



Church Project grand opening celebration July 5

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Alamosa, Centauri well-represented on All-IML track team

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# Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

July 3, 2024

\$1

## SLV Today

### Fourth of July holiday trash schedule

**ALAMOSA** — In observance of the upcoming holiday, the trash schedule for the City of Alamosa on July 4 will be as follows:

- Yard Waste Route: Will remain the same
- Commercial Routes: Thursday, July 4, will be collected Friday, July 5
- Residential Routes: Thursday, July 4, will be collected Friday, July 5
- Recycling Center: Will be closed Thursday, July 4, and will reopen Friday, July 5

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 719-589-6631. City facilities will be closed Thursday, July 4, and will reopen Friday, July 5.

## County Rd. 8 South closure July 9-11

**ALAMOSA COUNTY** — Alamosa County Road 8 South (Co-Op Road) will be closed July 9, through July 11, from Foster Road to Craft Drive for Gardener Excavating to perform work on the installation of a 12-inch force main storm sewer going from the ditch on the south side of the road headed north.

## July is History Month at Spines

**ALAMOSA** — July is History Month at Spines. On Saturday, July 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. people can purchase history books at Spines for half-price.

Spines, located off the alley north of the Alamosa Post Office, is the used book outlet for Friends of the Alamosa Library.

In addition to a large history section, Spines carries reading materials and DVDs and music for all age groups and interests. Check out their cookbooks for summer picnics and the children's section for family reading. They have a section for Great Courses, as well as self-help and parenting.

After the sale, visit the library for the Summer Fun quilt show.

For more information or to volunteer, call 588-9410.

## SLV WEATHER

Slight Chance of Afternoon Showers, Breezy 81/43

Thurs: Sunny, Breezy 82/44

Fri: Sunny, Breezy 78/44

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## Line-up of diverse topics for City Council

### Sidewalks, fines, fees and SLV Drug Task Force

By **PRISCILLA WAGGONER**  
*Courier Reporter*  
**ALAMOSA** — After cancelling their regular meeting scheduled during the third week of June due to council members attending the Colorado

Municipal League Conference, city councilors will be back in chambers at 7 p.m. on Wednesday night with a full agenda.

At the meeting's start, Alamosa Police Department Officer Jareb Aziz will be recognized as the drug officer of the year.

The council will also consider appointing individuals who have expressed interest in serving on various advisory boards, including the

Planning Commission, the Homeless Coalition and the Library Board.

Sidewalks don't just add aesthetic value to a neighborhood, they also help (a lot) in assisting people walking through a neighborhood. ■ See **TOPICS** page 3

**Alamosa City Council will be meeting on Wednesday in council chambers, 300 Hunt Ave., Alamosa.**

File photo



## SLV Regional Airport to receive federal funds



Courier photo by John Waters

The San Luis Regional Airport in Alamosa will receive \$456,849 from the federal government for snow removal equipment.

By **JOHN WATERS**  
*Courier News Editor*  
**WASHINGTON, DC** — The San Luis Valley Regional Airport in Alamosa will receive \$456,849 in federal funding for snow removal equipment.

On July 2, U.S. Senators John Hickenlooper and Michael Bennet celebrated an additional \$10 million in new funding from the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for infrastructure improvements at 16 Colorado airports.

"From Yuma to Montrose, Colorado's airports help connect rural com- ■ See **FUNDS** page 3

## Frisch calls for Biden to withdraw

By **PRISCILLA WAGGONER**  
*Courier Reporter*

**ALAMOSA** — In a press release issued by his campaign late Tuesday morning, Western Slope businessman, Adam Frisch, Democratic candidate for Colorado's Third Congressional District (CD3), released a video statement regarding the candidacy of President Joe Biden. Frisch has called on Biden to withdraw from the race.

Prior to the video's release, Frisch contacted the Valley Courier with a script of the video, a release that was exclusive to just two other news outlets in the district.

The text of the video, released

to the Valley Courier, reads as follows:

"Only in politics is stating the obvious rarely done," Frisch said.

"It has been clear to me for some time - and the debate only reinforced it - neither candidate should be running for President. We need a President that can unite America to realize our nation's unlimited potential.

"We deserve better. President Biden should do what's best for the country and withdraw from the race. I thank President Biden for his years of service, but the path ahead requires a new generation of leadership to take our country forward."

"The Frisch campaign remains

focused on the central issues affecting residents of Colorado's 3rd Congressional District instead of partisan politics in Washington, D.C. There is far more that unites us than divides us. As I have said many times, I am not focused on Team Democrat or Team Republican, but Team CD3," Frisch said.

Frisch then expanded upon his statement in a follow-up conversation with the Valley Courier.

"I have no idea, nor do I have any interest in how a convention works or what the rules are. I just know that there's enough time, for the country's sake, to try to figure out what I've talked about for a while. The country is much bet-

■ See **FRISCH** page 3



Courtesy photo

**Adam Frisch, Democratic candidate for Colorado's Third Congressional District, in a recent video called for President Joe Biden to withdraw from the presidential race.**

## StoryWalk updated at Alamosa City Hall

**CONTRIBUTED**

**ALAMOSA** — The Alamosa Public Library's Friends of the Library volunteers partnered with Rotary Club of Alamosa and Alamosa Public Library's Teen Advisory Board to update the StoryWalk at City Hall.

Children of all ages are invited to come enjoy the new book, *How Do You Feel?* by Kathrin Scharer, by walking from page to page along the Rio Grande. Questions and movement prompts are also included on the page spreads to encourage interaction between caregivers and children.

The story begins on the east side of the City Hall building, near locomotive No. 169. The book "How Do You Feel?" will be part of Storytime at Alamosa

Public Library on Tuesday, July 9, and Friday, July 12, at 10 a.m.

Storytime is held twice weekly and is geared toward children ages 0-5, but all ages and stages are welcome to enjoy picture books and songs. All library events can be found at [alamosalibrary.org/events](http://alamosalibrary.org/events), including Kids Club programming for school age children and Tween Nights. Young people aged 13-18 are encouraged to join the Library's Teen Advisory Board, which meets the second Thursday of each month from 6-7 p.m. at Alamosa Public Library, 300 Hunt Ave.

Community members are also invited to join the Friends of the ■ See **STORYWALK** page 3



Courier photo by Keith R. Cerny

**Alamosa Rotarians Suzanne DeVore, left, and Judy McNeilsmith put the finishing touches on the plexiglass cover over the first station of the newest StoryWalk sponsored by the Alamosa Public Library. A walk through the display starting in front of city hall allows children and their families to read an entire book. Alamosa Rotary Club helped establish the StoryWalk a few years ago.**

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# Record

## RGC celebrates employee's 57 years of service

By LYNDISIE FERRELL  
**RIO GRANDE COUNTY** – Rio Grande County Board of Commissioners welcomed Jody Kern, Director of Rio Grande County Social Services, alongside Larry Desbien, Director of the Division of Child Support Services and the Colorado Department of Human Services, to their work session on June 26 to celebrate Helen Martinez who has worked for the Department of Social Services for an astounding 57 years.

Martinez is the longest standing employee in Rio Grande County and announced her retirement earlier this year.

"We have been so pleased to have Helen for all these years. She has done wonderful things in the Department of Social Service and child support," said Kern.

Martinez was presented with a plaque and an American flag for her years of service. The plaque presented by Desbien reads, "CDHS honors Helen Martinez for her 57.5 years of dedicated service, devotion and commitment to serving Coloradans in Mineral and Rio Grande County."

Rio Grande County commissioners helped celebrate Martinez and acknowledged that she may be the longest standing county employee in the state besides one other county employee who will be celebrating their 58th year in another location.

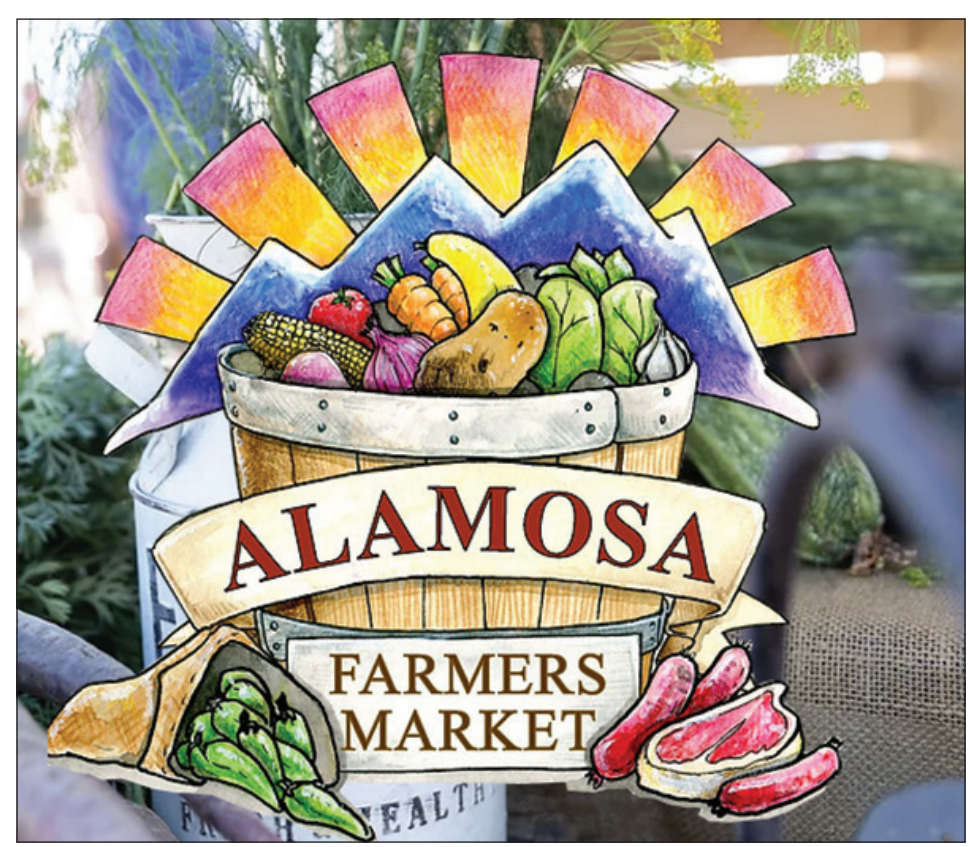
"We are just so happy to have had her services and we are going to miss having her in the office," finished Kern.



Photo courtesy of Rio Grande County Social Services  
**Helen Martinez was presented with a plaque honoring her devotion to her job and an American flag to mark her willingness to serve. Pictured is Martinez with Rio Grande County commissioners Gene Glover, Scott Deacon and Tyler Ratzlaff.**



Photo courtesy of Rio Grande County Social Services  
**For nearly 58 years, Helen Martinez has helped serve the greater Rio Grande County Community and has now chosen to say goodbye and enjoy her retirement. Pictured is Larry Desbien, Director Division of Child Support Services Colorado Department of Human Services.**



## Alamosa Farmers' Market opens Saturday

**CONTRIBUTED**  
**ALAMOSA** — The Alamosa Farmers' Market opens the season on Saturday, July 6, in Downtown Alamosa, at the corner of Ross Avenue and 6th Street (Highway 160).  
 Vendors will be selling regional farm fresh food products, various food-stuffs, and hand-crafted goods this season.  
 Live Music will be

back again, and organizers are excited about the line-up. Palmas will be kicking off the season. Free kids activities with market staff will be going on from 10 a.m. until noon or until supplies run out.  
 The market accepts debit and credit cards, SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks, WIC vouchers, and cash. Organizers ask the people use bills

less than \$20 for the convenience of the vendors.  
 For more information, see [www.alamosafarmersmarket.org](http://www.alamosafarmersmarket.org) or the Farmers' Market tent on Saturdays. If you are interested in being a vendor, contact the market at [alamosafarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:alamosafarmersmarket@gmail.com) or 719-849-1083. Vendors must register a week ahead of time. No drop in vendors accepted.

