



Moffat Volunteer Fire Department hosts tasty Cajun Boil

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Two Moffat archers compete at national tournament

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

June 14, 2024

\$1

SLV Today



Courtesy photo

Irish guitarist and singer-songwriter Patsy O'Brien will be performing at Society Hall on Saturday, June 15.

Irish guitarist and songwriter Patsy O'Brien returning to Society Hall

By SOCIETY HALL

Society Hall is thrilled to welcome back Irish guitarist and singer-songwriter Patsy O'Brien in concert Saturday, June 15, at 7:30 p.m.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. at 400 Ross Ave., Alamosa. Tickets are \$20 and are available at the Green Spot in Alamosa or online at www.society-hall.org. The concert will also stream live on the Society Hall Facebook page.

O'Brien entranced the Society Hall crowd when he was here a couple of years ago with his phenomenal guitar wizardry and has been compared to an Irish Tommy Emmanuel. He has bridged the gap between traditional Celtic-Irish styles of guitar and more modern jazz, rock, and roots-Americana influences. He is also an accomplished singer-songwriter and vocalist. Plus, he's funny and engaging in concert, with that twinkle in his eye that reaches back to the Emerald Isle.

As well as supplying the driving guitar rhythms on Celtic-World Music diva Eileen Ivers' last European tour, and

SLV WEATHER

Chance of Afternoon Showers 79/44

Sat: Slight Chance of Afternoon Showers 82/44

Sun: Sunny, Breezy 86/46

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Historic Presbyterian San Pablo Church destroyed in fire

Fire started in house on property

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

ALAMOSA — The Presbyterian San Pablo Church in Costilla County was destroyed by fire Wednesday afternoon along with the house, located behind the church, that stood on the same property.

According to Costilla County Sheriff Danny Sanchez, the call reporting the fire came into the sheriff's office around 1 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon. Multiple agencies responded to the call, including the Costilla County Fire Department, Alamosa Fire

Department, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control plus three fire stations from New Mexico, including Amilia, Cerro

■ See FIRE page 3

Smoke billows from the Presbyterian San Pablo Church in Costilla County on Wednesday afternoon as fire crews battled the blaze that ultimately consumed the historic building. Crews from five fire departments plus the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control responded to the scene but, sadly, the church and house behind it were both destroyed in the flames. There were no reported injuries in the incident.

Courtesy photo



Chair of CO Democratic Party in Alamosa, announces new project

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER

Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — While visiting with Democrats on a stop across the region, Shad Murib, chair of the Colorado Democratic Party, announced the launch of a new project that focuses the party's attention on recruiting and supporting strong candidates for local races, such as commissioners and sheriffs. Called the "Colorado County Comeback", the project is spearheaded by Murib, a rancher from Eagle County, "a

■ See PROJECT page 3

Shad Murib, chair of the Colorado Democratic Party, met with local Democrats in Alamosa on Wednesday to discuss 'Colorado County Comeback.' Murib is the first chair of the party from the Western Slope. Pictured, left to right: Shad Murib, Mary DeLorenzo and Patti Martinez Ortiz.

Courier photo by Priscilla Waggoner



BGC of SLV takes summer whitewater adventure

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — The Boys and Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley was excited to kick off the 2024 Whitewater Season on June 5, by joining close to 200 other Boys and Girls Club members from across Colorado on a whitewater rafting adventure on the Arkansas River.

The excursion, gener-

ously provided by the Arkansas River Outfitters Association, included shuttle transportation, raft and gear rental, lunch, and an amazing day on the river with professional guides that ensured a positive and safe experience for all who attended.

The day started with a van trip to Cotopaxi where the rafters had

lunch by the river before getting geared up with helmets, life jackets, and paddles. Shortly after, they received a very entertaining safety talk from our Royal Gorge

■ See SUMMER page 3

Kids from the Boys and Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley enjoyed rafting the Arkansas River on June 5.

Courtesy photo



ASU inducts Class of 2024 Educators Hall of Fame

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — The Twelfth Annual Adams State University Educators Hall of Fame Ceremony on June 4, included a warm welcome from Adams State President David Tandberg, Ph.D., introductions by Master of Ceremonies Curtis Wilson, and a heartfelt address from Alamosa School District Assistant Superintendent Luis Murrillo, Ph.D.

They all voiced appreciation for professional educators and their positive impact on individuals, classes, and society. Honorees, or their representatives, expressed gratitude for Adams State and the skills and experiences

they acquired in and out of the classroom.

The following were inducted into the Educators Hall of Fame:

Elementary Educators

• Richard Maestas
A native of the San Luis Valley, Maestas received his Adams State Bachelor of Arts in 1974 and his master's degree in 1978. He was a dedicated educator for 20 years with a passion for teaching students with special needs. Maestas is bilingual, which was an important asset when communicating with many of his students and parents. He taught special education in grades two through eight with the Alamosa

■ See ASU page 3



Courtesy photo

Adams State School of Education Educators Hall of Fame honored 2024 inductees on June 4, in the Student Union Building banquet room. Pictured, left to right, (front row: Ryan Gettman (accepting for his late father Harold Gettman), Amanda Banks (accepting for her late mother Cynthia Gettman), Jack Signs, Jr., James Huerena, Donna Aggen (accepting for her late husband Richard Aggen); back row: Connie Marvel, Antoinette Rodriguez, Richard Maestas, Jane Herrick (accepting for her late mother Florence Whiting).

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Record

La Jara Glory Days offering prize money for parade floats

CONTRIBUTED
LA JARA – The 2024 La Jara Glory Days celebration will take place on Saturday, July 27. Most years, the town strives to add a few more attractions to bring the community together to celebrate life in the little town. This year, the town

received a substantial donation from a generous benefactor, who has requested that they use the funds specifically to enhance and improve the parade. To that end, the town would like to invite all business friends, community organizations, clubs, and anyone one else who

may be interested, to ignite their float building creativity. They will three categories:
 1. Floats
 2. Marching Bands/ Drill/Dance Teams
 3. Clubs, organizations, saddle clubs, 4-H, Scout troops
 The top three winners in each category will re-

ceive cash prizes (first place will receive \$1,000, second place will receive \$500, and third place will receive \$250). Winners will be selected by a panel of judges. The annual Art Lopez Memorial Car show (Cars for a Cause) will also take place during the Glory Days event, and the town

would encourage all entries in the car show to also participate in the parade and be eligible to win some of the prize money. For more information, contact Town Manager Larry Zaragoza at 719-274-0553 or 719-992-4073. “We hope to increase

participation in the parade this year and in the future, however, there is no guarantee that our benefactor will be available in future years to offer the same financial support; therefore, we encourage everyone to take advantage of what we can offer in 2024,” town officials stated.

Alamosa County provides personal property taxpayer remedies

CONTRIBUTED
ALAMOSA COUNTY – From June 17 to July 1, owners of taxable personal property (furniture, equipment, for example) may challenge the county assessor’s valuation of their property. The value determined by the assessor is based on information submitted on your Personal Property Declaration Schedule. If you failed to file a declaration schedule, the value was determined using the ‘best information available.’ Taxpayers who disagree with their personal property valuations may object by mail or in person by July 10. Once an objection has been filed, the assessor will

review your account and mail you a Notice of Determination by July 10. A taxpayer’s exclusive remedy for a “best information available” (BIA) valuation is the protest procedure described herein. If you disagree with the assessor’s decision, you may file an appeal with the county board of equalization. The appeal to the county board of equalization must be postmarked or hand-delivered by July 22. The county board will notify you by mail of the hearing date, time, and place where you may present evidence in support of your case. The county board will conclude hearings and render

decisions by the close of business on Aug. 5. The county board must mail you a decision within five business days of the date of its decision. If the county board adjusts your value, the tax bill you receive next January will be based on the adjusted value. If you disagree with the county board’s decision, you may file an appeal with the state Board of Assessment Appeals, district court, or request a binding arbitration hearing within 30 days of the county board’s decision. For additional information regarding the protest and appeal process, contact your county assessor at 719-589-6365.

U.S. Supreme Court rejects attempt to limit access to abortion pill

By **JENNIFER SHUTT**
Colorado Newswire
WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a much-anticipated decision Thursday that mifepristone, one of two pharmaceuticals used in medication abortion, can remain available under current prescribing guidelines. The high court unanimously rejected attempts by anti-abortion groups to roll back access to what was in place more than eight years ago, writing that they lacked standing to bring the case. Those limits would have made it more difficult for patients to get a prescription for mifepristone, which the Food and Drug Administration has approved for up to 10 weeks gestation and is used in about 63% of U.S. abortions.

Erin Morrow Hawley, senior counsel at Alliance Defending Freedom, who argued the case in front of the court on behalf of the legal organization, doesn’t believe this is the end of efforts to challenge access to mifepristone. She said on a call shortly after the ruling was released the three states that intervened in a lower court — Idaho, Kansas and Missouri — could still advance their arguments against mifepristone and potentially hold standing, the legal right to bring a case. “I would expect the litigation to continue with those three states,” Hawley said. **Kavanaugh writes opinion** Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote the opinion in the united ruling from the Supreme Court, with Justice Clarence Thomas writing a concurring opinion. “Plaintiffs are pro-life, oppose elective abortion, and have sincere legal, moral, ideological, and policy objections to mifepristone being prescribed and used by others,” Kavanaugh wrote. The four anti-abortion medical organizations and four anti-abortion doctors who originally brought the lawsuit against mifepristone have protections in place to guard against being forced to participate in abortions against their moral objections, he noted. “Not only as a matter of law but also as a matter of fact, the federal conscience laws have protected pro-life doctors ever since FDA approved mifepristone in 2000,” Kavanaugh wrote. “The plaintiffs have not identified any instances where a doctor was required, notwithstanding conscience objections, to perform an abortion or to provide other abortion-related treatment that violated the doctor’s conscience.” “Nor is there any evidence in the record here of hospitals overriding or failing to accommodate doctors’ conscience objections,” he added. Alliance Defending Freedom has not “identified any instances where a doctor was required, notwithstanding conscience objections, to perform an abortion or to provide other abortion-related treatment that violated the doctor’s conscience since mifepristone’s 2000 approval,” the

abortion access case that addresses the Emergency Medical Treatment & Labor Act, known as EMTALA. “EMTALA does not require doctors to perform abortions or provide abortion-related medical treatment over their conscience objections because EMTALA does not impose obligations on individual doctors,” Kavanaugh wrote. **Thomas agrees but questions who can sue** Thomas wrote a concurring opinion in the case, saying that he agreed with the court’s unanimous decision, which he did join, but brought up concerns with how a certain type of standing is used by the Court. “Applying these precedents, the Court explains that the doctors cannot establish third-party standing to sue for violations of their patients’ rights without showing an injury of their own,” Thomas wrote. “But, there is a far simpler reason to reject this theory: Our third-party standing doctrine is mistaken,” Thomas added. “As I have previously explained, a plaintiff cannot establish an Article III case or controversy by asserting another person’s rights.” **Reaction pours in** Politicians, anti-abortion groups and reproductive rights organizations all reacted to the ruling within hours of its release, often pointing to November’s elections as a potential next step. President Joe Biden released a written statement saying the “decision does not change the fact that the fight for reproductive freedom continues.” “It does not change the fact that the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade two years ago, and women lost a fundamental freedom,” Biden added. “It does not change the fact that the right for a woman to get the treatment she needs is imperiled if not impossible in many states.” Former President Donald Trump, the Republican Party’s presumptive nominee, was in meetings most of Thursday with U.S. House Republicans and then separately with Republican U.S. Senators. Neither Trump nor his campaign released a statement by early Thursday afternoon addressing the Supreme Court’s ruling. Louisiana Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy, ranking member on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, wrote in a statement that the justice didn’t actually address the merits of the case. “The Court did not weigh in on the merits of the case, but the fact remains this is a high risk drug that ends the life of an unborn child,” Cassidy wrote. “I urge FDA to follow the law and reinstate important safeguards.” Karen Middleton, president of Colorado-based abortion-rights nonprofit Cobalt, said in a statement that “yet another example of why politicians need to stay out of decisions about abortion,” and why the group is supporting a ballot measure this year to enshrine abortion rights in the state Constitution.

