



People land in Monte Vista for Crane Festival

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Badgers maul Mustangs to win state title

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

March 12, 2024

\$1



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SLV Today

Alamosa

Comprehensive Plan meetings

ALAMOSA COUNTY—Public meetings regarding the Comprehensive Plan for the county continue. On Tuesday, March 12, at the Mosca Pit Stop from 7:30-9:30 a.m.; Tuesday, March 12, at Tienda El Quetzal, 1435 Main St. in Alamosa from 2-4 p.m.; and on Wednesday, March 13, at The Sanctuary at 607 Fourth St. in Alamosa from 8-11 a.m.

Alamosa County seeks RGWCD board representative

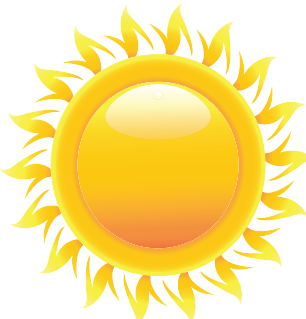
ALAMOSA COUNTY — The Alamosa County Board of Commissioners have announced a "Notice of Vacancy" and are accepting applications for one position to represent Alamosa County on the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board.

Expectations of a board member is to attend the meetings and actively engage in the direction and budget of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board.

Those interested in applying for the Board must fill out an application. It may be found at www.alamosacounty.colorado.gov/commissions-boards.

Applications will be accepted until they are filled. Send your information to Jamie Greeman, Executive Assistant, 8900-A Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101 or to jgreeman@alamosacounty.org.

SLV WEATHER



Mostly Sunny, Breezy 56/24

Wed: Chance of Snow, Breezy 52/23

Thurs: Snow, Breezy 44/21

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MVPD Police Chief selected as Alamosa Police Chief

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Monte Vista Police Chief George Dingfelder has accepted the position of Chief with the Alamosa Police Department (APD). He will begin working for the APD on May 6. He replaces former Chief Ken Anderson who resigned last December.

"I am honored to be selected as the next Chief of Police for the City of Alamosa and look forward to working with the dedicated of-

ficers of the Alamosa Police Department," Dingfelder said in a statement issued by the city on Monday. "I thank the City of Alamosa for giving me this opportunity to serve the citizens of Alamosa and the San Luis Valley in a profession I have dedicated my entire adult life to."

Dingfelder is not unfamiliar with the workings of the APD as, during former Police Chief Anderson's tenure, there were multiple times that the two law enforcement agencies co-oper-

ated on major felony cases. The co-operation was frequent and effective, ultimately culminating in an inter-agency agreement approved by the Alamosa City Council making it an accepted part of procedures, when necessary.

According to the city's press release announcing the decision, Dingfelder has a long history of law enforcement service that includes six years in the US Army Military Police, 25 years in the

■ See CHIEF page 3



George Dingfelder

Alamosa County Commissioners to meet Wednesday

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — County commissioners will discuss numerous issues at their regular meeting this week including an update from Rio Grande National Forest officials, a briefing from Xcel Energy on transmission lines, and a request by a board member of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District to be nominated for another term.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 13, at 8:30 a.m., in the Commissioners Chambers located at 8900 Independence Way in Alamosa and via Zoom with meeting ID 270-314-6874.

During the Public Hearings section of the meeting, a "resolution appropriating additional sums of money to defray expenses in excess of

■ See MEET page 3

Fire destroys well house

A rural water well house was destroyed by fire Saturday night in the 4000 block of County Road 101, southwest of Alamosa. Capt. Zach Cerny, of the Alamosa Fire Department, said a space heater was the apparent cause of the fire that firefighters responded to about 10:30 p.m., finding the structure fully involved in flames. Nine AFD personnel with three trucks were on scene for about two hours.

Courtesy photo



National Park to hold public meetings on transit issues

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

SAN LUIS VALLEY — Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve will hold public meetings this week to discuss proposed transit ideas for the park.

Like many national parks, visitation to Great Sand Dunes has skyrocketed in recent years. In 2023, 512,219 people visited, more than double the number from a decade ago. The park has one main entrance to access the dunes, and on summer weekends visitors experience long waits to enter the park. Access to the park is available via Liberty Gate (near Crestone) Mosca Pass and Medano Pass on the east side of the Sangre de Cristo range.

In a statement to the Valley Courier regarding the geographic core of the plan,

■ See ISSUES page 3



NPS courtesy photo

The National Park Service is holding two public meetings this week to discuss transportation issues in the park. The park is seeking public feedback regarding proposed ideas the park service is considering to address challenges posed by increased visitation. In this file photo, finding a parking spot near the dunes on summer weekends can be daunting.

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Record

OBITUARIES

Richard 'Ricky' Atencio



Richard "Ricky" Atencio, 30, of San Jose, Calif., passed away on March 3, 2024, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Ricky was a very generous and amazing man who always took care of his loved ones, ensuring they felt safe, protected, and happy. He had a hard-working and hardheaded nature, always on the move and cheering on the underdog.

Ricky's vibrant personality made him the life of the party, a big kid at heart who could bring laughter to anyone's face.

Ricky was a devoted son, brother, father to Urijah and Xzavier, uncle, and boyfriend. He touched the lives of everyone he met and will be deeply missed.

A business owner by profession, Ricky had a passion for hunting, fishing, dirt bike and ATV riding, hiking, basketball, and cooking. He dedicated his time to helping youth and the community, leaving a positive impact wherever he went.

The funeral service to honor Ricky's life will be held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Conejos on March 15 at 11 a.m.

May his legacy of love and laughter live on in the hearts of those who knew him.

To Leave online condolences, please visit; romero-funeralhomes.com. The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Valley Funeral Home of Alamosa.

He is survived by his father Steven Atencio, mother Laurie Atencio, sons, siblings Amanda, Shawn, Steven M, and Debbie, and girlfriend Jenna.

Ricky leaves behind cherished memories in the hearts of his family and friends.

Yolanda Pepita Duncan



On Feb. 29, 2024, our amazing sister, Tia, niece, cousin, friend, Yolanda Duncan, has joined her beloved son, Tomas, in heaven. Yolanda was born on Sept. 29, 1957, in Alamosa, Colo., to Amadeo and Pepita Martinez.

Yolanda was a force of nature, the life of the party, she was a friend to all, with a personality bigger than life. Tia Yoli loved children and all children loved her. She loved her nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews more than life itself. She greeted each friend or stranger with a smile and a story and if there were children around, she took off to play with them.

Yolanda married the love of her life, Dave and together they built a thriving business, San Luis Valley Title. They traveled the world together and had many wonderful adventures.

Yolanda is survived by

her siblings, Fernando Martinez, Bernadette Lucero (Ron) and Roberta Martinez. Her Nieces and Nephews, Elina Martinez, Ronnie Lucero (Amber), Christina Lucero (Eddie), Avelina Martinez, Marcelo Martinez (Nancy), Carlos Martinez, Rafael Martinez (Luci), Ismael Sandoval (Nicole), Andrew Sandoval (Desiree) special niece, Charlie Valencia, and her great nieces and nephews Gabriel, Dominik, Isiah, Victoria, Ricardo, Adela, Angelo, Liana, Emilio, Amelia,

Enrique, Valeria, Aziel, Priscilla, Liliana, Arryn, James and Luke.

