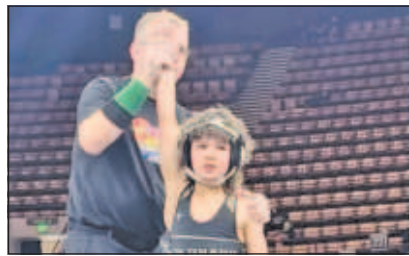




San Luis Valley Emergency Managers honored by Colorado Emergency Management Association

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Ruybal wins state title

— Page 6

San Luis Valley
Colorado Genuine

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Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

March 1, 2024

\$1

SLV Today

Opening reception for hum/swell is tonight

ALAMOSA — An opening reception for hum/swell, a meditative multimedia journey created by Lares Feliciano and Bothe Kretsinger, is from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, March 1, at the Cloyd Snook Gallery in the Art Building at Adams State University.

The exhibition will be on display there through April 2. Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Using photographs and sounds from around the San Luis Valley, hum/swell takes viewers on a multisensory ride that questions time and space. Feliciano and Kretsinger create installations, murals, and immersive experiences under the moniker doombox. Their work has been shown at the Denver Art Museum, Meow Wolf Denver, and The Storeroom. Most recently they created Muggins Mirage, a mixed media mural commission for the Maven Hotel in Downtown Denver.

Protest for Palestine set for March 2

ALAMOSA — Take Action for Palestine on March 2. A protest will be held at 1 p.m. on the Corner of State and Main. At 2 p.m. a grief space will be available at Sawgrass Therapeutics located at 418 State Ave. The events are hosted by the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee.

CORRECTION

High School Honor Bands at Adams State March 9

ALAMOSA — The Adams State University (ASU), Top of the Nation High School Honor Band, a program similar to the ASU choral honors program, will host about 60 musicians to ASU next weekend and have a free concert under the direction of James M Lind, Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at Adams State. The concert will be held in Richardson Hall on the university campus at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 9, and the public is welcome to attend this free event. Lind said he is excited to welcome clinicians Andrew Trachsel and Mark Emery to the program.

The incorrect date was printed in the Feb. 28 edition of the Courier.

SLV WEATHER

Sunny, Windy 55/24

Sat: Sunny, Strong, Gusty Winds 54/30

Fri: Chance of Snow, Strong, Gusty Winds 50/18

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Sandhill Crane monument fundraising goal met

Installation set for September 2024

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Four years and one pandemic after setting out to bring an extraordinary, original bronze monument honoring the iconic Sandhill Cranes to the San Luis Valley, the members of the Women's Citizenship Club are pleased to announce they have met their initial fundraising goal.

"We're very excited,"

Crane Committee chairperson, Mary Russell, told the Valley Courier. "And what's really wonderful about [meeting this goal] is that it's truly been a community effort. We've been at this for quite a while, going to First Fridays and the Crane Festivals, and everybody has put in something — \$20, \$10, \$5. Even children have put single dollars in the jar. Everything has made a difference, and it's gotten us this far."

"That's why on the pedestal that will hold the monument, we're going to put a plaque that says, 'Thank you to the citizens of Alamosa and the San

Luis Valley.' We value every contribution big and small."

The monument, titled "Into Thin Air" Cranes in Flight, will consist of two "life and a half" size Sandhill Cranes in flight with an 8-to-9-foot wingspan. The monument — termed as such as it's being created in honor of the birds — will be installed in Alamosa in front of the Colorado Welcome Center on Sixth Street.

■ See GOAL page 3

Photo of Cranes in Flight maquette.

Photo courtesy of Mary Russell, Crane Committee Chairperson, GFWC Women's Citizenship Club



Honoring the 'face of Colorado potatoes'

By CHRISTINA HERRICK
Produce Editor, 'The Packer'

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

"I'm extremely humbled," he told The Packer, which presented the award Feb. 26 in conjunction with the National Potato Council during the 2024 NPC Washington Summit. "I have been so blessed to work

■ See AWARD page 3

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

Photo courtesy of National Potato Council



Slow down or pay up

APD enforcing speed limit in downtown corridor

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Recently, patrol officers with

Alamosa Police Department (APD) issued 47 citations for speeding within a 24-hour-period and, according to Interim Police Chief Joey Spangler, attention on drivers exceeding the speed limit is going to continue, especially in the area that includes Main Street and 6th Street.

"We're getting into the warmer months where

people are starting to be outside more and walking around, especially in Alamosa's downtown corridor around Main Street and 6th Street," said Spangler. "That's an area of focus for us, so, with those months coming up, we're trying

■ See SPEED page 3

Speed limit 25 miles per hour on Sixth Street.

Photo by Priscilla Waggoner



Airlines line up for federal subsidies to serve San Luis Valley Regional Airport

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

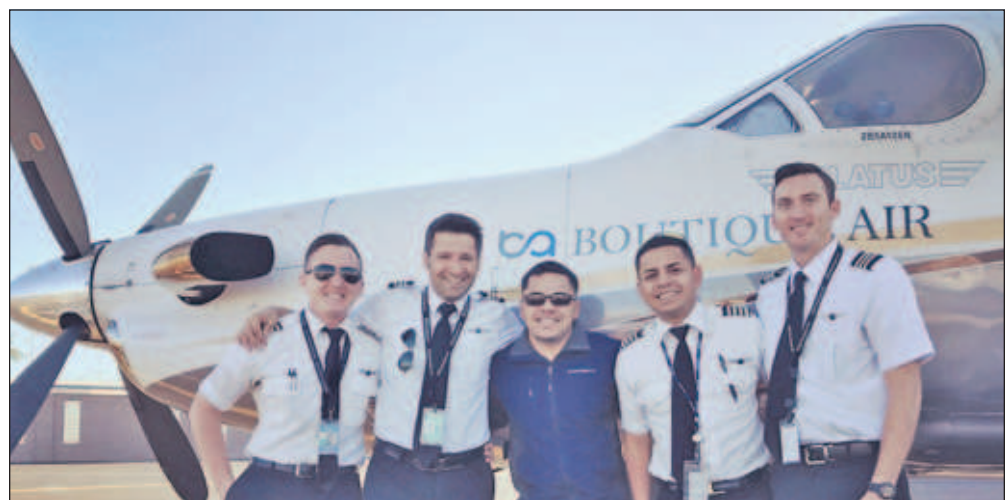
ALAMOSA — Three airlines have submitted bids for federal Emergency Air Service (EAS) subsidies under the federal program to provide passenger air service into the airport.

The Essential Air Service (EAS) program was established in 1978 to ensure that smaller communities have access to the national air transportation service and provide subsidies to carriers when necessary. The program provides air service to 60 communities in Alaska and 115 com-

munities in the lower 48 contiguous states. Currently, Alamosa, Cortez, and Pueblo are the airports eligible to receive the federal funding in Colorado.

In March 2022, Denver Air Connection submitted a bid proposal to the U.S. Department of Transportation seeking \$5.2 million in EAS funding to serve Alamosa for two years. The airline was awarded the funding and began the two-year service in June 2022 and continues to serve Alamosa. The subsidy runs through June and the

■ See AIRLINES page 3



Courtesy photo

California-based airline, Boutique Air is one of three airlines that has submitted bids to the U.S. Department of Transportation seeking subsidies to serve the San Luis Valley Regional Airport. Denver Air Connection and Contour Airlines are also seeking funding. Employees of Boutique Air are pictured here with a nine-passenger Pilatus PC-12 aircraft.

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Record

OBITUARIES

Estelle Grace McArthur Jack

Estelle Grace (McArthur) Jack died peacefully in Alamosa on Feb. 28, 2024. Estelle was born in Burlington, Colo., in 1934 on April 5, to loving parents who loved her dearly. She and her brother, Guy, had many fond memories together in eastern Colorado, and they were always very close. Estelle's family later moved to Sanford, Colo., after her dad bought a beautiful ranch when she was in middle school.



