



Ribbon Cutting held at Church Project



Bareback, bull riding champs determined on final day

San Luis Valley
Colorado Genuine
Today's Issue Sponsored By:
WINO'S
Mexican Restaurant
DEL SOL



VOLUME 98, NO. 113

Valley Courier

TUESDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

July 16, 2024

\$1

SLV Today



Photo by Gabriella Howard

Lisa Morales will be performing on July 20 at Society Hall. She is expected to sing some of the songs from her unreleased latest album, 'Sonora.'

Renowned singer-songwriter Lisa Morales returning to Society Hall

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — Society Hall is thrilled to welcome back acclaimed singer-songwriter Lisa Morales for a concert at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 20.

Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door and are available at the Green Spot, 711 State Ave., Alamosa, or online at www.societyhall.org. The concert will also stream live on the Society Hall Facebook page and YouTube channel. Morales will be joined onstage by her son Thomas Spencer on electric guitar.

Like her cousin Linda Ronstadt, Mexican-American vocalist and singer-songwriter Lisa Morales and her sister Roberta grew up in a musical family in Tucson, Ariz., learning to perform traditional Mexican music while developing broad-ranging musical taste prior to moving to Texas.

Lisa's performances move back and forth effortlessly between Spanish and English lyrics and styles — she is truly a force in either world, and the larger bicultural Hispano-Americana realm

■ See **MORALES** page 3

SLV WEATHER

Afternoon Showers Likely, Breezy 85/49
Wed: Afternoon Showers Possible, Breezy 82/49
Thurs: Afternoon Showers Likely 82/50

INSIDE

Record Page 2
Valley News Page 3
Lifestyle.....Pages 4 and 5
Sports..... Page 6
Public Notice..... Page 7
Classifieds.....Pages 8 and 9
Comics.....Page 10

Wesley Stafford is the DA's new Assistant District Attorney

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — When 12th Judicial District Attorney (DA) Anne Kelly sent an email to Wesley Stafford about a potential Assistant District Attorney's (ADA) position, it turned out to be the right offer to the right person from the right person at the right time.

Kelly, like DAs across the state, has encountered challenges in recruiting and retaining good, experienced prosecutors. Even though she has been fully staffed, she has been operating

without an ADA since she was sworn into the job two years ago.

Stafford is an attorney with more than 10 years of experience in general prosecution and sex crimes prosecution, seven of which were spent in the Miami District Attorney's Office and, more recently, three years with the Houston DA.

"My fiancé had always dreamed of moving to Colorado," he says. "In fact, she'd planned to move to Colorado, and I screwed up all her plans. So, when I showed her the email and said, hey, are

■ See **STAFFORD** page 3



Courtesy photo

Wesley Stafford was sworn in as Assistant District Attorney on July 1.

Explorer Program opens a new world

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — There have always been kids who wanted to be a "fireman," at some point in their lives, and Aiden Clark was no different. Clark, who just graduated from the eighth grade at Ortega Middle School, has always wanted to be a firefighter. But, for a lot of students at Ortega Middle School and other schools where students may come from homes with economic challenges, learning what's involved in being a firefighter while still at a young age is pretty much out of reach.

That's where the Explorer Program comes in.

■ See **PROGRAM** page 3

Students in the Explorer Program are learning how to use the tools necessary to cut the roof from a car, all part of their extrication training they received in the program started by the Alamosa Fire Department this year. Eight students were selected, and all completed the program.

Photo courtesy of Adam Lopez, engineer AFD and coordinator of Explorer Program



Vets Memorial car show draws 48 vehicles, two motorcycles

By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Veterans Memorial Park Committee hosted its second annual car show Saturday at the Alamosa Family Recreation Center. The show attracted 48 cars and trucks and two motorcycles.

The Best of Show for the vehicle division went to Darrell Yohn and his Super Camino. Second place went to Solomon Archule-

■ See **SHOW** page 3



Darrell Yohn won Best of Show on Saturday for the vehicle division for his Super Camino.



Darrell Yohn's Super Camino won Best of Show in the vehicle division.

Courier photos by Ken Hamrick

Alamosa murals bring life to downtown

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — The stunning mural created in Downtown Alamosa by artist Bianca Maestas is progressing. The artwork is a collage of all things San Luis Valley and features sandhill cranes, orange and red poppies, sweet peas, and tulips (growing through the snow,) according to the artist.

The mural is part of a series of murals sponsored by the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce.

"My grandmother grows sweet peas, she planted them 40 years ago and they still come up in her yard," Maestas said.

"The Alamosa Chamber is thrilled to be facilitating the installation of three new community murals this July as part of our greater 100-Year Mural project," said Erin

■ See **MURALS** page 3

Bianca Maestas, left, and Soleil Maestas, right, work on a mural on Fourth Street in Alamosa.

Courtesy photo



Lock in your high CD rates today

13-Month CD
4.25% APY*



www.TrueLocalBank.com
719-657-3376



*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is accurate as of 6/25/2024. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. CD will automatically renew at the end of the term for 12 months. Fees on account may reduce earnings. Minimum balance to open is \$500. Minimum balance required to earn the APY is \$500.





OBITUARIES

Nadine Dieckman



Nadine was born Feb. 28, 1934, in a country home near Leigh, Neb. After two sons, Duane and LaVern, a baby girl made the depression more tolerable for her parents Olie and Florence. Four years later, a second daughter, Bonnie, was born.

Nadine attended the small, rural, District 17-Praha Elementary School and went on to graduate from Schuyler High School. For a country girl, this diploma was earned on rather shaky ground, except, she excelled in business. So much so, that Kermit Wagner, of Wagner Mills in Schuyler, hired her while she was still in school.

It wasn't long before wanderlust grabbed her. She moved to Denver and was employed by Continental Airlines as an executive secretary. Nadine loved this job — loved the free and reduced flying privileges. One of her favorite trips was to Alaska. She was ill prepared for the weather, but locals lent her boots and a coat, and she continued on with her adventure. Nadine also loved living so close to the mountains and spent much time hiking and camping.

Nadine married Frank Dieckman of Moffat, Colo., on Nov. 11, 1961, in Denver. They had two children, Troy and Renee. Frank dragged her, loyal and uncomplaining, to the orchard country of Palisade where they lived on an orchard in a fixer upper with an indoor hand pump and an out-house. They then lived in a converted school bus traveling around and in the mountains for a time. Finally, they landed in the beautiful San Luis Valley. They lived in yet another fixer upper in Mosca until the children graduated high school. Nadine then moved to Monte Vista where she created a nice comfortable home that she loved.

Frank and Nadine tried their hands at several endeavors, orchard operators, trail ride guides, sign painters, etc. until they purchased a flower shop in 1977. Much to her surprise, Nadine took a nearly empty, struggling store and turned it into a successful, beautiful floral and gift shop, Nadine's Flowers and Gifts. When she retired 23 years later, she left behind an unbelievably talented and devoted staff whom she loved and admired.

In Nadine's own words, "after 21 years of marriage, Frank got itchy feet or maybe it was a midlife crisis. We divorced and he went away. And actually, we could say — I lived happily ever after."

After her retirement

from the flower shop, she took a summer, stipend-pay, work experience at a Yellowstone gift shop. She worked there for 3 years and came to love her coworkers. She loved exploring Yellowstone's beauty and spoke of that adventure for the rest of her life.

Nadine was the mother of Troy and Renee, who she enjoyed immensely and who supported her emotionally. Renee married Perry Hazard, a rancher from Saguache. Nadine loved and respected her son-in-law as well as her four grandchildren. Megan, Will, Ben and Kait were the joy of her life.

She could be seen wrestling, reading, painting, hiking, having picnics, and so much more with all of them. She and several other grandparents made up the cheering section at school sports and activities. Nadine could be seen smiling, laughing, and cheering on both sides, as everyone needs some encouragement. She rarely missed anything the grandkids were doing. When Kait was in high school, she coached youth basketball. When asked why Nadine went to all of her games even though Kait didn't play, Nadine said, "if I don't go, then it's over."

She never wanted any of her time with her grandkids to be over. She followed their lives on a huge map on her dining room table. She would say, "it's like I can be with them along their way." She helped to shape each of them into the people they are today.

Nadine had hidden plans we just recently found. They included, running with the bulls at Paloma, climbing breathlessly up a beautiful mountain, though I think she did this throughout her life, and walking the Appalachia Trail. She may not have accomplished all of those plans but there were so many she did.

Nadine could, among other things, paint a house inside and out, dry-wall, tape, and texture, letter truck emblems, operate an orchard, embroider, make beautiful quilts, ride a horse, make blankets, sing solo at a wedding, sing lead in a barber shop chorus, play the piano and

pump organ for church and pleasure, sing in the church choir, scrapbook, run a tractor, rake hay, play cards, do paper quilling, make miniature houses. Everything she pursued, she did so with excellence.