She was preceded in death by her son, Tomas Mondragon, husband David Duncan, her parents Amadeo and Pepita Martinez, her brother, Lorenzo Martinez, niece, Little Pepita Martinez, nephew, Little Emanuel Martinez, her sister-in-law, Priscilla Martinez, nephew, Luis Sandoval and numerous family members

Rosary will be held on Friday, March 15, at 6 p.m. at Romero Funeral Home in Alamosa, Colo. Funeral services will be held at Sacred Heart Church in Alamosa, Colo., on Saturday March 16, beginning with a Eulogy at 10:45 a.m. and Mass will start at 11 a.m. Reception to follow at the Parish Hall next to the church.

Arrangements are in the care of Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa, Colo.

Billie Kathleen Carpenter



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

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

Throughout her life, Bil-

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

Billie is survived by her loving spouse of 64 years, Donald Carpenter, who stood by her side through thick and thin. She will be deeply missed by her children: Gregory (Kendra Burns) Carpenter, Kenneth (Carrie) Carpenter, and Shawna (Eid) Fakhouri. In addition to her immediate family, Billie leaves behind a legacy of love and kindness for her grandchildren: Nicole (Eddie) Valdez, Cody (Aleisha) Carpenter, Michelle Hathaway, Jessica (Jacob) Hathaway, Stephen Hathaway, Zachary Carpenter, Kameron Carpenter, Savannah Fakhouri, Sophia Fakhouri, Samuel Fakhouri, and her great-grandchildren Jace Quintana, Jayla Quintana, Haylee Carpenter and Kinslee Carpenter as well as numerous nieces, neph-

ews and extended family.

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

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

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

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

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

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission to meet March 13-14

By COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

DENVER — At a hybrid meeting on March 13-14 in Denver, the Parks and Wildlife Commission will open for final consideration on modifications to the federal duck stamp requirements and the Harvest Information Program, the season dates for small game and migratory game birds, and regulations related to SB23-276, Chatfield State Park Water Quality Fee.

The Commission will open for annual review on regulations to modify disqualification factors for participation in the Landowner Preference Program and implementing SB23-059, Local Access Funding to State Parks and Wildlife Areas.

The Commission will also discuss 2025-2029 Big Game Season Structure (BGSS) staff recommendations and receive public comment on BGSS.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. on March 13 and recess at 4:50 p.m. The Commission will reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on March 14 and adjourn at 4:55 p.m. The meeting will be streamed live on CPW's YouTube page.

Additional agenda items include:

- Department of Natural Resources Update
- Department of Agriculture Update
- Financial Update
- Wolves Update

- GOCO Update
- 2024 Non-Motorized Trail and Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Funding Recommendations
- Colorado Lottery Overview
- Staunton State Park Update
- CPW's Social Science (Human Dimensions) Research Program
- Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative Update
- Update on Implementation of HB 23-1036 (Nontoxic Bullet Replacement Hunting Program)
- Draw Process Workshop

A complete agenda along with all materials for this meeting can be found on the CPW website for public review. The public is encouraged to email written comments to the commission at dnr_cpwcommission@state.co.us. Details on providing public comments for hybrid meetings are available on the CPW website.

The Commission meets regularly and travels to communities around the state to facilitate public participation. Anyone can listen to commission meetings through the CPW website. This opportunity keeps con-

stituents informed about the development of regulations and how the commission works with Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff to manage the parks, wildlife and outdoor recreation programs administered by the agency.



PENDING OBITUARY

Richard Dick Doyle

Richard Dick Doyle passed away March 9, 2024, in Leesburg, Va. Obit to follow.

ALAMOSA POLICE REPORT

Alamosa Police Department report March 1 to March 7, 2024

Lorenzo Montoya, 19, of Monte Vista was cited for expired plates (30-59 days).

Moses Martinez, 20, of Del Norte was cited for exhibition of speed.

Miriam White, 55, of Colorado Springs was cited for speeding (20-39 over).

Stephanie Jones, 61, of Alamosa was cited for careless driving, uninsured vehicle.

Joseph Kelly, 49, of Alamosa was cited for theft under \$300, trespassing.

Devon Sanchez, 33, of Alamosa was cited for unregistered vehicle, un-

insured vehicle, driving under restraint.

Nicholas Hepworth, 41, of Alamosa was cited for unlawful distribution of controlled substance, unlawful possession of controlled substance, vehicle had defective/no stop lights, special offender, complicity.

Sahra Gallegos, 38, of Alamosa was cited for unlawful distribution of controlled substance, unlawful possession of controlled substance, vehicle had defective/no stop lights, special offender, complicity.

Stacy Dawson, 24, of Monte Vista was cited for careless driving causing bodily injury.

Mary Snyder, 71, of Alamosa was cited for dog at large.

Dominic Garcia, 45, of Center was cited for 3rd degree assault.

Kyle Bryant, 34, of Alamosa was cited for prohibited use of weapon.

Johnathan Richardson, 28, of Alamosa was cited for criminal mischief.

Michael Jiron, 62, of Antonito was cited for speeding (10-19 over).

Ariel Devora, 32, of Alamosa was cited for speeding (10-19 over).

Danny Gallegos, 56, of La Jara was cited for changing lanes when unsafe, failing to notify police of accident.

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Tuesday
March 12, 2024

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Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY
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Tater Tots
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL
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Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL
Sloppy Joes
Tater Tots
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

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Valley News

Colorado lawmakers pass bill to narrow open meetings law for Legislature

By SARA WILSON
Colorado Newswire
The Colorado Legislature gave final approval Monday to a bill that narrows the scope of the state's open meetings law as it relates to state lawmakers.

Senate Bill 24-157 would define the type of behavior and communication that falls under the open meetings law and what constitutes a public meeting. A public meeting that requires a notice and recorded minutes would involve a contemporaneous quorum of a public body — meaning a quorum of a chamber, party caucus or committee happening in real time, as opposed to a series of electronic

communications or one-on-one meetings that in sum would reach a quorum — discussing public business. Public business, as defined in the bill, includes introduced legislation and drafted legislation being discussed by a quorum. That would allow smaller groups of law-

makers to meet without notice. The bill also clarifies that electronic communications like text messages and emails are not meetings, but they do fall under the state's open records act. The bill is sponsored by Democratic leadership from both chambers. They say it is an

attempt to codify current practice and accommodate the often informal day-to-day process lawmakers partake in to develop a bill without violating the law. "None of this is shielding the public from being able to see what we're doing," House Speaker Pro Tempore Chris deGruy Kennedy, a Lakewood Democrat, said.

if they are considered "work product." On Monday, House Republicans attempted to return the bill to committee for further deliberation. "We all know that there are things that need to be brushed upon and looked at as time changes, but we weren't fully involved," Assistant Minority Leader Ty Winter, a Trinidad Republican, said. "We don't feel that our constituents and stakeholders were fully involved in this process. I believe that we missed an opportunity for both sides, along with our citizens, to get together to try and come up with a piece of legislation that would make all sides happy."

That motion failed, though three Democrats voted in favor of it. That included Democratic Reps. Elisabeth Epps of Denver and Bob Marshall of Highlands Ranch, who sued the chamber last year over alleged violations of the open meetings law. There was no debate on the bill from either party ahead of the second reading vote on Friday.

