

Guide to Housing in the San Luis Valley 2024

— Inside today's Valley Courier



Mutton Bustin' has several good scores

— Page 8



VOLUME 98, NO. 100

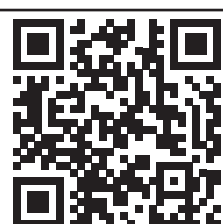
# Valley Courier

SATURDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

June 22, 2024

\$1



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### SLV Today

Commodities distribution is June 27

**ALAMOSA** – The next commodities distribution (TEFAP & CSFP/Everyday Eats) for Alamosa County will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 27, or as long as product is available at the Alamosa Food Bank Warehouse, 8735 Independence Dr., Alamosa, just north of the Alamosa County Department of Human Services.

This is a drive-thru distribution. For more information, contact the Alamosa Food Bank at 719-589-4567.

### Summer Fun Quilt Show

**ALAMOSA** — The Alamosa Public Library and the San Luis Valley Quilt Guild are partnering to bring the community a gorgeous Summer Fun Quilt Show!

The library at Alamosa City Hall at 300 Hunt Avenue, will host an opening reception with refreshments, curated by San Luis Valley Quilt Guild members, on Saturday, July 6, at 11 a.m. Stroll through the Alamosa Farmers Market at 6th and Ross; peruse the shelves of titillating books at Spines Book Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Alamosa Public Library; and then stop by the library to enjoy the Summer Fun Quilt Show and opening reception!

The quilts will be on display from Tuesday, July 2nd, through Saturday, July 20th, at the Alamosa Public Library which is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please note that the library is closed on Thursday, July 4th.

For more information, contact Maria at the Alamosa Public Library at 719-589-6592.

### SLV WEATHER

Slight Chance of Showers 82/49

**Sun:** Slight Chance of Afternoon Showers 84/52

**Mon:** Slight Chance of Afternoon Showers, Breezy 83/48

### INSIDE

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## Altercation at carnival after hours ends with stabbings

*One person hospitalized with serious injuries*

4-day event sponsored by the City of Alamosa, had closed for the night.

As described in a press release sent out by the City of Alamosa on Friday morning, shortly after 11 p.m. on Thursday night, a 4-day event sponsored by the City of Alamosa, had closed for the night. As described in a press release sent out by the City of Alamosa on Friday morning, shortly after 11 p.m. on Thursday night, a 4-day event sponsored by the City of Alamosa, had closed for the night. As described in a press release sent out by the City of Alamosa on Friday morning, shortly after 11 p.m. on Thursday night, a 4-day event sponsored by the City of Alamosa, had closed for the night.

**See STABBING page 3**  
**Carnival on the Rio was the site of an altercation Thursday night after the carnival was closed. Three people received knife injuries with one person still in the hospital in stable but serious condition with life-threatening injuries.**

Courier photo by Priscilla Waggoner



## The vision, the voice, the gift of Lisa Kori

*She is performing June 26 at Society Hall*

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER  
*Courier Reporter*



Courtesy photo

**Lisa Kori present 'Daughter of the West - Songs of Chinatowns, Japanese plantation workers and the Old West', an original project inspired by the history and musical contributions of Asian-Americans in the American West.**

**ALAMOSA** – In a single image, the photo on the promotional poster “Daughter of the American West” encapsulates the expansive spirit of the music of singer-songwriter Lisa Kori.

Against a rich, deep red background (a significant color in both China and Japan), the striking woman of East Asian ancestry dons the iconic symbols of Western culture and music. Black cowboy hat. Black cowboy boots. A gaze that speaks of independence and strength. But, while wearing a Chinese silk dress, she is also surrounded by Chinese porcelain and pieces of Japanese pottery.

The message is clear. Listen closely. There is more to be discovered here.

On Wednesday, June 26, at Society Hall, Santa Fe-based musician Kori will take the stage with a full band to present “Daughter of the West - Songs of Chinatowns, Japanese plantation workers and the Old West.”

■ See KORI page 3

## Alamosa Kiwanis have flipped flapjacks for 50 years

CONTRIBUTED

**ALAMOSA** – The 4th of July in Alamosa begins with the iconic Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast. The all-you-can-eat tradition celebrates 50 years in 2024.

The event begins at 7 a.m. and continues until 10 a.m. in the Alamosa San Luis Valley Federal Bank parking lot. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, ham, orange juice and coffee are served up by Alamosa Kiwanis members, the Adams State University football team and other volunteers

on Independence Day.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children aged 5-12; free to children aged 4 and under. Purchase tickets at the breakfast or in advance at the Alamosa State Bank or the First Southwest Bank.

Alamosa Kiwanis appreciates the many sponsors of the annual pancake breakfast.

Alamosa Kiwanis is a member of Kiwanis International with a mission dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at

a time. Proceeds from the Alamosa Kiwanis breakfast benefit the children of the Alamosa community. For more information about the club, email [alamosakiwanisclub@gmail.com](mailto:alamosakiwanisclub@gmail.com).

**The 50th Annual Alamosa Kiwanis 4th of July Pancake Breakfast begins at 7 a.m. in the San Luis Valley Federal Bank parking lot. Pictured, members Liz Hensley and Andy Rice keep the griddle hot during the 2022 event.**

Courtesy photo



## Forefathers of the Colorado Division of Aeronautics receive Lifetime Achievement Awards

*Valley's Entz and former Gov. Romer honored by CAB*

roles in its establishment. Colorado's 39th Governor, Roy Romer, and former Colorado Governor, Kent Holsinger, were honored with the “Lifetime Achievement Award” by the Colorado Aeronautical Board (CAB) for their crucial

**See AWARDS page 3**  
**Pictured left to right, Colorado Division of Aeronautics Director David Ulane, Colorado Gov. Roy Romer, Colorado State Sen. Lewis Entz, and Colorado Aeronautical Board Chair Kent Holsinger pose for a photo on June 6, when Romer and Entz were awarded Lifetime Achievement Awards by the Colorado Aeronautical Board.**

Courtesy photo

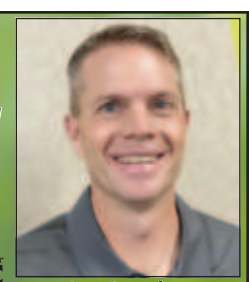


Chad Spearman

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Lee Crowther





# Record

## OBITUARIES

### Helen Lou Monter

Helen Lou Monter, 86, a long-term resident of the San Luis and Greenhorn Valleys, passed away Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, in Colorado Springs, Colo., following a stroke.

Helen was preceded in death by daughter Sandra Lynne, husband Merlin Jesse, parents Martin 'Mig' and Lucille Klinger, and son-in-law Dick Johnson.

Helen is survived by her children: Shirley Johnson of Nevada, Mo., John Monter of Lakeside, Calif., Jack Monter (Jill) of Pueblo West, Colo., Susan Wilson (Todd) of Gallup, N.M., and Sharon Monter of Nevada, Mo.; grandchildren: Sean Johnson, Roy Johnson (Nicole), Courtney Monter, Whitney Monter, Talisha Brownell (James), Shayna Guardian (Raymond), Tiana Heppner (Sam), Sheldon Wilson (Hannah), Makayla Ra-



seta (Josh), Lane Fringer, Shaelynn Fringer, Marshall Fringer; and great-grandchildren: Gabe Bailey, Daniel Bailey, Liam Johnson, Brooklynn Brownell, Adeline Wilson, Alila Guardian, Remington Raseta, Kimber Raseta, Oaklynn Fringer. She is also survived by her sister Carolyn Bradshaw and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

Helen epitomized unconditional love and service to everyone who knew

her. She loved God, her family, and her friends. She ended every communication with, "God Bless!" The final words to her children were, "I am so blessed by God!"

You may share thoughts or memories of Helen Lou (Mom) at: helenloumontermemories@gmail.com. If you prefer, cards can be sent to 302 Ciniza Ct. Gallup, NM 87301. If you would like to share your address with the family, do so at: <https://www.postable.com/HelenLouMonterMemorial>.

A graveside service for the family will be held on Saturday, June 29, 2024, in Monte Vista, Colo. Following, the family invites you to join them for a "Celebration of Life" in her honor at the Movie Manor, 2830 U.S. Hwy 160 Monte Vista, Colo., from 1-2 p.m. Come celebrate her life and share your memories with us.

### Clinton Glen Betenbough and Katherine Mae Betenbough

Loving couple, Clinton Glen Betenbough, 66, and Katherine Mae Betenbough, 61, sadly passed away within 24 hours of each other.

Clinton (Glen), passed on his 66th birthday Wednesday, June 13. Katherine (Kathy), followed her beloved the following day, Thursday, June 14.

Both passed away from their own personal struggles with cancer.

Glen, as he was called by, was born on June 13, 1958, in Del Norte, Colo., to CG Betenbough and Bernice Betenbough.

He was preceded in death by father, C.G. Betenbough and mother Bernice Betenbough, as well as his nephew, Lee Harrison.

Kathy, as she was called by, was born Aug. 25, 1962, on the US Air Force Base Nouasseur in Morocco, South Africa, to Wally Allen, and Elvin Eugene Boss.

She was preceded in death by her mother Wally and father Elvin, and brothers, Troy and Justin Boss.

Glen and Kathy leave behind two sons, Cyle (Sarah) and Clay (Emmi) Betenbough; four grandchildren, Addison, 19, Sydney, 17, Camden, 12, and Connor, 4. They also leave behind their adored



pets, Gunner and Lola Betenbough. As well as many cousins and family friends.

Glen and Kathy would have celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary on June 20.

They lived throughout the Valley in the last 20 years. They had moved to Phoenix, Ariz., in 1984, where they had a successful rock landscape company, All-Star materials. It was because of this business in Arizona that Glen was able to fulfill his dream of owning and working farmland in the Valley of La Jara and Alamosa, Colo. Both Kathy and Glen did many things for their local communities. They also had a deep love of Hawaii where they often vacationed and brought many loved ones along. Kathy was a thoughtful, giving, loving and good-humored woman. Filled with love, she doted upon her chil-

dren, grandchildren, her many pets and most especially, her husband. Many would agree that she was a patient wife to her love, Glen.

Glen was, at heart, a dedicated husband, landowner, business owner, and Father. He put an abundance amount of passion, hard work and dedication into his everyday job(s). He was definitely a busybody, to say the least! Glen had an incredible smile, when he did so!

The family invites all who wish to come to a memorial service held at Rogers Family Mortuary at 205 State Ave., Alamosa, CO 81101. The Celebration of Life will begin at 10:30 a.m. The burial will follow the service at San Luis Valley Cemetery in Monte Vista.

Any donations or contributions will be made to be given to the Leukemia Cancer Association per the Betenbough's wishes. "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins". -1Peter 4:8 NIV

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave words of comfort, remembrances and tributes for Glen and Kathy's family please visit [www.Rogersfunerals.com](http://www.Rogersfunerals.com).

### Gerald Lester Corning

Long-time Alamosa resident and former business professor at Adams State University, Gerald Lester Corning, passed away on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, in Arvada, Colo.

Gerald or "Jerry" was born May 13, 1943, in a train depot in Dickens, Neb., to Lester and Hilda (Goodrow) Corning. His Dad was a telegrapher for the railroad which led the family to relocate often, including to Paoli, Colo., where Jerry played basketball and graduated from Haxtun High School. Jerry returned to Lincoln, Neb., to continue his education and ended up meeting his wife Susanne (Sukovaty). The two made their way back to Colorado, eventually settling in Alamosa where Jerry taught Accounting at Adams State for 35 years before his retirement in 2009. He enjoyed his profession and the numerous students he taught during those years and felt honored when a scholarship was later endowed in his name.

Along with his passion for teaching, Jerry's long-time hobby was that of an



amateur ham radio operator where he operated under the call sign KOMT. His children can still remember the sound of his keyer as he used Morris Code to send dits and dahs to people all around the world...in all hours of the day and night! Jerry was always trying to improve upon his signal reach. One time he even roped his kids into wiring pop cans together and erecting a very tall homemade aluminum tower.

Following retirement, Jerry moved to the Denver area to be closer to his wife, kids, grandkids, and his own mother until her passing at 103 years young! He enjoyed fishing, playing Yahtzee, watching sports on tv, eating at restaurants, playing Bingo and buying

wild t-shirts at the thrift store. His five grandchildren saw many funny faces, were given lots of bunny ears, and could often get a few bucks from him if ever they asked. Those he left will miss his sense of humor, his intellect, and his companionship.

Gerald is survived by his children Michelle Straight (Greg), Blair Corning (Becky Dillon), and Tammy Glasby (Trent), grandchildren Chloe, Bella, Sophia, Holden, and Braelyn, his sister-in-law, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents Lester and Hilda, his brother Raymond Corning (Mary Reichardt Corning Jones), sister Bonnie and her husband Orville Harms, his wife Susanne, son Travis Corning, and nephew Gary Harms (Vicky).

A celebration of Jerry's life with food, drink, and song will be held 11 a.m., July 7, 2024, at the Faversham Park Lake Pavilion at 6109 W. 73rd Ave., Westminster, CO 80003. Former students, friends, and family are all welcome to attend.

## Routine traffic stop yields drugs, cash

### STAFF REPORT

**ALAMOSA** — An Alamosa man was arrested for unlawful possession and distribution of a controlled substance on Wednesday afternoon during a routine traffic stop, the Alamosa Police Department reported.

During the stop, APD K-9 Goose alerted officers on scene that there may be narcotics in the vehicle the man was driving.

A subsequent search by APD Cpl. Cody Van Ry uncovered a stash of drugs and a large amount of cash, leading to the arrest and detention of Michael Christopher Warner, 47, of Alamosa.

Shortly after 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19, a vehicle with an illegal tint on the windows prompted a traffic stop by Van Ry and K-9 Goose in the 6000 block of North River Road. The illegal tint was confirmed by a tint meter, according to APD.

Goose was deployed and alerted officers to the possible presence of narcotics in the vehicle,



Michael Christopher Warner

according to APD.

In the search that ensued, officers located fentanyl pills, cocaine, methamphetamine, and a large amount of US currency, which is consistent with narcotic distribution, according to APD.

The discovery led to Warner's arrest and subsequent transport

to the Alamosa County Detention Center where he was preliminarily charged with suspicion of unlawful distribution of a controlled substance (Drug Felony 1), unlawful possession of a controlled substance (Drug Felony 2), obstructing a peace officer, open container and illegal window tint.

## Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold reminds voters of election results reporting

### CONTRIBUTED

**Denver** — Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold on Friday highlighted the process of counting ballots and reporting results, including how and when ballots are counted and when to expect unofficial results reporting on Election Night, June 25.

"Election day results are never final results," said Secretary Griswold. "After Election Day, ballots continue to be counted, military and overseas voters return their ballots, signature discrepancies can be fixed, and audits are conducted to confirm the results."