OBITUARY

Kay Orville Watkins

Kay Orville Watkins, PhD, age 92, died at his beloved home in Alamosa on June 11, 2024, with his family by his side. Kay was born April 28, 1932, in Nunn, Colo., to Paul Watkins and Freda Orndorff Watkins. This was the height of the Great Depression, which caused the family to move frequently to find employment. Kay attended many grade schools, three different ones in one year. Despite this, he always loved school and learning.



The family moved to Alamosa when he was in junior high. He graduated from Alamosa High School in 1950 as class president and peer-chosen graduation speaker. He attended Adams State College, now University, on a joint honors scholarship, and graduated in 1955 with a triple major in chemistry, mathematics and physics.

a much beloved professor by hundreds. Besides teaching, because of his specific training, he also did research during summers and did sabbaticals at Naval Research Laboratory, Washington DC; Brandeis University, Boston; Brookhaven Nation Laboratory, Long Island, N.Y.; Argonne National Laboratory, Chicago, Ill.; the University of Utah, Salt Lake; and the University of Hawaii, Honolulu. He trained students at ASC (now Adams State University), who literally work all over the world. Kay earned a grant from the National Science Foundation for the science division at ASC for their first-ever computers. It was the first time NSF granted to any school other than the big-name major research universities.

he was a passionate and competent fly fisherman. Learning the skill living in Wyoming at age 10, he kept developing until illness stopped him at 90. An avid member of Trout Unlimited (TU), he did everything from trash pickup to creating trout habitat in various rivers. He reestablished the SLV TU chapter years ago and was honored by the TU State Office as an Outstanding Volunteer in 2016. There are never-ending “fish tales” about him. He did not seek accolades given to him, nevertheless some professional honors include: ASC Outstanding Alumnus 1993; Excellence in Science Teaching Award, Colorado Association of Science Teachers, 1993; Colorado Alliance for Science Lifetime Leadership in Science, Technology, and Mathematics, 1990; Regional Science Fair for Outstanding and Dedicated Service, 1961-1992; and his first from high school, Honorary Science Award, Bausch and Lomb, 1950.

Returning home, he entered graduate school at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, where he earned a PhD in physical-inorganic chemistry (1961). Chemists were in high demand at that time, and he had not planned a teaching career. However, then ASC president, Fred Plachy, who knew Kay well, talked him into coming to ASC to replace his former mentor, Dr. Thompson. Thinking he would come home “for two years”, he remained for over 30 years and was

Kay was preceded in death by both parents and his only sibling Wanda Dix and brother-in-law Darrell Dix. He is survived by wife Janice Rogers Watkins and their three daughters, Susan (Bradley) Schuler, Melissa Watkins Reega, and Laura (Scott) Ammerman. Grandchildren are Elise (Matt Boyle) Schuler, Daniel (Nicole) Schuler, Caitlin Ammerman, Mason Ammerman, Sarah Reega (Lucas Morse), and Thomas Reega (Lexi Reid). Besides his passion for family and teaching,

Per Kay and his families wishes, a celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be directed to Kay Watkins scholarship for chemistry majors at Adams State University. Rogers Family Mortuary is in the care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes, and words of comfort for Kay’s family, please visit www.Rogers-Funerals.com.



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School Menu
Friday
 June 14, 2024

BREAKFAST
 UBR
 Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY
 Ham & Cheese Sandwich
 Veggie Cup
 Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL
 Ham & Cheese Sandwich
 Veggie Cup
 Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL
 Ham & Cheese Sandwich
 Veggie Cup
 Fruit & Milk

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

Valley News

Summer

Continued from Page 1

Rafting guides, and then carried boats down to the shoreline of the Arkansas River. The boats were launched and the whooping and hollering began as the rafters were hitting one stacked wave after another.

A great time was spent swimming in the current, surfing on waves, and splashing other boats! After paddling from the launch all the way to the Texas Creek takeout, the group was soaked, smiling, and all thankful for the experience! The Boys and Girls Clubs are extremely grateful for the opportunities and continued support provided by communities, businesses and organizations from across Colorado.

This event would not have been possible without the support of participating outfitters like Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center, River Runners,

Noah's Ark, Wilderness Aware, The Adventure Company, Arkansas River Tours, Performance Tours, Echo Canyon River Expeditions and Royal Gorge Rafting. The amazing and dedicated staff from these organizations provided hundreds of kids with a rare opportunity to experience a whitewater adventure they will never forget. This event also received much appreciated financial support from the El Pomar Foundation.

The Boys and Girls Clubs strive to provide kids and teens with positive experiences that complement classroom learning and give them opportunities for personal growth and reflection. Events like whitewater rafting teach teamwork, build resilience and confidence, while allowing club members to form positive relationships with their peers. When combined with swimming lessons, hiking, camping, and other club programs, members begin to under-



Courtesy photo

Running the Arkansas River by raft was enjoyed the Boys and Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley earlier this month.

stand more about who they are and what they can become.

Trips like whitewater rafting, skiing, or flying in an airplane often become milestone events in the lives of club members that help them realize that their world is filled with possibilities. The Club strives to create meaningful programming that helps kids and teens understand and realize their full potential as responsible, caring, and productive citizens of our amazingly diverse world.

Whitewater rafting is just one of the club's planned excursions for the Summer of 2024. Summer at the Club includes 10 weeks of themed programming and events like; Cumbres and Toltec Railroad, Weekly Fishing and Hiking, visits to the Rio Grande Farm Park, Splashland, Earthships in Taos, the Pueblo Zoo, and the Albuquerque Bio Park. Every week this Summer is packed with adventure and learning opportunities for kids and teens alike.

ASU

Continued from Page 1

School District, retiring in 2002. Maestas also served on the Alamosa Education Association as the building representative for one year. Before attending college, Maestas was a Crew Chief on a Bell UH-1 helicopter in the Army for two years. He and his wife, Lenora, have three children -- two are Adams State graduates -- and five grandchildren.

• **Connie Marvel**
Marvel attended Adams State on a San Luis Valley Federal Savings and Loan (now SLV Federal Bank) Scholarship. She received her degree in 1975 and was an educator for 30 years. She entered the education profession as a paraprofessional; while working in California middle schools, she earned a teaching certification from San Francisco State University. Marvel taught in American Samoa, Wisconsin, and Colorado. She received her Master of Science from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point in 1993. At Poudre School District in Fort Collins, Marvel and her students collaborated with local resources to engage in watershed studies in their neighborhood.

Connie and her husband, Kim, have climbed all of Colorado's fourteeners and visited all 63 US National Parks.

• **Antoinette Rodriguez**
Rodriguez received an Adams State Bachelor of Arts in 1977 and a Master of Arts in 1984 and served as an educator for 28 years. Before beginning her teaching career, Rodriguez developed and implemented "Urban Experiences," a grant project that exposed sophomores and juniors to diverse work experiences in Denver and Boulder. During this time, she collaborated with Sierra Grande School and initiated ski trips and fostered community-school connections. Rodriguez was a non-traditional stu-

dent when she received her bachelor's degree and began teaching kindergarten for the Alamosa School District. At the time, kindergarten operated on a half-day system and Rodriguez taught 30 children in the morning and another set of 30 in the afternoon. Being bilingual was an asset to her chosen profession and helped her connect with families.

• **Jack Signs Jr.**
After graduating with his Bachelor of Arts in 1968 from Adams State, Signs Jr., taught fifth grade in Sandford School District from 1968 until 1999. He received his Master of Arts from Adams State in 1982. From 1974 until 1999, Signs' students participated in the Wellington Environment Study Area at the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. He coached high school football, basketball, baseball, and track and middle school wrestling. His accomplishments include being named to the 2012 Colorado Volleyball and CHSAA Volleyball Official Hall of Fames. Signs received the Sanford Teacher of the Year Award and was a nominee for the SLV Educator of Year. He started the Sanford fourth through sixth grade noon-hour softball tournament in 1982, which continues today. He is a third-generation educator and has a granddaughter who is a fifth-generation educator.

• **Florence Bell Whiting** (posthumous)
Whiting began her teaching career in one-room schoolhouses after attending Colorado State College of Education in Greeley. While teaching with Denver Public Schools she met and married Robert Whiting. At age 50, Whiting completed her Bachelor of Arts from Adams State in 1955. She taught second grade at Boyd Elementary School. At the time, retirement was mandatory at 65 in the Alamosa School District but that didn't stop her desire to work with students; she

continued to teach at the Head Start for several years. Whiting was the 1979 Beta Sigma Phi Founder's Day Woman of the Year. She was active in many community organizations and played the organ for St. Thomas Episcopal Church for over 30 years.

Secondary Educators

• **Cynthia Brown Gettman** (posthumous)
Gettman received her degree in education in 1968. She started her teaching career in 1970 at J.W. Fair Middle School in San Jose, Calif., where she taught special education for 20 years in the subjects of English and history. She was also the drama director, staging two plays a year. In addition, Cynthia Gettman taught special education preparation courses at San Jose State University. She was active in the Gilroy Garlic Festival, which raised millions of dollars for organizations in the community. She also taught English as a second language to adults, after retiring from the public-school systems. She volunteered with her church and community organizations. She and her husband, Harold Gettman, have two children and three grandchildren.

• **Harold 'Doogie' Gettman** (posthumous)

A first-generation college graduate, Gettman received his Adams State Bachelor of Arts degree in 1969. After college, he and his wife, Cynthia, moved to California where he taught primary grades while obtaining his special education credential. He soon accepted a teaching and coaching position at Mt. Pleasant High School in East San Jose. While teaching full time, he also served as department chairperson for the special education department. By the mid-1980s, he had moved into special education administration, where he supported and mentored special education teachers. Like his wife, he was very active in charitable

organizations including the Special Olympics of Northern California. After 31 years in education, he continued volunteering to benefit children. The Gettmans loved to travel, especially with family and friends.

• **James Huerena**

A native of Denver, Huerena, a gifted athlete, received many awards and recognition as a high school and college football player. He received his Adams State Bachelor of Arts in 1992, having played on the football team from 1987-1990. During his college career, Huerena was a three-year starting running back and four-year letterman. He recently retired from the field of education after 30 years, nearly all served in the Widefield District 3 in Colorado Springs, Colo. Huerena served for 20 years as a coach for a variety of high school teams including head of the boys' golf team and assistant coach for the girls' team. He and his wife, Tammy Huerena, also an Adams State graduate, have two children.

Administrators

• **Richard Aggen** (posthumous)

An Adams State student athlete, Aggen became the head wrestling coach at Fort Lupton, after receiving his Bachelor of Arts in 1978. He was the district athletic director at Fort Lupton from 1992-1999. Aggen earned Coach of the Year in 1981, 1986, and 1987 and coached 15 individual state champions. After earning his Master of Arts from Colorado State University, Aggen continued in Fort Lupton, working with middle and high school students. He received the 2013 Lifetime Service in Wrestling Award from the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. He culminated his career at Adams 12 School District as executive director of facilities. Aggen and his wife, Donna, were married for 40 years; they have two children and four grandchildren.

