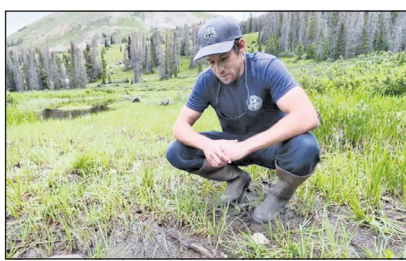




Top finishers at Kids Only Triathlon

— Page 6



'A really big deal': CPW discovers wild boreal toad tadpoles at reintroduction site near Pitkin

— Page 12



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VOLUME 98, NO. 130

Valley Courier

WEDNESDAY EDITION | WWW.ALAMOSANEWS.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

August 14, 2024

\$1

SLV Today

DN Food Bank distribution

Aug. 17

DEL NORTE — The Del Norte Food Bank will be open for its August distribution from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Aug. 17. Anyone in need of food assistance is welcome. If you are unable to attend during distribution hours and need food assistance, call 719-850-2643.

Fletcher and Friends performing

Aug. 18

CREEDE—Jeff Fletcher and Friends will be performing from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 18, at Basham Park, Creede, for Music in the Park. Fletcher, an amazing singer and guitar player, has had a residency at the Antlers Riverside Restaurant deck for several years. His music is the perfect blend of classic country, classic rock and the blues. He will be performing with some of his Creede musical friends including country singer Kerri Bohan and Debbie Whitmore on flute.

This concert is presented by the Creede Arts Council. If the weather is rainy, the concert will move into Sunnyside Bar across the street from Basham Park.

SLV REC board of directors meeting

MONTE VISTA

San Luis Valley REC will have the regular meeting of the board of directors at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 20, at 3625 US Highway 160 W, Monte Vista. Advance notice is required to attend the meeting, call Michelle Trujillo at 719-852-3538.

SLV WEATHER



Slight Chance of Afternoon Showers, Breezy 78/45

Thurs: Sunny, Breezy 80/44

Fri: Sunny, Breezy 84/46

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Bond set for Larry Chavez at \$10 million

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier reporter

ALAMOSA — At the request of the district attorney's office, the court has set bond at \$10 million in the case of Alamosa resident Larry Chavez, 33, who was arrested in connection with the Aug. 1 fatal shooting of Enrique Parra.

According to the clerk at the Alamosa County Combined Court, Chavez has been charged with 18 different counts in the case, including one count of murder in the second degree (Felony 2), second-degree assault with a deadly weapon (F4), kidnapping (F2), two counts of motor vehicle theft (F4), four counts of felony menacing (F5), theft \$5,000 to \$10,000 (F6), third-degree assault (Misdemeanor 1), criminal mischief (misdemeanor) plus six counts of habitual criminal.

Due to his criminal history, if Chavez is judged by the court to be a habitual criminal in connection with any of those felonies, his sentence will be four times the maximum range of sentencing for each felony he is convicted of committing.

As reported by the Valley Courier, shortly after 6 p.m. in the evening of Thursday, Aug. 1, Alamosa Police Department was dispatched to the 1700 block of State Avenue on the report of a shooting. Upon arriving at the scene, officers found a male victim,

later identified as Parra, who had been shot. Life-saving measures were immediately instigated. Parra was transferred to San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased.

Chavez, identified as a suspect in the shooting, fled the scene, initiating a manhunt with numerous law enforcement agencies in the San Luis Valley assisting along with a drone from Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Early Friday morning, APD requested assistance. ■ See BOND page 3

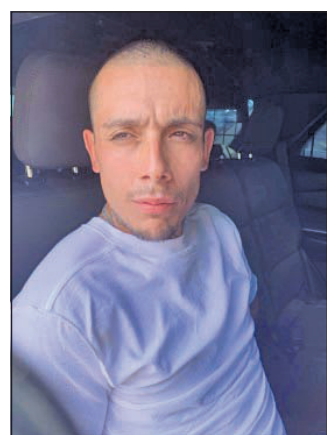


Photo courtesy of Alamosa Police Department

Bond set at \$10 million for Alamosa resident Larry Chavez, 33, who is accused of fatally shooting Enrique Parra.

Zapata trail rescue ends well Tuesday

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA COUNTY — A 22-year-old female hiker was rescued Tuesday at about 11 a.m. after becoming lost and spending the night alone in an abandoned cabin along the South Zapata Lake Trail No. 852 in the Rio Grande National Forest.

Alamosa County Sheriff Robert Jackson said the hiker separated from her hiking partner and was reported overdue at about 9:30 a.m. on Aug. 12. According to Jackson, rescuers from the Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue (AVSAR), searchers from Saguache County, drones, and a helicopter from Reach 29 were all deployed in the search.

The lost hiker was outside the initial search perimeter, Jackson said, and after she had a close encounter with a black bear, she hiked uphill instead

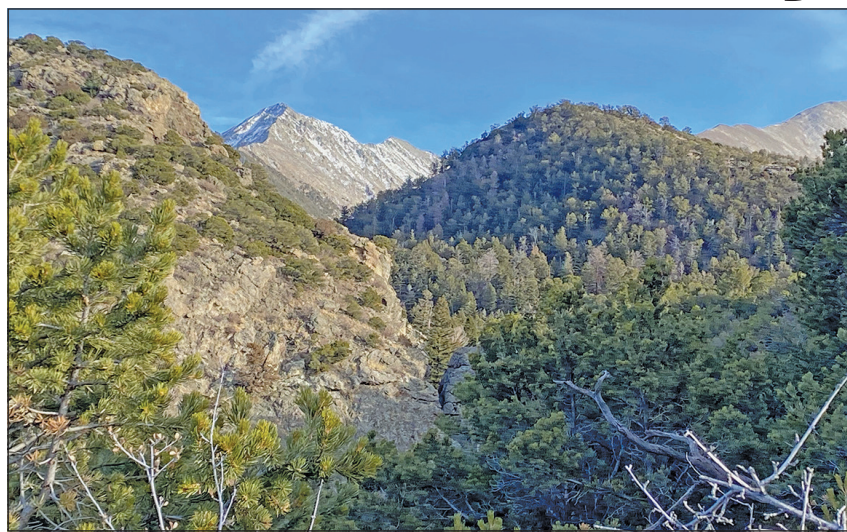


Photo by Marlys Hersey

A hiker became lost along the South Zapata Lake Trail on Aug. 12. After separating from her hiking partner, the lost hiker had a close encounter with a black bear. This photo was taken along the trail from where the hiker became lost.

of walking down the trail. She "was about seven feet from the non-aggressive bear, who ran off," said Jackson.