While counties began processing ballots before Election Day, initial results will not be reported until after polls close at 7 p.m. on June 25. When polls officially close at 7 p.m., counties will begin uploading results — including for the Congressional District 4 (CD-4) Congressional Vacancy Election — to the state's centralized Election Night Reporting system. The link to those results are posted

on the Colorado Secretary of State's website, including on the home page and at [GoVoteColorado.gov](http://GoVoteColorado.gov).

In Colorado, results are not reported based on the manner in which ballots are cast. However, as counties can start reviewing signatures once ballots are received and begin processing ballots for processing 15 days before Election Day, early in-person ballots and mail ballots received before Election Day will likely be reported prior to in-person and mail ballots received on Election Day.

A variable impacting reporting unofficial results is the number of Coloradans who vote (either early in-person or return their mail ballot via mail, drop box or in person) in advance of Election Day relative to those who return their ballot or vote in-person on Election Day.

In addition to using Colorado's Election Night Reporting system, counties may post results to their websites but are not required to do so. Note that if a

court extends polling hours in any county, no results will be posted by the Secretary of State's Office until polls are closed in every county.

As counties continue to upload results periodically through the night, you can track progress by referencing the color-coded status that are used in the "counties reporting" map to indicate at what point they are in the process. Yellow indicates that a county has reported results at least once, and as they continue to tabulate ballots, they will update results periodically throughout the night. Lavender means that a county has stopped tabulating for election night but does not indicate that all ballots have been tabulated, as they will continue to update results in the following days. Green indicates that all eligible ballots have been tabulated, and dark orange indicates results have been certified as official.

For more information on election dates and deadlines, please visit [www.GoVoteColorado.gov](http://www.GoVoteColorado.gov)

## SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

### Paul Widhalm

Friends and Family are invited to a Celebration of life for Paul Widhalm at 11 a.m. on July 6, 2024, at the Alamosa Elks Lodge, 406 Hunt Ave., Alamosa.



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Alamosa Valley Courier

## School Menu

### Monday

June 24, 2024

#### BREAKFAST

Cereal Bar/Graham Crackers

Fruit & Milk

#### ELEMENTARY

Chicken Fajitas/Salsa

Refried Beans

Spiced Bread

Fruit & Milk

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL

Chicken Fajitas/Salsa

Refried Beans

Spiced Bread

Fruit & Milk

Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students

Alamosa School District

To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553



# Valley News

## GOCO board awards \$294K to RiGHT for staffing, training

**CONTRIBUTED DENVER** — The Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) board awarded a \$294,375 grant to Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust (RiGHT) to hire two new conservation staff positions and provide staff training in the San Luis Valley.

The grant is part of GOCO's Planning and Capacity program, which invests in projects that address opportunities, explore issues, engage communities, and examine trends in the outdoors.

RiGHT will hire two new staff positions and enhance staff training to promote conservation and restoration in the Valley. With this added capacity, RiGHT expects to create cost and administrative efficiencies, increase the donor pool and donations by as much as 30%, and advance 2-3 new conservation easements per year, while better serving and representing the region.

A conservation connector position will help RiGHT's three program directors conserve new properties, steward lands with conservation easements, and restore

ecosystem function on public and private lands. Additionally, an administrator/events and outreach coordinator will engage the community through events and targeted fundraising, and support the executive director in administrative and operational tasks. To better represent the population of the Valley, RiGHT hopes to recruit a local candidate for one or both positions.

Staff training will include Esri geographic information system (GIS) mapping and drone operations, allowing the organization to conduct these activities in-house and reduce outside contracting costs while supporting staff retention through professional development opportunities.

"We are so grateful to GOCO for this opportunity to enhance our capacity and excited to continue supporting local agriculture, conservation, and restoration efforts," said Laura Cusick, Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust's interim executive director. "This funding ensures that RiGHT can

conserve more acreage, further protect water rights, and include more voices from the community we serve in the San Luis Valley."

RiGHT has served the San Luis Valley since 1999 and, as the organization embarks on its 25th year, they're celebrating over 32,000 acres conserved via 57 easements, 95% of which are on working lands.

To date, GOCO has invested more than \$8.7 million in Alamosa County and partnered to conserve 30,453 acres of



# GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO

land there. GOCO funding has supported San Luis Valley Generation Wild and Alamosa City Ice Rink, Montaña Azul Park, and Rio Grande Healthy Living Park, among other projects.

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) invests a portion of Colorado

Lottery proceeds to help preserve and enhance the state's parks, trails, wildlife, rivers, and open spaces. GOCO's independent board awards competitive grants to local governments and land trusts through Colorado Parks

and Wildlife. Created when voters approved a constitutional amendment in 1992, GOCO has since funded more than 5,700 projects in all 64 counties of Colorado without any tax-dollar support. Visit GOCO.org for more information.

## Kori

■ Continued from Page 1 of Chinatowns, Japanese plantation workers and the Old West", an original project inspired by the history and musical contributions of Asian-Americans in the American West.

Those listening to Kori's music will find it captivating. Her songs embody the heartfelt substance and style of country and folk, yet there is something else residing in the music, a different element that is new yet familiar, different yet the same, adding richness and texture to a familiar sound.

For those who know her story, none of this comes as a surprise. Kori has had a unique vision of herself, her life and, ultimately, her ancestral past since she was a little girl.

Born in Hawaii because her parents were wind surfing there at the time, Kori was the only child of free-spirited parents who "were kind of the black sheep" in the family.

"They lived to ski and surf and had a real adventurous, follow-your-heart attitude," she says. "It wasn't a very common way to be in the Asian-American culture and I feel very blessed to have been raised to pursue what it is that is my own path and makes me happy. Very blessed."

When she was young, her tiny family moved to Ashland, Ore., a cultural mecca for galleries and the performing arts. Although her parents' interests did not include music - in fact, her parents sold their entire music collection when she was young - Kori started taking piano lessons when she was eight and "almost immediately, I started writing my own songs before I could even read music."

Growing up, she did not have "much access to anything" like movies or, more specifically, music, which led her to largely create her

own. It was a solitary pursuit. Somewhere in those early years, she started playing folk guitar, as well.

As Kori's skills at the piano grew, her talent became increasingly apparent. By the time she was in high school, she was being mentored by a well-known concert pianist and started competing while also being a regular in pit orchestras around town.

In high school, Kori decided she wanted to go to Oberlin Conservatory of Music, one of the most prestigious music colleges in the nation. Financially, it was out of the question. So, while she was in her last year of high school, she spent six months teaching herself to compose chamber music, missing out on weekend dates with friends, going to prom, basically being a high school kid.

"It was a really big sacrifice when I was in high school...to miss parties and prom and all of that. But when I have an idea of creatively what I want to do, I'm willing to work really hard," she says.

Kori had originally been studying to be a concert pianist but transitioned to music composition. That suited her better but still left her lacking because she knew what she was composing "wasn't going to be heard by anyone."

With what seems to be a seeker's heart, Kori switched her major to "New Media" - think electronic music, art, film - which ultimately led to receiving a fellowship that called for her to study electronic music and sound art in fifteen countries around the world, documenting the creators she met.

Listening to Kori's story, it is easy to think that each step is taking her further and further into some unknown, yet to be discovered place. But once it becomes known how her story turns out - at least, so far - it becomes even more clear that the further away Kori traveled,



Courtesy photo of Lisa Kori. Lisa Kori will be in concert on Wednesday, June 26, at Society Hall.

the closer she came to finding herself.

As had happened in previous times when she literally "worked herself sick", as they say, Kori became chronically ill and, through a series of circumstances, ended up living off the grid in New Mexico.

At first, there was "so much brown and no green anywhere", but gradually she began to get a stronger sense of where she was. "There's still a sense of wildness there, like it's on the edge of the known world. It's the frontier of the American imagination with very old ways and old ways of living."

Being surrounded by a sense of history embedded into all that's seen turns a person's thoughts to their own history, so when she received some photos of previous generations in her family who "looked just like cowboys with big hats and boots", Lisa Kori embarked on a different type of journey, one that traveled into her past and enriched her present.

She writes, "As a musician of Japanese and Chinese descent with a love of folk music, I've been wondering what songs my Chinese ancestors brought to the U.S. when they emigrated during the gold rush, and what songs my Japanese ancestors sang while working the sugar plantations of Hawaii. I wonder about the arduous labor of the Chinese who built

the railroads and wish I could hear their work songs. Why didn't their music become part of the landscape?"

Kori may not be able to answer the "why" in that question, but she is answering other questions she has had with her own creations and compositions.

"My music imagines what it would sound like if elements of Japanese and Chinese music had become a natural part of American roots music."

"Daughter of the West" is not an homage to the past, it is, in many ways, a nod to the present and the future. "It is a collection of songs of Asian-American hopes and dreams."

And since Kori is not able to take those of us who love her music with her into the world, she is bringing the world to those who are just waiting to discover her music.

On Wednesday, June 26, Kori will be appearing at Society Hall. This concert was made possible by a grant, awarded to Kori, from Howlin' Dog Music Group, an Alamosa-based non-profit made up of people who believe in the power of collective action to find new and sustainable ways of supporting the music we love.

Society Hall is at 4th Street and Ross Avenue in Alamosa. The concert begins at 7:30 pm. Doors open at 6:30. Buy tickets at the door or online at [www.societyhall.org](http://www.societyhall.org).



Courtesy photo of Senator Roy Romer and Senator Lewis Entz. On May 24, 1988, on the tail of Senator Lewis Entz's aircraft, Colorado Gov. Roy Romer signs House Bill (HB) 88-1250 into law, leading to the creation of the Colorado Division of Aeronautics under Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S) 43-10.

## Awards

■ Continued from Page 1 State Senator Lewis Entz received their awards on Thursday, June 6, during a ceremony at the Colorado Airport Operator's Association (CAOA) Spring Conference.

Entz, 92, served 14 years as county commissioner for Alamosa, followed by 16 years as a house representative (1983-1998). During his first eight years, a new law set term limits. He served a full eight-year second term, and then he spent another six years in the Senate (2001-2006). Entz was born in Monte Vista and currently resides in Hooper. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1951-53.

On May 24, 1988, on the tail of Senator Entz's aircraft, Colorado Gov. Romer signed House Bill (HB) 88-1250 into law, leading to the creation of the Colorado Division of Aeronautics under Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S) 43-10. This legislation marked a significant milestone in Colorado's aviation history, particularly with the creation of the Colorado Aviation Fund and the Colorado Discretionary Aviation Grant Program (CDAG). Funded by aviation fuel sales taxes, the CDAG Program has contributed over \$1 billion to the Colorado Aviation System.

tem. It oversees various critical initiatives, including funding airport improvements, promoting aviation education, and enhancing the safety and economic viability of the Colorado Aviation System.

"Governor Romer and Senator Entz came from different political parties, but they worked together to promote and protect aviation and airports for the good of all Coloradans", said CAB Chair Kent Holsinger.

Romer, a licensed pilot for 70 years, served as Colorado's Governor from 1987 to 1999. He frequently used his personal aircraft for business, demonstrating his advocacy for aviation and his vision to improve Colorado's infrastructure, with aviation as a key element.

Sen. Entz, the bill's sponsor, was also a licensed pilot. He represented Colorado's rural communities and had a personal connection to small rural airports. His legislative vision supported both large busy airports and small rural airports, which are vital to their communities. He is also a member of the Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame.

Today, the Colorado Airport System includes 76 public-use airports, with 14 offering scheduled air service. According to the 2020 Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study, Colorado airports support 345,661 jobs, generating \$16.2 billion in annual payroll and \$48.6 billion in total annual business revenue.

## Stabbing

■ Continued from Page 1 ter 10 p.m. on Thursday night, the Alamosa Police Department was notified of a disturbance at Cole Park.

When APD officers arrived on the scene, they found a 22-year-old Alamosa man who had been stabbed. They also found a 17-year-old juvenile with a cut on his hand.

Officers were later notified by local hospital staff that a second 17-year-old, also with a stab wound, had been transported to the hospital by private vehicle.

A subsequent investigation by detectives and officers determined the teens had a history of disagreement, which led to the initial altercation. During the altercation, one of the teens produced a knife and stabbed the other teen and the 22-year-old man.

It is unknown at this time what the involvement of the 22-year-old man was during this incident. Detectives continue to interview witnesses and suspect(s) and will confer with the 12th Judicial District Attorney's Office on appropriate charges for those involved.

In its press release, the city stated the carnival organizer had hired private security for the event, but this incident took place when the carnival had shut down.

Police and city Parks and Recreation staff met with carnival organizers on Friday morning to ensure adequate and increased security would be present for the remaining three days of the carnival. In addition, APD will increase patrols during the event as calls for service allow.

The 22-year-old man, whose name was not released, sustained serious life-threatening injuries

and was listed in stable condition at San Luis Valley Health Regional Medical Center. The two teens, who were not named due to their age, sustained injuries and were treated and released.

This is an isolated incident involving people known to each other and was not a random act of violence. This is also an ongoing investigation, and no further information will be released at this time.

This is the second year in a row that there has been a violent incident at Carnival on the Rio in Cole Park after the carnival had closed down for the night.



# Opinion

## Ageism is alive and well

In a Higher Education article, ageism is noted to be alive and well in academia, corporate America and everywhere in between. Writers, researchers, and futurists have documented that prejudice against aging workers in the U.S. as more prevalent than racism or gender bias.

If you are over 50 and have recently been ousted from your job, then chances are you have experienced ageism.

When I was younger, the age of 30 heralded time's demise. Then as I achieved my bachelor's and master's in my 30s, the timeline changed. With Disney's Absent-Minded Professor, I had always thought that professor played by Fred MacMurray taught forever and so did all professors whether in chemistry or English.

In the 1948 movie, Apartment for Peggy, Edmond Gwenn played the kind, aged, intelligent and sad professor of philosophy. The new professor-wannabe is played by William Holden; and his wife Peggy is played by Jeanne Crain. The story gets convoluted but is a heart-warming tale that embraces the aging talents of Gwenn and helps him find purpose again in his senior years.

In 1943, Danny Kaye played a music professor. He and his music cohorts rescue a woman running from the mob.

### Movin' On with Nellie



Nelda Curtiss



The movie is one of my favorites and age is a cool cucumber in this story too.

Also in 1943, Greer Garson plays Madame Curie, the first woman professor at the University of Paris and the first woman to win a Nobel Prize in physics. She ages in the film and receives great respect as she ages during her tenure.

In 1963, we watched the movie, a spoof of Elvis and Conway Twitty, "Bye Bye Birdie" with Dick Van Dyke and Ann Margret. One of the scenes regales those over 30 as not to be trusted.