Project

Continued from Page 1

rural Coloradan and the first western chair of the Democratic party."

The idea for the project came from something he says he has observed firsthand.

"President Biden has been delivering so well for Colorado, especially in rural Colorado. But we have a lot of county commissioners who are sitting on the investments the federal government is making and not spending the resources as they should be."

Murib says it's no surprise that people haven't seen the success of the Biden administration because "some county commissioners and politicians are more interested in their politics than actually delivering resources to their communities."

As an example, he cites a recent conversation with a commissioner who told him that he "wasn't going to spend the money," because he couldn't "get by" the opposing party getting "that kind of win."

"People should be pissed off at the people who are putting their ideology ahead of their communities. It's shameless."

Murib believes the next frontier of Colorado politics is local. "The party is going to be focused on these critical races that we have ignored for far too long."

Part of that involves recruiting and supporting strong candidates for local positions.

"We focus on folks who are well known in their community. I'm less interested in running people who are purely political and much more interested in finding the former president of the Chamber of Commerce or someone who represents their community in working with the USDA."

Congressional District 3 (CD3) encompasses the San Luis Valley plus Pueblo and parts of southeastern Colorado to the east and, to the west, most of the Western Slope to the Utah and Wyoming state lines. It isn't a Democratic stronghold and was weakened further when redistricting gave Republicans a 9-point advantage. Based on the latest voter registration from the Secretary of State, 22.3% of voters are Democrats; 29.6% are Republicans and 46.2% are Unaffiliated.

When asked how a Democratic candidate appeals to such a large and diverse block of unaffiliated voters, Murib says, "I think we have our basic Democratic values." He cites climate change as an example. "I would argue that people really do care about climate change. I know most ranchers believe in climate change. They don't call it that but they notice that land is drying up because the water is drying up now in

late July instead of in the fall. The elk are coming down earlier and lower than they used to. When we go hunting or backpacking on the weekend, we see migration patterns of deer and elk and wild game are changing.

"We just have to stay true to our values. We're interested in preserving the planet for the next generation. For some folks, that means solving drought so they can grow great hay and get a good price. For others, that means wanting to make sure polar bears survive into the future. Both folks agree that we need to address climate change, they just talk about it differently.

"Those are the ways I think we can bring people together. If we stop talking down to people and approach each issue with that kind of nuance and reach people where they're at, we'll be a better country for it."

But Murib also believes the nature of the Democratic party is better suited to reaching more people.

"It's baked into us to bring people along, to build things together. People are tired of hyper-polarization. I've heard from frustrated Republicans that their party is pushing people away. They're told, 'you don't belong here unless you agree that the election is stolen or whatever is driving attention that day.' Their candidates have to look and say and act a certain way."

He contrasts that with Rep. Martinez who "works with Cleave Simpson to focus on things like water, which has an enormous impact on our agriculture out here" or CD3 candidate Adam Frisch, who "is sometimes going to disagree with Senators Bennet or Hickenlooper or Governor Polis. And we see that as a good thing. That's a huge difference in the two parties.

"It's our responsibility to make sure we tell the story of our success but it's more important that we show them the results when we put points on the board. Too many politicians are just playing games."

When asked about voter enthusiasm, Murib touts President Biden's record in Colorado. "He's been a great leader for us. We've been able to bring thousands of jobs. We cut health care costs for a million seniors with reform to Medicare and Medicaid. Put a cap on insulin."

He also wants voters to have "an alternative to the chaos they're seeing on the other side of the aisle", adding they have the right to be angry and deserve people who will say what they're actually going to do to solve problems.

"But we have a strong record of success. We're going to run proudly on that. Democrats are excited and we have every right to be."

O'Brien

Continued from Page 1

frequently treading the boards and collaborating with many giants of the Celtic-World music scene (Paddy Keenan, Cathie Ryan among them), Patsy's songwriting reflects a strong interest in roots Americana as well as Jazz influences.

With critically-acclaimed solo albums under his belt along with numerous live and studio collaborations, it's no surprise that Patsy's

songwriting ability and guitar prowess are in demand (he hosts guitar workshops all over the country), and NPR saw fit to feature one of his song arrangements on the prestigious All Songs Considered.

Veteran Irish music critic Paul Dromey declares O'Brien "Ireland's best-kept musical secret," after attending his opening performance for Kinky Friedman some years back.

Hard to believe that with all that behind him, his star is still rising.

Fire

Continued from Page 1

and Cuesta Fire Departments.

Sanchez stated that the fire started in the house and then spread to the church, destroying both buildings. The structures were occupied at the time the fire broke out, with

an "elderly lady and an adult male" in the house and "an adult male" in the church.

Fortunately, all three evacuated in time, and no one sustained any injuries. Within just a few hours, the Red Cross was providing services to those who were impacted.

When the Valley Cou-

rier reached Sheriff Sanchez at about 5 p.m. Wednesday evening, he reported that several of the fire departments were still on the scene, and the fire was under control but still smoldering. The fire's cause is not known yet.

The church, located at 10516 County Road 21 in San Pablo, is on the south

side of Culebra Creek and, according to a real estate listing, was built in 1897. Sanchez could not confirm the age of the building or if it was recognized as a historic site but said it looked "very old."

"I was there when it came down and you could see the adobe bricks," he said. "It was very sad."

Opinion

Happy Birthday Ol' Dutch

Yep, it looks like another year has rolled around for Ol' Dutch and I can chalk another birthday up on the proverbial wall, which seems to be taking more and more space to tally on. If you hang around long enough those numbers start to take on a life of their own and grow seemingly exponentially in volume.

Regardless of my "advanced age," as Miss Trixie so kindly points out on a regular basis, I probably worked harder this past year than I have since I retired. All in all, I feel pretty good. I gained some muscle and learned a lot which is never bad.

Long ago a friend told me to celebrate not only a birth day but a birthday week and so I will party-hardy all this week. For those of you that may have missed the actual date of my birthday and the root beer floats at the party last Sunday, let me remind you that a belated gift is better than none at all and that no gift is too large. So, surprise me.

Usually, I buy myself a gun for my birthday but this year I bought myself a new laptop. So, while awaiting the start of my rootbeer float party, I practiced getting used to the new keyboard. Why is it that change gets harder as we age?

While Miss Trixie hurried around getting ready for the party, I strategized how to make an entrance befitting someone of my stature. Which really means that Miss Trixie "told me" to come right on time and bring the ice cream so it doesn't melt before the guests arrive for the grand event. It's rough being the guest of honor.

It was a great party and about 50 people showed up for the eats. Funny cards, delicious brisket, homemade cookies and even a gift certificate for Mexican food were received and I feel truly blessed to have such dear friends.

I plan on a week of such "doings" and will be fishing, go to Bingo underground at Creede, hike up in the Aspens and maybe take an ATV ride up Alder Creek. (In case you need to find me for some present giving.) No use cutting short on the festivities if I can help it, is what I always say.

Miss Trixie and I also have a whirlwind week ahead rafting with Mountain Man which will keep us busy until next Sunday when I again get celebrated on Father's Day. Man, how can a guy beat that? Two celebrations and good tidings coming my way all in the same week.

All that makes me grateful that my parents thought to conceive me on the right day so this week would work out later in life with a double celebration. Thanks to my Dad, Fast Freddy, for that selfless act of kindness so many years ago so that I might be born and have such a great life.

No matter where life finds you this next week, try and remember your father this week on his special day. I know that some of you may not have had the best dad in your lives but everyone has a father and if you can, thank him for your life or at least remember him for it.

Being born is the greatest gift that each of us receive this side of Heaven and each day I am more and more thankful for my Dad and his sacrifices he made for me.

And if you are the dad, spend a few extra hours with your kids, revel in their accomplishments, laugh at the grandkids and hopefully open some cards and gifts that you probably paid for.

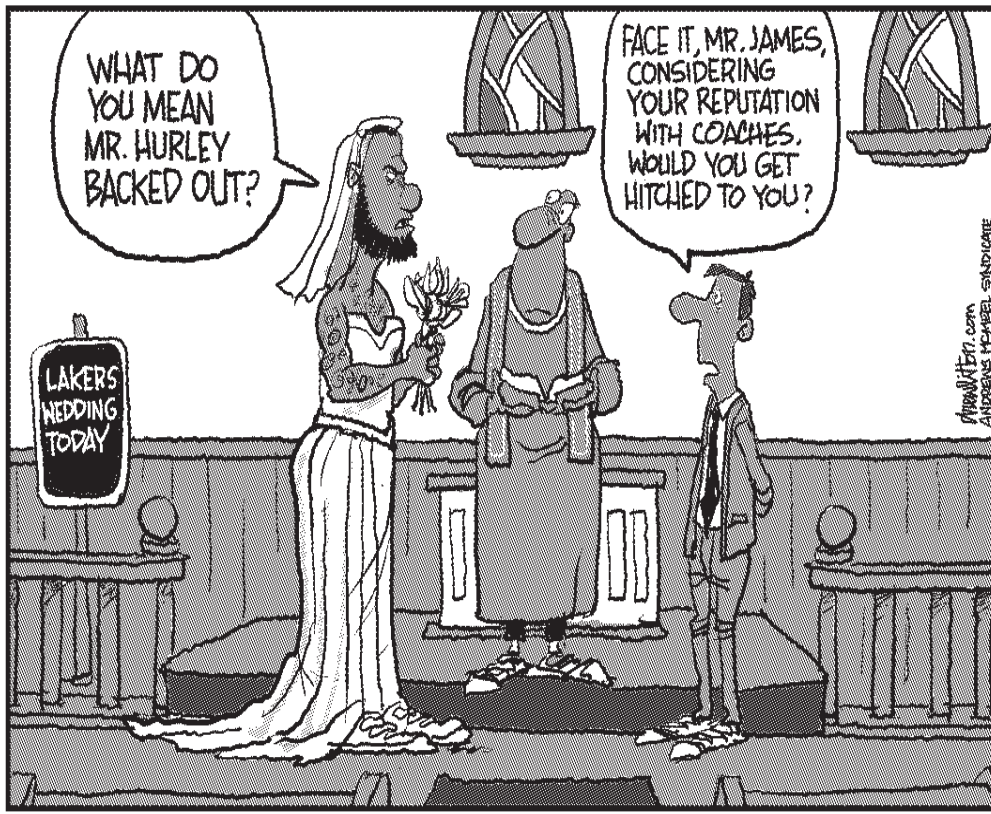
Have a great week and get outside to enjoy this weather.

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

Trout Republic



by Kevin Kirkpatrick



To submit news, email:
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Letters policy

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

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

Push to promote transgender ideology is backfiring

President Joe Biden has done more to promote transgender ideology than any president, ever. A scroll through the White House archives shows statement after statement, proclamation after proclamation, speech after speech, in which the president praises what he calls the "extraordinary courage and contributions" of transgender Americans.

Last year, the White House, as part of its observation of Transgender Day of Visibility -- an event that included the White House Roundtable on Affirming Transgender Kids -- the Biden administration released a list of 42 actions and policy initiative it has undertaken to support transgender Americans. The list included Justice Department civil rights enforcement actions, "intervening legally when states violate the rights of transgender youth and their families," signing a "historic executive order to advance equality for LGBTQI+ people," expanding access to "gender-affirming care," and much, much more. On that last subject, the Biden White House has gone all-out even at a time when doctors in Europe have expressed growing con-

cern about the lasting damage caused by the irreversible medical treatments known in some circles as "gender-affirming care."

So there is no doubt that Biden has put the power of the presidency behind transgender ideology. And yet now there is new evidence that Americans are increasingly rejecting the fundamental tenet of transgenderism: that a man can become a woman and a woman can become a man.

