complete RFP can be found on the district website at: <https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/rfpintegratedproject>
No. 3840.
Published in the Valley Courier on March 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, & 26, 2024.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ADOPTION OF 1041 REGULATIONS

NOTICE is hereby given of a public hearing before the Alamosa City Council at 7:00 p.m., April 17, 2024, at Council Chambers, City Hall, 300 Hunt Ave., Alamosa, CO 81101, for the purpose of considering Ordinance No. 6-2024.
Copies of Ordinance No. 6-2024, Containing the proposed Chapter 17, Guidelines and Regulations for Water Projects for Export Outside the San Luis Valley as Designated as Matters of State Interest of The City of Alamosa are on file at the office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 300 Hunt Avenue, Alamosa, Colorado, and may be inspected during regular business hours.
Immediately following the hearing, the City Council will consider passage of the Ordinance.
Dated this 16th day of March, 2024.
CITY OF ALAMOSA, COLORADO
Holly C. Martinez, City Clerk
Notice of hearing published on March 16, 2024.
No. 3843.
Published in the Valley Courier on March 16, 2024.

DISTRICT COURT, CONEJOS COUNTY, COLORADO

6683 County Road 13, Conejos, CO 81129
VALERIE MORALES, an Individual, and AMY REGNIER, an Individual
Plaintiffs,
v.
DARLENE LETEY, an Individual
Defendant
A COURT USE ONLY A
Attorney for Plaintiffs: Samuel J. Scheurich, #46270 BURNHAM LAW
2760 29th Street, Suite #1E Boulder, CO 80301
Phone: 303.990.5308
Fax: 303.200.7330
sam@burnhamlaw.com
Case No.: 2022CV30010
Division: C
NOTICE OF LEVY
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on October 25, 2023, a Writ of Execution was issued out of the District Court for the County of Conejos directing the Sheriff of the County of Conejos, State of Colorado, to levy upon and seize certain property of Darlene Letey, the above named Defendant, and the Sheriff of the County of Conejos did levy upon, seize and take into possession the following described property:
Lot 3, Block 12, Manaassa Parcel No. 2, County of Conejos, State of Colorado
Now, therefore, you Darlene Letey, Defendant, take notice, that within fourteen (14) days from the date of service hereof, exclusive of the day of service, if served within this state, or if served by publication, you may make and file with the Clerk of the above-entitled court a written claim of any exemption which you may have under the statutes of the State of Colorado; and in case of your failure to make and file such written claim of exemption with the Clerk of said Court you shall be deemed to have waived your right of exemption under the statutes of this state.
Witness, Garth Crowther, Sheriff of Conejos County, Colorado, this 30 day of November, 2023.
GARTH CROWTHER CONEJOS COUNTY SHERIFF
By:
/s/
No. 3844.
Published in the Valley Courier on March 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29, 30, April 2, 3, 5, 6, & 9, 2024.

221 - HELP WANTED

CITY OF MONTE VISTA is currently accepting applications for an **EQUIPMENT OPERATOR I** position. This position will perform skilled work in equipment operations, maintenance and repair work of streets, etc. This position may be asked to perform work for the Water/Sewer Dept. and the Parks Dept. A valid Colorado Class B CDL License with air brakes is highly desirable. Requires HS diploma or GED equivalent and one-year prior experience as equipment operator. Candidates must be able to pass a pre-employment background check and drug test. This is a 40 hour per week full-time position. The general starting wage is \$16.75 - \$18.00 per hour plus an excellent benefit package. Please visit: <https://cityofmontevista.colorado.gov/government/departments/human-resources> for a complete position description and application. (3/23/24)

CITY OF MONTE VISTA is currently seeking a dynamic and experienced individual to fill the role of **CHIEF OF POLICE**. This position offers an exciting opportunity for a proven leader with a strong commitment to community safety and effective law enforcement practices. Salary range \$95,000 - \$105,000, plus benefits. Position open until filled, EOE. Please visit: <https://cityofmontevista.colorado.gov/government/departments/human-resources> for a complete position description and application. (3/23/24)