## 4th of July weekend DUI enforcement begins today

By COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 Never get behind the wheel under the influence of alcohol or cannabis — or you may be seeing red, white and blue in your rearview mirror. From July 3 to 8, the Colorado Department of Transportation will support the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) and 66 local law enforcement agencies for The Heat Is On Fourth of July DUI enforcement period. During the six-day enforcement period, drivers may see saturation patrols, sobriety checkpoints and additional law enforcement officers on duty dedicated to arresting impaired drivers.

ing-related fatalities in the state. Motorists between the ages of 25 and 34 have accounted for nearly 33% of DUI arrests so far this year in Colorado.  
 "Alarmingly, of the 81 impaired driving-related fatalities on Colorado roads so far this year, 36 were not wearing their seat belt," said CDOT's Office of Transportation Safety Director Darrell Lingk. "Driving sober, following the speed limit, putting distractions away and wearing your seat belt are the best ways to keep yourself and others safe on the road."

July 31 to August 13.  
 For yearly impaired-driving crash and fatality data in Colorado, visit [www.codot.gov/safety/traffic-safety/data-analysis/fatal-crash-data](http://www.codot.gov/safety/traffic-safety/data-analysis/fatal-crash-data). For local law enforcement agency plans, visit [www.codot.gov/safety/traffic-safety-reporting-portal](http://www.codot.gov/safety/traffic-safety-reporting-portal).  
 The CDOT Highway Safety Office provides funding to Colorado law enforcement for impaired driving enforcement, education and awareness campaigns. The Heat Is On campaign runs throughout the year, with 16 specific high-visibility impaired driving enforcement periods centered on national holidays and large public events. Enforcement periods can include sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols and additional law enforcement on duty dedicated to impaired driving enforcement.  
 Find more details about the campaign, including impaired driving enforcement plans, arrest totals and safety tips, at [HeatIsOnColorado.com](http://HeatIsOnColorado.com). More information about DUI laws in Colorado can be found at [NoDUIColorado.org](http://NoDUIColorado.org). Learn more about CDOT's dedication to keeping Colorado roads safe, including impaired driving enforcement objectives, arrest data and safety information, at [codot.gov/safety](http://codot.gov/safety).

Protect your freedom to drive by never driving under the influence, CDOT says. Last year 228 people were killed in impaired driving crashes in Colorado.

Last year's Fourth of July weekend enforcement period concluded with 167 reported DUI arrests. If you plan to host a party this weekend, make sure your guests stay safe by following the tips below:

- Collect your guests' car keys upon arrival. Or encourage them to designate a sober driver or use a ride-sharing service, taxi or public transportation.
- Call a friend or family member for a guest if they have been drinking or offer them a place to stay if a sober ride home is unavailable.
- Stop serving alcohol at least two hours before the party is over. Provide plenty of food and non-alcoholic drink options.
- Be persistent if a guest is intoxicated and planning to drive home. Explain that you care about their safety and cannot let them get behind the wheel.
- Remember, as a host, you could be held liable if a guest you serve alcohol to gets in a crash.

As travel increases throughout the summer months, Colorado tends to see a spike in impaired driving-related fatalities. Last July, there were 91 traffic fatalities in Colorado, 24 of which involved a suspected impaired driver — ranking it the deadliest month of 2023. The state averaged 19 impaired driving-related fatalities per month in 2023, a decrease from the monthly average of 24 impaired driving-related fatalities in 2022.

Preliminary data shows that the recent Summer Blitz DUI enforcement period concluded with 370 arrests across 79 participating agencies. The agencies with the highest arrests were Colorado Springs Police Department (25), Larimer County Sheriff's Office (25) and Fort Collins Police Department (18). CSP reported 124 arrests. Following 4th of July weekend, the next DUI enforcement period will be Sturgis Rally from

## Colorado primary election turnout lowest in years

By SARA WILSON  
**Colorado Newsline**  
 Last week's primary election in Colorado saw the lowest voter turnout for that type of election since 2016, unofficial results from the secretary of state's office show.

As of June 30, five days after the election, the office had recorded a bit over 1 million returned ballots. That accounts for about 26% of active registered voters in the state.

Turnout was about 32% in 2022, 45% in 2020, 35% in 2018 and 21% in 2016.

Despite it being a presidential election year, many voters in the state only saw one contested statewide seat on their ballot. That was for the Democratic race for a seat on the University of Colorado Board of Regents. Depending on where they live, a voter might not have seen any contested primaries for statehouse seats or local county races.

There were hot primaries, however, in some of the congressional races including the Republican

contests in the 3rd, 4th and 5th Congressional Districts.

There were about 20,000 more Democratic primary ballots returned than Republican ballots. Unaffiliated voters, who can decide which party's primary to vote in, were more likely to return a Democratic ballot. Unaffiliated voters made up about 36% of the total turnout.

Female voters returned more Democratic ballots than Republican ones, while the opposite was true for male voters.

The largest ballot returns was among voters aged 65 and older, as is typical.

New Era Colorado, a youth organizing nonprofit, touted its efforts through a new independent expenditure committee called Young People for All People, which targeted young voters in three state legislative districts — House District 4, House District 52 and Senate District 19. Of the voters aged 18 to 34 the

committee contacted, 25% turned out to vote, the organization said in a press release. That is compared to an 8% turnout rate for the same age group statewide.

"A theme throughout our conversations with young voters (and made clear through statewide turnout results) is that (young people) feel like mainstream politicians only pretend to care about our issues during an election cycle, the system is rigged for those with the biggest budgets, and their vote doesn't matter. But our votes and our work do make a difference," Christina Soliz, New Era's deputy director, said in a statement.

Overall voter turnout was slightly better in the 4th Congressional District, where voters chose a replacement for former Rep. Ken Buck and nominees for both parties. That district, which includes Douglas County and the Eastern Plains, saw a turnout of slightly more than 33%.

## 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 affili-

ated 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](http://slvaa.org)

**School Menu**  
**Wednesday**  
 July 3, 2024

**BREAKFAST**  
 Bagel with Cream Cheese  
 Fruit & Milk

**ELEMENTARY**  
 Beef Nachos  
 Gingerbread  
 Refried Beans  
 Fruit & Milk

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
 Beef Nachos  
 Gingerbread  
 Refried Beans  
 Fruit & Milk

**HIGH SCHOOL**  
 Beef Nachos  
 Gingerbread  
 Refried Beans  
 Fruit & Milk

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# Valley News

## Blakely returns to Society Hall with 'The Outlaw Firm'

**CONTRIBUTED**  
**ALAMOSA** – Society Hall is excited to welcome back Texas western singer-songwriter Mike Blakely with his equally stellar compadres John Arthur Martinez and John M. Greenberg, performing together as “The Outlaw Firm,” in concert at 7:30 p.m. on Friday July 5.  
 The doors to 400 Ross Ave. will open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and are available at the Green Spot in Alamosa or online at [www.societyhall.org](http://www.societyhall.org). The concert will also stream live on the Society Hall Facebook page and YouTube channel.  
 Three musical journeymen who have performed around the world individually and together for over a quarter of a century, have now made it official, and have joined forces in a new trio called “The Outlaw Firm.” This trifecta of Texas Hill Country singer-songwriters includes Blakely, Greenberg and Martinez.  
 The Outlaws are currently

touring around the west supporting their new self-titled album. While the band may be new, the three founding members have been collaborating for nearly three decades, writing and performing in Texas and as far away as Europe.  
 Floyd Tillman, member of the Country Music Association Hall of Fame, introduced Blakely to Martinez in 1987 at “Floyd Tillman’s Pickin’ in the Park,” a concert series hosted by Martinez in Marble Falls, Texas. Blakely had penned a feature on Tillman’s life for Texas Highways magazine. A few years later, Larry Nye – owner of Lazy L Studio in Kingsland, Texas – introduced Greenberg, the new kid in town (Marble Falls) to Blakely and Martinez. Nye produced separate solo albums for the three songwriters over the following years.  
 Last year, the trio made the decision to form The Outlaw Firm. They recently recorded their new, self-titled album at

Martinez’s studio near Horseshoe Bay. The independent release consists of nine new, original songs written by the band members, and a tenth number penned by up-and-coming songwriting phenom, Jake Martin. The album is now available for digital downloads, in USB format, and on vinyl record.  
 The three powerhouse Texas frontmen have fused their collective talents into a high-energy musical experience. The Outlaw Firm’s sound incorporates all that is sacred to Western, Alt-country and Tex-Americana Music fans, embracing country, blues, folk-rock, conjunto, western swing and TexAmericana. The trio features precise three-part harmonies, multiple stringed instruments, and heart-pounding percussion. The Outlaw Firm members encourage you to “Outlaw boredom and escape the mundane. Come ride the desperado fringe with The Outlaw Firm.”



Courtesy photo  
**Singer-songwriter Mike Blakely with his equally stellar compadres John Arthur Martinez and John M. Greenberg will be performing as The Outlaw Firm on July 5 at Society Hall in Alamosa.**

## Mo Lowda & the Humble Frisch in Cole Park July 14

**CONTRIBUTED**  
**ALAMOSA** — The Alamosa Live Music Association is once again providing free live music in Cole Park all summer long, with its Sundays at Six concert series. The series continues on July 14 with the indie rock of Mo Lowda & the Humble. Check them out at [www.molowda.com](http://www.molowda.com), then head on over to Cole Park at 6 p.m. and enjoy some quality live music right here in Alamosa! Grab your dinner and dessert from Tacos Martinez and Frosty Acres Rolled Ice Cream, whose food trucks will be on site selling their delicious offerings at each concert this summer. And please bring a non-perishable item for the food drive to benefit the Alamosa Food Pantry.  
 Can’t make it to the concert? Catch the show livestreaming on ALMA’s Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/almalivemusic](http://www.facebook.com/almalivemusic).  
 For more information, like ALMA



Courtesy photo  
**Mo Lowda & the Humble will be performing on July 14 in Cole Park as part of the Sundays at Six summer concert series.**  
 on Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, or visit [www.almaonline.org](http://www.almaonline.org).

## Funds

■ Continued from Page 1  
 communities and power local economies,” said Hickenlooper. “Our Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is delivering much needed improvements to make air travel safe and accessible for all Coloradans.”  
 “Colorado’s regional and municipal airports are an important part of our state – they connect our communities and boost local economic development,” said Bennet. “This

funding will support airports across Colorado as they make critical investments to meet our changing needs.”  
 The investments are funded through the FAA’s AIP and the Airport Infrastructure Grants (AIG) program, which deliver funding for airports nationwide to improve runways, taxiways, and airport signage, lighting, marking, and facilities. The programs receive funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which Hickenlooper

helped negotiate. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has provided over \$399 million to Colorado airports across the state for infrastructure improvements since being signed into law., which deliver funding for airports nationwide to improve runways, taxiways, and airport signage, lighting, marking, and facilities. The programs receive funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which Hickenlooper

ask them to think about is who they want representing them in the House of Representatives and who they want to talk about rural health care and water and all those conversations that impact what goes on in our district. That’s what I’m asking people to think about. That’s the conversation I want to have.  
 “But given what’s happened over the past many months and especially last week,” he said, “and how many times I was asked by people in the district while I racked up over 57,000 miles, ‘Adam, you have the ear of a lot of people. You need to own that. People are very concerned, and it would be helpful if you spoke up’, I felt it was necessary for me to do that.  
 “So, I say make this statement with hesitancy but confidence that it’s the right thing to do for the country.”  
 Frisch went on to discuss the current state of politics.

