



CPW park rangers win national life-saving and valor awards

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Centauri basketball teams advance to Great 8

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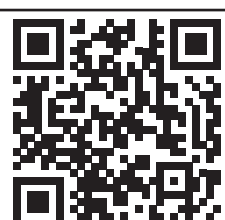
Valley Courier

TUESDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

March 5, 2024

\$1



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SLV Today

Storytime at the Conejos Library District

LA JARA — Every Thursday morning from 11:40 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the Conejos Library Maria De Herrera Branch in La Jara hosts a weekly Storytime and Craftime.

The stories selected are usually seasonal in nature with a craft activity related to the story. In February, young patrons listened to Valentine stories and got to make Valentines for Veterans.

Sometimes though, the story-subject is what the librarian wants to learn more about. Take for example last week, the librarian wanted to know more about giraffes and so several books fictional and nonfiction were read, and the librarian learned about giraffes and the smallest patrons learned about giraffes.

This week, young patrons will hear a story called "The Doorbell Rang" by Pat Hutchins, which is a story about sharing and problem solving, as well as a memorable introduction to the concept of division.

Sangre de Cristo School Board of Education meeting

MOSCA — The Sangre de Cristo School Board of Education regular monthly meeting will be Tuesday, March 12, in the school library at 8751 Lane 7 North, Mosca, at 6 p.m.

Copies of agendas are posted at school site, website, the Hooper and Mosca Post Offices, and the Mosca Pit Stop. Meetings are open to the public.

SLV WEATHER

Mostly Sunny, Breezy 55/18

Wed: Mostly Sunny, Breezy 53/20

Thurs: Slight Chance of Snow 50/22

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City council to discuss crime, cameras, art and other topics

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

— Alamosa City Council is scheduled for two meetings Wednesday night, starting with a work session at 6 p.m., followed by the regularly scheduled council meeting at 7 p.m.

Titled "Discussion on perception of crime and if new City ordinances are needed", the work session will be devoted to council members discussing and exploring if the city has all ordinances in place that are needed to address concerns about crime and nuisance behavior that members

of council have heard from the community.

There will also be some time spent discussing how changes in state laws have impacted communities in this area.

Following the the work session, the council will convene for their regularly scheduled meeting where they will consider a motion to authorize expenditure of \$430,703 to purchase 30 Axon 3 in-car camera

■ See **COUNCIL** page 3

'Snowy Owl' by artist Stephen Landis, one of three works for possible purchase by Alamosa city council.

Photo courtesy of the City of Alamosa



SLV Law Enforcement Victim Response Units

Providing help and support when and where it's most needed

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

SAGUACHE — In what appears to be another example of law enforcement agencies across the San Luis Valley working together to meet needs that impact all six counties, the SLV Law Enforcement Victim Response Units program is being reinstated after a twenty-year hiatus, providing a comprehensive and unified approach to meeting victims' needs.

This is not the first time that law enforcement agencies have created

■ See **UNITS** page 3

Alamosa is a USA Today's 10 Best Reader's Choice nominee

CONTRIBUTED ALAMOSA — Alamosa has been nominated for USA Today's 10 Best Readers' Choice for the best small-town cultural scene.

This nomination is a testament to the town's vibrant and diverse community that celebrates and preserves its rich cultural heritage.

Nominees are submitted by a panel of experts, and readers can vote once per category per day. Voting is now open, and readers can vote every day until Monday, April 1.

Alamosa is the only destination in Colorado nominated in the small-town cultural scene category.

This is a significant opportunity for the residents of Alamosa and the surrounding San Luis Valley to come together and showcase Alamosa's cultural offerings to the rest of the country. With

the support of locals and visitors alike, Alamosa has the chance to be recognized as one of the top 10 cultural towns to visit in America.

From colorful festivals and events to its thriving art and music scene, Alamosa has a little something for everyone. Its museums, galleries, and theater display the town's history and passion for the arts, while its vibrant local food scene offers a taste of the traditional flavors and recipes passed down through generations.

Visit Alamosa wants to hear from the community and our visitors, follow Visit Alamosa on Facebook or @VisitAlamosa on Instagram for updates on the nomination and let us know what you love most about Alamosa's Cultural Scene.

For more information on the awards or to vote, visit online 10best.usatoday.com/awards/travel.



Courier photo by John Waters

Kevin Beaber conducts a choir as part of the Adams State University 'Top of the Nation,' high school honors program on Feb. 24. An audience of about 375 people attended the concert at Sacred Heart Church in Alamosa. The city has been nominated by USA Today for its vibrant cultural scene.

Great Sand Dunes National Park visitation is up 3 percent



Courier photo by John Waters

In June 2023, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve finished renovating the park visitor center which was paid for mostly by visitor entrance fees.

By JOHN WATERS
News Editor

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Visitation to Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve increased by 3.8% in 2023 over the prior year to 493,428.

The park had a peak in visits in 2021 when 602,613 people visited the park and preserve. The current number of visitors is double the 242,841 number of visitors in 2023.

According to economic data compiled by the National Park Service, visitors spent an esti-

mated \$32.5 million while visiting the park. These expenditures supported 408 jobs, \$10.7 million in labor income, \$18.7 million in value-added, and \$36 million in economic output in local economies in 2022. Economic data for 2023 has not yet been released.

Nationally visitors spend an estimated \$23.9 billion visiting national parks.

Andrea Compton, Superintendent of Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve

■ See **PARK** page 3

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Record

Tandbergs relate to challenges for student parents

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY
ALAMOSA — Since occupying the Adams State University Marvel House, the president's house, David and Darin Tandberg have been committed to connecting on a personal level with the campus and greater community. Their great story began at Adams State and they are dedicated to paying it forward.

Like many alumni couples, they met as students. When President David Tandberg, Ph.D., first saw Darin, "I thought, 'who is that girl?'"

Darin Tandberg remembers being impressed with David's energy and enthusiasm.

"He seemed outgoing and up for anything," she said.

Their mutual attraction eventually led to marriage and a family. Their personal history as married students with young children inspired them to establish a scholarship for Adams State student parents. To be eligible for the Dr. David and Ms. Darin Tandberg Scholarship, students must be registered full-time; preference will be given to students who are parents; and students must remain in good academic standing.

As a student, David was president of Adams State Associated Students and Faculty (AS&F) the student government organization. He was on the go with activities, meetings, and, of course, academic classes.

"I was busy but made time to socialize with the larger group of friends

that included Darin," David said.

This meant late night became the time for fun and adventure. The pair, often with others, would head to the Alamosa Daylight Donuts at 3 a.m.; drive to Pueblo for IHOP pancakes; or hike up to Zapata Falls (a natural waterfall located back in a small cave in the Sangre de Cristo Mountain range). David, an avid outdoorsman and technical climber would repel down the frozen waterfall.

"I was not only busy on-campus, I also worked two to three jobs but dating and getting to know Darin was important to me," President Tandberg said.

As a student, Darin took classes full-time and worked at Rex Activity Center on campus.

The close friendship turned romantic on the way back from Manassa, after dark on a rainy highway.

"I drove really crappy cars, so I suggested Darin follow me in case I broke down," David said.

Darin pulled behind his parked car a few miles outside of town. However, when she opened his car door nobody was in the driver's seat that is when David popped up from the backseat.

Darin quickly recovered from the surprise and took the front seat. The two sat and talked for at least an hour, David seated in the back, Darin in the driver's seat. Acting on impulse, David leaned forward for a quick but meaningful first kiss.

Their conversations were their true connec-

tions, and the team continue to work together to build their future as well as goals for Adams State.

"Our talks were emotional and often heavy, serious topics," Darin said. "We spoke of personal decisions, school goals, life ahead, and past decisions. David had ambitions, goals, and plans; but he could still be goofy and fun."

Once they realized they were interested in a committed relationship; they were soon engaged and married and forced to figure it out. Neither had money; and when their first child was born, they had no "grown-up" furniture, making due with camp chairs, and a turned-over laundry basket that doubled for a table.

David, who worked for a local cabinet maker, began making furniture, a bookshelf, stool, microwave stand, and table; he worked on the furniture in the evenings.

"It didn't seem a hardship," President Tandberg said. "We were surrounded by others in the same situation, poor, starting families, working, and going to school full-time."

The young couple pooled resources with their Faculty Housing neighbors.

"We all shared baby-sitting duties and made the best of what we had," Darin added. One holiday season they were out of money and a generous fellow church member gave them \$500, which they lived off; and Darin's parents, who lived nearby, were always willing to invite them for a meal.