Later Estelle attended Excelsior High School where she met Don Jack. The two fell in love and were later married on July 1, 1955, in Taos, N.M. Estelle and Don had a beautiful baby girl, Cynthia Grace Jack, and their lives were changed forever. Estelle loved being married and Cindy was her pride and joy. Estelle endured many trials in her life, includ-

death by her loving husband, Don Arnell Jack; her beautiful daughter, Cynthia Grace (Jack) Stock; her son-in-law, Howard Fredrick Stock Jr.; her parents, Clifford and Mildred (Schlosser) McArthur; her brother, Guy Thomas McArthur; her mother and father-in-law, Robert and Ruby (Hansen) Jack.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, March 5, at the Rogers Family Mortuary Chapel in Alamosa. There will be a viewing starting at 10 a.m., followed by a service at 11 a.m. All friends and loved ones are welcome to attend. Estelle will be buried in Sanford following the service.

Rogers Family Mortuary is care of arrangements. To leave words of comfort, tributes and remembrances please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

Estelle was preceded in

Robert Eugene King

Oct. 27, 1928, to Feb. 20, 2024

Robert King went peacefully the morning of Feb. 20, 2024. He had received a Cochlear Implant (hearing solution) to live a fuller life on Dec. 15. He wanted to hear on the phone and in person better. Bob was a prolific storyteller and inquisitor. Hearing mattered to Bob. And Bob was still driving his car in December.

Just two days after his Cochlear implant on Dec. 17, Bob had his first stroke. After rehabbing most of the way (positive and focused on getting better) he had a second stroke on Feb. 13. It proved to be his time. He was the MAN and leader in the King Family as a husband, brother, father, and grandfather. He was adored by his nieces, nephews, in-laws and cousins who he loved throughout.

Bob was a mentor in life, academics, and in business to many. Loved by all is an understatement. Respected by everyone. He was 95 years old. Born in Blanca, Colo., as the 12th of 12 children on Oct. 27, 1928. (All preceded him in death). A miracle baby as his mother was 49 years of age; his parents were Mother Agnes Calkins King (one-room schoolteacher and homemaker) and Father Coley Marshall King (Rancher and Customer Team Horse Hay Contractor). The King Family had homesteaded in the San Luis Valley of Colorado in the 1870's after immigrating there from Northeast Georgia where they had lived near the Chattahoochee River. The King's es-

tablished a homestead on the side of Mount Blanca and eventually a cattle operation near in the Valley. Robert went to school at Blanca Elementary and eventually graduated from Alamosa High School nearby. After returning from the Marines in 1947, he attended and received his master's degree in school administration from Adams State College where he met and married Margaret McCollum. He began his career near Alamosa in Blanca teaching and then becoming principal of Sangre de Cristo Schools at age 28.

He was married for 72 years to Margaret King. Margaret passed away on June 11, 2022. Bob and Margaret had four children Laurie (North Carolina), David (Colorado), Kathy (Colorado) and Coley (California); Eight Grandchildren; and 16 Great-grandchildren. He lived in the San Luis Valley of Colorado for 32 years — 29 years as the respected Superintendent and track coach in Meeker, Colo., where he raised his family (later named the Bob King Track at Meeker High School); two years retired in Grand Junction, Colo.; and the past 32 years in retirement and volunteering in Fort Collins. He was near many of his offspring every day in Fort Collins. The past three years, he was under the loving care of his grandson then granddaughter Amy and great-granddaughters in his own home.

A proud Marine through and through. A National Park Service



summer crew member. Driver at age 10. Car lover and fixer upper. A Coach. Sports Lover. A teacher. An academic. A track meet organizer. A poet. A believer in all people and possibilities. A lover of Sam's Club. A man who loved gadgets. Arrowheads. A hunter. An outdoorsman. A hiker. Lover of literature and English. Teacher of challenged learners. And in the best way a lover of all religions, ethnic groups, types of people and his offspring. A beacon of positivity every day of his life towards all-comers.

SERVICES: To be Held on June 14 at noon at 7852 Vantage View Place in Fort Collins. Followed the next day on June 15 at 2 p.m. by a local service and military burial service at the King Family Cemetery (Urraca on Mount Blanca) in the San Luis Valley near Alamosa. He and wife Margaret's ashes will be buried together that day.

Donations can be made to Saints of Fort Collins in lieu of flowers to Saint Volunteer Transportation at 333 W. Drake Rd. #42, Fort Collins CO 80526. Bob was a Saint driver until age 91.

Robert Eugene King. One of the Good Ones!

Nathan B Quintana

Nathan B Quintana was born May 11, 1978. Nathan was better known as Nate or Nate Dog. He was a very well-loved person, known to be the go-to man for help when needed. He loved making others laugh and always shined a light on others to brighten up their day.

During his free time, Nate enjoyed crafting rosaries and doing tattoos. Nate also enjoyed spending time with his dogs and friends.

Nathan passed away on Feb. 17, 2024, at Penrose Hospital in Colorado



Springs accompanied by his wife Consuela Quintana.

He is survived by his

wife Consuela Quintana and close friends and family.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Sue Ann Quintana, and his younger sister Maria Quintana.

On Friday, March 1, we will gather at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Alamosa to celebrate the life of our dearly departed. The rosary will begin at 9:30 a.m., followed by the mass at 10 a.m. Afterward, we will lay Nathan to rest at Alamosa Cemetery and hold a reception in his honor.

Attached garage heavily damaged in fire



Courtesy photo

Firefighters were called to 920 First Ave. in Alamosa about 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday for an attached garage fully involved in flame. Most of the contents of the garage, not including any vehicles, were apparently lost. Little damage was caused to the home, according to Alamosa Fire Department Capt. Zach Cerny. Chief Bill Stone was out of town and couldn't be reached for comment. Both Alamosa Fire and Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control responded with a total of 17 personnel.

OBITUARIES

Cecilia Atencio

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of our beloved Cecilia Atencio. She was called home on Feb. 26, 2024. Cecilia made her grand entrance into the world on June 13, 1938, the beloved daughter of Raymond Chavez and Alice (Jacques) Chavez. Cecilia dedicated her life to being the best wife, mother, grandmother and friend possible. Her family and friends will remember the wonderful meals she would cook for them, the pleasure of her company and her contagious laugh and smile. Her fondest memory was of the faith trip she was able to take to Rome. In her free time Cecilia enjoyed praying, attending church, she loved watching football and was an avid Denver Broncos fan and spending time with family and friends and above all the time she spent with her grandchild-

dren was her absolute favorite.

Her memory will live on through her sons Alfred (Nancy) Atencio, Ken (Tonya) Atencio, Amos Atencio, grandchildren Emily, Alicia, Amanda, Ashley, three great-grandchildren Landon, Izayah, Marissa, sisters Mercy (Lee) Olivas, Grace (Albert) Espinosa, Adelia Jiron, Becky (Ron) Padley, Lenore Chavez, Diane (Jimmy) Gallegos, brothers Abel (Sara) Chavez, Reynold Chavez. She is also survived by many other extended family members and friends.

Cecilia was preceded in death by her parents, husband Alfred A. Atencio, brothers Raymond Chavez, Paul Chavez and Tom Chavez.

Vigil Service with Recitation of the Rosary will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 6 p.m. at Sangre De Cristo Cath-



olic Church in San Luis. Mass of the Resurrection will be held on Friday, March 8, 2024, at 12 p.m. also at Sangre De Cristo Catholic Church. Interment will follow at the San Acacio Cemetery.

To leave Cecilia's family online condolences or send flowers please visit romerofuneralhomes.com. The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

Judy Lynn Kretche

Mosca resident Judy Lynn Kretche, 78, passed away on Feb. 27, 2024, at the San Luis Care Center surrounded by her loving daughter and son-in-law. Judy's life began Aug. 1, 1945, in LaCrosse, Wis., born to Leonard Manning and Mildred Roth. Judy was a cherished daughter, wife, mother, and friend whose warmth touched all who knew her.

A proud graduate of Ottero Junior College in La Junta, Colo., Judy's dedication to helping others shined brightly as she earned her Licensed Practitioner Nurse (LPN) certificate. Her commitment to the field of nursing was not only a professional calling but also a personal journey that she shared with her beloved daughter, Victoria (Matthew) Kretche-Kitchel of Blanca, Colo. The mother-daughter duo celebrated their unique bond by attending nursing school together, an accomplishment that was especially dear to them both.

Judy's hands were rarely still, as she found



joy and solace in crafts, knitting, crocheting, and quilting. Her creative gifts were as boundless as her love for her little dogs, who were her constant companions. Judy enjoyed the great outdoors and camping.