So, despite society's leanings toward youth in the 1960s, I still believed that aging was not a negative in the job, especially not in academia. But low and behold, my own experience and that of many others in the Valley confirms this

higher education article I mentioned at the start of this column.

Ageism is alive and growing like the scourge of racism. We must make the leap of acceptance and embrace one another in all of our histories and herstories.

The American Psychological Association noted: "Not only are negative stereotypes hurtful to older people, but they may even shorten their lives, finds psychologist Becca Levy, PhD, assistant professor of public health at Yale University. In Levy's longitudinal study of 660 people 50 years and older, those with more positive self-perceptions of aging lived 7.5 years longer than those with negative self-perceptions of aging. The study appeared in the Journal of

To submit news, email: [news@alamosanews.com](mailto:news@alamosanews.com)

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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](mailto:news@alamosanews.com). Letters to staff, not for publication, should be marked "personal."

Personality and Social Psychology (Vol. 83, No. 2)."

Give your parents and grandparents hugs and the respect they've earned. And the next time you're in the grocery store line and look over at the magazines notice how many flaunt young skin, young music, young living and how many praise long living, wise living and jitter bugging. If we can notice the words of wisdom missing from the magazine racks, we might all give age its respect and love.

*Nelda Curtiss is a retired college educator and long-time local columnist. Reach her at [columnsbynellie.com](mailto:columnsbynellie.com) or email her at [columnsbynellie@gmail.com](mailto:columnsbynellie@gmail.com).*

## Democrats turn lawfare into a campaign ad

By BYRON YORK

President Joe Biden's reelection campaign has released a new ad that synthesizes the Democratic effort to use criminal charges and lawsuits against former President Donald Trump. "In the courtroom, we see Donald Trump for who he is," the ad begins. "He's been convicted of 34 felonies. Found liable for sexual assault. And he committed financial fraud." Trump, the ad continues, is a "convicted criminal," while Biden is "a president who's fighting for your family."

Maybe there were times when you wondered what accounted for the swarm of legal attacks on Trump, coming from elected Democratic prosecutors and appointees of the Biden Justice Department, in late 2022 and 2023. Part of it was delayed gratification; many Democrats had long been itching to go after Trump legally, but as long as he was president of the United States, until Jan. 20, 2021, that was hard to do.

But a larger reason was the coming 2024 presidential campaign. By the middle of 2022, it was clear that Trump intended to run for his old office again. For a moment, the impressive reelection victory of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in November 2022 appeared to set up a primary contest between the two men, but DeSantis faltered. Trump always had the support of a majority of Republicans, and as the months went by, his strength in the GOP nominating contest grew and grew.

That's where the Democratic strategy came in. In September 2022, the elected Democratic attorney general of New York, Letitia James, filed a massive lawsuit against Trump, seeking to destroy his business and extract hundreds of millions of dollars from him by accusing Trump of committing financial fraud by overvaluing his real estate properties.

In November 2022, the writer E. Jean Carroll, who in 2019 accused Trump of defamation, filed a second lawsuit against Trump, this one accusing him of rape. The accusation was decades past the statute of limitations, but Carroll, using a special one-time-only New York me-too law, got in just under the line to allege that Trump attacked her sometime in the 1990s. She had never reported or publicly mentioned the event until she began selling a book in 2019.

In March 2023, the elected Democratic district attorney of Manhattan, Alvin Bragg, employed a rarely used legal maneuver to turn an out-of-date misdemeanor allegation into 34 felony counts against the former president. In June 2023, Jack Smith, the special counsel appointed by the Biden Justice Department to investigate Trump, indicted Trump on 40 felony counts in the classified records case. In August 2023, Smith indicted Trump again, this time on four felony counts related to the 2020 election and Jan. 6. And then, in August 2023, Fani Willis, the elected Democratic district attorney of Fulton County, Georgia, indicted Trump on 13 felony counts related to the 2020 election. It was a multiple-redundant attack. That is, if one prong of the effort failed, or became mired in legal procedure, there were others ready to go forward. The first success was the E. Jean Carroll suit, in which a jury, guided by a judge whose decisions made Trump's defense difficult, found Trump liable for the decades-old allegation of "sexual abuse" against Carroll. Trump was ordered to pay Carroll more than \$83 million in damages. That allowed the Biden commercial to say Trump was found liable for "sexual assault." (The actual verdict was "sexual abuse," but perhaps the Biden admakers thought "sexual assault" sounded better.) The next hit was the Letitia James

lawsuit. It was, in the eyes of some experts, a weak case, certainly not worthy of the penalties sought, but under New York law, Trump did not have the right to a jury trial. Another judge who made Trump's defense difficult decided Trump was liable and ordered him to pay a jaw-dropping \$354 million in damages, even though no victim of Trump's alleged corrupt scheme was ever identified. That allowed the Biden commercial to say Trump "committed financial fraud." The lawsuits paved the way for the Biden campaign to make two critical claims in the ad. But after that, things began to slow down. The special counsel's documents case became mired in questions of evidence, procedure, and other issues. There is very little chance it will come to trial, and zero chance it will be concluded, before the election. Smith's 2020/J6 case has slowed down because some of the special counsel's charges are so aggressive that the Supreme Court decided to rule on Trump's defenses. The court's opinions are expected soon, but there appears to be no way the case could go to trial before the election. And in Georgia, Fani Willis case is disintegrating over the prosecutor's misconduct. It might never come to trial. But the Bragg case managed to avoid procedural pitfalls and go to trial starting in April. Now, with Trump's conviction on 34 counts, it has paid off beyond measure for the Biden campaign. Trump, the ad says, is a "convicted criminal" who was "convicted of 34 felonies" -- the claim that makes up the centerpiece of the ad. (The ad shows Trump's infamous mug shot, which actually came from the Georgia case, but the ad isn't too fastidious about the details.) So the new ad is made possible by the Democratic attack on Trump, successes that all happened to originate with Democrats in New York -- the Carroll

case, the James lawsuit and the Bragg prosecution. Together, the cases gave Biden admakers the material they needed to frame the campaign as a choice between a convicted criminal and a president who is working hard for you. It could not be better timed for a president struggling in the polls. The race is beginning to peak, with the run-up to the first debate and the Republican Convention approaching -- and now an elaborate campaign of lawfare is paying off at just the right time.

*Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.*

## Write them

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# Valley Courier

(ISSN 1047-1170)

The Valley Courier is published daily, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday by San Luis Valley Publishing, 2205 State Ave., Alamosa, Colo. 81101. Web site: [www.alamosanews.com](http://www.alamosanews.com). Periodicals Postage: is paid at Alamosa, Colo., Monte Vista, Colo., La Jara, Colo., and Fort Garland, Colo. Phone (719) 589-2553. Postmaster send change of address to P.O. Box 1099.

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## Your FIRST Source for Local News



# Religion

## God, grace and praying to coach the Boston Celtics

It's rare to hear eight seconds of dead silence during an NBA Finals press conference.

Boston Celtics head coach Joe Mazzulla was asked if, because of the "plight" of Black head coaches, it was significant that both teams in the Finals were led by Black men for the first time since 1975.

Was this a source of pride for him?

Mazzulla's answer was blunt: "I wonder how many of those have been Christian coaches?"

The son of an Italian father and a Black mother, Mazzulla is an outspoken Catholic whose pregame routine includes pacing through an empty arena, praying with a rosary made with wood from the court of the original Boston Garden.

While his press conference response drew many cheers in social media, Los Angeles Lakers legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was not amused.

Mazzulla "decided to ignore a legitimate question about race that might have been illuminating

and inspiring for others, and instead decided to virtue signal," wrote Abdul-Jabbar, the six-time

NBA MVP, on Substack. He added that the answer was "strangely aggressive since Christians are not discriminated against but, as a group, are more likely to discriminate against others."

The reporter who had asked the pivotal question, Vincent Goodwill of Yahoo Sports, went further, suggesting that the Celtics coach apparently didn't grasp that it's "possible to be both Black and Christian."

"This didn't feel like a denouncement of Mazzulla's Blackness, so to speak," wrote Goodwill afterwards. "It wasn't quite the 'I'm not Black, I'm OJ' moment; it just leaves room for interpretation."

This wasn't the first time that Mazzulla has puzzled journalists. In 2022, he was asked if he'd met the "royal family" after Prince William and Princess Kate attended a game.

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph? ... I'm only familiar with one royal family," he quipped. "I don't know too much about that one."

Mazzulla is more than aware that his faith is part of his work and image, as the rare NBA head coach to win a title at the age of 35 or younger. After Monday's triumph over the Dallas Mavericks -- claiming the 18th Celtics championship -- Mazzulla faced the press wearing a black T-shirt with this message in large letters: "But first ... Let me thank God." His young son, Emmanuel ("God is with us"), was at his side, beaming.

Asked about his wins and losses with the Celtics, the head coach noted: "Praise and criticism are both just as dangerous, if you don't handle them well. ... Winning is just as dangerous as losing."

During a series of NBC Boston interviews after becoming head coach, Mazzulla admitted that he had struggled when injuries cut short his professional career as a player. Wrestling with doubts, he asked: "Who am I? Who is Joe Mazzulla the basketball player vs. Joe Mazzulla the person? ... My identity had been in some-

thing that is fleeting." Later, he prayed to become the head coach of the Celtics, which he has always considered his "hometown team" because of his family roots in New England. The dream came true, he said, but he admitted: "You have to be careful what you ask for."

The crucial issue has been handling a tense balance between ambition and humility, between competitiveness and compassion, he said in an interview with Sports Illustrated, a magazine that covers faith and sports.

The bottom line: This has required wrestling

with his core Christian beliefs. "How I view God is going to be how I view myself, and how I view myself is how I am going to treat other people," he said. "For a long time, like, my faith was good. I would read, I would go to church -- but I didn't have the right view of God."

"I had MY view of God. It was almost like a check-the-box kind of thing, or a win-loss kind of thing. I felt like the area that I could bridge my relationship with Him was grace -- understanding my imperfections, understanding that I am a sinner, understanding

that I am made different, understanding that there is NOTHING that I can do that can change the way He feels about me."

Ultimately, faith is not about winning. It's about accepting forgiveness from a higher authority, said Mazzulla. "I am," he stressed, "nowhere near the humility that Jesus talks about."

Terry Mattingly is the senior fellow on communications and culture at Saint Constantine College in Houston. He lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and writes Rational Sheep, a newsletter on faith and mass media.

### On Religion



Terry Mattingly

## Bible Digest

Saturday, June 22, 2024

"And said to them, 'I shall be called the house of prayer; but you have made it a den of thieves.'" (Matthew 21:13 AKJV)

Prayer is a vital part of the life of the church. We must pray.

Sunday, June 23, 2024

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; and then shall the end come." (Matthew 24:14 AKJV)

This is when the world as we know it will come to an end. Get ready. Jesus is coming back.

Monday, June 24, 2024

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." (Exodus 20:8 AKJV)

Are you keeping the Lord's Day? He commands that we do.

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

"Honor your father and

your mother: that your days may be long on the land which the LORD your God gives you." (Exodus 20:12 AKJV)

We need to go back to what God commands. Show respect for those in authority.

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

"Jesus said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like to it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39 AKJV)

If God has our love He

has all of us. Do you love the Lord?

Thursday, June 27, 2024

"Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart: wait, I say, on the LORD." (Psalms 27:14 AKJV)

Be patient. God is at work.

Friday, June 28, 2024

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalms 27:1 AKJV)

The Lord will give us the courage we need. Have faith in God.



## Freedom from Struggle

I've been asked, "Joyce, how do you live the Christian life?" My answer surprises a lot of people. I tell them, "You can't live the Christian life." I then say, "Only God can live it through you!"

One of the greatest lessons I have ever learned is that we can't change ourselves—it is only by God's grace that we can overcome our weaknesses and become more like Him. We struggle and get frustrated when we try to do things apart from God's grace and strength. The most frequent prayer we should all pray is, "God, help me!"

Years ago, when I first started reading the Bible and getting serious about God, I began seeing all of the things I needed to change—there were so many! I needed to clean up my mind and my mouth; I had to overcome being so negative and judgmental, and my behavior toward my husband Dave also had to improve.

I immediately went to work trying to do it myself. However, I ended up very frustrated and made little progress. Why? Because I was spending all of my own energy trying to do something only God can do!

Maybe you're in the same place. You want to break a bad habit or change your behavior in some way, but you are frustrated and discouraged by a lack of progress. Here's the good news: God never intended for you to do it alone. In fact, there's nothing worse than trying to fix something only God can fix!

So, what is our part? Our part is to study God's Word, especially in the areas where we have a weakness, and spend as much time with the Lord as we can—whether it's talking to Him in prayer or even just sitting quietly in His presence.

men of the early Church, realized he could do nothing without God's help. He says, "I do not practice or accomplish what I wish, but I do the very thing that I loathe [which my moral instinct condemns]... I can will what is right, but I cannot perform it. I have the intention and urge to do what is right, but no power to carry it out!" (Romans 7:15,18 AMP).

Does this sound familiar? Have you ever intended to do the right thing but still struggled and couldn't make it happen regardless of how hard you tried? Paul was going through the very same thing, and he provides us with the answer in verses 24 and 25:

"Who will release and deliver me from [the shackles of] this body of death? O thank God! [He will!]"

Paul is saying we can't do it on our own. However, God will do it through us if we let Him.

This same principle applies to our relationships with other people—we can't change them! The greatest thing we can do is pray for others, love them, and allow God to change them Himself.

When my children were young, I was certain that a couple of them would never make it on their own. My daughter Laura was extremely messy, unorganized, and couldn't keep track of anything. My youngest son, Daniel, struggled his way through school, and I was convinced I would be taking care of him the rest of my life.

You see, whether it's ourselves or someone else, the Lord wants us to seek His help, then rest in the knowledge that He is on the case. God doesn't want us to struggle; He wants us to believe. He



Moving Up Higher with Joyce Meyer

wants us to relax and enjoy our lives even while we're waiting to see things change. Today, my daughter Laura is so organized that one of her jobs is to help keep my life organized! And Daniel? The boy who barely made it through school is now the CEO of U.S. Operations for Joyce Meyer Ministries, and he does a fantastic job! Now I look back and realize how much time and effort I wasted worrying and struggling when God had things under control all along!

