



Valley celebrates Alamosa Rural Training Track Residents' graduation

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Bomb Squad hosted Second Annual Summer Showdown on July 20-21

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San Luis Valley Colorado Genuine Today's Issue Sponsored By: Alamosa Convention & Visitors Bureau

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

August 3, 2024

\$1

SLV Today

CO 149 paving through Creede

MINERAL COUNTY — On Monday, Aug. 5, crews will perform week-long surface treatment operations along a two-mile segment of Colorado Highway 149, in the Town of Creede (Mile Points 21 to 23). Motorists traveling between County Road 501 and Airport Road will encounter 10- to 15-minute delays, full stops and one-lane alternating traffic guided by a pilot vehicle between 6:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. CDOT crews will work as swiftly as possible to complete the surface treatment; however resurfacing operations are weather-dependent.

Traffic Impacts
Daytime work hours will range from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Motorists should plan for up to 15-minute delays and should allow for extra travel time. Vehicles will be guided by a pilot vehicle, flagging personnel and signs. Access in and out of intersections may be restricted at times. A speed reduction will be enforced through the work zones.

Police phone number used in scam

ALAMOSA — The Colorado State Patrol is receiving calls from Alamosa County residents attempting to verify calls they received advising there is a warrant for their arrest and demanding they purchase gift cards to pay a fine and cancel the warrant. Even though this call appears on caller ID as a law enforcement agency dispatch number, legitimate police agencies will never call to advise you of an arrest warrant and demand that you purchase anything, CSP reported. CSP says to simply hang up on the caller after they make demands of payment or a purchase of any kind. These fraudulent calls have already been reported, if you have suffered a financial loss by complying with the caller's demands, contact the Alamosa Sheriff's Office.

SLV WEATHER
Slight Chance of Afternoon Showers, Breezy 88/49
Sun: Chance of Afternoon Showers, Breezy 88/50
Mon: Chance of Afternoon Showers, Breezy 87/51

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Suspect in fatal shooting arrested in Santa Fe

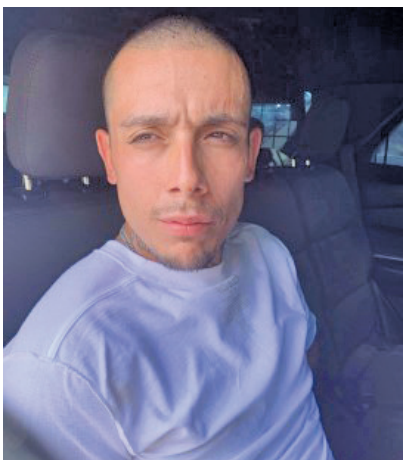


Photo courtesy of Alamosa Police Department
Larry Chavez, 33, of Alamosa taken into custody in Santa Fe, New Mexico on charges of 2nd degree murder, robbery and theft.

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — Less than 24 hours after the search began for his alleged involvement in a fatal shooting on Thursday night, Larry Chavez, 33, of Alamosa, N.M., and taken into custody on charges of second-degree murder, robbery, and auto theft. According to the Alamosa Police Department (APD), the arrest was made with the assistance of the U.S. Marshals Service and the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office. The vehicle, which belonged to the victim in the shooting and was used by Chavez to flee the scene, was also recovered.

APD will work with the 12th Judicial District Attorney to have Chavez extradited back to Colorado to face charges. As has been reported, shortly after 6 p.m. on Thursday evening, Aug. 1, APD was dispatched to the 1700 block of State Avenue on the report of a shooting. Upon arrival at the scene, officers found a male victim who had been shot and immediately started life saving measures. The victim was transported to the San Luis Valley Health Regional Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased. Initial investigation identified Chavez as the suspect in the shooting.

Officers received information on several locations where Chavez could be hiding with one area southwest of Alamosa identified as the primary location. Many agencies, including assistance from a drone from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, searched the area, and a reverse 911 was sent there, but Chavez was not found. Earlier on Thursday, deputies from the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office responded to a shooting north of Alamosa where a suspect fired a shot, but no one was injured. Chavez is a person of interest in that shooting as well.

■ See **SUSPECT** page 3

Bianca Maestas continues to amaze

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier Reporter

ALAMOSA — If there is such a thing as destiny, Bianca Maestas was destined to be an artist. Raised by her father, internationally known sculptor Huberto Maestas, and her mother, writer, and gallery owner Dana Maestas, one of Bianca's first memories is, as a baby, lying on the ground and watching the pottery wheel spinning above her as her father was making pottery. And that was just the beginning. "I've always done art," she says. "I grew up learning the craft understanding how to use the tools you have, understanding the process, working in my family's foundry doing castings for sculptures."

It's an intrinsic part of who she is and what she does, she says. "It doesn't really come from my mind as much as having muscle memory. My hand just knows what to do." ■ See **MURAL** page 3



Photo by Priscilla Waggoner
Bianca Maestas mural depicting 1933 to 1944 commissioned by the Alamosa Chamber of Commerce.

Formisano is Adams State Salazar Center Director

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — Paul Formisano, Ph.D., joins Adams State University as the new director of the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center. Raised along the Front Range and educated throughout the arid West, Formisano comes to Adams State after 12 years as professor of English and director of the writing program at the University of South Dakota.

During that time, he taught undergraduate and graduate courses in pedagogy, composition, and Western American and environmental literature while also assisting the university's Sustainability Studies Program. He particularly enjoyed discussing with students the literature and public documents about the American West's water and land issues. "The stories we tell about the places we inhabit are so important — they reflect our values and how we see the world around us," Formisano says. He is the author of numerous articles and book chapters about how various individuals and communities imagine and communicate about natural resources. Formisano relied upon his experiences growing up in Colorado and working and traveling with various water education initiatives, including International Project WET and Water Education Colorado, to complete his book, "Tributary Voices: Literary and Rhetorical Explorations of the Colorado River (2022)." "Working in water education I had the opportunity to meet many different stakeholders throughout Colorado and the larger Colorado Basin along with luminaries like the late Colorado" ■ See **DIRECTOR** page 3

Paul Formisano

Paul Formisano

Paul Formisano



Paul Formisano

Mental health ag - the Coffee Break Project

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

SAN LUIS VALLEY — The San Luis Valley is one of the prime agricultural regions in Colorado, home to industrious farmers and ranchers who toil to produce the food locals and others consume daily. A quiet reality of this labor is stress induced mental health issues. The Coffee Break Project, a partnership between Valley-Wide Health Systems and Colorado State University Extension, is available to assist with these issues within the agricultural community. In agriculture a strong work ethic, often instilled at a young age, is legendary. The work of a farmer or rancher entails long hours and is physically demanding. Working these hours, often in bad weather, entails all the tasks of growing, harvesting, and transporting crops and livestock, too. Agricultural life is unpredictable. ■ See **PROJECT** page 3

Agricultural life is a rewarding lifestyle that often has stress and complications. The Coffee Break Project is a collaboration between CSU Extension and Valley-Wide Health Systems. Landscape photo taken on Lane 6 North in Alamosa County.

■ See **PROJECT** page 3

Courier photo by John Waters



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Record

Valley celebrates Alamosa Rural Training Track Residents' graduation

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — Valley-Wide Health Systems announced that the Alamosa Rural Training Track (RTT) Residency Program had its sixth graduation ceremony in late-June honoring Dr. Tysen Nickle and Dr. Elizabeth Wolfe-Meyer.

The mission of the Alamosa RTT Residency Program is to provide medical education and training for Family Medicine Residents in an accredited residency program while they live and work in a rural community.

Training begins with the internship year at St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center in Pueblo, and the next two years are spent in Alamosa. The residency program is integrated with Valley-Wide Health Systems for pri-

mary care and with the SLV Health hospital for specialty rotations.

Dr. Tammy Gregg, Valley-Wide Family Medicine Physician and RTT Site Director noted "Dr. Wolfe-Meyer will be returning home to take care of her neighbors growing up, the epitome of Family Practice, treating them with care, humility and excellence. Dr. Nickle will continue to further his studies and increase his skills to provide excellent care in the future."

Dr. Nickle has accepted an OMM Fellowship with Rocky Vista University. Dr. Wolfe-Meyer is going to a rural family practice clinic in Kansas.

The residents awarded "Preceptor of the Year" to Dr. Richard Snider from SLV Health.

Dr. Snider commented, "I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with such a talented and committed group of residents here at SLV Health. Their hard work and dedication to providing high quality care will benefit patients for decades to come."

For more information on the program, call 719-589-3658 or visit valley-widehealth.org.

From left, Alamosa Rural Training Track (RTT) Residency Program graduating resident, Dr. Elizabeth Wolfe-Meyer; Dr. Tammy Gregg, Alamosa RTT Residency Program Site Director; graduating resident Dr. Tysen Nickle; and Dr. Allison Peddle, Residency Preceptor.

Courtesy photo



August is bustling at the book cooperative

By NARROW GAUGE BOOK COOPERATIVE

ALAMOSA — This month, the Narrow Gauge Book Cooperative is celebrating its 6th anniversary with a schedule packed full of events. In February of 2018,

the beloved Narrow Gauge Newsstand announced its closing, and the community rallied to support and re-open as the Narrow Gauge Book Cooperative just a short six months later.

Now, in August of 2024, we're celebrating

our six-year anniversary, and we are so excited for our month of events.

• Aug. 11: Artist Reception for Kyle Burnett Our featured artist for August is fine arts photographer, Kyle Burnett. Come see his art all month long and join us

for a reception on Aug. 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. and have the chance to talk with Kyle about his artistic process.

• Aug. 17: Spadefoot Story Slam Community Join us for our monthly story slam with the Spadefoot Story Slam Community, at 6 p.m. Each month we tell stories based on a theme. This month, the theme is "Caught." Reach out to the Spadefoot Story Slam with any questions at spadefootstoryslam@gmail.com.

Anniversary Week Membership Drive: Aug. 19-25, we'll be running a membership drive. New members will receive a coupon for a free used book of their choice, and renewing members will receive a \$5 coupon. Members and owners will receive 5% off this week as well.

Aug. 19: Joel Pérez Author Event

Join us at 6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 19, for a reading, Q&A, and signing with Dr. Joel Pérez. His book, "Dear White Leader: How to Achieve Organizational Excellence through Cultural Humility," is focused on

helping leaders develop their cultural humility for individual, organizational, and community change.

• Aug. 21: Tarot Workshop with Lares Feliciano Join us from 6-7:30 p.m. for a free tarot workshop. Lares will guide us through the basics of reading tarot and encourage you in finding your own relationship with the cards.

• Aug. 23: Pride Pre-Kickoff Reading Party in the Park

Join the Narrow Gauge Book Cooperative and SLV Pride for a Reading Party as celebration of our anniversary week, and as a pre-kick-off event for Pride.

Bring a book, a blanket, chair, or pillows, and settle in for a sensory-friendly time reading books in company with friends. We'll be in the North Pavilion at Cole Park from 4 to 6 p.m.

• Aug. 24: Find us at SLV Pride.