Courtesy photo
David and Darin Tandberg remember the challenges of being college students with a family, which led to establishing a scholarship for Adams State student parents. Pictured, Bryce, Kai, David, Darin and Allyson Tandberg.

David sold precious books and climbing gear. They figured it out, and continued to do so when after graduation, they moved sight unseen to Pennsylvania, for David's doctorate program.

"We have done a lot in life; it was a good way to start out," David said.

Their challenges and successes made them a tight and close couple.

"We are each other's biggest supporters," Darin and David agreed.

From this intimate perspective the Tandbergs established the scholarship to support student parents.

"We understand the struggle of budgeting with little money or resources. It's hard, you are often up at night doing homework and

babies need a lot of attention," the Tandbergs commented. "We encourage student parents to hold on when they are feeling overwhelmed. To try and find a community of support. It does help to find other student parents to commiserate with and there are actually a ton of resources on campus and in the community."

Legislation boosting behavioral health care workforce passes House

CONTRIBUTED
DENVER — The Colorado House has passed legislation to expand access to behavioral health care in Colorado. HB24-1002, sponsored by Representatives Matthew Martinez and Emily Sirota, passed by a vote of 61 to 3.

"We need to use every tool available to us to improve behavioral health care access for Coloradans," said Rep. Martinez, D-Monte Vista. "This bill would make it easier for licensed social workers in participating states to begin working in Colorado, which is particularly helpful for military spouses who often relocate. This bill removes barriers to entering Colorado's behavioral health care workforce and helps streamline care for Coloradans across the state." "Social workers are critical to the success of

our state's overall behavioral health care system, and we must do everything we can to attract and retain these skilled professionals," said Rep. Emily Sirota, D-Denver. "By creating a social work licensure compact, already licensed social workers can begin practicing in Colorado more quickly to give Coloradans the whole-person behavioral healthcare they need and deserve."

If it passes in the Senate, HB24-1002 will create new pathways for out-of-state social workers to gain professional licensure to practice in Colorado through the "Social Work Licensure Compact", which creates an agreement between Colorado and six other states where licensed social workers in member states can obtain and easily transfer a license from another member state.

This legislation aims to reduce barriers for social workers by easing the state-to-state licensure process and increasing behavioral health care access in Colorado. The "Social Work Licensure Compact" would be particularly helpful for active military and military spouses who often relocate from state-to-state, and to increase the number of providers to engage in meaningful behavioral health care for Coloradans.

If signed into law, HB24-1002 would be the tenth mobility compact laws Colorado lawmakers have championed over the years, including last year's HB23-1064 to address Colorado's teacher shortage.

OBITUARY

Otoniel 'Otto' Espinoza

Longtime Romeo resident Otoniel "Otto" Espinoza, 74, gained his angel wings on March 2, 2024. He passed away peacefully at his home under Hospice Care with his loving family by his side. Otto came into the world on Sept. 22, 1949, the beloved son of Josephine (Mestas) Espinoza and Otoniel Espinoza. He graduated from Adams State College.

Otto was well known and loved throughout the San Luis Valley. He was able to touch the lives of many as a teacher, administrator and rancher. He loved to be able to impact the life of his students and community and help anyone he could. In his free time, Otto loved ranching, watching sports, being outdoors and spending as much time as he could with his family and friends.

He will live on through his loving wife Sara Aten-



cio-Espinoza, sons Otto J. Espinoza (James Greer) of Henderson, Colo.; Jason Espinoza (Bandy Clark) of Manassa, Colo.; siblings Nellie Valdez, Josephine Mendoza, Amabel Sanchez, Juanita Mandel, Amanda Rendon, Rosemarie Boyd, Ermalinda Saeffow, Norma Wolfley and Ricardo F. Espinoza. He is also survived by numerous niec-

es, nephews, cousins and friends.

Otto was preceded in death by his parents Otoniel and Josephine Espinoza, brother Michael Espinoza, sister Rebecca Wedge, nephews Andy Valdez, Gerard "Wardy" Valdez and Dominic Sanchez.

Vigil Service with Recitation of the Rosary will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. and Mass of the Resurrection to follow at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Conejos. Inurnment will be held at Los Cerritos Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Otto's name to the American Cancer Society.

To leave the family online condolences, please visit romerofuneralhomes.com. The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

PENDING OBITUARIES

Yolanda Duncan

Alamosa resident Yolanda Duncan, 66, passed away Feb. 29, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Rick Atencio

Rick Atencio, 30, was called home on March 2, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero

Mario Gutierrez

Del Norte resident Mario Gutierrez, 41, was called home on Feb. 27, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

School Menu Tuesday March 5, 2024

BREAKFAST

Pancake On A Stick
 Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY

Chicken Fajitas/Salsa
 Corn/Bread
 Veggie Bar
 Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Chicken Fajitas/Salsa
 Corn/Bread
 Veggie Bar
 Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL

Chicken Fajitas/Salsa
 Corn/Bread
 Veggie Bar
 Fruit & Milk

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Alamosa School District

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Valley News

Rio Grande State of the Basin Symposium March 30

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY
ALAMOSA — Register now for the sixth annual Rio Grande State of the Basin Symposium that is on Saturday, March 30, on the Adams State University campus. This year's theme, "Perspectives on Historical Challenges," will include a keynote address by David Robbins. The event is free and open to the public.

eral manager of the Rio Grande Water Conservations District (RGWCD).

Aracely Chapa, University of New Mexico Center for Regional Studies, presentation and film clips "Acequias: The Legacy Lives On," begins at 9 a.m. followed by Acequia Associations and Colorado Title 7, Art. 42, speaker TBD.

Just before lunch, participants will be updated on the ongoing lawsuit between com-

compact states as well as "Prior and Paramount Water Rights" and the position of the middle basin pueblos in the Rio Grande compact.

Participants will then move to the Student Union Building for lunch and keynote address by David Robbins who will discuss prior water grab schemes in the upper basin.

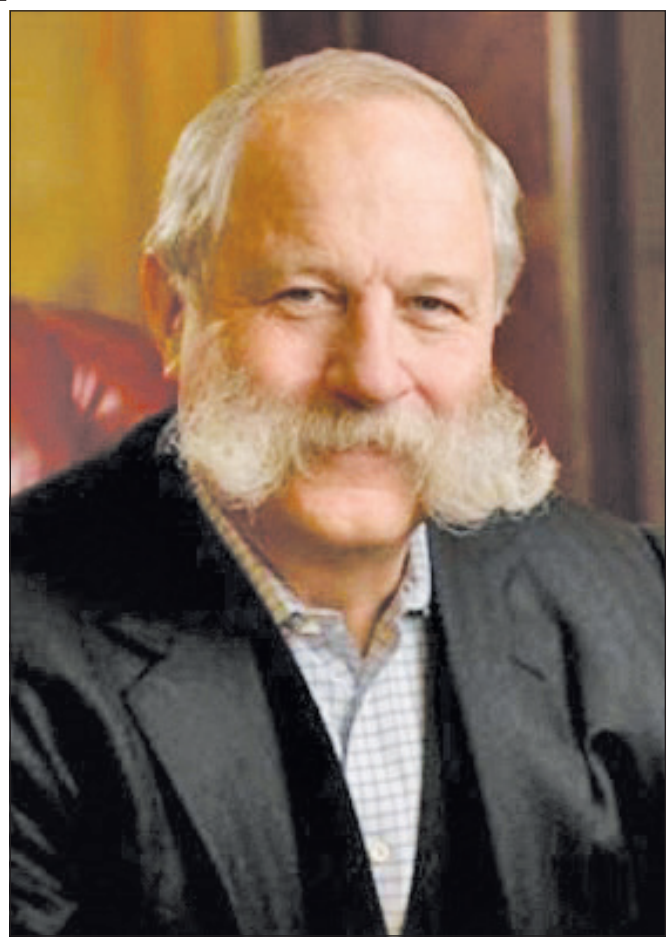
According to hillandrobbs.com, David Robbins is president and co-founder of Hill and Robbins, P.C., where his practice emphasizes the fields of water and natural-resources law, water quality, and environmental law. Since 1981, Robbins has served as general counsel to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, where he led

efforts to defeat speculative proposals to mine the ground water of the San Luis Valley, *AWDI v. City of Alamosa*. The actions ultimately resulted in Congressional action on a bill Robbins initially drafted to create the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.

For more information, or to register, visit adams.edu/about/salazar-center.

The sixth annual Rio Grande State of the Basin Symposium keynote speaker is David Robbins, president and co-founder of Hill & Robbins, P.C. The event, on March 30, is free and open to the public. Register now at adams.edu/about/salazar-center.