So, what are you struggling with today? Your behavior, your finances, your kids, or maybe other people? Here's the best advice I can give you: You can't do it on your own. Run to God for help, receive His grace, then make a firm decision to relax and enjoy your life while you trust Him to change things. As you do, you will find freedom from struggling... and discover a new level of God's peace and joy in the process.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-part teaching resource Living a Life of Total Freedom. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (FaithWords). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org. Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

All-Denominational Emmanuel Chapel - Independent Bible Church 0432 Hwy 149, South Fork 719-873-5411 Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:45 a.m. Sunday Evening Service, 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. Church of the Living God 11611 2nd Avenue, Hooper 719-378-2080 Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship Sunday, 6 p.m. - Book of Acts Study Monday, 7 p.m. - Youth Thursday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study San Luis Valley Christian Center 305 S. Broadway (3rd & Broadway), Monte Vista 719-852-6168 Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. - Bible Study Prayer House Church 410 Main Street, La Jara Pastor Jaime Flores - 719-298-0007 Sunday Morning Service, 10:30 am Wednesday Family Ministry, 6:30 pm Friday Night Bible Study, 7:00 pm Sargent Community Church 6967 N. County Rd. 2 E., Monte Vista (across from Sargent School) Pastor Stephen Burns - 719-852-2980 Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m. Back Row Church - Church Community In the Alamosa Presbyterian Church Building Alamosa www.backrowchurch.com Kim Nipple • 303-532-9342 Worship Service - Wednesday Evening at 5:00 pm Apostolic Alamosa Apostolic Church 510 First St., Alamosa Meets Sundays 1-2 p.m. 2-3 p.m. - Lunch 3-5 p.m. - Worship Service Antonio Apostolic Church 710 Main St., Antonio Meets sundays 11-12 p.m. - Sunday School 12-1 p.m. - Worship service Apostolic Pentecostal Church of Champions, Acts 2:38 9056 Hwy 285 South, Alamosa - 719-587-3351 Dan Dawning Pastor, 719-588-7307 Sunday, 1:00 p.m. - Service Assembly of God River of Life Church 2602 Clark Avenue, Alamosa Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Service Center Assembly of God 7th & Miles • P.O. Box 507, Cent. CO 81125 Sunday School, 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. Assembly of God Sons and Daughters of God Ministry 677 Madison Street, Monte Vista Pastor Leonard Sandoval, 719-849-0212 Sunday 10:00 a.m Service Wednesday 7:00 p.m Prayer New Life Fellowship 520 7th St., Del Norte, 81132 719-657-3360 Adult Sunday School - 9:00 Services - 10:00 Baha'i Faith Meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m on Zoom. Email: harline@gogade.org for a Zoom invite Baptist Grace Community Baptist Church 431 Lincoln Ave, Monte Vista Rev. Bill Walstrom, 719-937-1451 Worship: 9:30; Sunday School: 11:00 am Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 pm Living Water Bible Fellowship 2910 Clark Street, Alamosa 719-589-6351 Sunday, 9:00 & 10:45 am Worship Services\* Sunday, 10:45 am Children's Ministry (PreK-5th grade) Sunday, 10:45 am Teen Bible Study (6th-12th grade) Tuesday 7:00 pm Young Adults College Group Wednesday 6:30 pm Bible Quizzing (1st-8th grade) Wednesday 8:30 pm Rejoin Youth Group (6th-12th grade) Wednesday 8:30 pm Adult Bible Study\* Saturday 5:00 pm Worship Service\*\* Small Groups meet throughout week, please call for info \*\* Nursery is available (twice-prek)

United Presbyterian Church of Antonito P.O. Box 665, Antonito Office Hrs. Tues, 9:00am-12:00 Sunday 9:45am - Sunday School 10:45am - Service Catholic Sacred Heart Church 715 4th Street, Alamosa Saturday, 4:00 p.m. - Mass Saturday, 6:00 p.m. - Spanish Mass Sunday, 8 a.m. - Mass Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Mass Hooper Church 3rd and Adams, Hooper Sunday, 9 a.m. - Morning Worship Meditation, Kriya Mountain Institute Alamosa - (575)759-5876 United Church of La Jara 522 Walnut, La Jara 719-274-5250 Terry Buckman, Pastor Cell Phone: 339-8444 Office Hours: Mon. 9:00 am - 12:00 Sunday 9:00 am - Contemporary Coffee Fellowship 10:00 am Christian Science Services 400 Ross Avenue, Society Hall, Alamosa Services - Sundays at 10:00 p.m. The second Wednesday of each 4 p.m. Thanksgiving Day 10 a.m. Pioneer United Church in Del Norte, Colorado A Congregation of Evangelical Covenant Order Presbyterians 630 Spruce St. (1.5 blocks south of Hwy. 160) Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Sunday Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m. Sunday Church of the South Fork 0116 Landen Dr., South Fork, Co, 81154 Sunday are at 9 a.m. - Services School Room. Choir is held on Wednesday at 6pm during the summer months with a final practice at 8:15am on Sunday Christian Bethel Christian Church Pastor Erik Lira Worship Service Sunday 3:00 p.m. Bible Study Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Bilingual Services Monday Free Music Classes Instrumental Classes 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Voice & Bass Guitar 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Word of Faith Christian Church 401 Sante Fe, Alamosa Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Friday, 6:00 p.m. M.O.S.H. Youth Night The Peak Community Church 510 San Juan, Alamosa Sundays, 6 p.m. - Fellowship Sundays, 7 p.m. - Worship & More Pentecostal Alamosa Pentecostal Church 184 East 2nd St., Alamosa - 719-589-0475 Pastor Carl Sutter Bible Study Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Sunday School Sunday 1:00-1:45 Worship 2:00-3:00 Christian Fellowship Church The Door 1300 West 12th St., Alamosa Pastor Martin Montoya • 719-587-6197 Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - Worship Sunday, 6:30 p.m. - Victory Service Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. - Revival Christian Independent Alamosa Christian Church 410 McQuery, Alamosa Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. - Family Night & Youth Group Christian Reformed Alamosa Christian Reformed, 719-589-3493 1861 Rd 10 S., Alamosa Pastor Philip VanderWindt Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - Worship Churches of Christ Alamosa Church of Christ 408 Victoria Avenue, Alamosa Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Classes Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study Healing Hearts, a Bible-based 12 step group meets, every Friday at 7 p.m. South Fork Church of Christ 205 Birch St. South Fork, 719-873-1259 Nathan Wheeler Pastor Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m. Central Church of Christ 200 Franklin Street, Monte Vista, 719-852-3811 David L. Baker Preacher Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Class Sunday, 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Worship Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Bible Study San Luis Valley Church of Christ 704 Del Sol, Alamosa, 719-589-2114 Sunday Bible Study 9 am Sunday Worship 10 am Wednesday Bible Study 6 pm Cornerstone Community Church Hwy. 160 Del Norte next to Rio Grande Medical Clinic Pastor Mark 719-657-9107 Sunday 9:50 a.m. free breakfast Sunday 10:20 a.m. Contemporary Worship & Children Sunday School Wednesday 5:15 pm Dinner, music, fellowship, teachings Episcopal Saint Thomas Episcopal Church 607 4th Street, Alamosa Sunday, 9 a.m. - Service Saint Stephen the Martyr 729 3rd Avenue, Monte Vista Sunday, 10 am Service First Christian Church 518 First St. (First & State) Alamosa 589-6805 Sunday, 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - Church Service Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - Bible Study Valley Fellowship 240 East 5th Street, Center - 719-754-3804 Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship, Prayer and Bible Study \*Bible Studies during the week, call for information.

First United Methodist 2005 Mullins Ave., Alamosa - 719-589-2243 'Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors' Morning Worship - Sunday, 11:00 am Children's Church - Sunday, 10:30 am Community Churches United for Christ Community Church (SBC) "Community Centered Around Love" 7th & Broadway in Blanca - 719-379-3317 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 Worship Service 11am Bible Believer's Community Church 11762 E US HWY 160, Alamosa, Co 81101 719) 206-3239 Sunday worship 10:30 Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm www.bbcchurch.org Presbyterian Alamosa Presbyterian Church 330 San Juan Avenue, Alamosa Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship Hispanic Pentecostal Iglesia Believer's Community Unida L.A. 907 Tenth St. Alamosa - 719-587-3546 Guadalupe Salazar Pastor Wed. 7:00 p.m. Service Sat. 7:00 p.m. Youth Service Sun. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School Sun. 5:00 p.m. Worship New Hope Church "The Church on the Hill" 25258 Hwy 160, South Fork, Co, 81154 Pastor John Jayne • 719-873-1202 www.newhopecf.com Morning Worship - 10:00 am Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 - 9:45 Anabaptist Fellowship of Alamosa 330 San Juan Ave., Alamosa, CO 81101 alamosafellowship@gmail.com Sunday 4:30 PM Worship in the north wing of the Alamosa Presbyterian Church Independent, Fundamental Baptist First Baptist Church of Costilla County 9717 County Rd H, Mesita - 719-206-0011 Pastor Paul Jones Sunday, 9:45 am - Sunday School Sunday, 10:45 am - Morning Worship Sunday, 12 Noon - Potluck Dinner Sunday, after dinner - Afternoon Worship Thursday, 7:00 pm - Mestia, Bible Study and Prayer meeting DEAF MINISTRY FOR ALL SERVICES Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Alamosa Y S A Ward 300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa Sunday, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Alamosa Second Ward 927 Weber Drive, Alamosa Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Alamosa Third Ward 300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Alamosa Fourth Ward 927 Weber Drive, Alamosa Sunday, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Sierra Vista Branch (Spanish Language) 300 Richardson Avenue, Alamosa Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. Lutheran St. Peters Lutheran Church & School Church - 1821 Grand Avenue, Monte Vista School - 330 Faraday Street, Monte Vista Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - Services School: K-8, Monday-Thursdays Trinity Lutheran Church & School 52 El Rio Drive, Alamosa Sunday, 8:45 a.m. - Bible Study Sunday, 10 a.m. - Worship \*Small Bible Study Groups Throughout the Week\* -Pre-School through 5th grade Church: 589-4611, Alamosa: 589-3271 Conejos Canyon Community Chapel 20062 State Hwy. 17 (between mile posts 21 and 20) Fellowship Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - Worship Service Mountain Valley Church 408 State St. 17, Alamosa Pastor: Richard Pinkerton 589-2899 or 588-7682 Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - Worship Service Presbyterian Church of Monte Vista 702 Second Avenue, Monte Vista (719) 852-2555 Sunday, 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School Sunday, 11 a.m. - Sunday Worship Seventh-day Adventist Seventh-day Adventist Church 315 Craft Drive, Alamosa Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - Worship United Methodist Mosca United Methodist Church 538 Barker Street, Mosca 970-270-3078 Pastor Steve Dunkel Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 330 San Juan Ave., Alamosa "North Wing of Alamosa Presbyterian Church" Service & Youth Programs at 10:30 am Sunday. Valley Church of the Nazarene Pastor: Chris Yocum 228 Madison, Monte Vista - (719) 852-5858 churchoffice@valleynaz.com Sunday Morning Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Classes 9 a.m. Wednesday Dinner at 6 p.m. Small Group Classes at 7 p.m. Thursday Teen Activities (beginning at 6:30 p.m.) \*Nursery is available during all services Visit website at www.valleynaz.com for online bulletins and service information or call the number above. Church of Scientology 5111 Main Street, Suite #12, Alamosa 719-587-5554 Monday and Wednesday, 7-10p.m. - Services Grace Assurance Ministry Church without Religion 9851 CR 4 S., Alamosa, CO Sunday Mornings - 10:30 Randy Brown - 719-588-7004 Eric Wolf - 719-480-3977

You are loved. Sunday School 9am Sunday Service 10:15am 1861 Rd 10 S www.alamosacr.org 719-589-3493

# See you at Sunday School



# Lifestyles

## Centennial School District thanks former superintendent

**CONTRIBUTED**  
**SAN LUIS** – The mission at the Centennial School District is to provide the best education for all students utilizing a variety of research-based curricula and cultural resources; effective communication among parents, community and staff; and collaboration to create a safe learning environment to provide opportunities to our students for success in a global society.

That said, Centennial's previous board members would like to acknowledge Superintendent Toby Melster for a job well done. The 2023-24 school year was his last for the school district. Melster worked to always make sure that Centennial students and staff were safe and had what they needed.

"We realize that many times parents/staff/students were not satisfied with some of his decisions, but he always kept the district in mind and kept to policy," the board stated. Melster brought in close to \$8.4 million in grants over his six years of employment with the school district. Which is a yearly average of \$1.3 million. He brought these grants in with some help from others in the district.

**Grants and Services Awarded From 2018-Present**

**2018-2019**  
 • AIM – XL 79,989. A plan was developed to promote and support student and staffs health and well being  
 • EARSS \$124,844. Was a grant for Services and Support of at Risk Students  
 • Computer Science \$1,000. Provided funds for teachers to attend a two-day gathering to learn about computer science and its applications in the classroom for elementary level teachers.  
 Total \$205,833.

**2019-2020**  
 • Computer Science \$5,250  
 • Make It Happen \$68,444. Allowed continued work on health and well being for staff and students, provided funding for initiatives, programs, and incentives to promote healthy choices and self well being  
 • SSD/SAFER \$584,041. Security Upgrades  
 • New Cameras and Operating System  
 • Card Access for Doors  
 • Front Entrance Security Vestibule  
 • LED Lighting  
 Total \$657,735

**2020-2021**  
 • Connecting Colorado Students \$150,000.  
 • Connecting Colorado Students \$1,500,000. These Funds were obtained to improve and expand connectivity to student's individual households for reliable, consistent, and strong internet connection

As a result of the planned work the infrastructure and overall system of the school was also upgraded with new servers, switches, and such  
 Total \$1,650,000.

**2021-2022**  
 • Connecting Colorado Students \$1,352,249.  
 • SAFER \$215,376. Equipment and hardware purchased allowing the school to bridge directly with emergency personnel during any type of emergency on school grounds. The equipment included two sets of primary radios located in the main building and

shop/bus barn that can be accessed by staff to initiate bridge in an emergency. The grant also included an additional 8 radios that can be distributed throughout the building to different staff for daily use and will also have the capability to work when the bridge is initiated allowing the radios to communicate directly with emergency personnel  
 Total \$1,567,625.

**2022-2023**  
 • BEST \$1,058,697.83  
 BEST grant was applied and awarded for purchase and installation of a new roof due to inadequacies from the previous roof when the school was built  
 • DOLA \$1,531,655.

Additional funds were awarded for an increase in the solar field array that allows the school to use renewable energy to operate the building without use of Xcel electrical sources, the grant also allowed the school to install a battery backup system that allows the school to operate for a set period of time during an electrical outage  
 • EASI \$40,000. This grant is being used to develop and implement a five-year strategic plan that focuses on instructional strategies and improving student achievement as well as working on board norms and board governance  
 Total \$2,630,352.83

**2023-2024**  
 • EASI \$40,000.  
 • COPS School Violence Prevention \$324,693. This grant is being used to increase the number of cameras and card access points in the building adding another level of security, once completed 95% of the buildings doors will be on card access and the number of cameras will be doubled eliminating blind spots and unmonitored areas  
 • Sangre de Cristo National Heritage \$25,000. Grant awarded to perform studies and inspections of the Garcia School for revitalization, a second grant will be applied for to perform the work which will end in the school being a learning center and building for community gatherings  
 Total \$389,693.