Judy's life was a testament to the virtues of kindness and exploration. Her legacy of love and the memories she created will be treasured by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Judy leaves behind her daughter Victoria (Matthew) Kretche-Kitchel of Blanca, Colo.

PENDING OBITUARY

Edgar 'Wisdom' Santoro

Mosca resident Edgar "Wisdom" Santoro, passed away Feb. 28, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

School Menu

Friday

March 1, 2024

No

School

Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students

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Valley News

Society Hall presents '100 Years of Broadway' on March 2

Corliss Taylor-Dunn Crabtree will be accompanied by Randy Macy

By SOCIETY HALL ALAMOSA — Society Hall is excited to present "100 Years of Broadway," featuring Corliss Taylor-Dunn Crabtree, accompanied by Randy Macy and with special guest vocalist Bob Lays at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 2.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. The concert will also stream live on the Society Hall Facebook page and YouTube channel. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door and are available at the Society Hall website at www.society-hall.org or at the Green

Spot, 711 State Ave., Alamosa.

Corliss has been in the San Luis Valley making her living as a psychotherapist for the past few decades, but before that toured the world as a Broadway singer, as well as spending decades in New York City and in summer stock tours in productions with some of the biggest names in the biz, including Gordon Macrae, Ethel Merman, Shirley Jones, Georgio Tozzi, and Soupy Sales.

Corliss, with her accompanist Macy and with the help of guest vocalist Lays will lead the audience through "100 Years of Broadway," featuring songs from productions like "Fiddler on The Roof," "Man of La Mancha," "Guys and Dolls," "Sweet Charity," "7 Brides for 7 Brothers," "My Fair Lady," "South Pacific," "Okla-

homa," "The King and I," "Porgy and Bess," "Show Boat," and her featured role as Ella the Ingenue in the Tony Award winning "Bubblin' Brown Sugar."

Corliss will also share stories with the help of a slideshow from her many roles and experiences, including being the lead vocalist in Doc Severinsen's orchestra on Johnny Carson's "Tonight Show," and doing a fundraising production with Ginger Rogers and Carole Lawrence to save Radio City Music Hall.

She says of her time with Severinsen, "My big regret? One time we arrived to perform in Vegas and went to our rooms at the Hilton. My phone rang. It was Doc inviting me down for dinner with him and Elvis! Now I had just washed my hair and needed 24 hours to dry (at that time the hotel bath-



Corliss Taylor-Dunn Crabtree

rooms — at least mine — did not have a dryer), so I declined and told Doc to please give Mr. Presley my regards and regrets. And that I look forward to meeting him the next time our paths crossed... only, there was never to be a next time, because Elvis passed away soon after."

The Society Hall board is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a place for community celebrations of all kinds.



Photo by Pilatus Aircraft Ltd.

The nine-seat Pilatus PC-12 aircraft may again serve Alamosa if Boutique Air is awarded a federal subsidy.

Airlines

Continued from Page 1

federal government has opened the application process to submit bids from airlines to serve the Alamosa airport and receive EAS funding.

At the Feb. 28 meeting of the Alamosa County Board of County Commissioners, Brian Kondrad and Nadim Khoury from Boutique Air made a presentation via Zoom to commissioners regarding its bid to the Department of Transportation for the subsidy. The county commissioners make a recommendation to the federal regulatory agency that makes the final decision on funding. Kondrad said the airline currently has two routes and charter flights.

"We continue to fly the Pilatus PC-12, we currently have 23 Pilatus, they are safe, fast, pressurized, and they are pretty reliable as far as a single-engine aircraft. One of the safest aircraft in the turboprop family," said Kondrad.

The aircraft is a pressurized, single-engine turboprop utilizing one Pratt and Whitney Canada PT 6 engine.

In the bid for EAS funding, Boutique states this, "Our airline service will be operated with 8- or 9-seat Pilatus PC-12 aircraft. We are proposing a two-, three-, or four-year contract duration for the community to consider with a 7% subsidy increase starting after the second year. Our bid consists of either 24 or 28 weekly round trips from to Denver."

In 2016, the 9-seat aircraft was described by European Business Air News as, "The ultimate aerial SUV." The PC-12 is used as an air ambulance in Australia by the Royal Flying Doctor Service (as featured in the PBS TV series) and Ornge in Canada for medical missions.

Under the 28 weekly round trips to Denver scenario, the airline is proposing a four-year EAS subsidy of \$5,833,213. California-based Boutique began operations in 2007 and received its first EAS contract to serve the Cloves, N.M.—Dallas Ft. Worth route. The airline served the Alamosa airport in 2016 after receiving \$2.6 million in EAS funding to fly from Alamosa to Denver.

Denver Air Connection has proposed that, "We will offer the Alamosa community 12 non-stop round-trip flights per week for a new 2 term with a 4-year option,

according to its bid for funding made to the Department of Transportation."

As previously reported in the Valley Courier, on Feb. 22 Jon Coleman with the airline made a presentation before the Alamosa County Board of County Commissioners and said that in 2023 the number of "Alamosa to Denver passengers was 11,318, Denver to Alamosa, 10,634, for a total of 21,952." The subsidy per passenger per flight was about \$118.

Denver Air Connection has submitted a bid for \$6,958,102 to serve the Alamosa airport for an additional four years. Regarding the difference between the Boutique and Denver Air Connection subsidy bid, Coleman told the Valley Courier, "We fly 30-seat aircraft, and our subsidy for available seats is lower. We offer about 12,000 seats per month between Alamosa and Denver." Coleman noted Denver Air uses twin-engine Embraer jet aircraft which are suitable for flying in mountainous areas. Boutique uses the single-engine turboprop aircraft.

A third carrier, Contour Airlines has also submitted a bid to the U.S. Department of Transportation of \$5,757,598 for a one-year EAS subsidy. During the meeting, Alamosa County Administrator Roni Wisdom said Countour, "Did not respond to us." Wisdom told Commissioner Lori Laske the commissioners should have their recommendation for submission to the Department of Transportation at the next commissioners' meeting. The county will make the recommendation and the federal agency will decide which carrier is awarded the EAS funding.

In other airport news from the Feb. 29 commissioners meeting, the county formally passed a resolution to charge a daily parking fee of \$6 at the airport. The parking fees are estimated to generate \$79,000 annually.

During the meeting, Richard Hubler, Alamosa Building and Land Use Director, announced that during the week of March 11-14 public meetings to discuss the county Comprehensive Plan are scheduled; a roundtable discussion on the morning of March 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the SLV Federal Bank Building, 401 Edison in Alamosa, and on March 12 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Juanito's Restaurant at 2069 First St. in Alamosa.

Speed

Continued from Page 1

ing to get this message across to drivers to slow down in these pedestrian safety zones."

It should also be noted that, in a pedestrian safety zone, fines are doubled for anyone who is cited for exceeding the speed limit.

In Alamosa, the fine for speeding 10 to 19 mph over the speed limit is \$150, which, doubled in a pedestrian zone, is \$300. Exceed-

ing the speed limit by 20-39 mph brings a fine of \$300. In a pedestrian safety zone, double that amount to \$600.

A charge of \$25 is also added to each ticket and citations for speeding will be 4 points (10-19) and 6 points (20-39). Losing points on a driver's license almost automatically impacts other areas, such as rates for insurance.

According to the National Safety Council, in 2022, more than 17% of all traffic deaths were pedestrians. Every age

group is vulnerable, but the largest number of pedestrian deaths occur among 55- to 64-year-olds. While children aged 5 to 9 experienced the fewest number of pedestrian deaths, these deaths still represented nearly 14% of all traffic deaths for this age group.

Pedestrian Safety Zone sign, near intersection of Main Street and Highway 160.

Photo by Priscilla Waggoner



Award

Continued from Page 1

for the potato industry and the wonderful people in the industry. I've made great friends from all across the country. There's nothing more noble than producing food for people to eat."

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

Ehrlich, dubbed the "face of Colorado potatoes," has served as the executive director of the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee for the past 18 years after the late

Tom Ford approached him to take over the post. Ehrlich announced his plan to retire this year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ehrlich held previous roles with Coors Brewing Co. and JDE Farms. He also gives back to the community as vice president of San Luis Valley Health Hospital's board of directors and as the current president of the San Luis

Valley Overall Extension Advisory Board, where he has served as a board member for more than 20 years.