Courtesy photo



Frisch on the campaign trail



Adam Frisch, Democratic candidate for CD3, spent an hour with a group of voters on Monday, the numbers of which seem to grow progressively larger as he continues coming to the Valley and election draws closer. Questions varied from health care to Israel and Gaza.

Courier photo by Priscilla Waggoner

Units

Continued from Page 1
 a coordinated effort in supporting victims. According to Ellen Cox, Saguache County Sheriff's Office Victim Response Coordinator and leader of the SLV Law Enforcement Victim Response Units, an umbrella organization called SLV Victim Services was initially created more than 20 years ago by Alamosa County to "incorporate all the counties in the SLV under one Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant allowing county coordinators and assistants to focus on the victim services they provided in their area."

nities. So much culture, history and fortitude must be appreciated and respected while providing services to these survivors."

As a result, the newly formed SLV Law Enforcement Victim Response Unit was created as a "First Responder" to victims of crime in the San Luis Valley. Victim advocates in all six counties are coordinating together to provide caring responses, blended resources and much needed support in helping people navigate through traumatic and personal events.

In the course of creating this new organization, it was also realized that there was a need for public education as there is not a general understanding of the differences between what services and support (and the timing of both) can be provided by Law Enforcement Victim Response unit versus a community based program, such as Tu Casa and other service providers.

When asked to explain the difference, Cox says, "Organizations like Tu Casa and the Alliance in Chaffee County are usually serving victims of domestic Violence, sexual assault, elder abuse and human trafficking. They usually have in-house resources such as counseling, some legal assistance and other resources to help with housing, shelter and longer-term aid. In contrast, law enforcement advocates are on-scene in an immediate response to crime victims in the middle of one of the most traumatic events of their life."

As Cox describes it, law enforcement advocates provide physical and emo-

tional support in whatever capacity victims need. They then continue to provide resources, whether it's accompanying the victim to and through a medical procedure, transportation to shelter for them and their children or support with employers or landlords.

Their help is also invaluable in supporting the victim through what can feel like an overwhelming and very complicated legal process by explaining mandatory restraining orders, bonds and court proceedings. They also keep victims informed of crucial notifications about court dates and release information and provide any help needed with victim impact statements and victim compensation applications.

"We follow up, just to be there for the victims. But, just to be clear, we cannot counsel or provide legal advice, but we are there, and available for support and help."

Despite working in an occupation where she encounters people who are going through, perhaps, the most devastating experience of their lives — an occupation that would probably weigh heavily on a number of people — Cox speaks of the potential inherent in SLV Law Enforcement Victim Response Unit program with genuine excitement and optimism about the difference the Response Unit and the people who staff it will make in the lives of others.

"My hope and driving desire is that we can get resources to people before a crime happens, or someone is hurt or a tragedy changes a life forever," she says.

Park

Continued from Page 1
 said this about visitation in general, "As the valley heads into springtime (heralded by the sandhill cranes and other migrants), Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve also welcomes the additional visitors that arrive, such as families visiting during their Spring Breaks. Whether people are splashing in Medano Creek, exploring the 30-square miles of the dune field, or hiking in the backcountry looking down on the dunes from the peaks on the eastern border of the park, we welcome all visitors and encourage discovery of all the special elements that make up the Park and Preserve. We are pleased to see the additional visitation last year and recognize the important economic benefits that brings to our neighboring communities, as well as the experiences and opportunities that our neighboring communities offer to the visitors. It is truly a partnership, and we thank our friends and neighbors throughout the Valley for that.

Eighty percent of entrance fees paid by visitors remain in the park. The remaining 20% is distributed throughout the national park system, helping to support park units that do not collect fees.

In Great Sand Dunes, the renovation of the visitor center, and



Park employee Patrick Myers is pictured here with interpretative displays comprised of his photographs that are now in the renovated visitor center. The national park contributes \$32.5 million annually to the local economy.

Courtesy photo

planning, design, and installation of new visitor center exhibits that opened last year.

The restoration of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout in Sand Creek

Visitor Use Comfort Stations - This project rehabilitated six deteriorated comfort stations in the day-use area and campground. The existing heating system was converted to a solar heating system and the ceramic floor tile, toilet partitions, and mirrors, exterior doors were replaced.

Music Pass Trail Drainage and Tread Surface - This funded project repaired the Music Pass Trail by the Youth Conservation Corps trail crews. The project corrected drainage issues by repairing over 4,000 feet of out slope, 900 feet of inboard ditch, repairing

60 water bars, and 24 check steps. A 900-foot reroute was constructed to move the trail off extremely poor soils, and 4,000 square feet of tread will be resurfaced.

Medano Road and Campsites - This project will correct road surface and drainage issues on 10-miles of primitive gravel road. 36 lateral drains will be cleaned of sediment and associated drain dips will be repaired. The project will also improve the 20 backcountry campsites along the Medano Road. Site parking surfaces will be improved with imported gravel, and drainage issues will be corrected. Bear-proof food lockers will be leveled, and bollards will be installed to keep vehicles on proper surfaces. Associated trails will be improved by the added gravel.

Council

Continued from Page 1
 systems for the Alamosa Police Department.

The council will also hear an annual update from Habitat for Humanity, a presentation regarding USA Today's Best Small Town Cultural Scene, an annual report from the Alamosa Library, "various water issues" from Development Services and a second reading of an ordinance to approve an agreement with the Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD) for the city's wells to be included in RGWCD's annual augmentation plan.

City council will also consider the purchase of an art piece for down-

town.

As described in information to council prior to the meeting, "Artscape, a public art on loan program, continues to create excitement for the downtown with the rotation of 15 pieces of art. Additionally, the City was able to keep 4 pieces for extended display combined with the City's purchase of 11 pieces for a total of 30 pieces downtown. The goal of the program is to slowly build the City's inventory of public art to create more vibrancy and interest while continuing the rotation of art on loan annually."

The works of art that council will be considering include, "Snowy Owl" (\$2,400) by Stephen Landis. "Snowy Owl" was awarded the 2023

People's Choice Award and was ranked first for purchase by the Creative District.

Other works of art for consideration include "Acoustic Guitar" by Deveren Farley (\$2,080), which the Creative District ranked second and, third, "The Passage" by Kasia Polkowska (\$12,000). Since the City receives a 20% commission, the cost for each piece is reduced by 20% (prices shown already reduced by 20%).

Both meetings will be held in city council chambers at 300 Hunt Avenue in Alamosa and will be available via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85753492744> or by calling +1 719-359-4580 US, Webinar ID: 857 5349 2744.

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Lifestyles

Big R in MV adds 'safety gate' in parking lot

People will not be able to cut through to get to market

By MARIE MCCOLM MONTE VISTA — Monte Vista Big R recently installed a safety gate between the company parking lot and the parking lot of Top Value Market. The gate stops vehicles from going through Big R's parking lot to get to the grocery store.

Senior Operations Manager for Big R Sid Ducharme said the gate has been in the works for some time.

"This gate has been something that we have been thinking about for quite a long time," Ducharme said. "We started working on this over a year ago. The reason for the gate is first of all, we went through Monte Vista as a town. We also checked with the fire department to find out if we could do this. They will have keys for the gate in case that is needed. What is happening is strictly a safety issue. I visit the store often. This

is a safety gate. This isn't a gate we put up to try to make anyone angry. This is strictly for safety reasons."

Ducharme said that what was happening between the two parking lots that he could see is that people were "flying", through the Big R parking lot, essentially going way too fast, to get to the grocery store next door.

"We have semis that we unload out there in the parking lot," he said. "We have countless customers, plus our employees go out and help load people. This is all a safety issue. We of course appreciate any customers from the grocery store that want to shop with us too, but the way that some of them have been driving has become a big safety issue for the stores."

Ducharme said that the new gate should slow things down. He realizes it may be an inconvenience for some, but they will get used to it.

"I am sorry if this is an inconvenience to customers of the grocery store next door. This really is about safety," he said. "I don't think this will af-

fect anybody's sales. The grocery store also has an entrance. This is a small inconvenience, but we do not want to risk anybody getting hurt, customers or employees."

Valerie Sandoval was shopping at Big R on Sunday, March 3, and said she appreciates the change.

"I live here in Monte Vista. I honestly have seen people driving carelessly through here," she said. "I have seen people driving through all the lanes and parking spaces just to get to the grocery store. It's a short cut, but elderly people shop here at Big R and go to the grocery store for groceries and even prescriptions. These reckless drivers can hit someone, or run over someone elderly, or even run over somebody's kids. My opinion is, let people go around to the grocery store entrance. If people get mad because that inconveniences them, the thing to look at is, they would be a lot madder if a loved one got hit or killed. This gate will help prevent that. Some residents may be upset over it, but I appreciate it."



