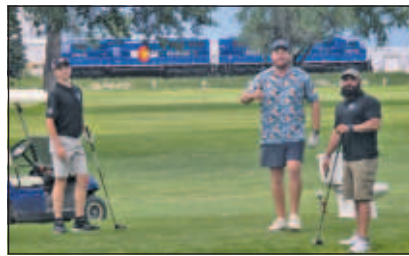




Happy Birthday America!

— Special Section inside today's Valley Courier

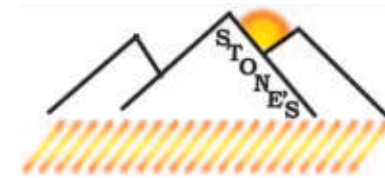


Larry Holder Golf Tournament raises \$25,000

— Page 6



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Valley Courier

JULY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

July 2, 2024

\$1



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SLV Today

City of MV changing mosquito spray schedule

MONTE VISTA — The mosquito population has exploded over the past two weeks, and the City of Monte Vista's once per week spraying plan is not meeting the intended goals and with the holiday coming up the staff at Public Works has decided to change to spraying twice per week for the next two weeks.

Starting on July 1, the city will spray on Monday and Wednesday this week and the following.

The city is accepting applications to be placed on the "No Spray List". Applications can be found on the city's website or hard copies at City Hall.

For more information, contact Robert Vance at rvance@ci.monte-vista.co.us.

Del Norte Rotary Golf Tournament

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Rotary Golf Tournament is scheduled for July 19 at the Rio Grande Club and Resort in South Fork.

Pre-registration only. Deadline to register is July 12. The cost is \$130 per person; lunch is provided. Format is four-person scramble with 9 a.m. shotgun start.

For more information or to register, email mike@truelocalbank.com.

SLV WEATHER



Slight Chance of Afternoon Showers, Breezy 79/49

Wed: Slight Chance of Afternoon Showers, Breezy 80/46

Thurs: Sunny, Breezy 82/43

INSIDE

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SLVH launches 'milestone' renovation project

CEO Konnie Martin: 'A significant change that our patients deserve'

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — With the help of a \$1 million grant from the United States Department of Agriculture ■ See **PROJECT** page 3

The atmosphere was festive in launching a project that will meet a long-term goal. Pictured left to right: Ryan Kessinger – Contractor, GH Phipps; Jeremy Gonzales, SLVH, Director of Facilities; Crestina Martinez, USDA State Director of Rural Development; Steve Watkins, Contractor, GH Phipps; Konnie Martin, CEO SLV Health; Tim Agnew, SLVH Project Manager, and Karla Hardesty, SLVH Board of Trustees, Chair.

Photo by Donne Wehe, Director of Communications, SLVH



Courier photo by John Waters

Local officials and community leaders gathered on Camino Baca Grande in the Baca Grande area of Saguache County to celebrate progress on a Safe Routes to School Trail that will soon have a groundbreaking. The trail will allow school students a safe path to walk to the Crestone Charter School.

Saguache County celebrates school trail

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

BACA GRANDE — Saguache County officials including Commissioner Lynn Thompson, Commissioner Tom McCracken and County Administrator Wendi Maez were joined by other local officials including Crestone Mayor Benjamin Byer and former Mayor Kairina Danforth on July 1 for a new trail ribbon cutting.

Formally known as the Saguache County-Crestone Safe Routes to School Trail (SRTS) it will link the Baca Grande area to the Crestone

Charter School.

The trail is part of a Trails Master Plan developed by the Eastern San Luis Trails Coalition with the Support of San Luis Valley Great Outdoors.

Commissioner McCracken said, "This was conceived seven years ago and is a collaboration between the Town of Crestone, Saguache County, the Crestone Charter School, the Baca Grande Property Owners Association, and SLV GO."

Funding comes from the Gates Family Foundation, Colorado Safe Routes to

School, Saguache County, Colorado Health Foundation, U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration and the Colorado Department of Transportation.

Phase 1 funding is \$1,434,084, and phase 2 is \$508,000.

The project manager is Maez, and the trails coalition project coordinator is Burt Wadman.

When completed, the paved trail will extend over a mile and connect Palomino Way and the Crestone Charter School.



Courtesy photo

During the 2023 work season, an installation crew pulls fiber optic cable through recently buried conduit along US 160 Wolf Creek Pass east of Pagosa Springs.

US 160 Wolf Creek Pass Fiber Optic Project begins next phase on July 8

CONTRIBUTED

The US Highway 160 fiber optic installation project, between Pagosa Springs and the east side of Wolf Creek Pass, will resume work on Monday, July 8. The project takes place between Mile Points 144-174 on US 160.

To date, 169,000 linear feet (32 miles) of conduit, 42,000 linear feet (8 miles) of electrical conductor, 113 manholes, and 160 pull boxes have been placed between the ski area to Pagosa Springs city limits along with the fiber installation.

Construction activities for the 2024 season will include the installation of an overhead variable message sign, installation of new guardrails, installation of cable racks (or cable supports) within manholes, repairing damaged conduit, installation of variable speed limit signs, installation of new closed-

■ See **OPTIC** page 3

CPW applauds USFWS decision on Rio Grande chub, sucker

CONTRIBUTED
MONTE VISTA — Generations of Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff were rewarded for their work this month as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced its decision to not list the Rio Grande chub and Rio Grande sucker under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Colorado Parks and Wildlife commended the USFWS for its June 17

decision that acknowledged critical partnerships that have ensured neither species is in danger of extinction or likely to become in danger of extinction.

"CPW staff have worked tirelessly for decades to ensure Rio Grande chub and sucker continue to persist," said Matt Nicholl, CPW's Assistant Director of Aquatic Wildlife. "The responsibility of success-

fully managing these two species deeply aligns with our mission, and we are thankful for the continued support and collaboration with all of the partners who have made this announcement possible."

CPW along with several agencies and species experts consulted with the USFWS during its status review for each of the cool-water fish species. ■ See **SUCKER** page 3



Courtesy photo

Rio Grande sucker

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Record

USDA Rural Development invests nearly \$3M in Colorado to help lower energy costs

Two businesses in Center are receiving funding

CONTRIBUTED
DENVER — U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Colorado State Director Crestina M. Martinez announced 11 entities in Colorado, including two businesses in Center, have received \$2,964,306 in grants for clean energy projects to lower energy bills and create jobs for U.S. agricultural producers and rural small businesses through projects funded through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).

"Today's grants underscore the dedication and forward-thinking of rural Colorado in advancing renewable energy within their communities. The REAP projects awarded exemplify our commitment to fostering a sustainable future and driving economic growth," said Martinez. The REAP awards deliver on President Biden's promise to strengthen America's energy security by increasing access to affordable and reliable renewable energy.

The projects announced today in Colorado are:

- K&J Thriftway in Center will use a \$19,900 grant to install a new energy efficient heating system in their grocery store. The improvements are expected to save the company \$2,695 per year in energy costs.
- Martha's Fashion in Center will use a \$12,360 grant to install insulation and air seal her commercial building. The improvements are expected to save the company \$3,098 per year in energy costs.
- Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad Co. will use a grant for \$726,954 for a 420.98 kilowatt (kW) photovoltaic (PV) solar spread on their roundhouse building and diesel maintenance shop. The project is expected to save \$56,321 per year and generate 730,165 kilowatt hours (kWh) or 106 percent of their historical en-

ergy use per year, which is enough energy to power 67.3 homes.