The hiker found refuge in an old cabin about two miles up the trail. Tuesday morning, the Reach 29 helicopter detected an individual near the cabin and after AVSAR ground crews made contact, they determined she was the lost hiker.

With the assistance of the SAR personnel the hiker walked out and was transported by ground ambulance to San Luis Valley Health in Alamosa.

Jackson extended his thanks to all who assisted, especially the entire volunteer team at AVSAR.

The South Zapata Lake Trail is 4.8 miles long. It starts at the popular Zapata Falls Trail and ends at an elevation

of 11,900. The trail is popular with hikers to the lake or those climbing nearby 14ers, including Ellingwood Point.

The AVSAR team has been dispatched to Ellingwood twice in recent weeks and successfully transported two distressed hikers to medical treatment.

In May 2023, AVSAR helped a lost hiker who wandered off the trail.



File photo

A helicopter is again expected to be part of the City Services Fair and National Night Out on Aug. 16 at Cole Park in Alamosa.

Friday is National Night Out

STAFF REPORT

ALAMOSA — In what has become an annual event, this year's "City Services Fair and National Night Out" will be held from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 16 at Cole Park. Many factors make this event truly one-of-a-kind, not the least of which is its goal of creating and strengthening good relationships between the people of Alamosa and the law enforcement officers who protect the community where we all live.

"We are promoting the City Services Fair and National Night Out as an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live, work, and play," says Capt. ■ See NIGHT page 3

Annual fundraiser for SAR is Saturday

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

ALAMOSA — The SUDS 4 SAR is from 4 to 10 p.m. on Saturday at the San Luis Valley Brewing Company in Alamosa. The festivities will help Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue (AVSAR) raise money for regional rescue missions.

AVSAR is entirely non-profit and operates under the jurisdiction of the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office. Their mission states, "Our purpose is to coordinate and conduct search

and rescue operations in Alamosa County...so that others may live."

After a successful rescue along the South Crestone Lake trail on Aug. 12, Alamosa County Sheriff Robert Jackson said, "This group [AVSAR] is an asset. Everyone up there today is a volunteer. They all cost money to be here. They have jobs and families, and they all volunteer." Jackson said he looks forward to attending the fundraiser on Saturday.

Not only do the AVSAR

responders do it for free and volunteer their time, but they also often pay for rescue gear.

A 2022 Colorado Parks and Wildlife study determined that, on average, a SAR responder spent \$1,587 of their own money on rescue equipment. The study also found that the 2,800 SAR volunteers in the state contributed about 500,000 hours, estimated to be worth \$21 million annually.

According to the group, "AVSAR encourages you ■ See SAR page 3



Photo courtesy of AVSAR

Members of Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue on a recent mission. The annual SUDS 4 SAR fundraiser is Saturday at San Luis Valley Brewing at San Juan Avenue and Main Street in Alamosa.

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Record

Adams State offers beginning Spanish class for community

CONTRIBUTED
ALAMOSA – The Adams State University Spanish program will offer elementary Spanish I, a class for faculty, staff and community members in the 2024 fall semester.

Taught by Meliza Ramirez, Ph.D., assistant professor of Spanish, the class will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, beginning Aug. 19, in McDaniel

Hall.

The cost for community members is \$55/credit hour and no cost for Adams State employees. Degree-seeking students who are also Adams State employees, should register through their student portal.

This course lasts the entire fall semester, and regular attendance and homework submission are required. Space is

also limited. Those who are interested in taking this class should register only if they have the time and are committed to learning the language.

For registration information, contact Adams State Extended Studies at 719-587-7837 or pdcustomerservice@adams.edu. For information about the class, contact Ramirez at mramirez@adams.edu.

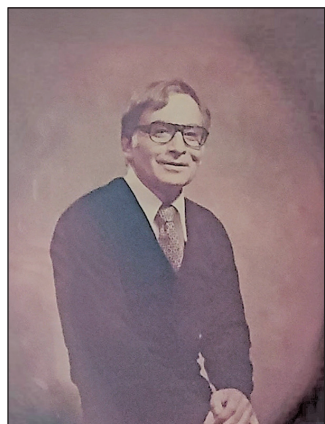
OBITUARIES

AR Espinoza Sr.

AR Espinoza Sr., 94, passed away peacefully on Aug. 9, 2024, in Alamosa surrounded by his loving family.

AR was born in Espinoza, Colo., on July 25, 1930, to Benjamin F. and Manuelita (Lobato) Espinoza. He met Gloria Marquez, the love of his life, and they started dating. They married on June 2, 1951, in Antonito, Colo. They resided in Alamosa, Colo.

AR Loved spending time with his family, working in the yard, fishing, riding horses and volunteering as an usher at Sacred Heart Church for many years. He was a jack of all trades; he started driving a semi-truck hauling cattle and pigs for his dad at the age



of 15. He then worked with the forest service. He also sold cars for a bit with McMullen. He soon went onto work at Montgomery Ward and became the store manager for 30 years. He retired for a time, and then decided to drive for the Alamosa School District for many years. He then fully retired in 1994-1995

to spend more time with his wife and family.

AR is survived by his three daughters Gloria Ann (John) McCurdy of New Jersey, Elizabeth (Earl) Masters of Wyoming, Lisa (Chris) Faust of Colorado, three grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and a sister.

He was preceded in death by both of his parents, his wife Gloria, his son Arnold R. Espinoza Jr., and his five siblings.

AR will be laid to rest in Alamosa Cemetery next to his wife.

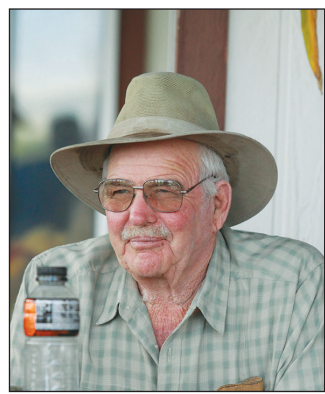
Rogers Family Mortuary is in care of arrangements. To leave online condolences, tributes and words of comfort for AR's family, please visit www.RogersFunerals.com.

James Geiser

James Thomas Geiser was born Feb. 4, 1938, in Lamar, Colo., to the late John and Mildred Geiser. He was a truck driver for most of his career, driving for his family's business, "G&G Trucking". He loved driving his trucks and did so for nearly 64 years! He also ran a farm in the San Luis Valley.

Most of all, he was a family man and did all he could to provide for them. His hobbies included anything his boys were doing, and he could always be found at his sons' athletic or 4-H events. He took great pride in his boys and captured their lives through numerous photos, videos, and newspaper articles. His legacy as a father and husband will live on. He will be greatly missed.

On July 30, 2024, James T. Geiser passed away surrounded by



his family. He was the beloved husband of 57 years to Leola Geiser.