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

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

SARGENT EARLY LEARNING CENTER (SELC) in MONTE VISTA, CO is hiring an **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** for the 2024-2025 school year! The SELC is a nonprofit childcare center that offers daycare and preschool programs. The Executive Director is responsible for providing a developmentally appropriate program for children ages 12 months to 5 years old, program accountability, financial management of the SELC, staff development, and parental involvement activities. The successful applicant will have the following qualifications: Large center director level qualification; Minimum of an AA, BA preferred; Knowledge and experience in working in early childhood education; Knowledge and experience in staff development and leadership; Ability to work closely as a team player with staff, parents, and the community; Previous experience with grant writing, grant management, and financial management preferred; Ability to be flexible, open to learning, and to take on new tasks/problems as they occur; Knowledge of State Licensing and Colorado Shines Rating; Must be able to pass CBI/FBI/TRAILS background checks. Salary starts at \$35,000 per year dependent upon qualifications and experiences. Benefits include paid holidays, sick pay, vacation time, and a simple IRA. Learn more about the SELC at <https://sargentearlylearning.wixsite.com/selec/programs>. To apply, please send a letter of interest and resume to sargentearlylearning-center@gmail.com. Position open until filled, but applications received by March 15th will receive priority. (3/23/24)

NOTICE OF JOB opening for JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN, SAN LUIS VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc., located at 3625 US Hwy 160 W, MONTE VISTA, Colorado currently has an opening for a certified Journeyman Lineman. The hourly rate of pay for a certified journeyman is \$50.87 with a very competitive benefit package. Forty hours/week plus additional time as duties require. After hours on-call required. Duties include construction, maintenance and repair of lines. Requirements: high school graduate or equivalent, certified journeyman lineman, must have CDL and be CPR certified. Visit our website at www.slvrcc.com to complete the job application. Applications will not be accepted after March 25, 2024. SLVREC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. (3/23/24)

SDEC SCHOOL DISTRICT is seeking a **HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL COACH** for the 2024 fall season. Applicants must have CHSA A certification or have a CDE teaching license. Applications may be picked up at the school office: 8751 Lane 7 North in MOSCA, CO. For more information, contact David Mejia at 719-378-2321 or 719-677-8217. (4/3/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

KENNEL HELP NEEDED: MONDAYS & Tuesdays, 8 AM to 2 PM. Must have strong work ethic. Shelter is 45 min. from Alamosa. Must have own reliable transportation. Background check. Tel. 719-588-5560. (3/23/24)

ALAMOSA MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT is now hiring for **SEASONAL STAFF**. Please go to their website www.mosquitobytes.org. Click on **EMPLOYMENT** for job descriptions and applications. Alamosa Mosquito Control District is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Must be 18+ to apply. (4/3/24)

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)

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)

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

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

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

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)



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173 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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

ARE YOU PASSIONATE about making a positive impact on people's lives? **SIERRA GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT** is currently accepting applications for **BEHAVIOR HEALTH COUNSELOR/MTSS COORDINATOR** for the 2024-2025 School Year. Our school has a reputation as being a great place to work. We currently have a state of the art facility, supportive administration, paid health insurance, free lunches, 4 day school week. A current license/state certification in counseling is highly recommended to apply. Application forms are located at 17523 Hwy 160 BLANCA, CO. 81123 or on the district's website at www.sierragrandeschool.net. Applications may be submitted electronically to Mr. Kevin Jones at kjones@sierragrandeschool.net or Mrs. Maria Atencio at matencio@sierragrandeschool.net, or can be turned in at the district office. For more information please contact the district office at 719-379-3259. (99/99/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

VENDOLA PLUMBING & HEATING is accepting applications for full time HVAC SERVICE TECHS. Please apply at 185 1/2 Broadway, ALAMOSA or send resumes to rhonda@vendola.com. (3/26/24)

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

SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is seeking a SECONDARY SCIENCE TEACHER for the 24-25 school year. Applicants must possess a Colorado Teaching License or be eligible to apply for one. Salary schedules are available on the district website. Please submit a district application, resume, cover letter, and transcripts at <https://www.southconejos.com/page/how-to-apply>. (4/2/24)

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)

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)

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)

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 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)

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)

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Classifieds

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 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)

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)

VEGI GARDEN MANAGER, VEGE, VALLEY EDUCATIONAL GARDENS INITIATIVE is seeking motivated garden enthusiast to manage the program's garden operations, garden/nutrition education efforts, staff 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)

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.com or contact Amy at 719-657-4050. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co. (3/26/24)