The House passed SB-157 on a 39-22 vote, with six Democrats opposed. It passed the Senate on a 21-12 vote earlier this month. The bill now heads to the governor's desk. CFOIC contends that the bill could allow lawmakers to debate and form policy through electronic communication and evade public scrutiny. Those messages might not fall under open records guidelines

Bill Metz Elementary, Kindness Club donate to MV Food Bank

By MARIE MCCOLM
MONTE VISTA — Monte Vista Emergency Food Bank Executive Director Jennifer Becker, volunteer Lyle Dye, Monte Vista Mayor Dale Becker, and MV City Clerk Unita Vance smiled on March 5 as the Kindness Club brought donations it and fellow students of Bill Metz Elementary had collected.



Photos by Marie McColm
The Kindness Club brought donations it and fellow students of Bill Metz Elementary had collected to the Monte Vista Emergency Food Bank on March 5.

The kids were smiling too, as they made the donation to the food bank. The food was extra special, because each food item had also been adorned with paper hearts and other loving decorations that were made especially for the donation by the Kindness Club and students from Bill Metz Elementary. Each decoration also had a kind saying on it.

Facilitators for the Kindness Club, Francisca Archuleta and Lorelyn Buss, were excited about the donation. Archuleta said, "We passed out these hearts back in February and told the kids to decorate them however they wanted to. Each heart has words of kindness, beautiful sayings, the kids worked hard on these. The decorations were attached to a non-perishable food item. Everyone who receives a food item will also get one of these decorations, with these beautiful sayings. There were many students at Bill Metz who

donated. We are happy to be able to help the Monte Vista Food Bank and spread some love and kindness."

Jennifer Becker said the kids did an incredible job. "This is just so wonderful and awesome," she said. "Right now, the food bank is in a pretty dire situation, that we are trying to get ourselves out of. The extra food is well welcomed. These kids donated and collected enough donations from other students at Bill Metz to feed at least 5 families. This big donation is very much appreciated. It was really touching. I am going to save all the little hearts that were all over the food and hang them up in the lobby for everyone to enjoy."

Becker said that it meant a lot to her for the kids to come and donate the way they did, and the



food would help the community immensely. Becker smiled when she received the food and gave many of the kids hugs and high fives thanking them for collecting the food. Mayor Dale Becker was also pleased with the donation and said that he enjoyed seeing the kids help the community. "It does my heart good

to see all these young people involved in this. Kindness goes a lot further," he said. For more information or to donate to the food bank, contact Jennifer Becker at 719-852-4851 or email jbeckermvfoodbank@gmail.com. Donations can also be dropped off at 245 Washington St. in Monte Vista.

Dark Sky code amendments city council work session March 13

CONTRIBUTED
ALAMOSA — City Council will be discussing the impacts of suggested changes to land use regulations in order to reduce light pollution and support the creation of the Sangre de Cristo Dark Sky Reserve. SLV GO! has been spearheading an effort to achieve an "International Dark Sky Reserve" designation from the Dark Sky International (DSI) for

the San Luis Valley. The process for "International Dark Sky Reserve" designation requires robust community support from the region, including changes to land use regulations. Alamosa is discussing how the related potential code changes would affect new construction, existing light fixtures, lighted signs, lighting infrastructure (i.e. street lights), and

public safety. The work session will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 300 Hunt Avenue, at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. The City highly encourages anyone who has an opinion or questions on this topic to attend this public meeting either in person or via Zoom using the following information: Webinar Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85753492744> or Dial-In Number: 1-719-359-4580, Webinar ID: 857 5349 2744.

While public comment is not part of a work session, the information presented and discussed will help individuals provide input to City Council and staff after the meeting and or during a regular meeting when City Council considers the item for action.

Chief

Continued from Page 1
Colorado State Patrol, and four years as Chief of Police for the City of Monte Vista. While serving with the Colorado State Patrol, Dingfelder moved up through the ranks, ultimately serving as the Major overseeing field operations for District 5, comprised of 17 counties, including the San Luis Valley. "Chief Dingfelder brings not only a strong technical background to the position, but he also brings superb leadership skills and a strong

moral code," the statement reads. "[He] dedicates himself to continuous learning for himself and all his staff. Beyond his long history of law enforcement service, Chief Dingfelder also volunteers on state and local boards and committees." In the statement, City Manager Heather Sanchez cited Dingfelder's "knowledge and professionalism", adding, "He continuously works for the best of the community and is gifted at bringing people and agencies together to tackle issues. That is exactly what we need for the complex, challenging issues we are

working on." She then acknowledged the contribution made by APD Capt. Joey Spangler, who served as Interim Police Chief after Anderson's departure. "He has jumped in and made several changes to strengthen the Police Department and has ensured that service to the community remained a priority. His competency has allowed us to take our time with the process and to allow time for Chief Dingfelder to help the City of Monte Vista with the transition," she stated. Dingfelder's statement also acknowledged the

years he has spent with MVPD. "I also greatly appreciate the citizens and the City of Monte Vista for the support they gave to me and the Monte Vista Police Department," he said. "Over the past four years the Monte Vista Police Department has made significant impacts to the drug trade with a group of professional and well-trained officers who continue to make Monte Vista a safer community." Sanchez also thanked the members of the committee for all the work involved in interviewing and hiring a new Chief of Police.

Meet

Continued from Page 1
amounts budgeted for the county," will be presented by Maricruz Mora. Alamosa County Land Use and Buildings Director Richard Hubler will discuss a Special Use Permit for a self-storage facility at 895 Highway 160 for applicant Clarence Lee Ridgely. The facility calls for nine buildings to be built, "plus designation of roughly one acre for the display of vehicles and farm equipment for sale." A Special Use Permit for Lee Welch to develop a minor subdivision at 2561 Lane 9N to subdivide an existing quarter section into two tracts. A minor subdivision

proposal by Preston Porter of Alamosa Storage LLC to subdivide an existing 9.5-acre tract into three lots of 3.1 acres will also be discussed. A replat and minor subdivision application by Daniel Russell to replat three tracts totaling 102.67-acres into eight tracts will be discussed. Richard Hubler will speak about the Alamosa Comprehensive Plan kickoff. The county began holding public meetings on the plan Monday. In a letter to commissioners, Greg Higel, who has served on the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board since 2000, requests the commissioners nominate him to serve another three-year term.

Issues

Continued from Page 1
Andrea Compton, Superintendent of Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve said, "The current planning efforts do not include any changes to the Liberty Gate entrance area or any other options near Crestone. We focused on the southern end of the park to address congestion, safety, and resource concerns there with the facilities affiliated with visitors driving to and from the park from the southern entry of the Park and Preserve, and the parking lots affiliated with visitors going to Medano Creek and the Dunes themselves from the southern entry. "If there are congestion, safety, and damages to resources in the Crestone/Liberty Gate area, we would certainly like to hear about those, however, we did not address those nor have any pro-

posals for changes at this time at the northern part of the Park & Preserve." The planning effort focuses on reducing congestion into and in the park, enabling visitors to have a more enjoyable park experience. On Wednesday, March 13, from 6 to 8 p.m., there will be a meeting on the plan with national park staff at the Rio Grande Water Conservation District at 8900 Independence Way in Alamosa. On March 14, from 6 to 8 p.m., the park service will have a meeting at the Baca National Wildlife Refuge office at 69812 County Road T. The refuge is located 10.5 miles east of Highway 17 on the Road, near Crestone. A public comment period runs through March 29. The park service will analyze and consider all comments and then a draft environmental assessment will likely be released by the fall of 2024. A final decision is expected early next year.