He was preceded in death by his father, John Geiser; his mother, Mildred Geiser; and five siblings: John Geiser, Judy Miller, Jerry Geiser, Jerome (Chub) Geiser, and Jack Geiser. He was also preceded in death by a brother-in-law, Hank Miller.

He is survived by his siblings Joe Geiser (Angie) and Jeff Geiser (Nancy), and three sisters-in-law: Carolyn, Marie, and

Julie Geiser.

He is the cherished father of Jim T. Geiser II and his wife Elaine, William R. Geiser and his wife Sandra, and Troy D. Geiser and his fiancée Tara. James was blessed with 11 grandchildren: Josh Peterson, Jake (Angela) Geiser, Emily (Eric) Struder, Cassie Geiser, Cole Geiser, Rex Geiser, Lindsey Geiser, Zach Geiser, Kiley Geiser, Austin Monson, and Sydney Monson. He also had three great-grandchildren: Eva Struder, Elizabeth Struder, and Jason Geiser.

There will be a rosary on Aug. 17, at 9:30 a.m., followed by funeral services at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Alamosa, Colo. Interment will follow at the Alamosa Cemetery, and there will be a reception in the church hall following the interment.

Susan Mary Sommer

Susan Mary Sommer, 77, of Albuquerque, N.M., passed away peacefully on Aug. 9, 2024.

Born in Kirkwood, Mo., on Feb. 20, 1947, she was the daughter of the late Lee and Celeste Sommer.

Having obtained her M. Ed. degree from Adams State University, Susan worked most recently as an elementary school teacher. She was passionate about helping children and adults learn to read. Throughout her life, she held many jobs that reflected her diverse interests. They ranged from small business owner to newspaper columnist to coal miner.

She played a variety of musical instruments and sang in a band in her younger years; she was



drawn to movies and acting; and she could converse on any subject with a special enthusiasm for sports. Susan loved her family, but above all, she loved Jesus.

Survivors include daughter Jennifer (Paul) Weiss of Lititz, Pa.; son Gabriel (Tracy) Archard of Salida, Colo.; son Jesse

Dessain of Albuquerque, N.M.; daughter Amy Scavozze of Alamosa, Colo.; daughter Natasha Dessain of Alamosa, Colo.; six grandchildren; sister Judith (Richard) Gerber of St. Louis, Mo.; brother Lee (Karla) Sommer of Rocheport, Mo.; and brother Thomas (Ginny) Sommer of Hinsdale, Ill.

On Aug. 17, a 1 p.m. viewing will be held at the Rogers Family Mortuary in Alamosa, Colo., followed by a 2 p.m. graveside service at the Alamosa Cemetery.

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

Jones celebrate 60 years



The family of Chester and Kay Jones will be hosting a cake reception on Saturday, Aug. 31, at 2 p.m. to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. Location will be Calvary Bible Chapel, 7160 Brush Lane, Alamosa. Chester and Kay met at Adams State College and were married on Sept. 11, 1964.

From the Librarian's Desk – New arrivals at the Alamosa Public Library

By MARIA KRAMERM

ALAMOSA — New books are always coming in at the Alamosa Public Library. Here are 10 of our most intriguing arrivals. For more information, or to have a book reserved for you, check alamosalibrary.org or call 719-589-6592.

Fiction

• *Malas* by Marcela Fuentes

In 1951, Pilar Aguirre is a young mother trying to make a home, when an old woman claiming to be her husband's first wife lays a curse on her family. Forty years later, Lulu is a teenage girl dreading her quinceañera. The two women's lives will become entwined, bonded by the family curse.

• *The Same Bright Stars* by Ethan Joella

Since Jack's father died, the family restaurant has been his life - with no time off, no hobbies, and a strong of failed relationships to show for it. Then, the DelDine group gives Jack a generous offer to take the restaurant off his hands.

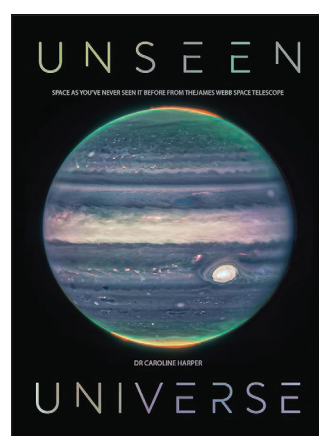
• *Craft: Stories I Wrote for the Devil* by Ananda Lima

At a Halloween party in 1999, a writer sleeps with the Devil. Throughout the rest of her life, she writes stories for him. These stories within a story reveal elements of the narrator's life, ranging from strange and chilling to heartbreakingly true.

• *Graphic Novel* 1949 by Dustin Weaver

By day, Detective Blank hunts a vicious serial killer in the year 1949. But when she sleeps, Blank lives a different life - two hundred years in the future.

Nonfiction



• *Unseen Universe* by Caroline Harper

Discover the science behind the beautiful pictures captured by the James Webb Space Telescope - the most powerful and complex telescope ever built.

• *The Last Drop* by Tim Smedley

Water scarcity is the next big climate crisis. It's increasingly clear that human mismanagement of water is dangerously unsustainable, for both ecological and human survival. Award-winning environmental journalist Tim Smedley meets experts, victims, activists and pioneers to find out how we can mend the water table that we depend on.

• *Impossible Monsters* by Michael Taylor

When a twelve-year-old girl pulled some strange-looking bones from England's southern shoreline in 1811, few people dared to question that the Bible told the accurate history of the world. But Mary Anning had in fact discovered the "first" dinosaur, and over the next seventy-five years, everything changed.

• *Cursed Crochet* by Ulysses Press (Ed.)

What happens when you ask ChatGPT to write an amigurumi pattern? In

early 2023, Ulysses Press asked the groundbreaking AI platform to create adorable crochet patterns of beloved characters and our favorite animals. Instead, they ended up with charmingly strange versions of these creatures that will delight and mystify you.

• *Gathering of Sisters* by Darla Weaver

Once a week Darla Weaver bundles her children into the buggy, hitches up her spirited mare, and drives six miles to the farm where she grew up. The Tuesday get-togethers of this Old Order Mennonite family keep them grounded and centered in their love for God and for each other.

Science Fiction

• *Toward Eternity* by Anton Hur

A cancer cure is developed that replaces all of the body's cells with nanites - robotic cells which render the body essentially immortal. The first patient to survive this treatment vanishes unexpectedly after hearing the voice of his late husband. When he reappears, he is aware that "he" is no longer himself, but rather an entity that shares his memories.