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

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. (3/20/24)AS-monthly

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

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

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

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

221 - HELP WANTED

SANGRE DE CRISTO SCHOOL DISTRICT is looking for a **MUSIC TEACHER** for the 2024-2025 school year. For more information and to download an application please see our website at sangreschools.org. (4/5/24)

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)

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

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

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

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)

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

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

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

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

368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

FOR SALE ROTTWEILER/MASTIFF PUPPIES, adorable, will have soft hair, current shots given. \$400 each. Please call or text 719-588-7644 for info or pictures. Ready now. (3/26/24)

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

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

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 coop 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

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Accepting Applications for waiting list for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Family units available
West View Villas
510 Dunham Monte Vista, Colo
852-3949
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601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Accepting applications for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Rent based on income for qualifying households.
Gomez Manor Apts.
804 State St. Antonito, Colo.
376-2388
TTY 1-800-659-2656
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

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)

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611 - HOMES FOR RENT

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

701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

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

701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

2017 CHEVY TRAVERSE 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 Poorly lit
 - 4 Foreman
 - 8 Wagers
 - 12 Mimic
 - 13 Per person
 - 14 Military group
 - 15 Sailor
 - 16 "— Lies"
 - 17 Italia's capital
 - 18 Lawn tool
 - 20 Streetcar
 - 22 State near Miss.
 - 23 Twisted
 - 24 Pitifully small
 - 26 Machine part
 - 27 Monk's title
 - 30 Sibilant letter
 - 31 London district
 - 33 "— Yankee Doodle ..."
 - 34 Brewed beverage
 - 35 Art movement
 - 37 Transgress
- DOWN**
- 1 Sticky fruit
 - 2 Apple tablet
 - 3 Diving duck
 - 4 Double-crosses

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 5 Scull
- 6 Rabbit's tail
- 7 Robin Hood's forest
- 8 Big and strong
- 9 Lab compound
- 10 Duration
- 11 Collar insert
- 19 Wapiti
- 21 Assn.
- 24 Unhearing
- 25 — of Wight
- 26 Fella
- 27 Made uneasy
- 28 Leave out
- 29 Countless
- 32 Mileage gauge
- 36 Sea polyp
- 39 Cup
- 41 Physicians' org.
- 42 Insert mark
- 44 Coffee roast option
- 45 In the twinkling — eye
- 46 Texas city
- 47 Grad's wear
- 49 Composer — Porter
- 50 Robust
- 53 Kiddie