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

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

Goal

Continued from Page 1

The monument is of special significance for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is the artist herself.

Jocelyn Russell is a renowned animal and wild-life sculptor who's most famous for her bronze monuments of Secretariat, often referred to as "the greatest racehorse that ever lived", and her monument of "Sgt. Reckless", the "real War Horse" of the Korean War. Russell was also notably commissioned to sculpt fifteen life-size sculptures — five elephants, five lions and five meerkats — for installation at the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans, and some of her work has been sold to private collectors at a cost of \$300,000 and more.

But to Russell, who is a native of the Valley and grew up in Waverly, this project "is especially important" as she's donating her time to create the monument in homage to the cranes she knew

throughout her life as a child. It's also a gesture of gratitude "to the people of Alamosa for their enduring support."

In discussing fundraising with the Valley Courier, Mary Russell was clear in wanting to be transparent about how the donated funds will be spent.

The cost of the entire project — supplies, design, creation, shipping and other expenses — totals \$156,000.

Of that amount, \$77,500 comes from in-kind donations. Jocelyn Russell is donating all her time — valued at \$70,000 — for the design and sculpting; the Alamosa County Local Marketing District is donating \$5,000 for the pedestal, and the City of Alamosa is donating \$2,000 to cover the cost of installation and \$500 to maintain and preserve the monument.

The remainder of the funding — \$78,500 — is being spent on foundry bid, including molds and foam enlargement (\$65,000), marketing materials (\$1,500), ma-

quettes (small sculpture) for donors (\$3,000), delivery (\$3,000) and two 30-inch-by-40-inch plaques for the pedestal (\$2,000).

However, Mary Russell adds, prices have gone up since that original estimate, which is why the committee is celebrating reaching their "initial" goal. With that said, they are humbly requesting that anyone interested in donating and has yet to do so reach out to them for more information, including their Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Donor levels, which entitle a person to have their name engraved on the plaques to be affixed to the pedestal.

After years of discussion and fundraising, the end is nearly in sight as Jocelyn Russell's monument "Into Thin Air" Cranes in Flight is due to be delivered and installed in its location in September of 2024.

"We really felt that we needed to have a monument by Jocelyn in our town. She was born here and grew up here playing outside with her broth-

ers and waking up to the sound of the cranes. She lived here and worked for twelve years as a vet tech. She has such a love of the valley and the people in it. And she's always loved cranes — that's what she really felt moved to do. We could never have done this without all the people — everyone — who donated."

Anyone interested in donating can do so by emailing cranesinflight-info@gmail.com, calling 719-580-0429 or going by the Welcome Center on Sixth Street where there is a QR code on a banner for the monument that can be scanned for a donation.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), of which Women's Citizenship Club is a member, is one of the largest and oldest organizations of women in the world dedicated to enhancing the world through volunteer services. Their outreach spans all areas through, among other things, arts and cultures community service programs.



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Opinion

That's an antique, kid

Having grown up around a lot of older people, I got to experience life from their perspectives, some of which pre-dated 1900. My grandfather Kirk was born in 1889 in Dodge City, Kan., and so was probably about 65 by the time I was born, which was quite old in those days when people just did not live too long.

Because of our connections to Dodge City, I can recall that everyone out there called each other "kid." No matter who you were or age of the person it was "hey kid" when you met. And since one of the things my family was noted for was their love of antiques, everything in their house was of old manufacture, including themselves.

From an early age we learned not to touch the round glass cabinet and were admonished with, "be careful kid, that's an antique" multiple times with each visit to their house. And true to form, Ol' Dutch also has a certain appreciation for antiques of all sorts and am dangerous to take to any garage sale or auction as can be attested to by Miss Trixie. I just love that old stuff. Which got me to thinking — a dangerous pursuit according to Miss Trixie — about just what it takes for anything to be considered a true antique.

The Internet for sale sites is filled with stuff that is purported to be antique but mostly it's just old to the person who has it for sale. I know I had a 1967 Chevelle car one time and it was considered an antique and so I could get a cheap tag for it. Looking online it appears that now they say any car over 45 years old qualifies for that status.

But other things are antiques also and I love the old furniture especially the stuff made out of oak wood. Ol' Dutch has a few items passed down from the family that are very old, so I know I am safe to assume they are truly of that status. And looking online, anything like that must be 100 years old to be considered an antique. So, there is a baseline that a person can at least measure against to assess the value of some "treasure" they keep.

After reading all about that age requirement, I got to thinking about all the stuff I see advertised online as "antique" for sale. And I began to wonder just how in the wide, wide world of sports, people come up with the idea it is actually an antique? I think it may have to do with their age in fact and anything that they don't know what it is, or if it was produced before they were born then they call it that. It does not seem to matter if they are 40 or 85, that is the age they seem to use in classifying what they have for sale as antiques and pricing it accordingly.

I think the most interesting thing about collecting old stuff is if you think about it, all of it was thrown out way back when it was out of style and worn out and some poor person, who did not have a "dresser" took it home to use. They didn't think they had a treasure but were simply glad to have a drawer to put grandpa's drawers in. Yep. Old worn-out junk. I guess the mere fact that it survived the trash bin now all these years later added value to it so now items that were sat on the curb are sometimes worth a lotta money.

Ol' Dutch keeps trying to impress upon Miss Trixie of those facts and none more important than how my own personal value is skyrocketing with every birthday that I have. She often reminds me that she in fact found me sitting on the curb, so I need to consider my true value in that. But I do have solace in knowing that if I hang around long enough, I will reach the age of a true antique and my value will rise to meet my own opinion of my worth.

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

Trout Republic



by Kevin Kirkpatrick



To submit news, email:
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To submit sports, email:
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Letters policy

Letters are welcome and encouraged. All letters submitted for publication in the Valley Courier must be typewritten, signed by the author, and must include a phone number and address where the author can be reached. Letters must not be libelous. The Courier will not run letters that are negative to specific businesses. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, civility and accuracy. Please limit letters to 500 words or less.

The Courier's editorial board reserves the right to reject a letter for reasons it believes are appropriate. Letters may be subject to editing to fit available space, or exclusion from the Opinion Page. Please, no poetry. Please send signed letters to P.O. Box 1099, Alamosa, CO 81101 or email them to news@alamosanews.com. Letters to staff, not for publication, should be marked "personal."



War comes home to my small town

At the coffee shops in Talent, the little Oregon town where I live, the conversation is often about the high cost of housing or the way the weather has been dramatically changing.

But lately another topic has crept in — the escalation of violence in Israel and Palestine.

That might seem surprising since my town is more than 7,000 miles from Gaza, where in just a few months more than 29,000 people have been killed and nearly 2 million have been driven from their homes. But what is happening there reverberates here in its own way.

For one thing, much of the funding for Israel's assault on Gaza comes from U.S. taxpayers. Since Israel was formed 75 years ago by displacing more than 700,000 Palestinians from their communities, the United States has provided the Israeli military with more than \$225 billion in today's dollars.

"A lot of us are questioning why our elected officials sign off on billions for military spending overseas with such ease," said Rianna Koppel, a solar-energy worker who lives in our community of 6,000.

Koppel is a member of a local group of Jewish residents, affiliated with the national organization called Jewish Voice for Peace. They have organized a series of protests, film showings and Hanukkah events, all aimed at encouraging elected officials to support a change in U.S. policy.

They say their focus is on four goals: "bringing about an immediate and permanent ceasefire, freeing hostages and prisoners held by both Hamas and Israel, getting much needed humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza, and ending U.S. military aid to Israel."

Responding to those concerns, the

mayor and city council of Talent sent a letter to our representative in Congress and our state's two U.S. senators, urging them to support those same four goals.

Jason Clark, the town councilor who drafted the letter, said that he is "deeply saddened and horrified by the loss of all innocent life in this conflict and that it has been allowed to go on for this long."

He added, "People all over the world want a negotiated solution that provides peace and justice for both Israelis and Palestinians. More military aid just provokes more resistance and makes a negotiated solution harder to achieve." One recipient of the letter from our town, Oregon Democratic Senator Jeff Merkley, joined the call for a ceasefire.