School Menu Wednesday August 14, 2024

BREAKFAST

Breakfast Burrito/Salsa
Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY

Chicken Stir Fry w/Stir Fry Veggies
Fried Rice/Egg Roll
Veggie Cups
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Chicken Stir Fry w/Stir Fry Veggies
Fried Rice/Egg Roll
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL

Chicken Stir Fry w/Stir Fry Veggies
Fried Rice/Egg Roll
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

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

A.A. and N.A members primary purpose is to

stay sober and help other alcoholics/addicts to achieve sobriety.

There are AA and NA 12-Step Meetings throughout the valley. The 6th Tradition states that we are not affili-

ated with any outside organizations, but in the spirit of cooperation, we list these meeting schedules for friends and family. For information, call 719-937-5083 or see our website:slvaa.org

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Alamosa Valley Courier

Valley News

1000 shadows in Cole Park on Sunday

CONTRIBUTED
ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Live Music Association is providing free live music in Cole Park all summer long, with its Sundays at Six concert series. Sundays at Six 2024 will continue with the original alternative rock of 1000 shadows, the powerhouse band from Pueblo who won the Battle of the Bands.

Head over to Cole Park at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 18, for some quality live music. Dinner and dessert can be purchased from Tacos Martinez and Frosty Acres Rolled Ice Cream. The show will be livestreaming on ALMA's Facebook page www.facebook.com/almalivemusic.

1000 shadows was formed in 2022 in Pueblo. The band consists of co-workers and longtime friends who take pride in writing original alternative rock music. Band members are Jim Miller, lead vocalist; Edward Dennis, rhythm guitar and backing vocals; Shaw Harrison, lead guitar; Jon Conley, bass; and Brett Pavlik, drums.

ALMA is again part-

nering with RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) of Alamosa County and the Food Bank Network of San Luis Valley by having a food drive at each Sundays at Six concert this summer, to benefit the Alamosa Food Pantry. All are invited to contribute a non-perishable item or two for this food drive. Look for the receptacles under the ALMA tent at each concert. Some ideas of much-needed items include canned meat (tuna and chicken), peanut butter and other nut butter, low-sodium canned veggies and beans, healthy snacks (low-sugar granola bars, dried fruit, etc.), gluten-free items, healthy canned or boxed meals, shelf-stable milk, and milk alternatives.

Sundays at Six 2024 is generously sponsored by: Alamosa Building Supply, Alamosa Home, Alamosa State Bank, Bank Shot Sports Bar, Blanca Peak Dental Center, City of Alamosa, Colorado Trust, Comfort Inn & Suites of Alamosa, Community Banks of Colorado, Crestone



Courtesy photo

Battle of the Bands winner 1000 shadows will be performing at 6 p.m. on Aug. 18 in Cole Park in Alamosa.

Eagle, First Southwest Bank, Kenneth King Foundation, KRZA, Laura Jane Musser Foundation, North River

Greenhouse, RG Bank, SLV Federal Bank, SLV Health, SLV REC/Ciello, Sports Print Plus, Steffens Quality Plumb-

ing & Heating, Valley Courier, Valley-Wide Health Systems, Visit Alamosa, Wall, Smith, Bateman, and Xcel En-

ergy Foundation. For more information, like ALMA on Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, or visit www.almaonline.org.

Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship program seeks participants

By ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

ALAMOSA — The Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship program offers cancer survivors in the San Luis Valley the opportunity to participate in an individualized exercise program conducted in a group setting which meets three times per week for 10 weeks.

Starting its sixth year, this program offers a place where participants can work toward their personal fitness goals in a non-judgmental setting while enjoying a support network of fellow cancer survivors. The program also gives Adams State undergraduate and graduate kinesiology students experience in fitness testing and guiding and supporting program participants throughout the exercise program.

The Adams State University Department of Kinesiology continues important research on the benefits of several types of exercise on the physical, mental, and social health of cancer survivors. According to the American Society of Clinical Oncology, regular exercise has been shown to be beneficial for individuals across all stages of cancer and cancer types. In addition, regular exercise has been shown to reduce the risk of cancer recurrence.

All cancer survivors ages 18 years or older are welcome regardless of gender, type, or stage of cancer. This fall's research study begins the week of Sept. 2 with appointments for individual fitness testing. There is no cost to the participant, but completing the entire twelve weeks

of the study is crucial to ensure accurate results are obtained. The study consists of one week of pre-testing followed by 10 weeks of exercise programming, with post-testing to identify changes in fitness and overall health starting the week of Nov. 18. The program is funded through local support from the SLV Health Foundation, including the Larry Holder Golf Tournament, after completing a two-year grant from the Colorado Cancer Coalition.

Interested participants are encouraged to attend one of the following pre-registration meetings: 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 21, or 12 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22. All meetings will be held in the Adams State East Campus Building, room 109. The East Campus Building



Courtesy photo

The Adams State Department of Kinesiology is seeking volunteers to participate in this ongoing program again this fall. Pictured, a resistance training circuit, from the spring 2024 Larry Holder Exercise and Cancer Survivorship program.

is on the corner of First Street and La Veta Av-

enue in Alamosa.

Miles at 303-519-9932,

For more information, or for those who cannot attend one of the scheduled pre-registration meetings, contact the Adams State Kinesiology Department program coordinator, Ally

milesaj@adams.edu; or Abby Adiong, adiongar@adams.edu; or Peggy Johnson at pvjohnson@adams.edu. Visit larryholdersurvivorship.com, for more information.

Night

Continued from Page 1

Sam Maestas with the Alamosa Police Department. "National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors, retailers, and law enforcement while bring-

ing back a true sense of community.

"It also provides an excellent opportunity to bring police and the community together to socialize. We encourage residents, businesses, and visitors to participate in this national event. The Alamosa Police Depart-

ment will provide free food and drinks."

This event includes just about every agency people can think of — especially those that appeal to the little kid who lives in just about everyone — including the Police, the Sheriff, EMS, Parks and Recreation, Pub-

lic Works, the Library, SWAT Rescue Vehicle, Ambulance, City Trucks, Heavy Equipment, Tractor, Helicopter, and, of course, booths staffed by different organizations.

And if that isn't enough, the Alamosa Police Department will provide free food and drinks.

SAR

Continued from Page 1

to avoid needing SAR in the first place" and offers the following, "don't rely on anyone else's opinion about the difficulty of a route — bring your common sense instead. Don't try a new route alone. Pay attention to the weather.

Set a turnaround time and stick to it. Tell someone responsible where you are going when you will be back, and who to call if you don't make it back as planned."

The word "volunteer" in the group name, Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue, is the operative here. Volunteer, "A person who does something,

especially helping other people, willingly and without being forced to do it," describes what the members of AVSAR do.

To support the group, attend the annual SUDS 4 SAR block party from 4 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 17, on San Juan Avenue next to San Luis Valley Brewing in downtown Alamosa. The event

will include live music, AVSAR merchandise, a silent auction, and more.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife sells the COR-SAR card, which helps fund volunteer search and rescue teams throughout the state. You can purchase the card and show your support of AVSAR on Saturday in downtown Alamosa.