**Miscellaneous**  
 • Archery in the Schools Equipment \$4,234.  
 • Trinchera - Basketball Uniforms \$8,000.  
 Boys & Girls High School  
 • Trinchera - Wood Shop Equipment \$1,500.  
 Total \$13,734.  
 • Trinchera Blanca Foundation Renewable 4 Years at \$20,000 per year.  
 Total \$80,000.

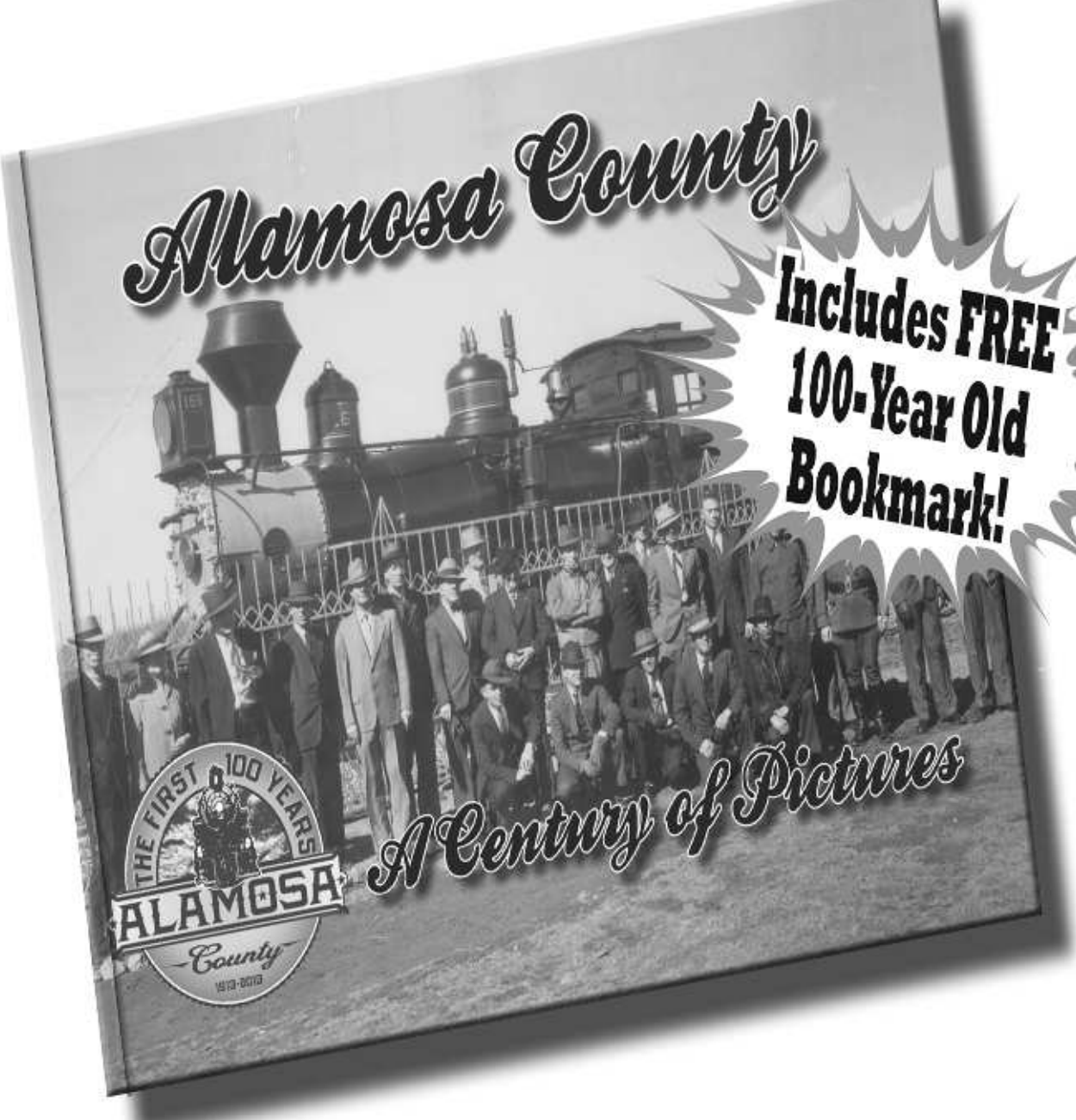
The district also benefited from a partnership with San Luis Valley Behavioral Health to secure a full-time mental health professional that works in the school and is available to our students. The professional comes at no cost to the district and the salary is paid through San Luis Valley behavioral health. Typically, an entry-level professional will earn approximately \$40,000. The total for the last two years would be an additional \$80,000 and this does not take into consideration benefits such as insurance and retirement.

Also, the district will be in line for an approximate \$1.1 million energy rebate that will come back to the district in the form of actual money. So, not only will the energy savings



Courtesy photo  
 Centennial School District's previous board members present a plaque and plant to Superintendent Toby Melster. The 2023-24 school year was Melster's last for the district. Pictured left to right Centennial School District former board members, Lucas Casias, Carlos DeLeon, former Superintendent Melster, and previous board members Lori Espinoza, Christopher Rodriguez and Joseph Arellano. These previous board members hired Melster.

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# Lifestyle

## Colorado Parks and Wildlife confirms first reproduction from gray wolves released in December

**CONTRIBUTED GRAND COUNTY** – Colorado Parks and Wildlife has confirmed successful reproduction in its gray wolf reintroduction efforts in the state.

CPW biologists have been gathering evidence suggesting a male and female gray wolf pair have been denning, indicating reproduction. Some of this evidence includes GPS collar data.

The collared female's GPS points stopped uploading in early April, and resumed uploading later in April. The points for the female's collar showed a very localized position. CPW biologists interpreted this to mean that she was likely in a den, and therefore not in communication with the satellites, during the time when connectivity with the collar was interrupted, which aligned with the

expected timing of wolf reproduction.

At that point, CPW staff began diligently working to confirm the den and whether pups are present.

On June 18, CPW biologists confirmed one wolf pup in Grand County. The confirmation occurred during routine wolf monitoring efforts, which included attempted observations from the air and ground, remote cameras, public sightings, etc. There are no photos or videos at this time. Although biologists were only able to confirm one pup at this time, it is possible that other pups may be present, as wolf litters commonly consist of four to six pups. CPW staff will continue to monitor the animals to determine how many pups have been born to the litter.

Because these wolves have successfully repro-

duced, they are officially considered a pack. The pack name is the Copper Creek Pack. This is the first confirmed Colorado-born wolf pup since the voter-approved wolf reintroduction in December.

"We are continuing to actively monitor this area while exercising extreme caution to avoid inadvertently disturbing the adult wolves, this pup, or other pups," said CPW Wildlife Biologist Brenna Cassidy.

CPW biologists and area staff will continue to monitor this pack. Staff will continue to work with landowners in the area to implement practices to minimize the potential for conflict.

For additional information on how to stay informed about wolves in Colorado, visit [cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us).

## Vali 3 Theater operator closes the doors

*Richards has decided not to purchase the locale*

**By MARIE MCCOLM MONTE VISTA** – The Vali 3 Theater is closing after operator Bob Richards decided not to purchase the massive downtown building and is not reupping the lease agreement with the City of Monte Vista.

It is not known if the theater were closing for good or if the city would try to find someone else to take it over.

A year ago, local radio station owner Richards assigned a lease with the City of Monte Vista that included the option to purchase the movie theater space.

Low ticket sales caused

Richards to reevaluate his option to purchase the theatre.

According to Richards, over 21,000 radio spots were run for the theater this past year, along with a new website that showed movie trailers for the different movies. Facebook boosts and posts were also used to promote the theater, and other various forms of social media marketing.

Despite all the marketing, overall attendance rose by 2 people per show over the previous year.

A lot of money was lost, "tens of thousands of dollars," due to employee costs, utilities, insurance, licensing, and other fees, including movie rights.

Richards has held free showings of major sporting events; he has also used the theater as a community gathering space.

In addition to showing the current releases, Richards held family movie nights and specials with the holidays.

The City of Monte Vista owns the theater building and for years helped keep it afloat but decided last year to find a buyer or someone to take it over as the maintenance was costing the city too much.

Presentations for the space were presented to the city. One of the stipulations by the city was that the space be used as an entertainment venue for up to four years. The proposal from Richards was chosen.

Richards appreciated the support he received, but it was not enough for him to keep it going.

Bobolicious Gourmet Coffee will continue to operate in the mornings in the theater's lobby.

## Thanks

■ Continued from Page 6

performance work guarantee a net zero or net positive with energy costs, but the district will also have an additional \$1.1 million for use as they see fit. Melster's idea was to look at using that money or part of it as a match with either DOLA or another entity for teacher housing. With the solar savings on energy costs and the rebate the district will be well positioned to make teacher housing more of a reality.

The Energy Savings Performance Contract allows the district to apply for a federal tax refund due to installing renewable energy, the solar array. According to Honeywell the district will be eligible for \$1,116,978.

A new van was purchased for transporting the SPED students to Centauri and Alamosa.

There was also a new tractor purchased by the district with four attachments and a trailer to haul the tractor and other items if needed.

**Additional Accomplishments**

- New curriculum for Science and Math including accompanying materials for teachers
- Budget has remained stable and sustainable
- Increases to the base salary for five years as well

as giving step increase

- Two new buses purchased without negatively affecting general fund

- \$1 million unassigned funds assigned for long term and short-term planning

- \$300,000 given to CEA for teacher recruitment and retention

- No critical exceptions found during audits

- Budgeted for Assistant Principal

- New routing program for buses which included tablets in all buses and associated app for

- parents to monitor buses when operating

- Currently fully staffed with teachers

When the board spoke to Melster regarding all these accomplishments, he said that he was only able to obtain these grants by having the help of others.

He added, "I feel comfortable for finding and assisting with the applications, with some being more of myself writing and others more of an equal/shared writing."

- Member of the Rural Colorado School Alliance Board

- Worked with other rural superintendents to draft stance on proposed legislation, policies, and lobbying efforts of Alliance

- School Financing
- COVID Mitigation and Quarantine
- Remote Learning

- Specific funding for rural schools

- Member of Commissioners Rural Education Council

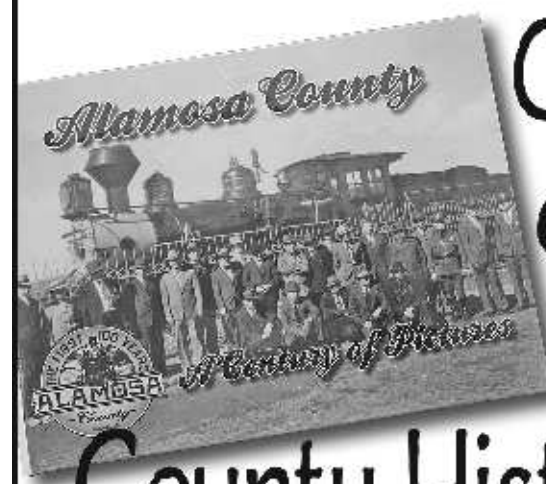
- The Commission consisted of rural superintendents and other administrators from rural schools with the purpose of discussing pressing issues centered on rural schools and the issues they face and deal with

- The commission's purpose is to ensure that rural schools and the obstacles and issues they face in providing a relevant and engaging education are not lost in the bureaucracy of CDE.

"In closing the board would like to say, Mr. Melster, Toby you were not just a great superintendent, but you were an amazing friend. We will miss you and thank you so very much for everything that you did for our students, our staff and this district.

"We wish you all the best in your future endeavors and please know that you will always have family in San Luis. On behalf of Mr. DeLeon, Mr. Arellano, Mr. Casias, Mr. Rodriguez and myself (Lori Espinoza) we would like to present you with this plaque and a plant. We know you love your plants and a plant was much easier than a years supply of bacon. Take care and God bless you on your new journey."

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# Sports



Courtesy photos by Tanya Hamner

**Braxson Burns gets started with his mutton bustin' ride on Thursday. Burns had the best score among seven-year-olds with 98 points.**

## Mutton Bustin' has several good scores

By **KEN HAMRICK**  
*Courier sports editor*

**ALAMOSA** – The annual Alamosa Round-UP activities continued on Thursday with the mutton bustin' and open team roping competitions.

The Top 4 in each mutton bustin' age division, and the Top 10 barrel racers return for this weekend's performances. The top four- and five-year-olds competed on Friday, and the top six- and seven-year-olds will compete on Saturday.

The mutton bustin' opened with the four-year-olds. Reigna Honeycutt had the best score with a 91-point ride. Lacey Romero was second with 87 points, followed by Gabby Salas with 85, and Hannah Romero with 82 ½.

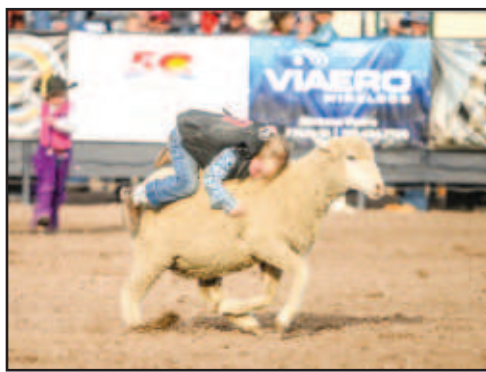
In the five-year-old division, Moroko Belden had the best score with 96 points. Rayden Rodman was next with 93 ½, Emma Squires was third with 92, and Zane Canty was fourth with 87.

Brandie McColm had the best score among six-year-olds with 96 points. Ida Welsh was second with 90, Andres Mateo-Juan was third with 89 ½, and Dak Crowther was fourth with 87.

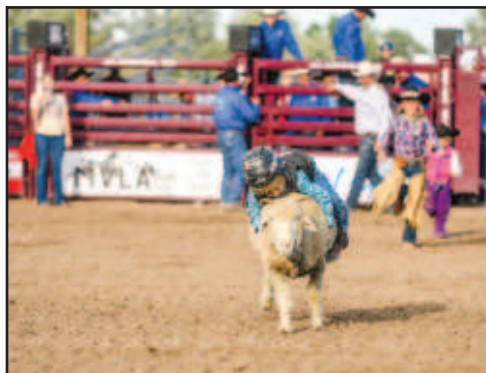
The seven-year-olds' best score was recorded by Braxson Burns with 98 points. Ezekiel Murray was second with 93 ½, followed by Brennan Coleman with 91 ½, and Michael Webb was fourth with 91.

In the open barrel racing, Jaycee Francis of Monte Vista had the best time of 16.85 seconds on her horse Amigo. Gracie Wilson of Center was second in 17.10 on Oliver Fame, Raelynn Bouet of Alamosa was third in 17.34 on Dream Big Juno, Rosemary Egolf of Alamosa was fourth in 17.36 on Maxine, and Lucy Brittain of Creede was fifth in 17.40 on Digger.