Lifestyles



'Living Energy, Fox and Raven' by Stephen Quiller

Quiller receives American Watercolor Society Award

CONTRIBUTED
Stephen Quiller has received the Marilyn Hughey Phillis Memorial Award with \$2,750 that will be presented at the 157th Annual International Exhibition Awards Banquet on Friday, April 26 at the Salmagundi Club in Manhattan.

This year's entries included artists from 28

different countries. This society was founded in 1866 and Winslow Homer was one of the early exhibitors.

Quiller's painting "Living Energy, Fox & Raven", depicts an aura energy emanating from a live spruce with a raven and a fox, representing sky and earth.

He also has a feature article in the March is-

sue of Plein Air Magazine. The article is on extended overseas painting travels and how to strategize the maximum painting experience for the artist during their stay. The issue can be purchased in the art section of most magazine stores, or it can be ordered online at www.pleinairmagazine.com or 561-655-8778

CRT boasts educational and CMAC programs for coming season

By **LYNDSIE FERRELL**
CREEDE — Creede Repertory Theatre (CRT) has a year of discovery planned for the 2024 season and alongside the many unique and colorful productions, the theatre also has several educational programs for adults and youth as well as a schedule of musical programs through the Creede Musical Arts Collective (CMAC).

One of the longest standing educational programs offered through CRT is the Young Audience Outreach Tour. This program has offered musical and theatrical art education to over 40,000 young people in the 40 years the program has been in place. This educational outreach has brought the joy and fun of theatrical education to several rural schools throughout the southwestern US and continues to grow each year.

This season, the Young Audience Outreach Tour will be bringing "Coyote and the Counting Game" to students beginning Aug. 30. Each production comes with a book that is passed out to students and this year the book and lyrics are by Diana Grisanti with music by Emiliano Messiez.

According to the play's

description, "Gaby's having a rough year. She's failing third grade math, her genius brother is about to go off to college, and her parents won't buy her the drum set of her dreams. But when a crafty Coyote comes into her life, she discovers that she might be able to trick her way out of her troubles. A modern-day trickster tale, full of fractions, word problems, and good old-fashioned sibling rivalry."

Another annual educational program brought to the community has been captivating students ages 10 to 18 since 2003 and this year will be no exception. This year's production will be "Maximum Conflict and External Strife." This is a comedy written by Steve Moulds and directed by Tyler Horn.

"There's a new role-playing game that's all the rage — though not everyone's a fan. Some kids find the game's wall-to-wall fighting exhausting. And parents are worried that it's making their kids angrier. But when one family casts a magic spell that sucks them inside the game, they have to navigate the cartoonishly violent world of Maximum Conflict to find their way back home."

Not only is the theatre

continuing with their exceptional educational programs, but they will be again offering musical programs through the Creede Musical Arts Collective and the Summer Concert Series.

"On the Stage of Sondheim: A Musical Adventure" is bound to bring a dash of class to Creede this summer. "Sondheim reaches new heights in Creede..."

Creede Rep teams up with the spectacular artists at Creede Musical Arts Collective (CMAC) to bring you a one-of-a-kind concert series. Complementing our season of discovery, each concert will be a fresh experience with a rotating catalog of prolific songs and performers from both organizations who will use the magic of Stephen Sondheim to delight your ears and your heart this summer."

The Creede Musical Arts Collective has brought music to the streets of Creede since 2021 and is known for popping up in wonderful places throughout town and during events to share their musical talents with visitors and residents alike.

Discover what CRT has in store by visiting www.creederep.org, to see a full schedule or to purchase tickets.

Celebrating the San Luis Valley Nonprofits

Planting Seeds of Community

MARCH 2024

In our community, the key to success is togetherness. As a team, we have to unite to promote the San Luis Valley and all that we have to offer. Valley Courier and Valley Publishing are proud to present a publication in which we will be doing just that!

In honor of Nonprofits in the San Luis Valley, we'll be publishing a special edition on March 27th. This publication will be created and distributed through the Valley Courier, Monte Vista Journal, Del Norte Prospector, South Fork Times, Mineral County Miner, Center Post Dispatch, and Conejos County Citizen.

Special advertising rates have been developed for this once-a-year event, and include other incredible benefits. We will match your purchased advertising space and provide an equal amount of space for your organization to submit an article, photo, or combination of both. Or you can simply double the size of your ad!

This tabloid section which will be delivered to more than 9,000 Valley homes will also be overprinted for each organization to have copies to use to promote their own interests.

Your Options Include:

1/4 Pg. \$299
(1/2 Pg. with the Matching Space)

1/2 Pg. \$499
(Full Pg. with the Matching Space)

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Valley Courier

(ISSN 1047-1170)

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Lifestyles

People land in Monte Vista for Crane Festival

By MARIE MCCOLM
MONTE VISTA— People from the San Luis Valley and outside of it were in Monte Vista on March 8-10 for the 41st annual Monte Vista Crane Festival.

The Craft and Nature Fair took place all three days at the Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski-Hi Complex.

Dozens of vendors were set up inside with baked goods, homemade items, wood working, specialty craft crafts, clothing, and jewelry.

The Monte Vista Emergency Food Bank was at the fair selling all kinds of goodies. The Kindness Club had a booth, Pam Self of the Homelake Veterans Living Center was also at the craft show.

Alfonso Duran was a vendor at the trade show and said, "I am happy to be here. This morning was a sheet of ice coming in. I live in Bailey, Colorado. This is my fourth or fifth time here. I missed the year when there was COVID. This is the first time I have ever come with snow out here, usually it's beautiful when the cranes come in. It's been a little slow this morning, but I bet it will pick up by this afternoon. Same thing yesterday. I enjoyed the Crane Festival. Lots to see."

Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce Manager Heather Hillin was at the vendor event and said, "Things are going well. We have had a lot of people come out. We look forward to a lot more. The snow won't slow it down. I think it's going well despite the snow."

In addition to the Craft and Nature Fair, there were crane tours that took place mornings and evenings on Friday and

Saturday, and Sunday morning. The crane tours ranged from the Baca Wetlands, to Homelake, and the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge. The tours were expert led and included viewing of multiple different wildlife, including ducks, geese, owls, and Sandhill Cranes. The weather was chilly but each morning the buses left for the tours, and the tours were all sold out. New this year was a Spanish led tour.

An art exhibit took place featuring artist Jocelyn Catterson. The movie "Migration" was also shown at Vali 3 Theatre for free. The animated movie followed a family of ducks on the vacation of a lifetime.

Marigold Watson and her daughter Daisy of Crestone were in town in front of the Sandhill wings mural on the side of the Elks Lodge in downtown Monte Vista, taking pictures.

Watson said, "My daughter was all excited about taking a picture in front of these wings. This is her first time experiencing cranes, she just turned 5, and she giggled when I took her out to the

refuge, and she watched the cranes flying around. I would recommend locals and out of towners to come to this every year. I come every year. This is an experience that you will never forget. Whether you go on a crane tour or drive yourself there, I did both, you just can't forget the beauty of the cranes, how they roost, how they fly, and how they play together. It is one of the most breathtaking experiences I have ever had. I also now have memories with my daughter, and I know she won't forget it either. An amazing experience for the San Luis Valley and Monte Vista."