“It’s certainly frustrating that there used to be one party, and rightly so, that got a lot of grief for saying one thing privately and another publicly. Now, I’m watching both parties say things privately that are completely different from what they say to the public. I’m probably going to be the least partisan person running and hopefully serving in Congress.  
 “I would like both parties to have new candidates, but I know, in one case, that’s definitely not going to happen. I appreciate that I owe some level of leadership about this, and I think there’s enough time for a variety of people to stand up, make a case and get unified to go forward.  
 “In 2023, when President Biden changed his position from being a one term president to a two term, I was concerned. As things went on, I was one of the 75 percent who did not want to see a rematch between those two candidates. I’ve been saying this for a while.”

Club provides community service opportunities as well as a weekly meeting to connect with local professional leaders, discuss issues in the community and gain knowledge from community presenters. The Alamosa Rotary Club meets on Mondays at noon at Juanito’s Mexican Kitchen in Alamosa.

## Topics

■ Continued from Page 1  
 However, the ordinance outlining requirements for adding or upgrading sidewalks hasn’t been reviewed since 2001 while construction costs have soared, a factor that is involved in determining when a sidewalk needs to be installed.  
 With those factors in mind, the council will be taking a look at next-best steps going forward.  
 Along that same line, there will be a discussion on the Sidewalk Replacement Fund Policy, which addresses the city agreeing to partner, financially, with homeowners who need to have their sidewalks repaired or replaced. With the passage of the Street Trust Fund sales tax, the annual sidewalk replacement budget is now \$100,000 per year. The council will decide the best way to allocate that funding to help the community.

years, was reviewed by APD Police Chief, City Clerk/Court Administrator, Municipal Judge, and City Prosecutor with recommendations for increases made.  
 The council will take a second look at an ordinance authorizing the police chief to sign the San Luis Valley Drug Task Force Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This is in connection with the creation of a Drug Task Force by District Attorney Anne Kelly, designed to address a more Valley wide, resource sharing approach to battling a crime that, literally, knows no borders.  
 Also to be discussed are the next steps to take regarding the provision of electrical service at St. Benedict encampment for people who are without shelter.  
 The history of the issue was summarized in a staff prepared, pre-meeting communication distributed to members of council.  
 As described in the coversheet sent to council members, “From the beginning, staff has struggled with the misuse of electricity at St. Benedict. Although the electric-

ity was installed to just charge mobile devices, residents were regularly running electrical cords for use. Staff changed the electrical panel from traditional electrical outlets to USB ports. This reduced the improper use of electrical cords. Staff has also had to repair the electrical boxes several times due to residents breaking into them and messing with the wires. This has been an ongoing frustration and concern.  
 “Recently, an individual electrocuted himself while messing with the electrical boxes. While the individual is fine, this was the last straw, appropriately so, for Xcel Energy. Xcel pulled the electrical box ending the service. This also removed the power for the City’s security cameras.  
 “Staff is working with Xcel to find out what would be required to bring service to just the security cameras. We cannot bring back service to the residents of St. Benedict unless the City makes improvements that prevent the vandalism of the electrical boxes.  
 “Staff is currently brainstorming what those improvements would


need to look like, but the costs are estimated between \$3,000-\$10,000.  
 The Council needs to provide direction regarding whether staff should move forward with the improvements to bring back electrical service for charging portable devices.  
 At some point in the meeting, the council will also go into executive session to discuss amending the city’s opioid litigation to include claims against pharmacy benefit managers Express Scripts and OptumRX and opting into a settlement with Kroger in the national MDL opioid litigation. (Opting in to this Kroger settlement will allow the city to avoid litigating the issue independently while also directing funds reached in the settlement to the valley’s Regional Opioid Council, just as the prior funds have been.)  
 Alamosa City Council meets at 7 p.m. in council chambers, 300 Hunt Ave. Anyone wishing to attend via Zoom can do so via the Zoom Webinar Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85753492744> or by calling 1-719-359-4580 with webinar ID: 857 5349 2744.

**StoryWalk**  
 ■ Continued from Page 1  
 Library, which provides library volunteer opportunities for adults. More information can be found at [alamosalibrary.org](http://alamosalibrary.org) under the About Us: Volunteering tab.  
 The Alamosa Rotary



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# Opinion

## Let the celebrations begin

As you read this, most of us will be celebrating the 4th of July and the founding of our Great Nation.

Some 248 years ago our forefathers signed the Declaration of Independence, and we embarked on a great adventure as a nation. Most of the founding fathers lost their fortunes, lands, families and even their very lives in the epic struggle to cast off the yoke of bondage that Great Britain had long held over our people. And in that selfless struggle, they created a country that has outlasted the perils that assaulted us on every side.

And yes, I know we have our problems and it's obvious that we are lacking in true patriots in our leadership as they enrich themselves at our expense. But all in all, we have a great nation, and the opportunities are endless for men and women here to have at least some measure of success if they work hard enough.

Ol' Dutch is not sure where the idea of a cookout on July 4th came from, but it surely was a great idea whom ever dreamed that up. We do know that George Washington himself gathered the boys together and had a shindig to celebrate the signing of the Declaration.

Evidence of that bar tab is listed as follows; 54 bottles of Madeira, 60 of Claret, 22 of Port, 8 of hard cider, 12 beers, 7 bowls of alcoholic punch

### Trout Republic



by Kevin Kirkpatrick



and 8 bottles of whiskey. Now I don't know how many people were present at that party, but it sounds like they got a tad pickled at the least.

And good for them. They had endured terrible hardships and deprivations and I think they probably deserved to tie one on for a change.

And while we are also going to have a party, ours will be a lot more reserved in nature. We will have Brats and hamburgers and all the fixings that Miss Trixie is so good at making. And will be joined by friends and neighbors to celebrate this great day in history.

I am not sure where the idea of fireworks came to celebrate the 4th, but it's long been one of Ol' Dutch's favorite things. There is nothing that calms the soul like shooting off a ton of loud, bright, explosive, popping, noisy fireworks both with and at one another.

Growing up we were able to get a lot of great fireworks and so we had

a blast, literally. And yes, once in a while some kid would lose a finger or two due to careless handling of said crackers, but we were all raised on the premise that natural selection took out the weak and stupid, so we didn't think much about it.

In many states you can still get some great boomers to enjoy the day but of course, some people in different governing bodies have decided that they know "best" for us and have outlawed all but the weakest fireworks around.

Gone are the cherry bombs and M-80's of days long past and now even the rockets and mortars that fly so high and make wondrous decorations in the night sky are often outlawed and forbidden. It's a crying shame actually that we cannot even be trusted to shoot off some bright star shells and here in Colorado they don't give us much.

So, Ol' Dutch will once again be relegated to watching the local city spon-

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To submit sports, email:  
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### Letters policy

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

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

sored fireworks display out his back door. And while it's not even close to the same as shooting them off myself, it's one of the best public displays around.

My grandfather had his solution to the ban on big boomers as he would step out the back door in the dark and shoot off his 10-gauge shotgun. Considering the origins of the celebration being a war, it may just be closer to what the founding fathers would have approved of anyway.

I hope this 4th of July finds you with family and friends and that you will stop and consider the sacrifices of the many who went before us so that we might enjoy living in this great country.

Kevin Kirkpatrick and his Yorkie, Cooper, fish, hunt, ATV or hike daily. His email is [Kevin@TroutRepublic.com](mailto:Kevin@TroutRepublic.com). Additional news can be found at [www.troutrepublic.com](http://www.troutrepublic.com) or on Twitter at TroutRepublic.

## Biden's big bluff

By BYRON YORK

Until a week ago, President Joe Biden seemingly had the age issue under control. Yes, he had senior moments, some of which were quite severe, such as the episode at the White House Juneteenth concert in which he weirdly froze for two minutes, silent, eyes fixed straight ahead, body absolutely motionless. But commentary on such moments was mostly confined to a few news outlets; much of the White House press corps seemed to accept the Biden press handlers' explanation that the stories were "cheap fakes" created by Republicans to hurt the president politically. It's hard to understand why any observant reporter would accept such an explanation, but some did.

Everyone knew that polls showed large majorities of Americans, including large majorities of Democrats, thought that the 81-year-old Biden was not physically and mentally capable of serving as president of the United States for another term, until he is 86 years old. Everyone also knew that the public had fewer such concerns about 78-year-old former President Donald Trump, Biden's rival in the 2024 election. Nevertheless, with a big assist from the press, the Biden campaign was able to keep the age issue on the back burner.

And then Biden blew it all up. On May 15, the president posted a video on X of himself taunting Trump about a debate. "Donald Trump lost two debates to me in 2020," Biden said in the video. "Since then, he hasn't shown up for a debate. Now he's acting like he

wants to debate me again. Well, make my day, pal."

Biden's moment of Dirty Harry bravado will go down as one of the most spectacular self-owns in American political history. Biden mocked Trump as a loser and a coward. He dared Trump to debate him. He was eager for a showdown. Then Trump took him up on it, and the rest is history. Biden's bluff was called, in dramatic fashion.

Now, we are still in the early stage of repercussions from Biden's terrible, troubling performance in the debate. First there was Democratic panic. Then there was retrenchment, as top Democrats settled on a Joe-had-a-bad-night explanation. And now there are growing doubts mixed with fatalism as the polls appear to show significant damage from the debate, while Biden appears to be dug in and many Democrats despair of the effort to remove an unwilling incumbent president from the party ticket.

A word on the polls. After the Trump conviction, it was a good idea to wait a couple of weeks for voters to digest the news and figure out what they think. The same is true with this debate. It hasn't even been a week since the debate, and both sides have been obsessing over polls.

That itself tells us something about the depth of concern about the damage done by Biden's performance. The campaign released internal polling that purported to show Biden was unhurt by the debate -- which was a pretty good sign that they believe Biden has been hurt by the debate.

Now, Biden supporters are turning on each other and especially on the president's inner circle. Sometimes even on Biden himself. In a new Politico account, insiders describe an isolated, cranky president who relies on the advice of a very tight group of advisers and basically ignores everyone else.

"Inside the White House, Biden's growing limitations were becoming apparent long before his meltdown in last week's debate," Politico reported, "with the senior team's management of the president growing more strictly controlled as his term has gone on." Aides worried about presenting the president with negative information because "that will set him off," one senior administration official told Politico: "He is not a pleasant person to be around when he's being briefed. It's very difficult, and people are scared s-tless of him." The official continued to say that Biden "doesn't take advice from anyone other than those few top aides, and it becomes a perfect storm because he just gets more and more isolated from their efforts to control it."

That is not a good situation. Meanwhile, people are noticing that Biden isn't doing the normal sort of things a president would do to clean up after a major gaffe or some other campaign mistake. He wants to show that he is up to the job? How about a news conference, taking all questions for at least an hour? He wants to show his vigor? How about a few days of rigorous, all-out campaigning, traveling and speaking? Biden isn't doing it.

It's a mess. And it all stems from Biden's moment of hubris, when he thought it was a great idea to goad Trump into a debate that would turn into a disaster -- for Biden.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

## Write them

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# Lifestyles

## Colorado now has the worst outbreak of bird flu among dairy cattle in the country

By JOHN INGOLD  
Colorado Sun

Colorado's outbreak of bird flu among dairy cattle is now the worst in the country, with more cases in the past month than any other state, according to the latest state and federal data.

As of Monday evening, Colorado had identified 26 herds with cases of avian influenza. Of those, 22 were identified within the past month and the herds are still in quarantine. Four other cases were identified earlier and quarantines have since been lifted.

All affected herds are in the northeastern part of the state. The rapid and still largely mysterious spread in Colorado — hardly a leading dairy state — contributes to growing concerns that U.S. health authorities are not doing enough to contain the virus. While the threat currently to humans is generally very low, infectious disease experts worry that the longer the virus spreads unchecked through animals, the greater the chances become that it will mutate to become more dangerous to people.

Dr. Maggie Baldwin, the state veterinarian, said Colorado agriculture and health officials are working closely with dairies to identify cases of the virus and to try to prevent its spread. "This is just a virus that likes to hang around," she said. "It's really hard to mitigate once it's in a sustained population. ... I think if we all implement really strong biosecurity we absolutely can prevent the spread, but it's in a really close geographic region."