The data is in a new poll by the Pew Research Center. For seven years now, Pew has been asking American voters this question: "Which statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right? A) Whether someone is a man or a woman is determined by the sex they were assigned at birth, or B) Someone can be a man or a woman even if that is different from the sex they were assigned at birth."

Put aside the use of the loaded term "assigned at birth," which suggests a baby's sex is an arbitrary assignment rather than a biological reality. When the question was asked in 2017, 54% of those surveyed said that whether someone is a man or a woman is determined

at birth, while 44% said it can be different. In 2021, the number saying sex is determined at birth ticked upward to 56%. In 2022, it grew to 60%. And this year, 65% of those surveyed said whether someone is a man or woman is determined at birth, while 33% said it can be different.

That is a serious change. Seven years ago, just over half of those surveyed said sex is determined at birth. Now, that number is nearly two-thirds. After all the White House proclamations, all the media talk, all the change in language to "gender neutral" pronouns -- after it all, the number of Americans rejecting the foundation of transgenderism has increased. Pew found huge political differences in opinion on the subject. Among Republicans, 91% said sex is determined at birth, with just 8% saying it can be different from birth. Among Democrats, just 39% said sex is determined at birth, while 59% said it can be different. But even among Democrats, the number who say sex is determined at birth has grown over the last seven years, while the number who say it can be different has shrunk.

The differences stand apart from some of the conventional divides in recent politics. For example, among people with college degrees, 92% of Trump supporters said sex is determined at birth, while just 30% of college-educated Biden supporters said the same thing. Among voters 18 to 34 years old, 83% of Trump supporters said sex is determined at birth, while 29% of Biden supporters said the same thing.

The contrast is extraordinary. And so is the change. For a time, the number of Americans who said that a person's sex can be changed, that it can be different from birth, approached a majority. Now, it is receding. If that trend continues, the ideology which the Biden administration has so energetically promoted might no longer be the political benefit the president thinks it is.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

LETTERS

American people need to hold Trump accountable at ballot box

Editor,
It's official: After making secret hush money payments to an adult film star 11 days before the 2016 election and falsifying official filings to hide the truth from the public, Donald Trump has been found guilty by a New York jury. Trump's conviction in New York should remind us all that no one -- including a former president -- is above the law. It should also remind us of the danger that Trump still poses to our democracy. In the final weeks of the 2016 election, Trump covered up his affair with Stormy Daniels to dupe voters and improve his chances of winning the elec-

tion. As it turns out, this would only be his first foray into undermining our elections.

The New York trial may be over, but Trump still faces three additional indictments and 54 criminal charges, including federal charges for his efforts to incite violence and overturn the will of voters after he knew he'd lost the 2020 election. This is a pattern. The jury has done their job to hold Trump accountable. Now, it's time for the American people to do our part and hold him accountable at the ballot box.
Deborah Cruz
La Jara

Family thanks City Market for help with fundraiser cancer bake sale

Editor,
Thank you, City Market, for allowing us to have an amazing fundraiser cancer bake sale for our sister Delores Sanchez. It was touching to see our friends, family, and community come together. The baked goods were

delicious gifts and above all love. Thank you all so much. My sister is a warrior everyday step by step, she is getting better. Thank you, City Market.
Sister Jessie Salazar
Alamosa

Keith R Cerny
Publisher

Brian Williams
Managing Editor

Valley Courier

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Your FIRST Source for Local News

Lifestyles

Nursing homes are left in the dark as more utilities cut power to prevent wildfires

By KATE RUDER
KFF Health News

When powerful wind gusts created threatening wildfire conditions one day near Boulder, the state's largest utility cut power to 52,000 homes and businesses — including Frasier, an assisted living and skilled nursing facility.

It was the first time Xcel Energy preemptively switched off electricity in Colorado as a wildfire prevention tool, according to a company official. The practice, also known as public safety power shut-offs, has taken root in California and is spreading elsewhere as a way to keep power lines from sparking blazes and fueling the West's more frequent and intense wildfires.

In Boulder, Frasier staff and residents heard about the planned outage from news reports. A Frasier official called the utility to confirm and was initially told the home's power would not be affected. The utility then called back to say the home's power would be cut, after all, said Tomas Mendez, Frasier's vice president of operations. The home had just 75 minutes before Xcel Energy shut off the lights on April 6.

Staff rushed to prepare the 20-acre campus home to nearly 500 residents. Generators kept running the oxygen machines, most refrigerators and freezers, hallway lights, and Wi-Fi for phones and computers. But the heating system and some lights stayed off as the overnight temperature dipped into the 30s.

Power was restored to Frasier after 28 hours. During the shut-off, staff tended to nursing home and assisted living residents, many with dementia, Mendez said.

"These are the folks that depend on us for everything: meals, care, and medications," he said.

Not knowing when power would be restored, even 24 hours into the crisis, was stressful and expensive, including the next-day cost of refilling fuel for two generators, Mendez said.

"We're lucky we didn't have any injuries or anything major, but it is likely these could happen when there are power outages — expected or unexpected. And that puts everyone at risk," Mendez said.

As preemptive power cuts become more widespread, nursing homes are being forced to evaluate their preparedness. But it shouldn't be up to the facilities alone, according to industry officials and academics: Better communication between utilities and nursing homes, and including the facilities in regional disaster preparedness plans, is critical to keep residents safe.

"We need to prioritize these folks so that when the power does go out, they get to the front of the line to restore their power accordingly," said David Dosa, chief of geriatrics and professor of medicine at UMass Chan Medical School in Worcester, Massachusetts, of nursing home residents.

Restoring power to hospitals and nursing homes was a priority throughout the windstorm, wrote Xcel Energy spokesperson Tyler Bryant in an email. But, he acknowledged, public safety power shut-offs can improve, and the utility will work with community partners and the Colorado Public Utilities Commission to help health facilities prepare for extended power out-

ages in the future. When the forecast called for wind gusts of up to 100 mph on April 6, Xcel Energy implemented a public safety power shut-off. Nearly 275,000 customers were without power from the windstorm.

Officials had adapted after the Marshall Fire killed two people and destroyed or damaged more than 1,000 homes in Boulder and the neighboring communities of Louisville and Superior two and a half years ago. Two fires converged to form that blaze, and electricity from an Xcel Energy power line that detached from its pole in hurricane-force winds "was the most probable cause" of one of them.

"A preemptive shut-down is scary because you don't really have an end in mind. They don't tell you the duration," said Jenny Albertson, director of quality and regulatory affairs for the Colorado Health Care Association and Center for Assisted Living.

More than half of nursing homes in the West are within 3.1 miles of an area with elevated wildfire risk, according to a study published last year. Yet, nursing homes with the greatest risk of fire danger in the Mountain West and Pacific Northwest had poorer compliance with federal emergency preparedness standards than their lower-risk counterparts.

Under federal guidelines, nursing homes must have disaster response plans that include emergency power or building evacuation. Those plans don't necessarily include contingencies for public safety power shut-offs, which have increased in the past five years but are still relatively new. And nursing homes in the West are rushing to catch up.

In California, a more stringent law to bring emergency power in nursing homes up to code is expected by the California Association of Health Facilities to cost over \$1 billion. But the state has not allocated any funding for these facilities to comply, said Corey Egel, the association's director of public affairs. The association is asking state officials to delay implementation of the law for five years, to Jan. 1, 2029.

Power and supply deficiencies

Most nursing homes operate on a razor's edge in terms of federal reimbursement, Dosa said, and it's incredibly expensive to retrofit an old building to keep up with new regulations.

Frasier's three buildings for its 300 residents in independent living apartments each have their own generators, in addition to two generators for assisted living and skilled nursing, but none is hooked up to emergency air conditioning or heat because those systems require too much energy.

Keeping residents warm during a minus-10-degree night or cool during two 90-degree days in Boulder "are the kinds of things we need to think about as we consider a future with preemptive power outages," Mendez said.

Federal audits of emergency preparedness at nursing homes in California and Colorado found facilities lacking. In Colorado, eight of 20 nursing homes had deficiencies related to emergency supplies and power, according to the report. These

included three nursing homes without plans for alternate energy sources like generators and four nursing homes without documentation showing generators had been properly tested, maintained, and inspected.

For Debra Saliba, director of UCLA's Anna and Harry Borun Center for Gerontological Research, making sure nursing homes are part of emergency response plans could help them respond effectively to any kind of power outage. Her study of nursing homes after a

magnitude 6.7 earthquake that shook the Los Angeles area in 1994 motivated LA County to integrate nursing homes into community disaster plans and drills.

Too often, nursing homes are forgotten during emergencies because they are not seen by government agencies or utilities as health care facilities, like hospitals or dialysis centers, Saliba added.

Albertson said she is working with hospitals and community emergency response coalitions in

Colorado on disaster preparedness plans that include nursing homes. But understanding Xcel Energy's prioritization plan for power restoration would also help her prepare, she said.

Bryant said Xcel Energy's prioritization plan for health facilities specifies not whether their electricity will be turned off during a public safety power shut-off — but how quickly it will be restored.

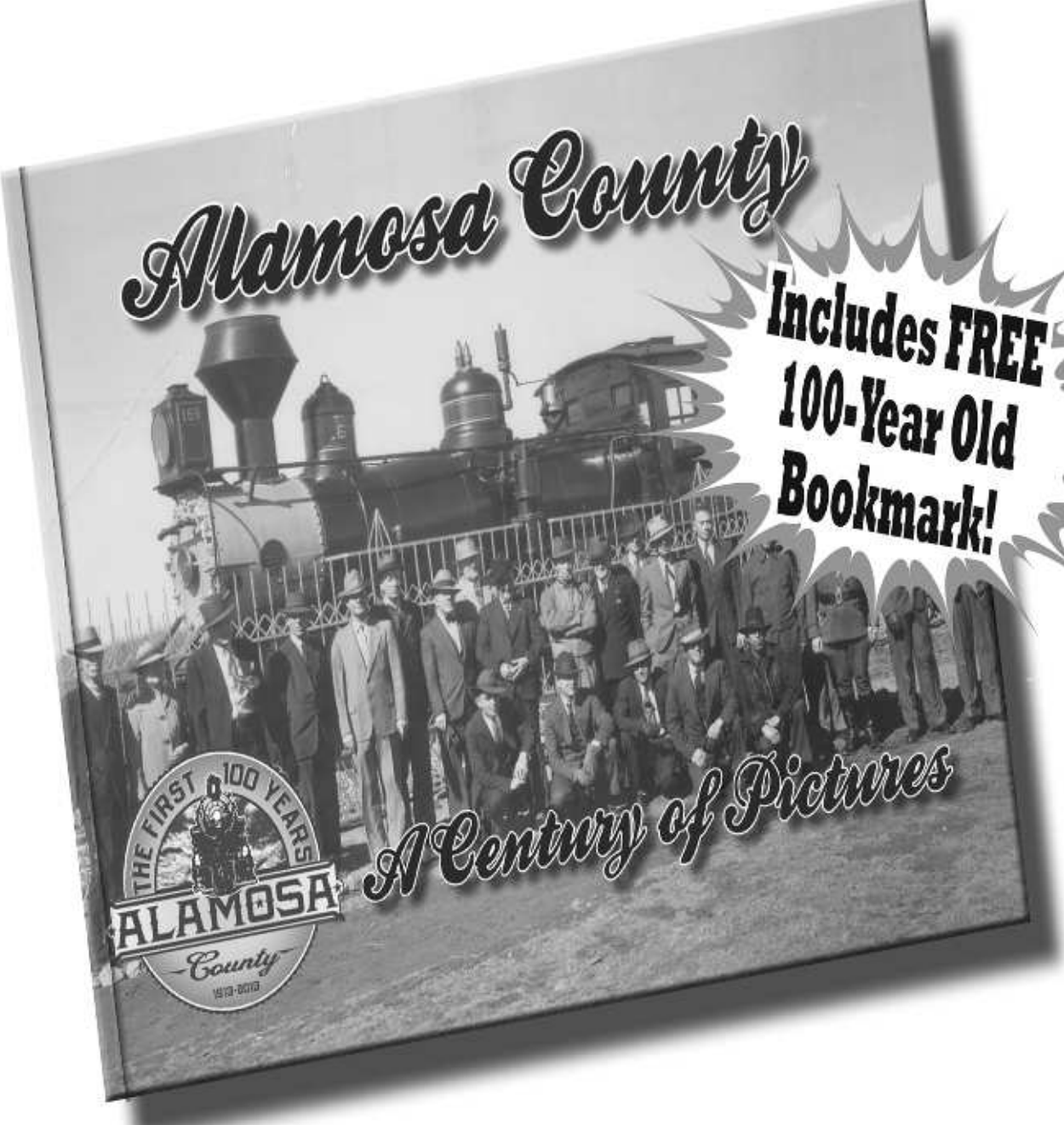
Julie Soltis, Frasier's director of communications, said the home had plenty of blankets, flashlights,

and batteries during the outage. But Frasier plans to invest in headlamps for caregivers, and during a town hall meeting, independent living residents were encouraged to purchase their own backup power for mobile phones and other electronics, she said.