Of course, this issue is highly controversial, and not everyone in the valley where I live agrees that it needs to be open for public discussion. In November, local rabbis organized what they said was a Rally Against Antisemitism. One of them, whose synagogue was fundraising to send military equipment to Israeli soldiers, equated criticism of Israeli government policies with antisemitism and urged residents to "call it out."

To be sure, antisemitism is present in many rural western communities like ours. A few days after Thanksgiving, law enforcement agencies in four towns within a few miles of my home reported that during the night, antisemitic material had been deposited outside hundreds of local residences. The material directed residents to a video that included laudatory clips of Adolf Hitler.

But local critics of the Israeli assault on Gaza, supposedly to rid it of Hamas, say hateful antisemitic attacks like we have seen here recently make it even

Writers On The Range



By Matt Witt

more important to speak out for a just peace in Palestine and Israel.

"Incidents of antisemitism and Islamophobia are increasing, not just around here, but all over the world as a side effect of this war," Koppel said. "We need our elected officials to help find a better way."

Matt Witt is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He is a writer and photographer in Talent, Ore.

Write them

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Governor Jared Polis (D), State Capitol Building Room 136, 200 East Colfax, Denver CO 80203; (303) 866-2471; Fax: (303) 866-2003.

STATE HOUSE

Matthew Martinez (D), Colorado State Representative, District 62, 200 E Colfax, Room 307, Denver, CO 80203; phone: 303-866-2916; email:matthew.martinez.house@coleg.gov

STATE SENATE

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SLV Regional Office: 609 Main Street, Suite 110, Alamosa 81101; Phone: 587-0096; Fax: 587-0098;

Washington office: 458 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510; DC Phone: 202-224-5852;

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Lifestyles



Courtesy photo
Mineral County Emergency Manager Clint Leggett, left, received the Rookie of the Year award and Costilla County Emergency Manager Chris Rodriguez, right, was named the SLV Emergency Manager of the Year by the Colorado Emergency Management Association (CEMA) earlier this month.

San Luis Valley Emergency Managers honored by Colorado Emergency Management Association

SAN LUIS VALLEY — SLV Emergency Managers recently congratulated Clint Leggett on receiving the Rookie of the Year and Chris Rodriguez on being named SLV Emergency Manager of the Year awarded by the Colorado Emergency Management Association (CEMA).
“In a testament to their unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions to community safety, Chris Rodriguez has now achieved the distinction of being the first

individual in CEMA’s history to receive the Emergency Manager of the Year award three times. Notably, Chris also secured back-to-back awards in 2017 and 2018, showcasing his consistent dedication to the field,” local officials stated.
CEMA recognizes and commends these awards based on peer nominations, considering factors such as career achievement, overall contribution, local-regional coordination, specialized proj-

ects, and demonstrated leadership in the realm of comprehensive emergency management.
“Congratulations to Chris Rodriguez and Clint Leggett for their honors. Their dedication and leadership in the field of emergency management have made a lasting impact on our community’s safety. These awards not only reflect individual excellence but also highlight the outstanding efforts of our emergency management team,” local officials stated.

Alamosa County launches update of the Comprehensive Plan

CONTRIBUTED ALAMOSA — Alamosa County recently announced the kickoff of “Imagine Alamosa County”, the process to update the 2008 Alamosa County Master Plan will begin the week of March. 11. The county is asking community members to get involved as they embark on re-writing the Comprehensive Plan, to be applicable to today’s community and future generations. The update will guide the County on a new vision for the next twenty years.
The plan will consider community culture and history, design, public services, land use, jobs, housing, transportation, recreation, wellbeing, resiliency, water and more. It will center around a community-built vision of what the future of Alamosa County should be in twenty years. The

plan is a community-informed document that serves as a roadmap for decision-makers to best accommodate the challenges and opportunities associated with growth and quality of life.
“We are kicking off this process the week of March 11, and expect continued engagement with the community over the next 14 months. Public input is at the core of creating the vision and goals of the Plan, prior to its adoption by the Board of County Commissioners in May 2025,” organizers stated.
Ways to get involved:
Drop in at the following events during project kickoff week to share your thoughts.
Roundtable Events (food provided; Register at www.imaginealamosa.com):
• Monday, March 11, from 12-2 p.m., at the

San Luis Valley Federal Bank Annex 402 Edison Ave., Alamosa
• Tuesday, March 12, between 5-7 p.m., at the Juanito’s Mexican Kitchen, 2069 First St. by the bowling alley.
Listening Sessions:
• Tuesday, March 12, between 7-10 a.m., at The Mosca Pit Stop
• Tuesday, March 12, between 2-5 p.m., at the Tienda El Quetzal
• Thursday, March 14, between 8-11 a.m., at the Sanctuary
• Take the first online questionnaire at <https://imaginealamosa.com/#tab-48763>.
• Sign up for a one-on-one virtual conversation! <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/e0ArPqya>.
For more information about Imagine Alamosa County including registration for the upcoming events, visit the project website www.ImagineAlamosa.com.

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Sports



Courtesy photo

Asher Ruybal of the San Luis Valley Elite Wrestling Club gets his hand raised after winning the 8u 62-pound state championship at the Denver Coliseum last Saturday.

Ruybal wins state title

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – Asher Ruybal of the San Luis Valley Elite Wrestling Club won a state championship at the Peak2Peak Colorado State Tournament last weekend at the Denver Coliseum.

Ruybal's championship came in the 8-and-younger 62-pound division. Ruybal went 5-0 during the tournament. He recorded wins over Jonah Dusing of the Black Fox Wrestling Club in 25 seconds, Elijah Copley of the Steel City Wrestling Club by an 8-1 decision, Tobias McCord of the Junior Cougars by a 7-1 decision, Wolfgang Zimmerer of the Black Fox Wrestling Club in 1:45, and he defeated Eilace Majka of the Black Fox Wrestling Club by a 6-0 decision in the finals.

Ramser Appointed Grizzlies New Head Volleyball Coach

By **ERIC R. FLORES**
ASU sports information

ALAMOSA –

Transitioning from Angelo State University (ASU) to assume a pivotal role at Adams State University (ASU), Garcia Ramser has been appointed as the 12th head coach in the history of the Adams State University volleyball program. The announcement was made by Athletic Director Katelyn Smith last Thursday.

"I couldn't be more excited to be selected by Katelyn and the entire search committee as the next head coach of the ASU volleyball program," said Ramser. "Everyone throughout the athletic department that I got the chance to talk with during the interview process has a great outlook towards the future of the program and where ASU as a whole can be."

"We are so excited to welcome Garcia to Grizzly Athletics and can't wait for him to get started," said Smith. "Garcia set himself apart with his impressive background and he brings a lot of energy and passion for this sport. The future is bright for Adams State volleyball."

During his tenure at Angelo State University, where he was an assistant coach Ramser achieved recognition as an AVCA 30 Under 30 Recipient in 2021, contributing significantly to the Belles' commendable performance with a 75-33 record during his tenure.

Ramser's inaugural season in San Angelo marked notable achievements, as he played a pivotal role in guiding



the Belles to an impressive 16-2 overall record. Under his leadership, the team secured the Lone Star Conference Tournament Championship and clinched the AVCA DII National Championship.

Ramser brings a wealth of experience to Adams State University, having previously served as an assistant coach at Canisius College for one season. During his tenure at Canisius, Ramser played a key role in the team's success, contributing to a commendable 12-6 record in the MAAC. Additionally, his coaching prowess facilitated the development of four All-MAAC recipients, including the remarkable emergence of freshmen Bree Long and Ella Loussia as MAAC All-Rookie selection.

Prior to his tenure at Canisius College, Ramser served as a graduate assistant for the men's volleyball program at Quincy University during the 2018-19 season. Notably, his contributions were instrumental in Omari Wheeler and Noam Hannoun attaining All-Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association honors.

Ramser's coaching

journey commenced during his undergraduate years at the University of Pittsburgh, where he served as a student manager for the women's volleyball program for four years. Subsequently, he assumed the role of men's club volleyball coach at Pitt Panthers, garnering recognition as the 2018 National Collegiate Volleyball Federation Men's Division I Coach of the Year. His tenure witnessed remarkable achievements, culminating in national rankings of ninth and 33rd for the men's team during his leadership.

A Pittsburgh native, Ramser graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in materials science and engineering. He furthered his academic pursuits by earning a master's degree in educational leadership from Quincy University in 2020.