Colorado's recent cases far exceed those in any other state — Iowa and Idaho are the only other states to record double-digit case totals in the past month, with 12 and 10, respectively. Colorado's case total since bird flu was first identified in dairy cattle this spring places the state second nationally, behind only Idaho and one ahead of Michigan. But Colorado ranks far lower in dairy production than those states — the state was 13th in the country for milk production in 2023, according to federal data.

There are slightly more than 100 dairy herds in Colorado, meaning the bird flu outbreak has now hit one-quarter of all herds in the state. On a per-cow basis, Colorado's outbreak is roughly three times worse than Idaho's, which has approximately 667,000 dairy cattle compared with 201,000 in Colorado.

Baldwin suggested that Colorado's efforts at disease detection may be reflected in the state's high numbers. She said the state has put in a lot of work getting information to dairy producers, as well as industry associations and veterinarians.

"We're trying to really encourage early diagnostics, early reporting

and really good symptom monitoring," she said, "and I think the relationships that we've established in the state have allowed for producers to feel like they can come to us when they have a problem."

Baldwin said most cattle that are infected with bird flu are recovering from the disease — though she doesn't have exact numbers, she has not heard reports of unusual mortality rates. But farmers are suffering from lost production during infection periods, and she said some cattle may not return to full milk production.

"The more that we're seeing our producers be affected by this, I think the more seriously they're taking it and saying, 'We really want to do what we can to stop this and to be good neighbors,'" Baldwin said.

Bird flu, as the name suggests, is not something that usually infects cattle, and the initial "spillover" infections were believed to have been caused by wild birds hanging around dairy farms in the Texas panhandle.

Its subsequent spread to dozens of herds in at least 12 states was initially blamed on the movement of cows from farm to farm. Federal agriculture officials clamped down on this movement by requiring animals moving across state lines to be tested.

But, as the outbreak has persisted, a more complicated picture of spread has emerged.

Baldwin said some of the affected cattle in Colorado are in what are known as "closed herds" — meaning there is no movement of cattle in and out, making it impossible for the virus to have spread to that herd through the introduction of an infected cow. U.S. agriculture officials found something similar with several herds in Michigan.

Focus has now turned to the potential for what is called fomite transmission, in which the virus hitches a ride on an inanimate object. In this case, workers or veterinarians moving between herds could inadvertently be carrying the virus on their clothing or on equipment as they travel from farm to farm.

Baldwin said the state is working with dairy operators on detailed biosecurity plans for their dairies. This includes lots of personal protective equipment — not just masks, goggles and face shields for workers, but also booties and coveralls that can be thrown away before leaving a farm. It also includes plans for cleaning vehicle tires or other pieces of equipment leaving the dairy.

No human cases of bird flu arising from exposure to infected cattle have been identified in Colorado. But state and local health officials have monitored hundreds of dairy workers after possible exposure to the virus.

Following federal guidance, the state is only testing people who

have flu-like symptoms. Scott Bookman, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's senior director for public health readiness and response, said the state has tested fewer than a dozen people. All those tests have come back negative.

Given that only three people nationally have tested positive for a case of bird flu believed to have come from exposure to infected dairy cattle — one in Texas

and two in Michigan, all of whom had minor symptoms — Bookman defended the state's testing approach.

"There just isn't any reason on any evidence at this point to be doing any broader type of asymptomatic testing," he said.

Elizabeth Carlton, an epidemiologist at the Colorado School of Public Health, agreed that the risk to the general public right now is low. Systems designed to detect upticks in flu infec-

tions through hospital data and wastewater testing have not sounded any alarms. Pasteurized milk — what is sold in grocery stores — is safe to drink, though raw milk may not be.

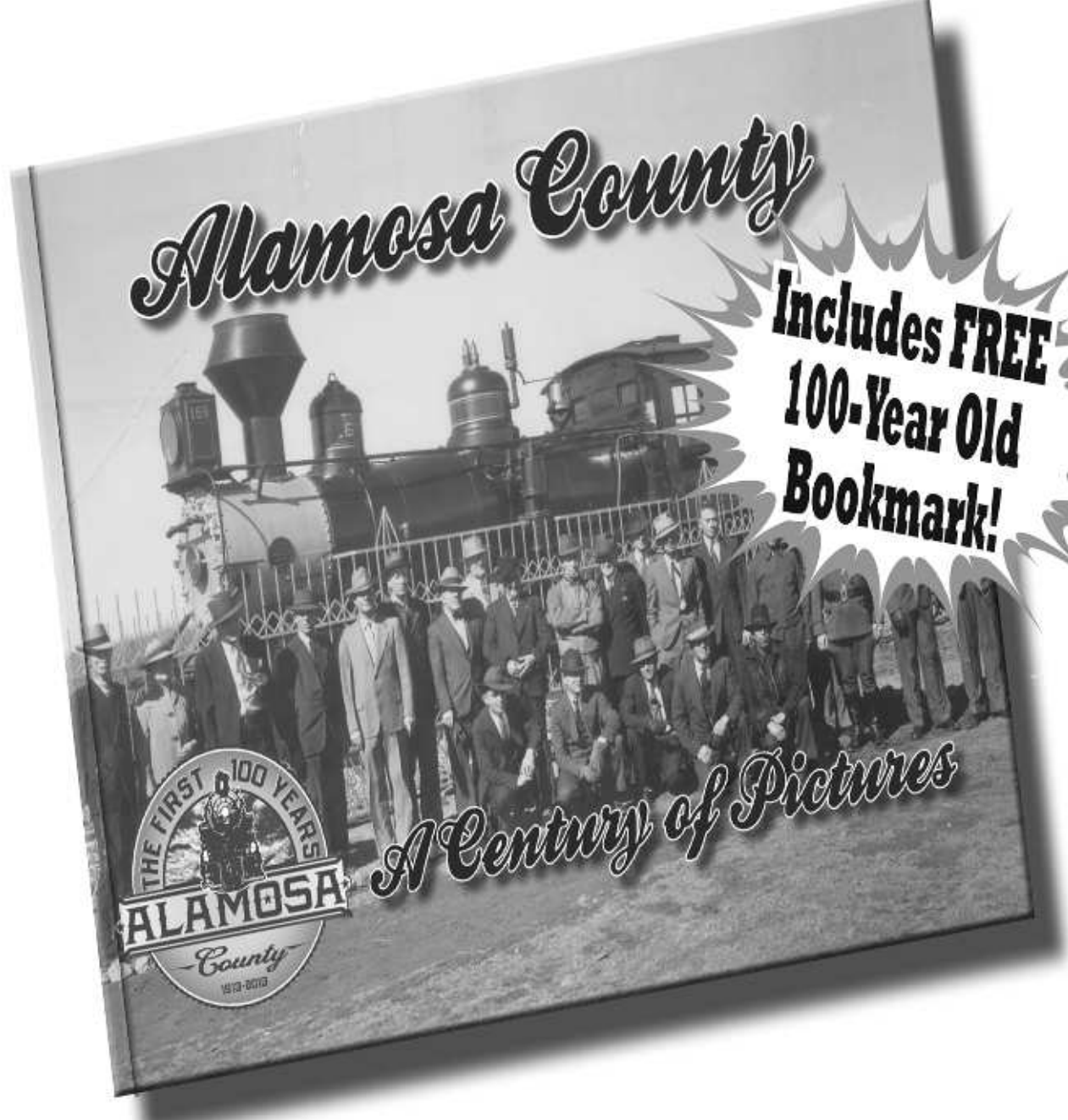
"Where we need to ramp up the level of concern in the population is when we see those dairy farm workers get infected and spread it to their families," she said.

Still, she said, now is the time for public health agencies to

make sure their testing and disease-monitoring systems are running smoothly, so that they can detect if the current bird flu outbreaks in livestock evolve into a threat to humans.

"As a general person right now, I don't think the level of concern should be that high," she said. "But for public health, for people working in the field of infectious disease, this is exactly what we need to be working on right now."

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# Lifestyles

## Avoid driving under the influence

Celebrations frequently involve entertaining guests or heading out for nights on the town to enjoy the company of others. Often food and beverages are part of the fun, and that includes alcoholic beverages, which may flow a little more readily during festive occasions.

Niznik Behavioral Health says crash fatality rates involving alcohol increase by about five times during holidays. Roughly 131 people die in crashes involving alcohol each holiday, compared to 25 deaths during non-holidays, according to data compiled for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System between 2013

and 2017. The numbers continue to grow. According to MoneyGeek, driving under the influence-related fatalities were 23 percent higher in 2021 than 2016. Among the holidays with the highest rates of DUI, Independence Day and other summer holidays top the list, but impaired driving also is prevalent between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

It's perfectly alright to have fun in social situations. However, that fun should involve responsible behavior, particularly when consuming alcohol. Here's how to enjoy celebrations while also playing it safe.

• Take driving off the table. When planning social occasions, remove

the need to drive entirely. Ensure the party location is within walking distance for guests, or at a convenient spot accessible by public transportation. Hosts can encourage guests to utilize taxis or rideshare services so everyone can leave their cars at home.

• Take the emphasis off of alcohol. Plan events that do not necessarily need to be drinking-heavy. Experiential events, such as escape rooms, crafting sessions, culinary demonstrations, and others can shift the focus away from drinking.

• Serve alcohol early. If alcoholic beverages will be served, have a cut-off time when these drinks no longer will be served. This way guests

will have a chance to recover and sober up before leaving.

• Provide drink vouchers. Limit how much guests drink by setting a quota. Work with an establishment so that each party-goer only gets a set number of drink tokens or tickets. When they're used up, then they no longer will be served.

• Make food a priority. Shift the focus from drinks to food. Those who have filled up on plenty of snacks or a big meal may be less likely to over-indulge.

• Change your venue. A gathering at a bar may set the tone that drinking will be prioritized. Look for party venues where drinking may not be allowed, such as church or



school party rooms, or not as accessible, such as a BYOB restaurant.

• Always have a sober chaperone. At each event, one or more people should make the pledge to stay sober so they can ensure the safety of guests. This may mean

driving them home themselves or arranging for transportation.

Festivities may include alcohol, but hosts and party planners should take steps to reduce the likelihood that guests will drive while under the influence.

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# Lifestyle



Photo by Owen Woods courtesy of the Church Project

Picture of Madeleine and her dog Marlee on move in day, July 4, 2023.

## Church Project grand opening celebration July 5

By MARIE MCCOLM

**MONTE VISTA** — The grand opening of the Church Project Community Art Center is scheduled for July 5 in Monte Vista. A ribbon cutting will be held at 10 a.m., followed by a Memory Mirror event, a printmaking workshop, an artist talk, and the evening will finish with a dance party from 6 to 8 p.m.

Artist and owner of the Church Project, Madeleine Ahlborn is excited about the upcoming grand opening at 256 S. Broadway St., Monte Vista.

"It's been a lot of hours of hard work, strong commitment, and dedication. I am excited to see the culmination of some of this with the grand opening. We aren't completely done with everything, but the building will require more work, but I am enthusiastic about opening the doors to more and creating something to help enrich and immerse the community in the true beauty of all things art," she said.

Ahlborn moved to the San Luis Valley in 2014. She was offered the chance to purchase the beautiful historic building for the Church Project by her former landlord Ron Douglas. Prior to purchasing the building, Ahlborn was renting a space with four other artists, but a couple of the other artists needed to back out on the space. She was unsure of what to do, but knew she wanted to do something else, and knew she wanted it to involve art.

"I think there's some interesting ideas on how people perceive artists, like you have to be showing in galleries, or you have to always be in your studio working in order to claim the title artist. I am trying to dismantle that idea and show that you can be a great artist anywhere," she said.

After speaking to Douglas, Ahlborn was given a tour, and then purchased the former church building that is now called the "Church Project." Ahlborn said she was scared at first and spoke to one of her close friends about it, who assured her that it was "all going to work out."