Nadine was a sign painter, the owner of 18 horses, a trail boss, pilot and navigator, a delivery person, a volunteer, a good cook and baker, a florist and an excellent gift buyer, an executive secretary, and a business owner.

She spent her first 18 years on the plains of eastern Nebraska where she lived and grew. She realized how beautiful that country is — so green, so lovely, sometimes so lush. But, oh the mountains, her heart was there. She lived the rest of her life surrounded by the Rocky Mountains. She was sure anywhere she was; she'd find the beauty.

More than anything, Nadine loved her family.

Nadine Florence Clausen Dieckman died on Friday, June 20, 2024, at the age of 90.

Nadine is survived by her brother Lavern Clausen, sister Bonnie Converse, sister-in-law Pat Clausen, son Troy Dieckman, daughter and son-in-law Renee and Perry Hazard, and her beloved grandchildren Megan and Matt Varoz, Senior Master Sergeant Will and Dr. Linh Hazard, Ben and Dr. Kaeli Hazard, Professor Kait and Zach Cureton-Hazard.

She was preceded in death by her parents Olie and Florence (Glandt) Clausen, her brother Duane Clausen, sister-in-law Alma Clausen, brother-in-law Robert Converse, and great-nephew Robert Clausen. The older Nadine became the more she realized trying to grow old gracefully was harder than she thought it could be and the more she realized she had no desire for drama or conflict. She just wanted a cozy home, good food, and to be surrounded by lovely people who made her happy.

Her wish was for us to be giddy, silly, and to have fun.

There will be a celebration of life on Monday, July 22, at 10 a.m. at Living Water Bible Fellowship, 2910 Clark St., Alamosa, Colo.

In lieu of any gift, please consider donating to the Mosca-Hooper Volunteer Fire Department at 5235 N Hwy 17, Mosca, CO 81146

Arrangements have been made through Rogers Family Mortuary. To leave online remarks, condolence, and words of comfort for Nadine's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

Marylou Perea



Alamosa resident Marylou Perea, 85, fell asleep in death on July 2, 2024. Marylou was born to John Smith and Molly Padilla on March 6, 1939, in Greeley, Colo.

Marylou came to love and appreciate Jehovah's ways (John 17:3). Marylou loved reading her Bible every day. Alone with reading her Bible, she loved studying and preparing for Christian meetings at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses. She enjoyed associating with her brothers and sisters at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses. Marylou was extremely lovable and was loved by family and friends.

Marylou fell asleep knowing that she will be resurrected in perfect health and young again and will live in a beautiful

paradise here on earth just as it is promised in the Bible at Psalm 37:29- "The righteous will possess the earth, and they will live forever on it" and John 5:28 & 29- "The hour is coming is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out." She held on to the hope of living forever on earth and seeing her loved ones

again when Jesus will resurrect them and that thought alone reassured her heart of better things to come.

Marylou is survived by her children, Tammy Ruybal, Jackie (Terry) Cunningham, Roberta Martinez, Dondy (Dishon) Perea and Rodrigo (Nikki) Perea. She is survived by seven grandchildren, Roger Romero Jr., Rick J Romero, Don Jacob Ruybal, Corey James Ruybal, Lenny Martinez, Michael Martinez, and Keith Martinez. She is also survived by her siblings Joe, Sunny, Ruby and Lupe and many nephews and nieces.

She was preceded in death by her siblings Ruth, Jessy and Bobby and her grandson Luke Martinez.

Memorial services for Marylou are pending.

Lois Elaine Siri



Lois Elaine Siri was born on April 29, 1945, to John and Edith Henley, she was the youngest of the children. There was Bill, Greta, Barbara, Steve, Alice, and Lois. When John and Edith left this earth early John and Adalyn Davis adopted Lois and Steve and they were lovingly welcomed into the Davis and Hammond families.

Lois made sure the people she loved felt heard, important, and special. Her laugh was contagious, and she loved to tease her brother Steve and spend time with Karen and her

nieces. Her sisters Alice and Barbara were her dear friends and spending time with their families was very important to Lois. She married Arthur Siri, and he completed our family.

She is survived by the family and friends that love her and she is preceded in death by her Parents, Arthur, Bill and Greta and her brother in laws Jim Tobin and Bill Hecht.

She will be buried between her parents at the Hillside Cemetery in Saguache following a private ceremony.

If you'd like to do some-

thing in her honor, pet a dog, smile at a kid, laugh really loud, and donate to your local animal shelter.

Arrangements in Care by Strohmayer's Funeral Home of Monte Vista.

BIRTH

Kai Daniel Ortega

Kai Daniel Ortega was born on July 8, 2024, to Amanda Romer and Gene Ortega of Monte Vista. At birth, Kai Daniel was 6 pounds 3

ounces and 17.5 inches. Maternal grandparents are Vickie Romer of Monte Vista and Daniel Romer (deceased).

Paternal grandpar-

ents are Joan Medina of Alamosa, and Eugene Ortega of Monte Vista.

Kai Daniel was born at SLV Health in Alamosa.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

VALLEY — The San Luis Valley offers many Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous groups.

A.A. and N.A members primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics/addicts

to achieve sobriety.

There are AA and NA 12-Step Meetings throughout the valley. The 6th Tradition states that we are not affiliated with any outside organizations, but in the spirit of cooperation, we list these

meeting schedules for friends and family. For information, call 719-937-5083 or see our website:slvaa.org

COURIER OBITUARY POLICY

The Courier charges \$75 for each obituary per day. Pending arrangements or death notices are free. This charge affects funeral homes, family or other representatives that place obituaries. All paid obituaries are published on www.alamosanews.com, for no additional fee.

Please email obituaries if possible to squintana@alamosanews.com If the newspaper errors in publishing an obit, corrections will be made and the obit rerun. If the errors are on the part of the submitting party, an additional fee will be assessed.

Online - www.alamosanews.com
Valley Courier 2205 State Ave. • Alamosa • 719-589-2553

School Menu
Tuesday
July 16, 2024

BREAKFAST
Pancake Bites
Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY
Sliced Pizza
Tossed Salad
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL
Sliced Pizza
Tossed Salad
Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL
Sliced Pizza
Tossed Salad
Fruit & Milk

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



San Luis Valley Federal Bank

MORE THAN MORTGAGES

Discover the power of our commitment to your business. Meet Walter, Amanda, and Andrea, your trusted team of commercial loan officers. From real estate projects to equipment financing and beyond, we have the solutions to help your business thrive.



Walter Roybal
NMLS# 1692596



Amanda Maez



Andrea Archuleta-Cisneros
NMLS# 417703

(719) 589-6653

NMLS# 403374

WWW.SLVFED.BANK



Valley News

Show

Continued from Page 1
ta and his 1969 GTO, and third place went to Bob Zimmerman and his 1945 Ford pick-up.

Other awards in the vehicle division saw Lori Sharpe win the Commissioner's Choice for her 1957 Star Chief Pontiac. The Ladies' Choice went to Julian Lopez for his 1968 Camaro, and the Veterans' Choice went to Louie Maestas for his 1959 El Camino.

In the motorcycle divi-

sion, Best of Show went to Andy Espinoza for his 1996 Harley Davidson. Second place went to Dave Farley for his 1992 FXR.

Also at the award ceremony, the committee honored a local Veteran. Pat Mascarenas received that honor. Mascarenas served in Vietnam.

The committee said it is still looking for donations to complete the monument, which will be at Airport Road and Highway 285. To donate, you can mail your check to Alamosa Veterans

Memorial Park, P.O. Box 1245, Alamosa, Colo., 81101.

A model of the monument for the Alamosa Veterans Memorial Park which will be located at Airport Road and Highway 285.

Courier photos by Ken Hamrick



Pat Mascarenas was the honored veteran at the Second Annual Alamosa Veterans Memorial Park Car Show on Saturday. Also pictured are Frank Muniz (left), the former Veterans Service Officer for Alamosa County and a board member, and Michael Yohn, also a board member.

Murals

Continued from Page 1

Keck, chief executive officer of the chamber. "The completed project will include 10 unique murals, to be designed by 10 different local artists, and will each be representative of a decade in our most recent 100 years of history.

"It will also include a walking tour brochure as well as a website with information on the cultural and historical highlights from each mural and time period, activities for kids, details on the murals and artists, and showcasing our gracious sponsors who have made this project possible.

ect possible.

"On Thursday, July 25, we are co-hosting a celebration with Jade Communications as the mural they sponsored goes up. This has truly been a community effort and couldn't have gotten this far so quickly without that support. More info on the project can be found at alamosachamber.com/mural-project," Keck said.

The mural Maestas is creating is set in the 1930's to 1940s.