Photos by Marie Mccolm

Big R official says the gate was added for the safety of its employees, customers and delivery drivers.



Monte Vista Big R added a safety gate to stop people from going through its parking lot to get to Top Value Market.

Colorado bill would require licenses for funeral service professionals

By SARA WILSON
Colorado Newswire

A bipartisan group of Colorado lawmakers wants to reinstate licensure requirements for people who work in the funeral industry, coming off a year with two high-profile funeral home mismanagement incidents in the state.

If passed, the bill would require a license to work as a funeral director, mortuary science practitioner, embalmer, cremationist or natural reductionist who converts human remains to soil.

Colorado is the only state that doesn't require a professional license to work in the industry after the Legislature sunsetted the requirement in 1983.

"Establishing licensure of those who are entrusted with caring for our loved ones during a family's time of grief and mourning will ensure that Coloradans can trust the businesses and people that they go to, and not have to worry about whether their loved one will be mistreated or their remains disrespected," said Sen. Dylan Roberts, a Frisco Democrat.

Roberts will run the bill in the Senate with Republican Sen. Bob Gardner of Colorado Springs. In the House, it will be sponsored by Republican Rep. Matt Soper of Delta and Democratic Rep. Brianna Titone of Arvada. The bill had not yet been formally introduced at the time of publication.

"It's clear that Colorado needs additional regulation

to rebuild the public trust and integrity of the death care industry," said Patty Salazar, the director of the Department of Regulatory Agencies. "We all know the several egregious incidents that have been highlighted on a national scale, which demonstrates how the legislative and regulatory framework has failed Coloradans who have experienced loss and unfortunately sought funeral services from grossly incompetent funeral professionals."

Last year, authorities found nearly 200 decaying, improperly stored bodies at a funeral home in Penrose that purported to offer natural burial services. Some customers believe they were given fake ashes instead of the cremated remains of their loved one.

In February, authorities found the cremated remains of at least 30 people and the corpse of a woman at the Denver house of a former funeral home owner who was being evicted.

"Colorado is the laughing stock of the industry because we don't have licensing," said Shelia Canfield-Jones, whose deceased daughter had been improperly stored at the Penrose funeral home for four years.

"This bill has the potential to bring accountability and to bring credibility to an industry that needs to be regulated. Self-regulation for the funeral industry does not work. They tried, and this is what happens," she said.

The bill would require new funeral industry professionals to obtain a license beginning in 2026. To be eligible, a person would need to have a degree from an accredited institution, pass a national board exam, pass a criminal background check and complete a one-year apprenticeship.

Funeral professionals already working in the state would immediately be eligible for a provisional license if they pass a background check, have worked at least 6,500 hours in their field and completed an apprenticeship at some point in their career.

"This is one of the big issues — because we haven't had any licensure for over 40 years, we have to do something for the people who have already been working here and might not have gone to school for it," Joseph Walsh, the president of the Colorado Funeral Directors Association, told Colorado Newswire. He doesn't want a new law regulating the industry to kick people out of their careers because of an educational requirement.

Walsh said CFDA has been working with Soper and Roberts for over a year on the legislation and is in "basic agreement with it."

The requirements for a provisional license and the higher state involvement in general could act as a deterrent for bad actors, sponsors say, and push them out of the industry, while at the same time identifying the people who are doing good work.

A related bill from the

same sponsors, House Bill 24-1335, would require reg-

ular inspections of funeral homes and crematories. It has its first committee hearing on March 7.



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Your FIRST Source for Local News

Lifestyles



Photo is courtesy of Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Colorado Parks and Wildlife Ranger Jeffrey Hammond of the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area in Salida, receives a Life Saving Award from Carl Nielsen, executive director of the Park Law Enforcement Association, at the group's annual convention in Alabama last week.

CPW park rangers win national life-saving and valor awards

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

SALIDA—A national park ranger association on Wednesday honored nine Colorado Parks and Wildlife rangers for assorted acts of valor and for life-saving acts in 2023 including Jeffrey Hammond of the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area who rescued a motorist from the Arkansas River after a car wreck.

Hammond's heroics occurred Jan. 29, 2023, when a car left U.S. Highway 50 in Bighorn Canyon east of Salida, trapping the driver and throwing a passenger into the river. Hammond quickly put on his swiftwater rescue suit, entered the freezing cold river and swam to the car.

He forced open the driver's door and found the driver suffering from head trauma and hypothermia. Hammond put a life jacket on the driver and helped her out of the wrecked car. He then tied her to a rope system tethered to first responders on the shore and they pulled her to safety.

"(Ranger) Hammond was quick to respond, decisive in his actions, calm and convincing when needed, and went above and beyond the call of duty to help a woman trapped inside a vehicle in a frigid river environment," Carl Nielsen, executive director of the Park Law Enforcement Association, said Wednesday night in awarding Ham-

mond at the group's annual conference in Alabama. "The steps taken by (Ranger) Hammond deserve to be recognized and his actions helped save the life of the driver."

The Florida-based Park Law Enforcement Association (PLEA) also honored six other CPW rangers with its Life Saving Award.

In addition, two CPW rangers received the PLEA Valor Award.

The PLEA Valor Award were bestowed on:

- Howard Asal, ranger at Highline Lake
- Ashlee Wallace, ranger at Highline Lake
- Besides Hammond, other CPW recipients of the PLEA Life Saving Award were:
- Jed Potter, senior ranger at Paonia State Park
- Dave Norman, seasonal ranger at Paonia State Park
- George Voigt, seasonal ranger at Paonia State Park
- Jeff Walters, ranger at Harvey Gap State Park
- Justine Butchart, ranger at Harvey Gap State Park
- Courtney Harris, ranger at Harvey Gap State Park

Asal and Wallace were honored for their quick responses on Sept. 9 when a wildfire erupted near the park. Responding to reports of smoke, Asal went to investigate and spotted wind-driven fire about a mile south of the park moving quickly through grass toward a private

residence. Asal sped to the house to alert anyone inside then began suppression efforts with a passerby.

Wallace joined the effort and they sprayed buildings with water from hoses at the home and used buckets to protect propane tanks until firefighters arrived about 15 minutes later.

Walters, Butchart and Harris were honored for their actions on July 24 during a boat patrol on Harvey Gap State Park when they came upon an unconscious woman floating face down in the water with no life jacket in sight. A 4-year-old child was in the water next to her. They had fallen off a paddleboard in high winds. The rangers pulled both victims into the boat and began life-saving measures to revive the woman.

Potter, Norman and Voigt were honored for their actions Sept. 5 when a report came in of a woman experiencing a mental crisis in a campground at Paonia State Park.

During a lengthy encounter with the woman, she became violent, stripped and entered a creek, covered much of her body in mud and began exhibiting symptoms of hypothermia.

Rangers described her lying in the mud, semi-conscious and unable to help herself. Ultimately, rangers called for an ambulance to the remote location to take her to the hospital.

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Sports

Centauri basketball teams advance to Great 8

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

LA JARA – Both the Centauri High School boys and girls basketball teams won their games in the second round of the Class 3A State Tournament Saturday at the CHS gym.

The Lady Falcons defeated Cedaredge 41-13, while the boys team scored a 61-37 win over Manual.

Centauri girls 41, Cedaredge 13
 Jocelyn Jarvies gave Centauri the lead with a layup. Hannah Curtis made one of two free throws, and Braelyn Tucker made two from the line and the Lady Falcons had a 5-0 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Curtis made two more free throws for a 7-0 lead.

The Lady Bruins finally got on the scoreboard as Carley Malinowski made one of two free tosses with 4:16 left in the second. Jocelyn McCarroll answered with a 3-point basket, but Abby Brooks and Malinowski both made a pair of free throws.

Alyvia Norton ended the second quarter with a 3-pointer and the Lady Falcons led 13-5 at the break.

Curtis opened the third quarter with a three, and Lacey Johnson and Jocelyn McCarroll both got layups. Curtis scored again for a 22-5 advantage.

The Lady Bruins got their first field goal at the 4:40 mark of the third quarter as Maya Cerise drove for a layup. Brooks made three out of four free throws to cut the lead to 22-10, but Rylee McCarroll scored five points and Johnson two. Sammy Denison scored as time expired, but Centauri led 29-12 at the end of the period.

Johnson scored the first basket of the fourth quarter, but Malinowski split at the line. Curtis then drained a trey, Jarvies drove for a layup, and Rylee McCarroll made one of two free throws



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick
Centauri High School's Kaleb Anderson (25) makes a drive in the lane in Saturday's game against Manual at the CHS gym. Anderson scored 13 points as the Falcons won 61-37.

for a 37-13 lead.