- Talbott's Mountain Gold, LLLP in Palisade will use a \$713,000 grant to purchase and install a 420.1 kilowatt (kW) agrivoltaic solar array at their peach orchard. The system is expected to save \$37,080 annually and will generate 750,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) or 101 percent of the company's energy use per year, which is enough energy to power 69 homes.
- Tailwind Nutrition will utilize a \$95,760 grant to purchase and install a 54.72 kilowatt (kW) solar array on their commercial building located in Durango. The system is expected to replace nearly 100 percent of the company's annual energy use, saving them approximately \$7,300 annually.
- James T. Duke Inc. dba Target Rental in Durango will use a \$33,265 grant to purchase and install a 19.2 kilowatt (kW) solar array on their commercial building. The project is expected to save \$704 per year and produce 126 percent of the company's energy use annually.
- Goff Engineering & Surveying Inc. in Durango will use a \$44,595 grant to purchase and install a 27.2 kilowatt (kW) solar array on their commercial building. The project is expected to save \$858 per year and will produce 116 percent of the company's energy use in a year.
- Daisy Lane Dairy Biogas LLC in Cope will use a \$1,000,000 grant to build an anaerobic covered lagoon digester to capture biogas emissions and condition the captured gas to renewable biomethane. The project is expected to produce 52,004 Metric Million British Thermal Units annually and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 17,041 Metric Tons of carbon dioxide equivalent each year.
- Durango Machining Innovations, LLC will utilize a \$266,112 grant to purchase and install a 161.28 kilowatt (kW) solar array

on their commercial production facility. This project will generate 286,895 kilowatt hours (kWh) replacing 85 percent of the company's annual energy use.

- Adelle LLC in Durango will use a \$20,000 grant to install a 13.2 kilowatt (kW) solar array on their commercial building. The project is expected to save \$1,780.89 per year. It will generate 17,509 kilowatt hours (kWh) or 142 percent of the company's annual energy use.
- Taylor Ross Dentistry in Pueblo West will utilize a \$20,000 grant to purchase and install a 23.65 kilowatt (kW) solar array at their practice. The project is expected to save \$8,258 per year. It will generate 42,327 kilowatt hours (kWh) or 111 percent of the company's annual energy use.

The REAP program helps agricultural producers and rural small business owners expand their use of wind, solar, geothermal and small hydropower energy and make energy efficiency improvements. These innovations help them increase their income, grow their businesses, address climate change and lower energy costs for American families.

USDA continues to accept REAP applications and will hold funding competitions quarterly through Sept. 30. The funding includes a dedicated portion for underutilized renewable energy technologies.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas. To learn more about investment resources for rural areas, visit www.rd.usda.gov/co.

ALAMOSA POLICE REPORT

Alamosa Police Department report June 22 to June 28, 2024

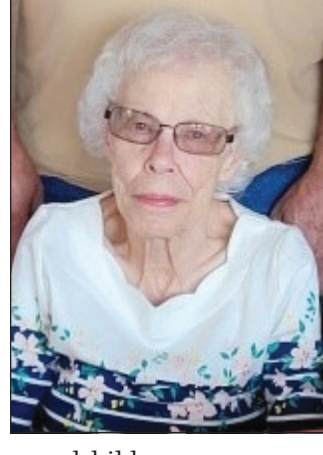
- Andres Rosendo, 31, of Alamosa was cited for theft under \$300, criminal trespassing.
- Dereck Martinez, 34, of Alamosa was cited for theft under \$300.
- Joseph Kelly, 49, of Alamosa was cited for theft under \$300.
- Rosendo Martinez, 51, of Littleton was cited for speeding 20-39 mph over the limit.
- Ezekial Naranjo, 21, of Alamosa was cited for criminal attempt, second degree burglary, tampering.
- Daniel Duran, 30, of Alamosa was cited for motor vehicle theft, unlawful possession schedule II.
- Angelina Chavez, 21, of Alamosa was cited for theft \$1,000 - \$1,999.
- Valerie Tafoya, 31, of Alamosa was cited for 2nd degree assault on a police

- officer, resisting, obstruction.
- Irma Morris, 51, of Romeo was cited for changing lanes when unsafe, driving under restraint, unlicensed vehicle, expired plates 30-59 days, failed to use turn signals.
- David Medina, 70, of Alamosa was cited for careless driving.
- Eric Gutierrez, 28, of Alamosa was cited for careless driving.
- Sarrah Arredondo, 44, was cited for felony menacing, obstruction.
- Cameron Gallegos, 22, of Antonito was cited for failing to display lamps when required, expired plates 1-29 days, uninsured vehicle.
- Amberly Romero, 20 of Alamosa was cited for assault.
- Claudia Young-Scheel, 76, of Alamosa was cited for unprovoked bite, vicious animal.
- Christopher Martinez,

- 32, of Alamosa was cited for assault.
- Rafaelito Medina, 71, of Antonito was cited for careless driving.
- Manuel Vigil, 28, of Alamosa was cited for trespassing.
- Adelina Acosta, 48, of Alamosa was cited for following too closely, dui per se, dui-alcohol, driving under restraint.
- Marrisol Simmons, 30, of Alamosa was cited for trespassing, criminal mischief.
- Loren Bianca, 32, of Alamosa was cited for trespassing, criminal mischief.
- Justin Atencio, 50, of Alamosa was cited for mirrors required, uninsured vehicle, driving under restraint.
- Jesus Ibarra, 42, of Alamosa was cited for driver's vision obstructed, driving under restraint.
- Ryker Anderson, 18, of Center was cited for exhibition of speed.

OBITUARIES

Ida May Hoogendoorn



Ida May Hoogendoorn, affectionately known as Ida, graced this world with her presence on Oct. 14, 1934, in Denver, Colo. Her journey on earth came to a peaceful conclusion on June 27, 2024, at the age of 89, in Alamosa, Colo., where she departed peacefully surrounded by the warmth of her family's love. Ida's life was a testament to the power of kindness, love, and dedication to family and community.

Born into the vibrant hues of autumn, Ida's life mirrored the season's rich tapestry. She shared a beautiful and enduring love with her husband, Jack Hoogendoorn, where they built a life together, and were married for 68 years.

Their legacy of love lives on through their children: Jean (Tom) Salazar of La Jara, Colo., Carla (Rodney) Philpot of Rio Rancho, N.M., Linda (Terry) Kuskowski of Kingman, Ariz., and Jim (Janice) Hoogendoorn of La Jara, Colo. Ida's joy multiplied with the arrival of each grandchild: T.J. (Amber) Salazar, Jocelyn (Mitchell) Buhr, Rebekah (Pranay) Avula, Lee (Katrina) Philpot, Joshua Hoogendoorn, and Myranda (Justin) Wilson, and further blossomed with her 12 great-

grandchildren.

Ida's professional life was marked by her entrepreneurial spirit and unwavering faith. For over three decades, she and Jack owned and operated the Good News Christian Book Store and the Good News Flower Shop, establishments that became cornerstones of the community. Her work was not just a means of livelihood but a way to spread positivity and support to everyone who walked through their doors.

Her faith was the cornerstone of her life, and she was an active and cherished member of the United Church of Ja Jara. Ida's musical talents were a gift to all as she played the piano for many years during church services, filling the sanctuary with melodies that touched the hearts of the congregation.