Bond

Continued from Page 1

sistance of the U.S. Marshals in locating Chavez and, within hours and the help of local law enforcement, Chavez was taken into custody in Santa Fe, N.M.

Chavez appeared in the court of Judge Daniel Walsz on Tuesday morning for a first appearance in the case. If Tuesday was any indication, District Attorney Anne Kelly will be prosecuting the case with James Valencia serving as the defense.

The next time Chavez

is scheduled to appear in court is 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 10.

This is the second time that the district attorney's office has been successful in bond being set by the court in the millions of dollars. The first case, where bond was set at \$5 million, was in the

case of Henry Corral, accused of fatally shooting two men and seriously injuring a third.

The Valley Courier reached out to the district attorney's office for a comment on the bond amount set by the court but did not receive a response by press time.

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Opinion

Is Kamala Black?

By ANN COULTER

Probably inadvertently and for all the wrong reasons, Donald Trump made an important point last week when he said of the Democrats' most recent presidential nominee, Kamala Harris:

"She was always of Indian heritage, and she was only promoting Indian heritage. I didn't know she was Black until a number of years ago, when she happened to turn Black, and now she wants to be known as Black."

Cue media exploding in ritualistic rage at Trump for his "racist attack." (I had no idea it was such an insult to be called an Indian!)

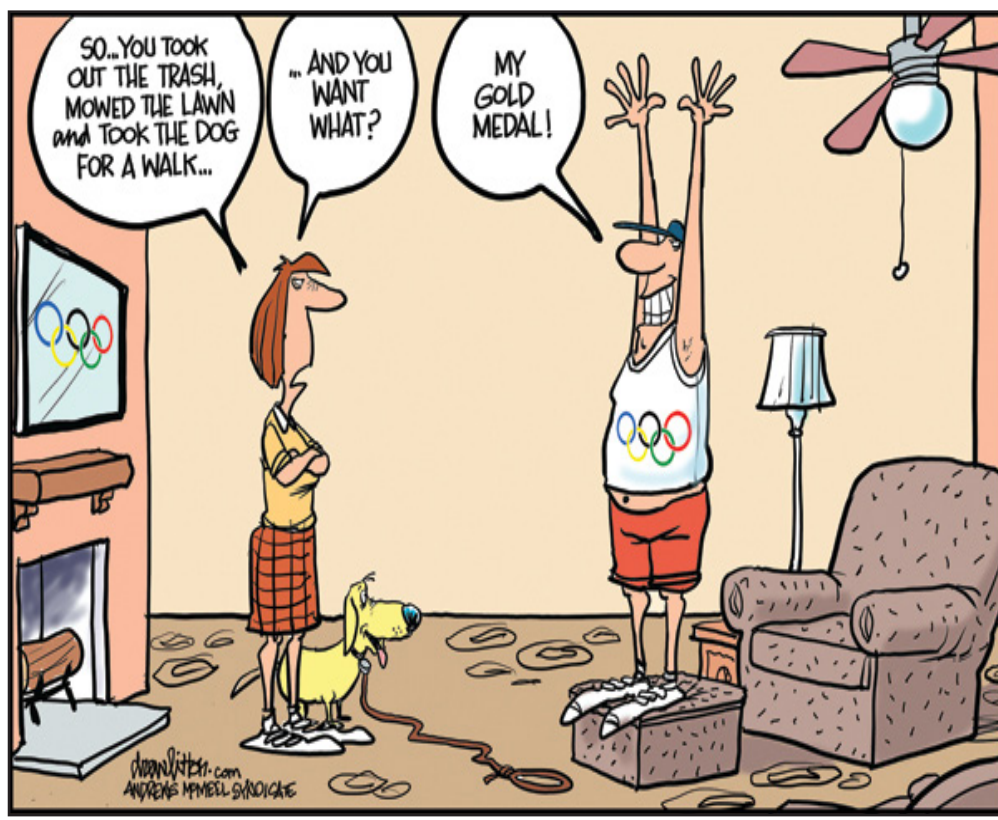
In fact, it actually is important that Harris is not a foundational black American (FBA), but rather, the child of immigrants. I know we don't talk about it nearly enough, but remember slavery?

A couple of centuries ago, slaves purchased in Africa from black African slave traders were transported to America. They were freed by Republicans (at the cost of 600,000 American lives), then discriminated against for another hundred years -- mostly by Democrats -- until Republicans finally forced the Democrats to cease their infernal Jim Crow policies.

Because Americans felt such shame for how (a minority of) whites treated black people, we went to work on a massive enterprise to remedy these past injustices. The idea was: OK, we've got 13% of the population that got the short end of the stick for a couple of centuries, so we're spending it all on them.

America altered constitutional provisions about freedom of association, private property and contract law -- for the descendants of American slaves. Huge social welfare programs were established -- for the descendants of American slaves. Affirmative action and racial quotas were imposed -- for the descendants of American slaves. We agreed to virtually criminalize the use of certain words -- for the descendants of American slaves.

Are you seeing the pattern? There's no justification for special treatment for any ethnic group apart from victims



of America's history of slavery and Jim Crow.

But starting in the 1970s, parasites from around the world came in and announced. Here's a new agenda for America -- and it doesn't include you, descendants of American slaves (DOAS).

Overnight, "DIVERSITY" became the new buzzword, and "integration" was flushed down the memory hole. Integration had been about redressing historic wrongs done to black Americans. By contrast, diversity means everyone gets special rights and privileges -- everyone except white Americans.

Under our history and Constitution, racial preferences could only be justified by the legacy of slavery. But now race-based benefits are being dispensed in great heaping portions to Hmong, Somalis, Latin Americans and so on -- including people who arrived last year.

What happened to, It all goes back to the Middle Passage! "Uncle Tom's Cabin," the "triangular trade," "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and We Shall Overcome!?

That's been replaced with the demand that every organization in the nation, down to the lowliest bowling league, include Hispanics, Asians, disabled women, gays and so on.

And, as I keep pointing out to the DOAS: Immigrants are getting all the good "diversity" jobs. Look at the diver-

sity administrators on college campuses. All immigrants, mostly Indians.

To take another example, MSNBC is very proud of its diverse lineup, meaning eight of its hosts are immigrants or the children of immigrants, but only four are descendants of American slaves -- and they're relegated to the weekend dead zone.