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	

ALLEY OOP



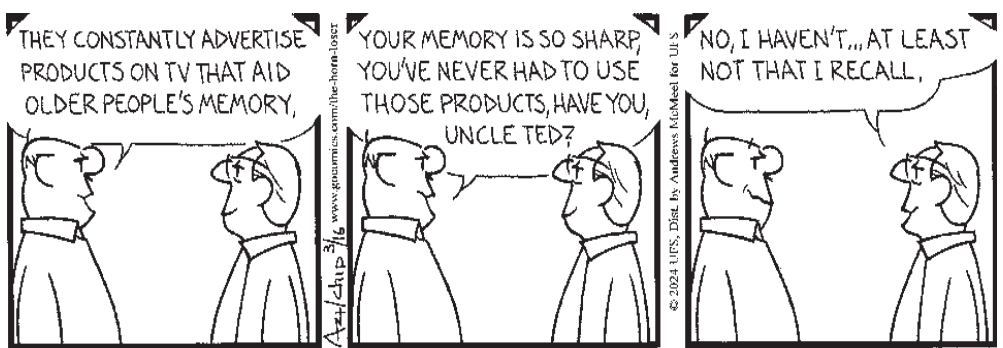
ARLO & JANIS



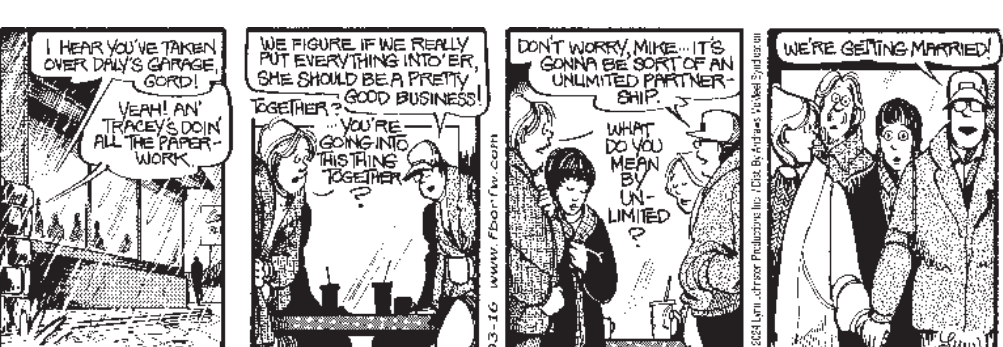
BIG NATE



THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

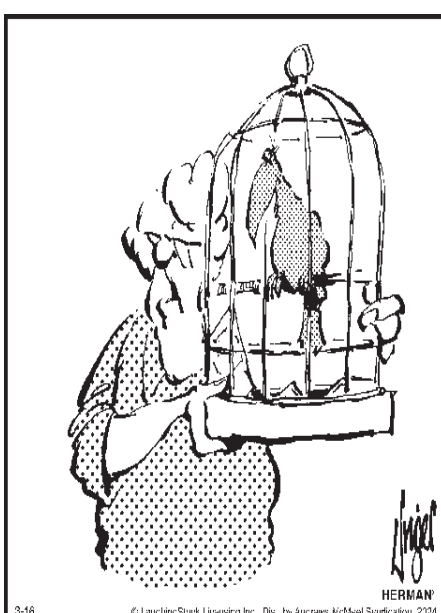
		1	7	3	2				9
				6				3	7
			1						5
		8		7	3	6			
			8		6				
		3	2	5		7			
6				2					
8	5			4					
3			5	8	7	9			

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



"You put the comics page in here. You know he likes the editorials."

Daughter isn't truthful about her relationship

DEAR ABBY: My daughter was 4 when we adopted her. She's 23 now, going to college and moving into an apartment soon. She has been the center of our lives, since our older children are grown. We have supported her through abandonment issues, lost boyfriends, school, everything. We went through cancer treatment with her. She acts like things are good here.

About a year ago, she met a man who worked at a resort where we vacationed. They traded contact information, and then the lies began. She'd tell us she was traveling "with the girls" when she was flying to another state. The man is here on a student visa. He may not be able to stay. His Plan B is most certainly marriage.

We mentioned this possibility to her, but when we did, she became angry and defensive. She dredges up things from years ago to deflect and blame. His family is courting her, sending her gifts for every holiday. She just returned this week from another visit. She doesn't talk about him. But when I was putting something in her room, I saw what looked like an engagement ring.

How am I supposed to feel when she keeps these secrets? We've given her every opportunity -- travel

soccer, dance, band, camps, even sent her to Europe on a tour with band members. We pay for her college and her every need. I am hurt, and I don't know what this means for the future, since we've only met him once, for five minutes. -- BEWILDERED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEARBEWILDERED: Your daughter's lying and unwillingness to be open about her plans is a character flaw. People who are proud of what they are doing don't lie about it. It's time you and your spouse sit your daughter down for a serious question-and-answer session with her -- and possibly her boyfriend.

First among them, why all the secrecy? If they are serious about each other (as the ring would indicate), why have you not met his family? Does she plan to complete her education? If so, does she expect you to continue paying for it? You are entitled to some straight answers, and I sincerely hope you get them. That information will give you a clue about how to proceed from here.

DEAR ABBY: I am in a relationship with a man of substantial means. I'm well-educated, but never made a lot of money from my education. My money comes from a relationship I had with a man who died a year and a half ago.



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

I think I may be in love with my current beau, but he has never loved anyone from the middle class. We both have children from previous marriages. I have grandchildren as well. Should I let nature take its course, or become more assertive in pursuing more out of our relationship? -- TENTATIVE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR TENTATIVE: Although you may be tempted to become more assertive about pursuing "more," take the slower route and get to know this "substantial" gentleman better. He may or may NOT be biased against folks from less fortunate circumstances, but you won't know unless you give yourself the time to see what develops.

Lifestyle

Ken Buck rejects Lauren Boebert's claim that he is resigning to hamper her run for his congressional seat

By **JESSE PAUL**
The Colorado Sun

U.S. Rep. Ken Buck vehemently denied Thursday that his decision to resign from Congress before the end of his term was aimed at making it harder for Lauren Boebert to take over his 4th Congressional District seat as she and others have suggested.