The Valley Courier will have an update on the mural next week. The mural is located on the west side of 613-D Fourth Street in Downtown Alamosa.

Morales

Continued from Page 1

that embraces them both. Lisa Morales' credentials on the songwriter scene were established long before the release of her debut solo album, "My Beautiful Mistake," in 2011. In addition to performing and recording for nearly two decades as part of the acclaimed San Antonio-based sibling duo Sisters Morales (with her beloved sister, Roberta, who passed away from cancer in August 2021), Lisa also produced "Flowers & Liquor," the 2002 debut album by Americana music favorite Hayes Carll.

But it was "My Beautiful Mistake" (hailed by Lone Star Music Magazine as "an absolutely flat-out devastating and stunning work of art") and it's equally luminous follow-up, 2018's "Luna Negra & the Daughter of the Sun," that marked

the Tucson, Ariz.-native's true arrival as a creative force to be reckoned with and, according to Rolling Stone, "one of the most multifaceted artists to watch in 2018."

On her third album, 2022's "She Ought to Be King," Lisa Morales once again affirmed her world-class stature with a distinctive perspective and a remarkable capacity for looking both inward and outward.

"I've been looking at how strong we women are," she says "We keep evolving and gaining more confidence with time. We don't sink into our own shoes — we stand taller in them."

Morales recently finished recording her next album "Sonora," as yet unreleased, and will be featuring some of the new material in her Society Hall concert.

For more information on Society Hall and its concerts, visit online www.societyhall.org.

102nd Ski-Hi Stampede honors service



The Ski-Hi Stampede Committee honors Cliff Edwards for his 30 years of service on Sunday in Monte Vista. Edwards received a plaque and a standing ovation from the crowd. For more on the Stampede, see Page 6.

Photo by Brian Williams

Program

Continued from Page 1

in, a 75-hour training program that exposes kids ages 14 to 18 to what it's like to be a firefighter. This week, Alamosa Fire Chief Bill Stone gave the Rotary Club an overview of the program as it concludes its first year. He opened by introducing Aiden, a recent graduate from the group of eight who participated.

"I love the program," Aiden said. "I love everything you learn. I've always wanted to do it. I grew up watching my uncle do it every year in Pueblo. He's an engineer [with a fire department], and I saw how it works. And when Adam (Lopez) went to my dad and said they were going to do the program, I was excited. I've been waiting for a long time to be in the program and I finally got to do it."

Stone then provided a little background.

"My wife teaches at Ortega Middle School, and she said that she sees so many kids who have no hope. Economically, a lot of the kids are at a major disadvantage, have no support at home and they just need...something. A lot of people were trying to think of what could be done to support our youth, so, the wheels were already turning."

Stone saw the Explorer

Program as an immediate fit for those teenagers — boys and girls — who need something to look forward to in life that would also hold such interest that the experience could possibly prevent them from getting into bad habits.

"I've been a part of fire departments where they had Explorer Programs, but those were affluent areas. It seemed like it could make an even greater impact to initiate something like that here."

So, I spoke with some of our fire guys. I spoke with (Alamosa City Manager) Heather Sanchez and a lot of different people."

Stone admits that "there was pushback, as always happens with new programs." But he kept at it. "I saw the bigger picture as being more important than the pushback. I told them this is bigger than you or me or all of us, and, eventually, this is going to come back around and affect us all in a positive way."

As is also true with any new program, funding was needed to get it off the ground. Stone singles out two people who were invaluable.

Adam Lopez, an engineer with the Alamosa Fire Department, works with the Boys and Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley and was able to obtain grant funding to make the program a reality. Reyna Martinez, who works with RETAC [Re-

gional Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council], garnered even more support for the effort. And Stone "rearranged some things" in his budget to make it work.

"We just wanted to get the program rolling and expose [the students] to what it could be like. We invited them to weekend duties and various trainings. They went through CPR, and we got many of them red cards, a qualification needed to fight wildland fires."

To be successful, the program also had to be led by the right person. Chief Stone does not hold back in praising AFD Engineer Adam Lopez for organizing the program and heading up much of the training.

"Adam Lopez did an incredible job in training this first class of explorers," Stone said.

At the end of the program, some of the 18-year-old students wanted to pursue a career in firefighting or volunteer at a fire department. One student is going to Leadville Junior College to pursue an Associates in Fire Science. Others just wanted to test it out and see if it was right for them.

But even those students gained from the experience. "Those students said, 'I may not want to do this, but I learned a lot about teamwork and physical fitness. I got a lot

of positive out of this and I spent my time in a positive way.' That's what we wanted to accomplish."

Aiden is the youngest in the group at 14 years old. Stone said they weren't certain about reaching out to students still in middle school. But he's such a "stand-out kid", they now know that they can reach out to students who are that young and still have it be a successful experience.

Some of the other training they were exposed to was automobile extrication. "They went through the same training all of basic firefighters go through, so they got to learn how to utilize the jaws of life and all the cutting tools."

Stone also brought in firefighters from Milwaukee, Wis., and South Carolina that he had known for years who provided training on ladder work, hose, forceful entry. "That was a very taxing weekend. They worked their butts off, but they got a lot out of it."

When asked about his favorite part, Aiden said "the rescue part." He's also more interested in structure fires than wildland fires.

"It's been a lot of fun. They learned a lot from us, but we learned a lot from them, too," Stone said. He also added that the students put in 75 hours of training and, in exchange, received a \$700 stipend.

Stafford

Continued from Page 1

we interested in this, she almost tackled me pushing the 'yes' button."

Stafford, who comes across as an engaging and friendly yet clearly professional person, can also hit the ground running. Due to being licensed in both Texas and Florida, he has a "practice pending admission" which, under Kelly's supervision, allows him all the "normal workings of an attorney", like filing paperwork or acting in court on his own behalf.

While in Miami, Stafford was an assistant state attorney handling a broad range of cases. When he moved to Houston, he became more specialized in sexual abuse. During the past year and a half, while he was in the Child Sexual Abuse Division, Stafford had 270 of his cases in two courts with 75 of them set for trial. In one nine-month period, he went to trial 12 times, all child sex abuse cases.

When asked what prosecuting so many really tough cases does to a person, Stafford laughs, a genuine and warm sound. "That's why I'm here," he says. "There's a dif-

ference to go from a trespass to a theft to a crime with guns to child sexual abuse. That's a whole different world you just have to get used to."

Asked how he keeps faith in humanity prosecuting cases like that, he says, "It's actually easier here — at least for the time I've been here so far — because it's such a closeknit community. When I go out and talk with people, there are real, human connections. When you're in a city with three million people, they're completely anonymous, so all you see is the bad and everybody is just going about their lives as fast as they can. Here, there's real community and, so far, I'm really enjoying it."

Stafford sees his role as ADA directly tied to Kelly, who "has a pretty solid view" of where she wants the office to go.

"We've integrated really quickly the administrative side as well as the litigation side of what I'm doing. So, it's about making sure her vision keeps moving forward. From what I've seen, it's really headed in the right direction," he said.

He then adds, "But, ultimately, I serve at the pleasure of the District

Attorney."

Stafford will be chief of staff over the attorneys, involved in training other attorneys as much as he can. Along with Kelly, he's also going to try to give law enforcement on the ground a little more training.

"I'm actually really excited about going to work with the police departments to give them as much help as I can," he said. Stafford comes from enormous DA offices in both Miami and Houston. When asked about making the adjustment, he says, "One of the bigger reasons I wanted to work with Anne is that she's one of the nicest people in the world. But she's also very supportive and direct with how she wants to change things and make things better."

"I came here with the intention of staying. It's a great opportunity and a great position. I love the idea of being able to help people as an Assistant District Attorney and the case load that I have. I'm very passionate about the sex assault cases. It's one of the areas where you can really put on that white hat and say, 'I have an innocent victim' because a child is always

going to be innocent. And it's always satisfying to give the family justice because these are some of the worst crimes that can happen."

Being an ADA in a small town can be a different experience from what he's known in the past, but not as big as people might expect.

"People see justice as people going to prison. That's not always what happens. There are a lot of things we can do to help young people get back on track. But there are also people who need to be in jail. Although a lot of what we do happens in the courtroom, everything we do has an impact on people outside. That's true everywhere," he said.

"Our Office continues to prioritize recruiting and retaining skilled and dedicated attorneys to serve the San Luis Valley," Kelly states. "We have attracted attorneys here by highlighting the opportunity to be part of a team focused on materially improving the community's perception of the district attorney's office and the justice system. I am proud of the work that we have done, and recruiting Mr. Stafford is a huge win for the San Luis Valley."

Lifestyles



Photo by Marie Mccolm

Church Project owner Madelein Ahlborn cuts the ribbon during a ceremony on July 5 at 256 South Broadway in Monte Vista.