E.g.:

Jose Diaz-Balart -- Cuban immigrant; Ana Cabrera -- second-generation Mexican immigrant;

Ayman Mohieddine -- born in Egypt to Egyptian father and Palestinian mother;

Katie Phang, born to Korean immigrants;

Joy Reid -- second-generation immigrant of Congolese and Guyanese descent;

Ali Velshi -- Ismaili Muslim of Indian descent, immigrated from Canada;

Yasmin Vossoughian -- second-generation Iranian immigrant;

Alex Wagner -- mother is immigrant from Myanmar.

May we ask what historic injustice this country visited on the Congo? Korea? Iran? Myanmar? Immigrants weren't dragged to our country against their will. They came here. But now they're expropriating the black experience in America.

I don't mention this out of some quixotic dream that Republicans will some-

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."

day flip a meaningful percentage of the Black vote. That's not going to happen -- not now, not ever. (Sorry, clueless donors!) Unfortunately, I have a sinking feeling that that's exactly why Trump mentioned Harris' Indian-Jamaican heritage.

The point Republicans ought to be making is to remind white Americans that the diversity agenda gives everybody an advantage except whites -- especially white, heterosexual men with deep ties to our country.

Republicans across the country just cringed at that last sentence. They're embarrassed to get the votes of white people. Pro tip: Whites are the only swing voters in the country. Slight movements in the white vote determine the outcome of every presidential election.

Totally by accident, Trump hinted at an argument that Republicans ought to be making all day long. To wit, the "diversity" regime -- allowing the daughter of Indian and Jamaican immigrants to demand recompense owed only to the descendants of American slaves -- is nothing but open, vicious discrimination against only one ethnic group.

You still want to vote for a party that hates you because you're white?

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

LETTERS

Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers and triathletes

Editor,

The 9th Annual "Kid's Only" Triathlon was a huge success, held on Saturday, Aug. 10, at Splashland, LLC.

We had 71 boys and girls registered for this event with over 250 spectators. The rain the day before didn't

hinder the triathletes but the bike and run courses had puddles here and there.

A special thank you to our sponsors who helped make this event possible:

City of Alamosa, SLV Health, SLV Brewery, Skiball's Running World,

Hobby Town, Russell Surveyors, O & V Printing, Kristi Mountain Sports, Valley Meat, 1st Southwest Bank, SLV Builders, Coombs Farms, Splashland LLC, SLV Building Components, Alamosa County and Alamosa Parks and Recreation.

St. Benedict not a positive outcome for camp or community

Editor,

Stepping back and looking at how St. Benedict encampment functioned during these last years, I think it is clear it was not a positive outcome for the camp or the community. Finding human waste in the huts when the community pays for portable toilets seems a degradation of human life and resources.

Our community already suffers from drug addiction and crime. To provide an encampment where people choose to engage in drug use only adds another layer to an already serious challenge.

It seems that Alamosa entices the homeless with an array of free offerings and services. Yet many of the homeless are only interested in the offerings but not the services.

The dark underbelly of the situation is another layer of crime in our community to obtain money for drug and alcohol use.

The retail businesses in Alamosa are frustrated with repeat offenders stealing inventory. More homes are being broken into.

Another point to consider is how cold our winters get in Alamosa. A mild

winter would still get 20 below zero. To have a winter encampment seems cruel with that kind of severe cold that would incur frostbite and respiratory conditions.

There is an old saying. "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." Our quality of life is becoming a glass half empty with too many demands. It would be wise to focus on what has a positive outcome for our community and relinquish that which drains the glass of our quality of life as a community.

Laura Cranson
Alamosa

Keith R Cerny
Publisher

Brian Williams
Managing Editor

Valley Courier

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Lifestyles

Summer housing market pumps the brakes a bit more in July

Inventory grows but buyers choose to stay on the sideline

By COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS ENGLEWOOD — An already slow summer housing market pumped the brakes a little more in July as higher mortgage interest rates and a hesitant pool of buyers pushed the inventory of active listings up approximately 20% in both the seven-county Denver metro area and in markets across the state, according to the latest Market Trends Housing Report from the Colorado Association of Realtors (CAR) and analysis from the Association's spokespersons across Colorado.

"Retraction" remains the key word driving our market, with inventory growing and demand shrinking. The rumor of the Fed Reserve lowering the interest rates in September has spurred some lower rates already, and buyers are talking about it. If rates do lower in September, we could see many of those buyers back in the market and the balance may shift again. But until then, sellers who need to sell are pricing competitively and adding a load of patience while they navigate this changing market," said Boulder/Broomfield-area Realtor Kelly Moye. "As banks begin to lower interest rates in anticipation of the Fed-

eral Reserve's expected rate cut in September, buyers are presented with more options than they have seen in some time, potentially setting the stage for another market shift," said Summit-area Realtor Dana Cottrell.

Seller concessions and price reductions are prominent but have not slowed the rising inventory which continues to push supply number toward a more balanced market with the metro Denver supply now sitting at 3.4 months overall, up more than 30% from a year prior. Statewide, the 3.7-months supply is up 27.6% from July 2023. With more inventory and a hesitant buyer pool, average days on market sits at 32 days in the seven-county Denver metro region, up 28% from a year ago, while the statewide average rose to 43 days, up more than 13% from July 2023.

Once again, despite the inventory increases across property types, median pricing for single-family homes in the Denver-metro area (\$640,000) and statewide (\$586,425) remains at or within striking distance of their all-time highs, up 2.4% and 1.3% year-over-year, respectively. The townhome/condo market has held strong as well with a dip of just 1.2% year-over-year dip to \$420,000 in the seven-county Denver area, and a 1.4% dip statewide to \$420,995.

"Affordability challenges continue to be the primary concern of both buyers and sell-

ers, and as inventory increases those challenges have become more evident. Buyers, who may have more options to choose from, are still hindered by continually rising insurance premiums, HOA dues, and 30-year mortgage rates consistently above 6%. Sellers, many of whom are still locked into the 'golden handcuff' interest rates of years past, now face increased competition in the market. It's understandable that without a compelling reason to move, such as a job change, many sellers continue to show reluctance to jump into a tougher market than the COVID-era," said Denver County-area Realtor Cooper Thayer.

The CAR Housing Affordability Index — a measure of how affordable a region's housing is to its consumers based on interest rates, median sales price, and median income by county — remains at or near its all-time lows, down 2.1% in the metro area year over year while statewide, the index remains even with a year prior.

Taking a more in-depth look at some of the state's local market data and conditions, the Colorado Association of Realtors Market Trends spokespersons provided the following assessments:

• **SAN LUIS VALLEY**
 "Costilla County: New listings are up 7.3% and sold listings have increased a staggering 250%. Consequently, the median sales price is up 69.6% from last year. You can find sin-

gle-family properties in this market in the mid \$200,000s.