Rounding out the Top 10 were Hadlee Canty of Alamosa in 17.51 on Annie, Addy Malouff of La Jara in 17.54 on Newt, Hallie Henry of Alamosa in 17.71 on Archie, Ava Morris of Manassa in 17.82 on VF Slick Trick, and Lyla Gesink of Alamosa in 17.84 on Little Hot Jets.



**Reigna Honeycutt had the best score among four-year-olds with 91 points.**



**Moroko Belden had the best score among five-year-olds with 96 points.**



**Brandie McColm had the best score among six-year-olds with 96 points.**



**Jill Francis of Monte Vista had the best time in the open barrel racing Friday at the Alamosa Round-UP at the Alamosa rodeo grounds, Francis' time was 16.85 seconds on her horse, Amigo.**

## Alamosa Round-UP Gets underway with Friday slack

By **KEN HAMRICK**  
*Courier sports editor*  
**ALAMOSA** – The annual Alamosa Round-up PRC A rodeo started on Friday with the morning slack at the Alamosa rodeo grounds.

There was only one tie-down roper in the slack, however, Taylor Smith of Hobbs, N.M., was unsuccessful in his run.

Next was team roping with 11 duos entered. The best team was saved for last as Brayden and Josh Fillmore, both of Penrose,

had a 5.6-second run.

The second-best time of the slack was turned in by Austin Crist of Fountain and J.W. Borrego of Weston in 5.9 seconds. Third place was recorded by Bridger Ketcham of Yeso, N.M., and Cale Morris of Balko, Okla., in 6.2. Brian Dunning of McClave and Justin Price of La Veta were fourth in 6.9.

A total of 32 entries competed in ladies barrel racing. Rachel Huerkamp of Delta had the best

time of the slack in 17.44 seconds. Sabrina Ketchum of Yeso, N.M., was second in 17.59, followed by Madilyn Todd of Wilcox, Ariz., in 17.62, Kelly Yates of Pueblo in 17.68, and Lorelee Ward of Fort Lupton in 17.76.

The rodeo's first performance was Friday. It will conclude today with the second performance at 6:30 p.m., followed by a concert by Justin Lawrence.



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**Sports Bulletin**

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

**SCHEDULE SATURDAY PRC A Rodeo**  
Alamosa Round-UP, 6:30 p.m.







# Classifieds

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**THE SLV LANDFILL** is accepting applications for a **PART-TIME SCALE CLERK**. Requires working the front office, waiting on customers, weighing loads, processing credit cards, cash transactions, cleans and maintains the office. Also, fill in for Office Assistant as needed. Must be willing to work in all types of weather and be able to work a fluctuating schedule including alternating Saturday's. Position open until filled. \$16.00 per hour 20-30 hours per week. Applications can be mailed to officemanager@slvlandfill.com or returned to the office. Download the application at slvlandfill.com. (7/2/24)

**VALLEY EDUCATORS CREDIT UNION** is accepting applications for a **TELLER/MEMBER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE**. Successful candidate should have excellent communication and customer service skills, ability to listen, follow directions and identify the needs of others. They should possess a positive, friendly attitude, integrity, be a team player and ability to multi-task. Prior teller experience is a plus. To apply, email résumé to [laura@vecuslv.com](mailto:laura@vecuslv.com) or stop by our office at 910 Main Street in ALAMOSA to pick-up an application. VECU has been serving the SLV community for over 60 years and is an equal opportunity employer. (6/29/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**COME BE A part of the growing CENTENNIAL R-1 TEAM!** We are seeking applications for a **SECONDARY MATH TEACHER, TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR, PRESCHOOL PARAPROFESSIONAL, PART-TIME CUSTODIAN, REGULAR BUS ROUTE or ACTIVITY BUS DRIVER, and a VARIETY OF SUBSTITUTES**. Positions will remain open until filled. Each position has unique responsibilities, yet all require the same application process. Please submit a resume, three letters of recommendation, pertinent transcripts, and a background check/valid CDE license with an application. Submit applications through <https://www.applitrack.com/centennialschool/onlineapp> or email [rael@centennial.k12.co.us](mailto:rael@centennial.k12.co.us). All full-time positions qualify for a competitive benefits package and salary as outlined through our Master Agreement, which is available at [centennial.k12.co.us](http://centennial.k12.co.us). The starting pay range for certified staff is \$36,872 to \$49,509; 9-month staff is \$20,613-\$26,205; and 12-month staff is \$29,812-\$33,354; route/activity driver pay is based on route/mileage; substitute pay is \$120/day. We are doing great things in SAN LUIS; it's the perfect time to join our team. (7/3/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**SAN LUIS VALLEY HEALTH** is seeking a full-time **FACILITIES MANAGER** to join our team! This position will train, lead, and direct custodians and housekeepers in the EVS department with daily, weekly, and monthly tasks and projects. The pay range for this position is \$21.98 - \$30.69. For more information and to apply please visit our careers page at [www.slvh.org](http://www.slvh.org). (6/28/24)

**SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT** is seeking a **MUSIC or THEATRE TEACHER** for the 24-25 school year. Applicants must possess a Colorado Teaching License or be eligible to apply for one. Salary schedules are available on the district website. Please submit a district application, resume, cover letter, and transcripts at <https://www.southconejos.com/page/how-to-apply> (Vacant Until Filled). (6/25/24)

**SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT** is seeking an anticipated **LEAD PRESCHOOL TEACHER** for the 24-25 school year. Applicants must possess a Level 2 in Colorado Shines and preferred Lead Teacher Certificate. Salary schedules are available on the district website. Please submit a district application, resume, cover letter, and transcripts at <https://www.southconejos.com/page/how-to-apply> (Vacant Until Filled). (6/25/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**SOUTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT** is accepting applications for **BUS DRIVERS** for the 2024-2025 school year. Must possess a valid Colorado driver's license and a commercial driver's license (CDL) or be able to obtain one. Please submit a district application, resume, cover letter, transcripts, and certifications at <https://www.southconejos.com/page/how-to-apply>. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. (vacant until filled). (6/25/24)

**RIO GRANDE COUNTY** is hiring! Available full-time positions with competitive pay and benefits include: **ASSESSOR'S OFFICE APPRAISER TRAINEE; PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE; ROAD & BRIDGE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR; SHERIFF'S OFFICE DETENTION/DISPATCH DEPUTY; Sheriff's Office DETENTION/DISPATCH SERGEANT and CORPORAL; Sheriff's Office ROAD DEPUTY; Sheriff's Office JAIL COOK; SOCIAL SERVICES LEGAL TECHNICIAN MANAGER**. Benefits include medical, retirement, and paid time-off. Visit [www.riograndecounty.org](http://www.riograndecounty.org) for details including applications and job descriptions or pickup at Human Resources: 925 6th St., Rm. 200, DEL NORTE, CO. (7/26/24)

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# Classifieds

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**AT HOME CHILD CARE PROVIDER** needed at the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. 150 days per year which includes all days that teachers are at school. Applicants must have a high school diploma and experience working with young children is a plus! Please submit your application and resume to: Aaron Horrocks, Superintendent, at 950 French Street, DEL NORTE, CO, 81132, or call at 719-657-4040, x4000. Applications may be retrieved on-line at urtigers.co or at the District Office. (7/3/24)

**DIRECTOR FOR INFANT CARE CENTER** needed at the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. Please submit your application and resume to: Aaron Horrocks, Superintendent, at 950 French Street, DEL NORTE, CO, 81132, or call at 719-657-4040, x4000. Applications may be retrieved on-line at urtigers.co or at the District Office. (7/3/24)

**LEAD TEACHER FOR INFANT CARE CENTER** needed at the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. 150 days per year which includes all days that teachers are at school. Please submit your application and resume to: Aaron Horrocks, Superintendent, at 950 French Street, DEL NORTE, CO, 81132, or call at 719-657-4040, x4000. Applications may be retrieved on-line at urtigers.co or at the District Office. (7/3/24)

**SUBSTITUTES TEACHERS/LONG TERM SUBS** needed at the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT in DEL NORTE! Call or email: Sophia at 719-657-4040, x4000 (scruz@urtigers.co) for more information, go on-line: urtigers.co, or stop by the district office at: 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO to pick up an application. You do not have to hold a college degree or be a certified teacher to substitute; however, you must be a high school graduate and have a substitute license from CDE (Colorado Department of Education). (7/3/24)

**FULL-TIME MAINTENANCE & GROUNDS POSITION** open at the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. Applicant must pass a background check and be able to work independently, be a forward-thinking individual with an overall team approach to all tasks at hand. Applicant must also be able to work in all weather conditions (snow removal/general landscaping). If interested, please contact Demo Trujillo, 719-657-4040 x4007, dtrujillo@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co. (7/3/24)

**DEL NORTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** is seeking an energetic, caring individual to serve as a SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAEducator. Applicants must have a high school diploma and prior experience working with students with special needs is preferred. Please submit your application to Amy Duda, DNES Principal at 950 French Street, Del Norte, CO 81132; aduda@urtigers.co; or call at 719-657-4050. The position will be open until filled. You can pick up an application at the District Office or on-line at urtigers.co. (7/3/24)

**BUS DRIVERS NEEDED FOR** the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT, CDL & NON-CDL DRIVERS. Will pay for CDL license and training with contract. Must be able to pass a background and pre-employment drug test. If interested, please contact Demo Trujillo, 719-657-4040 x4007, dtrujillo@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved on-line at: www.urtigers.co. (7/3/24)

**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. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co. (7/3/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONIST / SCHOOL ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR**, needed at DEL NORTE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL for the 2024-2025 school year. We are seeking a hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic team. Applicants must have a Colorado Teaching License. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Annie at 719-657-4020. Applications can be found online at: urtigers.co. (7/3/24)

**304 - LAWN & GARDEN**

**SPRINKLER REPAIR & INSTALLATION**. Quick Service! Call evenings & weekends: 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (8/2/24-monthly)

**307 - APPLIANCES**

**MICROWAVE: 25X17X15, WORKS** great. \$20. 719-480-3225. (6/22/24)

**324 - SEED & FEED**

**HORSE & COW HAY: GRASS, GRASS/ALFALFA, ALFALFA**. 3x3 bales, various quality and pricing. 719-850-8917. (7/3/24-monthly)

**HAY FOR SALE: \$7 bale**. 719-274-0380. (7/9/24)

**341 - GARAGE SALE**

**2 FAMILY ESTATE SALE: Friday 6/21, Saturday 6/22/24, 9:30-3:00PM**, 12155 County Road 109 S, ALAMOSAS. (6/22/24)

**GARAGE SALE: FRIDAY 6/21, Saturday 6/22, 7am-?**. 307 14th St., ALAMOSAS. Women's clothes. (6/22/24)

**350 - FARM EQUIPMENT**

**2005 HESSTON 4910 BALER** New Monitor, Preservative Applicator, moisture sensor, accumulator. Field ready. \$22500 OBO 719-850-1143. (7/13/24)

**360 - MISC. FOR SALE**

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**FOR SALE: LOTS OF STORE SHELVING** available at former Sunshine Country Grocery Store. 719-852-6981. (6/22/24)

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

**401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES**

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**420 - LOTS & ACREAGES**

**10 ACRES OF LAND** for sale. 3 miles east of ANTONITO. Ready to build your dream home! 719-580-5745. (6/29/24)

**ACREAGE FOR SALE - \$2,000/ACRE**. Contact Rick 928-277-6140. (7/6/24)

**426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE**

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

**525 - GUNS**

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

**601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT**

**RESIDENTIAL OR OFFICE SPACE FOR** one person, located in an end-unit in a four-plex in DEL NORTE. Approximately 700 sq ft with an open entry area, separate office or bedroom, kitchen area, and 3/4 bath. \$800/month, inclusive of water and sewer. Pets and smokers are not permitted. Please call 719-850-0750. (7/2/24)

**CHARMING REMODELED ONE+ BEDROOM, ONE BATH, ONE-PERSON** unit in a quiet four-plex in DEL NORTE. \$700/month, inclusive of water and sewer. Pets and smokers are not permitted. Call 719-850-0750. (7/2/24)

**ALAMOSAS: COZY 1 BEDROOM** apartment near Cole Park. \$675 month, \$675 deposit. NO PETS. 719-580-5400. (6/25/24)

Accepting applications for 1 bedroom apartments. Must be 62 or older or disabled  
**Cielo Vista**

**Apartment**  
166 S. Wills Center, Colo  
**754-3664**

TTY  
1-800-659-2656  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Accepting Applications for 2 & 3 bedroom family units  
**Valley Grande Apts.**  
2256 E. Drive Monte Vista, CO  
**852-4302**

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

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1-800-659-2656  
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Accepting applications for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Rent based on income for qualifying households.  
**Gomez Manor Apts.**  
804 State St. Antonito, Colo.  
**376-2388**

TTY  
1-800-659-2656  
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Accepting applications for 2 bedroom apartments. Family living at an affordable price.  
**Guadalupe Hacienda Apts.**  
404 W. 8th Antonito, Colo.  
**376-2025**

TTY  
1-800-659-2656  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

**606 - BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT**

**COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR** rent at 1016 West Ave., ALAMOSAS. Call Mike- (719)850-1961.

**611 - HOMES FOR RENT**

**REMODELED TWO BEDROOM, 1 BATH** home on a corner lot in DEL NORTE. Near biking/hiking trailhead. Pets and smokers are not permitted. Please call 719-850-0750. \$850/month. (7/2/24)

**2 STORY HISTORIC RENOVATED 4 BEDROOM, 2.5 BATH**. Appliances furnished. Deck, shop, garage, large fenced in backyard. Excellent neighborhood; 416 2nd Ave., MONTE VISTA. \$2150/month, plus utilities. Yearly lease; available 6/1/24. Contact 719-852-5101 or 719-852-5350. (7/9/24)