Lillian C. Maes

Our beloved mother, grandmother, sister and friend Lillian C. Maes, 92, of Fort Garland, went to her eternal rest on June 26, 2024, surrounded by her loving daughters.

Lillian was welcomed into this world by her parents, Gilbert and Teresa Maes, of Fort Garland on Nov. 14, 1931. She was very active in sports activities, especially basketball, throughout her high school years.

After high school, Lillian married William Aguilar and they started their family. She was blessed with seven children, and they were the center of her life. The family traveled and lived in many Colorado cities before settling in Eugene, Ore. They spent many weekends camping and fishing on the Oregon coast. They made a lifetime of wonderful memories before eventually moving back to Fort Garland.

Lillian worked for many years in the food industry and her food was loved by many.

Lillian enjoyed dancing and listening to Spanish music especially Indian Nickel, picking pinon, and traveling to Taos, N.M., with her friends for a little gambling and relaxation.

She was a strong, independent woman who was very loving and caring, always ready to help anyone who needed it. Her zest for life and unrelenting spirit will live on through her children and we will con-

tinue to make her proud.

Lillian is survived by her children; Michael Aguilar, of Portland, Ore., George (Jani) Aguilar of Eugene, Ore., Joyce (Doug) Smith of Hotchkiss, Colo., Mitzi Aguilar of Fort Garland, Colo., Jackie (Anthony) Bernard of Denver, Colo., and Joey Aguilar of Denver, Colo.; grandchildren; TJ (Kori) Cordova, Aanya Bricker, Tosh (Michelle) Aguilar, Sandi Martinez, Alex Smith, Jerick Saenz, Angel Bernard, Arianna Bernard, Shay Aguilar, Keeonia Aguilar, Joey Aguilar and Sara Aguilar Sheers and 13 great-grandchildren; siblings; Fred (Dolores) Maes, Lee (Horencia) Maes, Pricilla (Steve) Lucero, Veronica (Alex) Marquez; sisters-in-law Darline Maes, Gloria Maes, and Irene McGrath; as well as many nephews and nieces.

Lillian was preceded in death by her parents Gilbert and Teresa Maes, one son Edward Aguilar, Grandson Gabriel Martinez, Brothers Buddy (Nellie) Maes, Gilbert Calvin Maes Jr., and brother-in-law Alex Marquez.

Rosary will be held on Tuesday July 2, 2024, 6 p.m. at The Holy Family Catholic Church in Fort Garland, Colo. The Mass of the Resurrection will be held on Wednesday July 3, 2024, 12 p.m., also at the Holy Family Catholic Church in Fort Garland, Colo., with interment to follow at Blanca Ranch Cemetery. Reception will

Ida's interests were simple yet profound. She found joy in the pages of a good book and the challenge of word searches, but her true passion was in the kitchen. Renowned for her baking skills, Ida's family will forever cherish the taste of her favorite pies, a sweet reminder of her nurturing spirit. She was a woman who put the needs of others before her own, evident in the loving backscratches she gave to her family members, a small gesture that conveyed a world of care and affection.

To know Ida was to know love in its purest form. She was the embodiment of kindness, always extending a helping hand and listening to those around her. Her concern for others was not just a trait but a way of life, woven into every interaction and every relationship she nurtured.

A Celebration of Life will be held 11 a.m. Friday, July 5, 2024, at the United Church of La Jara. Interment of ashes will follow services in the La Jara Cemetery.

Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of the arrangements. To leave online words of comfort, remembrances, and condolences for Ida's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.



follow the burial at the Old Fort Museum in Fort Garland, Colo.

To leave online condolences, please visit romerofuneralhomes.com. The care of arrangements has been entrusted to Romero Valley Funeral Home of Alamosa.

School Menu
Tuesday
July 2, 2024

BREAKFAST
Breakfast Wrap
Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY
Hamburgers
French Fries
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL
Hamburgers
French Fries
Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL
Hamburgers
French Fries
Fruit & Milk

Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students
Alamosa School District

To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553

ALAMOSA FIREWORKS SHOW

THURSDAY

July 4 2024

9:30 pm at Alamosa Fairgrounds

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THE CITY OF ALAMOSA

Valley News

Bike 2 Build raises funds for homes



Courier photo by John Waters

About 25 bicycle riders participated in a Bike 2 Build fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity on June 29. Riders had the choice of riding a 35-mile route or a 62-mile ride to raise money for the non-profit organization that helps families build and improve homes. According to Audrey Liu with Habitat for Humanity, the ride is expected to raise at least \$3,500. The local chapter, San Luis Valley Habitat for Humanity began in 1994 and has assisted over 20 families with housing according to Liu. In Alamosa, Habitat for Humanity has a retail store at 507 State Ave. and can be reached at 719-589-8688. Bicyclists line up in Cole Park on the morning of June 29 at the start of the Habitat for Humanity Bike 2 Build ride.

Cancer most common cause of death in Colorado in 2023

By JOHN INGOLD
Colorado Sun

Cancer reclaimed the top spot as Colorado's No.1 killer last year, according to finalized numbers released last month by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. In 2023, 8,411 Coloradans died from what are known in vital statistics records as "malignant neoplasms." Heart disease, the second-leading cause, claimed 8,071 lives. Those two causes far exceed any other cause of death in Colorado. Cancer has been No. 1 for most recent years, but heart disease held the top spot in 2021 and 2022. The chart below shows the top 20 causes of death from 2018 through 2023. For the first time since

it appeared in Colorado, COVID-19 didn't crack the top 10 causes of death last year, though it was close. With 626 deaths in 2023, COVID was the 12th-leading cause of death. (In 2020 and 2021, it was the third-leading cause.) That reflects the waning severity of the pandemic. But, for comparison, influenza and pneumonia combined last year killed 371 people, ranking 18th, so COVID is still very much a threat, especially to older populations. The causes and categories in this list follow the methodology of the National Center for Health Statistics, though some of the causes are a bit of a mashup. Accidents, for instance, encompass everything from car crashes to falls to unintentional drug

overdoses. Lumping them together like that can obscure some of the underlying trends. Accidental deaths declined last year, but drug overdose deaths were up — to 1,865, of which 1,097 involved fentanyl. Motor vehicle accidents (785 deaths) and falls (1,064 deaths) were down. Other notable causes of death: Suicides (1,290 deaths) remained almost exactly the same as in 2022, while homicides (366) dropped by nearly 50. Overall, 44,862 Coloradans died last year. (The figure includes people who lived here but died elsewhere and not people who died here but lived elsewhere.) That's roughly 2,000 fewer deaths than in 2022, and it's nearly 3,500

fewer deaths than in 2021, Colorado's deadliest year on record. Relative to population size, Colorado's death rate fell to something closer to — but still higher than — pre-pandemic levels. The age-adjusted death rate was 681.7 deaths per every 100,000 population in 2023. The three years before that had seen age-adjusted death rates in the 700s. In 2019, the year before the pandemic, the age-adjusted rate was 635.9. The state compiles these annual death numbers, as well as a host of other vital statistics data, in a system called the Colorado Health Information Dataset. The system has several easy-to-use data dashboards for members of the public interested in more specific information.