The fifth annual Swoop of the Cranes art project was also on display throughout downtown. Blank steel cranes were painted by local artists and hung on light poles right before the Crane Festival for people to enjoy.

Even though the festival is over, the cranes will be here for a couple of weeks. Local and out of town residents are encouraged to drive to the refuge and experience the cranes during their spring migration.



Photo by Brian Williams

Sandhill cranes seen Sunday morning in a grain field at the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge.



Photo by Marie McColm

The Craft and Nature Fair took place all three days of the 41st annual Monte Vista Crane Festival at the Outcalt Event and Conference at SLV Ski-Hi Complex.

THANK YOU
 for your AmeriCorps Service!

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

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Sports

Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD THURSDAY
Pagosa Springs 10, Del Norte 0

FRIDAY
Prep baseball
Eagle Valley 8, Alamosa 1
Gunnison 10, Monte Vista 4

SATURDAY
Prep boys basketball
Flatirons Academy 65, Sierra Grande 55
Limon 54, Sanford 27

Prep baseball
Summit 14, Alamosa 4, 5 inn.
College baseball
Regis 18, Adams State 14
Regia 12, Adams State 5

College women's softball
Black Hills State (S.D.) 7, Adams State 2
Black Hills State (S.D.) 2, Adams State 0

SUNDAY
College baseball
Adams State 8, Regis 6
Regis 23, Adams State 10, 7 inn.
College women's softball
Black Hills State (S.D.) 4, Adams State 3
Black Hills State (S.D.) 10, Adams State 2, 5 inn.

SCHEDULE TUESDAY
Prep baseball
Sargent at Centauri, 4 p.m.
Prep girls soccer
Alamosa at Ignacio, 4 p.m.
College men's lacrosse
William Jewell (Mo.) at Adams State, 1 p.m.

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

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

FRIDAY
Prep boys basketball
Arby's All-Star Game (at Plachy Hall), 8 p.m.
Prep girls basketball
Arby's All-Star Game (at Plachy Hall), 6 p.m.

Prep baseball
Alamosa vs. North Fork (Delta Invitational), 11 a.m.
Swink at Centauri (2), 11 a.m.
La Veta at Sierra Grande (2), 2:30 p.m.
Alamosa vs. Gunnison (Delta Invitational), 4 p.m.
Monte Vista at Rocky Ford/Fowler Invitational (at Fowler), TBA

Prep track and field
Antonito, Centauri, Sargent, Sierra Grande at Bayfield Invitational, 9 a.m.
College women's basketball

Adams State vs. Texas-Permian Basin (NCAA Division II South Central Region Tournament at Denton, Texas), 6:30 p.m.

College baseball
Adams State at Colorado Christian, 3 p.m.
College outdoor track and field
Adams State at Dr. Dan Caprioglio Invitational (at Pueblo), TBA

Badgers maul Mustangs to win state title

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor

LOVELAND – The sixth-ranked Sanford High School boys basketball team saw its season come to a disappointing end on Saturday as it was defeated by fifth-ranked Limon for the Class 2A state championship at Blue Arena.

The Badgers took off to an early 9-0 lead on a pair of 3-point baskets by Aiden Kollath, and Jordan Rockwell scored three more points. Lincoln Reynolds put the Mustangs on the board, but Treyton Marx made two free throws and Rockwell drained a three for a 14-2 advantage.

Trason Gartrell scored back-to-back layups on steals to close the deficit to 14-6, but Kollath made another trey and Limon led 17-6 at the end of the first quarter.

Sanford was able to stay within the 11-point deficit for the first part of the second quarter, but Limon finished the period with an 8-0 run with Rockwell scoring five of them, and it had a 29-12 advantage at halftime.

Limon outscored Sanford 9-7 in the third quarter with the Badgers leading 38-19 at the end of the period.

Limon used free throw shooting in the fourth quarter to pull away as it converted 11 out of 17 attempts.

Cash Caldon led Sanford with nine points. Jordan Rockwell led all scorers with 27 points, followed by Aiden Kollath with 11.

Sanford ends the season with 22 wins and five losses.

Limon 54, Sanford 27

Sanford – A. Sittler 0 2-2 2, Caldon 2 4-6 9, B. Sittler 2 0-0 4, Reynolds 2 2-2 6, Gartrell 2 0-2 4, Larson 0 0-0 0, B. Faucette 0 0-0 0, Fairhurst 0 0-0 0, E. Larsen 0 0-0 0, C. Canty 0 0-0 0, McCarroll 0 0-0 0, J. Faucette 0 0-0 0, T. Canty 0 1-4 1, C. Larsen 0 1-2 1. Total 8-10-18 27.

3-point goals – Caldon 1. Total 1.
Limon – Kollath 4 0-0 11, Rockwell 7 10-10 27, Bennett 1 1-2 4, Jaques 1 1-2 3, Marx 2 2-4 6, Tacha 0 0-0 0, Beedy 0 0-0 0, Scherrer 0 0-0 0, Grimes 0 0-0 0, Trujillo 0 0-0 0, Bee 0 0-0 0, Jaklich 0 0-0 0, Forristall 0 0-0 0, Mellott 0 3-6 3. Total 15 17-24 54.

3-point goals – Kollath 3, Rockwell 3, Bennett 1. Total 7.
Sanford 6 6 7 8-27
Limon 17 12 9 16-54
Fouls – Sanford 18, Limon 13. Fouled out – Caldon. Technical foul – Caldon.

Flatirons Academy 65, Sierra Grande 55



Sanford High School's Lincoln Reynolds (20) attempts a shot over Limon's Treyton Marx (25) in the Class 2A state championship game Saturday at Blue Arena in Loveland. The Mustangs lost to the Badgers 54-27.

Courier photo by Ken Hamrick

GREELEY – The season came to an end for the Sierra Grande High School boys basketball team as it lost to Flatirons Academy 65-55 Saturday in the Class 1A State Tournament fifth place game at the University of Northern Colorado's Bank of Colorado Arena.

Three Panthers scored in double figures and they were led by Manuel Miranda with

16 points. Jadyn Martinez scored 15 and Aron Ojeda scored 14.

Parker Wilson led the Bison with 21 points, followed by Jude Meyer with 15, and Pistol Chavez with 13.

Scores by quarters were unavailable
Sierra Grande finished the season with a record of 19 wins and seven losses.

Hyde Secures Two Titles; Grizzlies Claim Back-to-Back Championships for the First Time

By ERIC R. FLORES
ASU sports information

PITTSBURG, Kan. – Surviving late drama in the final event and senior Gracie Hyde clinching two individual titles, the Adams State University women's indoor track and field team won their sixth NCAA Division II (1992-Present) championship Saturday night inside the Robert Plaster Center on the campus of Pittsburg State University.

The Grizzlies now boast seven overall titles, including their 1985 NAIA triumph, alongside previous DII victories in 2008, 2014, 2017, 2019, and 2023. This marks the first consecutive championship for the Grizzlies, securing title No. 41 for Head Coach Damon Martin (22 women's cross country, 10 men's cross country, 6 women's indoor track & field, 2 men's indoor track & field, 1 men's outdoor track & field). The win is Adams State's 42nd



The Adams State University women's indoor track and field team won the NCAA Division II championship for the second straight year Saturday in Pittsburg, Kan. Also pictured are members of the men's team which finished in third place.