• **Saguache County:** New listings are up 43% compared to last year, and up 16.7% from this month last year. However, year-to-date sold listings are 14% lower than at this time last year. The median price ranges from the high \$200,000s to low \$300,000s.

• **Alamosa County:**

New listings are up 25% from last year, but median and average prices have decreased approximately 14%. This places prices in the high \$200,000s to low \$300,000s.

• **Rio Grande County:** New listings are up only 5% from last year, and down 25% from last July. While the median sales price has remained the same, the average price has increased. Conse-

quently, single-family homes in this market are priced between the high \$300,000s and mid \$500,000s," said San Luis Valley-area Realtor Megan Bello.

The Colorado Association of Realtors is the state's largest real estate trade association representing over 26,000 members statewide. For more information, visit www.coloradorealtors.com.

Stampede says thanks!

To the Monte Vista Community, and the entire San Luis Valley:

With the 102nd Ski Hi Stampede celebration in the books, the Ski Hi Stampede Committee would like to extend a huge "THANK YOU" to all the people who attended and made it such a special event. The Concert was a tremendous success, the Parade was awesome, the Rodeos were packed with excitement and the Carnival never disappoints.

We could not pull this off without the scores of sponsors!

The committee puts in countless hours during the year to bring this to the valley, but also knows that this event does not happen without the help of the many people who volunteer their time. Too many to mention by name, but please know your hard work did not go unnoticed.

The new building and facilities are amazing and help make the experience even that much better.

The committee looks forward to continue the next 100 years and planning for next year begins today. See you next year for the 103rd Ski Hi Stampede, July 10-13, 2025

You Are Appreciated.

As the Ski-Hi Stampede Committee we have made the decision to continue our event on the second weekend in July in 2025. Our goal is to continue to improve the entertainment we bring to the community.

Sincerely, 2024 Ski Hi Stampede Committee

Entries sought for Saguache photo competition

By MARIE MCCOLM SAGUACHE — Sara Fernandez recently announced the photo competition she is organizing is back for another year. Fernandez has held the competition for 10 years now, and entries from all over the Valley are welcome.

The competition began when Fernandez was a volunteer for the Saguache County Museum. The museum was looking for ideas to attract more people.

It was around the time of the Fall Festival which is usually held in September. Fernandez came up with the idea for a photo competition. It was first rejected, but Fernandez got a call from the museum 10 days before the festival, stating that it wanted to proceed with the competition. Fernandez said she put the first competition together in less than 10 days.

"I put it together so fast. I didn't have that many categories, so it started out small. The following year, the Methodist Church invited me to come to their Fellowship Hall and wanted me to host it there. I have been there ever since. It has been 10 years now and every year it continues to grow, with more and more pictures coming in," she said.

The rules for the competition are simple. The main rule is all pictures submitted need to be taken in the San Luis Valley. Fernandez allows people to submit

up to two pictures per category, and all pictures must be framed or matted. No repeat entries from previous years are accepted.

There are various categories available for picture submission including: Historic Buildings, Local (people or activities), Best Buddies (two or more animals, children, adults, or mix of each), Landscapes, Skyscapes (sunrise-sunsets, rainbows, storm clouds, lightning), Wildlife, Miscellaneous (still life, or any topic not fitting into the other categories), Miscellaneous-Organics (floral, trees, vegetables, plant life), Action (working cowboys, rodeo, rafting, sporting events, etc.), Pets (domestic animals such as dogs, cats, horses, chickens, cows, etc.), Series (2 to 4 related photos), Black and White (any subject), and Professional Category (any subject).

Some categories may be grouped together if the total number of entries are low.

There will be a ribbon given for places 1-6 in each category, an Overall Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion, and Teacher's Choice award. All awards are by popular vote.

Entries can be submitted between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 13, and or between 9:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14, at the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church at 6th and

Christy streets in Saguache. Entry forms can be filled out the day photos are submitted. There is no entry fee to submit your photos.

If you cannot submit during these times, call Fernandez at 719-239-0366 to make other arrangements.

Public voting will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 19, and Friday, Sept. 20, at the church.

The photos will be on display with their awards between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Fellowship Hall. Entries must be picked up between 3 and 4 p.m. Fernandez says she is not responsible for unclaimed photos.

Fernandez said that each year she has received between 40 and 50 pictures.

"A lot of people enter. The public vote is a popular vote. The photo with the most votes receives overall Grand Champion. What is so rewarding about this contest is I have people that enter every year, and every year their pictures just get better and better. It is so amazing to see the people grow. I have also seen people walk out with a fourth or fifth place ribbon and they are just smiling and happy. This makes me feel like I am doing something wonderful," she said.

For more information, contact Fernandez at 719-239-0366.

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colorado housing and finance authority

Sports

Top finishers at Kids Only Triathlon



13-14-year-old boys, from left, Kole Wilkinson and Kevin Scheffield.



13-14-year-old girls, Daelyn Jackson. Not pictured, Bella Hoover.



11-12-year-old boys, from left, J.R. Henderson, Timothy Yoder and Lincoln Sheffield.



11-12-year-old girls, from left, Anyssa Tabeling, Avery Duran and Lucy Tibbitts.



9-10-year-old boys, from left, Ethan Wilkinson, Kasyn Polkowske and Trevin Martin.



9-10-year-old girls, from left, Kinley Wubben, Quinn Freeman and Dali Smartt.



7-8-year-old boys, from left, Conlee Polkowske, Reece Wilkinson and Tristan Smartt.



7-8-year-old girls, from left, Lyla Stewart, Khaliah Stewart and Caroline Cooper.



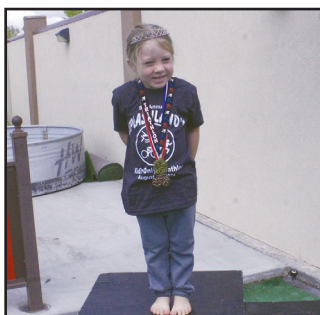
5-6-year-old boys, from left, Eli Cooper and Brent Henderson. Not pictured, Aaron Kester.



5-6-year-old girls, from left, Naomi Scheffield, Sophie Daugherty and Rhian Pickett.



3-4-year-old boys, from left, Cooper Polkowske, Eli White and Emerson Chamberlain.



3-4-year-old girls, Carly Golden.

By **KEN HAMRICK**
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA - A total of 31 boys and 28 girls took part in the 10th Annual Splashland Kids Only Triathlon Saturday at the Splashland Hot Springs Pool.

The boys champions included Eli White (3-4-year-olds), Eli Cooper (5-6), Reece Wilkinson (7-8), Kasyn Polkowske (9-10), Timothy Yoder (11-12), and Kole wilkinson (13-14).