CDPHE announces new state licensing for ground ambulance agencies

CONTRIBUTED
DENVER — In a significant move to enhance public safety, the State of Colorado has finalized new state licensing for ground ambulance agencies. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment will now oversee the licensing of all agencies providing ground ambulance services, which will help ensure more consistent and equitable standards across the state. The licensing rules es-

tablish consistent standards for all ground ambulance services. The standards are designed to enhance the safety, equity, and accessibility for those who need ambulance services in Colorado. Previously, counties were charged with licensing ground ambulance services in their area. CDPHE will continue to work closely with local partners to ensure emergency medical services meet their unique needs.

"The new regulations represent a historic shift in Colorado's approach to ground ambulance licensing and reflect more than two years of close collaboration between the department, counties, and Emergency Medical Services providers and stakeholders," said Elaine McManis, director of CDPHE's Health Facilities and Emergency Medical Services Division. "We applaud the tireless effort

the community dedicated to this project, and we are excited to implement the new licensing program with their support." Centralizing licensure will strengthen oversight of Emergency Medical Services systems, identify areas for enhancement, and ensure a more equitable distribution of resources to improve patient outcomes. Beginning Monday, all ground ambulance agencies must hold a state-issued license to operate.

Project

Continued from Page 1 (USDA), San Luis Valley Health (SLVH) will be renovating a permanent structure to create five private rooms in an area of the hospital named "Three South." "The total project budget is about \$3.1 million," SLVH CEO Konnie Martin told the celebratory crowd of supporters who filled the lobby of the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center last Wednesday. "Without this foundational funding from the USDA — a key piece in making this project happen — it would not have been possible for us to have achieved such a significant change." In a nod to the USDA directors who were present for the announcement, Martin added, "I also want to acknowledge how special it is to celebrate this accomplishment with USDA leaders, one former (Armando Valdez) and one current (Crestina Valdez), who are also known to us as friends and neighbors."

when needed. The rooms will also be updated to meet current standards of care, will have an up-to-date healing aesthetic and, of course, provide patient privacy. Although the idea of the renovation has been a long-standing goal for SLVH, the possibility of it becoming a reality dates back almost three years to 2021 when the USDA announced Recovery Grant Funding was available. But the situation that created SLVH's undeniable need for renovation preceded the grant even being made public. "In 2021, during the pandemic, RMC (SLV Regional Medical Center) was the only facility in this south-central region of the state accepting positive COVID patients," Martin told the group. "Conejos County Hospital and Rio Grande Hospital provided care to less acute patients and patients recovering from COVID. "At the time we wrote the grant, we were averaging 22 patients a day - bed placement for patients presented significant challenges, both for patients with and without COVID. We were also getting calls from other areas of the state - and even out-of-state - who didn't have beds available for COVID patients who

needed them. "And RMC's hospital rooms are semi-private and over-crowded with medical equipment, entering and exiting staff, bathrooms that don't meet ADA requirements, and lack patient privacy." When the grant was made public, its goals - supporting immediate health care needs, helping to prepare for a future pandemic, increasing access to quality health care services and improving community outcomes - seemed tailor-made for SLVH, and an application was submitted. "It was a perfect fit," Martin said. "We've been looking for something like this for a long time," Karla Hardesty, chair of the SLV Health Board of Trustees, told the Valley Courier. "We're really excited to offer this to our patients. It will be a lovely asset to our facility. "We're focused on improving access of care to our community across the Valley and even beyond, especially in the summer when we get people here from other places. I also think it's very forward-thinking for us to be thinking about upgrades to our facilities. Patient quality is first and foremost but so is a good experience when people are going through hardships.

They're not here because they're feeling good. They're here because they need quality medical care. We're able to do that having top notch facilities." Hardesty went on to add, "We're fortunate to have partnerships with the USDA. It's very supportive of poor, rural communities to make these investments and sustain our financials and our communities' access to care." When asked what message she thinks an investment like new private rooms sends to the funders, Martin told the Valley Courier, "I think this shows federal agencies that leaders believe in what we're doing here and we're worthy of this kind of investment. And we're going to do good things with federal money and turn it into a community solution." When asked what message adding five private rooms sends to the patient population of the Valley (and beyond), Martin responded, "We believe our patients deserve the best health care we can provide. Having private rooms with better visitation and state-of-the-art equipment is what our patients and our community deserve. And that is our goal every single day."

Optic

Continued from Page 1 circuit cameras and installation of a new weather monitoring station. Completion of the project is scheduled for late fall of 2024. "The fiber optic cable will connect with existing fiber that was installed in 2017 along a 16-mile stretch of the US 160 mountain corridor from Wolf Creek Pass east tunnel to the community of South Fork," explained Julie Constan, CDOT Regional Transportation Director. "The project will provide additional safety through the use of high-tech equipment and signs to warn all Wolf Creek Pass travelers about changing road

and weather conditions, enforced lowered speeds and the westside hairpin turn where many crashes have occurred." Traffic Impacts • Daytime work hours range from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday • Vehicles will be reduced to a single-lane, alternating traffic intermittently in either direction • Lane closures, guided by flaggers, will have up to 15-minute delays • The speed limit will be reduced to 40 mph through the work zone Project Information For additional information about this project: • Webpage: www.codot.gov/projects/us160-wolfcreekpass-fiber.

Sucker

Continued from Page 1 cies that occur within the Rio Grande Basin. For several decades, CPW and multiple partners including federal agencies, states, tribes, municipalities, non-government organizations and private landowners have worked to conserve the two species and implement long-term management actions to ensure their persistence. "CPW has provided steady leadership in the recovery of Rio Grande sucker and Rio Grande chub, though this progress has always been mediated through strong partnerships," said CPW Native Species Aquatic Biologist Daniel Cammack. "Through a shared commitment to execute the meaningful and collaborative conservation actions, the future for these important native species is bright." Historic accounts suggest that Rio Grande chub and sucker were some of the most common fishes in the Rio Grande and its tributaries, though declines were evident as early as the late 1800s because of dewatering, habitat degradation and invasive species establishment. Recognizing significant declines, CPW initiated conservation efforts of these species in the early 1990s. Work included translocations to establish new populations, broodstock development, genetic testing, invasive species removal and habitat protection and enhancement. CPW identified both species as Tier I Species of Greatest Conservation Need under the State Wildlife Action Plan and designated Rio Grande sucker as State Endangered and Rio Grande chub as a Species of Special Concern. Over the past three decades, CPW and its partners have completed five chemical reclamations and numerous habitat and connectivity enhancements related to these species. The CPW Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility (NASRF) in Alamosa has served a critical role in recovering both fishes, innovating novel culture techniques and writing the book for production methods of these fish. "Since 2002, NASRF has stocked nearly 450,000 Rio Grande suckers in 20 waters and 1.2 million Rio Grande chub in 11 waters," Cammack said. CPW maintains two Rio Grande sucker broodstocks and seven Rio Grande chub broodstocks to sufficiently

represent genetic diversity within Colorado and has produced fish for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to support repatriation projects for the partner agency. Cammack said CPW's aquatic biologists have worked tirelessly to monitor and conserve aboriginal populations and to identify suitable habitats for reintroduction efforts. "Synergy between field biologists and hatchery staff has translated to reestablishing multiple populations of both species in the San Luis Valley," he said. "This progress is especially evident for Rio Grande sucker, as there were only two self-sustaining populations of this species in Colorado by the early 2000s. Now, there are eight established sucker populations with multiple other reintroduction sites showing great promise." Following the 2014 petition to list these species under the ESA, CPW coalesced with multiple state and federal agencies, tribal entities and other stakeholders throughout the species' range to form the Rio Grande Chub and Sucker Conservation Team. In 2018, a Conservation Agreement with 12 signatories, including CPW, was finalized to implement carefully coordinated conservation measures for both species to mitigate the threats that could eventually lead to their federal listing under the ESA. The conservation team collaborated on a Conservation Strategy for each species, which was adopted in 2021. Over the past two years, species experts from CPW have served on the Technical Advisory Team to support USFWS in developing a Species Status Assessment (SSA) for each species. This included providing thorough input on early drafts of the SSA and enhancing the scientific accuracy and defensibility of this document to support an informed listing decision. "CPW biologists played a significant role in the writing of this strategy, which details specific conservation actions and collaborative approaches that will reduce and/or eliminate threats to the long-term viability of both species," Cammack said. "Following this announcement from the USFWS, we look forward to continued partnership with the conservation team as we continue to advance conservation goals for these unique species."