**630 - ROOMS FOR RENT**

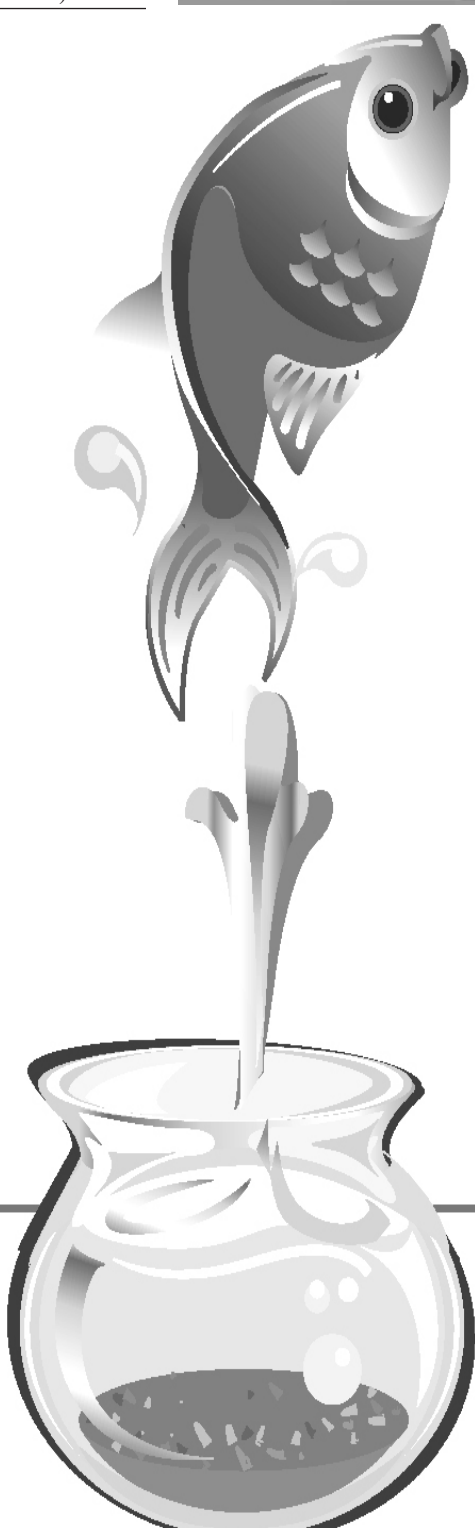
**ROOMS FOR RENT: FURNISHED, ALAMOSAS**. 720-436-5550. (6/25/24)

**634 - ROOMMATE WANTED**

**ELDERLY WOMAN** To share house in Monte Vista. 720-427-5953. (6/25/24)



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# Comics

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Salty expanse
  - 4 Crime boss
  - 8 "— and Circumstance"
  - 12 Celestial sphere
  - 13 Kiln
  - 14 Object of ardor
  - 15 Application
  - 16 Baseball team number
  - 17 "— Las Vegas"
  - 18 Water bird
  - 20 Dough
  - 21 Kith and —
  - 22 Monopoly piece
  - 23 Where the Styx flows
  - 26 Madman
  - 30 Anger
  - 31 — vital
  - 33 Be wild about
  - 34 Talent
  - 36 Palindromic name
  - 38 — de mer
  - 39 Jaunt in a farmer's wagon
  - 41 Odor
- 43 Dutch commune**
- 44 That girl**
- 45 Pause indicator**
- 48 Like some food orders**
- 52 Melville captain**
- 53 Venus de —**
- 54 Move to and —**
- 55 Tablet**
- 56 Picnic problem**
- 57 "Love — — Many-Splendored Thing"**
- 58 Bag**
- 59 Foolhardy**
- 60 Small amount**
- DOWN**
- 1 Bouillabaisse
  - 2 Scottish Gaelic
  - 3 Name in Genesis
  - 4 Pithy
  - 5 Birdlike
  - 6 Actor Sean —

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 7 Single
- 8 Crucial
- 9 Supreme
- 10 "Get a — on!"
- 11 Make music
- 19 Presidential nickname
- 20 Gent
- 22 Go after
- 23 Lofty
- 24 Elaborate song
- 25 Resist
- 26 Tardy
- 27 Big book
- 28 — the Terrible
- 29 Highlander
- 32 Ore deposit
- 35 Shake
- 37 Wisconsin city
- 40 Actress — Lupino
- 42 Second consonant
- 44 Epsom —
- 45 Mil. rank
- 46 Buckeye State
- 47 Sprouted grain
- 48 Singer — Turner
- 49 "Think nothing —"
- 50 Sky bear
- 51 Amphibian
- 53 Spoil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
18			19				20			
		21				22				
23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30			31	32			33			
34			35		36		37		38	
39			40				41	42		
		43				44				
45	46	47			48			49	50	51
52					53			54		
55					56			57		
58					59			60		

## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

### PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

## HERMAN

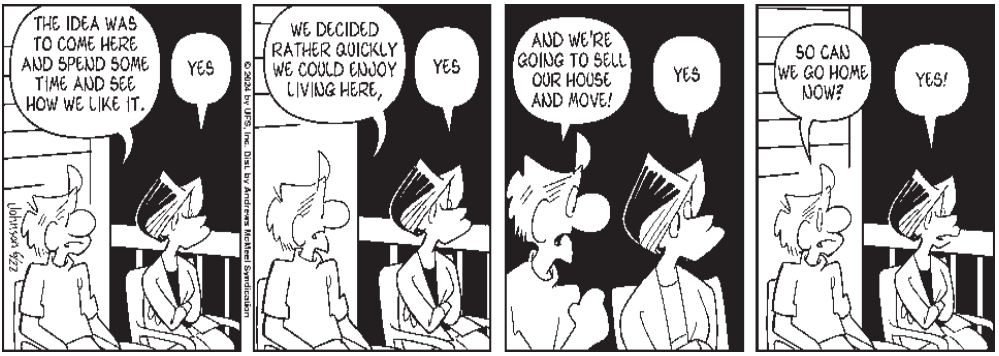


"He told me to wake him at exactly 8 o'clock."

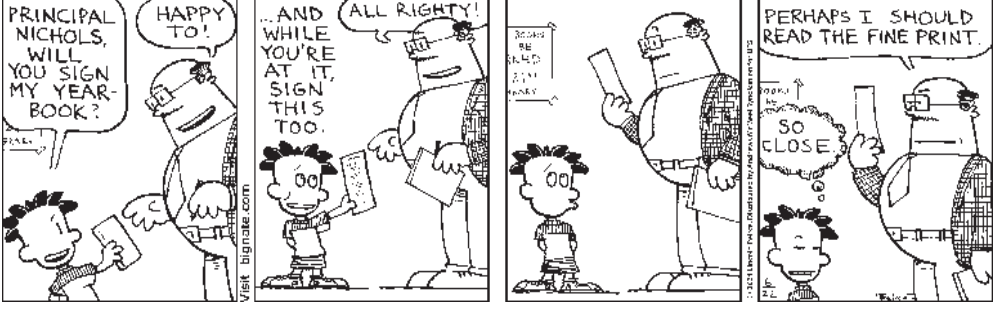
## ALLEY OOP



## ARLO & JANIS



## BIG NATE



## THE BORN LOSER



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



## FRANK & ERNEST



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## THE GRIZZWELLS



## PEANUTS



# Marriage hits rough patch amid a major transition

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been together 20 years, married for 12. We have weathered ex-spouses, step-parenting, nine military deployments between us, serious health issues and everyday normal life. My husband is an infinitely better person than I am, and I have always tried to care for him. We are in our early 40s and recently retired.

This year, our children will be out of the house, and we have bought a beautiful home in a dream location for the two of us to start our next adventure together. I love my husband, but over the last few years, almost everything he says makes me extremely angry or annoyed. I have never felt like this before in our relationship, and I don't know why this is happening now. No one else makes me feel this way.

I don't know where to start on addressing the problem. I have told my husband a little bit, and he says he feels like I no longer love him or need him. But, Abby, I do everything for him. I manage all our bills and finances. I cook three meals a day. I clean the house, the yard and the cars. I do everything he asks for if he needs help or assistance. I try to always be there if he needs to talk or vent. I

stay in shape and available for him. I don't know what else to do to make him feel loved and to make my anger go away. Please help. -- MYSTIFIED IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR MYSTIFIED: I'm not sure your husband is "an infinitely better person" than you are. I wish you had mentioned one thing that he does to make YOU feel loved and needed, because from where I sit, you have been shouldering the entire load. Your anger and resentment may stem from your awakening to this fact. Those feelings may dissipate if you discuss them with a marriage and family therapist, preferably in the presence of your husband.

DEAR ABBY: I am 49. I grew up in a toxic, abusive household. My mother can't drive. She's broke and needs me. Up until the last few years, she has been a nightmare.

I'm a single mom of three children and I work A LOT. On weekends, I'd like to rest and try to have a social life, but my mother wants me to come nearly every Saturday to take her out and visit with the kids. She lives 45 minutes away and it's an all-day endeavor.

I am going crazy. I have no social life, and I'd like to get married one day. Would it be selfish to visit



### ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

only once a month? I need to focus more on myself and my needs. I don't know what to do or what to suggest for my mother to do in my absence. -- NO LIFE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

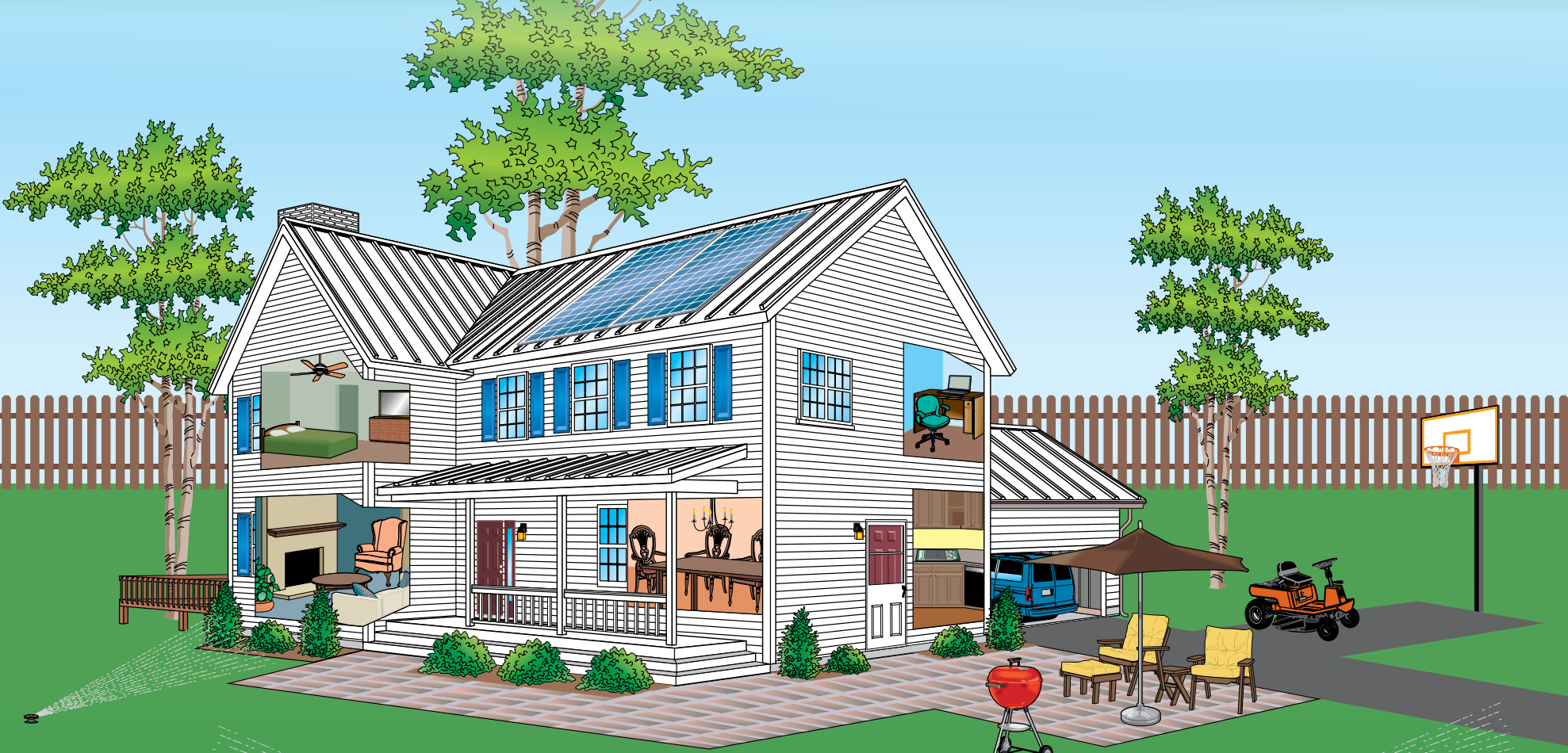
DEAR NO LIFE: Remind your mother that you work hard all week and during the last few years you have sacrificed your personal time to be her chauffeur. Explain that you need time for yourself and can only visit her once a month.

Do not expect her to like it, but you MUST take time for yourself to unwind and have a social life. Advise her that there may be a senior center near her that provides the transportation she needs for activities. Then stand your ground.



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### How to recognize when it's time to replace your windows

Windows are a major component of a home. Window installation professionals will tell homeowners that the average life span of residential windows is between 15 and 30 years. Most well-maintained products can last 20 years, so homeowners who have windows approaching that age may want to schedule a window assessment and possible replacement.

Replacing windows is a job that requires advanced skill, and this is not a do-it-yourself project. There are many qualified professional window installation companies that will work with homeowners to measure, order and install windows that will fit with the style of a home and local weather, all while providing features the homeowner desires.

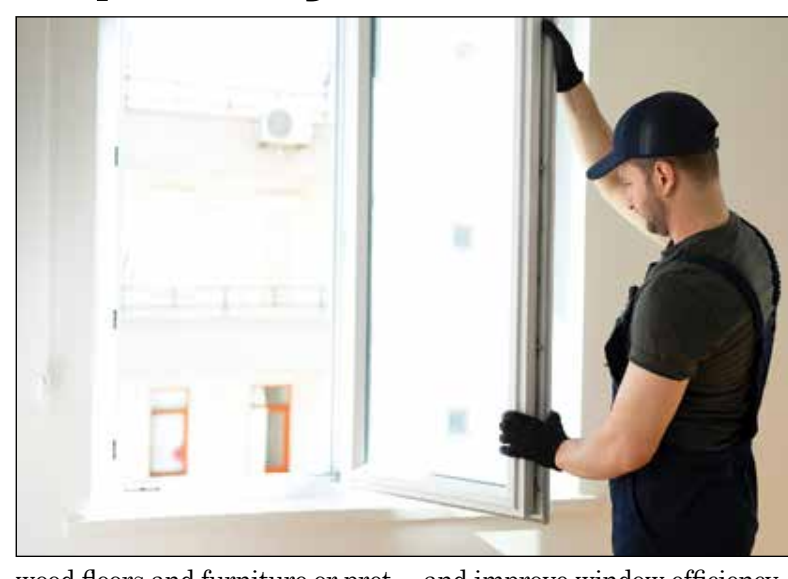
For those wondering when to replace windows, Pella and Re-

newal by Andersen, two of the premiere window manufacturers, offer these guidelines.

- Difficulty opening and closing windows. A window that does not operate as it should can aggravate homeowners. If windows are sticking shut or cannot be securely closed, it's probably time for something new.
- There's apparent window damage. Accidents happen, and if a rock is kicked up from a lawnmower and cracks a window or if spring baseball practice has gone awry with an errant throw, windows may require replacement.
- Drafts in the window are common. If heating and cooling systems are working overtime, drafty, poorly insulated windows could be to blame. Various agencies can perform energy efficiency tests in a home. Windows that are determined

to be the weak spots should be replaced.