"It's ridiculous," Buck, a Windsor Republican, told The Colorado Sun.

Boebert said in a written statement after Buck announced Tuesday that he would leave Congress on March 22 that the five-term congressman's resignation was a "gift to the uniparty" and "a swampy backroom deal to try to rig an election." Republicans aligned with Donald Trump often use the "uniparty" label to insult members of the party they think aren't conservative enough or work too closely with Democrats.

The Republican congresswoman has also tried to fundraise off her claim about Buck, telling supporters to not "let the uniparty rig this race."

Buck called it "fundamentally unfair" for Boebert to try to raise money on the notion he is taking sides in the 4th District race.

"I'm not giving anybody an advantage or disadvantage," he said, noting that he's refrained from commenting when reporters have asked him recently about the arrest of Boebert's ex-husband and 18-year-old son. "I have done my very best to stay out of this primary election."

Buck, who hasn't endorsed a successor, said the timing of his announcement and resignation date stemmed solely from his growing frustration with Congress' inaction and his desire to advocate for election reforms to improve the caliber of candidates running for office up and down the ballot.

"I want to be a voice for change in our system," said Buck, whose resignation will temporarily shrink Republicans' already razor-thin majority in the House.

Additionally, he said his resignation was timed to limit the cost to taxpayers for the special election to replace him by having it coincide with Colorado's June 25 primary.

"I thought that was really important," Buck said.

Gov. Jared Polis is charged with setting the special election date 85-100 days after Buck's resignation, and Buck said he told Polis that he preferred the special election and primary to overlap. The governor has said he intends to do just that, also noting the savings.

June 25 is 95 days after Buck's resignation takes effect March 22.

Matt Crane, who leads the Colorado County Clerks Association, said holding the special election and primary in the 4th District on the same day will save money for counties, which administer elections.

"There's added cost either way," he said, "but if it's combined with a primary there's a lot less cost."

Democratic and Republican vacancy committees will meet in the next few weeks to determine who will be the parties' respective nominees for the special election to serve out the rest of Buck's term, which ends in January.

Boebert — who called Buck "selfish" for not finishing out his term — has

said she won't seek the nomination and will focus instead on winning the GOP primary, which will effectively determine who wins the 4th District race in November since the district is so favorable to Republicans. She has also framed her decision as a way not to abandon her current constituents in the 3rd Congressional District.

"There's no chance that I will participate in the special election because I'm not going to resign in the middle of my term to further imperil the House majority," Boebert said Thursday on conservative talk radio, even though she would only be forced to resign from her 3rd District seat if she won the 4th District special election.

However, Boebert likely couldn't have secured the nomination anyway since vacancy committees are made up of party insiders, many of whom have been skeptical of the congresswoman's decision in December to move to the 4th District from the 3rd District to save her political career.

Boebert was facing dim reelection odds this year in the 3rd District, which is based on Colorado's Western Slope, after narrowly winning reelection in 2022. The 4th District, which includes Douglas County, Loveland and the Eastern Plains, is about three times more favorable to Republicans than the 3rd District.

Any political advantage the Republican nominee for the special election will effectively be limited to an increase in how much money and their name appearing

twice before voters on June 25. (State elections officials are still trying to determine if the primary and special election in the 4th District will be on the same or separate ballots.)

If Buck had resigned from his seat earlier, his immediate successor would have had the power of incumbency in the 2024 race — a much more consequential advantage.

But there's a risk of voters being confused about being asked to vote in two elections at once.

Buck, who announced in November that he wouldn't run for reelection, told The Sun that his first order of business once he leaves Congress is to unwind.

"I've been going pretty hard for nine-and-a-half years," he said. "I just have to take a step back for a little bit."

The congressman has survived cancer and a heart attack. He said his health currently is fine.

Once he is done recuperating, Buck said he plans to get involved with changing the electoral system — though he has no particular person or organization he is set to work with. He said he's aware of the work Kent Thiry, the wealthy former CEO of the Denver-based dialysis giant DaVita, is doing in Colorado around open primaries and ranked choice voting but that he hasn't reviewed those proposals in detail and couldn't say if he supported or opposed them.

"I admire people like Kent Thiry who have been successful in life and want to help this country get to a stronger position," he said.



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