Lifestyles

Scotus: Presidential immunity extends to some official acts

By **ASHLEY MURRAY and JACOB FISCHLER**
Colorado Newswire
WASHINGTON

U.S. presidents enjoy full immunity from criminal charges for their official “core constitutional” acts, but no immunity for unofficial acts, the Supreme Court ruled Monday, sending former President Donald Trump’s case back to the lower courts. The justices left open the question of how far official acts can reach, possibly reshaping the contours of the American presidency.

Trump escalated his immunity claim to the nation’s highest bench after two lower courts denied his request for protection from federal criminal charges alleging he schemed to overturn the 2020 presidential results.

The decision about the presumptive Republican presidential nominee’s actions while in office likely closes the door to any chance that Trump’s election subversion case could go to trial before Election Day.

The justices took up the case in February but did not hear oral arguments until April 25.

The trial court must now grapple with whether Trump’s alleged conduct to spread false information about the 2020 election results and conspiring to overturn them qualified as official presidential action.

In a 6-3 opinion, Chief

Justice John G. Roberts Jr. wrote that the president is subject to criminal prosecution for unofficial acts, “like everyone else.”

“But unlike anyone else, the President is a branch of government, and the Constitution vests in him sweeping powers and duties,” Roberts wrote. “Accounting for that reality—and ensuring that the President may exercise those powers forcefully, as the Framers anticipated he would—does not place him above the law; it preserves the basic structure of the Constitution.”

The Supreme Court held that Trump’s conversations with Department of Justice officials regarding the election results were official but left unanswered questions about other conduct named in Department of Justice special counsel Jack’s Smith indictment of Trump.

“Certain allegations—such as those involving Trump’s discussions with the Acting Attorney General—are readily categorized in light of the nature of the President’s official relationship to the office held by that individual,” the opinion reads. “Other allegations—such as those involving Trump’s interactions with the Vice President, state officials, and certain private parties, and his comments to the general public—present more difficult questions.”

In a dissenting opinion,

Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote the decision makes the president “immune from criminal prosecution if he used the trappings of his office to violate criminal law.”

“If the occupant of that office misuses official power for personal gain, the criminal law that the rest of us must abide will not provide a backstop,” Sotomayor wrote. “With fear for our democracy, I dissent.”

Trump claimed in court filings that he could not be prosecuted for actions he took while still in office. His legal team also argues that former presidents cannot be tried in the court of law unless they are first impeached by the U.S. House and convicted by the Senate.

The indictment, which a federal grand jury handed up in August 2023, alleges Trump knowingly spread falsehoods to his supporters, plotting with co-conspirators to overturn results in seven states and eventually working his base into a frenzy that culminated in a violent attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, the day Congress was to certify electoral votes.

DOJ’s Smith charged the former president with conspiracy to defraud the United States; conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding; obstruction of, and attempt to obstruct, an official proceeding; and conspiracy against rights.

More than 62K Colorado workers received FAMLI Benefit Payments in first six months

CONTRIBUTED

DENVER – More than 62,000 Colorado workers have been able to get partial pay replacement when life events forced them to step away from their job this year under the State’s new Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) program.

The FAMLI Division, part of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, announced today that it has distributed roughly \$311 million this year to Colorado workers who filed claims under the law setting up the State’s first insurance product for partial pay replacement when serious life events force employees to temporarily step away from the job.

Colorado is the first state to set up a paid-leave program through a public vote, instead of through the legislative branch. Colorado workers and businesses started paying premiums to fund the insurance program in 2023.

Colorado also stands alone in having an online portal for health care providers to verify claims without filing physical paperwork, plus an online “HR Benefits Dashboard” for employers to manage the statuses of all their employees on

FAMLI leave at a glance.

“I couldn’t be prouder of the work we’ve done to bring Colorado workers the benefits they voted for,” said Tracy Marshall, director of the FAMLI Division. “We’re on solid financial footing for the future, thanks to all the Colorado employers and workers who stepped up to build this insurance fund a year and a half ago. Now we have a program that is already helping Colorado workers care for themselves and their families when they need to, and we’re seeing other states look to us as they build their own programs.”

As of July 1, 2024 \$311,129,690 has been sent to 62,632 approved FAMLI claims.

Here are some more statistics about the first six months of FAMLI benefits:

- 53.3 days – average leave duration for Colorado workers taking continuous leave
- 44,400 – Colorado workers who have completed their FAMLI leaves and returned to work
- 38,510 – submitted FAMLI claims to care for one’s own serious health condition
- 32,834 – submitted FAMLI claims to bond

with a new child

- \$915.30 – average FAMLI payment

• 96.7% – FAMLI claimants who filed their claims using the State’s My FAMLI+ online portal

“The FAMLI benefit was a literal lifesaver to me, my family, and our future at a time when I couldn’t see hope, and was stuck in a cycle of grief and fear,” said Marie, a National Guard member from northern Colorado who filed a successful Military Family Member (Exigency) claim.

FAMLI benefits are calculated on a sliding scale using the individual’s average weekly wage from the previous five calendar quarters in relation to the average weekly wage for the state of Colorado. That statewide average weekly wage ticked up 3.5% on July 1, to \$1,471.34. Some active FAMLI claimants may see a slight increase in their benefit payments, others will remain the same if they are already getting the maximum benefit amount. Workers can get an estimate of their potential benefit payments on our online Premium and Benefits calculator.

For more details, check out famli.colorado.gov.

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Your FIRST Source for Local News

Lifestyles

CPW enforces sober boating and Operation Dry Water

CONTRIBUTED DENVER — Boaters heading out onto the water for the Fourth of July holiday weekend will see additional Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) officers enforcing boating under the influence (BUI) laws as part of the national Operation Dry Water campaign.

This enforcement operation is timed closely to July 4 each year to educate boaters on the dangers of boating under the influence and reduce the number of waterway accidents. Dangers include:

- Alcohol impairs judgment, balance, vision, and reaction time on the water, which can increase fatigue and the dangers of cold-water immersion.
- Sun, wind, noise, vibration, and motion are added factors in a boating environment. All of these intensify the effects of alcohol, drugs, and some medications. A general rule to remember is that one drink on land is equivalent to three drinks on the water.
- Alcohol can be dangerous for passengers too. Intoxication on board can cause injuries from

slips, falls overboard, and other dangerous accidents.