Rylee McCarroll scored in the paint and Saige Hostetter made two free throws to wrap up the scoring.

Curtis was Centauri's leading scorer

with 11 points.

Abby Brooks led Cedaredge with five points.

Centauri (17-6) will face Yuma in the Class 3A state quarterfinals Thursday at 7 p.m. at the University of Denver's Hamilton Gym.

Centauri boys 61, Manual 37

Chaz Holman and Kaleb Anderson both scored layups to give the Falcons an early 4-0 lead. Holman then made two free throws to extend the lead to 6-0.

Marco Arriaga put the Thunderbolts on the board with two free tosses, but Anderson scored four points and Troy Sowards scored three for a 13-2 advantage.

Marquell Marquez knocked down a jumper for Manual, but Anderson split at the line and Carson Bagwell scored a layup to increase the margin to 16-4.

Marquez made two free throws, but Sowards scored a layup for an 18-6 Centauri lead at the end of the first quarter.

Sean Jarvies and Anderson both scored early in the second to push the lead to 22-6. Marquez scored for the Thunderbolts, but Jace Haslett hit a jumper.

Jovan Collins-Falcon made a jump shot and Marquez a 3-point basket to cut the deficit to 24-13. But Sowards, and Bagwell made layups and Carson Shawcroft drained a three for a 31-13 advantage.

Cartail Dickey recorded a layup and a free throw to cut the Centauri lead to 31-16 at the half.

Bagwell drained a trey to begin the second half, and Haslett and Anderson both scored for a 38-16 lead. Collins-Falcon made two free throws and Deshawn Fox made a jumper.

Haslett scored again, but Fox buried a 3-pointer. Kamryn Garcia answered with a three for the Falcons, and Bagwell also drained a trey and the Falcons led 46-23.

Collins-Falcon and Fox both scored, but Haslett scored for the Falcons. Collins-Falcon made a three, but Shawcroft made two free throws and Centauri led 50-30 at the end of the third quarter.

Bagwell and Sowards opened the fourth quarter with baskets. Fox scored again, but Holman made two free throws.

Marquez hit a 3-pointer, but so did Garcia.

The Thunderbolts made two out of four free throws, and Kendon McGinnis scored to conclude the scoring.

Anderson led Centauri in scoring with 13 points, followed by Bagwell with 12.

Marquez was Manual's top scorer with 12.

Centauri (18-5) will play Yuma in the Class 3A quarterfinals Thursday at 8:30 p.m. at the University of Denver's Hamilton Gym.

Centauri girls 41, Cedaredge 13
 Cedaredge – L. Tietz 0 0-0 0, L. Brooks 0 0-0 0, Dennison 1 0-0 2, Jenkins 0 0-0 0, Malinowski 0 4-6 4, Sinkay 0 0-0 0, Medill 0 0-0 0, A. Tietz 0 0-0 0, Cerise 1 0-0 2, Hanson 0 0-2 0, Travis 0 0-0 0, A. Brooks 0 5-6 5. Total 2 9-14 13.

3-point goals – none.

Centauri – Jarvies 2 0-0 4, Tucker 0 2-2 2, J. McCarroll 2 0-0 5, Johnson 3 0-0 6, H. Curtis 3 3-4 11, Hostetter 0 2-2 2, K. Curtis 0 0-0 0, Jackson 0 0-0 0, R. McCarroll 2 4-5 8, Norton 1 0-2 3, Shawcroft 0 0-0 0, Wubben 0 0-0 0, Holman 0 0-0 0. Total 13 11-15 41.

3-point goals – H. Curtis 2, J. McCarroll 1, Norton 1. Total 4.

Cedaredge	0	5	7	1	13
Centauri	5	8	16	12	41

Fouls – Cedaredge 14, Centauri 12.

Centauri boys 61, Manual 37

Manual – Collins-Falcon 3 2-2 9, Jones 0 0-0 0, Bell 0 0-0 0, Marquez 4 2-2 12, Arriaga 0 2-2 2, Fox 4 0-0 9, Meyers 0 0-0 0, Carpenter 0 1-2 1, Brooks 0 0-0 0, Stewart 0 0-0 0, King 0 0-0 0, Doe 0 0-2 0, Dickey 1 1-1 3. Total 12 8-11 37.

3-point goals – Marquez 2, Collins-Falcon 1, Fox 1. Total 4.

Centauri – Holman 1 4-5 6, Sowards 4 0-0 9, Bagwell 5 0-0 12, Haslett 3 0-0 6, Anderson 6 1-4 13, Jarvies 1 0-0 2, Garcia 2 0-0 6, Broyles 0 0-0 0, Shawcroft 1 2-2 5, McGinnis 1 0-0 2, Maestas 0 0-0 0, Gilleland 0 0-0 0. Total 24 7-11 61.

3-point goals – Bagwell 2, Garcia 2, Shawcroft 1, Sowards 1. Total 6.

Manual	6	10	14	7	37
Centauri	18	13	19	11	61

Fouls – Manual 17, Centauri 12.

Sanford boys win on Sittler's last second three

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

SANFORD – Ben Sittler made a 3-point basket as time expired to give the Sanford High School boys basketball team a 62-60 overtime win over Loveland Classical in the Class 2A Region 6 championship Saturday at the SHS gym.

Sittler said it was the biggest shot of his life.

"Definitely, no doubt about it," he said. "It was all on the line. It was try or die. There was no way else. We had to win. I just put up the shot."

"All of these kids have a lot of heart," said Sanford coach Brice Crowther. "Ben's one of them."

The Mustangs took a 13-10 lead after the first quarter and they had a 29-28 lead at halftime. The Lions, however, took the lead and had a 44-37 advantage at the end of the third quarter.

Loveland Classical extended the lead to nine points early in the fourth, but the Mustangs started to chip at the lead. They outscored the Lions 16-9 in the quarter and the game was tied at 53-53 at the end of regulation.

Trevan Coberly made two 3-pointers early in the overtime to give Loveland Classical a 60-54 lead. But once again, Sanford rallied and got back into the game on free throws by Cash Caldron and a layup and free throw by Trason Gartrell.

The Mustangs had little time to attempt a final shot as 1.1 seconds remained in the overtime with them trailing 60-59. But Ben Sittler beat the clock with the game-winning three.

Ben Sittler led the Mustangs in scoring with 21 points, followed by Gartrell with 20 and Caldron with 12.

Caedon Meyer led the Lions with 19 points, followed by Coberly with 10.

Sanford (20-4) will advance to the Class 2A State Tournament beginning Thursday at the Blue Arena (formerly the Budweiser Events Center) in Loveland. The Mustangs will play Crowley County at 8:30 p.m.

"Every game from here on out will be like this one was," Crowther said. "Loveland is a heck of a team. They did a good job. They gave us more than we can handle."

Lady Mustangs come up short

The Sanford High School girls team was denied a trip to the state tournament as it was defeated by Wiggins 37-32 in the Class 2A Region 4 championship Saturday at the SHS gym.

The Lady Tigers led 11-5 after the first quarter, but the Lady Mustangs came back to cut the deficit to 17-14

at halftime. Wiggins led 29-25 after the third quarter and it outscored Sanford 8-7 in the final period.

Shasta Bond led Sanford with eight points.

Wiggins was led by Kennedy Kerr and Riley Hunt both with 10 points.

Sanford ends the season with a record of 18 wins and six losses.

Sanford boys 62, Loveland Classical 60
 Loveland Classical – Jorengson 3 0-0 8, Ruppert 4 0-0 9, Larrew 1 0-0 2, Meyer 7 5-6 19, Sainz 1 1-2 3, Coberly 3 1-2 10, Doan 1 0-0 2, Swing 0 0-0 0, Jensen 3 0-0 7. Total 23 7-10 60.

3-point goals – Coberly 3, Jorgenson 2, Jensen 1, Ruppert 1. Total 7.

Sanford – A. Sittler 2 1-2 6, Caldron 5 2-2 12, B. Sittler 8 2-4 21, Reynolds 1 1-4 3, Gartrell 7 5-6 20, E. Larsen 0 0-0 0, C. Canty 0 0-0 0, T. Canty 0 0-0 0. Total 23 11-18 62.

3-point goals – B. Sittler 3, Gartrell 1, A. Sittler 1. Total 5.

Loveland Classical	10	18	16	9	7-60
Sanford	13	16	8	16	9-62

Fouls – Loveland Classical 16, Sanford 13. Fouled out – Meyer.