Courtesy photo/ASU sports information

NCAA Division II title and Adams State is the active leader in national titles. Abilene Christian is first with 57 team titles.

In a nail-biting team race on Saturday, Adams State narrowly edged past Pittsburg State with a 2.5-point victory, finishing 67-64.5.

On the men's front, the Grizzlies secured third place with 55 points.

Despite their efforts, the host Gorillas claimed the team title with 69 points, also going back-to-back, while Grand Valley State's late surge pushed them past the Grizzlies with a total of 56.5 points.

Hyde clinched her first title in the mile, dominating with a time of 4:38.74, followed by a commanding win in the 3,000-meter run at

9:22.44. Senior Brianna Robles contributed to the team's success with a third-place finish in 9:25.73.

Additionally, sophomore Lieke Hoogsteen secured two points with a seventh-place finish in the 800 meters, clocking in at 2:11.15.

In the men's events, junior Miguel Cocasecured second place in the mile,

closely trailing behind Grand Valley junior Caleb Futter with a time of 4:18.30. Senior Jonah Vigil narrowly missed first place in the 400-meter, finishing second with a time of 46.96.

Senior David Cardenas impressed with an eight-point contribution, achieving a personal best time of 1:48.60 in the 800 meters.

Despite a collision at the finish line, Coca claimed second place in the men's 3,000-meter run at 7:57.86. Yonas Haile finished in ninth place with a new personal best of 8:10.11, while senior Dayton Brown followed closely in 11th place with the same time.

The Grizzlies' exceptional performances across various events solidified their place as champions once again, etching their names in NCAA Division II track and field history.

Courtesy photo

Grizzlies earn 5th seed in South Central Region

By ERIC R. FLORES
ASU sports information

ALAMOSA – For the second time in program history, the Adams State University women's basketball team is headed to the NCAA Tournament as they were selected as the No. 5 seed in the South Central Regional.

Adams State will travel to Denton, Texas to take on the No. 4 seeded University of Texas Permian Basin at 6:30 p.m. The Falcons have a 24-7 record.

This is the second time in program history the Grizzlies have earned a berth into the tournament. The last and only time the Grizzlies made it to the tournament was in 2011. That season the Grizzlies finished 23-10 as they went 2-1 in the tournament that year. They defeated No. 5 ranked Fort Lewis, 77-66 in overtime before defeating Northern State 66-49 in the semifinals. No. 10



The Adams State University women's basketball team celebrates after learning it will compete in the NCAA Division II South Central Region. The Grizzlies will play Texas-Permian Basin Friday at 6:30 p.m. in Denton, Texas.

Courtesy photo/ASU sports information

ranked MSU Denver, who had ousted the Grizzlies in the RMAC Tournament, also ended their season in the regional final.

This season, the Grizzlies have already set a new program record for wins as they sit with a 24-8 overall record including an 18-4 Rocky Mountain

Athletic Conference (RMAC) record of 18-4 that earned them a share of the RMAC regular season championship.

A detailed preview with ticket, streaming and other information will be posted on ASUGrizzlies.com later this week.



Adams State University's Austria Holland gets her hand raised after a victory at the National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Championships Saturday in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Holland makes Grizzly history with nationals appearance

By ERIC R. FLORES
ASU sports information

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa – Adams State University witnessed its inaugural representation by a women's wrestler at the national level as freshman Austria Holland competed at the 2024 National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Championships held at the Alliant Energy Powerhouse Arena over the weekend.

After receiving an opening round bye, Holland

fell 14-7 to McKendree's Julia Vidallon.

In the consolation rounds, Holland showcased her resilience, securing a fall v over Gannon's Julia Cubias.

On Saturday morning, she started strong with a 4-0 decision win against Maddie Mackenzie of Simon Fraser before unfortunately being eliminated from the tournament with a 10-0 tech fall loss to King University's Melanie Mendoza.

Lifestyle

Rainbow's End in Center currently being remodeled

Grand reopening set for Saturday, April 6

By MARIE MCCOLM
CENTER — La Puente Enterprises Director Jessica Ornelas is excited about the remodeling and reopening of Rainbow's End Thrift Store in Center. The thrift store at 350 S. Worth St., is an extension of La Puente.

"This is going to be something really great for the community," Ornelas said. "It was open for a little while last year, we closed the store to add, remodel and revamp everything. We have a group of great staff that will be helping with the remodel. We anticipate everything going really well. We hope everyone will come and join us for the grand opening. We are excited and looking forward to having our doors open again."

Ornelas said she is inspired by her job every day. Ornelas oversees all three Rainbow's End Thrift Stores in the Valley. She along with AmeriCorps member and volunteer for the stores, Sam Salazar, put a lot of work into Alamosa's Rainbow's End store and boutique, and are now working hard to remodel and open Rainbow's End again in Center.

"We are all a big family together," she said. "The job is very family oriented. Just a couple of weeks ago, we had staff members helping with the Center store, helping to hang clothes and organize things. They were playing music, dancing around, laughing and having a good time. Honestly, we are just like family. We are hoping to make the store very family oriented as well. This store is all about us helping the community with their needs. We are hoping to make this store as welcoming as possible to everyone."

Salazar will oversee the Center store but will go back to working in the Alamosa location, after August of 2024. Salazar said he is looking forward to opening the doors and making the store a place for community members to come in and enjoy.

"It's not just about it being a store. We are hoping to see people come in and network and socialize with each other," he said. "I have ties to this town. Jessica has ties to this town. We want to have a small play area for kids. We want people to come in and enjoy themselves, and know that we aren't just a store, we are a place to come together, and see each other. We want the store to be a place where families feel safe. We are not here just to turn a profit. We are about clothing people and helping them with their needs. We want to help the community. If people come in without money, we will work with them if they need things. We don't want people to feel they have to take anything if they lack money. We want to help people that travel for work, we want to help local people, we want to help everyone. This store is not going to be just a store, we want it to be a welcoming place for the community and their families to gather also."

There is a food bank in the store, so the big back

room in the store will be the dedicated area for the food bank.

"I think the remodel will benefit both the food bank and the store," Salazar said. "There will be more room in different areas, for different things."

Ornelas said working at La Puente Enterprises is unlike any other job.

"It's so totally different than any other job I have had. I drive a forklift to move things. I drive a U-Haul. I have to load clothing. I have to sort bags. It's different than the other jobs that I have worked. I put my blood sweat and tears in, but I am so excited about doing all of this and giving back to the community," she said.

Ornelas said this is

"where she is supposed to be."

"I care for people so much. This is a real eye opener," she said. "I have loved my position since the first day I started. I can bring my kids to work. I remember the first day I ever worked, and I remember calling my mom and telling her this is where I am supposed to be."

Salazar said he is happy volunteering at the Center store and being a part of bringing the community together.

"We were sad to see it close last year, but we are happy about reopening and making this place a place for the community to depend on and enjoy. Giving back to the community is what this is

all about. Helping people is our main goal. We are looking forward to the grand opening and really

bringing the place together."

For more information about the Rainbow's End

Store in Center, contact Ornelas or Salazar at the Alamosa store at 719-589-8778.



Photo by Marie Mccolm
La Puente Enterprises Director Jessica Ornelas and AmeriCorps member Sam Salazar at Rainbow's End in Center. They are excited about the store reopening on April 6.