The Cooperative will be open on the 24th, and you can also find us at Pride. We'll be in the parade, and we'll have a booth with some books

for sale, some consignments items, and tarot readings with Lares Feliciano, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

• Aug. 27: An Evening with Pam Houston

Join the Narrow Gauge Book Cooperative, in partnership with Society Hall, in welcoming Pam Houston for the release of her latest book, Without Exception: Reclaiming Abortion, Personhood, and Freedom.

• Aug. 30: Meet and Greet with J. Hoolihan Clayton

Join us from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Narrow Gauge for a meet and greet for J. Hoolihan Clayton's newest book, Discretion is Valor. Then, join her at the Alamosa Public Library at 5:30 p.m. for a reading.

• Aug. 31: Summer Reading Express Pizza Party

Celebrate the completion of our Summer Reading Express adult reading program with a pizza party. More details to come.

For more details on all our events, check out our website, narrow-gaugebooks.com, or our Facebook and Instagram pages.

OBITUARIES

Lucille B. Garcia

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of our beloved Lucille B. Garcia. Lucille was called home on July 29, 2024. She passed away at home with her loving family by her side. Lucille was welcomed into the world on March 2, 1955, in Del Norte, Colo., the daughter of Jose V. Martinez and Manuelita A. (Manzanares) Martinez.

Lucille devoted her life to caring for her family, raising her children and being an exceptional role model and friend to all. Lucille loved Betty Boop, going to bingo, buying scratch tickets and spending time with her family. She will forever be re-



membered for her compassionate and caring nature. She was loved by all and will be missed dearly.

She will be reunited in Heaven with her parents Jose V. and Manuelita Martinez, siblings Joe, Arthur, David Martinez, Florida Grimaldo, Rosalie Abila and Virginia Silva.

Lucille's legacy will live on through her loving husband Gary Garcia, children Gary Paul Garcia, Chris Garcia (Heidi V.), Jay Garcia, Angela Garcia, grandchildren Darian, Brittney, great-grandchild Camila S., siblings Margaret, Beatrice, Fred and Gilbert. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Cremation was chosen and services will be held at a later date.

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

Darlene Hilderman Gunther

Darlene Hilderman Gunther, 73 passed away at home with her husband Jerry and stepdaughter Tracie (Gunther) Meister at her side.

Darlene grew up in Park City, Mont., the daughter of Harry and Lucille Hilderman. In 2003, Darlene was happily married to Jerry Gunther who was her partner for almost 21 years at the time of her death.

Darlene has had several battles with cancer throughout her life. Darlene stayed strong and positive through it all. Darlene was always very thoughtful and never forgot a birthday or special occasion. Upon going into hospice, she made sure her two living sisters had a necklace from her.

Darlene and her husband, Jerry, enjoyed their home in Center, Colo., with wide open spaces surrounded by farmland. They enjoyed the many card games they played with friends; she especially enjoyed poker. Darlene was also an avid Broncos fan.

Survivors include her wonderful husband Jerry who was always by her side, her daughter Becky Raiha; her stepson Brian (Nikki) Gun-

ther, her stepdaughter Tracie (Dave) Meister, her grandsons Hadly, Brennan, and Brady; her granddaughters Baylee, Katelyn, Sheridan, and Karissa; as well as two great-grandchildren Brinley and Rhett; her sister Roberta (Scott) Marquez, her sister Becky (Dennis) O'Reilly; her brother Harry (Sue) Hilderman and many nieces and nephews.

Darlene was preceded in death by her parents Harry and Lucille Hilderman, her sister Kay Stewart and her nephew Garrick Logsdon.

"When Tomorrow Starts Without Me"

When tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand.

That an angel came and called my name, and took me by the hand.

The angel said my place was ready in heaven far above.

And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.

But when I walk through Heaven's Gates, I felt so much at home.

For God looked down and smiled at me, and told me welcome home.

So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart.



For every time you think of me, I'm right there in your heart."

A celebration of Life service will be held Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024, at the Alamosa Elks Lodge No. 1297 at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making contributions to Hospice del Valle, 514 Main St., Alamosa, CO 81101, or to the American Cancer Society at www.cancer.org/donate/donate-by-mail-or-phone.html.

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

Alamosa KOA chili cook-off set for Sept. 7

ALAMOSA — Alamosa KOA announces its second annual chili cook-off will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7.

Because of the great turn-out last year of cooks from across the Valley,

this year the cook-off is being re-branded "SLV Battle of the Bowls," organizers stated.

The chili entry fee is \$25, and all entrants must bring at least 4 quarts. The cook-off will be organized into red and green chili categories and winners will be decided by the people's choice votes for both categories.

For people who want to taste and vote for the win-

ning chili, there will be a \$10 entrance fee. First prize for the winning chilis is \$500. Enter by calling 719-589-9757.

Money raised from the event will go to Care Camps, a non-profit organization that raises money to send children with cancer to camp free of charge.

Alamosa KOA Owner and Care Camps Board Member, Deb Hankinson, sees the chili cook-off as a great way to engage with the community, raise money for a good cause, and taste some great local chili.

"We have a lot of amazing chili cooks in our Valley, and what a fun way to spend an afternoon. Our plan is to host this event annually at our KOA," she said.

Along with the chili, DJ E will be playing music and KOA staff will be helping kids make s'mores.

The event takes place at the Alamosa KOA, 900 Juniper Lane, just 3 miles east of Alamosa on Highway 160.

School Menu
Monday
August 5, 2024

We hope you enjoyed your Meals! See you when school starts August 8th!

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

PENDING OBITUARY

Tito E. Chacon

Utah and former Manassa resident Tito E. Chacon, 92, passed away Aug. 2, 2024. Arrangements are currently pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

COURIER OBITUARY POLICY

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

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

Valley News

Colorado voters will decide in November whether to ban mountain lion hunting

By JASON BLEVINS
Colorado Sun

Colorado voters will get a chance to ban mountain lion hunting in November.

The Colorado Secretary of State on Wednesday confirmed that the campaign to end mountain lion hunting in Colorado had gathered enough signatures to get Proposition 91 on the November ballot. The initiative asks voters to declare that “any trophy hunting of mountain lions, bobcats or lynx is inhumane, serves no socially acceptable or ecologically beneficial purpose, and fails to further public safety.” The measure would ban any shooting or trapping of wildcats but allows killing cats that are threatening livestock or people. Representatives with

the Cats Aren't Trophies group submitted 147,529 valid signatures, more than the 124,238 that were required for ballot access.

Samantha Miller, the manager for the Cats Aren't Trophies campaign, said the organization has 900 volunteers who will now transition from signature gathering to outreach and advertising.

“Our message remains, Coloradans know that the cruel and inhumane trophy hunting and fur trapping of Colorado's wild cats has no place in our state, and many of them have been outraged to learn this practice continues despite measures in the '90s that stopped leg-hold traps, hounding of black bears and spring bear hunting,” Miller said in an email.

The Cats Aren't Trophies group has raised \$414,000 since the beginning of the year — with the largest contributor, Washington D.C.-based Animal Wellness Action, providing \$147,000 — and spent \$335,000, according to the group's Aug. 1 filing with the Colorado Secretary of State.

California is the only state in the U.S. where voters have banned mountain lion hunting.

The last time voters weighed wildlife issues was in 2020, when a narrow margin of Coloradans required Colorado Parks and Wildlife to reintroduce wolves on the Western Slope. Before that, voters in 1992 approved a constitutional amendment that limited black bear hunt-

ing, and in 1996 voters approved an amendment that banned leg hold and instant-kill traps.

Hunting advocates challenged the ballot initiative last year, arguing the wording of the measure was misleading and the state's Title Board erred when approving it for signature gathering. The Colorado Supreme Court in January denied the challenge and affirmed the Title Board's decision.

Two years ago animal conservation groups supported legislation that would have banned the killing of mountain lions and bobcats in Colorado. Hunting groups opposed the bill and flooded lawmakers with opposition statements. The bill's top sponsors pulled their sup-

port before the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources committee rejected the legislation in February 2022.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife estimates there are between 3,800 and 4,400 mountain lions in the state. The agency has managed lion hunting for decades with annual caps on how many cats hunters can kill. In 1980, hunters took 81 mountain lions. In the 2022-23 lion season, 2,599 hunters spent 1,635 days hunting lions and killed 502 animals, including 298 males and 204 females. That was below the annual limit set by the agency, which is updated daily during lion hunting seasons. Colorado Parks and Wildlife requires hunters to take an online

class and exam before securing a license to hunt mountain lions.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife rarely takes a side in political issues and the agency did not take a position on Initiative 91. But the agency supports mountain lion hunting as a tool for managing populations.

“For many people, hunting is a continuation of the hunter-gatherer traditions and a way to connect to nature. It also helps maintain healthy wild animal population,” reads a statement on the agency's website. “There is no evidence of managed hunting leading to the extinction of any species in Colorado, or of well-regulated hunting negatively affecting the population stability of the state's mountain lions.”

Mural

Continued from Page 1 she says. “What I need to know is who knows how to do what needs to be done. Like when I'm doing interior design, I don't know how to put in an outlet, but I know where the outlet needs to go. I know how to build a good team.”

The range of art mediums in which Maestas works is a reflection of the scope of her talent. She does metal sculptures, bronze reliefs and bronze sculptures as well as painting, interior design, floral and plant design. She is also a photographer, although she admits that's not one of her favorite mediums.

“I don't like to be sitting at a desk,” she says.

But as more and more people in Alamosa are discovering, Maestas has also garnered a reputation as an accomplished muralist, and she just put the finishing touches on her most recent project in the city, the fourth mural she has done in Alamosa.

“Murals are different from other forms of art,” she says. “I've done a lot of art for people to enjoy on their own and I like doing murals because they're public art. It's art that everybody can enjoy. They also last — they have longevity. They improve a space. They make it better and really add to the atmosphere of a place and that can be good for economic development.”

As part of a “Hundred Year Project” sponsored

by the Alamosa Chamber of Commerce in celebration of Alamosa's most recent 100-year history, Maestas was commissioned to paint a mural depicting the decade 1933 to 1943. A second artist, Samantha Wisener, was commissioned to depict 1923 to 1933, and Jade Communications sponsored (and created) a third mural that depicts the “Alamosa Adventurer.”

“The nice thing about this project is that [the Chamber] just gave artists a specific decade to do and wanted to see what design the artists came up with,” she said. “The Chamber was a really good group to work with. They chose the design they wanted and then let each of us go to work.”

In her design, Maestas chose to depict the style and art genre of the times instead of a specific event. With that goal in mind, her mural incorporates a hint of design elements from Art Nouveau, primarily popular in the twenties and known for its florals, long, sinuous, organic patterns and images that had a frame around it within another picture. But, in keeping with the 1930s, Maestas included elements associated with Art Deco design, such as straight, graphic lines and swirls and elaborate entrances to places. and simple, clean shapes often with a “streamlined” look.

As is also characteristic of other murals she has created, Maestas uses many images that are im-

bued with meaning.