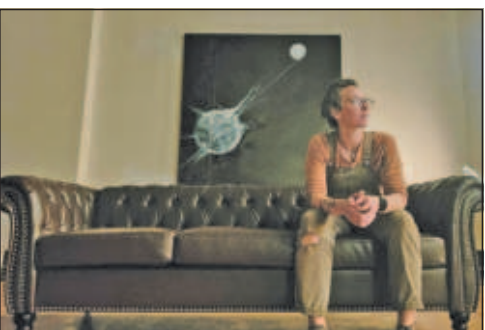
"I don't know how she knew it was all going to work out, but trusting my own instinct, and trusting in them. I think that's such a beautiful thing. As a human, trusting in other people is very in the moment. And just really thinking about everything, I believe my purpose in the world is to connect people, whether it's through space, or connecting them to themselves. After thinking about it, I believed it was all going to work out too," she said.

Ahlborn was concerned about obtaining the financing for the building but with the help of Douglas obtained a loan through the First Southwest Community fund, that helps rural businesses led by women.

"I was very fortunate to be able to obtain this help. In thinking about it though, 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. I have always wanted to figure out a way that I can give back. I think this is something that really aligns with my own personal values, that I can share with the community, I want to be the lead artist, with everyone in the community, having joint ownership," she said.

Ahlborn said with all the hours she has put into working on the historic building her deep thinking and vision has become clear as to what she wants to accomplish and do with the space.

"My big goal with this community art center is to provide the space and the freedom for people to unlock their cre-



Courtesy photos

Lead artist and owner of the Church Project Community Art Center, Madeleine Ahlborn.



Artists making paintings at the Church Project.



'All Born Atrium Gallery' as named by Madeleine Ahlborn upstairs in the Church Project.

ative potential. This has become the vision for Church Project Community Art Center, also," she said.

Ahlborn has held different art events at the Church Project. She will be hosting workshops for artists and other artists will be hosting workshops. Her idea is to bring many different artist-led events and projects to the building.

Ahlborn will also host a Memory Mirror event the day of her grand opening. The event is to allow anyone who enters the Church Project building to speak and be recorded, regarding any memories they may have of the building when it was a church or of any other memories they may have of the building. The memories will later be played in an artist display that will take place at Adams State University, with pictures of her working on the building that will be on display, along with the audio playing in the background.

Ahlborn is also looking forward to her idea of having upstairs pews at the Church Project, dedicated in memory of family members for the community. The idea would be for family members to purchase a pew that will stay upstairs, but in front of the pew a plaque of a family member will be placed in memory of that family member.

Ahlborn has many ideas for the Church Project and is looking forward to bringing all of them to life, and giving back to the community that she has come to love so much.

"It's not going to solve everyone's problems, but the aspect of creation, and giving people a space where they can come together. I am really trying to encompass a oneness with the world around us, to highlight our similarities versus focusing on our differences, and the only way to do that is to spend time together and build a sense of community. There are a lot of folks that are hungry to connect, and I am hoping this can be a space for that," she said.



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# Sports

## Alamosa, Centauri well-represented on All-IML track team

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

**ALAMOSA** – The All-Intermountain League track and field team was released following the CHSAA state meet at the end of May.

Alamosa had eight boys and seven girls named All-League.

The Mean Moose boys were led by Mario Viallba who was named the league's boys Runner of the Year. He won the 3,200- and 800-meter runs at the league track meet in April.

Also named All-League in individual events were Brayden Moeller in the 200-meter dash, and Jesse Maestas in the pole vault.

Maestas and Moeller were also on the 4x100-meter relay team which also included Brant Jackson and Chris Brooks. Viallba was also on the 4x800 relay team which also had Jeremiah DeLaCerde, Tyler Dokson and Cody Williams.

Lady Mean Moose named All-League were Elizabeth McQuitty in the 3,200, Madeline Castillo in the 1,600, Sarah DeLaCerde in the 800, Kaylee Gonzales-Moore in the 200, and Kaidence Boehm in the shot put. DeLaCerde was also the IML Spring Female Track Athlete of the Year.

McQuitty and Castillo were also on the 4x800-meter relay team along with Victoria Gifford and Abby Adams.

Alamosa's Jen McQuitty was the IML Coach of the Year for both boys and girls track and field.

Centauri had four boys and one girl named All-League.

For the Falcons, Carson Bagwell was All-League in the triple jump, and Troy Sowards was All-IML in the high jump. Sowards was also the Class 3A state champion in the high jump.

Bagwell and Sowards were also members of the 4x400-meter relay team along with Tyrel Hostetter and Dallyn King.

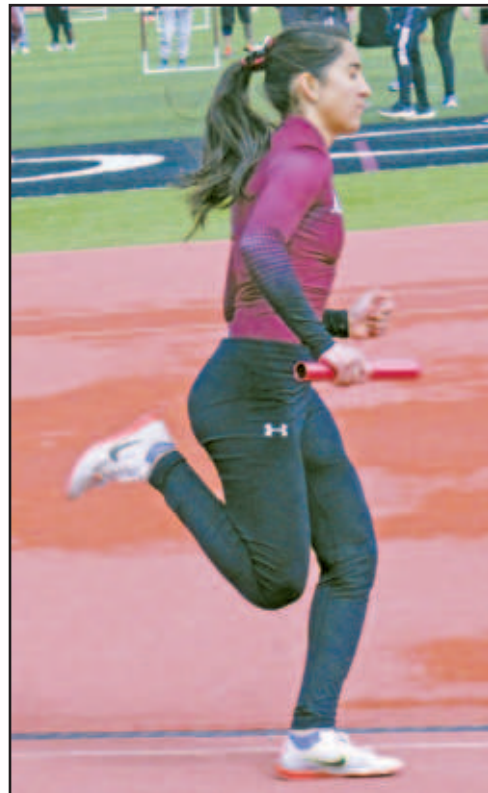
For the Lady Falcons, Sara Kelly was All-League in the pole vault.

Other individual award winners saw



Courier file photos by Ken Hamrick  
**Alamosa's Mario Viallba was named the IML boys Runner of the Year.**

Bayfield's Gabriel Archuleta named boys Field Event Athlete of the Year, Montezuma-Cortez's Marley Mack was the girls Runner of the Year, and Pagosa Springs' Abi Nehring was the girls Field Event Athlete of the Year.



**Above left: Alamosa's Elizabeth McQuitty (left) and Madeline Castillo. Above right: Alamosa's Sarah DeLaCerde was the IML Spring Female Track Athlete of the Year.. Below left: Centauri's Troy Sowards.**



### 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**

Sanford B vs. Alamosa, 5 p.m.

Sanford A vs. Alamosa, 6:30 p.m.

#### End of season

#### 9-11 baseball

At Cole Park **TUESDAY**

Angels vs. Pirates, 5 p.m.

Cubs vs. Red Sox, 6:15 p.m.

Rockies vs. Dodgers, 7:30 p.m.

#### 9-11 girls softball

At Lee Field #3 **TUESDAY**

Monte Vista vs. Ace of

Bases, 6 p.m.  
MonteVistavs.Battitudes, 7:15 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)

WarTurtles 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)

TopNotch 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)

**MVC**

**CUSTOMER APPRECIATION SALE**

**JULY 3 - 13**

SCAN CODE TO VIEW FULL SALES FLYER!

**Christmas In July Sale!**

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# Lifestyle

## Great party tips for the Fourth of July

More than 332 million people live in the United States, according to the most recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau. There's a good chance that, come July 4th, a considerable number of those individuals will be hosting or attending parties to celebrate American independence.

This year those planning on a July 4th fête can consider these tips as they prepare to celebrate with family and friends.

- Borrow a second grill. Those tasked with grilling often find themselves standing there for hours over hot flames. Cut down on time at the grill by adding an extra cooking surface. That's easily achieved by having more than one grill going simultaneously. Cook fast-cooking items like hamburgers and hot dog on one grill, and reserve the

- other for sausages and chicken, which may need more time to reach safe levels of doneness.
- Stop peeking. Resist any urge to check the food too often. Every time you flip, press or move the meats, you compromise flavor and could make the food dry out.
- Lure insects away. Bees are attracted to sweet smells, but wasps and hornets are drawn to meats. Put a saucer of very sweet soda and some chicken scraps in a far corner of your yard to attract yellow jackets and other stinging insects to that area, drawing their attention away from guests and their meals.
- Hire a lifeguard. If your party will involve time spent in a pool, consider hiring a lifeguard or designate someone to observe pool activities. Party hosts may be dis-

tracted by other duties, and one can't count on guests to watch what is going on in the pool. For safety's sake, a dedicated set of eyes on swimmers can prevent injuries and accidents.

- Give neighbors a heads-up. Parties and barbecues on July 4th are largely expected, but you can offer a courtesy to neighbors by informing them of your plans, including the start time and proposed ending time. If you are close with neighbors, consider inviting them to participate.
- Skip the fireworks. Even if fireworks are permitted where you live, it's best to avoid the potential safety hazards and leave fireworks displays to the professionals. Shooting off fireworks in neighborhoods causes debris to rain down on guests or land in



pools, and it may even be ingested by pets or wildlife. Even sparklers can be dangerous, as they burn at 2,000 F. In fact, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission says sparklers account for around 60 percent of

injuries among children under five during summer festivities.

- Create a patriotic playlist. Use your favorite music streaming service to curate a music list that features America-specific songs, songs about sum-

mer and general party tunes. Be sure the music is in the background and does not overpower the conversation.

July 4th plans are heating up. When hosting a party or barbecue, keep it simple and safe.

## Prepare pets for Fourth of July festivities

Many people are eager for Independence Day celebrations in early summer. There is much to be excited about, as festivities often begin in the afternoon with barbecues and pool parties, and commence late at night after fireworks shows that light up the

**Be careful with alcoholic drinks**

Party hosts typically serve beer, wine and cocktails. Alcoholic beverages have the potential to poison pets, says the ASPCA. Animals can become very intoxicated, severely depressed or go into comas if they drink

alcohol. Keep spirited drinks well out of reach.

**Check with the vet**

Many pets are prone to anxiety from loud noises, such as thunderstorms and fireworks, and lots of commotion — something that occurs in spades come July 4th. Some veterinarians recommend a small course of anti-anxiety medication or a sedative to help

pets cope with the stimuli.

**Create a quiet space**

Allow pets to ride out the day in their comfortable, quiet and cozy retreats. If necessary, create a space in an interior room. Cover the pet crate with a blanket and offer favorite toys or bedding to create a soothing environment.

**Place notes on doors and gates**

While it's best to keep pets in a locked room away from the fray, some pets like to socialize with

guests and are not bothered by noises. However, alert guests with notes posted on doors and fence gates to check to make sure pets are not trying to escape behind them. All doors should be closed firmly when entering or exiting.

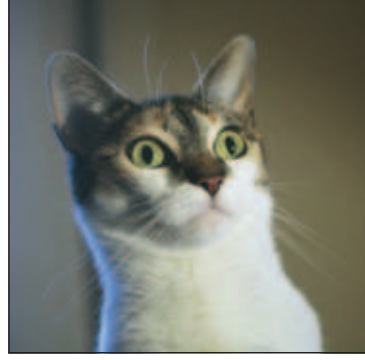
**Pick up debris**

Firework debris can rain down on properties even if you were not shooting off the fireworks. Curious pets may pick it up or eat it, which runs the risk of an upset stomach or even an intestinal blockage. Check

your yard before letting pets out to play.

**Keep an eye on the grill**

Pets can be opportunists, and those burgers and chicken drumsticks smell delicious to pets. Pets that get too close to the grill can become



injured. And if pets eat leftovers, they may end up with digestive distress or even be poisoned by foods that are toxic to cats and dogs.

Pets need to be protected during summertime parties like Independence Day celebrations.

night sky. Still, not everyone enjoys the extra noise and busy nature of July 4th parties, particularly family members of the family.