Ribbon Cutting held at Church Project

By MARIE MCCOLM
MONTE VISTA – Approximately 40 people gathered at the Church Project for its ribbon cutting and official opening on Friday, July 5.

Church Project owner Madeleine Ahlborn was joined by her parents from Wisconsin, her Godparents from Wyoming, and fellow artists to christen the building at 256 South Broadway.

Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce Manager Heather Hillin and members of the OptiMystics Citizen Action Network cheered with everyone as Ahlborn cut the red ribbon.

With the members of her board for the Church Project and the volunteers who helped with the many hours of restoration standing behind her, Ahlborn looked up at all the balloons near the entrance of the Church Project, and said, "I am so thrilled to see all of you here today, as we celebrate the transformation of the historic First Baptist Church, into a creative space, to provide the freedom for all people, to unlock their creative potential. Over the last year since I have moved into the space, we have had more than 30 community members, and over 500 hours of volunteer work, that's been put into this space so far, to launch this transformation."

Ahlborn thanked her board of advisors, stating that she appreciated their support and creativity in helping her move the project forward, by helping her organize finances, and hang drywall, and reminding her to stay hydrated throughout the process.

"I can't thank these individuals enough for being

the scaffolding in this wild vision that I have, which we call "The Dream Machine," she said.

Ahlborn said that she appreciated the financial support from her parents, Seth and Carrie Ahlborn, and others such as First Southwest Bank, the LOR Foundation, the Redline Contemporary Arts Center of Denver, and The Gates Family Foundation.

"As an artist myself, I have always been intrigued by what a space is, where it can take us, and what it can become. This project belongs to the community of Monte Vista, and the greater San Luis Valley. We can build it together," she said.

Hillin, of the Monte Vista Chamber, welcomed Ahlborn to the community.

"Today we are celebrating the transformation of this historic Church into a vibrant community art center. The space, once a place of worship, will now be a sanctuary for creativity, inspiration, and community engagement. Special thanks to Maddy, (Madeleine) whose vision and hard work made this all possible," Hillin said.

Hillin handed Ahlborn a plaque from the Monte Vista Chamber.

The ribbon cutting took place one year to the day that Ahlborn moved into the location and began her restoration.

Ahlborn moved to the San Luis Valley in 2014. Last year, she was offered the chance to purchase the beautiful historic building for the Church Project by her former landlord Ron Douglas.

Ahlborn's vision for the Church Project is to provide the space and the free-

dom for people to unlock their creative potential.

"I really want this building to not only belong to me, but to belong to the community. I want people to feel that and to believe that they collectively own the building too," she said.

Ahlborn's parents said they were proud of their daughter.

"Carrie and I have been very excited about this since Maddy found the church," Seth stated. "We were very happy to put money into the church, parents do these kinds of things for their children," he said with a smile. "It's a very exciting day for the future of Monte Vista, this is really great."

Carrie said, "We are so proud, this is a very important project, not only for Maddy but also for Monte Vista. I believe there will be more Church Projects around the country when the time comes. Maddy has been here a long time now and has gotten to know a lot of people. They have seen her vision; people collaborate here well. What is so amazing is how Maddy looks at this building, it's not a building, it's a piece of art."

Ahlborn's Godparents, Cindy and Tim Butera, surprised Ahlborn. When Ahlborn saw them, she did a double take, and then ran and greeted them with a big hug. Cindy and Tim both said they would not have missed her big day for anything.

"We are very proud of her. We knew she would be a wonderful woman and she is," they said.

For more information on the Church Project, visit the Church Project's Facebook page.

Valley invited to Saguache Community Picnic July 20

CONTRIBUTED
SAGUACHE – The second annual Saguache Community Picnic and Festival will be on July 20 in Otto Mears Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Saguache.

Music will be provided from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Vendors will fill the park. Food will be provided. Saguache Senior Center will host a Silent Auction tent from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with numerous items to bid on. People can buy items right away with the "Buy Now" feature or keep bidding until 2 p.m. Items are cash and carry and bidders should pick up their items by 2:30 p.m. Look for the Silent Auction banner and tent. To donate items, contact Noreen Gross SSCC President at 607-745-4634.

The Saguache Sagebrush Quilters will be displaying their beautiful quilts and handmade items. People

can enter to win one of their Buy Now items. People can enter the drawing with a donation of \$1 per ticket or five tickets for \$5. Tickets for their queen size quilt will be available with the drawing held at Fall Festival.

Children's games will take place starting at 11 a.m. Prices will be awarded to the children. There will be a bouncy house and ice cream truck. Children can get their faces painted and Smokey Bear will make an appearance.

If you bring three non-perishable food items, you will be entered in a drawing to win one of two \$25 gas cards. Food items will be donated to help people in the area.

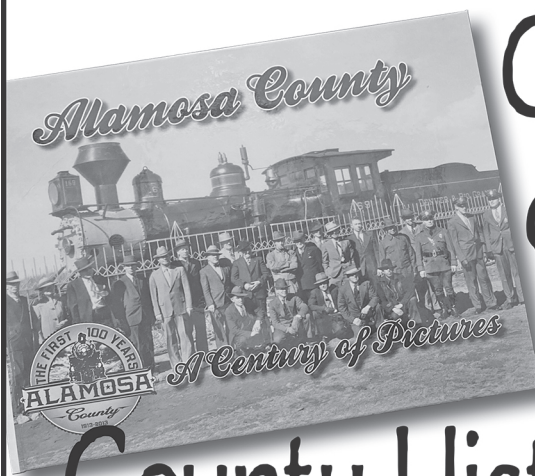
New this year will be Rods n' Wheels Rally. Members of the Pharaohs Car Club of Southern Colo-

rado will be showing off some of their classics. Anyone wishing to display their car will have the chance to win the "People's Choice Award" – first is \$100, second is \$75 and third is \$50. There will also be a "Best of Show Trophy Awarded. To enter the rally, contact Bonnie Salzman at bsalzman@gmail.com, for the registration form.

Craft vendors will be displaying their talents. Many items will be available, including candy, seasoning spices, pottery, weaving items, painted signs, and minerals. Food vendors will be on the grounds.

"Come spend an afternoon in the sun, enjoy the music, good food and fellowship, and check out the beautiful classic cars and trucks. Everyone is welcome from all around the area," organizers stated.

NEW SUBSCRIBER SPECIAL



Get a FREE copy of our Alamosa County History Book!

SIX MONTHS FOR ONLY

\$69⁰⁰ & You Receive

\$29⁹⁵ Hardbound History Book

Net cost \$39⁰⁵

Includes Our Online E-Edition

LIMITED TIME OFFER

Call or Stop in

Valley Courier

(719) 589-2553

2205 State · Alamosa

www.alamosanews.com

Bar Code?



An approach to advertising...

If each line in the barcode represents a radio station, that's how many stations you'd have to buy to equal the reach of your local newspaper. How often & for how long do you listen to ONE radio station?

You GOTTA BE IN THE PAPER

Valley Courier

719-589-2553

www.alamosanews.com

email: ads@alamosanews.com

Keith R Cerny
Publisher

Brian Williams
Managing Editor

Valley Courier

(ISSN 1047-1170)

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

coloradopress ASSOCIATION

Debbie Sowards Advertising Manager
John Waters News Editor
Priscilla Waggoner Staff Writer
Ryker Alonzo Editorial Assistant

Ken Hamrick Sports Editor
Gary Honodel Print and Digital Sales
Shasta Quintana Circulation
Richard R. Quintana Mailroom Supervisor/Press

Valley News Press ASSOCIATION

Your FIRST Source for Local News

Lifestyles

Mercadillo en el Rio grand opening is July 17

Opening brings fresh, local produce to Community

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA – Mercadillo en el Rio recently announced its opening will be on July 17. Located at Rio Grande Farm Park, 6935 Highway 17, Alamosa, the market is a vibrant part of the community, offering a wide array of fresh, locally grown produce, artisanal goods, locally made food and handmade crafts from regional farmers, vendors, and food trucks.

The Mercadillo, featuring naturally grown onsite produce, will be open 3 to 7 p.m. every Wednesday, providing a convenient and enjoyable shopping experience for residents and visitors alike. Through its diverse offerings and events, the market aims to support local agriculture, promote sustainable practices, and foster a sense of community.

“We are excited to bring another year of Mercadillo en el Rio back to life and provide a space where the community can come together to enjoy fresh, healthy food and unique products,” said Market Manager Fernando Herrera. “Our vendors are

passionate about their products, and we believe this market will become a beloved weekly destination for families and individuals in Alamosa.”

Attendees can meet local farmers, sample fresh produce, and learn more about sustainable farming practices.

Key highlights of Mercadillo en el Rio this week include lettuce, chard, kale, cilantro, garlic, and beets.