- Dated windows are present in the home. Older windows may pose safety hazards, especially those in older homes. A larger window may be needed to comply with fire safety codes allowing for window egress. Dated windows also may simply look "old" and compromise the aesthetics of a home.
- Outdoor noises are noticed quite readily. Newer windows can help reduce noise transmission. So those leaf blowers, airplanes, barking dogs, and kids playing basketball up the street won't disturb homeowners as they try to enjoy some peace and quiet indoors.
- Fading indoors is noted. Windows that do not feature low-emissivity (Low-E) glass coatings will not block UV rays. Those rays can cause fading to



wood floors and furniture or pretty much anything the sunlight touches. Replacing existing windows with Low-E coating alternatives can safeguard belongings and improve window efficiency. Window replacement may be necessary when existing windows are showing signs of aging or damage.

### Did you know?

Planning plays an integral role in the home improvement process, and it's perhaps a more time-consuming component of renovations than homeowners realize. According to the "2024 U.S. Houzz & Home Study" from Houzz Research, homeowners spent almost twice as much time planning their kitchen renovations in 2023 as it took for the projects to be completed. The researchers behind the report

found that the average time spent planning a kitchen renovation in 2023 was 9.6 months, while the building took 5.1 months. Additional projects featured a similar disparity between the time to plan and the time to build. For example, homeowners spent 8.1 months planning living room renovations, which then took an additional 4.1 months to complete. Even smaller projects like closet renovations required



ample planning (6.5 months) that more than doubled the time required to complete the project (3.1 months).



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# How DIY can be bad for homeowners' bottom lines

Homeowners know it can be tempting to go the do-it-yourself (DIY) route when starting a home improvement project. Home repairs and renovations can be costly, and the notion of saving money on such projects compels many homeowners to try their hand at home improvements. However, the DIY approach can be costly as well, and if things go awry, homeowners may end up with empty pockets and unfinished projects.

Online tutorials and advertisements for home improvement retailers can make DIY seem like a snap. However, there are potential pitfalls to consider that could make the ostensibly less expensive DIY route far more detrimental to the bottom line than homeowners may recognize.

- **Permits:** Permits ensure work is done in accordance with local codes, which are designed to ensure the safety of residents and their neighbors. Licensed contractors know which permits are necessary for projects they're hired to work on, and many even procure permits for their clients (homeowners are urged to read estimates and contracts to determine who will be responsible for acquiring the appropriate permits). DIYers may not know about local permits, and therefore go ahead with projects without procuring any. That can be harmful in the short- and long-term. In the short-term, a failure to procure the appropriate permits can make a home less safe and potentially lead to costly fines and necessitate a complete do-over of the project. In the long-term, homeowners who did not secure the appropriate permits may not be given a certificate of occupancy

(CO) when putting their homes on the market, which can make it very difficult to sell the home.

- **Ancillary costs:** The ancillary costs of DIY are not often noted in online tutorials. However, such costs can dramatically increase the amount of money DIYers shell out in order to complete projects on their own. Ancillary costs include but are not limited to the price of tools and equipment; disposal fees for materials that will need to be discarded; and the cost of permits. These costs are often included in estimates provided by contractors, but they're easily overlooked by novice DIYers.

- **Repairs:** Even experienced contractors make mistakes, so DIYers, particularly novices, can anticipate making a few errors along the way. Minor mistakes may not prove too costly, but more significant mishaps can quickly negate any cost savings associated with DIY renovations. The cost to fix DIY mistakes varies depending on the project, but a 2019 survey from Porch.com found that the average DIY mistake cost homeowners \$310 and added five and a half hours to the overall time spent to complete a project. It's worth noting the Porch.com survey was conducted prior to the dramatic increase in materials costs related to inflation in recent years. So it's reasonable to assume that fixing DIY mistakes in 2024 could end up costing considerably more than a few hundred dollars.

Before diving in to DIY, homeowners may want to consider the real costs associated with forgoing professional experience in the potentially misplaced hopes of saving a few dollars.

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# How sellers can get top dollar for their homes

The process of buying and selling a home includes many movable parts. North America has experienced historic trends in the housing market in recent years. Most notably, record-high prices have dominated the real estate market over the last several years.

High prices are good news for sellers, who can probably anticipate receiving offers above listing price. In New Jersey, inventory is so low that 12.5 percent of homes in the Garden State sold above list price, according to data from RedFin. This is good news for sellers currently looking to make an excellent profit on their properties. Sellers who don't want to rely on the market alone to earn more for their homes can take various steps to get top dollar.

### Stage your home

According to the 2023 Profile of Home Staging conducted by the National Association of Realtors®, 81 percent of buyers' agents said staging a home made it easier for the buyer to visualize the property as a future home. Focus your attention on the living room, owner's suite and kitchen. Hiring a staging professional can be an investment that turns a sizable profit.

### Know your local market

A good way to price your home and gauge if it will sell quickly is to look at the average "days on the market" for similar homes nearby. If homes are selling faster than the average DOM, that suggests high demand, which can work in your favor.

### Make added-value improvements

Focus renovation dollars on the types of projects that will reap the highest return on investment. Remodeling magazine annually reports the projects that offer the best ROI. In

2023, the project that reaped the highest ROI was an HVAC Conversion/Electrification, which involved converting a fossil-fuel-burning furnace into an electric heat pump. The cost recouped was 103.5 percent.

### Sell at the right time

Fewer people are shopping for homes in the dead of winter or during the middle of the school year, so putting your home on the market in spring typically brings out the largest number of interested parties, according to Opendoor. But this isn't the only time-related factor to consider. To sell for the most money, you want to list your home when you have enough equity to pay off your current mortgage, the costs of selling, and the costs of moving, says Bankrate.

### Give curb appeal a boost

Make sure that buyers see your home in a positive light from the first moment they pull up for a walk-through showing. According to Home & Garden, improving the land-



scaping can result in a value increase of up to 12 percent. Additional projects can include investing in a new front door and garage doors. Be sure that hedges are trimmed, there are fresh flowers growing, and that walkways and the driveway are clean and tidy.

A few simple strategies can help sellers get more money for their homes.

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# 5 renovations that provide a strong return on investment

Renovations that make homeowners and residents of a home happy are always worth the investment. Though it's certainly true that projects that create more functional, usable space and add comfort and convenience are worth the price, such renovations are even more beneficial if they provide a good return on homeowners' financial investment. Returns are often cashed in when homeowners put their homes up for sale, and each year Remodeling magazine releases its "Cost vs. Value Report," which considers a wealth of data across the United States to determine which renovations return the highest percentage of homeowners' financial investment. According to the "2024 Cost vs. Value Report," the following are five projects that provide a strong return on investment (ROI).

1. Garage door replacement: The average job cost for this project is slightly more than \$4,500 but the project is valued at \$8,751, providing an especially high 194 percent ROI.

2. Steel door replacement: Remodeling magazine notes that a steel entry door replacement is worth double what it was worth in 2023. This project offers a 188 percent ROI on an average investment of \$2,355.

3. Manufactured stone veneer: A manufactured stone veneer is a man-made product that appears as if it's natural stone. Many homeowners prefer manufactured stone veneer to natural stone because of the price, as the former is less expensive and easier to install, which means lower labor costs as well. The comparatively low cost of manufactured stone veneer is perhaps one reason why it averages a roughly 153 percent ROI on

an average cost of just more than \$11,000.

4. Grand entrance upscale (fiberglass): Few things are as awe-inspiring as an impressive entryway, and upgrading to a grand fiberglass entrance door provides a 97 percent ROI. Components of these entryways can vary, but Remodeling magazine notes the project may entail removing an existing entry door and cutting and reframing the opening for a larger with dual sidelights.

5. Minor kitchen remodel: According to the "2024 U.S. Houzz & Home Study" from Houzz Research, kitchens were the most popular rooms to renovate in 2023. There's no denying the appeal of a newly renovated kitchen, and homeowners considering such a project may be happy to learn that a minor kitchen remodel that costs an average of around \$27,000 provides a 96 percent ROI. Bankrate.com notes that minor kitchen

remodels typically keep the current kitchen design, size and layout intact, but these projects may involve painting walls, refreshing backsplash, replacing lighting and plumbing fixtures, and changing cabinet hardware and facades.

Home renovations that provide a significant ROI can make homeowners happy once a project is completed and even happier when the day comes to put a home up for sale.



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## How homeowners can turn attics into livable spaces

Houses typically feature various areas that are traditionally designed for storage, such as garages, basements and attics. However, with some renovation, these spaces can be transformed into livable areas.

Homeowners who would like to convert attics into livable spaces need to take certain things into consideration before starting an improvement project. While the attic may seem like it has plenty of room and is structurally sound enough to walk in, that's not necessarily so. To be converted into usable living space, an attic must be brought up to the standards of modern building codes, according to the design experts at Board & Vellum. Retrofitting beams and insulation can eat up available space in an attic. Thus, it is best to consult an expert to see if an attic can be converted.

Furthermore, an attic that was not initially designed as a room when the house was built can add extra "load" upstairs if it is converted. That could present certain structural problems. That means a structural engineer also must be consulted to see if adding beams, flooring and drywall will necessitate other changes elsewhere in the home to accommodate the extra load.

In order to have a functional attic room, building codes will dictate that it needs to be accessible by a full-size staircase. Also, it will need to have another exit in case of an emergency so that will likely be an accessible window, according to the home information site The Fill. Homeowners' budgets and renovation plans will need to factor into these considerations. Homeowners also are advised to check local permits to de-



termine what else may be required to go forward. It is best to follow the rules. Lack of a permit for work can affect the ability to sell a home down the line.

Individuals also should plan for heating and cooling upgrades as the home will need to have ductwork installed in the attic, or at the least, a stand-alone heating and cooling unit. As heat rises, it can get quite warm in an attic, so ventilation and comfort should be considered. The attic will need to be wired for electricity for lighting and other needs. Air sealing and additional insulation can the attic space more comfortable as well. Consult with a qualified electrician and an HVAC technician and have an energy audit done to discuss needs.

Attic renovations can give homeowners more space in their homes, which can be used as offices, bedrooms or cozy corners. This is no small undertaking and all of the right steps need to be followed to ensure a legal, safe and successful renovation.

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# Tips to transform a living room into a go-to viewing space

Watch parties are wildly popular. Whether it's a gathering for the big game or a group of friends anxious to see the latest episode of a favorite television show, watch parties have become a fun way to enjoy special events with family and friends.

Many bars and restaurants have recognized the popularity of watch parties and looked to capitalize on the trend, particularly for sporting events. Watch parties can make for a fun night out, but homeowners can do much to make their own living room a go-to spot for the next big game or series finale.

- **Expand seating space**, if necessary. Of course, guests for the big game or movie night will need a place to sit. Homeowners who love to host can determine their ideal gathering size and then work to ensure their entertaining space has enough seats to accommodate everyone. Multifunctional furniture can help if space is limited. For example, some stools that are typically used as footrests can be repurposed as seats when guests arrive and an upholstered coffee table can provide an additional space for guests to sit. Another option is to work with a contractor to add a built-in window seat or bench beneath a picture window.

- **Convert an existing space** into an open floor plan. A 2023 survey from Rocket HomesSM found that more than half of individuals surveyed preferred open layouts to traditional layouts. Open layouts can make living spaces feel more airy and less claustrophobic, and such designs also make it easy to accommodate more guests. Homeowners can speak with a local contractor to determine ways to convert living spaces into open floor plans.

- **Invest in your internet.** Whereas cable television used to be the go-to option when



watching sports, movies and television at home, streaming platforms have now taken over, as many, including Peacock, Amazon Prime and Netflix, are now even broadcasting National Football League games. Homeowners who want to host watch parties must invest in high-speed internet and perhaps even a new router to ensure games and shows are not interrupted by the dreaded spinning wheel or issues that can arise if internet speeds are slow. If necessary, relocate the router to the living room to reduce the risk of streaming interruptions.

- **Reconsider your lighting** scheme. If movie nights or television shows dominate your watch party schedule, some recessed lighting in the living room can reduce glare and reflections on the screen once a movie or show begins. Recessed lighting above a mounted television can illuminate the screen

so everyone can see it but won't appear in the screen and adversely affect what viewers can see.

- **Consider upgrading your television** and sound. It goes without saying that a television is wildly important when hosting a watch party. The experts at Best Buy note that 8K resolution is the highest resolution available in the television market. Such devices provide an extraordinary viewing experience, but they also can stretch homeowners' budgets. A 4K television won't cost nearly as much, and these devices also provide superior image quality. When a new television is paired with a premium soundbar, viewers can settle in for a memorable game day or movie night experience.

Homeowners can embrace various strategies to make watch parties an extraordinary experience for themselves and their guests.

# Projected timelines for popular renovation projects

Renovations help homeowners customize their homes to align with their needs and wants. Remodeling may be necessary to replace outdated fixtures and features, address mistakes previous homeowners may have made, or to make a home more functional.



Homeowners often find it beneficial to hire professional contractors when they have work to be done around the house to ensure the job gets done to code and to their satisfaction. Timelines for home remodeling projects vary depending on a number of variables, including the size of a crew as well as the scope of the project.

Once a project commences, the timeline can feel endless. The following are estimates of timelines for top remodeling projects to give homeowners an idea of how long their renovation projects may last, courtesy of Renofi, a company that provides a lending platform leveraged by credit unions nationwide to offer loans to consumers.

- **Kitchen:** There are a lot of moving parts to a kitchen renovation, involving the services of electricians, plumbers, structural experts, and even interior design professionals. Not to mention the needs of craftspeople who can make custom cabinetry and countertops. Kitchen remodels can take anywhere from six to 12 weeks.

- **Bathroom:** The process of a bathroom renovation typically involves demolishing the old bathroom, removing old fixtures and starting from the ground up. As with a kitchen remodel, bathroom jobs require the services of different professionals. That is why homeowners can expect three to 10 weeks for a bathroom, depending on the scope of the project.

- **Finishing a basement:** Finishing a basement can add valuable living space to a home. Establishing a home theater space or man cave may require installing framing, insulation, utilities, drywall, flooring, and any additional needs if the finished basement will have a bathroom or necessitate additional plumbing. A finished basement project can last one to two months. But the good news is that typically the rest of the house is livable while the work is being done, so residents will not be disrupted.

- **Whole home remodel:** Hogan Design & Construction says that a whole house remodeling project can take anywhere from 16 weeks to 24 weeks. More involved projects can take longer.

Remodeling a home often involves a considerable investment of time and money. Knowing how long a homeowner will be inconvenienced by the work can help the household plan accordingly.

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