“I chose cranes because cranes have always been around and I've always wanted to paint them,” she says. “And cranes are more than just a bird. They symbolize longevity, happiness, balance and good luck. That's like a formula for life, you know? We all could use more of those things, right?” she adds with a laugh.

Cherry blossoms are included in the mural, in homage to the Japanese community that was present in Alamosa during that time. But, equally important to her, “Cherry blossoms represent rebirth and renewal,” she says.

Maestas wanted to feature some natural feature that is iconic to the valley, which led to including the sand dunes with Mount Blanca in the back.

As someone who embraces organic things in life, she also wanted to choose a crop to paint, something that people grow. With that in mind, she included sweet peas — both the peas that are eaten and the flowers — because they hold significance to her. “My grandmother planted them like forty years ago — she had a really green thumb, and her sweet pea really flourished. And other people still have those in their yard.”

In talking with her, it's immediately apparent that Maestas does not take herself too seriously. But make no mistake; she is very serious about her work. The mural she just

completed, painted on a very long wall that was two stories tall in some places, was completed in about two-and-a-half weeks, putting in 11-hour days every day. She admits she had a significant amount of help from various people, but there is not a single brush stroke on the mural that is not where and how she wanted it to be.

As accomplished as she is, Maestas continues to

push herself. “There's a lot of room to grow,” she says. And, with that, the conversation ends as she is off to the next mural she has been commissioned to paint.

Bianca Maestas' mural can be seen on the west side of 613-D Fourth St. in downtown Alamosa.

Seven more murals need to be commissioned to finish the 10-mural project, and Alamosa Chamber of Commerce is

continuing to take donations.

“We've had some great sponsors,” writes Erin Keck, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce. “We used funds given from CHFA (Colorado housing and finance authority) and SLV transportation for [Bianca's] mural. We are still accepting donations for the other murals. More info can be found on our website alamosachamber.com.”

Project

Continued from Page 1 able; equipment breaks down, animals get sick, and there is always the weather that in a moment turns a profitable year into a loss. Commodity prices are determined thousands of miles away beyond the control of the producer in markets like the CME Group (Chicago Mercantile Exchange Group), which describes itself as a place “where risk meets opportunity.”

The stress of agricultural life is enormous and accentuated by an ethos of rugged individualism, self-determination, and self-sufficiency. The connection to the land is engrained in American history. In his “Notes on the State of Virginia,” Thomas Jefferson wrote, “Those who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God if ever he had a chosen people...”

The extreme pressures of rural life take their toll; the suicide rate in the agricultural community is 3.5 times the rest of the population. There is help with the Coffee Break Project where people gather informally over coffee and discuss a variety of issues without pressure or judgment.

The project has the motto, “Do you look after your neighbors as close as your crop or herd?” When he heard that motto, Larry Brown with CSE Extension said he was “hooked” on becoming involved in the project.

The program utilizes a modality called COMET, or Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectory. This down-to-earth method teaches people how to intervene when they see someone who is in a vulnerable space and helps shift the person's mental health trajectory back to a place of wellness instead of proceeding toward a mental health crisis.

JC Carrica with Valley-Wide Health in Rocky Ford told the Valley Courier the project began

when he reached out to community leaders in eastern Colorado to discuss “addressing suicides in the agricultural world and mental health within the ag community.”

They all immediately said yes to assist and had a story to tell about the issue, and then they all met over coffee. The group discussed loneliness, depression, anxiety, and commodity prices. The Coffee Break Project was named, where participants gather informally for coffee and camaraderie.

A key to the project is how vulnerable populations of farmers, ranchers, and ag workers can best be reached. What training should be employed, what terminology, and what community events should be attended.

Carrica said, “Think of the Coffee Break Project as a stool with legs supporting it. The stool is the overall Coffee Break Project. When we go out into the community, we ask which legs of the stool they want to learn about. One leg is setting up community grass roots advisory groups to address significant issues.

“The second leg is the COMET, a 90-minute training on how to have gentle conversations with people who may be in distress using everyday language.

“We have trained over 300 people in COMET. The third leg of the stool is the farm workers' health screens. We go out with our mobile clinic and do health screens to help people access health care without going to town for appointments, at least initially.

“The fourth leg is gun safety. Not gun control. We talk about the myth and fact of Red Flag legislation and the gun shop project. The project works with gun shops and shooting sports organizations and work with them to identify people who may be in vulnerable states and should not be using firearms at the time or should not be purchasing

them.

“We do training on when it is a good time to utilize firearms and when it is not. We also help put in safes so people can voluntarily store their firearms securely until they feel safe to be in possession of those guns again.

“The Coffee Break Project is the top of the stool, and we go around and teach whatever the communities want to know, and those are the legs of the stool.”

The COMET method teaches people how to intervene when they encounter someone who is in a “vulnerable space” and helps shift the person's mental health trajectory back to a place of wellness instead of proceeding towards a mental health crisis. The program trains community members to initiate a supportive interaction for a potentially emotional conversation using a simple, conversational seven-question guide.

The seven question-stements include acknowledgment that someone “is not yourself,” asking how they are, observation of behavior or other change, asking about family or social life, an invitation to engage (continue the conversation then or later), optional self-disclosure, and next steps (help a person more or exit).

COMET helps fill a gap and is a strong complement to other strategies to reduce the suffering resulting from the high levels of stress in rural, agricultural communities.

For more information on the Coffee Break Project, contact Brown with CSU Extension at l.brown@colostate.edu or Carrica with Valley-Wide Health at carricajc@valley-widehealth.org.

For an introduction to the COMET program, see the University of Colorado Department of Family Medicine website at <https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/family-medicine/research-and-innovation/pbrns/hprn/projects-and-programs/comet>.

Director

Continued from Page 1 Supreme Court Justice Greg Hobbs. His love of law, history, and poetry reinforced my belief that we need many different perspectives to tackle our present resource challenges,” Formisano recalls. Such perspectives shape his book, which examines the value of traditionally marginalized voices and their contribution to water management.

Now back in Colorado, Formisano is excited to

work more closely with the topics he has written and taught about for many years.

“I'm thrilled to be in Alamosa and working with such passionate people who care deeply about the Valley's natural and cultural resources,” he says. “Learning about the many entities in the Valley that are working to preserve and protect these entities will take time, but I'm eager to learn. If you or your organization is open for me to visit your farm, school, or board meeting, please don't hesitate to reach out.”

He has benefitted from support by Adams State and community leadership and especially from the founding Director of the Center, Rio de la Vista.

“Many generous and committed individuals have steered the Center to where it is today,” says Formisano. “I'm honored to build on this excellent foundation and excited to lead the Center in this new chapter.”

Joining him are his wife, four children, and their dog. They look forward to making the Valley their home and exploring all it has to offer.

Suspect

Continued from Page 1 well.

The APD sends a special thank you to the U.S. Marshals for their immediate assistance in taking this dangerous fugitive into custody. Assistance of the

marshals was requested earlier Friday morning and within hours, this dangerous fugitive was in custody.

“The skills and abilities of the US Marshals to find and apprehend fugitives is commendable,” reads a statement from APD, “and the Alamosa Police Department

pledges to continue to use all available resources at the local, state and federal levels to pursue criminals who are committing violent acts in our community.”

The name of the victim killed in the shooting has not yet been released by the Alamosa County Coroner.

Opinion

Pandemics seldom ever end

Just when we thought the threat of the latest variant of COVID-19 was not much of a threat, cases have been growing again across the San Luis Valley and nationally, particularly since early July, according to Beverly Strnad, interim director of the Alamosa County Public Health Department.

K.C. at Bat



Keith R. Cerny

Yours truly is one of those most recent statistics after dodging the pandemic for more than four years. The two initial "vaccinations" probably contributed to my luck, and not getting future boosters no doubt impacted my current affliction.

Checking history with the help of Courier Reporter Priscilla Waggoner, the first case was diagnosed in Wuhan, China in November 2019 and the first American case in January 2020. Shortly thereafter the World Health Organization (WHO) listed it as an issue of public concern, and in March 2020, declared it a pandemic.

Early on, many businesses were ordered closed including bars, restaurants and even barber and beauty shops. Others, like our newspapers, were declared essential and asked to remain open to provide essential services, ours obviously to provide public information.

We think we did the best we could providing daily updates both in print and online, thanks to the information provided by local public health organizations. Thousands of cases were reported in the valley in the first few years, many resulting in hospitalization and dozens of deaths, mostly impacting the elderly.

Apparently now I'm in that age group, and thankfully having healthy kidneys, I was able to get a prescription for the "miracle" drug Paxlovid. That didn't happen easily as my regular healthcare provider was booked, but with some assistance from one of my daughters I was able to be seen by the SLV Health Respiratory Clinic on Tuesday.

Dr. Anita was very thorough about interviewing me and checking on current medications in use before agreeing to the Rx. She was also clear about possible continued symptoms and side-effects.

I have never been "quarantined" in my lifetime, aside from short-term bouts with childhood ailments like measles and mumps, but fortunately we have a comfortable home and I've been able to continue working from home with a lot of help personally and professionally from my wife Debbie. And a lot of advice from my children, most of which have "been there, done that."

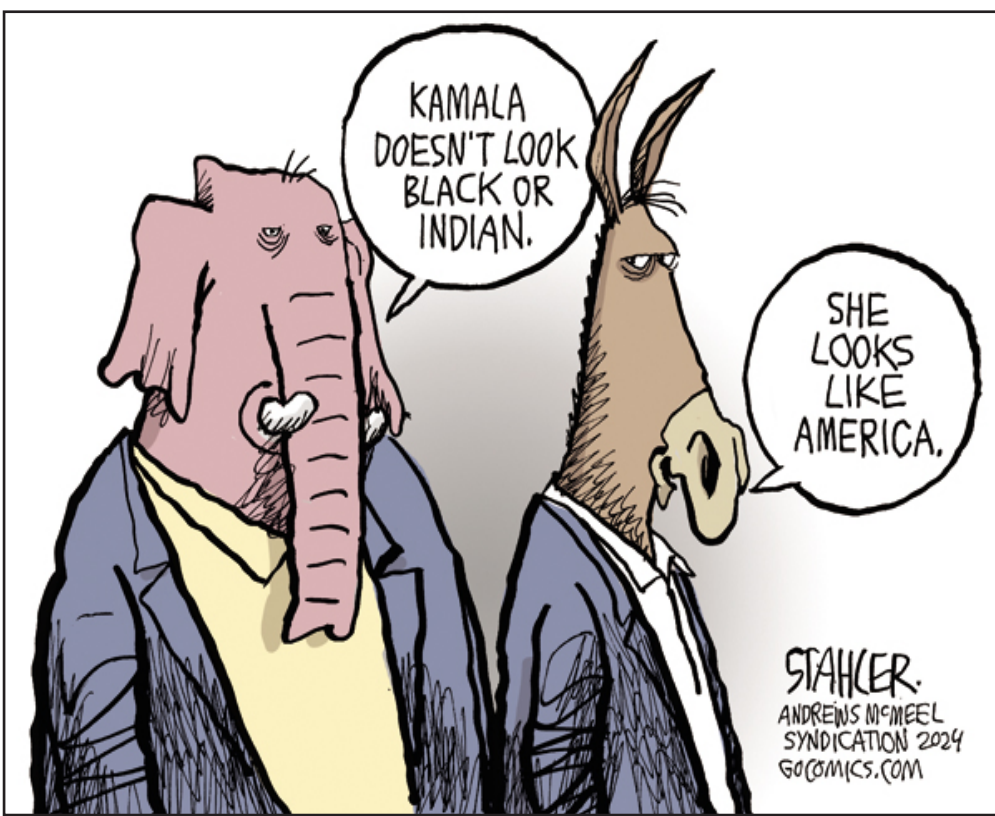
Orchids to my third daughter Shannon, a Certified Nurse Midwife, for her advice and monitoring. And no, I'm not pregnant.