The San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition’s Rio Grande Farm Park creates and sustains a vibrant place where people come to learn, play, and grow. The RGFP maintains 15 acres for farmers to grow food regeneratively. The park welcomes aspiring growers to join commercial or community plots and participate in regenerative agriculture workshops.

During summer, people may purchase fresh produce from RGFP at Mercadillo en el Rio. While the whole 38 acres provide youth and community education, robust volunteer programs, a public park, and an orchard, the diverse community of farmers hails from Mexico, Guatemala, and Southern Colorado, coming together to cultivate an organic, regenerative farm that nourishes body and soul.



Photo by Doug Grizmacher

Mercadillo en el Rio will start its season from 3 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, featuring local produce and much more.

Del Norte Grande Avenue revitalization project work begins

CONTRIBUTED

DEL NORTE – The Town of Del Norte, Colorado Department of Transportation and contracting partner RMS Utilities began a Main Street Revitalization project on July 8.

It will include new curb and gutter, sidewalks, ADA compliant curb ramps, pedestrian streetlights, crosswalks, pavement markings, signage, drainage improvements, water service lines and fire hydrants alongside US Highway 160 (Grand Avenue) in the Town of Del Norte from Alder Street east to Cherry Street. The project is expected to be completed by January of 2025.

Project Benefits

The project is part of CDOT’s Revitalizing Main Streets grant program that enhances transportation safety and strengthens the connection of people to main streets and central economic hubs.

“We are pleased to be the recipient of this grant program,” said Mayor Shelly Burnett “The project in downtown Del Norte will encourage physical activity and enhance our local economy through several improvements to the town’s infrastructure.”

New Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) sidewalks, curb ramps and crosswalks will make pedestrian crossings accessible to people with disabilities, required by federal law.

Improvements along the corridor will provide safer access and mobility for residents and visitors.

New lighting allows better visibility for locals, businesses, and travelers.

Colored concrete to add esthetics for Del Norte’s business district.

For additional information about this project:

- Project webpage: www.codot.gov/projects/
- Project hotline: 719-589-4263
- Project email: frontdesk@rmsutilities.com
- Town of Del Norte Office: 719-657-2708

Travel Impacts

Working hours will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Crews will begin working on one block at a time.

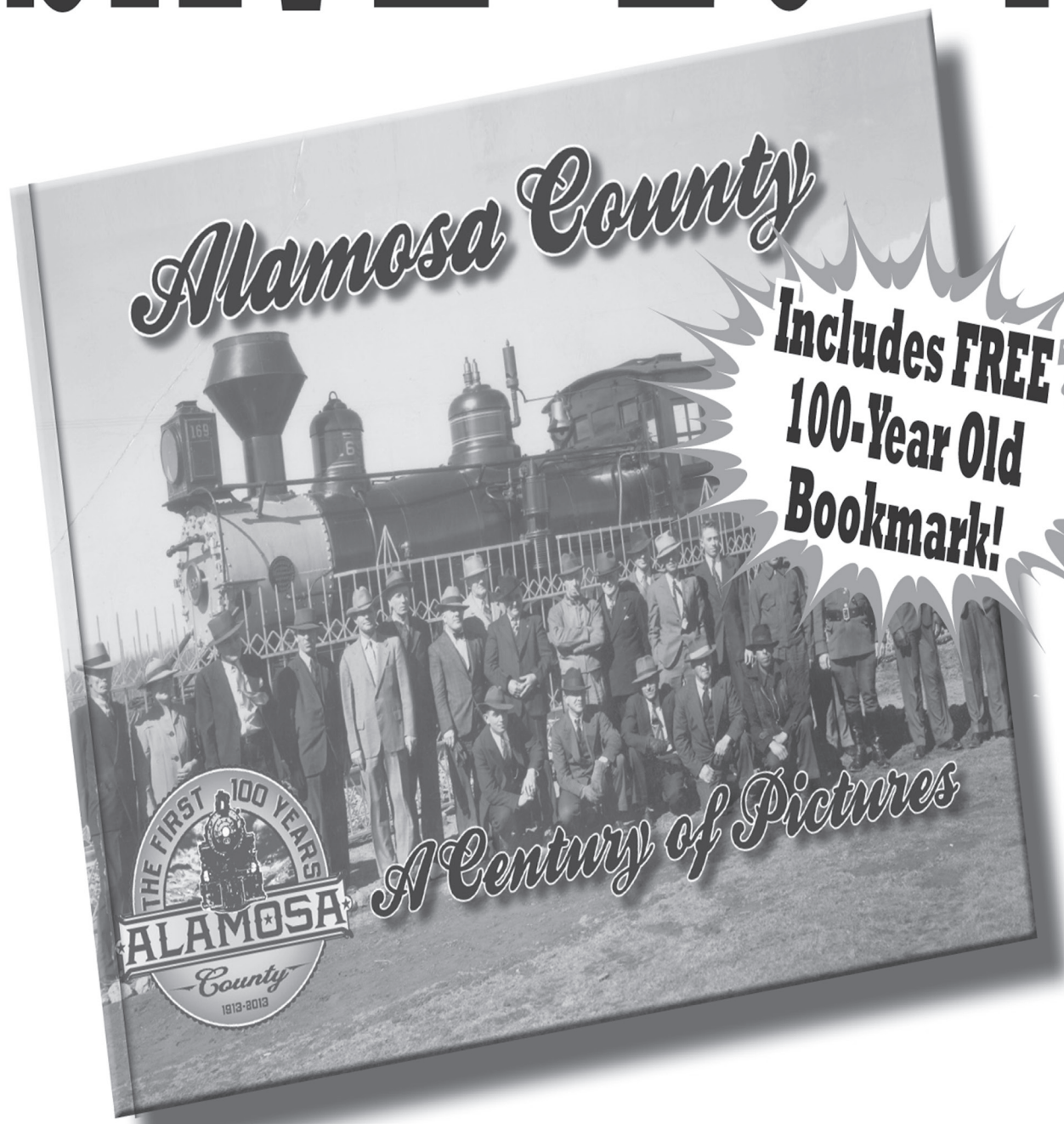
Motorists will encounter partial lane and shoulder closures throughout the project work zone and in the intersections.

Vehicles, bikes and pedestrians should expect some travel impacts throughout the construction of this project. Pedestrians can expect sidewalk closures.

Access to business will be maintained but may be temporarily altered.

Motorists are urged to watch for construction personnel and equipment in the work zone.

SAVE \$20.00!



“Alamosa County: A Century of Pictures”

NOW \$29.95 reg. \$49.95

Limited Time Only

Valley Courier

Sports



Left: Jade Taton of Kersey with an 83-point ride on Louisiana Woman to win bareback riding at the Ski-Hi Stampede on Sunday. Right: Scottie Knapp of Albuquerque, N.M., rides Ironman for an 86 1/2 point ride to win bull riding also on Sunday.



Valley Publishing photos by Brian Williams



Courtesy photo by Vibrant Valley Photography
Taryn Boxleitner of Loveland won barrel racing in 16.51 seconds on Friday at the Ski-Hi Stampede in Monte Vista.

Bareback, bull ride champs determined on final day

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor
MONTE VISTA – The 102nd Annual Ski-Hi Stampede took place over the weekend with several participants from all over the country and some from out of the country competing.

Two of the rough stock events had their champions crowned on Sunday.

In bareback riding, there was a tie for first place. Gavin French of College Station, Texas, scored 83 points on Desert Inn, and Jade Taton of Kersey recorded the same score on Louisiana Woman.

Finishing in third place was Boyce Kraut of Kim with an 82 1/2 point ride on SW also on Sunday. Fourth place went to Isaac Ingraham of Eunice, La., with 79 1/2 points on Nevada Smith on Sunday. Finishing in fifth place was Spur Lacasse of Calgary, Alberta Canada with 77 1/2 points on Kicking Feathers on Sunday, and Monte Downare of Hartsel with 77 points on Windy Whisky on Sunday.

The bull riding champion was also determined on Sunday. Scottie Knapp of Albuquerque, N.M., who scored 86 1/2 points on Ironman. Chris McKenna of Walsenburg was the

only other qualified ride as he scored 63 points on Short Change on Friday.

The saddle bronc champion was crowned on Friday as Gus Gaillard of Morse, Texas, had an 86 1/2 points ride on Cool Hand Luke. The runner-up was also on Friday as Kody Rinehart of Rienzi, Miss., scored 84 1/2 points on Cow Camp.

Blake Starrett of Weatherford, Texas, finished third with 82 points on Karen's Klown on Saturday. Jade Taton followed up his bareback ride with a fourth-place finish with 79 1/2 points on Flirtin' Voice on Sunday. Ean Price of Leedey, Okla., was fifth with 79 points on Bolo Tie on Sunday, and Joe Priebe of Cody, Wyo., and Jack Skavdahl of Harrison, Neb., both scored 76 1/2 points on Sunday. Priebe's ride came on Sweetness, and Skavdahl's was on Deep Water.