“Boating is a favorite pastime of Coloradans and visitors alike, but we want to make sure that everyone is enjoying their time on the water responsibly,” said Flatwater Criminal Investigator Brian Phillips. “Alcohol use is one of the leading contributing factors in recreational boating deaths in the country. We encourage boaters to be boat smart, boat safe, and boat sober.”

Operation Dry Water will include increased patrols and checkpoints. Penalties for boating under the influence include receiving fines, impounding your boat, potential jail time, and losing boating privileges. Boaters with a blood alcohol content (BAC) level above the .08 state limit will be arrested for BUI.

In Colorado, boaters must also consider unpredictable weather risks while recreating on the water. Dangerous weather conditions include strong wind gusts that can knock a paddleboarder or kayaker into the water and cold water



Courtesy photo of CPW officers enforcing boating under the influence (BUI) laws as part of the national Operation Dry Water campaign.

temperatures that exist year-round.

Boating and Water Safety

Life jackets save lives. This year, the majority of water-related deaths occurred because people did not wear a life jacket.

There have already been over 20 water-related fatalities in Colorado this year, and the outdoor summer season is just beginning. In 2023, CPW tracked 32 water-related fatalities, down from 42 in 2022, a state

record. CPW tracked 22 deaths in 2021 and 34 deaths in 2020.

CPW officers are actively writing tickets for boaters and paddlers who are not wearing life jackets. Tickets cost over \$100.

CPW advises the following boating safety tips before heading out onto the water.

- Wear a life jacket.
- Dress accordingly and protect yourself from the dangers of cold-water shock. Regardless of your age or experience level, cold water can quickly create a drowning emergency.
- Paddleboards and kayaks are considered vessels, and life jacket requirements apply.
- Heavy rain or snow

melting in nearby mountains can raise water levels quickly and without notice. Check river flows at <https://dwr.state.co.us/Tools/Stations>.

• Only boat or paddle in conditions you are comfortable and confident paddling in.

• Boat and raft with a buddy and avoid floating alone, especially during high flows.

For recreationists who want to go rafting but are uncomfortable navigating more challenging water conditions, CPW recommends hiring a Colorado-licensed river outfitter guide to help facilitate the outdoor opportunity.

For more information on boating safety, visit cpw.state.co.us.

Nearly 80% of Colorado parents and caregivers are not using their child’s car seat correctly

CONTRIBUTED Summer is in full swing, and with school out and schedules relaxed, many families rely on the help of babysitters, grandparents or other caregivers to watch their children. With a different caregiver at the wheel, the risk increases that car seats or booster seats may not be used or installed correctly, putting kids at risk in the event of a crash.

Last year in Colorado, 78% of car seats inspected by child passenger safety technicians were not being used correctly or were not installed properly, according to the Child Passenger Safety Board’s National Digital Car Seat Check Form (NDCF) database. This number is an increase from 2022, when Colorado’s car seat misuse rate was just under 70%.

The most common type of car seat misuse in Colorado last year was the harness — either being too loose, wrong placement of the harness slots or incorrect routing of the crotch buckle/slot. Other factors leading to misuse include moving a child out of a booster seat too soon and using a car seat that is not correctly fitted to the child’s height, weight and physical development.

According to the NDCF database, children aged 1 and under riding in rear-facing only car seats (infant bucket seats) had the highest misuse rate of any age group and type of car seat.

“Car seats are not necessarily intuitive, and they are all different, which is why it’s so important to read the manufacturer’s manual, even if you think you’ve got it figured out,” said Trooper Kent Trimbach of the Colorado State Patrol and program coordinator for Car Seats Colorado. “It’s your responsibility to equip yourself with the knowledge and resources to keep your children safe

on the road and relay that information to any caregivers who transport your child.”

In addition to different caregivers, summer activities also often involve moving car seats between different vehicles. Each transfer increases the chance of installation errors. Double check after every transfer to confirm the car seat has been installed correctly and is secure.

“Parents are juggling more than ever before, and during summer when kids are out of school and parents are still working, it can get incredibly busy,” said Darrell Lingk, director of the Highway Safety Office at CDOT. “This constant juggling of responsibilities can sometimes lead to forgetfulness when it comes to car seat safety. We want to remind families to make car seat safety a priority, even amid the hustle and bustle of summer activities.”

Car Seats Colorado offers the following tips to help parents and caregivers keep children safe in the car:

- Ensure all caregivers, including grandparents, nannies, babysitters and friends, are trained on the proper use and installation of your car seat(s). Provide them with a simple checklist or reference guide.
- Always refer to the car seat manufacturer’s manual and vehicle owner’s manual for car seat installation instructions.
- Make sure your child is in the correct car seat for his or her size, age and development.
- Periodically check for any recalls on your car seat or booster seat.
- Double check car seat installation after transferring from one vehicle to another.
- Get a free car seat check. Click here to find a location near you.
- “Our little ones rely on us to keep them safe,”

said Trooper Trimbach. “They can’t protect themselves — it falls upon parents and caregivers to ensure that they are properly secured when riding in a vehicle.”

If you are unable to afford a car seat for your

child(ren), WeeCycle, Children’s Hospital Colorado and SafeKids Colorado Springs have programs through which families are able to get a free or low-cost car seat. Visit their websites for more information.

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SOUTH FORK COLORADO

Sports



Courtesy photo

Getting ready to tee off at the Larry Holder Golf Tournament Saturday at the Monte Vista Golf Course. The tournament raised \$25,000 for the SLV Health Foundation and the Larry Holder Cancer Survivorship Exercise Program.

Larry Holder Golf Tournament raises \$25,000

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor
MONTE VISTA – The Eighth Annual Larry Holder Golf Tournament took place Saturday at the Monte Vista Golf Course. The event was held for the SLV Health Foundation and the Larry Holder Cancer Survivorship Exercise Program. It also took place in conjunction with Adams

State University. There were 40 two-man teams that entered the tournament. The first nine holes were played as golf with a twist. It played with frisbees, tennis balls and other different varieties on each hole. After a meal following the front nine, the back nine was played for the most part after sunset

and it was played with a glowball. The first golfers teed off at 5:15 p.m. It ended at 12:30 a.m. The tournament raised \$25,000 for the foundation. The tournament was won by Luke Porter and Colin Nelson. Anfernee Romero and Keith Romero were second and Eddie Maestas and Dillon Martinez were third.



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Sports Bulletin

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

ALAMOSA PARKS AND RECREATION BASEBALL/SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

12-14 Baseball

At Ortega Middle School south field

TUESDAY

Alamosa at Salida (2), 4 p.m.

12-14 girls softball

At Lee Field #1

TUESDAY

Sanford vs. Alamosa (2), 6 p.m.

9-11 baseball

At Cole Park

TUESDAY

Pirates vs. Cubs, 5 p.m.
 Angels vs. Rockies, 6:15 p.m.
 Red Sox vs. Dodgers, 7:30 p.m.

9-11 girls softball

At Lee Field #3

TUESDAY

Battitudes vs. Ace of Bases, 6 p.m.