Fortunately for me, the Olympics kept me entertained, particularly the unmatched USA women's gymnastics team. That and the horrendous wildfires across the state occupied the screen in my man cave.

What I've learned through this experience is that we're never totally out of the woods. And just like the common flu, COVID may never completely go away. We still need to wash our hands and use hand sanitizer and, when not feeling well, wear masks in public to avoid spreading any contagious respiratory condition.

Stay well, and God bless our nation's health care workers, firefighters, and other first responders.

Keith R. Cerny has been publisher of the Valley Courier since November 1992 and has been a newspaper journalist since he was 16 years old, originally as a sports writer.



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To submit news, email: news@alamosanews.com
 To submit sports, email: khamrick@alamosanews.com

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."

How Kamala climbed the peaks of DEI

By ANN COULTER

The media are hopping mad about Republicans referring to Kamala Harris as a "DEI hire."

- Here's some of the teeth-gnashing:
- ABC News: "Kamala Harris Faces Racial 'DEI' Attacks"
- NPR: "Republicans Call Kamala Harris a 'DEI Hire' as Attacks on Her Gender and Race Increase"
- Slate magazine: "The DEI Smear Against Kamala Harris."

Apparently, it's racist to notice that DEI exists.

It would be like slave owners denying there was any such thing as slavery, as their slaves served them iced tea and grits. Slavery? What's that?

- Slate, 1830: "The Slavery Smear Against the South"

The most easily fooled Republican, former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, took all this to heart and lectured his fellow Republicans not to use the "DEI attack." ("Totally stupid.") His argument is: "Look, I disagree with DEI, but she is the vice president of the United States. She is the former U.S. senator."

So was Dan Quayle. I don't remember liberals stoically refusing to sneer about Quayle being a silver spoon, golf-loving WASP.

May we mention that, as California's attorney general, Harris was the one who deceived voters into passing propositions that unleashed a criminal hellscape on the state? That she donated to a bail fund to spring BLM and antifa rioters who destroyed cities from jail.

McCarthy: Totally stupid. Look, I disagree with releasing violent criminals, but she is the vice president of the United States. She is the former U.S. senator.

The left's umbrage at anyone mentioning DEI hires is like a mousetrap for half-brights. See, we put a little piece of cheese here and -- Oh look! We caught a Kevin McCarthy! And here's a Speaker Mike Johnson!

Harris is a DEI hire. So are nearly all of Joe Biden's appointments. As The New York Times recently boasted: "Roughly two-thirds of [Biden's judicial appointments] were women and rough-

ly two-thirds were Black, Hispanic or members of other racial minorities, meaning he has done more to diversify the federal bench than any president."

All on merit, no doubt.

But DEI proponents have denounced the suggestion that Harris is a DEI hire on the grounds that Biden did not expressly say his vice president had to be a black woman. As Whoopi Goldberg indignantly pointed out, "[Biden] never said that. He said that he was thinking about a woman. He never said her color."

Oh, cut the crap. Early in the campaign, Biden promised that his running mate would be a woman -- and black people made damn clear that it better be a black woman.

Black America had saved Biden from certain defeat when, on the eve of the South Carolina primary, House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn endorsed him, and black voters followed instructions. Thanks to the black vote, Biden won his first primary victory, then the nomination -- after having come in fourth, fifth and second in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada.

Biden owed Clyburn everything, including his wallet and the keys to his limo. Whereupon Clyburn "urged" Biden to pick a black woman as his VP.

The following month, more than 200 black women leaders signed an open letter, also exhorting Biden to pick a black female as his running mate. (They wanted a woman of African American heritage. They got a half-Jamaican, half-Indian woman whose great-grandmother owned slaves. Close enough.)

It was so obvious that Biden had to name a black female that, just this week, the Times' Michael Barbaro claimed that "by the end of that selection process, [Biden] said, 'I am going to pick a black woman.'"

Recall, this was the Year of Our Floyd, when it was required by law that every important position in America be given to a black female.

Having held a gun to Biden's head to ensure he picked a black woman, the same people are acting today as if Harris survived a dog-eat-dog competition, beating all rivals, without regard to

race or sex.

Just look at the difference in the qualifications of the white female candidates Biden was pretending to consider, compared to the black female candidates he was actually considering. Of the seven white women (allegedly) under consideration (including one white-adjacent Thai), four were governors and three were U.S. senators.

Of the six black women he was considering, one was a failed gubernatorial candidate (Stacey Abrams), one was a mayor (Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms); one had never held elected office (former National Security Adviser and U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice); two were House members (California Rep. Karen Bass and Florida Rep. Val Demings) and one, Harris, was a senator.

There hasn't been a DEI nail-biter like that since Jonathan Capehart replaced Tiffany Cross on MSNBC.

True, Harris had called Biden a racist in the first debate, which would be a deal-killer in any other circumstance. But on the plus side, she was black and she was a woman. The search was over!

Luckily for Harris, Joe found her to be -- as he said about Barack Obama in 2007 -- "articulate and bright and clean and a nice-looking [gal]."

Ann Hart Coulter is an American conservative media pundit, author, syndicated columnist, and lawyer.

Write them

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LETTER

Thank you to Conejos County Road and Bridge

Editor,
 A big thank you to the Conejos County Road and Bridge Department for all the paving on county roads, especially on County Road D.5, and for the help at the Las Mesitas Catholic

Cemetery. A job well done. We appreciate it.
 Special thanks to Marvin Trujillo and Ortega for fixing my driveway.
 Chris Cisneros
 Conejos County

Keith R Cerny
Publisher

Brian Williams
Managing Editor

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Religion

Why parental rights cases will not disappear anytime soon

The vague 22-word change — for now. prayer from the New York Board of Regents was totally non-denominational: "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers and our Country."

On Religion



Terry Mattingly

A few parents protested, saying any kind of prayer — even voluntary — violated the rights of students from homes led by atheists, agnostics or believers from other faiths. In other words, the pivotal 1962 Engel v. Vitale school-prayer decision was a parental rights case. Schools had to change. Two years ago, the Montgomery County Board of Education created a policy requiring pre-K and elementary students to read texts about LGBTQ+ life. A Maryland network of Muslim, Christian and Jewish parents protested, saying this violated their parental rights by exposing their children to beliefs that clashed with beliefs in their own homes. This spring, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected alternative activities for these students. Schools would not have to

own parents, if parents' beliefs clash with what is taught at school. The Liberty Justice Center immediately backed the Chino Valley Unified School District in challenging the law. "School officials do not have the right to keep secrets from parents, but parents do have a constitutional right to know what their minor children are doing at school," wrote Emily Rae, the group's senior counsel, in a public statement. "Parents are the legal guardians of their children, not Governor Newsom..." Beckwith said serious discussions of parental rights begin with the 1925 decision Pierce v. Society of Sisters, in which the Supreme Court rejected an Oregon law requiring all students to attend public schools — period. The court said this law "unreasonably interferes with the liberty of parents and guardians to direct the upbringing and education of children under their control." The U.S. Constitution doesn't explicitly address this issue, Beckwith said, since "everyone assumed that you cannot have a society of ordered liberty without parents having the right to educate their own children. ... No one wrote that down because no one could imagine that

anyone needed to write that down. "The tribalism in these cases is truly extraordinary. The issues in parental rights cases are so symbolic, especially when religious beliefs are involved." In a Brigham Young University Law Review essay, Beckwith noted this statement by Democrat Terry McAuliffe during the 2021 Virginia gubernatorial race: "I don't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach." Conservatives were appalled while progressives claimed that religious

parents were threatening school safety and efforts to promote social justice. Beckwith contrasted that case with battles over Elian Gonzalez, who, as a boy, was found floating off the Florida coast in 1999 after the death of his mother and fellow Cuban refugees trying to reach America. The boy's father made a parental rights claim that his son should be returned to him in Cuba. Conservatives disagreed since, as one proclaimed, this would return the boy to one of the "last prison nations in the world." In his essay, Beckwith concluded: "The lesson is

clear: absent the explicit recognition of extra-governmental authority — something like natural justice — it becomes difficult to see what precisely is wrong with a totalizing ideology, especially if its advocates are convinced that God or the United Nations (or History) is on their side." Terry Mattingly is Senior Fellow on Communications and Culture at Saint Constantine College in Houston. He lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and writes Rational Sheep, a Substack newsletter on faith and mass media.

Bible Digest

Saturday, August 3, 2024
"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: has he said, and shall he not do it? or has he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19 AKJV)
God will keep His Word and His promises.
Monday, August 5, 2024
"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: has he said, and shall he not do it? or has he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19 AKJV)
God will keep His Word and His promises.
Tuesday, August 6, 2024
"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: has he said, and shall he not do it? or has he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19 AKJV)
God will keep His Word and His promises.
Wednesday, August 7, 2024
"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: has he said, and shall he not do it? or has he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19 AKJV)
God will keep His Word and His promises.
Thursday, August 8, 2024
"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: has he said, and shall he not do it? or has he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19 AKJV)
God will keep His Word and His promises.