Animal control services often report an increase in lost animals between July 4th and July 6th. That's because the excitement of the holiday puts pets out of their comfort zones.

While pet owners need not cancel their July 4th plans, they should take heed of the many ways to keep their pets safe during the festivities.

**Update identification**

Be sure prior to any July 4th events that pets are wearing collars with current identification information. If an address or phone number has changed since the last time you updated microchip records, be sure to check the account is current.

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# July 11-14, 2024

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with special guest Max McNown  
presented by: Plant Nutrient Solutions and Summit Gold

July 11 • 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Nightly Dances with Live Music July 11-13

Western Trick Ropers

Rider & Bethany Kiesner

Performing at all rodeo events

Specialty Act - Sponsored by San Luis Valley Federal Bank

Friday Night PRCA Rodeo

July 12, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday Night PRCA Rodeo

July 13, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday Matinee PRCA Rodeo

July 14, 2:00 p.m.

Rodeo performances sponsored by Pepper Equipment Company

# Public Notices

## COMBINED NOTICE OF SALE PUBLICATION

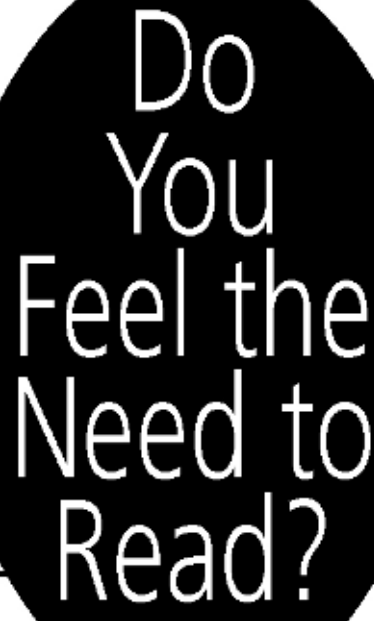
(CRS §38-38-103)  
**FORECLOSURE SALE No. 2-2024**  
 To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:  
 On March 29, 2024, under Reception No. 24000368, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Conejos records.  
 Original Grantor(s): Jeffrey Sisneros  
 Original Beneficiary: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Flagstar Bank, FSB, its successors and assigns  
 Current Holder of the Evidence of Debt Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC  
 Date of Deed of Trust: January 14, 2022  
 County of Recording: Conejos  
 Recording Date of Deed of Trust: January 21, 2022  
 Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.) Reception No. 21002233  
 Original Principal Amount \$40,900.00  
 Outstanding Principal Balance \$39,563.65  
 Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated and/or Grounds for Acceleration of the Debt exists, for reasons including, but not expressly limited to, the following: Borrower's failure to make timely payments as required under the Evidence of Debt and Deed of Trust. **THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.**  
 The property is all of the property encumbered by said Deed of Trust and is described as:  
**LOT THREE (3), IN BLOCK "B" IN THE ORIGINAL TOWNSITE OF THE TOWN OF ANTONITO, COLORADO**, as per the recorded plat thereof, on file in the office of the Conejos County Clerk and Recorder, State of Colorado.  
 A.P.N.: 598729121003  
 Purported Common Address: 605 State Street, Antonito, CO 81120  
**NOTICE OF SALE**  
 The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.  
 THEREFORE, Notice is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, July 25, 2024, at the office of the Conejos County Public Trustee, Conejos County Courthouse, 6683 County Road 13, Conejos, CO 81129, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.  
 IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED.  
 First Publication Date: June 5, 2024  
 Last Publication Date: July 3, 2024  
 Name of Publication: The Valley Courier  
 Date: June 3, 2024  
 Mack M. Crowther  
 Public Trustee in and for the County of Conejos, State of Colorado.  
 The name, address, telephone number and bar registration number of attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:  
 Janeway Law Firm, P.C.  
 Attorneys for Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC  
 David R. Dougherty #40042  
 Alison L. Berry #34531  
 N. April Winecki #34861  
 9540 Maroon Circle, Suite 320  
 Englewood, CO 80112  
 Phone: (303) 706-9990 Fax: (303) 706-9994  
 File: 24-032068/Sisneros  
**THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU ARE IN BANKRUPTCY OR THIS DEBT HAS BEEN DISCHARGED IN BANKRUPTCY, THE COLLECTION ACTION DESCRIBED IN THIS NOTICE SHALL BE AGAINST THE REAL PROPERTY THAT SECURED THE DEBT AND NOT AGAINST YOU PERSONALLY.**  
 No. 3975.  
 Published in the Valley Courier on June 5, 12, 19, 26, & July 3, 2024.

## COMBINED NOTICE OF SALE PUBLICATION

CRS § 38-38-103  
**Public Trustee Sale No. 3-2024**  
 To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust: On April 10, 2024, under Reception No.24000428, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Conejos records.  
 Original Grantor(s) (Borrower): Eric R. Grossman  
 Original Beneficiary: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. acting solely as a nominee for NBH Bank, its successors and assigns  
 Current Holder of Evidence of Debt: NBH Bank  
 Date of Deed of Trust: 11/14/2022  
 Recording Date of Deed of Trust: 11/16/2022  
 County of Recording: CONEJOS  
 Recording No. of Deed of Trust: Reception No. 22001753  
 Original Principal Amount: \$295,500.00  
 Outstanding/Unpaid Principal Balance \$287,056.03  
 Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay the monthly installment of principal and interest due, together with other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the Deed of Trust and other violations of the terms thereof.  
**THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.**  
 The legal description of the Property that is subject to the Notice of Election and Demand in accordance with CRS §38-38-101(4)(g) is: **A TRACT OF LAND LOCATED IN THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 34 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE N.M.P.M., COUNTY OF CONEJOS, STATE OF COLORADO, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 29, THENCE NORTH 30 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE TRACT HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE WEST 538 FEET; THENCE NORTH 31°35' EAST 1027.16 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 875 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING.**  
 Purported Common Address: 13995 County Road N, Antonito, CO 81120  
**THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.**  
**NOTICE OF SALE**  
 The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.  
 THEREFORE, Notice is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, August 8, 2024, at the office of the Conejos County Public Trustee, Conejos County Courthouse, 6683 County Road 13, Conejos, CO 81129, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.  
 IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED.  
 First Publication Date: June 19, 2024.  
 Last Publication Date: July 17, 2024  
 Name of Publication: The Valley Courier  
 Date: June 14, 2024  
 Mack M. Crowther  
 Public Trustee in and for the County of Conejos, State of Colorado.  
 The name, address, telephone number and bar registration number of attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:  
 BROWN DUNNING WALKER FEIN DRUSCH PC  
 Douglas W. Brown, Reg. No. 10429  
 7995 E. Prentice Ave., Suite 101E  
 Greenwood Village, CO 80111  
 Telephone: 303-329-3363  
 dbrown@bdwfd.com  
 Attorney File No. 3606-131  
 The attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.  
 No. 3997.  
 Published in the Valley Courier on June 19, 26, July 3, 10, & 17, 2024.

## COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION

CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 962-24  
 To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:  
 On May 1, 2024, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Alamosa records.  
 Original Grantor(s)  
 BillieJo Cooper and Curtis B Cooper  
 Original Beneficiary(ies)  
 Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., as beneficiary, as nominee for AmCap Mortgage, Ltd. DBA Major Mortgage  
 Current Holder of Evidence of Debt  
 PennyMac Loan Services, LLC  
 Date of Deed of Trust  
 May 03, 2019  
 County of Recording  
 Alamosa  
 Recording Date of Deed of Trust  
 May 06, 2019  
 Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.)  
 373104 Book: N/A Page:  
 Original Principal Amount  
 \$221,212.00  
 Outstanding Principal Balance  
 \$204,851.58  
 Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.  
**THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.**  
**LOT 12, IN BLOCK 5, CARROLL SUBDIVISION TO THE CITY OF ALAMOSA, IN ALAMOSA COUNTY, COLORADO.**  
 Also known by street and number as: 2209 Clark Street, Alamosa, CO 81101.  
**THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.**  
**NOTICE OF SALE**  
 The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.  
 THEREFORE, Notice is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, 08/28/2024, at County Office Building, 8999 Independence Way, Alamosa Colorado, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.  
 First Publication 7/3/2024  
 Last Publication 7/31/2024  
 Name of Publication Valley Courier  
 IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;  
 DATE: 05/01/2024  
 Amy McKinley, Public Trustee in and for the County of Alamosa, State of Colorado  
 By: Amy McKinley, Public Trustee  
 The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:  
 Scott Toebten #19011  
 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. 216 16th Street, Suite 1210,  
 Denver, CO 80202 (720) 259-6710  
 Attorney File # 24CO00177-1  
 The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.  
 ©Public Trustees' Association of Colorado Revised 1/2015  
 No. 4014.  
 Published in the Valley Courier on July 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31, 2024.



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**099 - ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**ATTENTION AHS "CLASS OF 75"**. 50th reunion scheduled for June 6th & 7th, 2025. Contact Pam Eden Scott @ Facebook or email alamosahighschoolclassof1975@yahoo.com. (7/10/24)

**DEL NORTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** is seeking an energetic, caring individual to serve as a SPECIAL EDUCATION PARA-EDUCATOR. 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)

**165 - PERSONALS**

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

**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)

**173 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

**PRIVATE HOME HEALTH:** I can help keep your loved one at home. CNA 20+ years experience, excellent references, reasonable rates. 512-293-1448. (7/24/24)

**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 hjurtado@centerco.gov. The deadline is until positions are filled. (7/20/24)

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

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**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 ahorrocks@urtigers.co or aduda@urtigers.co for more information or to send completed applications. (8/6/24)

**RANCH/FARM HELP; PART-TIME.** 719-274-0380, (8/2/24)

## AUCTION LEGAL NOTICE WEST SIDE STORAGE, LLC / HEADWORKS, INC. SELF-STORAGE PUBLIC NOTICE

West Side Storage, LLC / Headworks, Inc. will sell at Public Auction Online via StorageTreasures.com, all personal property and the personal goods stored therein by the following, which may include, but are not limited to general household goods, furniture, boxes, clothes, and appliances stored in its facility by:  
 Trevin Vigil- Unit # A08HC-003, Madison Kellim- Unit # A10-045, Stephanie Colonna- Unit # C20-139, Benisha Sanchez- Unit # C10-009, Angi Richardson- Unit # C20-035, Jamie Brodie- Unit # C20-137, Mitch Oppy- Unit # C20-111, Dustin Good- Unit # C10-011, Unknown- C40HC-105, Penny Fritts- Unit # M20-107, Paul Jones- Unit # M10-039, Denesha Pena- Unit # M20-105, Justin Alberti- Unit # GESU-435011-0, Tim Davidson- Unit # MSCU-469156-6, Ginger Massey- Unit # FSCU-481196-2, Kevin Romero- Units #HXHU-312730-5, #NWURU-601078-3, and #ACCU-502030-0  
 at 8:00 am, Friday morning July 12, 2024, online at StorageTreasures.com this auction will commence. Sale is subject to cancel in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.  
 No. 4012.  
 Published in the Valley Courier on July 3 & 10, 2024.

## COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION

CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 961-24  
 To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:  
 On April 26, 2024, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Alamosa records.  
 Original Grantor(s)  
 Ashanti L Montoya AND Johnathan A Rangel  
 Original Beneficiary(ies)  
 MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR ADVANCE MORTGAGE & INVESTMENT COMPANY, LLC, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS  
 Current Holder of Evidence of Debt  
 PLAINS COMMERCE BANK  
 Date of Deed of Trust  
 May 03, 2023  
 County of Recording  
 Alamosa  
 Recording Date of Deed of Trust  
 May 03, 2023  
 Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.)  
 388625  
 Original Principal Amount  
 \$212,121.00  
 Outstanding Principal Balance  
 \$211,499.33  
 Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.  
**THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.**  
**LOT 10, MCCLAIN-FINK SUBDIVISION, COUNTY OF ALAMOSA, STATE OF COLORADO**  
 APN #: 541315202002  
 Also known by street and number as: 1408 Edison Ave, Alamosa, CO 81101  
**THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.**  
**NOTICE OF SALE**  
 The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.  
 THEREFORE, Notice is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, 08/28/2024, at County Office Building, 8999 Independence Way, Alamosa Colorado, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.  
 First Publication: 7/3/2024  
 Last Publication: 7/31/2024  
 Name of Publication Valley Courier  
 IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;  
 DATE: 04/26/2024  
 Amy McKinley, Public Trustee in and for the County of Alamosa, State of Colorado  
 By: Amy McKinley, Public Trustee  
 The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:  
 Alison L. Berry #34531  
 Lynn M. Janeway #15592  
 Janeway Law Firm, P.C. 9540 Maroon Circle, Suite 320, Englewood, CO 80112 (303) 706-9990  
 Attorney File # 24-032056  
 The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.  
 ©Public Trustees' Association of Colorado Revised 1/2015  
 No. 4013.  
 Published in the Valley Courier on July 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31, 2024.

## Resolution to Declare a Vacancy

Be it resolved that the Board of Education of South Conejos School District accepts the resignation of Louise Gallegos from the Board of Education at the Special School Board meeting effective June 24, 2024, and  
 Be it further resolved that, in accordance with state law, the Board declares a vacancy in this school director's office that will be filled by appointment by the Board within 60 days in accordance with the following procedure:  
 1. Interested persons are invited to send a letter to the Board with a statement of interest and qualifications by July 31, 2024. Letters can be submitted to vlopez@southconejos.com.  
 2. The Board will interview prospective candidates at a work session on August 6, 2024.  
 3. To be eligible for appointment, a candidate must be a registered elector of the school district for at least 12 consecutive months and a resident of the district.  
 4. The appointee will serve the remainder of the unexpired term.  
 No. 4007.  
 Published in the Valley Courier on June 26, 28, 29, July 2, & 3, 2024.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Costilla County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. 400 Gasper St. San Luis CO.  
 The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider the following:  
 Limited Impact Review Application for a baseball field fencing project by Blanca/Fort Garland Metropolitan District in Fort Garland, on Highway 159, Costilla County, Colorado.  
 No. 4009.  
 Published in the Valley Courier on June 28, 29, July 2, 3, & 5, 2024.

## Request for Proposal

The Rio Grande Water Conservation District is seeking proposals from qualified contractors to construct a surface water recharge station consisting of several measurement structures, a settling pond, recharge pond, and an additive alternate overflow area. Contact Taylor Chick at (719) 589-6301 for a bid packet. Information can be accessed online at www.rgwcd.org. Please include relevant qualifications and timeline for completing the project. Proposals must be received by 3:30 p.m. July 19, 2024 and may be submitted in person or by mail to 8805 Independence Way, Alamosa, CO, 81101, or by e-mail to Taylor@rgwod.org.  
 No. 4015.  
 Published in the Valley Courier on July 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, & 12, 2024.



# Classifieds

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**LAPUENTE STREET OUTREACH** is looking for an **OUTREACH COORDINATOR** who is passionate about working with homeless and vulnerable people in the San Luis Valley. The Outreach Coordinator will be involved in supplies management, community engagement, contact with community partners, and on the ground support for people who are experiencing the effects of poverty. This position will also require creation and maintenance of Street Outreach data tracking, analysis, and reporting. \$38-\$42, DOE. Full benefits package. Please send resume and cover letter to hr@lapuente.net. (7/10/24)

**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)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**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)

**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)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**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)

**THE NORTH CONEJOS SCHOOL DISTRICT** is accepting applications for the 2024-25 school year for (1) **LA JARA ELEMENTARY TEACHER**. Applicants must hold a current Colorado Teaching License or be able to obtain proper endorsement. For information on how to apply visit [www.northconejos.com](http://www.northconejos.com) employment center or you may pick up an application at the District Administration Office, 17887 US Hwy 285, LA JARA, CO 81140. Submit application to central office or email to [rmc-carroll@northconejos.com](mailto:rmc-carroll@northconejos.com). EOE. (7/5/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**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. (7/9/24)

**SANFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT IS** accepting applications for a **Full-Time CUSTODIAN**. All candidates must pass background checks. Applications can be downloaded at [www.sanfordschools.org](http://www.sanfordschools.org). Sanford School is an EOE&E. (7/10/24)

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# Classifieds

### 221 - HELP WANTED

**POWER ZONE EQUIPMENT** is looking to hire a Full-Time CERTIFIED ELECTRICIAN with a MASTER ELECTRICIAN'S LICENSE. Pay range of \$30-\$40/hr with benefits package. Deadline to apply 7/3/24. Send resume to greg@powerzone.com or call 719-754-1981 to apply. (7/9/24)

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

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

**SIERRA GRANDE SCHOOL** is seeking DIRECTOR OF STUDENT BEHAVIOR, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, and SCHOOL SAFETY MANAGEMENT for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. Submit completed application to Mr. Kevin Jones, Superintendent by email to: kjones@sierragrande-school.net. Applications are available at the District office, 17523 Hwy. 160, Blanca, CO 81123 or online at www.sierragrande-school.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)

**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)

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

**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

**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)

**COME BE A part of the growing CENTENNIAL R-1 TEAM!** We are seeking applications for a SECONDARY MATH TEACHER, TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR, PRESCHOOL PARAPROFESSIONAL, PART-TIME CUSTODIAN, REGULAR BUS ROUTE or ACTIVITY BUS DRIVER, and a VARIETY OF SUBSTITUTES. Positions will remain open until filled. Each position has unique responsibilities, yet all require the same application process. Please submit a resume, three letters of recommendation, pertinent transcripts, and a background check/valid CDE license with an application. Submit applications through https://www.applitrack.com/centennialsschool/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)

**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)

**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)

### 221 - HELP WANTED

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CAFETERIA STAFF NEEDED AT UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT.** Must have a high school diploma and some knowledge of working in a kitchen or a willingness to be trained. Pay is dependent on prior experience. Please contact Leslie Martinez at 719-657-4040, x1100 or email her at lmartinez@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co. (7/3/24)

**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

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**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)

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

### 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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### 420 - LOTS & ACREAGES

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

### 426 - MOBILE HOMES FORSALE

**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

Accepting applications for 1 bedroom apartments. Must be 62 or older or disabled  
**Cielo Vista Apartments**  
166 S. Willis Center, Colo  
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Accepting Applications for 2 & 3 bedroom family units  
**Valley Grande Apts.**  
2256 E. Drive Monte Vista, CO  
852-4302

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

### 601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Accepting Applications for waiting list for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Family units available

**West View Villas**  
510 Dunham Monte Vista, Colo  
852-3949  
TTY 1-800-659-2656  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Accepting applications for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Rent based on income for qualifying households.  
**Gomez Manor Apts.**  
804 State St. Antonito, Colo.  
376-2388  
TTY 1-800-659-2656  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

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

### 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

**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)



# Lunch Break.

# We're There.



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# Comics

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 A —, skip and a jump
  - 4 "Serial —"
  - 7 Nearly boundless
  - 11 String instrument
  - 12 Desert in Asia
  - 13 Hodge-podge
  - 14 Stray
  - 15 "— my word!"
  - 16 Force
  - 17 Strong-boxes
  - 19 Connection
  - 21 Cereal plant
  - 22 — culpa
  - 23 Therefore
  - 24 Order's partner
  - 25 Certain vote
  - 28 Matching
  - 29 — and away
  - 30 Athletic contest
  - 31 Employer
  - 32 Play a part
  - 33 Divisible by two
- DOWN**
- 1 Colors
  - 2 Cooley veggie
  - 3 Entertainer
  - 4 Head of hair

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

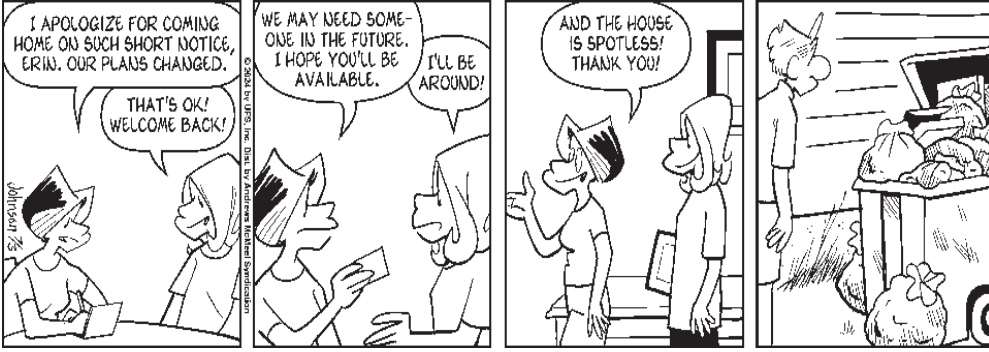
- 5 Old Greek coin
- 6 Convenience store
- 7 Clear liquor
- 8 Inter —
- 9 Belt out a tune
- 10 Carry
- 12 Enthusiasm
- 18 Keen to act
- 20 Not seen before
- 23 Relaxation
- 24 Shoe-string
- 25 Course plotter
- 26 Playing cards
- 27 Desire
- 28 Eat
- 29 Impartiality
- 30 Have a happy time
- 35 Payable
- 36 Let
- 37 Went very slowly
- 39 Chore
- 40 Eye
- 41 Wreck for a ballerina
- 42 Skirt
- 44 Manner
- 45 Tried to be like
- 48 Actor — Lowe