7-8 coed machine pitch

At Sunset Field

WEDNESDAY

Longhorns vs. Predators, 5:30 p.m. (southwest)
 Little Rascals vs. Thunderdogs, 5:30 p.m. (northeast)
 Bat Busters vs. Sliders, 6:30 p.m. (northeast)

Co-ed Tee-ball

At Tee-ball field

MONDAY

Sandhogs vs. Rug Rats, 5:30 p.m. (north field)
 Little Hitters vs. Outlaws, 5:30 p.m. (south field)
 Wolfpack vs. Little Giants, 6:30 p.m. (south field)

Coed Leisure softball

At Lee Field

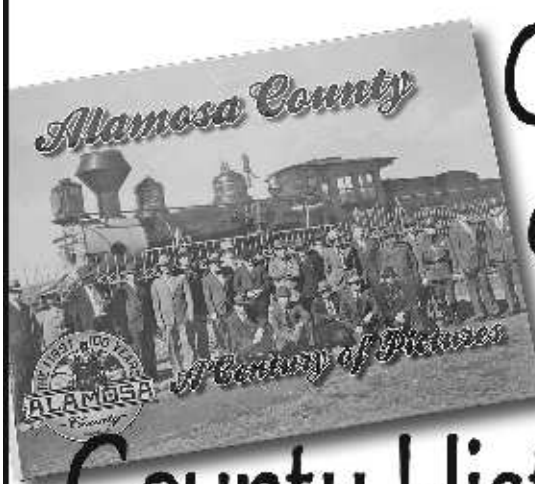
WEDNESDAY

All Valley Towing vs. Top Notch, 7 p.m. (Field 1)
 CRP Dust Devils vs. Livingstone Trucking, 7 p.m. (Field 2)
 War Turtles vs. Cutthroats, 7 p.m. (Field 4)
 The Undertakers vs. La Puente Homers, 8 p.m. (Field 1)
 The Misfits vs. Where My Pitches At, 8 p.m. (Field 2)
 The Dirty Dozen vs. Bros Before Throws, 8 p.m. (Field 4)
 Tandberg's Angels vs. WOLO, 9 p.m. (Field 1)
 Bomb Squad vs. Steel Line, 9 p.m. (Field 2)
 SOS Misfits vs. The Misfits, 9 p.m. (Field 4)

MONDAY

Cutthroats vs. CRP Dust Devils, 7 p.m. (Field 1)
 Top Notch vs. Livingstone Trucking, 7 p.m. (Field 2)
 WOLO vs. Steel line, 7 p.m. (Field 4)
 Bomb Squad vs. The Dirty Dozen, 8 p.m. (Field 1)
 Where My Pitches At vs. The Undertakers, 8 p.m. (Field 2)
 Bros Before Throws vs. All Valley Towing, 8 p.m. (Field 4)
 Where My Pitches At vs. CRP Dust Devils, 9 p.m. (Field 1)
 La Puente Homers vs. War Turtles, 9 p.m. (Field 2)
 Battitudes vs. SOS Misfits, 9 p.m. (Field 4)

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Classifieds

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MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for a **MIDDLE SCHOOL 8TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) TEACHER**. A complete list of desired qualifications and experience is posted on the district website. Monte Vista School 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 salary for this position 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 July 2, 2024 or until the position is filled. For questions contact the District Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (7/19/24)

MOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT has the following openings for the 24-25 school year: K-12 PE; HS SCIENCE; K-12 PRINCIPAL. Send inquiries/resumes to Mr. Stagner @ Stagnerb@valley.k12.co.us or call 719-655-2578. (7/10/24)

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)

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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.

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

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)

COME BE A part of the growing CENTENNIAL R-1 TEAM! We are seeking applications for a SECONDARY MATH TEACHER, TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR, PRE-SCHOOL 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)

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

DEL NORTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is seeking an energetic, caring individual to serve as a SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL. 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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

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

304 - LAWN & GARDEN

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

324 - SEED & FEED

HORSE & COW HAY: 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)

350 - FARM EQUIPMENT

2005 HESSTON 4910 BALER New Monitor, Preservative Applicator, moisture sensor, accumulator. Field ready. \$22,500 OBO 719-850-1143. (7/13/24)

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

FIREWORKS FOR SALE! Chama, NM. All the good stuff. 505-927-4064. (7/3/24)

368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

MALE JACK RUSSELL TERRIER puppy. 1st shots. Registered parents on-site. 719-480-0000. \$500. (7/6/24)

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

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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)

520 - CAMPING

26' JAYCO CAMPER: WELL maintained, clean, 14' slideout, awning, new tires & battery, solar AC/heater, propane tanks, FULL kitchen, bath, & more. Reasonable. 719-852-3735. (7/17/24)

525 - GUNS

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

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

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

606 - BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR rent at 1016 West Ave., ALAMOSA. Call Mike (719)850-1961. (7/3/24)

611 - HOMES FOR RENT

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

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

614 - MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

2 BEDROOM 1 BATH, nice extended unattached garage. Sits on FENCED 2 ACRES, non-smoking. Close to west side of ALAMOSA. \$850.00 a month with \$850 deposit, all due signing. Available July 1st. Call 719-589-9485. (7/19/24)

701 - AUTOS FOR SALE

1993 BUS, PARTLY CONVERTED. Located at M&M storage on 17 behind Loaf&jug. Call for details. 815-546-2734 Mark. (7/17/24)



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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Seat for the faithful
 - 4 Buckshot
 - 8 Smart aleck's lip
 - 12 Investment vehicle
 - 13 Rhyme
 - 14 Court order
 - 15 Hawaiian food
 - 16 Hawkeye's home
 - 17 Atmosphere
 - 18 OT book
 - 20 Hit hard
 - 22 Cul-de- —
 - 23 Lofty mountain
 - 24 Long-suffering
 - 28 Falsehoods
 - 32 Surgeon type
 - 33 Vexes
 - 35 Fish eggs
 - 36 Game VIP
 - 37 — bargain
 - 38 Actress — Sorvino
- DOWN**
- 1 Water main
 - 2 Greek god of love
 - 3 Restaurant workers
 - 4 Each
 - 5 Anchor
 - 6 Feline cry

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 7 Greek god of love
- 8 Like a bog
- 9 Calla lily
- 10 Beget
- 11 A-lister
- 19 Word in forecasts
- 21 Charity
- 24 Any — in a storm
- 25 Field
- 26 Zippo
- 27 Sapling
- 29 Practical joker
- 30 Round dance of Israel
- 31 Close tightly
- 34 "Crazy —"
- 37 Burnable pile
- 38 Mud
- 40 One-time
- 42 Get more solid
- 44 Command
- 46 Steer clear of
- 47 "Present!"
- 48 Seaweed
- 49 Tennis great — Sampras
- 50 Skater — Lipinski
- 51 Compl
- 54 Signal

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
18			19			20	21			
		22				23				
24	25			26	27	28	29	30	31	
32				33	34			35		
36			37					38		
39			40		41	42				
			43		44		45			
46	47	48				49			50	51
52				53	54				55	
56				57					58	
59				60					61	

ALLEY OOP

WELL, SINCE NEITHER OF YOU TOOK ANYTHING FROM THE PAST, WE CAN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT STOP ON OUR TOUR.

BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T TAKE ANYTHING. AT ALL. NOT EVEN ONE LITTLE...

FINE! SOMEONE IN ANCIENT STONEHENGE GAVE ME A CRYSTAL!

I KNEW IT!

THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS DO THE RIGHT THING... OOPS!

ARLO & JANIS

ARE YOU DISAPPOINTED WE DIDN'T GET MORE DONE?

NAH, WE HAD THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE!

IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA, BUT WE ALREADY KNOW WHAT WE LIKE ABOUT THE COAST.