Living by Faith in the Face of Fear

Do you ever wonder what your life would look like if fear didn't exist? For example, what if you had the confidence to pursue every passion God gave you? Just imagine for a moment what that would look like. Well, God gives us a special gift called faith so we can do amazing things for Him. And I want to encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and exercise that gift full time. Faith gives us so much potential because it motivates us to move forward in the plans God has for us. But fear is a feeling Satan uses to keep our focus inward. It makes us feel anxious, causes us to dread the future, and it can keep us from saying and doing things that would reveal more of God's love to the world. We need to learn to interrupt fear at its onset—before it begins to settle in our spirit. The choice is to either let Satan stop us in our tracks or to go forward in faith, believing God is in control. The good news is, when we're struggling with fear, we can turn to God's Word for an inspiring, encouraging reality check. Romans 8:31 (AMP) says, "...If God is for us, who can be against us? [Who can be our foe, if God is on our side?]" And Psalm 27:1 (AMP) says, "The Lord is my Light and my Salvation—whom shall I fear or dread? The Lord is the Refuge and Stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?" These scriptures are basically saying that if we believe God's Word, then we have already won the battle we're facing. Jesus tells us in Mark 11:22 that we are to have faith in God constantly. God doesn't want you to be fearful at any time. He wants you to be bold, confident, courageous, and full of faith every day of your life—not just until you have a problem or until someone mistreats you. There's no until. And no one can stop God from answering a prayer that lines up with His Word and His will for our life. Throughout the course of a lifetime, we spend a lot of time waiting. And that is often the case with prayer. We can spend years praying for something to happen. And during that time, Satan will do everything he can to discourage us. He will try to convince us that God doesn't love us, that God's promises are for more worthy people, or that we didn't really hear from God in the first place. But if we will choose to trust God continually, we can keep moving forward in His plans for us. The truth is, even if you don't see the fulfillment of every dream or desire of your heart here on earth, God will be pleased as you continue to believe in His perfect plan. And in the meantime, your faith will fill you with hope, joy, and peace. Romans 15:13 (AMP) says, "May the God of your hope so fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound and be overflowing [bubbling over] with hope." Now if you knew me years ago, you would know that I wasn't always bubbling up with hope. In fact, I was in agony whenever God made me wait for anything, so I would always try to make things happen on my own. And it eventually wore me out! I remember lying on the floor, sobbing, saying, "God, I've tried everything and nothing's working. I just give up!" At that moment, the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart and said: Really, Joyce? You mean, you're going to let Me take it from here? You see, when we're ready to let go, God is just there to fight our battles. We just need to learn to trust Him... and that comes through experience, as we take each new step of faith. Today, instead of trying to pray my problems away, I've learned to pray for things like strength and courage,

and for the power to endure whatever comes with a good temper. With God's help, I can choose faith every time I'm confronted with feelings of fear or intimidation. Philippians 1:2 (AMP) says, "And do not [for a moment] be frightened or intimidated in anything by your opponents and adversaries, for such [constancy and fearlessness] will be a clear sign (proof and seal) to them of [their impending] destruction, but [a sure token and evidence] of your deliverance and salvation, and that from God." With God's help, we can remain stable in the face of fear, putting one foot in front of the other... walking by faith full time. Imagine again what it would be like to pursue your God-given passions in life. Don't let fear stop you! Keep seeking God. Stir yourself up with scriptures on faith. And boldly say, "God is bigger. He's working on my behalf, and I trust Him constantly." For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-part teaching resource Overcoming Fear with Faith. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org. Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (FaithWords). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org. Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Table with multiple columns listing church names, addresses, phone numbers, and service times. Includes churches like Emmanuel Chapel, United Presbyterian Church of Antonito, Catholic Sacred Heart Church, etc.

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

See you at Sunday School. *Bible Studies during the week, call for information.

Sports

Bomb Squad hosted Second Annual Summer Showdown on July 20-21



Courtesy photos

The Bomb Squad hosted the Second Annual Summer Showdown on July 20-21 in Monte Vista. The 12U tournament took place at the Ski-Hi Fields, and the 14U tournament was at Monte Vista High School's Adrian M. Gutierrez Memorial Field. The 14U team won its tournament, while the 12U team finished second in its tournament.



The Bomb Squad's Many Jiron won the 14U home run derby on July 20 at the Ski-Hi Fields.



Gunnison's Dylan Smith won the 12U home run derby.



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Lifestyle

Empowering aging in Colorado talk Aug. 7

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA — Spark the Change Colorado, a volunteer nonprofit organization dedicated to service and community health invites the public to its monthly speaker forum, “Spark Speaker Series: Empowering Aging in Colorado.” The next talk takes place at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 7, at the Alamosa Senior Citizens Center.

Hosted by the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Alamosa County, the series addresses issues pertaining to older adults and their health and features local expert speakers on topics such as well-being, nutrition, volunteering, memory, physical health, and much more. All are welcome and no registration is necessary.

The featured speaker on Aug. 7 is Katy Baer, whose talk is titled, “Practical Tips for Eating Healthfully on a Limited Budget.” Learn practical ways to cut food costs and still eat healthfully and deliciously. Baer is a Registered Dietitian with a master’s degree in public health nutrition. As a Community Nutritionist, her focus has been on improving access to healthy foods through multiple nutrition programs and services such as WIC, childcare centers, and the Senior Nutrition Program.

Baer is an advocate of growing your own food, including participation in community gardens, and promotes eating locally grown foods and a mostly plant-based diet. She encourages trying new foods and recipes and learning to cook so you enjoy what you eat.

In addition to Baer’s presentation, Nancy Harris, Spark the Change Colorado’s RSVP Manager for Alamosa County, will talk about the benefits of volunteering in one’s community and ways to get involved with RSVP. Come with an open mind, a desire to learn more about seniors and their well-being, and with your own ideas



Katy Baer

of future topics and speakers.

“We will be gathering input from participants at each of the events to determine what folks from our senior community are interested in learning about through the monthly series,” organizers stated.

Starting on Sept. 10, the series will be held at 1 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Alamosa Senior Center, 92 Colorado Ave.

For more information about the Spark Speaker Series, or to become an RSVP volunteer, contact Harris at nharris@sparkthechangecolorado.org or 303-867-0868, or visit www.sparkthechangecolorado.org/rsvp.

Kamala Harris will be the Democratic presidential nominee, DNC announces

By JENNIFER SHUTT

Colorado Newswire

WASHINGTON — Enough Democratic delegates selected Kamala Harris to make her the party’s presidential nominee by Friday, during an ongoing virtual vote that began less than two weeks after President Joe Biden ended his reelection campaign.

The vote, which will not officially close until Monday evening, was held in advance of the Democratic National Convention, scheduled to take place in Chicago later this month, to assuage concerns about state registration deadlines that begin in August.

The DNC began laying the groundwork for the virtual nomination months before Biden announced his decision to step aside.

Harris said on a call with supporters Friday that she was happy to have surpassed the threshold needed to win the nomination.

“Of course, I will officially accept your nomination next week once the virtual voting period has closed, but already I’m happy to know that we have enough delegates to secure the nomination,” Harris said.

DNC Chair Jaime Harrison encouraged DNC delegates to keep sending in their ballots during the Zoom call, but said the support for Harris so far has been overwhelming.

“I am so proud to confirm that Vice President Harris has earned more than a majority of votes from all convention delegates and will be the nominee of the Democratic Party following the close of voting on Monday,” he said.

“The outpouring of support we have witnessed for the vice president has been unprecedented,” Harrison added. “We knew your ballots would come back quickly. But the fact that we can say today, just one day after we opened voting, that

the vice president has crossed the majority threshold and will officially be our nominee next week — folks, that is simply outstanding.”

The virtual roll call vote began Thursday at 9 a.m. Eastern and will conclude Monday at 6 p.m. Eastern. Harris was the only candidate to qualify.

The DNC plans to announce the final results afterward, including a state-by-state breakdown.

One of Harris’ first official acts will be selecting a running mate from a list that holds several governors as well as at least one senator. Her decision will set the tone for the sprint to the ballot box.

Harris and her running mate are expected to hold rallies in swing states next week, including Pennsylvania on Tuesday, Wisconsin and Michigan on Wednesday, North Carolina on Thursday, Georgia and Arizona on Friday, and Nevada on Saturday.

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- 4 Shopping Local saves you money and time!** Travel expenses and personal time make the overall cost of items higher.
- 5 Shopping Local retains our community:** Without the support in the local community, restaurants, shops and services are forced to close.
- 6 Shopping Local retains our distinctiveness:** Local businesses respond quicker to the needs of the customers and stock products to meet the core community’s needs.
- 7 Shopping Local encourages community growth.** By choosing to do business locally you help maintain Alamosa’s diversity, charm & appeal. Which in turn, attracts new community members.
- 8 Shopping Local invests in community services and city economy.** Your dollars spent in locally-owned businesses have three times the impact on your community as dollars spent outside of Alamosa.
- 9 Local shops value you more:** Local businesses survive by their reputation & repeat business which means you get a higher standard of service.

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY is looking for candidates to fill the position of **BUDGET ANALYST** within the Business and Finance department. You can apply https://adams.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/ASU/details/Budget-Analyst_R188. We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions please reach out to our Human Resources department 719-587-7990. (9/4/24)

DEL NORTE BANK is seeking to fill a full-time position for a **TELLER** in the **CREEDE BRANCH**. Duties will be to accept deposits, loan payments and process withdrawals while maintaining a balanced cash drawer. Must be personable and pleasant answering the phone and greeting customers. Many other duties will be assigned as needed. The position is permanent, full-time, M-F, 8am-4:30pm, an hourly rate range of \$14.42 to \$17.00, with a robust benefits package. Application available at TrueLocalBank.com/careers or inquire at 117 N. Main St. CREEDE or call 719-657-3376 and ask for Dawn. EOE. (8/16/24)

L & M SALVAGE YARD is looking for a **PARTS SPECIALIST & WRECKER DRIVER**. Hiring full time position. Valid driver's license. Knowledge of vehicles preferred. Apply in person. (8/10/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for an **INFANT or TODDLER TEACHER** at the **MVSD EARLY LEARNING CENTER**. A complete list of qualifications can be viewed on the district website. The district 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 Paraprofessional 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 August 12, 2024, or until the position is filled. For application questions contact the District Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (8/10/24)

COLORADO ROCK & DIRT EXCAVATION, based in **PAGOSA SPRINGS**, is expanding our team. We are looking for experienced **CDL Drivers** local driving only. This is a full time position, offering competitive pay, health insurance, 401K and PTO. Please email resume to coloradorock08@gmail.com or contact the office at 970-264-3478. (8/20/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for a **PART-TIME FOOD SERVICE EMPLOYEE** for the 2024-25 school year. The position is for 2.5 hours per day (11:30 am - 2:00 pm), Monday-Thursday, at **MONTE VISTA MIDDLE SCHOOL**. The salary for this position will be paid from the current **MVSD Food Service 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 August 12, 2024, or until the position is filled. For questions contact the District Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (8/10/24)

LAND USE & PERMITTING ADMINISTRATOR: The **Baca Grande Property Owners Association**, 68575 County Road T, **CRESTONE, CO 81131** \$50,000 - \$60,000 a year - Full-time. <https://www.indeed.com/job/land-use-permitting-administrator-c201b-92d488ea125>. (8/28/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

ARE YOU A motivated individual with a passion for accuracy and efficiency? **SLV BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GROUP** is seeking a highly organized and detail-oriented **PAYROLL SPECIALIST** to join our staff. The ideal candidate will have experience in processing payroll for a medium-sized organization and be able to process payroll on a bi-weekly basis. We offer a competitive salary and great benefits package. Position starts at \$22.00 per hour. For more information and to apply, visit our website at: www.slvbhg.org/now-hiring. Position closes August 12, 2024. (8/10/24)

PART TIME JOB FOR A VETERAN: **ALAMOSA COUNTY** is seeking a **HALF-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** to assist the **Veteran's Services Officer**. The State of Colorado requires the **PERSON BE AN HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERAN** who will provide administrative assistance and can become a certified **Veteran Service Officer** after completing training. Applications can be found at <https://alamosacounty.colorado.gov/category/press-release>. For questions, please contact **Sonia Salinas** at 719-587-5314 or ssalinas@alamosacounty.org. (8/20/24)

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Classifieds

221 -
HELP WANTED

221 -
HELP WANTED

221 -
HELP WANTED

221 -
HELP WANTED

221 -
HELP WANTED

360 - MISC.
FOR SALE

601 - APARTMENTS
FOR RENT

611 - HOMES
FOR RENT

ALAMOSA STATE BANK 719-589-2564
2225 Main St.
Alamosa

Alamosa State Bank (ASB) is seeking a Full Time Operations Assistant to join our team in the Alamosa office. The position is responsible for a variety of administrative and clerical support duties including reconciliations, making routine calculations, making entries, and tracking various transactions. Assignments will be in operational areas including general ledger, bookkeeping, and auditing. The position requires critical thinking, organizational skills, and attention to detail. Qualified candidates will have demonstrated ability to work independently as well as cooperatively in a team environment. A bachelor's degree and/or experience in banking, accounting, or finance is preferred but not required.