In permit bareback riding, Cauy Betony of Tonalea, Ariz., won with 70 1/2 points on Ghost Ride, and Jacoby Campbell of Brighton was second with 62 points on Crabby Steve. Both rides were on Friday.

In permit saddle bronc riding, Coleman Shallbetter was first with 78 points on Black Silver on Friday. Skinny Parsons

of Springdale, Ark., was second with 77 1/2 points on Maiden Voyage also on Friday.

In other events, Brady Reneau of Los Lunas, N.M., won steer wrestling in 4.1 seconds on Saturday. Jace Logan of Yampa was second in 5.6 on Sunday, Logan Kenline of Penrose was third in 6.5, Talon Sterkel of Brighton was fourth in 6.8 on Sunday, Jacob Wang of Laramie, Wyo., was fifth in 7.2 on Friday, Zach Hamar of Yuma and Brian Snell tied for sixth in 7.4 both on Sunday, and Hadley Jackson of La Junta was eighth in 7.8 on Friday.

Riley Pruitt of Gering, Neb., saw his 8.6-second run in the slack hold up to win tie-down roping. Jayden Broussard of Broussard, La., was second in 9.1 seconds also in the slack.

Dean Holyan of Coyote Canyon, N.M., was third in 9.5 on Friday, Blaze Byler of Bellvue, Texas, was fourth in 9.7 on Saturday, Roan Hudson of Arcadia, Fla., was fifth in 9.8 on Saturday, Jacques Trahan of Hackberry, La., was sixth in 10.3 in the slack, Ryan Belew of La Junta was seventh in 10.9 on Friday, and Brody Stallard on Fort Sumner, N.M., was eighth in 11.0 on Sunday.

In women's events, Taryn Boxleitner of Loveland won barrel racing in 15.62 seconds on Friday. Jana Bean of Fort Hancock, Texas, was second in 15.68 on Saturday, Jentry Vandenberg of Bellvue was third in 15.71 in the slack, Amanda Welsh of Stephenville, Texas, was fourth in 15.86 on Friday, Lorelee Ward of Fort Lupton was fifth in 15.89 in the slack, Codi Hartman of Whitesboro, Texas, was sixth in 15.92 on Sunday, Fallon Taylor of Collinsville, Texas, was seventh in 16.02 on Sunday, C.J. Vondette of Rifle was eighth in 16.07 in the slack, Tara Seaton of Winslow, Ariz., was ninth in 16.13 on Sunday, Madison Bean of Lubbock, Texas, was 10th in 16.19 on Sunday, Rayne Grant of Wheatland, Wyo., was 11th in 16.21 in the slack, and Sarah Kieckhefer of Prescott, Ariz., was 12th in 16.29 on Saturday.

The breakaway roping was a tie between Taya McAdow of Fort Lupton, and Amber Hutto of North Zulch, Texas, who both had times of 2.6 seconds. McAdow's time was in the slack and Hutto's was on Saturday.

Local rodeo
The local rodeo consisted of three events – barrel

racing, tie-down roping and team roping.

In team roping, which took place on Friday, Monte and Tate Huffaker won in 13.5 seconds. Tate Koenig and Bailey Danylo were second in 18.4, and Brian Cowan and Aaron Laske were third in 19.7.

In local tie-down roping, which was on Friday and Saturday, Travis Canty was the champion in 12.2 seconds. Ryan Canty was

second in 20.1, Grant Koenig was third in 23.7, and Tucker Canty was fourth in 25.5.

The barrel racing took place on Saturday and Sunday and it was won by Rosemary Egolf in 16.67 seconds. Bailey Danylo was second in 16.74, Raelyn Bouet was third in 16.78, and Megan Davenport was fourth in 17.02.

A FARMERS MARKET WITH HEARTBEAT
MERCADILLO EN EL RIO

EXPERIENCE A FARMERS MARKET WITH A HEARTBEAT
- MERCADILLO EN EL RIO -
AT THE RIO GRANDE FARM PARK!
JOIN US AT 6935 CO HWY-17 IN ALAMOSA, CO
EVERY WEDNESDAY
JULY 17TH TO OCTOBER 2ND, 3PM-7PM!

rio grande
FARM PARK
PRESERVING & CREATING

Are you at risk?
Get Screened for Risks of Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease
Call 833-939-0353

Screenings are easy, painless and non-invasive
Special Screening Package for \$149

LIFE LINE SCREENING
The Power of Prevention

Be prepared before the next power outage.

It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 719-895-6158 to schedule your free quote!

GENERAC

*Terms and Conditions apply.

Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

221 - HELP WANTED

221 - HELP WANTED

221 - HELP WANTED

Medcl Lab Scntst - (Alamosa & La Jara, CO), San Luis Valley Health: Prfrms all antbdy screening, idntification & cross mtching prcdres req'd in the admnstrtion of blood & blood comp. Stnd corp benfts. Salary \$68,556.80. EOE. **Reqs:** Bach (or frgn equiv) in Medcl Tech, Chmstry, or rltd fld, & 2 yrs' of exp as a Medcl Tech, Lab Scntist, or rltd role req. Email resume to len.gross@slvrnc.org, Attn: Len Gross, Ref: 2078.

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for a MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEE. This is a full-time position with benefits. Monte Vista School District offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefit package including employee health, dental, vision, and life coverage. The salary for this position will be paid from the current MVSD Maintenance and Custodial Salary Schedule, which can be viewed on the district website - Employment Opportunities page. Placement on the salary schedule will be determined by experience at time of hire. Applications may be submitted through our online employment application <https://www.pirates.monte.k12.co.us/employmentopportunities> by July 18, 2024 or until the position is filled. (7/24/24)

DEL NORTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is seeking an energetic, caring individual to serve as a SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAEducator. Applicants must have a high school diploma and prior experience working with students with special needs is preferred. Please submit your application to Amy Duda, DNES Principal at 950 French Street, DEL NORTE, CO 81132; aduda@urtigers.co; or call at 719-657-4050. The position will be open until filled. You can pick up an application at the District Office or on-line at urtigers.co. (8/6/24)

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 on-line 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)

CENTER IN NEED OF WORKERS. There are SEVERAL POSITIONS AVAILABLE. Hours 8:00 am-???. Competitive wages. Please inquire at MOUNTAIN KING SPUD GROWERS, 1090 South Miles Street, Center, CO. (8/7/24)

HELPWANTEDPART TIME - DEPUTY CORONER: Experienced individual needed for On Call Part time position assisting the Saguache County Coroner. The position will be an on call/as needed position. Coroner calls are paid at \$150.00 per call and Transports are \$150.00 per call, Weekday on call \$15.00 per day and Weekend on call \$30.00 per day. Please contact April Quintana with the Saguache County Administration office for an application or printable at www.saguachecounty.colorado.gov. Call 719-655-2231 for more information. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. SAGUACHE COUNTY is an EEO employer. Drug testing and a background check will be required for final applicants. (7/24/24)

AT HOME CHILD CARE PROVIDER needed for the UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT in DEL NORTE. 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! Applications may be retrieved online at urtigers.co please email aborrocks@urtigers.co or aduda@urtigers.co for more information or to send completed applications. (8/6/24)

Always the Last to Know?

If you keep finding out about local events after they happen, it's time to subscribe to the Valley Courier.

Subscribe today and stay connected to your world.