Wiggins 37, Sanford girls 32

Wiggins – Kerr 4 2-4 10, Fehseke 0 0-0 0, Ferguson 3 1-3 7, Hunt 5 0-1 10, Apple 1 0-2 2, Green 0 1-2 1, Vicchirilli 1 1-2 3, Meyer 0 1-2 1, Lorenzini 1 1-2 3. Total 15 7-18 37.

3-point goals – none.

Sanford – Crowther 1 1-2 4, Reynolds 1 2-4 5, Willett 0 3-4 3, S. Caldron 1 0-0 2, Bond 2 4-6 8, Smith 2 0-0 4, Koenig 0 0-0 0, Faucette 3 0-1 6. Total 10 10-17 32.

3-point goals – Crowther 1, Reynolds 1. Total 2.

Wiggins	11	6	12	8	37
Sanford	5	9	11	7	32

Fouls – Wiggins 16, Sanford 17.

Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

Sanford High School's Ben Sittler (11) pushes the ball up court in Saturday's game against Loveland Classical. Sittler scored 21 points, including the game-winning 3-point basket, in the Mustangs' 62-60 overtime win over the Lions.



Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD

FRIDAY

Prep boys basketball

Centauri 50, Timnath 30

Fowler 49, Sargent 36

Monte Vista 39, Walsenburg 30

Otis 50, Sangre de Cristo 48

Peetz 60, Centennial 41

Sanford 60, Golden View Classical Academy 42

Sierra Grande 67,

Wiley 42
 Stratton 73, Moffat 39

Prep girls basketball

Centauri 67, Thomas MacLaren 21

Flatirons Academy 67, Sierra Grande 10

Hi-Plains 36, Sangre de Cristo 26

Mancos 38, Del Norte 26

Sanford 58, Crowley County 18

Sargent 49, Fowler 28

Sedgwick County 51, Center 35

Wray 55, Monte Vista 31

SATURDAY

Prep boys basketball

Centauri 61, Manual 37

Merino 50, Monte Vista 25

Sanford 62, Loveland

Classical 60, OT Sierra Grande 51, De Beque 38

Prep girls basketball

Centauri 41, Cedaredge 13

Merino 80, Sargent 33

Wiggins 37, Sanford 32

College men's basketball

Metropolitan State-Denver 97, Adams State 90

College women's basketball

Adams State 88, Metropolitan State-Denver 66

College baseball

Concordia-St. Paul (Minn.) 3, Adams State 1

Concordia-St. Paul (Minn.) 8, Adams State 2

College women's softball

Fort Lewis 9, Adams

State 1, 6 inn.
 Fort Lewis 18, Adams State 10, 6 inn.

SUNDAY

College baseball

Walsh (Ohio) 6, Adams State 5, 10 inn.

Southwest Minnesota State 6, Adams State 5

SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

College women's basketball

Black Hills State (S.D.) at Adams State (RMAC Tournament), 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

College men's lacrosse

Colorado State Pueblo at Adams State, 3 p.m.

No. 3 seeded Grizzlies to host No. 6 seeded Yellow Jackets

ALAMOSA – The Adams State women's basketball team is set to embark on their ninth appearance in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) Tournament. Plachy Hall will be a venue for this event for only the fourth time, as the Grizzlies clinched the No. 3 seed, granting them the privilege to host a quarterfinal game. Their opponents, the No. 6-seeded Black Hills State Yellow Jackets, will visit on Tuesday night, with tip-off scheduled for 6:00 p.m.

The Journey Thus Far

The Grizzlies secured their spot in the RMAC Tournament for the ninth time in program history after being named Co-RMAC Regular Season Champions. A four-way tie with Colorado Mesa, UC-Cororado Springs, and Regis resulted in an 18-4 record for each team. However, after tiebreaker steps and comparing RMAC Performance Indicator averages among the top four, the Grizzlies earned the No. 3 seed. The Mavericks, claiming the No. 1 seed, will host No. 8 seeded CSU Pueblo, while No. 2 seeded Regis will host No. 7 Colorado Christian, and No. 4 seeded UCCS will host No. 5 Colo. Sch. of Mines.

Game Day Details

Fans are advised to arrive early for the highly anticipated game, as Plachy Hall is expected to sell out, reminiscent of last year's turnout. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m.

Since this is an RMAC event, Grizzly Club passes will not grant entry, and tickets are priced at \$15. However, Grizzly Club members are still welcome in the exclusive Grizzly Club seating area.

To avoid lengthy queues at the ticket booth, it is strongly recommended to purchase tickets in advance through this link: <https://rmacsports.org/tournaments/?id=236>

General Admission entrance will be through the south entrance to Plachy Hall.

ASU students can gain admission for free with their Student ID (digital or physical) but are required to enter through the northeast doors to Plachy Hall.

A 'White Out' Theme will fill Plachy Hall and fans are asked if they have a 'Grizz Gang' white shirt, wear it, a limited supply will be available to those who need one on a first come, first serve basis.

Live Coverage

Each of the seven games in the 2024 RMAC Women's Basketball Tournament will be broadcast live on the RMAC Network. Fans will be able to purchase access to each of the tournament's seven games on the RMAC Network for the price of \$9.95 per day pass.

Watch the Stream: RMAC Network

Listen: KSPK-FM

Panthers headed to state tourney

By **KEN HAMRICK**

Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Sierra Grande High School boys basketball team punched its ticket to the Class 1A State Tournament with a pair of regional wins last weekend. The Panthers defeated Wiley 67-42 on Friday and De Beque 51-38 on Saturday.

Against Wiley, Sierra Grande jumped to a 16-8 lead after the first quarter, and it led 38-15 at halftime. It had a 54-31 lead after the third quarter.

Four Panthers scored in double figures. Aron Ojeda led the way with 16 points, followed by Jadyan Martinez with 11 and Brian Ontiveros and Manuel Miranda both with 10.

The score by quarters against De Beque was unavailable.

Martinez led the Panthers in scoring with 14 points, followed by Ontiveros with 13 and Ojeda with 12.

Sierra Grande (18-5) will face defending state champion Denver Jewish Day School in the first round of the state tournament Thursday at 8:30 p.m. at the University of Northern Colorado's Bank of Colorado Arena.

Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing before the Conejos County Planning Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 6:15 PM and a hearing before the Board of County Commissioners is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 10:00 AM. The purpose of these hearings is to consider a Special Use Permit for a storage facility submitted by Ironman Hitch LLC/Eidon & Sarai Rizzi at 14995 County Rd R, La Jara CO 81140. The property is zoned rural and is legally described as 21.787 acres located in the Northwest Quarter of Section 10, Township 34 North, Range 9 East, NMPM, Conejos County Colorado. Parcel #586710300278. The full details of this application are available for public inspection. Call the Land Use Office 719-376-2014 for review procedures or submit a request by email to landuse@co.conejos.co.us. Any interested person may appear to be heard at the public meeting. Linda DeHerrera, Land Use Administrator No. 3801. Published in the Valley Courier on February 20 & March 5, 2024.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
 that a Public Hearing will be held before the Alamosa Board of County Commissioners on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 9:00AM in the Alamosa County Administration Building, 8900 Independence Way, Alamosa, Colorado to receive public input regarding the adoption of the Guidelines and Regulations For Water Projects For Export Outside The San Luis Valley as Designated as Matters Of State Interest of Alamosa County. Details regarding this public hearing are available for public inspection in the Alamosa County Administration Building, at 8900 Independence Way Suite 100 during regular office hours of 8 am to 4:30 pm. The guidelines and regulations are also available on the Alamosa County Website at alamosacounty.org. No. 3825. Published in the Valley Courier on March 5, 2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR ASBESTOS ABATEMENT CONTRACTOR SERVICES
 Alamosa County has released a Request for Proposal for an Asbestos Abatement Contractor for a project involving substantial asbestos removal from the former Alamosa State Bank Building. Companies interested in a formal copy of the RFP should contact Roni Wisdom, Alamosa County Administrator by email at: rwisdom@alamosacounty.org. All questions concerning this solicitation must be addressed by email only. Submissions will be due no later than 4:30 PM, March 19, 2024. Attn: Ms. Roni Wisdom, Alamosa County Administrator, 8900 - A Independence Way, Alamosa, Colorado, 81101 No. 3826. Published in the Valley Courier on March 5, 2024.