Compensation for this position is commensurate with your qualifications and experience. ASB offers a comprehensive benefit program that includes a discretionary bonus, medical, dental and vision plans, 401(k) plan, life insurance, and paid leave benefits. Applications are available at ASB and should be submitted to Kate@alamosastatebank.com. This position will remain open until August 10, 2024.

Member FDIC - An Equal Opportunity Employer

RAINBOW'S END THRIFT STORE seeking MANAGER in ALAMOSA. Position works closely with the Director of Enterprises, store staff, volunteers, and La Puente programs to run daily thrift store operations with the goal of maximizing proceeds, communicating the mission and impact of La Puente, building donor and community relations, and reducing waste. Salary \$35-\$40k. 15% net profit bonus. Full benefits package. Send resume/cover letter & request job description: hr@lapuente.net. La Puente, P.O. Box 1235, Alamosa, CO 81101; 719-589-5909 (Ext 238); www.lapuente.net. (8/9/24)

TERRACE IRRIGATION COMPANY is seeking an individual for the position of DITCH RIDER/RESERVOIR SUPERINTENDENT. The position includes monitoring reservoir levels, adjusting and maintaining head-gates and ditches, and daily recordkeeping of water deliveries, in order to ensure accurate delivery of water to users. Farm or water delivery background helpful but not required. There will be on the job training. Mileage reimbursement will be provided. Pre-employment drug test/ random drug tests and background check are required. Salary dependent on experience. Contact the Ditch Secretary at 719-852-2144 for an application. (8/20/24)

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA is hiring a Full Time STAFF ACCOUNTANT. Those with Bookkeeping, Payroll, Accounts Payable or public accounting experience are encouraged to apply. Familiarity with Microsoft Excel is preferred. Attention to detail, and organizational skills are required. The office is located at the Ski Area located on top of Wolf Creek Pass and requires commuting throughout the year. This is a year-round position, with longer hours during the winter operating months, and a shorter work week in the summer months. This position offers skiing privileges and the compensation starts at \$34 per hour depending on experience. Full slate of insurance benefits and PTO available after a probationary period. Please email resume to: Payroll@WolfCreekSki.com (8/31/24)

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA is hiring an ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT. Those with Bookkeeping, Accounting, Clerical or Human Resources experience are encouraged to apply. The office is located at the Ski Area located on top of Wolf Creek Pass and requires commuting throughout the winter months. This position offers skiing privileges and the compensation starts at \$24 per hour depending on experience. Please email resume to: Payroll@WolfCreekSki.com (8/31/24)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/GENERAL MANAGER: The Baca Grande Property Owners Association, 68575 County Road T, CRESTONE, CO 81131 \$90,000 - \$130,000 a year - Full-time. https://www.indeed.com/job/executive-director-general-manager-a959c-74f16ac2c01. (8/28/24)

EDUCATION MANAGER: CENTER HEAD START is searching for an EDUCATION MANAGER. Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education or equivalent, experience working with diverse children and families, knowledge of Early Childhood development and ECE reports. Highly advised that applicants have good communication skills, leadership skills and ability to plan and problem solve. Applications can be picked up at the Center Head Start Office or on the website. Questions please call the office at 719-759-9259. (8/30/24)

FAMILY SERVICES MANAGER: CENTER HEAD START is searching for a highly motivated FAMILY SERVICES MANAGER. Applicants must have strong interpersonal and communication skills. Required to have a Bachelor's 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. (8/30/24)

DIRECTOR: CENTER HEAD START is searching for a highly motivated DIRECTOR. Required to have a Bachelor's degree. The Head Start director takes total responsibility for administration of the program, including the planning, implementation, and evaluation. He/she will supervise all Head Start staff and is responsible for community involvement in the program. He/she maintains a good working relationship with the Regional Office. Ensures that the Head Start program is in compliance with Performance Standards and all policies of the National Head Start Program. Applications can be picked up at the Center Head Start Office or on the website. Questions, please call the office at 719-759-9259. (8/30/24)

BUS DRIVER/ CUSTODIAN: CENTER HEAD START is in search of a BUS DRIVER/ CUSTODIAN. Must have a Class B Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with P25 endorsement. A good driving record. Able to do a pre-trip inspection to ensure functioning maintenance of bus. Ability to work with children, parents, other staff, and community people. Custodian must take responsibility for the overall maintenance of the Head Start facility. Knowledge and understanding of safety and sanitation regulations and perform routine repairs as needed throughout the building. Applications can be picked up at the Center Head Start Office or on the website. Questions, please call the office at 719-759-9259. (8/30/24)

BUTCHER WANTED! PROCESSING wild game and domestic animals. For more info call 719-859-4198! (8/10/24)

CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 26Jt is paying years of service and single health insurance benefits. Apply now to become part of our dynamic district as we are now accepting applications for the positions of ELEMENTARY TEACHER PRIMARY GRADE, for the 2024-2025 School Year. Qualifications: Must hold a valid State of Colorado Teacher's License or such alternative as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. Applications can be found on the District Website https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (8/3/24)

THE UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT is hiring a full time JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR. Applicants must have a Master's Degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain an appropriate Colorado school counselor license. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Annie Hardy, DEL NORTE JR./SR. High Principal at ahardy@urtigers.co or contact Mrs. Hardy at 719-657-4020. Applications for certified staff positions can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.urtigers.co. (8/28/24)

THE BOE OF CENTER SCHOOLS is now accepting applications for CHILDCARE in the INFANT ROOM for the 2024-2025 School Year. Qualifications: Must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent, or such alternative to the above qualifications as the Board of Education may find appropriate and acceptable. All candidates must pass background checks and continuing education as needed. For information and application materials, please visit the District Website https://www.center.k12.co.us/page/employment-opportunities or contact the District Office at (719) 754-3442. Application Deadline: Until Position is Filled. EOE. (8/3/24)

MOFFAT SCHOOLS IS now hiring for: K-12 SCHOOL COUNSELOR and SCHOOL SECRETARY. Job descriptions and applications can be found on the District website, www.moffatschools.org or contact Kathy Garcia at 719-341-0128 for more information. Application deadline: Until filled. (8/13/24)

JOB OPENING: PART-TIME SECRETARY at SACRED HEART CHURCH. Monday thru Friday - hours 9:00 am to 2:00 pm (2 1/2 hrs. a week). Should be bilingual and have experience with Microsoft programs (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher) and google email/calendar knowledge. Should be a practicing Roman Catholic in good standing with the Church. Must pass a criminal background investigation; must have a good driving record, current Colorado Driver's License, and automobile insurance. Please submit a resume to admin@sacredheartalamosa.org or come to the office for an application. If you have any questions, please call the office at (719) 589-5829, ext. 11. (8/10/24)

MONTE VISTA SCHOOL DISTRICT is accepting applications for a ROUTE BUS DRIVER. Preference will be given to applicants that hold a CDL, but the transportation department will work with the right candidate in obtaining the license. For additional information contact Mark Hotz, Maintenance/Transportation Director, at 719-852-2881. The salary for this position will be paid from the current MVSD Transportation Personnel Salary Schedule, which can be viewed on the district website - Employment Opportunities page. Applications may be submitted through our online employment application https://www.pirates.monte.k12.co.us/employmentopportunities by July 31, 2024 or until the position is filled. For questions regarding the application process contact the Administration Office at 719-852-5996. (8/6/24)

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

DEL NORTE POLICE OFFICER. THE TOWN OF DEL NORTE 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 a physical, physiological evaluation, pre-employment drug test, and extensive background check. Must be able to work all shifts. Salary \$45k-\$48k DOE, plus excellent benefits and retirement. Must be at least 21 years of age. Send resume to Del Norte Police Department email: delnorte1860@outlook.com or apply at delnortecolorado.com or can be picked up at Del Norte Police Dept. 525 Grand Ave., Del Norte, Co 81132. Deadline until position filled. EEO/ADA. (8/23/24)

DIRECTOR OF EMPLOYEE SUPPORT (DES). LA PUENTE is our community's response to address the effects of poverty by providing a safety net of services, where individuals and families get what they need to stabilize, heal, strengthen, and ultimately thrive. Seeking Director of Employee Support who will assist with hiring, on-boarding, training facilitation, conflict management, and strengthening organizational culture. Seeking experienced independent professional with strong people skills and understanding of holistic staff support and development. Join our staff of dedicated professionals and learn the joys and satisfaction of helping others. Salary \$55k-60k DOE. Full benefit package. Send cover letter, resume, request job description: hr@lapuente.net La Puente, P.O. Box 1235, ALAMOSA, CO 81101; 719/589-5909 (Ext 238); www.lapuente.net. (8/17/24)

RIO GRANDE COUNTY is accepting applications for a HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST. Full-time, Monday - Friday. Salary starts at \$59,133 - \$65,248 annually DOE. Benefits include Health, Dental, Vision, Life Insurance, Paid Holidays and a 401(a) at 4% match. Starting annual salary of \$57,408 - \$59,717 DOE. Must pass a background check and pre-employment drug test, including testing for marijuana. Application and job description are available at riograndecounty.org and submit applications to humanresources@riograndecounty.org or pick up and drop off at 925 6th Street, Room 200, DEL NORTE, CO 81132. (8/10/24)

THE CRESTONE CHARTER SCHOOL is attracting skilled educators for a MS/HHS SCIENCE TEACHER position. Qualified applicants will have a breadth of knowledge in biology, physics, chemistry, and earth science as well as instructional practices for individualized, project-based, experiential learning; teacher's license is preferred but educational experience is required. Salaried with benefits ranging from \$40-60K. Full-time for the 2024/25 SY. CCS also seeks a PART-TIME TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR & DRIVER to start ASAP for the 24-25 school year. Wages range from \$16.50-20.00 per hour. The position includes coordination of van fleet, drivers, and sports and trip driving. Clean driving record (not CDL) required. Call 719-256-4907 or visit www.crestone-charter-school.org/employment. (8/9/24)

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

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

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

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)

304 - LAWN & GARDEN

SPRINKLER REPAIR & INSTALLATION. Quick Service!! Call evenings & weekends: 719-580-0033 or 719-376-2593. (9/6/24-monthly)

324 - SEED & FEED

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

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

341 - GARAGE SALE

YARD SALE: SATURDAY, August 3 & Sunday, August 4, 8am-5pm, 5915 Aspen Avenue, 1.4 miles West of WalMart. Watch for signs. (8/3/24)

YARD SALE: SATURDAY, 3 August '24, 7am to 11pm: 1108 Edison Ave., ALAMOSA. Something for everyone! (8/3/24)

EVERY SATURDAY THRU THE END OF AUGUST. Antiques, furniture, lawn decors, collectables, tools. 97 Sierra Ave., one block from ASU @ 1st & Sierra. (8/3/24)

PRE-ESTATE SALE: SATURDAY, 8/3, 9am-2pm, 181 Tinkham, ALAMOSA. Too many items to mention. (8/3/24)

YARD SALE: SATURDAY, 8/3 & 8/4, 1810 San Juan, ALAMOSA, 8am-1pm. Wii, hunting gear, clothes. (8/3/24)

ESTATE SALE: SATURDAY /Sunday, 8/3-8/4, 8am sharp. Furniture, households, antiques, kitchen items, décor items, and lots more. East Hwy. 160, left on Craft Dr., left on Clark St., right at round-about, (no street signs), left on Mimi Lane, house # 2913. Rain or shine! (8/3/24)

347 - HOUSEHOLD GOODS

NEW KITCHENAID BLACK kitchen UTENSILS set, \$10. 719-852-8879.