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	

## ALLEY OOP



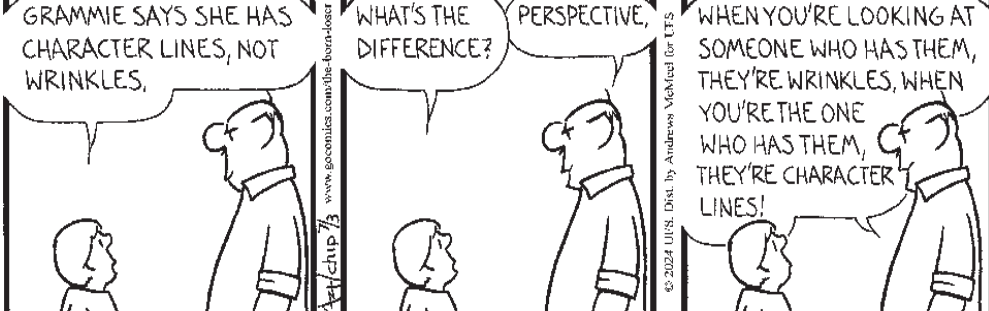
## ARLO & JANIS



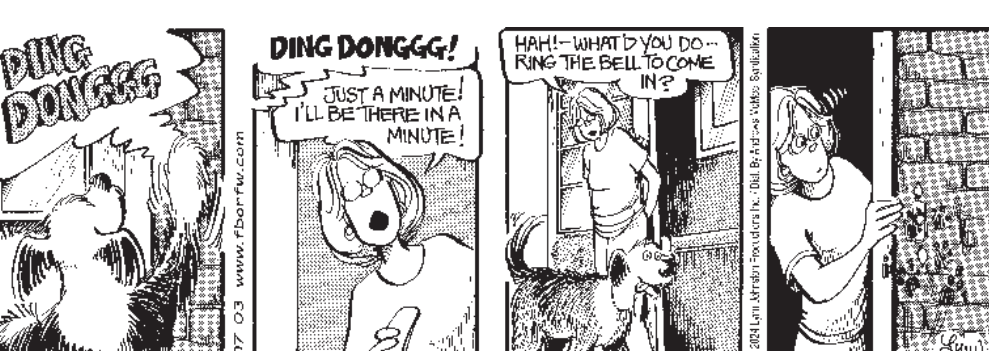
## BIG NATE



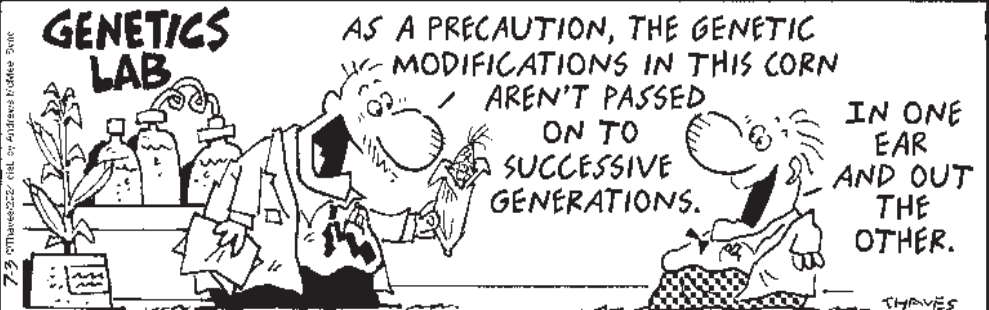
## THE BORN LOSER



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



## FRANK & ERNEST



## GARFIELD



## THE GRIZZWELLS



## PEANUTS



## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

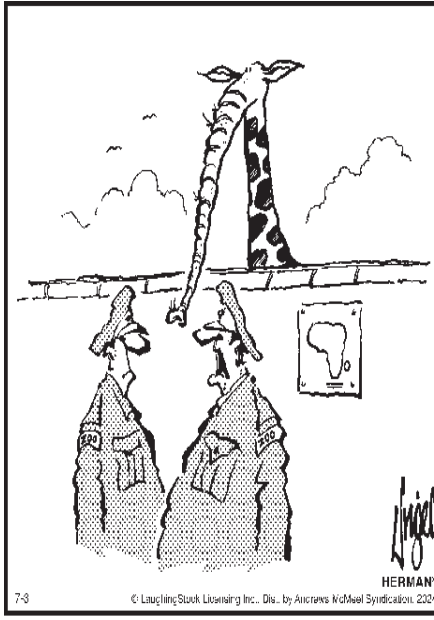
4	6	9	3					2
		2		6	5	3		9
			2	7	1		4	
	1		2			8		4
			3	8	4			
5	4		1					9
	4		1	5	6			
2		5	7	4		6		
7			9	2	4			5

### PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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

## HERMAN



# Woman shamefully targets man with disabilities

DEAR ABBY: My son "Ethan" is a visually impaired adult with disabilities. He's articulate, down to earth and joyful to be around. He's a homeowner in a nice area of town.

A woman we met through the Nextdoor app bought an expensive winter coat from us very cheap. She and her husband know Ethan is in Special Olympics and awaiting a guide dog. She raised chickens, and when Ethan mentioned the new egg hatcher we bought for him, she asked if she could borrow it. I told her she could, after our one chick was grown enough.

I have asked repeatedly for her to return it. She said she would, and even asked for our address. I provided her with the information. She has since moved, but she's still in town. When I asked her more recently to please return it, she posted Ethan's photo from the Nextdoor app with a quote, "Dangerous and Unstable Person." What can I do to defend him? Legally, I think something needs to be done for his reputation now. -- PERPLEXED MOM IN COLORADO

DEAR MOM: There is enough discrimination toward people with disabilities without this awful woman contributing to it. Consult an attorney to

discuss her behavior and find out how to defend your son from her uncalled-for attack. To label your son as dangerous and unstable is a slander intended to damage his reputation.

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a long-distance relationship for 11 years. I love "Roger." He's a hard-working, decent person. He says he loves me too. We got engaged three years ago and set a date for this year.

Well, Roger has called it off, but he still wants to be together. He put our wedding on hold after we had a fight. He told me he can't marry me if I act like that. Abby, he's exaggerating the fight. He's my best friend, and he's always there for me if I need him. He lives two hours away. After I had a flood, he came to help. He couldn't even see too well. (He got shingles two days before my flood.) Regardless of how sick he was, he drove all that way to help me.

Roger has his own construction company. He has remodeled my kitchen and bathroom and done many other things for me. This is the second time he has postponed our wedding. I can't imagine life without him. Should I stay with him? Should we break up? I'd really hate to start dating again. Do you think he will marry me? -- ON



## ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

### HOLD IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR ON HOLD: You stated that Roger lives two hours away. Have you driven those two hours to be with him? If you haven't, it may be time you did because he may have another romantic relationship going on closer to home that would be complicated to get out of.

From your description, he seems like a caring person, but there has to be a reason why he refuses to make a commitment. Until you get some honest answers from him, a marriage isn't likely to happen. If he is unattached, some premarital counseling may help to calm his fears.

# Lifestyle

## Fantastic facts about fireworks

Cities and towns across the country commemorate special days with various festivities, particularly when warm weather beckons people outdoors. Fireworks long have been a popular way to cap off parades, concerts, sporting events, and national days of celebration. Entire communities come together to watch spectacular shows in which blazing pops of color light up the night sky.

Smithsonian magazine reports that pyrotechnics displays have been astounding audiences all over the world for centuries. As early as 200 B.C. fireworks were developed in China to first scare off mountain men and later

evil spirits. However, soon the Chinese incorporated "fire drug," essentially saltpeter, sulfur and charcoal (a recipe for gunpowder), into their cultural celebrations. Early Chinese fireworks consisted of the gunpowder mixture stuffed in bamboo tubes.

Fireworks have evolved since then, but by and large they're still comprised of the same main parts: an oxidizer, fuel and chemical mixture to produce desired colors. Fireworks are a wonder to behold when they are part of professional displays, and their history can be interesting as well.

• While the Chinese invented fireworks, Italians

helped fine-tune them. Italians are credited with designing aerial shells and figuring out that certain metallic powders could create specific colors.

• The largest consistent fireworks show in the United States is the Macy's show in New York over the Hudson River on July 4th. More than three million people view the show, which includes more than 40,000 shells.

• The Walt Disney Company is the largest consumer of fireworks in the world, according to Business Insider. It also is the second largest purchaser of explosive devices, behind only the U.S. Department of Defense.

• High-energy metal



compounds like copper chloride emit colors like violet and blue in fireworks. Low-energy compounds like strontium chloride produce orange and red.

• The pattern fireworks will produce in the sky is determined by how stars are arranged inside of the shell. Stars are the cubes or spheres that contain the chemicals needed for the firework reaction.

• Mental Floss notes that "daytime fireworks" are made up of colored

smoke and can be seen during the day.

• Individuals who are employed in the manufacture of fireworks must wear cotton clothing, including undergarments, as synthetic clothing can create sparks capable of detonating fireworks, according to Alamo Fireworks.

• Various fireworks shapes have their own names. They may be called willows, palms, crossettes, horsetails, rings, cakes, and more.

• New Castle, PA is known as the "Fireworks Capital of America" because Zambelli Fireworks Internationale and Pyrotecnico both got their start there in the mid-nineteenth century.

• Scientists are currently working to create more eco-friendly fireworks.

Fireworks will soon be booming in towns and cities all over, and their history is as interesting as their displays are awe-inspiring.

## How to handle fireworks safely

Warm weather generally translates to more time spent outdoors. That means more barbecues, days spent poolside, trips to the beach, and even camping excursions. This time of year also inspires people to celebrate. What better way to signal the party has started than with fireworks?

Fireworks traditionally are part of large celebrations, such as national holidays or grand opening events. Many individuals also take it on themselves to set off fireworks during block parties or other neighborhood gatherings. Though fireworks are awe-inspiring, they're also dangerous, which is why it's best to leave them to the professionals.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that fireworks-related injuries and deaths in the United States have risen by roughly 25 percent in the last 15 years. In 2021, nine people died in accidents involving fireworks, and 11,500 were injured.

"The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to watch the professional displays," said Alex Hoeh-Saric, chair of the CPSC.

Three-quarters of fireworks injuries occur the weeks before and following the July 4th holiday in the United States. The Canadian Government indicates two-thirds of all fireworks-related injuries in Canada occur between May and August, with nearly one-third happening on days surrounding Victoria Day and Canada Day.

Fireworks can injure any part of the body, but burns to the hands and fingers, trunk, and arms are the most commonly affected areas. Injuries to the eyes, including blindness, also may occur.

Sparklers are not necessarily safe, either. The CPSC reports that 1,100 injuries result from sparklers each year.

As fireworks become widely available, it's imperative that individuals follow these crucial safety tips when using them.

• Never allow children to play with or ignite any type of firework, including sparklers.

• Keep a bucket of water or garden hose nearby to extinguish fires or sparks.

• Only buy and use fireworks if they are legal.

• Light fireworks one at a time in accordance with manufacturers' instructions.

• Choose a field or area free from trees and other obstructions, far away from spectators to light fireworks.

• Never use fireworks

while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

• Never point or fire fireworks in the direction of other people.

• Do not place any part of the body directly over fireworks when lighting a fuse.

Fireworks can be beautiful, but are best left to the professionals.



**kids' corner**

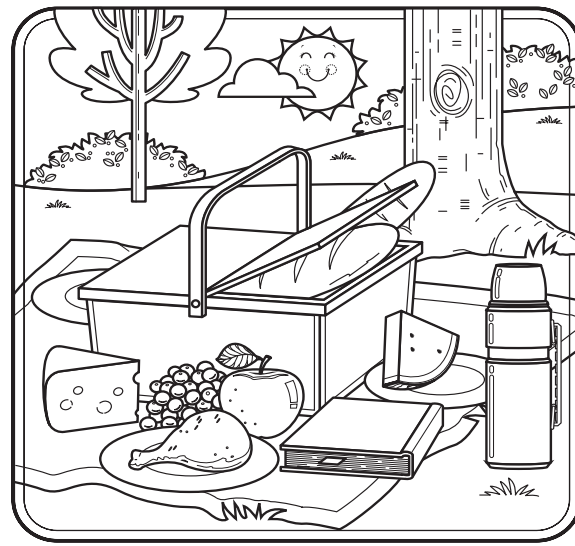
**FOOD FACT!**

THIS FOOD IS COMMONLY ENJOYED DURING PICNICS.

ANSWER: FRIED CHICKEN

### Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



### Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

CNEKIHC

LSAAD

SRGAS

ETLBNAK

W       O U   F O

Answers: Chicken, Salad, Grass, Blanket; Watch out for the ants

### THIS DAY IN...



### HISTORY

- 1890: WYOMING IS ADMITTED AS THE 44TH STATE.
- 1938: HOWARD HUGHES BEGINS A 91-HOUR AIRPLANE FLIGHT AROUND THE WORLD THAT WILL SET A NEW RECORD.
- 1962: TELSTAR, THE WORLD'S FIRST COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE, IS LAUNCHED INTO ORBIT.



### FROLIC

move about cheerfully

### How they SAY that in...

**ENGLISH:** Picnic

**SPANISH:** Picnic

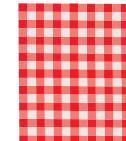
**ITALIAN:** Picnic

**FRENCH:** Pique-nique

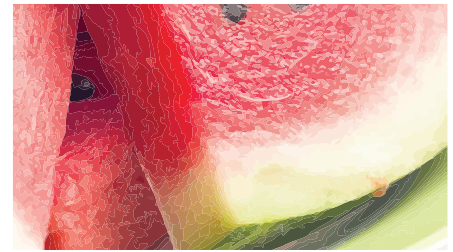
**GERMAN:** Picknick

### Did You Know?

RED AND WHITE CHECKERED TABLECLOTHS AT PICNICS CAN BE TRACED BACK TO EARLY EUROPEAN INFLUENCES, PARTICULARLY IN REGIONS LIKE ITALY AND FRANCE.



### GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: WATERMELON



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