Valley Courier
719-589-2553

You'll find it all in the ... Business & Service Directory

• Easy to Read Format • Affordable • Seen 4 Days a Week To Place Your Ad Call (719) 589-2553

APPLIANCE REPAIR
All Major Brands of Kitchen & Laundry Appliances
• Trained and Certified Technicians
ALTITUDE APPLIANCES
Open 10-6 Mon-Sat
611 Main • Alamosa (719) 206-2844

dylan brown agency
Local Medicare Help
719-350-6941
2415 Mullins Avenue
Alamosa, CO 81101
Dbrown1@farmersagent.com
Katrina.dbrown1@farmersagency.com
*Medicare Advantage *Supplements *Part D Prescription Plans

STORAGE
ALAMOSA STORAGE
Parking Spaces For Rent
5929 Road South 106
Alamosa, CO 81101
Call us today or visit our website
alamosastorage.com
(719) 992-3440

HEATING & GAS
RMHG
Rocky Mountain Heating & Gas Service
Installation, Service & Repair
Heaters, Fireplaces, Wood & Pellet Stoves Sales
Stason Gomez 719-628-9310
RMHGENT@gmail.com

Attorney
ATENCIO LAW
719.589.6005
• Civil Litigation
• Real Estate • Water Law
• Business Law
• Wills & Probate
• Unbundled Legal Services steve@atenciolaw.net
(call for more information) www.atenciolaw.net
STEVE ATENCIO
PROUDLY SERVING CLIENTS THROUGHOUT THE SAN LUIS VALLEY

Architecture
SPENCER architecture studio
Your Local SLV Architecture Firm for Residential, Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural Projects
Don Spencer, A.I.A.
Licensed in Colorado, Texas and New Mexico
719-696-5783
Steve Copley
Sr. Project Manager, E.I.T.
spencerarchitecturestudio.com

CONSTRUCTION
Cerro Colorado Construction LLC
Commercial and Residential
• Stucco & Walls • Exterior/Interior Paint
• Refresh • Floors
• Re-Stucco • Drywall
• Stone • House Remodeling and more!
Call or Text
(719) 937-8090 (719) 937-8023 (719) 580-2414
CerroColoradoConstruction@gmail.com
CerroColoradoConstructionLLC
FREE ESTIMATES

Electrical
ALPINE ELECTRIC INC.
82 CONEJOS ALAMOSA
719-589-9144

Earth Moving
Earthworks of Southern Colorado LLC
Troy Geringer 719-480-1756
• Trenching • Dirt Work
• Ditch Cleaning • Demolition
• Site Cleaning & Prep • Snow Removal
• Driveway Construction & Grading
• Landscaping
• House Pats
• Stream Bank Restoration
• Irrigation Welding & Fabrication
• Tractor Mowing

Taxidermy
Ask about our 6 month guarantee!
Joy's Taxidermy Est. 1995
719-480-9300

Real Estate
Greg & Jeni Goodwin
PORTER REALTY, INC.
503 Main Street, Alamosa CO
719-589-5899
www.PorterRealty.com
greg@porterrealty.com (719) 580-5395
jeni@porterrealty.com (719) 580-2636
♦ Excellent Service ♦ Expert Advice ♦ Exceptional Results

AUCTION
CONSIGNMENT AUCTION
Last Saturday of the month from April 27 until November 30. At the Community Building next to Quality Timbers on Hwy. 285. Taking consignments on Fridays. Sale starts at 10:00 am. Lunch available.

FOOD TRUCK
SUAVECITO Follow us on Facebook
719-588-7485
GRILLAS
Catering located in the parking lot in front of Little Caesars

Advertising
Advertise Your Business in this SPACE
Only \$99 per month*
*3 month commitment

LOCKSMITH
Locked Out? Lost Your keys? Just Need a spare? We've Got You Covered!
• Smart Keys • Transponders • Fobs
Serving The San Luis Valley And Surrounding Areas
Call or Text us Today 719-Mrk-Lock (719-675-5625)
MrKLock.com
Mr. K Lock & Key
LOCKSMITH
Commercial • Residential • Automotive
719-Mrk-LOCK - (719-675-5625)

Plumbing & Remodeling
DEREK'S
Plumbing & Remodeling
License# PC-3398 • License# MP-600281
Derek Marquez
Master Plumber, Plumbing Contractor
(719) 588-0682
dereksplumbing@outlook.com
1110 Alamosa Ave. • Alamosa, CO

We Buy Cars
FREE Estimates
We Welcome Insurance Claims
L&M
Paint & Body Shop
8425 Rd. 8 South • Alamosa
589-9205

Construction
ZTEC Construction
5" & 6" SEAMLESS RAIN GUTTERS
Free Estimates
Mervin Fisher 719.992.1396
14972 CR 13 • La Jara, CO 81140

Stucco
Sanchez Plastering & Masonry
Synthetic Traditional Patches Interior Exterior Paint
Fully Insured & Bonded Fully Licensed Work Guaranteed
(719) 486-6781

Tires
Jim's Tire Store
711 1/2 State Ave. • Alamosa
719-589-9690
NEW • USED • RECAPPED
Great Service!

ELECTRICAL
SUMMIT ELECTRICAL LLC
719-480-5638
Summitelectrical1@outlook.com

Advertising
Advertise Your Business in this SPACE
Only \$99 per month*
*3 month commitment

Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

POTATO WAREHOUSE IN CENTER IN NEED OF WORKERS. There are SEVERAL POSITIONS AVAILABLE. Hours 8:00 am-???. Competitive wages. Please inquire at MOUNTAIN KING SPUD GROWERS, 1090 South Miles Street, Center, CO. (8/7/24)

JR/SR HIGH LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER needed at DEL NORTE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License with a secondary Language Arts endorsement. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, DNHS Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Mrs. Hardy at 719-657-4020. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.urtigers.co. (8/7/24)

DEL NORTE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL is looking for an energetic and experienced candidate to serve as the district's STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COACH. This position will assume the responsibility and obligation of establishing and maintaining a strength and conditioning program for all sports. Additional responsibilities include teaching junior high school physical education and high school physical education/weight training courses. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree and either possess or be able to obtain the appropriate Colorado teaching license. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, DNHS Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Mrs. Hardy at 719-657-4020. Applications can be found online at www.urtigers.co. (8/6/24)

THE TOWN OF CENTER is excited to announce an opening in our PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. We are seeking a motivated and skilled individual to join our team. This position offers the opportunity to directly serve the Center community, playing a vital role in Serving as the town's Enforcement agent in code, building and animal control. It is a full-time position. We are recruiting for one ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. Applicant must also have the ability to interact with customers and possess good communication skills. Applicant must also pass a background check and pre-employment drug testing. The candidate will also be subject to random drug testing. The job description and the application is on the Towns website, townofcenter.colorado.gov. Please submit your application to Town Hall or email to jhurtado@centerco.gov. The deadline is until positions are filled. (7/20/24)

THE TOWN OF LA JARA is accepting applications for POLICE OFFICER. Must be currently Colorado POST certified; willing to submit to background and criminal history checks as well as a psychological test. Salary starting at \$48,500.00 depending on experience. The Town of La Jara offers an excellent benefit package that includes vision, dental and medical insurance, PTO and paid holidays. Applications may be picked up at La Jara Town Hall, 221 Broadway; call 719-274-5363 for more information. (7/19/24)

EDUCATION MANAGER: CENTER HEAD START is searching for an EDUCATION MANAGER. Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education or equivalent, experience working with diverse children and families, knowledge of Early Childhood development and ECE reports. Highly advised that applicants have good communication skills, leadership skills and ability to plan and problem solve. Applications can be picked up at the Center Head Start Office or on the website. Questions please call the office at 719-759-9259. (7/31/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

FAMILY SERVICES MANAGER: CENTER HEAD START is looking for a highly motivated FAMILY SERVICES MANAGER. Applicants must have strong interpersonal and communication skills. Required to have a degree, certificate or credential in social work, human services, family services, or counseling related field at hire or within 18 months of hire. This position works closely with our families to help them reach their goals and create community partnerships. Highly preferable if bilingual (English/Spanish). Applications can be picked up at the Center Head Start Office or on the website. Questions, please call the office at 719-759-9259. (7/31/24)

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for a HS ASST. VOLLEYBALL COACH. The salary for this position will be paid from the current MVSD Extra Duty Salary Schedule, which can be viewed on the district website - Employment Opportunities page. Placement on the salary schedule will be determined by experience at time of hire. Applications may be submitted through our online employment application https://www.pirates.monte.k12.co.us/employmentopportunities, by July 9, 2024, or until the position is filled. For questions contact the District Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (7/17/24)

SANGRE DE CRISTO has openings for the following positions: SCHOOL COUNSELOR; K-12 MUSIC TEACHER; MS FOOTBALL; HS BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL; NUTRITION STAFF. Please contact Dave Crews for more information 719-420-1422 or Jenna Mondragon at 719-717-0871. (7/24/24)

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 jt timber.com to apply. (7/17/24)

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)

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)

304 - LAWN & GARDEN

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

324 - SEED & FEED

HORSE & COW HAY: GRASS, GRASS/ALFALFA, ALFALFA. 3x3 bales, various quality and pricing. 719-850-8917. (8/7/24-monthly)

HAY FOR SALE: \$7 bale. 719-274-0380. (8/6/24)

341 - GARAGE SALE

GARAGE SALE: FRIDAY 7/19 & Saturday 7/20, 8AM-2PM, 307 14th, ALAMOSA. Lots of women's clothing! (7/20/24)

SECOND CHANCE INDOOR YARD SALE. Saturday, July 20th, 8am-2pm. BREAKFAST BURRITOS & Grannie's BAKE SALE, & FREE COFFEE. Sacred Heart Church, 709, 4th St., ALAMOSA. (7/20/24)

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

RIDING LAWN MOWER for sale; good condition. For more details, call 719-580-5745. (7/19/24)

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

368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

AKC FRENCH BULLDOG Puppies, Ready to go Aug. 7, full DNA, chipped, wormed, shots, 30 days insurance, lifetime support \$3,500 719-640-6404 www.DuneView-Frenchies.com. (8/3/24)

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

415 - HOMES FOR SALE

HOUSE FOR SALE: 309 West Avenue. See sign at House. (7/20/24)

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

1 BEDROOM: UTILITIES included. Deposit, employment, references required. \$665 rent, \$750 deposit. 719-580-3710. (7/17/24)

2 BEDROOM NEAR ASU/ Hospital, 1204 Lincoln. No smokers/vapors. 1 year lease, references. 719-588-1422. (7/26/24)

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 now. Contact 719-852-5101 or 719-852-5350. (8/17/24)

630 - ROOMS FOR RENT

VERY NICE FURNISHED ROOM. ALAMOSA. 720-436-5550. (7/17/24)

701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

THE ADDIDITS JOB. THANK YOU. MARK

SAVE GAS!
Shop Locally



Lunch Break.