350 - FARM EQUIPMENT

KRAMER SINGLE 8 row ROUND BALE RETRIEVER. 719-589-6960. (9/21/24)

NEW HOLLAND 688 ROUND BALER, \$8,000. 719-589-6960. (9/21/24)

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PU CAMPER SHELL \$125. Wood Stove \$90. Portable Air Compressor \$80. Call 719-480-1609. (8/6/24)

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368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

GREAT PYRENEES NEEDS A GOOD HOME. Daisy is four years old, spayed, shots and needs a home. She is very shy. She is also a great watch dog. Please call if you can give her a good home. ALSO, NEED A HOME FOR: laying hens, a goose, two ducks, hedgehogs and tortoises. For any of the above, call 719-580-4014. (8/14/24)

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

401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES

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415 - HOMES FOR SALE

4 SALE: 40 ACRES WITH HOUSE, OFF GRID TYPE, in Mosca, Colo. Text 719-588-2288 after 3pm. (8/14/24)

426 - MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

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

525 - GUNS

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601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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852-4302
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West View Villas
510 Dunham Monte Vista, Colo
852-3949
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1-800-659-2656
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Accepting applications for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Rent based on income for qualifying households.
Gomez Manor Apts.
804 State St. Antonito, Colo.
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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

ACROSS

- 1 Winter mo.
- 4 "— Miner's Daughter"
- 8 Beat with a whip
- 12 Web address
- 13 Competent
- 14 Exchange fee
- 15 Swellhead's problem
- 16 Long river
- 17 Valley
- 18 Like some dairy products (hyph.)
- 20 Baby
- 22 Gratuity
- 23 — and cry
- 24 Trust-worthy
- 27 Wave top
- 31 Grow weary
- 32 Chopped food
- 34 "— Were Always on My Mind"
- 35 Catchall abbr.
- 36 "Jane —"

DOWN

- 37 Eastern European
- 38 Pallid
- 40 Read
- 42 Say further
- 44 Kitchen discard
- 45 Few and far between
- 48 Sound system
- 51 Bugle
- 52 Dad
- 54 Clumsy boat
- 55 Formerly
- 56 Drop
- 57 Actress — Lupino
- 58 Pome fruit
- 59 Fork park
- 60 Certain vote

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

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

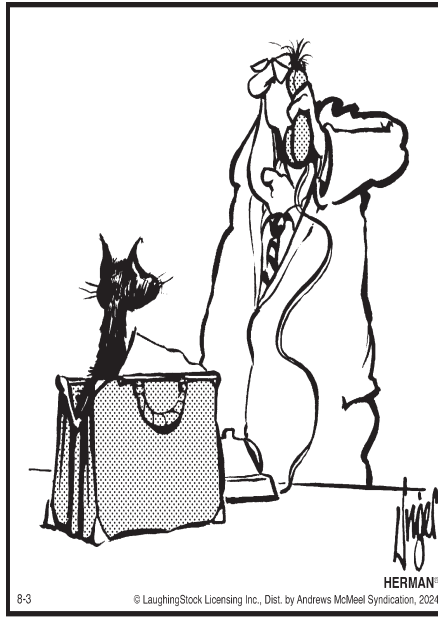
3			2	8	1			6				
		6			3			8				
2			6	4								
	6		8								8	
7						4		3				
				6	5						9	
		5		2		4						
	7		4	9	8						2	

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

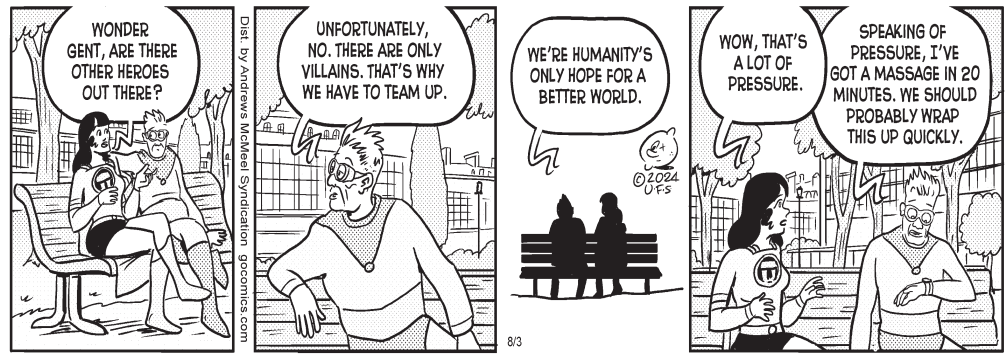
HOW TO PLAY:
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

HERMAN



"He's got my tuna fish sandwiches again!"

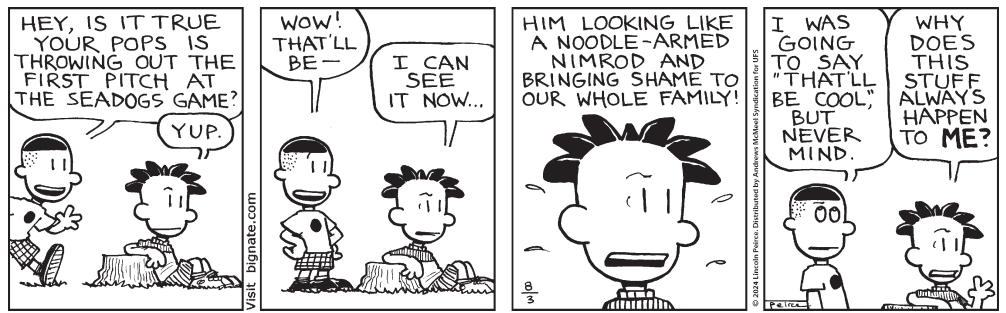
ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



BIG NATE



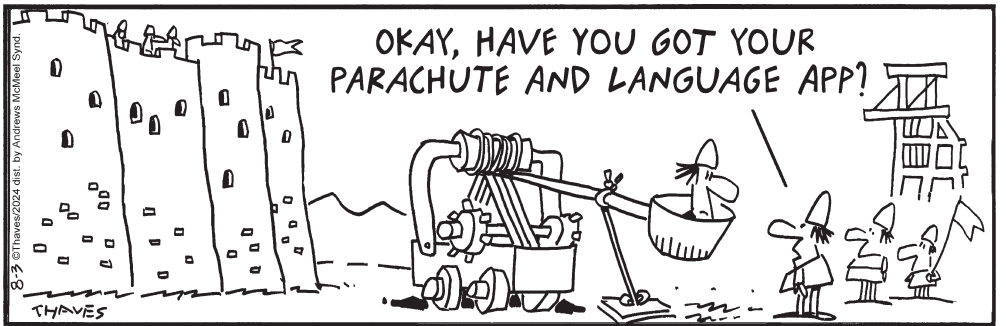
THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



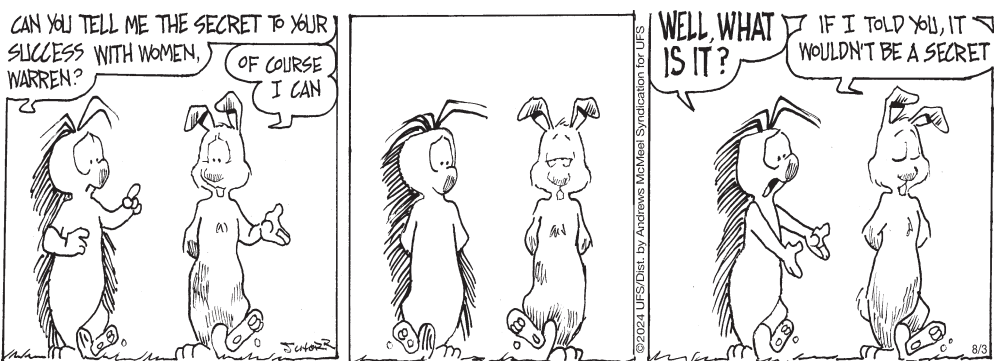
FRANK & ERNEST



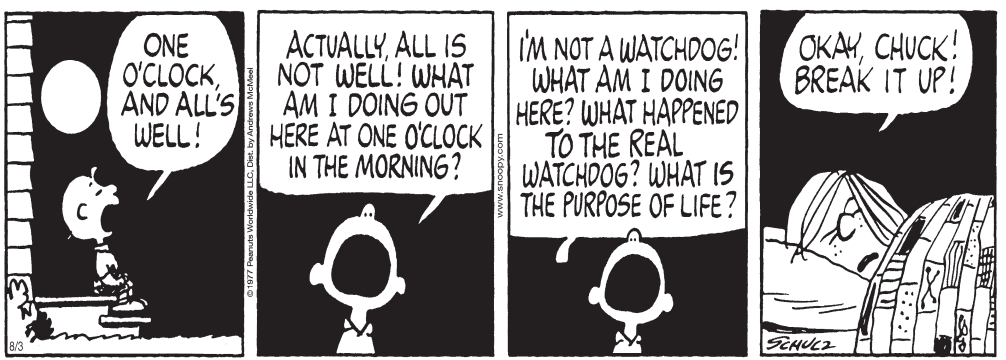
GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



Sister opts for silence after request is denied

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been pet owners for 30 years. Our last beloved dog passed away six months ago. We are in our late 50s and still work full time. We agreed we would not get any more animals because we would like to travel without worry for a change.