9 Reasons to Shop Local

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

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Public Notices

NOTICE OF HEARING
 NOTICE is hereby given of a public hearing before the Town Board of the Town of Hooper, Colorado, on April 17, 2024, at 6:30 PM, at the Town Hall, 8660 Main St, Hooper, CO 81136.
 The public hearing is for the purpose of considering, modifying (if warranted), and adopting regulations, which are titled "Guidelines and Regulations for Water Projects for Export Outside the San Luis Valley as Designated as Matters of State Interest of the Town of Hooper," pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-65.1-404(1).
 The regulations relate to water projects that the Town of Hooper has previously designated as a matter of state interest and will implement the ordinance making that designation.
 Copies of the proposed regulations are on file at the office of the Town Clerk and may be inspected during regular business hours.
 No. 3819.
 Published in the Valley Courier on February 28, 2024.

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

PRESS RELEASE
 The Alamosa County Commissioners have announced a "Notice of Vacancy" and accepting applications for one position to represent Alamosa County on the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board.
 Expectations of a board member is to attend the meetings and actively engage in the direction and budget of the Rio Grande Water Conservation District Board.
 Those interested in applying for the Board must fill out an application. It may be found at www.alamosacounty.colorado.gov/commissions-boards
 Applications will be accepted until filled. Send your information to Jamie Greeman Executive Assistant, 8900-A Independence Way, Alamosa, CO 81101 or to jgreeman@alamosacounty.org.
 No. 3836.
 Published in the Valley Courier on March 12, 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. 3837.
 Published in the Valley Courier on March 12, 2024.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing before the Conejos County Board of Adjustments will be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 6:15 PM. The hearing will be held in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Conejos County Courthouse, 6683 County Rd 13, Conejos. The purpose of this hearing is to consider an application for a Variance to the County setback requirements.
 The applicants/landowners are Bob and Jody Peterson, 14235 County Road W, La Jara. The property is legally described as: a fraction of the Southwest Quarter of Section 16, Township 35 N, Range 9 E, N1/4SW1/4, Conejos County, Colorado. Parcel #572116300065.
 The full details of this application are available for public inspection in the Office of the Land Use Administrator at the Conejos County Courthouse during regular office hours of 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Interested persons may appear to be heard at the public hearing.
 No. 3838.
 Published in the Valley Courier on March 12 & 26, 2024.

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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)

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)

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26jt is paying years of service and single health insurance benefits. Apply now to become part of our dynamic district as we are now accepting applications for the position of ELEMENTARY SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER, for the remaining 2024-2025 School Year. Qualifications; Special Education Certification as required by the State of Colorado or such alternative to the above qualifications as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. Applications can be found on the District Website <https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities> or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (4/5/24)

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26jt is paying years of service and single health insurance benefits. Apply now to become part of our dynamic district as we are now accepting applications for the positions of ELEMENTARY 3RD GRADE & 5TH GRADE TEACHER, for the 2024-2025 School Year. Qualifications; Must hold a valid State of Colorado Teacher's License or, such alternative as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. Applications can be found on the District Website <https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities> or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (4/5/24)

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)

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

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

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)

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)

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

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. Back ground check is required. Probation: No less than a 90-day period. Applications can be picked up at Blanca Town Hall during normal business hours. (3/13+1/24)

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

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.lapuente.net Email: hr@lapuente.net (3/13+1/24)

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

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)

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



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221 - HELP WANTED

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

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.

353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

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

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

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)

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)

409 - FARM & RANCLAND

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

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

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415 - HOMES FOR SALE

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420 - LOTS & ACREAGES

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

426 - MOBILE HOMES FORSALE

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

525 - GUNS

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

606 - BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT

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

611 - HOMES FOR RENT

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

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

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

701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

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

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

715 - 4X4 VEHICLES

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742 - TRUCKS & TRAILERS

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Triangular sail
 - 4 — and circumstance
 - 8 Tumble
 - 12 Historic time
 - 13 Banister
 - 14 Hebrew prophet
 - 15 Twitch
 - 16 Gumbo veggie
 - 17 Tear in two
 - 18 Glide over
 - 20 Final phase
 - 22 Daddy
 - 23 Range of vision
 - 24 Sharpened
 - 28 — California, Mexico
 - 31 Opera by Verdi
 - 32 At sea
 - 34 Lubricate
 - 36 Gun rights grp.
 - 37 Floating ice mass
 - 38 Restore to health
 - 39 Red Muppet
- DOWN**
- 1 Gush
 - 2 Eye part
 - 3 Make a retraction
 - 4 Quick
 - 5 Wine barrel material
 - 6 Muddy ground

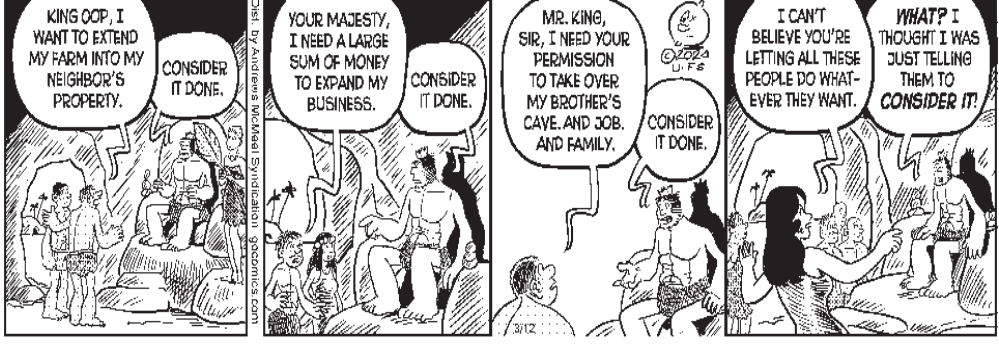
Answer to Previous Puzzle

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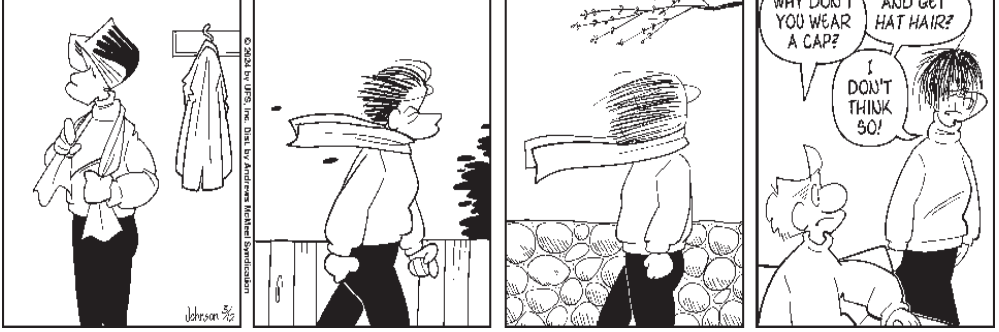
- 7 Board
- 8 Cream of wheat grain
- 9 Prayer ender
- 10 Protracted
- 11 Tripper's drug
- 19 Greek letter
- 21 Obligation
- 24 Pale
- 25 Put on the payroll
- 26 Bracket shape
- 27 Portal
- 29 Traveled
- 30 Suffix for million
- 33 Perceive
- 35 Showed the way
- 37 Links cry
- 38 Bird beak part
- 40 Team spirit
- 42 Mere appearance
- 44 Sticky candy
- 46 Grotto
- 47 Mideast ruler
- 48 Worm on a hook
- 50 Rant and —
- 51 Bandleader — Brown
- 53 — culpa
- 55 Gaping mouth