173 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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221 - HELP WANTED

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)

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

CONEJOS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH is seeking a Part Time, 30 hrs a week, **ASSISTANT PERSONAL CARE PROVIDER SUPERVISOR**. Starting rate \$17.50/hr Duties include: Scheduling and finding substitutes for PCP's. Conducts orientation on policies, conducts supervisory visits, training, home visits, data enters PCP timesheets, and notifies clients of changes in scheduling. Fills in as on call PCP. Knowledge of Microsoft Office, data entry skills a must. Bilingual preferred and High School Diploma or equivalent. Application Form Required available on Conejos County Public Health Facebook Page or via email upon request at cricc@co.conejos.co.us. Deadline is March 11, 2024. Inquiries call (719) 376-6799. (3/9/24)

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)

MACKAY 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)

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)

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

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)

1ST SOUTHWEST BANK, a locally owned CDFI community bank, is seeking a **RELATIONSHIP MANAGER** with 3+ years of commercial loan experience. FSWB offers competitive compensation, generous benefits, & career development. Join FSWB's award-winning team dedicated to supporting rural Colorado's agricultural, nonprofit and small businesses. For details and to apply, visit fswb.bank/about/careers. EOE. (3/20/24)

3 Ways To Advertise Valley Classifieds 589-2553

Plan ONE

Guaranteed Ad - \$24.00

Ads must be prepaid, private parties only. One item only, no real estate (rentals, sales, apts. etc...), and no professional services. If item does not sell within 14 days, you must call to renew before the expiration date at **NO CHARGE** up to 20 more days. No refunds or copy changes except price reductions. Up to 20 words, additional charge for extra words.

Plan TWO

Multiple Location - \$5.00

Any regular or guaranteed ad can be picked up into another classified category for the entire length of the running time. Must be same ad, no copy changes. Ads run multiple locations in same issues.

Plan THREE

Free Ad

As a thank you to our readers, any item placed in the Courier with an advertised price of \$50 or less will be published **FREE** for 1 week (4 issues). Here's how it works:
 1. Private parties only.
 2. Ad must be 20 words or less.
 3. Price must be listed.
 4. No yard or garage sales run free.
 5. Multiple items in 1 ad may not equal more than \$50.00.
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PLAN 1 __ **PLAN 2** __ **PLAN 3** __
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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

221 - HELP WANTED

221 - HELP WANTED

221 - HELP WANTED

FULL-TIME MAINTENANCE POSITION in ALAMOSA. SAN LUIS VALLEY FARM WORKER HOUSING CORPORATION is seeking a qualified Full-Time Maintenance Position in Alamosa. Minimum of 3 years' experience. Must be knowledgeable in heating, small appliance repair, plumbing, and minor electrical work, landscaping, painting and cleaning apartments to make ready. Willing to be on call after normal working hours. Must have a valid driver's license. Must be able to pass background investigation and a drug test. Wage is determined upon experience. Job will close on March 15, 2023. Mail resume to 980 S. Broadway, Center, Co. 81125. Equal Housing Opportunity Employment. (3/15/24)

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

RIOGRANDECHILD DEVELOPMENT & FAMILY SERVICES / DEL NORTE HEAD START is currently accepting applications for a full time RECEPTIONIST. Applications can be picked up and dropped off at 440 Sixth Street DEL NORTE, CO 81132. Resumes can be sent to rgcds@gmail.com or donnamarie5659@gmail.com. Position will be open until filled. (3/8/24)

ALAMOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT is now accepting applications for the following position: SECURITY ENTRY CONTROL and BUILDING SECURITY (AHS). Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org/>. For more information, contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600 or tvigil@alamosaschools.org. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (3/6/24)

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

ALPINE ACHIEVERS INITIATIVE is hiring a HOUSING COORDINATOR for April-August 2024, maximum of 35 hours per week. Position will require travel around south-central CO. A vehicle or mileage reimbursement will be provided. Primary responsibilities: communicate with tenants, landlords, and AAI; complete move-in/out checklists; schedule house cleanings; and coordinate moving furniture between houses. See full job description and application instructions at [alpinaachievers.org](https://www.alpinaachievers.org/). (3/6/24)

ALAMOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT is now accepting applications for the following position: OMS ASSISTANT WRESTLING COACH. Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org/>. For more information, contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600 or tvigil@alamosaschools.org. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (3/6/24)

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. (3/15/24)

ALAMOSA SCHOOL DISTRICT is now accepting applications for the following position: TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT TECHNICIAN. Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org/>. For more information, contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600 or tvigil@alamosaschools.org. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (3/6/24)

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)

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

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. (3/15/24)

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

LA PUENTE IS seeking a self-starting individual for the position of **EMPLOYMENT NAVIGATOR** as the front-line worker in our Employment Readiness program. This program engages clients experiencing barriers to employment to support their journey from unemployed or underemployed to stability and independence. The Navigator will work with La Puente's Shelter, Street Outreach, and Adelante programs, as well as local employers and employment programs to help clients overcome barriers and obtain employment. The Navigator also works to build trust, conduct assessments, make referrals, identify resources, and collect data. Ability to problem-solve and collaborate with other agencies is a must. 36k-40k DOE. Send resume: La Puente, P.O. Box 1235, ALAMOSA, CO 81101, 719-589-5909. www.lapuate.net Email: hr@lapuate.net (3/13/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

INSTRUCTIONAL COACH NEEDED AT DEL NORTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. Candidate should be proficient in all areas of teaching and learning, with an emphasis on professional practice and the teaching and learning cycle. The coach will be responsible for consulting with and supporting the instructional teaching staff in using resources that impact student learning. The coach will provide support and professional learning to instructional staff as needed. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to Amy Duda, Principal at aduda@urtigers.co. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at: urtigers.co (3/26/24)

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

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING LIAISON. SLV COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS, a social services strengthening nonprofit, seeks a facilitator who can help selected nonprofits to build stronger connections and strategies in order to better meet the needs of those living in poverty as well as manage a Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). Will train the right candidate in Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) protocol and grant specific management. Required duties will include supporting the SLV Community Solutions Board of Directors in convening community meetings, in formulating community needs assessments, and developing community partnership strategies. This is an excellent opportunity to build a stronger community and help the SLV work together to solve our challenges. Salary \$40,000 to \$45,000. DOE. A performance evaluation at 90 days will include discussions of growth, future responsibilities and commensurate salary. Submit resumes to HR@lapuente.net. Resumes without phone numbers and an email will not be considered. Attention to detail, organized, a passion for community, and strong public interaction are a plus. (3/5/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

DATA COORDINATION LEAD. SLV COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS, a social services strengthening nonprofit, is looking for a data geek to help build data collection and data driven strategies for SLV agencies and organizations that work to address the issues of people living in poverty. This will involve building data integrity protocol, staff training, and data support for partner organizations. This position requires a self-starter with a passion for using quality information to help our community. Salary \$43,000 to \$50,000. DOE. Valid driver's license, vehicle and ability to travel around the San Luis Valley is required. Good communications and ability to train others is a must. Submit resumes to HR@lapuente.net. Resumes without phone numbers and an email will not be considered. (3/5/24)

CENTER FOR RESTORATIVE PROGRAMS has the following position(s) open: INTENSIVE CASE MANAGER (ICM II/III). Responsible for providing specialized intensive case management/ wraparound services to assigned caseload. At least 3-5 years experience providing wraparound services, intensive case management, advocating and working with adults with substance use and/or mental health disorders, homeless population, recovery support, and collaboration with community partners and families. Will work closely with community partners such as justice system, law enforcement, behavioral health, medical, housing, human services, schools and workforce development. Must be willing to travel, work some nights and weekends. Spanish speaking is a plus. **FOR BOTH POSITIONS:** See webpage for more details: restorativeprograms.org and email resume & cover letter to clarissa@restorativeprograms.org (3/5/24)

BOE OF CENTER SCHOOLS is now accepting applications for **CHILDCARE IN THE INFANT ROOM** for the 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR. Qualifications: Must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent, or such alternative to the above qualifications as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. All candidates must pass background checks and continuing education as needed. For information and application materials please visit 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. (3/12/24)

SANGRE DE CRISTO SCHOOL is looking for an ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL / ATHLETIC DIRECTOR for the 2024 / 2025 SCHOOL YEAR. Please see www.sangreschools.org for more information. (3/12/24)

SANGRE DE CRISTO SCHOOL DISTRICT is looking for a PART-TIME CURRICULUM help. For more information please contact Gary Fritz at 719-469-1221 or email gfritz@sangreschools.org. Applications may be downloaded from sdc.schooldesk.net under tab "about us". Position open until filled. (3/12/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