Soltis hopes her facility is spared during the next public safety power shut-off or at least given more time to respond.

"With weather and climate change, this is definitely not the last time this will happen," she said.

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Lifestyles



Photos by Marie Mccolm

The Moffat Volunteer Fire Department hosted a scrumptious Cajun Boil and Silent Auction fundraiser inside the firehouse on June 8.

Moffat Volunteer Fire Department hosts tasty Cajun Boil

By MARIE MCCOLM
MOFFAT – On Saturday, June 8, the Moffat Volunteer Fire Department hosted a scrumptious Cajun Boil fundraiser at the firehouse.



Moffat Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief Francisco Silva standing at the entrance of the fire house for the Cajun Boil and Silent Auction.

Members of the fire department served the meal. The meal consisted of a generous helping of white rice and beans, along with a few large, delicious shrimp, pieces of baked potato, onions, a generous amount of crab legs, corn on the cob and two hush puppies. As an alternative people could also choose blackened chicken and rice for their donation of \$20. Drinks included iced tea, lemonade, or water. There was also soda available for sale.

used to be members of the fire department. We were here, then we were in Springs for about 30 years, and then we came back. We had no idea they made a new fire house. We support the fire department totally. I was able to help with fires years ago, so I do know how those hoses, and that equipment works. It's a lot of work. This is a great event tonight," Ruggles said.

MVFD Assistant Chief Francisco Silva, who headed up everything at the doorway, selling tickets and taking donations for the food at the Cajun Boil. "We are excited. A lot of people showed up. We are happy with the turnout," Silva said. The Moffat Volunteer Fire Department extended thanks to everyone who supported their Cajun Boil event.

There was a silent auction during the boil that featured donated items from Valley businesses. There was also a 50/50 raffle. Former member of the Moffat Volunteer Fire Department, Nelly Ruggles was at the Cajun Boil with her husband, and said the dinner was nice. "This is great. We

CDOT urges drivers to slow down this summer

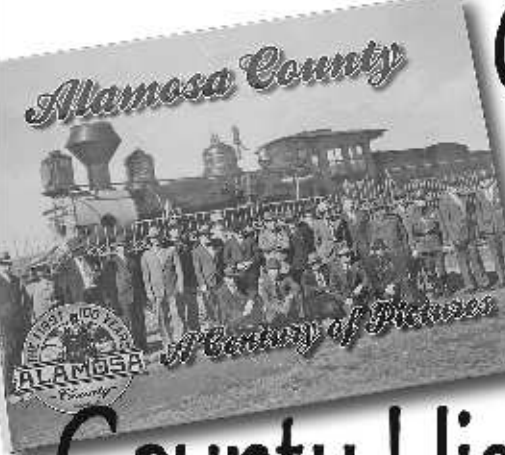
Speeding was the top factor of fatal crashes in 2023

CONTRIBUTED
As motorists rush into summer and hit the road for their warm weather plans, the Colorado Department of Transportation wants to remind drivers to watch their speed. Colorado lost 751 lives to speeding between 2021 and 2023, according to CDOT's 2023 Core Outcome Report. Speed was a leading factor in traffic deaths in Colorado last year, resulting in 258 fatalities, and outnumbering impaired driving (228) and unrestrained passenger (222) fatalities. While it can be tempting to hit the gas to bypass traffic, no one is invincible — speeding can result in a citation and puts you at a much greater risk of a crash. Crashes peak during summer months as more Coloradans plan road trips and outdoor activities. The period between Memorial Day and Labor Day is known as the 100 Deadliest Days of Summer, during which Colorado historically sees a spike in fatal crashes. Last July there were 90 traffic deaths, the most ever recorded in a single month in Colorado. From 2020 to 2023, there were 418 speeding related fatalities during the 100 Deadliest Days of Summer. In 2021, 29% of all Colorado traffic fatalities were speeding related. "Between May and September last year, there were a total of 351 fatal

crashes in Colorado," said CDOT's Office of Transportation Safety Director Darrell Lingk. "With the official start of summer around the corner, it's important to remember that all drivers have the responsibility to obey the speed limit, drive sober and focus on the road." Drivers tend to overestimate the time saved by speeding. In fact, a motorist moving at 80 mph instead of 75 mph would have to travel 100 miles to save roughly 5 minutes. In addition, speeding and aggressive driving endanger not only the driver, but also other motorists, pedestrians and cyclists. If you encounter somebody speeding, CDOT shares the following tips to stay safe:
• Maintain Space: Give other drivers, speeding or not, plenty of space. Drivers are more likely to lose control of their vehicles when speeding.
• Do Not Engage: Speeding is often linked to aggressive driving. If a speeding driver is tailgating you or trying to engage in risky behavior, use your judgment to safely steer your vehicle out of the way.
• Report Dangerous Behavior: If you believe a driver is following or harassing you, or engaging in other risky behavior, dial *CSP (*277) or your local law enforcement to report. The counties that had the most traffic deaths involving speeding in 2023 were El Paso, Adams, Arapahoe, Denver and Jefferson. Of these counties, El Paso County has remained in the top five for speeding citations since 2019. The top five roadways for speeding citations by high-

est speeding intervals (20+ mph over the posted speed limit) issued by the Colorado State Patrol in 2023 were:
• I-70
• I-25
• Highway 50
• Highway 24
• Highway 285
"The temptation to speed is real and law enforcement officers aren't oblivious to that," said Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "Almost everyone is guilty of speeding at one time or another, but that doesn't make it OK. Speeding is aggressive driving. When crashes happen and speed is involved, your chance of a serious injury increases dramatically." Paired with other dangerous driving behaviors, speeding increases the chance of a crash. In 2021, 43% of all speeding-related traffic fatalities in Colorado also involved alcohol impairment, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. CDOT continues to support local law enforcement agencies for The Heat Is On DUI enforcement periods, during which drivers may see saturation patrols, sobriety checkpoints and additional law enforcement officers on duty dedicated to arresting impaired drivers. Colorado State Patrol troopers continue to take a low-tolerance approach to the top fatal crash factors, including lane violations, impaired driving, and speeding, while launching a yearlong campaign called "Drive Safe." This campaign celebrates positive driving behaviors and encourages all of us to drive like a trooper is riding with you.

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Sports



Courtesy photo by Crystal England

Two Moffat School archers competed at the National Archery in the School's Program National Open Championship on June 6-8 in Daytona Beach, Fla. From left, coach Megan Shellabarger, Tanner Shellabarger, coach Jack Sciacca, Kandra Pollard, and Moffat athletics director Marie Pollard.

Two Moffat archers compete at national tournament

By **KEN HAMRICK**

Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – Two students from Moffat School represented Moffat Archery and the State of Colorado at the National Archery in the Schools Program Open National Tournament on June 6-8 in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Kandra Pollard, an eighth-grade student at Moffat competed against 449 middle school girls and finished 108th in the final standings. Tanner Shellabarger, a seventh-grader was in the middle school boys competition against 495 other

archers and finished 161st.

A total of 1,300,000 participate in the National Archery in the Schools program annually in the United States.

Both Pollard and Shellabarger earned the opportunity to compete at the nationals by turning in qualifying scores at the NASP National Western Championships in Sandy, Utah, in April. They are the third and fourth Moffat archers to qualify for the NASP Open Nationals in five seasons. Chase Shellabarger qualified in 2023 and Rose Tallmadge in 2020.

Alamosa Round-UP activities begin this weekend

By **KEN HAMRICK**

Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The annual Alamosa Round-UP will begin the first of two weekends of activities with the ranch rodeo tonight and the demolition derby on Saturday. Both events will take place at the rodeo grounds.

The ranch rodeo will consist of several different ranches from across the state competing in four different events.

The events include calf branding, wild cow milking, doctor and trailer loading and ranch bronc riding.

A team from Wiley, Damnera Ranch, won the ranch rodeo last season.

The ranch rodeo begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children ages 7-17 and free of charge for children 6-and-younger.

Among the most popular events of the rodeo, the demolition derby, will take place Saturday beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The events at the demolition derby include limited weld, mini cars, stock cars, power wheels, the ATV/Motocross barrel race and the grocery race.

The cost of admission is \$20 for adults, \$15 for kids and free for kids 6-and-younger.

The rodeo events continue next weekend. The mutton bustin' and the local barrel race will take place Thursday at 6:30 p.m., and the PRCA rodeo on both June 21-22 at 6:30 p.m. both nights.

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Sports Bulletin

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

SCHEDULE FRIDAY Rodeo
Alamosa Round-UP ranch rodeo, 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Motorsports
Alamosa-Round-UP demolition derby, 6:30 p.m.