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ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



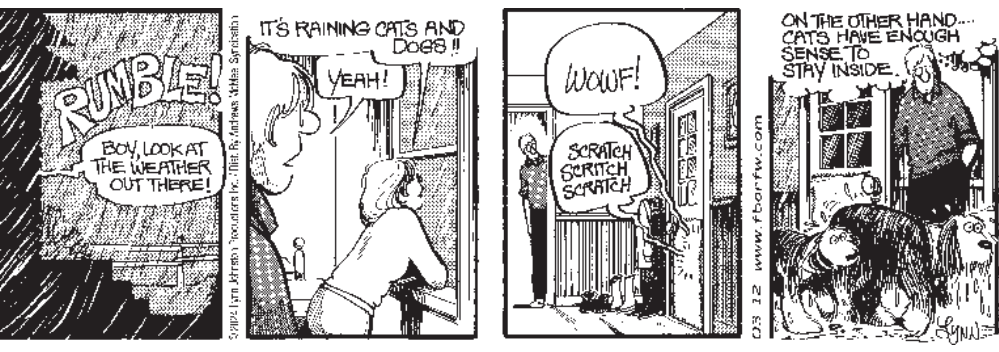
BIG NATE



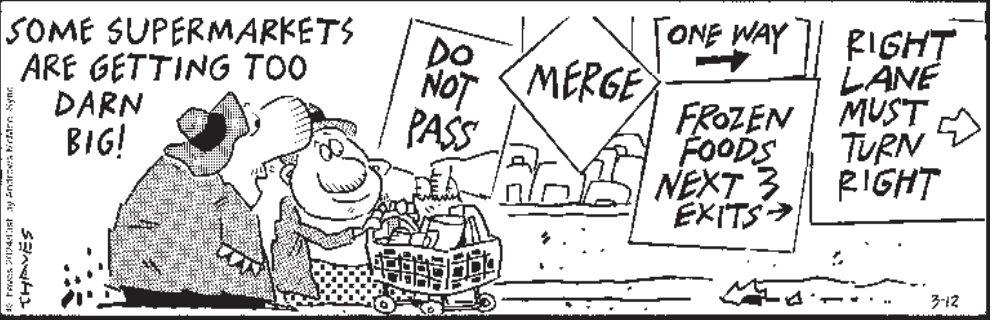
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FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



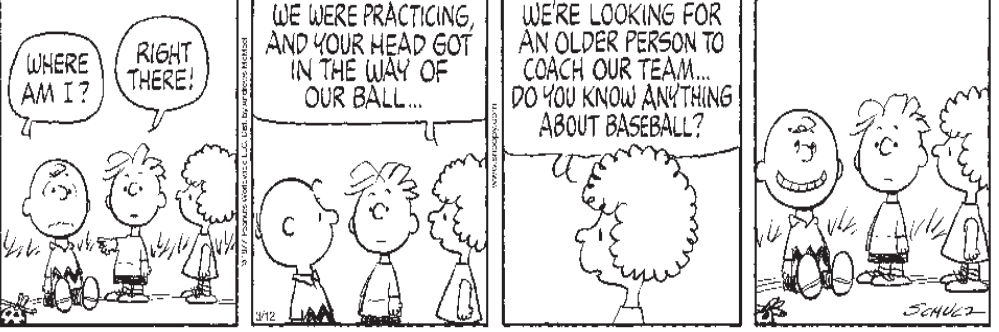
GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

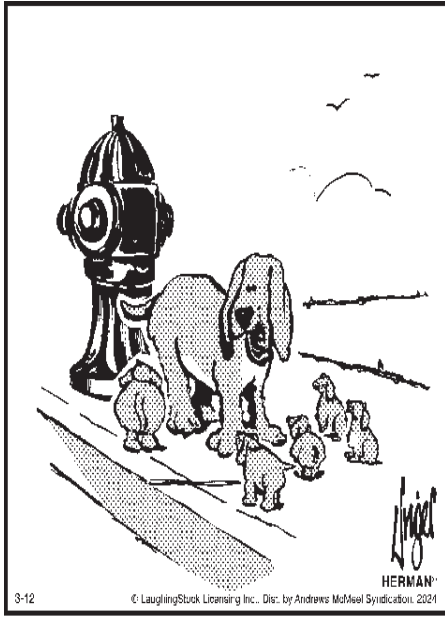
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| | | 3 | | 1 | | | | | 6 | |
| 8 | | | | 2 | 5 | 4 | | | 9 | 3 |
| 4 | 9 | | | 6 | 3 | | | 2 | | |
| 7 | | | | 5 | 4 | | | | | |
| 5 | | 8 | | | | | 4 | | 9 | |
| | | | | 7 | 8 | | | | 5 | |
| | 5 | | | 4 | 9 | | | | 1 | 7 |
| 6 | 4 | | | 3 | 8 |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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



Father's threat leads to change in family dynamics

DEAR ABBY: While I was visiting my father-in-law, a heated conversation turned violent. My husband, "Rob," was helping his dad and a neighbor with a house project. When Rob's dad became upset at him, he lifted the power saw he was holding, turned it on and motioned toward Rob saying, "You're lucky I don't slit your throat." He said some other unkind things and we left. He has not reached out to my husband since, and Rob has deleted his phone number.

His dad sent me a text taking no responsibility for his actions and blaming Rob, which is why we have decided to cut ties for now. We have a teen daughter, and my father-in-law has also texted her. We do not want her around him, and Rob wants to instruct her not to respond. The day his father acted like this was also the one-year anniversary of the passing of his long-term girlfriend (who was more like a wife). Should we tell our daughter not to respond to his messages? -- THREATENED IN OREGON

DEAR THREATENED: Your daughter is old enough to know what is going on and to be able to respond to her grandfather's texts. (I'm not sure how you could stop her.) However, she should ALSO be made aware that,

in a moment of anger, her grandfather threatened to KILL her father, which is why you have decided it is safer to keep your distance. At the least, "dear old Dad" owes his son an apology.

DEAR ABBY: Is it acceptable to put someone on speakerphone without informing them? I recently had a conversation with my younger sister about our mother's health issues. In the background, I heard someone make a comment to her about something I had said about our parents. When I asked, "Who is that?", she said it was her live-in boyfriend (of two years) and that I had been on speakerphone the entire time. I immediately ended the conversation.

Please understand that no one in our family has met or spoken to this man other than my sister. To me, he's a stranger. I felt it was inappropriate for him to listen in on our conversation whether it was a personal family issue or not. I'm not sure if "violated" is the right description for how I felt after hanging up, but it didn't sit well with me even though nothing derogatory had been said.

Am I behind the times, or did my sister make an error in judgment? I have not discussed my displeasure with her, but



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

I plan to. My wife agrees with me but says I should drop it and be mindful of my sister's actions going forward. -- OVERHEARD IN FLORIDA

DEAR OVERHEARD: The rule of etiquette is that the person you call should ask before putting someone on speaker if someone else is present. That said, Sissy and her boyfriend have been living together for two years. I doubt she keeps secrets from him. What she hears she shares with him. The next time you want to discuss some "family business" with her, open the conversation by telling her you would like her to please not put you on speaker. Then cross your fingers and hope she complies.