"Our staff is looking forward to working on making ASU the best experience anywhere in DII athletics and putting a product on the floor that the SLV can be proud to call their own," Ramser said.

Holland Qualifies for NCWWC National Championships

By **ERIC R. FLORES**
ASU sports information

DENTON, Texas – The Adams State University Grizzly women's wrestling team showcased their prowess on Sunday, securing three placers at the NCWWC Region VI Tournament held at Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas.

With the top four finishers in each weight category earning a ticket to the NCWWC National Championships in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in two weeks, Austria

Holland emerged as the sole qualifier from the team, clinching third place in the 116-pound division.

In a thrilling showdown, Holland clinched victory in the third place match with a 4-2 decision over Jaia Ashley of Schreiner University.

Among the other standout performers for the Grizzlies were Canice Brickell, who claimed sixth place in the 109-pound category, and Trinity Perez, who secured eighth place in the 130-pound division.

Sports Bulletin

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

SCHEDULE FRIDAY

Prep boys basketball
Golden View Classical Academy at Sanford (Class 2A Region 6 Tournament), 2:30 p.m.
Sangre de Cristo vs. Otis (Class 1A Region 4 Tournament at Stratton), 2:30 p.m.
Monte Vista vs. Walsenburg (Class 2A Region 2 Tournament at Merino), 3:30 p.m.
Centennial at Peetz (Class 1A Region 7 Tournament), 4 p.m.
Wiley at Sierra Grande (Class 1A Region 6 Tournament), 4 p.m.
Timnath at Centauri (Class 3A State Tournament), 4:30 p.m.
Holly vs. Loveland Classical (Class 2A Region 6 Tournament at Sanford), 5:30 p.m.

Moffat at Stratton (Class 1A Region 4 Tournament), 5:30 p.m.

Cheraw vs. De Beque (Class 1A Region 6 Tournament at Blanca), 6 p.m.

Sargent vs. Fowler (Class 2A Region 4 Tournament at Collbran), 7 p.m.

Manual vs. Platte Valley (Class 3A State Tournament at La Jara), 7:30 p.m.

Prep girls basketball
Sangre de Cristo vs. Hi-Plains (Class 1A Region 1 Tournament at McClave), 12:30 p.m.

Crowley County at Sanford (Class 2A Region 4 Tournament), 1 p.m.

Del Norte at Mancos (Class 2A Region 8 Tournament), 2 p.m.

Sargent vs. Fowler (Class 2A Region 1 Tournament at Merino), 2 p.m.

Thomas MacLaren at Centauri (Class 3A State Tournament), 3 p.m.

Wiggins vs. Las Animas (Class 2A Region 4 Tournament at Sanford), 4 p.m.

Sierra Grande at Flatirons Academy (Class 1A Region 3 Tournament at Westminster), 5:30 p.m.

Center vs. Sedgwick County (Class 2A Region 8 Tournament at Mancos), 6 p.m.

Monte Vista vs. Wray (Class 2A Region 5 Tournament at Hoehne), 7 p.m.

Cedaredge vs. Banning Lewis Academy (Class 3A State Tournament at La Jara), 7:30 p.m.

College men's basketball
Adams State at Colorado School of Mines, 7:30 p.m.

College women's basketball
Adams State at Colorado School of Mines, 5:30 p.m.

College baseball
Adams State vs. Malone (Ohio) (2) (Tucson (Ariz.) Invitational), noon

College women's softball
Fort Lewis at Adams State (2), noon

SATURDAY

Prep boys basketball

Sargent/Fowler winners vs. Wiggins/Plateau Valley winner (Class 2A Region 4 Tournament at Collbran), noon

Platte Valley/Manual winner vs. Timnath/Centauri winner (Class 3A State Tournament at La Jara), 1:30 p.m.

Cheraw/De Beque winner vs. Wiley/Sierra Grande winner (Class 1A Region 6 Tournament at Blanca), 2 p.m.

Loveland Classical/Holly winner vs. Golden View Classical Academy/Sanford winner (Class 2A Region 6 Tournament at Sanford), 2:30 p.m.

Monte Vista/Walsenburg winners vs. Evangel Christian/Merino winner (Class 2A Region 2 Tournament at Merino), 2:30 p.m.

Sangre de Cristo/Otis winner vs. Moffat/Stratton winner (Class 1A Region 4 Tournament at Stratton), 2:30 p.m.

Genoa-Hugo-Karval winner vs. Centennial/Peetz winner (Class 1A Region 7 Tournament

at Peetz), TBA

Prep girls basketball

Center/Sedgwick County winner vs. Del Norte/Mancos winner (Class 2A Region 8 Tournament at Mancos), 11 a.m.

Banning Lewis Academy/Thomas MacLaren vs. Cedaredge winner vs. Centauri winner (Class 3A State Tournament at La Jara), noon

De Beque/Rocky Mountain Lutheran winner vs. Sierra Grande/Flatirons Academy winner (Class 1A Region 3 Tournament at Westminster), 1 p.m.

Las Animas/Wiggins winner vs. Crowley County/Sanford winner (Class 2A Region 4 Tournament at Sanford), 1 p.m.

Sangre de Cristo/Hi-Plains winner vs. La Veta/McClave winner (Class 1A Region 1 Tournament at McClave), 1 p.m.

Sargent/Fowler winner vs. Trinidad/Merino winner (Class 2A Region 1 Tournament at Merino), 1 p.m.

Wray/Monte Vista winner vs. Byers/Hoehne winner (Class 2A Region 5 Tournament at Hoehne), 1 p.m.

College men's basketball
Adams State at Metropolitan State-Denver, 5 p.m.

College women's basketball
Adams State at Metropolitan State-Denver, 3 p.m.

College men's wrestling
Adams State at NCAA Super Region VI Championship (at Pueblo), TBA

College baseball
Adams State vs. Concordia-St. Paul (Minn.) (2) (Tucson (Ariz.) Invitational), 9:30 a.m.

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

SUNDAY
College baseball
Adams State vs. Walsh (Ohio) (2) (Tucson (Ariz.) Invitational), 1 p.m.

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Published in the Valley Courier on March 1, 8, & 15, 2024.

221 - HELP WANTED

ALAMOSASCHOOL 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)

ALAMOSASCHOOL DISTRICT is now accepting applications for the following position: **AHS ASSISTANT TRACK 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)

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)

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)

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)

RIO GRANDE HOSPITAL CLINIC has a Full-Time MA position available in our clinic. Must be dependable, have the ability to multitask, 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)

SIERRA GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS accepting applications for a **MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER.** All applicants must have a current teaching license or an alternative teaching license in progress. Application forms are available on our school website www.sierragrandeschool.net or can be picked up at the District office 17523 Hwy 160, BLANCA, CO 81123. For more information, please contact our High School Principal, Brandon Mizokami at 719-379-3259. Position open until filled. (3/2/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

PREP-COOK NEEDED: WILL train at WAGON WHEEL in LA JARA. Call 719-274-5965, Margie. (3/2/24)

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. (3/13/24)

ALAMOSASCHOOL DISTRICT is now accepting applications for the following position: **ASSISTANT BASEBALL COACH (OMS).** Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org/> For more information, contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (3/2/24)

ALAMOSASCHOOL DISTRICT is now accepting applications for the following position: **HEAD CHEERLEADING COACH (AHS).** Applications are available online at <https://www.alamosaschools.org/> For more information, contact Tracy Vigil at 719-587-1600. Application deadline is until filled. EOE. (3/2/24)

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)

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

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

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)

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@lapuate.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)

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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@lapuate.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)

CENTER POLICE DEPARTMENT is looking to hire a **LIEUTENANT POSITION.** Annual salary DOE will be \$50k - \$62k, medical insurance, paid time off, dental benefits to name a few. Out of state applicants welcomed. For applications visit www.townofcenter.colorado.gov or email the Chief at aaron@centerco.gov. Application will be accepted through March 15, 2024. (3/1/24)

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)

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)



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173 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

LICENSED PLUMBER DOES all types of plumbing & plumbing repairs. Quick service! Call anytime, weekends & evenings: 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (3/15/24-monthlyAS)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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 cricci@co.conejos.co.us. Deadline is March 11, 2024. Inquiries call (719) 376-6799. (3/9/24)