ALAMOCA PARKS AND RECREATION BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL SCHEDULE 12-14 Baseball At Ortega Middle School south field TUESDAY

Blue Jays vs. Pirates, 5 p.m.	White Sox vs. Pirates, 6:30 p.m.	12-14 girls softball At Lee Field #1 TUESDAY MonteVista2vs.Alamosa, 6 p.m. MonteVista1 vs.Alamosa, 7:30 p.m.	THURSDAY Buena Vista vs. Alamosa (2), 6 p.m.	9-11 baseball At Cole Park THURSDAY Red Sox vs. Angels, 5 p.m. Dodgers vs. Cubs, 6:15 p.m. Rockies vs. Pirates, 7:30 p.m.	THURSDAY Cubs vs. Rockies, 5 p.m. Dodgers vs. Angels, 6:15 p.m. Pirates vs. Red Sox, 7:30 p.m.	9-11 girls softball At Lee Field #3 TUESDAY MonteVistavs.Battitudes, 6 p.m. Monte Vista vs. Ace of Bases, 7:15 p.m.	7-8 coed machine pitch At Sunset Field WEDNESDAY Sliders vs. Strikers, 5:30 p.m. (southwest) Longhorns vs. Thunderdogs, 5:30 p.m. (northeast) Little Rascals vs. Bat Busters, 6:30 p.m. (northeast)	Co-ed Tee-ball At Tee-ball field MONDAY Wolfpack vs. Outlaws, 5:30 p.m. (north field) Rug Rats vs. Little Hitters, 5:30 p.m. (south field) LittleGiantsvs.Sandhogs.	6:30 p.m. (south field) Men's softball league At Lee Field 2 TUESDAY REC/Deuces vs. WOLO, 7 p.m. 99 Problems vs. WOLO, 8 p.m. Platinumvs.99Problems, 9 p.m.	THURSDAY REC/Deuces vs. 99 Problems, 7 p.m. Platinum vs. Happy Mountain/NGNL, 8 p.m. WOLO vs. Happy Mountain/NGNL, 9 p.m.	Coed Leisure softball At Lee Field MONDAY Steel Line vs. All Valley Towing, 7 p.m. (Field 1) Battitudes vs. Top Notch, 7 p.m. (Field 2) The Dirty Dozen vs. The Undertakers, 7 p.m. (Field 4) SOS Misfits vs. War Turtles, 8 p.m. (Field 1) CRP Dust Devils vs. The Dirty Dozen, 8 p.m. (Field 2) Tandberg's Angels vs. LivingstoneTrucking, 8 p.m. (Field 4) Bomb Squad vs. Where My Pitches At, 9 p.m. (Field 1) La Puente Homers vs. WOLO, 9 p.m. (Field 2) The Misfits vs. Bros Before Throws, 9 p.m. (Field 4)
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Lifestyle



Rafters on the Arkansas River duck beneath the F Street Bridge in downtown Salida as the river flows neared 4,000 cfs on Wednesday, June 12. Photo by David Krause, The Colorado Sun

Colorado rivers are peaking — and so are drownings

At least 18 people have died in Colorado's rivers, streams and reservoirs so far this year

By JASON BLEVINS
Colorado Sun

Anyone who's driven Interstate 70 west of Glenwood Canyon recently knows. The Colorado River is extraordinarily high right now as warm temperatures spike the spring runoff.

The high flows — nearly 18,000 cubic feet per second below Glenwood Canyon — are buoyed even more this month by a coordinated release from a half-dozen reservoirs across the Western Slope. The Coordinated Reservoir Operations program deploys sustained, not-quite-flood-stage flows through the second week of June to help endangered fish along the 15 Mile Reach of the Colorado River as it traverses the Grand Valley upstream of Grand Junction.

The Coordinated Reservoir Operations program dates back to 1995, with the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver Water, the Colorado River Water Conservation District, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and Colorado Springs Utilities — as well as water users, energy companies and irrigation groups — working together as part of the federal Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program.

The hope is that the near doubling of releases from reservoirs for two to 10 days will benefit four endangered species including the Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, razorback sucker and bonytail chub in the Colorado River below Palisade in the Grand Valley. It's the first time since 2020 that the program has increased flows out of Green Mountain Reservoir (400 cfs to 1,500 cfs), Lake Granby (240 cfs to 400 cfs), Williams Fork Reservoir (600 cfs to 950 cfs), Ruedi Reservoir (230 cfs to 650 cfs) and Wolford Mountain Reservoir (490 cfs to 550 cfs). Other reservoirs are not filling as part of the coordinated flows.

The coordinated release has thrilled white-water paddlers. For the first time in several years the fleeting Big Sur wave — a rare

phenomenon above a long-destroyed dam on the Colorado River upstream of the Cameo Diversion Dam — has emerged from the murky flows to draw stand-up river surfers and kayakers. The glassy surf wave at Big Sur only forms when the river hits 20,000 cfs in DeBeque Canyon.

And, more grimly, the warm temperatures hastening snowmelt and river flows have spiked drownings. Local officials across the state have imposed temporary closures on several rivers as peak flows create dangerous conditions for river users. A stretch of the Gunnison River is closed below Almont and access to the Arkansas River below Pueblo Dam is restricted. Boulder County last week closed sections of the North St. Vrain and St. Vrain creeks to tubing.

Flows on the Upper Arkansas River — including the most-paddled stretch of white-water in the country, between Granite and Cañon City — are reaching 40-year highs. The high flows have prodded Salida officials to warn surfers about the city's heralded Scout Wave, a surf feature that ranks as one of the top river surfing waves in the country. The high flows on the Arkansas River have canceled some of the on-water events at this weekend's FIBArk festival in Salida. The Boulder County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday closed Boulder Creek to tubing in the city as flows topped 700 cfs.

Since late March, there have been at least 18 water deaths in Colorado, including nine drownings in reservoirs and nine deaths in swollen rivers. (One man remains missing after his raft capsized June 2 on the Upper Colorado River below the Pumphouse Recreation Area.) At least six of the fatalities involved people recreating on the water without personal floatation devices, or PFDs. Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials counted 32 water-related fatalities last year, down from a record-high of 42 in 2022.

CPW officials have been sounding the alarm about water safety and PFDs in the past couple weeks as temperatures drive more folks into the water and river flows peak.

"We have added signs at the entrances of our parks, and many state parks have loaner life jacket stations," said

Kara Van Hoose, a CPW spokesperson. "We're trying to talk about life jackets and water safety on our social media channels and interviews as much as possible."

Early Wednesday rescue teams in Otero County launched a search for a missing 19-year man in the Arkansas River north of La Junta.

"This is also a reminder that this time of year the river is running high and much faster than it appears and is clearly dangerous," Otero County Sheriff Shawn Mobley wrote in a Facebook post Wednesday, "so I am putting out the message again this year that for your safety and ours, to please stay out of the damned river!"

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Father's Day

June 16, 2024

Public Notices

Request for Proposal (RFP) Auditor Services

Introduction:
The Town of Crestone is seeking proposals from qualified firms to provide auditing services for fiscal years 2022-2024. The selected auditor will be responsible for conducting a comprehensive audit of the Town's financial statements in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

Scope of Work
The selected auditor will be expected to perform the following tasks:
- Conduct an audit of the Town's financial statements in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.
- Review internal controls and make recommendations for improvements, if necessary.
- Provide a management letter outlining findings and recommendations.
- Assist in the preparation of required financial reports and statements.
- Any other tasks deemed necessary for a comprehensive audit.

Proposal Submission:
Interested firms are invited to submit their proposals by email. Proposals should include the following:
- Firm profile, including relevant experience and qualifications.
- Proposed audit approach and methodology.
- Proposed timeline for completion of the audit.
- Fee schedule and estimated total cost.
- References from past clients, preferably in the public sector.
PO Box 64, Crestone, CO 81131, (719) 256-4313, crestonetownoffice@gmail.com
No. 3950.
Published in the Valley Courier on May 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 28, 29, 31, June 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 2024.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Integrated Project Delivery Method Utilizing CM/GC Services
Project: Early Care and Learning Center at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley
Location: 1115 Tenth St, Alamosa, CO 81101
Owner: Boys & Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley, PO Box 1032, Alamosa, CO 81101
Architect: Spencer Architecture Studio LLC, 404 San Juan Avenue, Alamosa, CO 81101. Don Spencer, A.I.A., NCARB Principal Architect. The Boys & Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley are seeking proposals for an Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) method utilizing Construction Management/General Contracting (CM/GC) services for the construction of an Early Care and Learning Center. Interested parties should submit a comprehensive proposal detailing their approach to IPD, relevant experience, timeline, budget estimates, and references.
Contact for Architectural Inquiries:
Don Spencer, A.I.A., NCARB
Spencer Architecture Studio LLC
404 San Juan Avenue, Alamosa, CO 81101
rdspencer2017@gmail.com
(719) 696-5783
Contact for Project Inquiries:
Boys & Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley
PO Box 1032, Alamosa, CO 81101
aaron@bgcslv.org
(719) 589-5252
Submission Deadline: No later than 5:00 PM, Monday, July 1, 2024
For the full RFP, visit: www.bgcslv.org/procurement
No. 3990.
Published in the Valley Courier on June 12, 14, 18, 19, 21, 25, & 26, 2024.

NOTICE OF NON-SIMULTANEOUS EXCHANGE

NOTICE is hereby provided that the State Board of Land Commissioners ("Board") has authorized a non-simultaneous exchange ("Exchange") pursuant to Article IX, § 9 of the Colorado Constitution and § 36-1-124.5, CRS for the following irrigation groundwater rights located on state trust land:
Groundwater and groundwater rights from seven (7) irrigation wells (the "Wells") serving the surface estate of the trust property located in the N/2 and SW/4 of Section 36, Township 39N, Range 9E (the "Surface Property"), specifically described below.
WDID 2014060 and Permit Number 21407-F
WDID 2014116 and Permit Number 26335-F
WDID 2014117 and Permit Number 26336-F
WDID 2014121 and Permit Number 21406-F
WDID 2014120 and Permit Number 24780-F
WDID 2014118 and Permit Number 21408-F
WDID 2014119 and Permit Number 24781-F
(collectively, the "Groundwater Rights")
SUBJECT TO any and all covenants, restrictions, easements and rights-of-way, whether or not of record. Only the Groundwater Rights are authorized to be conveyed by quit claim deed, and the Board will cooperate with the purchaser in facilitating transfer of ownership of such Groundwater Rights. The Exchange shall provide the purchaser the right, at closing of the sale of the Groundwater Rights, to require that the Board place a restrictive covenant on the Surface Property, providing for the permanent cessation of groundwater withdrawal and groundwater use on the Surface Property for irrigation purposes, except as may be needed for revegetation of the Surface Property, and provided that groundwater may continue to be used by the Board or any successor-in-interest for exempt purposes as provided in statute and that the Wells may be converted and used for such exempt purposes (the "Covenant"). After closing and effect of the Covenant, the Board shall grant purchaser a non-exclusive and limited perpetual easement for purchaser and the State Engineer of the State of Colorado, and either of their respective agents, to access the Surface Property to inspect the Wells and to monitor compliance with and enforce the Covenant, on such reasonable terms and conditions as may be agreed by the parties. Any other use of or access to Board property (including the Surface Property), fixtures, or equipment associated with the Groundwater Rights after closing must be separately approved by the Board on terms and conditions set by the Board. The closing of the Exchange may be conditioned on availability of funds from the purchaser to complete the Exchange. All other water and water rights, all surface rights and estate (including pore space and sequestration estate) and mineral rights and estate, including sand and gravel, all subsurface rights, all archaeological resources, all equipment and fixtures associated with the Surface Property and the Wells, and all geothermal rights, if any, and access thereto, shall be reserved and retained by the Board. All-cash bids and alternative bids of real property or a combination of real property and cash will be considered provided the combined value of the bid achieves the minimum bid set by the Board. The legal description for the Surface Property or identification of the Groundwater Rights may be modified by subsequent survey or title review.