My sister has a big old dog that is good-natured and well-mannered, and she's hinting for me to keep him so she can go to Florida that allows no pets. Her dog may be well-mannered, but he drools and all that flies all over my house and furniture. Yuck! I recommended a friend of mine to her who would take good care of him.

After our last pooch died, we cleaned our house, bought new rugs and got rid of the dog odor. We are not ready for any more animals in our home. I commute to my job by train and, frankly, don't have time to watch her dog.

Since I recommended my friend, my sister has stopped answering my calls and texts. I feel bad, but her animal is not my responsibility. My husband and I don't want to share our home with her 89-pound dog. Her request

was presumptuous, but I still feel guilty. What should I do? Just deal with the silence? I don't feel I deserve the punishment I'm receiving. -- IN THE DOGHOUSE IN TENNESSEE

DEAR DOGHOUSE: What you do now is stick to your guns and refuse to knuckle under to your sister's emotional blackmail. She should have accepted your refusal to be the answer to her big, jowly, drooly problem with grace. You have been a responsible pet owner. You were kind to recommend someone who would take good care of your sister's furry family member, and you have the RIGHT to enjoy your freedom now.

DEAR ABBY: For more than seven years, my partner and I have been in a romantic relationship. In the past, our connection was full of affection. We would hold hands, kiss and hug in public. However, over the past year, his affection has diminished. While I trust that he still loves me, I suspect he no longer finds me attractive.

I have spoken to him about it and explained the effect this is having on my self-esteem, and that I cry myself to sleep. He attributes his lack of passion to exhaustion, despite having plenty of energy for other activities. He's



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

67; I'm 53. I don't know what to do because he refuses to seek counseling. Please help. -- ROMANTIC LADY IN TEXAS

DEAR LADY: Because your partner refuses to seek counseling doesn't mean that you couldn't benefit from it. His diminished interest in affection, and everything that goes with it, is not necessarily a reflection on you.

Some males in his age bracket experience a similar lack of interest in sex. However, when they see the effect it may have on their partner, they consult a specialist to ask if anything can be done about it. Your partner's doctor could refer him to someone, but only if he's willing to ask.

Lifestyle

Undocumented immigrants paid \$437 million in taxes in Colorado in 2022, study says

By CASEY QUINLAN
Colorado Newswire

A new study shows that undocumented immigrants paid nearly \$100 billion in federal, state and local tax revenue in 2022 while many are shut out of the programs their taxes fund. The findings run counter to anti-immigrant rhetoric that undocumented immigrants are “destroying” social programs.

In 40 states, including Colorado, undocumented immigrants paid higher tax rates than the top 1% of the income scale in those states, according to a study released Tuesday from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, a left-leaning, nonprofit think tank.

The study, which uses estimates of undocumented immigrants’ tax contributions as of 2022, shows those totaled \$96.7 billion that year. Study authors also found that undocumented immigrants would contribute \$40.2 billion more per year in federal, state and local taxes if all of the undocumented population had access to work authorization. The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy reasoned that this boost would come from higher wages associated with employment authorization and easier compliance with income tax laws.

The report also shed further light on the tax revenue provided by undocumented immigrants on the state and local level. Undocumented immigrants are paying 46% of their state and local tax payments through sales and excise taxes. Six states — New Jersey, New York, California, Florida, Texas, and Illinois — were able to raise more than \$1 billion each in tax revenue from undocumented immigrants, the nonprofit said. Colorado raised \$437 million from undocumented immigrants in 2022.

Undocumented immigrants pay property taxes and sales taxes, and federal payroll taxes taken from their wages, as well as income tax returns using Individual Taxpayer Identification numbers. Despite those payroll taxes funding Medicare, Social Security, and Unemployment Insurance, undocumented immigrants are not eligible to enroll in and receive regular benefits from these social programs. They can also face barriers to getting tax refunds, including getting scammed by unscrupulous tax preparers who target immigrant communities, said Jackie Vimo, senior analyst of economic justice policy at the National Immigration Law Center in a media call on the report.

“There are tons of laws that prevent undocumented workers from getting benefits,” said Richard C. Auxier, a principal policy associate at the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, a nonpartisan think tank that was not involved in the study. “They get a lot of political attention. At the end of the

day, they’re just normal people paying normal taxes.”

Alexis Tsoukalas, senior policy analyst at Florida Policy Institute, a nonprofit focused on economic mobility for Floridians, told reporters on Monday that she was struck by how much the state collected from undocumented immigrants in taxes compared to the wealthiest in the state. The current tax rate for undocumented immigrants in Florida is 8% compared to the top 1% of the state at 2.7%.

“This means hundreds of thousands of everyday people are contributing more than their share to public services they cannot even access meanwhile those with the most to give and the most to benefit contribute the least,” Tsoukalas said.

In Colorado, the tax rate for undocumented immigrants is 7.8% compared to the top 1% of the state at 7%.

The study was released in the backdrop of a political climate where states have passed laws to arrest people who they suspect of entering the U.S. illegally, which has been a federal power, the Biden administration announced an executive action to allow for the deportation of many asylum seekers without processing their claims, and the 2024 Republican Party platform promises the “largest deportation operation in American history” if former President Donald Trump is reelected over presumptive Democratic nominee Kamala Harris. Tax policy will also be front and center for Congress and the White House next year as provisions of Trump’s tax law, passed in 2017, are set to expire.

The report estimates that 156,000 undocumented immigrants live in Colorado, while a total 10.9 million live in the country.

Aside from the human cost of deportations on families, policy experts and researchers are making the case that undocumented immigrants are a boon to the economy, making it an economic cost as well. Immigration and economic experts who spoke about the significance of the report on Monday highlighted the Congressional Budget Office’s July report on the rise in immigration and its effects on the economy and budget, which found that this increase in immigration would add \$1.2 trillion in federal revenue from 2024 to 2034.

Carl Davis, research director at the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, said there are economic ripple effects to consider in the deportation of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. beyond taxes.

“If you deported someone and they’re no longer making taxable purchases in their community, that number would reflect a reduction in their sales tax payments to the community but it wouldn’t capture that second ripple effect of the business has less profits because they have fewer customers,”

Davis said in a media call on the study.

Auxier said that researchers have found children in an undocumented immigrant household are receiving education benefits that could be larger than the tax payments of the lower income working adults, but that this is more of an income issue than a specific immigration issue. The other side of that coin, Auxier notes, is that in the future, undocumented households may in fact

give back more than they received.

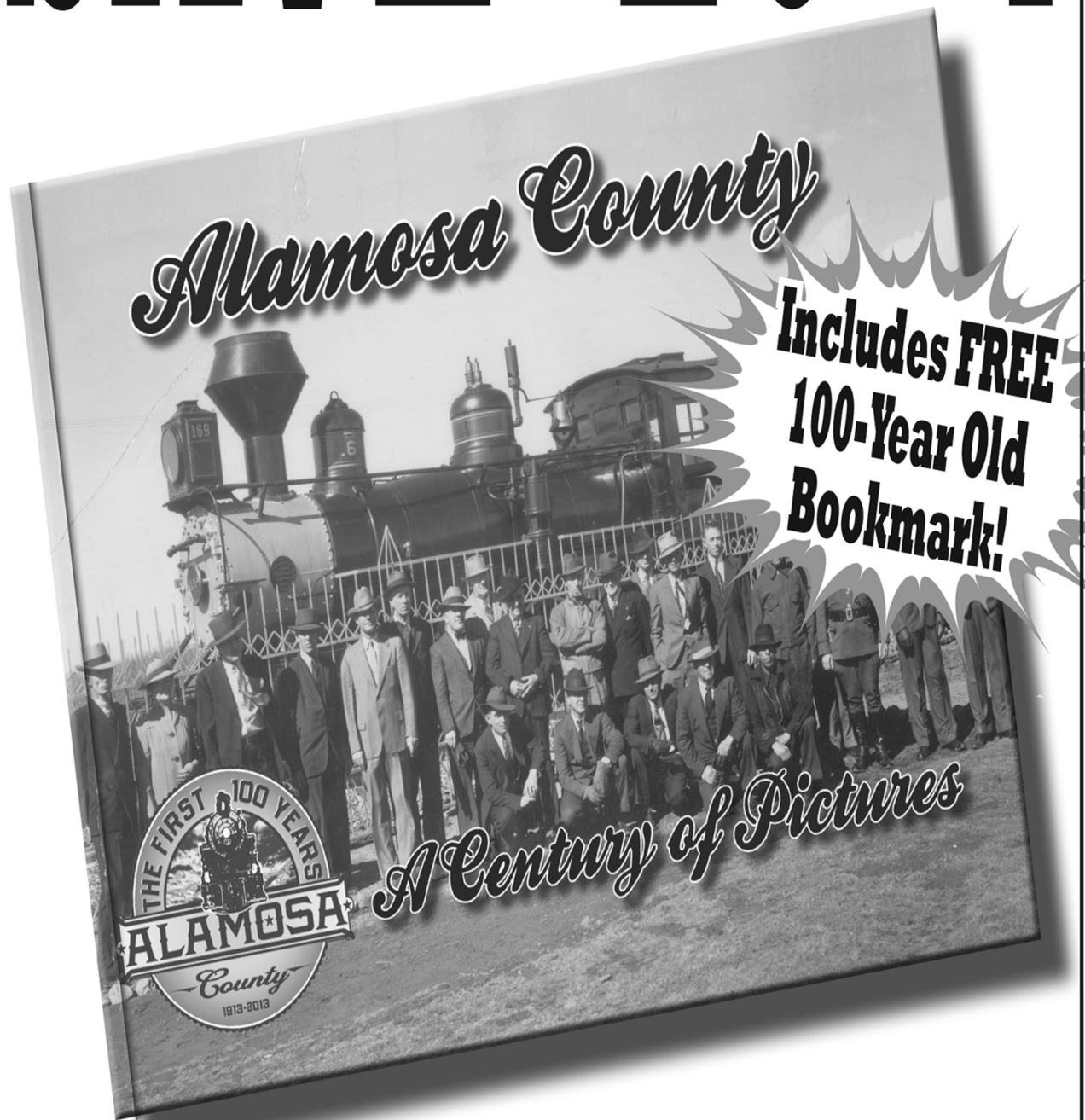
“Those same studies tend to note that if the children go to school and they then go get jobs, now the American household is giving more than it got because the parents came here, worked, paid into Social Security, Medicare, and didn’t get any benefits,” he said. “The kid went to school and then they got a job and then they started earning enough money that they were a net contributor.”

Policy experts also pointed to a labor shortage — 8.1 million job openings and 6.8 million unemployed workers — as a reason to embrace the economic contributions of undocumented immigrants. South Dakota, North Dakota, Maryland, Vermont, Maine, and South Carolina are some of the states facing the greatest labor shortages, according to a Washington Post analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

“Immigrants are al-

ready filling that (labor) gap and if we have mass deportations where millions of immigrants are torn from their family members and the country they have made home, we will not only have the human impact of this but we’ll have a severe effect on the economy and available workforce,” said Vimo of the National Immigration Law Center, a group that focuses on racial, economic and social justice for low-income immigrants.

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