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

VEGI GARDEN MANAGER. 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 hr@lapuate.net, ext 238. www.lapuate.net (4/3/24)

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

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)

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)

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 alpineachievers.org. (3/6/24)

ALAMOSASCHOOL 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)

ALAMOSASCHOOL 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)

ALAMOSASCHOOL DISTRICT is now accepting applications for the following position: **AHS ASSISTANT CROSS COUNTRY 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)

Classifieds

<p>221 - HELP WANTED</p> <p>EMPOWER STUDENTS. JOIN our CENTENNIAL team as a SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNSELOR. Guide academic & personal growth. Collaborate with teachers, offer support, and create a positive environment. Masters in School Counseling required. Application materials include a completed application, resume, cover letter, transcripts, and three letters of recommendation. Applications are printable from the district website (centennial.k12.co.us) or can be picked up from the front office. Submit application materials to kimba.rael@centennial.k12.co.us. EOE. (3/1/24AS)</p>	<p>221 - HELP WANTED</p> <p>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 gfriz@sangreschools.org. Applications may be downloaded from sdc.schools.net under tab "about us". Position open until filled. (3/12/24)</p>	<p>345 - WOOD</p> <p>THANK YOU, VALLEY COURIER. I SOLD MY WOOD SPLITTER! Frank.</p>	<p>360 - MISC. FOR SALE</p> <p>SOLD MY WHEELCHAIR IN 2 DAYS. WONDERFUL, HEARTWARMING EXPERIENCE. A WIN-WIN FOR BOTH OF US! Yolanda. (AS)</p>	<p>611 - HOMES FOR RENT</p> <p>KUDDOS TO THE VALLEY COURIER FOR RENTING OUR HOUSE IN 2 DAYS! Thanks, Gerry. (AS)</p>	<p>737 - RECREATIONAL VEHICLES</p> <p>1985 TOYOTA, 123K, sleeps two, pottee, good FISHING VAN - \$2,200. 719-936-1031. (3/5/24)</p>	<p>SAVE GAS! <i>Shop Locally</i></p>
<p>COME BE PART of the growing CENTENNIAL R-I team! We are seeking applications for an ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL. This is an opportunity to grow professionally through the exciting initiatives we have underway. We have an incredible team of educators, loving students, and a strong community. The position will remain open until filled. A current administrator license and/or master's degree and enrollment in an alternative principal licensure program are required. Please submit a resume, three letters of recommendation, pertinent transcripts, and a background check/valid CDE license with an application. Applications are printable from the district website (centennial.k12.co.us) or can be picked up from the front office. Submit applications to kimba.rael@centennial.k12.co.us. We provide a competitive benefits package, an admin pay schedule, and opportunities for admin multi-year contracts. EOE. (3/1/24AS)</p>	<p>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)</p>	<p>350 - FARM EQUIPMENT</p> <p>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. gjdixie1941@gmail.com (3/9/24)</p>	<p>ANTIQUE ROLL-UP DESK, 3 drawers - \$40. 719-298-2175. (3/5/24)</p> <p>GLASS PATIO TABLE 3'x5' & 4 chairs - \$40. 719-298-2175. (3/5/24)</p> <p>ADULT DIAPERS: MEDIUM or large, 18 per pack/\$10. 719-937-9373. (3/5/24)</p>	<p>614 - MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT</p> <p>2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH in FORT GARLAND, \$450/month plus utilities. Call 719-588-1126. (3/1/24)</p> <p>2 BEDROOM ON private lot with storage shed and car port. No pets/ smoking. \$650/month, 719-480-1856. (3/2/24)</p>	<p>Always the Last to Know?</p> <p>If you keep finding out about local events after they happen, it's time to subscribe to the Valley Courier.</p> <p>Subscribe today and stay connected to your world.</p>	<p>Valley Courier</p> <p>719-589-2553</p>
<p>307 - APPLIANCES</p> <p>PAT SOLD HER ELECTRIC STOVE IN JUST 3 DAYS THROUGH THE VALLEY COURIER'S CLASSIFIED ADS. (AS)</p>	<p>324 - SEED & FEED</p> <p>HORSE & COW HAY: GRASS, GRASS/ALFALFA, ALFALFA. 3x3 bales, various quality and pricing. 719-850-8917. (3/20/24AS-monthly)</p>	<p>353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK</p> <p>I SOLD MY HORSE IN 2 DAYS TO A GOOD HOME. THANKS VALLEY COURIER! Rick. (AS)</p>	<p>387 - WANTED TO BUY</p> <p>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)</p>	<p>401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES</p> <p>Century Property Management & Sales, LLC Alamosa • 589-5744</p> <p>PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE For all your rental needs please call 719-589-5744 or stop by 823 Main St. Alamosa, CO 81101 www.alamosarentals.com</p>	<p>701 - AUTOS FOR SALE</p> <p>1 DAY ADVERTISED IN THE VALLEY COURIER, SOLD MY CAR! GREAT SERVICE! Samuel. (AS)</p>	<p>2017 CHEVY TRVERSE SUV: 96,000 miles, new tires, good condition. \$12,000 OBO. 1-832-683-3533. (3/30/24)</p>
<p>330 - FREE</p> <p>FREE 2 PIECE BEIGE SECTIONAL, good condition. Call 719-589-3009. (3/2/24)</p>	<p>356 - MEAT & PRODUCE</p> <p>E & M CUSTOM BUTCHERING is accepting new appointments. 719-992-8334, 8249 CR 13, ANTONITO, CO, 81120. (3/20/24)</p>	<p>426 - MOBILE HOMES FORSALE</p> <p>FOR SALE IN ALAMOSA County: 1980 GLENWOOD TRAILER HOUSE \$6,700. Must be moved. 402-269-7172.(E-TFN-AS)</p>	<p>713 - PICKUP TRUCKS</p> <p>FARM / RANCH WORK TRUCK with Northman snow plow and dump bed, 1979 Chevy, V8, standard, 4x4, hydraulic wench, \$4,500/obo. 719-742-3321. (3/8/24)</p>			

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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lincoln's nickname
 - 4 Pierces
 - 9 Toss in a high curve
 - 12 South of USA
 - 13 Girder (hyph.)
 - 14 Female sheep
 - 15 Cereal plant
 - 16 Equine animal
 - 17 "Of — the nerve!"
 - 18 Hot and humid
 - 20 Drive
 - 22 Mil. rank
 - 23 Scrumptious
 - 24 Pie a la —
 - 26 Flat bottle
 - 29 United
 - 30 Back talk
 - 31 Flat-bottom boat
 - 35 Walk through water
- DOWN**
- 1 Singer Tori
 - 2 Outdo
 - 3 Drawn out
 - 4 Gadget
 - 5 Comply
 - 6 Yank's foe
 - 7 Lawman Wyatt —

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

8 Brains
9 By —
33 No longer fashionable
34 Small
36 Repeat
40 Recluse
41 Actor —
42 Light wood
43 Thai or Korean letter
44 Greek letter
45 More agreeable
47 Madrid money
48 Penalty
49 Slowdown
50 Like a moray
53 D.C. bigwig

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13					14			
15			16					17			
18			19			20		21			
		22					23				
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29				30				31	32	33	34
35			36		37					38	
			39	40					41		
42	43	44					45				
46				47		48				49	50
51				52		53				54	
55				56						57	
58				59						60	

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

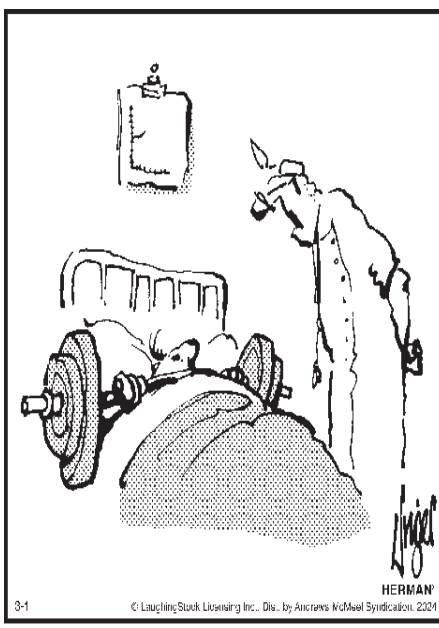
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		2						1
	8	6		2			7	
			8		7	5	3	
			9					
4	2	3		7				
	5		3		9	2		
6						8		
	4		7			3		