THE MINIMUM BID FOR THE GROUNDWATER RIGHTS AND RIGHT TO SUBJECT THE SURFACE PROPERTY TO THE COVENANT IS \$2,418,381.75
(calculated at \$4,250.00 per acre foot of the highest 5-year average historic pumping of the Wells from 2013 to 2022)
Sealed bids and written comments may be submitted to the Board. Submissions must be in writing, enclosed in an envelope clearly marked "TRXN 24-007 COMMENTS" or "TRXN 24-007 BID", as applicable, mailed to Matthew LaFontaine, Acquisition and Disposition Manager at 1127 Sherman Street, Suite 300, Denver, Colorado 80203 ("Main Offices"), and received by the Board no later than 1 P.M. ON JULY 12, 2024 ("Bid Deadline"). Written comments and bids received after the Bid Deadline will not be considered. Bids must be tendered on the Board's Application for Acquisition of State Trust Land ("Application") and include payment of a \$100 non-refundable fee.
Board staff will open the sealed bids, if any, after the Bid Deadline at the Main Offices. If multiple or alternative bids are received, all bids meeting the minimum requirements specified herein will be presented to the Board in open session at a future Board meeting. The Board will review all bids presented and determine, in its sole discretion, which bid best meets the needs of the trusts.
The Board reserves the right to reject all bids for the Groundwater Rights and Covenant, and the right to withdraw the Groundwater Rights from availability from this exchange at any time. The Board reserves the right to require a best and final bid. Participation in the bidding process does not create any rights in the successful bidder until a contract has been fully signed by all parties.
Additional information and the Application can be obtained online at: colorado.gov/statelandboard/proposals-bids
The State Land Board has not made, does not make, and specifically negates and disclaims any representations, warranties, promises, covenants, agreements, or guaranties of any kind or character whatsoever, whether express or implied, verbal or written, past, present, or future, of, as to, concerning or with respect to the Groundwater Rights, the Wells, or the Surface Property.
The successful bidder will be required to cooperate with the Board in complying with the mandates of § 36-1-118(4)(a) and (b) and § 36-1-119, CRS.
Newspaper: "The Valley Courier"
Publication Dates: 6/14/2024, 6/21/2024, 6/28/2024, 7/5/2024
No. 3993.
Published in the Valley Courier on June 14, 21, 28, & July 5, 2024.

099 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAKE CITY HOSTS a Wednesday Market for locally-grown foods and artisans in June, July, August. INTERESTED IN BEING A VENDOR? lakecitydirt.com/vibrant-economy. (6/26/24)

165 - PERSONALS

CHRISTIAN [ORTHODOX] GENTLEMAN seeking a wife in Covenant Marriage, by way of Christian Dating. I'm in my 70's, well-looking, good health and never married/NO Baggage! [I was seeking "first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." I am a small-scale gifted Preacher/Minister, College Grad Plus, and well-Traveled. I am NOT Computerized, with a simple phone and voice mail Only! After Military Service [Active 5 yrs.] I worked predominately in Agriculture - hands on; so I am rural, agrarian by choice, and a homeowner in N.M. Looking for a mature Lady of like precious Faith (NON-Denominational). I appreciate Hiking, camping, Birding and Real Christian Fellowship- [I believe the Holy Bible-KJV-unto Salvation.] Please write if interested and we can meet at a church or café in Alamosa or elsewhere in the Southwest. May God be with you in this I Pray. Sincerely in JESUS LORD of ALL Gerald CRILLY POB. 253 Tres Piedras, N.M. 87577 (7/5/24)

173 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

LICENSED PLUMBER DOES all types of plumbing & plumbing repairs. Quick service! Call anytime, weekends & evenings: 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (8/2/24-monthly)

221 - HELP WANTED

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for the following positions: a Middle School 8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER (with an EMPHASIS on US HISTORY) and a Middle School 8TH GRADE SCIENCE TEACHER. A complete list of desired qualifications and experience for each position is posted on the district website. The District operates on a 4-day week (Monday - Thursday) and offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, HSA match, and life coverage. The salaries for these positions will be paid from the current MVSD Teacher Salary Schedule, which can be viewed on the district website - Employment Opportunities page. Placement on the salary schedule will be determined by education and experience at time of hire. Applications may be submitted through our online employment application <https://www.pirates.monte.k12.co.us/employmentopportunities> by June 27, 2024 or until the positions are filled. For application questions contact the District Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (7/3/24)

SIERRA GRANDE SCHOOL is seeking DIRECTOR OF STUDENT BEHAVIOR, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, and SCHOOL SAFETY MANAGEMENT for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. Submit completed application to Mr. Kevin Jones, Superintendent by email to: kjones@sierragrandeschool.net. Applications are available at the District office, 17523 Hwy. 160, Blanca, CO 81123 or online at www.sierragrandeschool.net. Effective managerial, supervisory, and human relations skills, and computer skills. For more information, please contact Mr. Kevin Jones at 719-379-3259. Position open until filled. EOE. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. (7/17/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

MECHANIC: JT TIMBER FALLING is hiring a full-time HEAVY EQUIPMENT and TRUCK MECHANIC in BLANCA, CO. \$25-\$45/hr depending on experience. Monday - Friday schedule. Benefits are available. Call 719-379-4066 or visit jttimber.com to apply. (7/17/24)

THE CITY OF MONTE VISTA is seeking qualified applicants for position of POLICE OFFICER. Applicants must be POST certified as a Colorado Police Officer. Selected applicants must be able to pass physical, physiological evaluations, pre-employment drug test and extensive background check. Must be able to work all shifts. Starting hourly rate \$21.50 - 22.75. DOE. A \$5,000 hiring bonus is available with a signed two-year commitment. Application and complete job description may be found at <https://cityofmontevista.colorado.gov/government/departments/human-resources> Open until filled. (7/3/24)

TOWN OF DEL NORTE MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK. Town of Del Norte is hiring PART-TIME Municipal Court Clerk. High school graduate or GED equivalent and two years of office, legal, and court clerical. Will work closely with Town municipal judge for operations and procedures of the municipal court system. With knowledge of legal terminology and practices. Oversees and maintains the court dockets, records of all pending and disposed cases, and ensures accurate and updated information. All administrative and technical duties in support of municipal court. Send resume to Town of Del Norte - Attention Town Clerk. Resumes may be submitted by email to delnorte1860@outlook.com or mailed to Del Norte Town Hall 140 Spruce Street, Del Norte, Co 81132. EOE. (7/17/24)

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)

DEL NORTE BANK is seeking to fill a full-time position for a TELLER in the DEL NORTE BRANCH. Duties will be to accept deposits, loan payments and process withdrawals while maintaining a balanced cash drawer. Must be personable and pleasant answering the phone and greeting customers. Many other duties will be assigned as needed. The position is permanent, full-time, M - F, 8am - 5pm, an hourly rate range of \$14.42 to \$17.00, with a robust benefits package. Application available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers or inquire at 705 Grand Ave, Del Norte or call 719-657-3376 and ask for Dawn. EOE. (6/21/24)

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 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)



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221 - HELP WANTED

BUSINESS MANAGER: ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY is seeking a BUSINESS MANAGER for the DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS. The Business Manager position is Full time and includes managing all aspects of fiscal responsibility and day to day operations for coaches and athletic department staff. Please send application to: athletics@adams.edu (7/3/24)

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. (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)

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)

THE SANGRE DE CRISTO SCHOOL DISTRICT is looking for a K-12 MUSIC TEACHER. Interested applicants can contact Dave Crews at 719-420-1422. (6/14/24)

THE NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for the 2024-25 school year for a CENTAURI MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER. Applicants must hold a current Colorado Teaching License or be able to obtain proper endorsement. Please call Brian Riccatone with questions at 719-849-5140. Applications are available at the District Administration Office, 17887 US Hwy 285, LA JARA, CO 81140 or can be downloaded at www.northconejos.com. Submit application to central office or email to mmccarroll@northconejos.com. EOE. (6/14/24)

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 kimba.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. 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

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)

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 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

MECHANIC POSITION AVAILABLE at VALLEY TRACTOR REPAIR, MONTE VISTA, CO. This is a full-time position offering top pay with benefits. Contact Rick or Tony for qualifications, 719-852-0200. (6/19/24)

THE TOWN OF CENTER is seeking applications for a full-time **STREETS & PARKS SPECIALIST DEPARTMENT**. The applicant should be able to operate various pieces of equipment, such as lawn mowers, trimmers, chainsaws, dump trucks, snow plows, tractors, backhoes, and street sweepers. The applicant will also need to be able to work with underground sprinklers and irrigation systems and may assist with Animal Control. He/she needs to be self-starter, and have the ability to plan ahead and look to the future as the town grows. Salary will be \$16 to \$20 dollars an hour, based on experience. Benefits include 100% health paid for employee, with competitive plans in dental, vision, and life insurance, generous PTO vacation earnings as well as up to a 3% match for retirement IRA's. Must have a valid driver's license and be able to pass a drug test. Applications are available on the Town's website or can be picked up at Town Hall. If you have any question's contact Jaime at 719-754-3497. Applications must be turned in by close of business on June 14, 2024. (6/14/24)

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 online 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 online 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 online 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 (scrutz@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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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 online 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)

NOW HIRING: PUBLIC WORKS ASSISTANT. Job Description: A Public Works Assistant is an on-call, PART-TIME position with no benefits, supervised by the Public Works Superintendent. The Public Works Assistant assists the Public Works Superintendent to service the sewer system, water system, roads and bridges, drainage, buildings, parks, Town properties, and cemetery. Required Knowledge, Qualities, Skills, And Abilities: Working knowledge of the language, principles, methods, materials, and equipment common to municipal public works repairs and maintenance of parks, roads, grounds, and buildings. Ability to operate and maintain small snow removal equipment, mowers, and a variety of power and hand tools. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with Town officials and employees, representatives of other agencies and organizations, and members of the community. Required Education, Training, And Experience: A valid Colorado driver's license or equivalent, and high school diploma or equivalent. Previous experience in a parks or public works department preferred. All applicants should fill out an application (located at http://townofcrestone.colorado.gov/) to submit along with a resume and cover letter to crestonetownoffice@gmail.com. (6/19/24)

AMERICORPS PATHWAYS NAVIGATOR. LOCAL, well-respected non-profit agency seeking enthusiastic individual to coordinate and support AmeriCorps members serving with the Rural Alliance for Dignity. No AmeriCorps experience necessary. On the job training and professional development provided. This position will specialize in recruitment, placement, and guidance for AmeriCorps members serving in small non-profit organizations throughout SOUTHERN COLORADO. They will work with La Puente's team to provide career pathway, logistical and project support for our local cohort of AmeriCorps Members. Join our dynamic team of dedicated professionals and learn the joys and satisfaction of helping others. Qualifications: interest in non-profit organizations, ability to travel, relationship skills, organizational, and writing skills. \$41 - 45k/yr/benefit package. Send resume: La Puente Home, P.O. Box 1235, ALAMOSA, CO 81101, 719 233-2673 www.lapuente.net Email: hr@lapuente.net (6/19/24)

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)

DEL NORTE HIGH SCHOOL is seeking a qualified SECONDARY BUSINESS TEACHER. We are seeking an experienced, hardworking and enthusiastic teaching professional to join our dynamic, and vibrant team. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License with a Secondary Business endorsement. Please submit your application, resume and cover letter to: Annie Hardy at ahardy@urtigers.co or call Mrs. Hardy at (719) 657-4020. Applications can be accessed online at www.urtigers.co. (6/15/24)

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

GARAGE SALE: 100 Pioneer Rd., MONTE VISTA . 6/14 8am-4pm, 6/15 8am-noon. Breakfast burritos available! (6/15/24)

B/YARD SALE: ONE day only; Friday June 14th, 819 10th St. Barber chair & equipment, man stuff, some women stuff, no kid stuff, vintage glassware, tools & hardware. CASH ONLY. (6/14/24)

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

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

Century Property Management & Sales, LLC Alamosa • 589-5744
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE
For all your rental needs please call 719-589-5744 or stop by 823 Main St. Alamosa, CO 81101
www.alamosarentals.com

420 - LOTS & ACREAGES

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

426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

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

525 - GUNS

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

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

SMALL STUDIO, EAST ALAMOSA: parking, storage, small yard, utilities included. Deposit, employment, and references required. \$565 month, \$700 deposit. 719-580-3710. (6/22/24)

AVAILABLE END OF July. 1 bedroom apartments across from ASU. 719-251-3597. (6/18/24)

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE OR RESIDENTIAL 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. (6/14/24)

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. (6/14/24)

MODERN & SPACIOUS APARTMENT for rent in PRIME CRESTONE LOCATION. Welcome to your new home! Nestled in the heart of Crestone, this beautifully appointed apartment offers both comfort and convenience in every square foot. Key Features: Location: Prime Crestone location, offering easy access to local amenities and attractions. Size: Approximately 1,250 square feet of living space. Rent: \$1600 per month (inclusive of electricity, trash disposal, propane, sewer, and water services). Deposit: \$500 (plus first and last month's rent). Pets: Unfortunately, no pets allowed. Application Process: All potential tenants are required to undergo an interview and background check. Schedule a Viewing: Don't miss out on this opportunity to call this apartment home! Contact us today to schedule a viewing and start the application process. PO Box 64, Crestone, CO 81131; (719) 256-4313; crestonetownoffice@gmail.com (6/19/24)

The Center Housing Authority is now taking applications for the Buena Ventura Project for 2&3 bedroom apartments at 1385. Worth Street, Center, Colorado.