We're There.



To Subscribe, Call 589-2553

Do You Feel the Need to Read?

Satisfy your curiosity by reading the newspaper every day. You'll find something interesting in the newspaper.

In fact, the paper is such a reliable source for the information you want, it can even be used by students as a homework and school research tool.

Valley Courier
Subscribe Today!
719-589-2553.

Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 — rummy
 - 4 Combos
 - 9 Sliding machine part
 - 12 Actor — Vigoda
 - 13 Serv. rank Fla.
 - 14 State near Fla.
 - 15 Item in a pod
 - 16 Communion table
 - 17 Stick
 - 18 Means of exit
 - 20 Lumberjack
 - 22 Cable channel
 - 23 Hangman's rope
 - 24 Tinted
 - 26 Tropical fruit
 - 29 "— Man in Havana"
 - 30 Dir. letters
 - 31 Base
 - 35 Entertainment award
 - 37 Devoured
 - 38 Spoil

- 39 Horse opera**
- 41 Lean and strong
 - 42 Does in
 - 45 — Palmas
 - 46 Roof structure
 - 48 Dinosaur bone
 - 51 Operate
 - 52 Red dye
 - 54 Actress — Lupino
 - 55 Resentment
 - 56 Unrefined
 - 57 Hoary
 - 58 Actor — von Sydow
 - 59 Tone
 - 60 Born (Fr.)
- DOWN**
- 1 Stare in wonder
 - 2 "— your pardon"
 - 3 Imminent (hyph.)
 - 4 Sound loudly
 - 5 Afflicts
 - 6 Meshwork
 - 7 Twofold

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 8 Potent
- 9 Goods on board
- 10 Soothing plant
- 11 Sierra —
- 19 Stop
- 21 Blunder
- 24 Female animal
- 25 "So delicious!"
- 26 Edible portion
- 27 Poker stake
- 28 — -do-well
- 32 Forgotten thing
- 33 Skull
- 34 Best shot
- 36 Simple toy (hyph.)
- 40 Facet
- 41 Used to be
- 42 Theater drop
- 43 Actress — Linney
- 44 Attach
- 45 Standoffish one
- 47 Antiquity
- 48 Name for a pooch
- 49 Unemployed
- 50 Fill with goods for transport
- 53 Daystar

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

ALLEY OOP

IF OOLA'S NOT COMING BACK, MAYBE WE NEED TO BECOME COSTUMED HEROES, TOO!

ALLEY, HOLD THE MAGIC CRYSTAL IN THE CENTER OF STONEHENGE, JUST LIKE SHE DID.

THE CRYSTAL IS SO DARK AND COLD NOW, THOUGH.

NOW, TOSS IT OVER YOUR SHOULDER. IT MIGHT HAVE JUST ENOUGH POWER LEFT TO...

OOH, A TINY FINGER COSTUME! NO ONE WILL KNOW WHO I AM!

ARLO & JANIS

I'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH MY CLOTHES, PICKING OUT THINGS I SHOULD LET GO, AND IT'S DEPRESSING.

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE HAVING TO MAKE LOTS OF HARD CHOICES.

NO! IT'S EASY!

I JUST THROW OUT EVERYTHING I'LL NEVER FIT INTO AGAIN!

BIG NATE

LOOK, CHAD, I'M HAPPY TO HELP YOU BUY A GIFT FOR KIM...

...BUT WHY ME?

BECAUSE YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE BUYING STUFF FOR GIRLS!

I MEAN, YOU ONCE GAVE YOUR SISTER A SPORTS BRA FOR CHRISTMAS!

CHAD, I'M NOT HELPING YOU BUY A SPORTS BRA FOR KIM.

YOU ARE A LEGEND, MAN!

THE BORN LOSER

THE NEW GROOMING PLACE DID A GREAT JOB ON KEWPIE!

THEY GAVE HIM A BATH, CUT HIS HAIR, TRIMMED HIS NAILS... THEY EVEN BRUSHED HIS TEETH— ALL FOR FORTY BUCKS!

DO YOU THINK THEY WOULD DO WILBERFORCE?

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

WHATCHA DOIN', DADDY?... TAKING THE CARPET OFF THE BACK DOOR?

UH-HUH.

DAT'S 'CAUSE EDGAR RINGS THE BELL TO COME IN NOW, HUM? THAT'S 'CAUSE HE DOESN'T SCRATCH THE DOOR ANYMORE, RIGHT, DADDY?

RIGHT.

MOM PUT THE CARPET ON THE DOOR TO P'TECT IT, AN' DAT WAS A GOOD IDEA, WASN'T IT, DAD!— DAT WAS A GOOD IDEA, WASN'T IT!

LET'S JUST SAY THAT THE THOUGHT HAD MERIT.

FRANK & ERNEST

GYM

SOUNDS LIKE A REASONABLE EXCHANGE TO ME.

JOIN TODAY! NO PAIN, NO GAIN!

GARFIELD

YOU GAINED A POUND. BUT IT'S OUR LITTLE SECRET

JUST YOU, ME...

AND THE FRESH BATTERIES YOU'RE ABOUT TO GIVE ME

THAT'S EXTORTION!

THE GRIZZWELLS

REMEMBER 'TRICKLE DOWN' ECONOMICS?

SURE!...

I STILL HAVE THE MILDEW

PEANUTS

LOOK, MANAGER

I GOT A NEW BASEBALL GLOVE

WHAT KIND? HANK AARON? PETE ROSE? REGGIE JACKSON?

LIV ULLMANN!

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

HERMAN

"Excuse me. I wonder if you would give me a little push?"

Freeloading dad wants to add a freeloading wife

DEAR ABBY: My father has depended on my mother (and me) for money for as long as I can remember. It wasn't because he was unable to work, but because he was lazy and had a drinking and gambling problem. My parents eventually divorced, and my father moved in with his sister (my aunt). She died in 2016, which would have made my father homeless, so my sister and I bought our aunt's home from our cousins so he could stay there.

Fast-forward: Our father is planning to remarry. We do not love paying for him to live rent-free in our house, but in no way do we plan to pay for his future wife to live in the house. The money isn't that significant, but it is more the principle of the matter to me. I don't believe in supporting lazy people who take advantage of others. How do we kick our father out of the house without being total jerks? He is older and not in great health. We suspect the equally nonworking, slightly younger woman he plans to marry sees this as a chance to move into a house for free, knowing it is hard to kick out squatters. Please advise.

-- FRUSTRATED SON

IN NEW YORK

DEAR SON: You and your family have ALLOWED your father to continue living his life dependent upon all of you. I hope your aunt's house is in your and your sister's names, or you will have no say about who your father invites in. The time has come to put your foot down. Consult an attorney for legal guidance about this matter. You are not obligated to financially support any person to whom your father takes a liking and wants to live with, married or not.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 47-year-old woman. I have been with my partner for 10 years. He was the most amazing person in years past, but lately he has been dismissive, avoids all emotional topics and is absent for days off and on. If I bring it up, he borders on abusive. Suddenly, he's belittling me and making me feel like I'm not the beautiful person he's always proclaimed I was. For my own sanity, I left him. Now he's promising he will have counseling (together and separately) so that he can get better and help me understand why he did a complete 180. Should I believe him? Should I take another chance on us? I love



him, but it took so long to heal that I'm stuck in self-preservation mode. What should I do -- walk or talk? -- FRACTURED IN ARIZONA

DEAR FRACTURED: You say you left him -- that was healthy. Some women stay and tolerate abuse until their self-esteem is completely eroded. Because you still care for him, I vote for giving him the second chance he is asking for, BUT ONLY AFTER THE COUNSELING HE HAS PROMISED IS WELL UNDERWAY. You deserve not only an apology but answers for the treatment you received from him. Do not reconcile until you have them.