WE MAKE OUR PREPARATIONS AT HOME, AND THEN WE GO BACK AND HIT THE BEACH!

OPERATION OVERLORD DIDN'T BEGIN IN FRANCE!

OK, I UNDERSTOOD THE CART AND HORSE THING.

BIG NATE

GRAMPS! WANT ME TO DRAW A CARICATURE OF YOU?

HMM... WELL...

SNORT WHY DOES HE NEED A CARICATURE OF HIMSELF?

HE IS A CARICATURE OF HIMSELF.

SICK BURN BY GRAM.

WE TEED THAT ONE UP FOR HER.

THE BORN LOSER

DOES IT BOTHER YOU THAT YOU HAVE WRINKLES, GRAMMIE?

I DON'T THINK OF THEM AS WRINKLES, CHILD, I CALL THEM CHARACTER LINES.

IN THAT CASE, YOU SURE MUST HAVE A LOT OF CHARACTER!

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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

HERMAN

ZOO

"Don't eat peanuts. You're drawing a crowd."

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

I'M NEVER GONNA GET USED TO WORKING NIGHT-SHIFT. THIS BUSINESS OF GETTING UP IN THE AFTERNOON IS WEIRD!

BY THE TIME I SHOWER AND GET DRESSED, THE DAY'S HALF GONE—AN I STILL HAVE TO GO DOWNTOWN AND DO STUFF!—ON TOP OF THAT, RHETTA SAYS I'M NOT SPENDING ENOUGH TIME WITH HER!!

IT'S NOT FAIR!

WHAT'S NOT FAIR?

ALL MY LIFE, I LOOKED FORWARD TO GROWING UP... 'CAUSE I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASIER!

FRANK & ERNEST

MR. FIX-IT

MEET MR. BREAK-IT.

GARFIELD

STARING AT THE FRIDGE WON'T MAKE LEFTOVER PIZZA MAGICALLY APPEAR

SHHH! I'M TRYING TO FOCUS!

THE GRIZZWELLS

THIS SAYS SALMON AREN'T SWIMMING UPSTREAM TO SPAWN THIS YEAR

WHY NOT?

AT FIRST, SCIENTISTS THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND POLLUTION, BUT IT TURNS OUT...

THEY'RE STAYING HOME AND WATCHING HBO

PEANUTS

HALF?!

WHY SHOULD WE GIVE YOU HALF OF OUR MONEY? TEN-PERCENT IS ALL YOU DESERVE!

AND IF I TELL YOU HALF LITTLE WINDOW-EYES WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, HIT ME?

NO, I AM!!

POW!

Man's fondness for porn is a turnoff for partner

DEAR ABBY: I met this man online a year and a half ago. We have been together ever since. There is a serious problem with him watching porn. When we met, I knew he was doing it when I was not with him. He knows I'm not happy about it, and he tried for a while to keep it hidden from me. More recently, he would watch it and then want to come get cozy with me.

When I tell him it's a complete turnoff for me, he gets upset and tells me I need to see a therapist to get over it. I told him he should get help if he expects to have a relationship with any woman. I think he's obsessed with pornography. Am I overreacting?

I'm beginning to feel like it is more important for him to watch porn than spend time with me. I do love him and very much want to be with him, but I can't seem to get over this. Help, please.

-- DEAL-BREAKER IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR DEAL-BREAKER: I wish you had mentioned what KIND of porn your boyfriend watches. Many men (and women) watch it because it helps them to become aroused. Some couples watch it together. Your boyfriend's sugges-

tion that this should be discussed with a therapist was actually a good one. However, I'm suggesting that the two of you visit the therapist together. If you do, it may be educational and save your relationship.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I were invited via a group text to a cocktail party, and we accepted. This host provides a name tag for guests, as it is a mix of friends. When guests arrive, it is expected that they find their magnetic name tag and put it on.

When we arrived, we discovered there was no name tag for us on the magnetic board, nor did our names appear on the guest list next to the board. Should we have left the party or stayed? We decided to stay since we had already said our "hellos" and presented the host with a bottle of premium vodka, but it was awkward, and we felt like party crashers.

We were eventually given name tags, but I was asked by the host, "Did you get your name tag from the board when you first got here or was it not there?" (If we hadn't stopped by the board to get our tag, the error would have been ours.) I told him we had checked but our name tags were

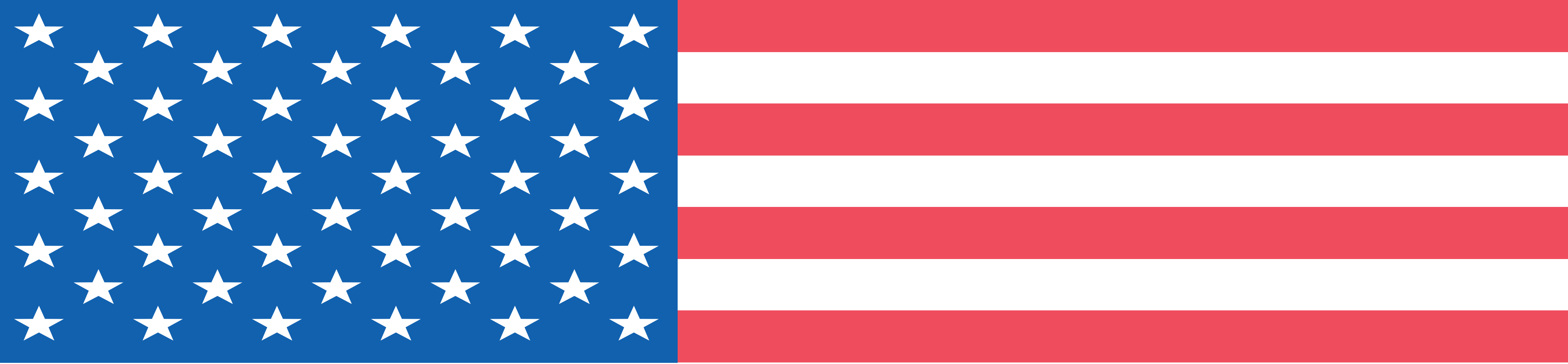


ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

not there. I'm sure he already knew that.

The next day, I sent a "thank you" note and expressed our apologies "for the surprise appearance," but we still wonder if we should have left after we discovered we were not on the guest list. -- PARTY CRASHER

DEAR PARTY CRASHER: When you told the host that you had received the mass email invitation, but when you checked the board there was no tag for you nor was your name on the list, you should have shown him your phone as proof you had been invited. That you were made to feel you might not be welcome was, in my opinion, extremely rude.



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!

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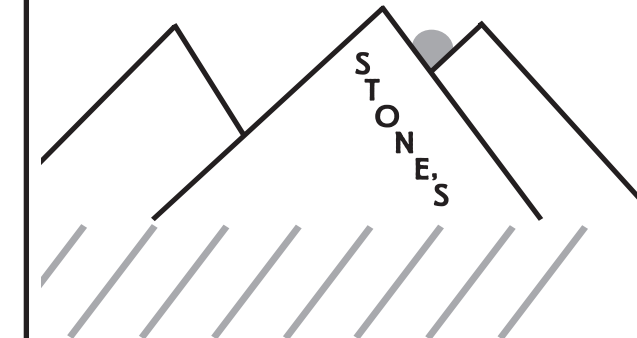
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