606 - BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT

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

611 - HOMES FOR RENT

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)

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719-589-2553.

Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 — de plume
 - 4 Cover
 - 8 Editing mark
 - 12 Ovine cry
 - 13 Gymnast — Korbut
 - 14 Exam type
 - 15 Invite
 - 16 Biblical paradise
 - 17 Metropolis
 - 18 Salty drop
 - 20 Preliminary drawing
 - 22 Attack command
 - 23 B'way sign of yore
 - 24 Olympic hopeful
 - 28 Developed
 - 31 "Out of — world"
 - 32 Ricelike pasta
 - 34 Once around a track
 - 36 Clod
 - 37 Big sandwich
 - 38 Elton John musical
 - 39 — -bitsy

- 41 Bubble water
 - 43 Harvest deity
 - 45 Greek letter
 - 46 High-quality
 - 49 London's subway
 - 51 Eastern European
 - 52 Hasty
 - 54 Mag. staffers
 - 56 River in England
 - 57 Swedish furniture chain
 - 58 Dynamite
 - 59 Born — and —
 - 60 Remove the rind
 - 61 Scarecrow stuffing
- DOWN**
- 1 Sports org.
 - 2 Kiln
 - 3 Improvised
 - 4 Compel by force
 - 5 Outmoded
 - 6 Times of life

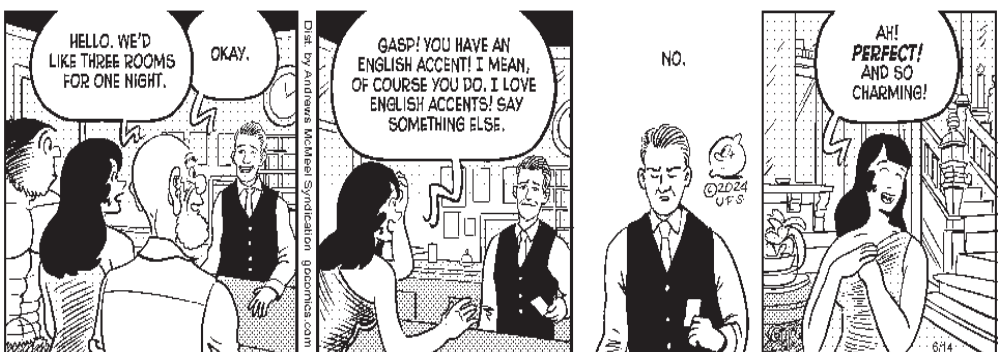
Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

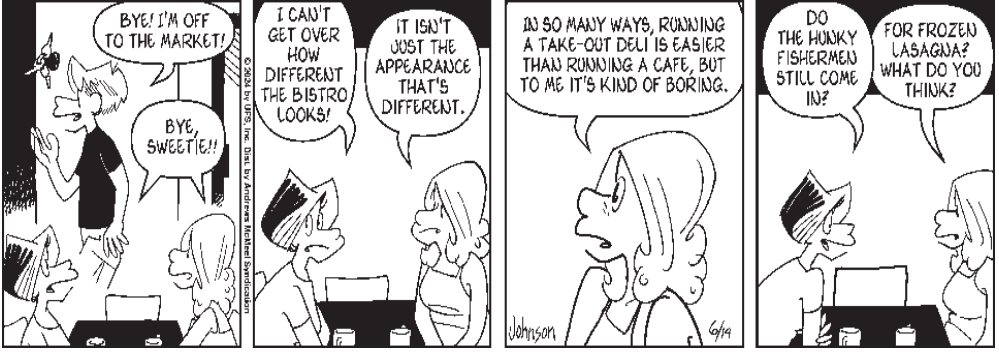
- 7 Cisterns
- 8 "Is there a — in the house?"
- 9 Musician — Clapton
- 10 Wood strip
- 11 Isle of —
- 19 Feels poorly
- 21 Therefore
- 24 From — Z
- 25 Bangkok native
- 26 Shoe part
- 27 Gets it wrong
- 29 English queen
- 30 Walk through water
- 33 Actress — Saldana
- 35 Golf standard
- 37 Publicity
- 38 Aleutian island
- 40 Unriddled
- 42 Deadly
- 44 Money substitute
- 46 Aspersion
- 47 Move slowly and carefully
- 48 Pilfer
- 50 — St. Vincent Millay
- 51 Show sorrow
- 53 Understand
- 55 Pigpen

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12							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				61	

ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



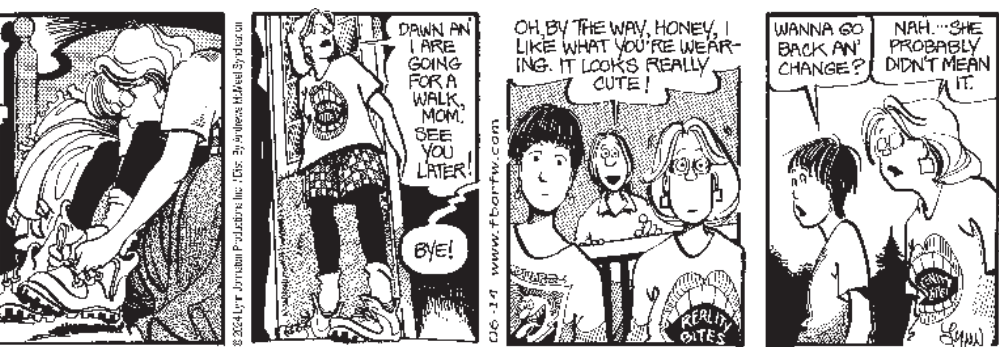
BIG NATE



THE BORN LOSER



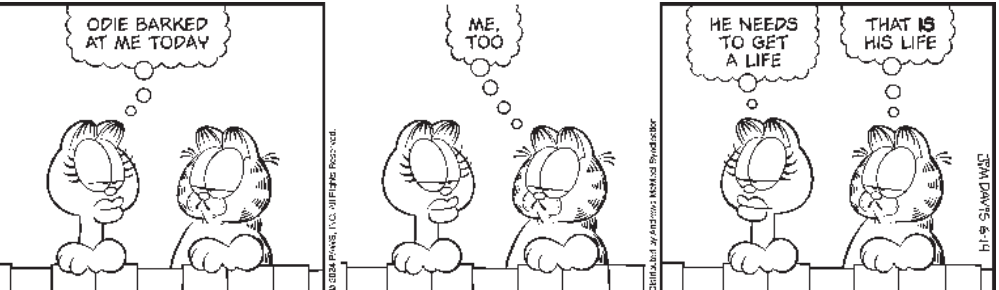
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



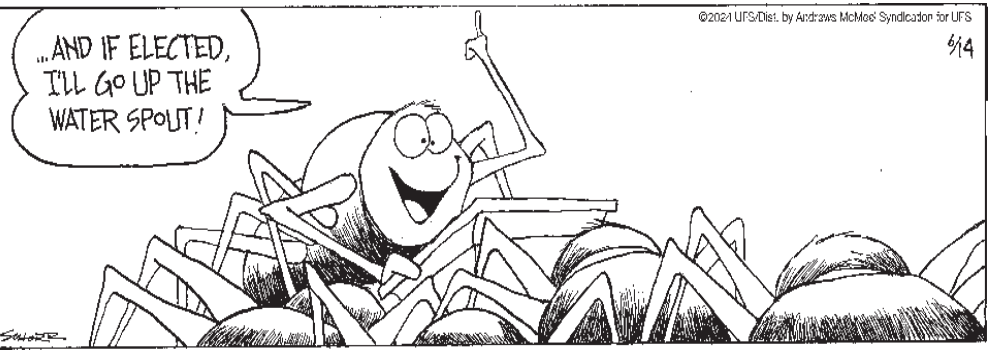
FRANK & ERNEST



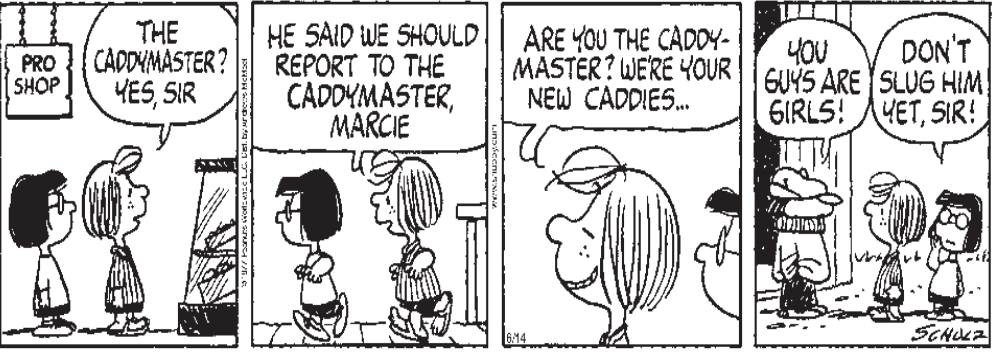
GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN



Aging couple contemplates long-distance relocation

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are contemplating moving across the country to be near our daughters. We have lived in our home for 45 years. We are both active and in very good health, but unlike many of our friends, we have no relatives anywhere near us.

We have friends and neighbors who are like family. We are also active in our church and community. Basically, our whole life is here. But we are very close to both of our daughters. We visit two to three times a year and Facetime often. They would be delighted to have us closer.

when they arrived in the new community, they discovered that the grandchildren were living full lives with their contemporaries, and the adult children were busy managing their own lives and couldn't give them the attention they had envisioned.

You have lived happily as part of your community for nearly half a century. Because you feel you are missing out on your grandchildren's lives, visit them a little more often. But do not expect to suddenly become the center of their and their parents' lives or you risk sacrificing the happy life you currently enjoy and becoming isolated and disappointed.



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

A final thought: Before making a hard-and-fast decision about this life-changing scenario, consider RENTING an apartment in the new community for a year so you can see how well you would integrate into it before selling your home. It could save you a world of regret.

DEAR ABBY: I've been dating a divorced man, "Mitch," for nine years. We've been living together for the last two. He has a daughter and a grandson. Recently, while I was out of town for a week, he participated in the annual "family photo shoot" with his arm around his ex-wife

as if they were one big happy family. I feel betrayed by Mitch and his daughter. His excuse is that the photographer was unaware of the family history. The ex recently dumped the man she cheated on Mitch with, so her intentions might be questionable. Should I ask him to move out? -- IN OR OUT OF THE PICTURE

DEAR IN OR OUT: Do NOT ask your boyfriend of nine years to move out based on a photo that was taken one weekend while you were out of town! However, DO examine why, after nine years, the two of you haven't tied the knot, and how one photo-shoot has made you feel so threatened. Then talk to him about it.