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

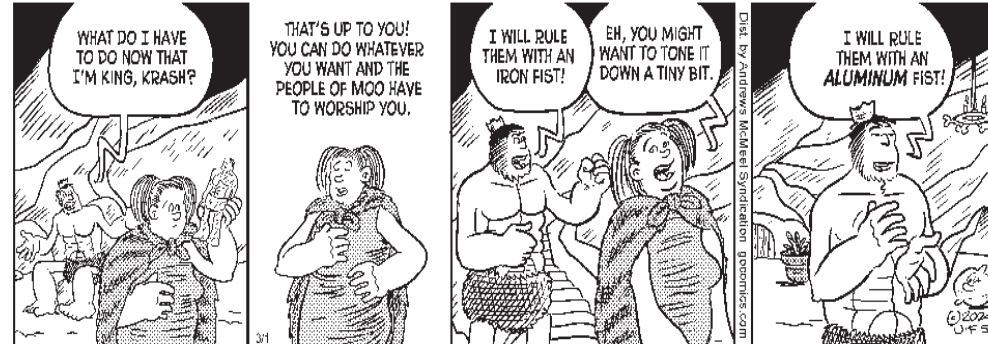
HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

HERMAN



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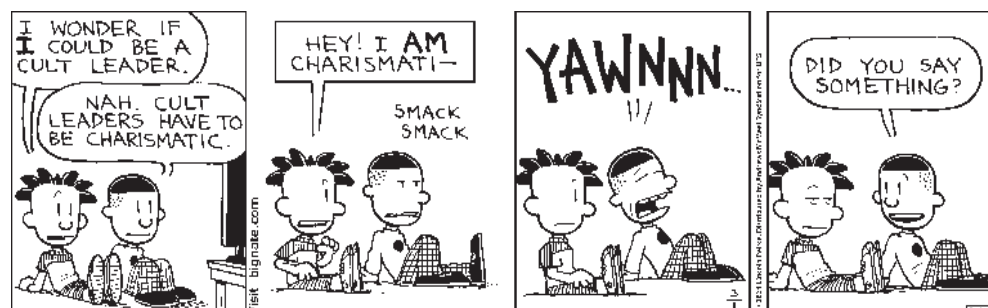
ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



BIG NATE



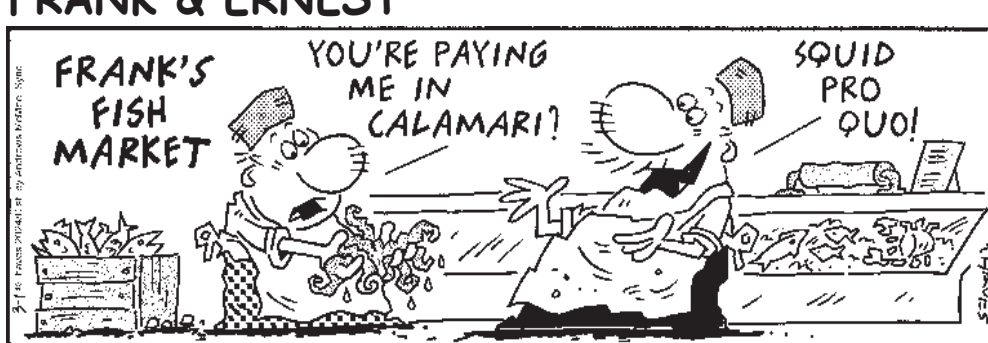
THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



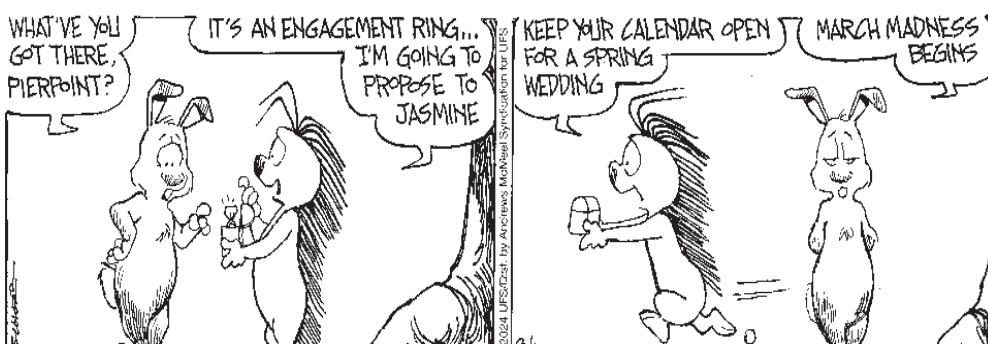
FRANK & ERNEST



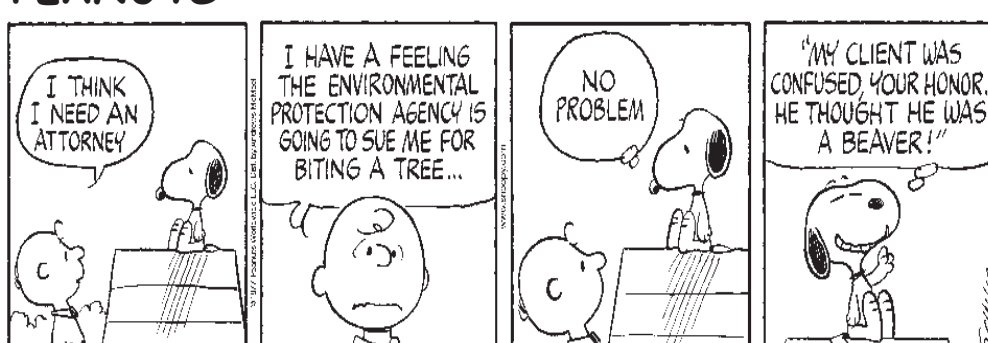
GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



Husband gives spouse an unthinkable ultimatum

DEAR ABBY: My husband has a poor relationship with our son and his wife. They want nothing to do with him and don't want him around the grandchildren because of how he acts. My husband tells me I should stick up for him and tell them what they're doing is wrong, and that he would never do or say anything bad in front of the grands.

My son and his wife have made their decision. If I send them a text or visit them, it causes fights in our house because he is not welcome. Now my husband is demanding that I choose: Stand by him and have nothing to do with the kids, or choose the kids and have nothing more to do with him. How fair is it to have to make a choice like that? -- TORN IN FLORIDA

DEAR TORN: Fairness has nothing to do with it. Your husband is trying to blackmail you into running interference for him with your son. It's time to decide which is more important -- having a relationship with your son, his wife and your grandchildren or remaining with your controlling, unpleasant husband. Keep doing what you're doing and call his bluff, because disengaging from you could be more complicated -- and expensive -- than

your husband realizes.

DEAR ABBY: I am writing because my wife has lost interest in her appearance. I love her, but I cannot figure out a way to tell her she has become obese. She seems to think her appearance is just fine.

I know I can't say anything without her getting extremely upset, so I'm in a quandary about how to get her to understand that obesity is not only a danger to her health but also looks awful. Can you suggest a way to approach a woman without getting in deep trouble with her? I'm sure other men (and women) have this similar situation. Please advise. -- WORRIED HUSBAND

DEAR HUSBAND: The message might be less unwelcome if you concentrate solely on the HEALTH aspect of her weight gain. Encourage her to see her doctor, begin exercising (with you, if necessary) and adopt a healthy diet for BOTH of you "because you love her, and want to enjoy many more happy years together."

DEAR ABBY: A relative recently moved to my state and wants to get together more than I care to. This person had more than a year to prepare for the move, but didn't plan ahead for many of the tasks and now



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

is overwhelmed, needy, whiny and complaining constantly.

I'm now being asked for information regarding many of the personal services I use. My relative talks over me and doesn't listen, so conversation is difficult. Aside from not initiating calls or answering my phone, have you any suggestions about how I can limit my interactions with this person? -- KEEPING TO MYSELF

DEAR KEEPING: If your relative has a computer or cellphone, email or text a list of resources they can use to acclimate to the community. (I'm thinking pharmacy, dry cleaners, specialty stores, etc.) And after that, be "busy." VERY busy.