DEL NORTE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL is looking for an energetic and experienced candidate to serve as the district's STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COACH. This position will assume the responsibility and obligation of establishing and maintaining a strength and conditioning program for all sports. Additional responsibilities include teaching junior high school physical education and high school physical education/weight training courses. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree and either possess or be able to obtain the appropriate Colorado teaching license. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, DNHS Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Mrs. Hardy at 719-657-4020. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.urtigers.co.org. (3/5/24AS)

CAFETERIA STAFF NEEDED at UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. Must have a high school diploma and some knowledge of working in a kitchen or a willingness to be trained. Pay is dependent on prior experience. Please contact Leslie Martinez at 719-657-4040, x1100 or email her at lmartinez@urtigers.co. (3/5/24AS)

307 - APPLIANCES

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

314 - CLOTHING

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

324 - SEED & FEED

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

345 - WOOD

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

350 - FARM EQUIPMENT

ACETYLENE / OXYGEN WELDING BOTTLES. Acetylene bottle 27" Oxygen 43-5 with gauges, hoses, cutting torch, welding tips. Like new. \$850.00 OBO by 3-15-24. gjdixiel941@gmail.com (3/9/24)

353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

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

356 - MEAT & PRODUCE

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)

ANTIQUEROLL-UP DESK, 3 drawers - \$40. 719-298-2175. (3/5/24)
GLASS PATIO TABLE 3'x5' & 4 chairs - \$40. 719-298-2175. (3/5/24)

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

ADULT DIAPERS: MEDIUM or large, 18 per pack/\$10. 719-937-9373. (3/5/24)

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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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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)

611 - HOMES FOR RENT

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

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

701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

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

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

713 - PICKUP TRUCKS

FARM / RANCH WORK TRUCK with Northman snow plow and dump bed, 1979 Chevy, V8, standard, 4x4, hydraulic winch, \$4,500/obo. 719-742-3321. (3/8/24)

737 - RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

1985 TOYOTA, 123K, sleeps two, pottee, good FISHING VAN - \$2,200. 719-936-1031. (3/5/24)



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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hearsay
 - 5 Disposal site
 - 9 Group of whales
 - 12 Fever
 - 13 Dye plant
 - 14 "Tarzan the — Man"
 - 15 Rugged rock
 - 16 The Eternal City
 - 17 Forbid
 - 18 Turtled
 - 20 Pastoral poems
 - 22 "— of Eden"
 - 24 Honking bird
 - 25 Chilling
 - 28 Freshly
 - 30 "The Best Years of — Lives"
 - 31 Traffic problem
 - 35 Shoves off (2 wds.)
 - 38 "The Raven" poet
 - 39 Farm baby
 - 40 With tears in the eyes
- DOWN**
- 1 Diplomat's forte
 - 2 Taj Mahal city
 - 3 Seaside feast
 - 4 Beer blast
 - 5 Flits
 - 6 Numero —
 - 7 Girl in "La Boheme"
 - 8 Promised painter
 - 9 Picasso
 - 10 Gemstones

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 11 Not very bright
- 19 Animal fodder
- 21 Caterwaul
- 23 Import tax
- 25 "Mayday!"
- 26 Pool stick
- 27 Actor — Carney
- 29 Zilch
- 31 Liquid meas.
- 32 Harvest goddess
- 33 British crib
- 34 Indispensable
- 36 Bunny's tail
- 37 Glut
- 40 Chinese chairman
- 41 Composer — Berlin
- 42 Rub against
- 43 Russian communist leader
- 44 Group of eight
- 46 Fudd of cartoons
- 48 Talon
- 50 Actress — Adams
- 51 Singer — Horne
- 52 French river
- 55 Small guitar

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
				13				14		
				16				17		
			19			20		21		
		22			23		24			
25	26	27			28	29				
30				31				32	33	34
35			36	37				38		
		39				40	41			
42	43	44			45	46				
47				48		49		50	51	52
53				54		55		56		
57				58				59		
60				61				62		

ALLEY OOP

YOU'RE GOING TO RULE FROM YOUR CAVE, ALLEY?

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY: "A MAN'S HOME IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS."

I GUESS YOU HAVE PLENTY OF ROOM TO LIVE AND WORK IN THE SAME SPACE.

I KNOW! THIS USED TO BE MY BATHROOM!

THAT EXPLAINS THE HAIR AND FINGERNAILS EVERYWHERE.

ARLO & JANIS

HOW MUCH SHOULD WE DO THIS YEAR? WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN, OR WHEN.

WELL, BY SOMMER, WE MIGHT BE SHOWING THE HOUSE. WE'LL WANT THE BEDS TO BE PRETTY!

HUH.

YOU CHOOSE SOMETHING.

BIG NATE

SO! PETER! WHATTA YOU WANNA DO?

I'M READING.

BUT YOU CAN READ ANYTIME! I, ON THE OTHER HAND, AM ONLY HERE FOR FOUR HOURS!

USE ME AS A RESOURCE, PETER! I CAN TEACH YOU STUFF!

WHAT KIND OF SHITUFF?

LIFE LESSONS! BASED ON MY WISDOM AND EXPERI—

YOUR FLY ISH OPEN.

THE BORN LOSER

I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU'RE USING YOUR NEW E-READER, UNCLE TED.

YES, I DOWNLOADED AN EXCITING NEW MYSTERY. IT'S A REAL PAGE-TURNER!

OR SHOULD I SAY, IT'S A REAL "PAGE-SWIPER"!

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

FARLEY! EDGAR! SUPPERTIME!

GRUNCH MUNCH SNRCH GRUNCH MFF CRUNCH

SNRCH SNRCH

SNRCH GRUNCH MFF SNRCH GRUNCH

BOINK!

FRANK & ERNEST

DR. GARCIA VETERINARIAN WALK-INS WELCOME

GARFIELD

I'M MAKING CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

WITH ALMOND FLOUR, LOW-FAT MARGARINE...

AND SUGAR-FREE CHOCOLATE CHIPS

BOOP BEEP BEEP

YES, I'D LIKE TO REPORT A BAKING CRIME

THE GRIZZWELLS

I READ THAT FACEBOOK IS FULL OF MISINFORMATION AND HATE SPEECH

WHERE'D YOU READ THAT?

ON X

PEANUTS

YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY?

RUNNING AWAY IS THE EASY WAY OUT, CHARLIE BROWN!

NOT FOR ME IT ISN'T!

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN

THINK GRADE A LARGE

Woman's failing health is wearing down family

DEAR ABBY: My husband speaks to his mom every morning. For the past couple of months, her health has been failing, and she spends most of her days in the hospital having an extremely tough time. Hearing his mom suffer daily is affecting my husband's mental health. It sets the tone for the whole day, and I spend my mornings trying to cheer him up.

How do I tell him these daily conversations with his mom are starting to affect my mornings? Even the dog has begun showing signs of depression. Would I be selfish to suggest he needs to talk to her at a different time or maybe on fewer days? -- BYSTANDER IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR BYSTANDER: Your husband may not have much longer to talk with his very ill mother, so I don't recommend you approach the subject that way. What I do suggest is that you tell your husband how much you love him, and that you can see and feel his distress over her condition. Then suggest he talk with a mental health professional who can help him work this through, because you can see how much pain this is causing him. Then cross your fingers and hope he will realize how much he needs it.

DEAR ABBY: I am

writing this in the hope that the man of my dreams reads it. I don't know how to approach him. He's getting ready to retire, and I have fallen deeply in love with him as the years have gone by.

He's a little on the chubby side (as am I), but his personality has always amused me. Sometimes he poses "sexy" as a joke and will often show his belly-button. I find him staring at me out of the corner of his eye most days. Please help before it's too late. I'm running out of time. -- HIS DREAM GUY IN TENNESSEE

DEAR DREAM GUY: You stated that your dream man is getting ready to retire. I can't think of a better reason for a celebration. Suggest the two of you go out for a drink or dinner after work "so you can toast his upcoming retirement." Then cross your fingers that he agrees. It could be the start of something beautiful.

DEAR ABBY: My husband suffered a stroke eight years ago. Everyone thinks he's fine physically and mentally, except those closest to him. We know his brain doesn't function the same. Example: When he went to fill out a job application, he asked me whose name should be put in the applicant field.

He occasionally had a



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

short temper, but in recent months, he has grown verbally abusive to the point that I'm considering divorcing him. Anything can set him off, and there is no correct reaction from me. I am going to seek counseling. Any other advice for me? -- READY TO LEAVE IN DELAWARE

DEAR DELAWARE: I do have one other bit of advice. You stated that "everyone" thinks your husband is fine physically and mentally. Are you including his doctors in that statement? Forgetting to put one's own name on a job application and having a recent personality change could be signs of dementia. You should let them know you are worried so he can be evaluated.