Girls individual winners were Carly Golden (3-4), Sophia Daugherty (5-6), Khaliah Stewart (7-8), Quinn Freeman (9-10), Avery Duran (11-12) and Daelyn Jackson (13-14).

Sports Bulletin

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

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

Prep boys golf

Alamosa, Del Norte, Monte Vista at Alamosa Invitational (at Cattails), 9 a.m.

SATURDAY

College men's soccer

Otero at Adams State (exhibition), 1 p.m.

TUESDAY

Prep girls softball

Durango at Alamosa (at Adams State), 4 p.m.



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Lifestyle

LOR Foundation helps MV Community Ambulance Service



Monte Vista Community LOR Officer Ivette Atencio helped the Monte Vista Ambulance Service purchase a CPR machine. 'As we all know, CPR machines are essential life-saving machines that are key to our emergency medical services. EMS Director Andrué Valdez reached out to the LOR Foundation asking for a little help to purchase an additional LUCAS 3 chest compression machine, which will help EMTs better respond to situations with multiple patients,' Atencio said.

Photo by Marie McColm

Colorado Legislature could meet in special session to consider more property tax relief

By SARA WILSON
Colorado Newswire

A bipartisan property tax commission at the Colorado Legislature heard details Monday of a proposed legislative deal that could be considered during a possible special session, the same day a broad array of civic groups said they would support additional legislation that would keep a pair of property tax initiatives off the ballot in November.

"When I look at the numbers of the budgets, it is tight to begin with. And these initiatives make me even more worried about what the impact is," Mark Ferrandino, the governor's budget director, said. "And the long term, because it's not a one-year impact. These reductions will be significant and long lasting."

A special legislative session could occur later this month to cut property taxes further than lawmakers did in May. The potential deal with backers of the initiatives could stave off the ballot measures, which experts warn would be disastrous for local government revenue.

Analysts briefed members of the property tax commission — which was formed during a separate special session on property taxes last fall — on what the tax landscape looks like under Senate Bill 24-233, what it could look like if the two initiatives pass, and the outline of a potential compromise during a special session.

Together, ballot initiatives 50 and 108 would limit property tax collections and overall revenue growth. Initiative 50 would put a constitutional cap on annual statewide property tax growth. Initiative 108, which is undergoing signature verification and is not officially on the ballot yet, would lower the assessment rate used for property taxes and would result in \$2.4 billion less collected in 2026, according to state economists.

Many lawmakers and other state leaders want to avoid the two initiatives' passage, or prevent them from appearing on the ballot at all. If the Legislature convenes and passes more relief before the Sept. 6 deadline to withdraw initiatives, Michael Fields — who leads Advance Colorado, the conservative political nonprofit

behind the initiatives — could pull them off the ballot.

"Initiatives 108 and 50 were created by advocates for statewide property tax relief efforts. Unfortunately, these initiatives go too far, swinging the pendulum from responsible reform to immense local budget reductions that threaten the delivery of vital local services," Denver Mayor Mike Johnston, Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman and Colorado Springs Mayor Yemi Mobolade wrote in a joint letter to lawmakers, according to The Colorado Sun. "To mitigate these unintended consequences, we urge you to convene a special session to strengthen SB24-233 while maintaining key services upon which Colorado families depend."

The bipartisan SB-233, passed in the last days of the most recent legislative session, was focused on mitigating the sharp increase in property taxes experienced by many Colorado homeowners. Negotiations at the time to remove the ballot initiatives failed.

Another letter, signed by social justice groups, business organizations, the state's hospital association and education unions, urged lawmakers to meet in a special session to consider one narrow, limited bill to implement an agreed-upon deal.

A special session can be called by Gov. Jared Polis or by a two-thirds vote of the Legislature.

Ferrandino outlined a deal that would cut the residential assessment rate for local governments further for the 2025 tax year to 6.25%. School district assessment rates would remain separate and fall to 7.05%.

Nonresidential assessment rates would drop to 25% in the 2027 tax year.

Growth limits for local government revenue would be capped at 10.5% over two years, and school districts would be limited to 12% growth over two years.

There is currently no backfill or reimbursement mechanism in the proposal.

"This seems like a good path forward to end, hopefully, the property tax battles, and de-risk the budget," Ferrandino said.

The deal would mean that Advance Colo-

rado and other groups wouldn't bring property tax issues to the ballot for 10 years.

"Most of us don't object to the policy. Most of us don't even object to a special session, at least that's what I'm hearing," Summit County Commissioner Tamara Pogue said. "But I think what a lot of us object to is being here over and over again, and having no assurances whatsoever that we won't be back here next June, having the same conversation about different ballot initiatives."

Commissioners said they want to see a deal that is enforceable and valid, potentially in a legally-binding way.

"It is challenging to move forward when you don't believe there is any way to guarantee that ... the minute the governor signs this into law, then the letter (removing the initiatives) will be sent. We've got a chicken and egg problem here," said Rep. Cathy Kipp, a Democrat from Fort Collins who expressed her caucus' lukewarm view on the proposal.

Polis reconvened the Legislature in special session last November to address rising property taxes following the failure of Proposition HH at the ballot box.

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CENTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS located in CENTER, CO seeks a **PART-TIME PARKS & REC COORDINATOR** for the 2024-2025 school year. Candidates should have a high school diploma and excellent organizational and communication skills. Ability to speak Spanish is preferred, but not required. The positions will involve promoting youth and community engagement through physical activity. This part-time position will begin August 20 or when filled. Center Consolidated Schools is an equal-opportunity employer. To apply, send a Cover Letter, Resume, Letters of Recommendation, Transcript, and a completed non-Certified Application found at <https://5il.co/qdtr> to Carrie Zimmerman, Superintendent of Schools, Center School District 26JT, 550 S. Sylvester Avenue, Center, CO 81125. For more information, please contact Katrina Ruggles at kruggles@center.k12.co.us. (8/17/24)

SUBSTITUTES NEEDED AT UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT in DEL NORTE! We need subs for teachers (must have a sub license), classified employees (must have sub license), **CAFETERIA WORKERS**, and **BUS DRIVERS**. Call or email: Sophia Cruz at 719-657-4040 x4000, scruz@urtigers.co (9/13/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

GUNBARREL STATION IS hiring a full-time **TIRE TECHNICIAN**. 40-44 hours/week. Starting pay is \$15/hour. Must be 18. Gunbarrel Station is also hiring part/full-time **STORE CLERK**. 20-30 hours/week. Must be 18. Starting pay is \$14.50/hour. Call 719-754-3543 or stop in for an application. (8/28/24)

ADELANTE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - La Puente is seeking a **MASTER'S LEVEL PERSON (LICENSE ELIGIBLE)** to **PROVIDE OVERSIGHT OF THE PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM** under the guidance of the Adelante Director. This position will provide direct supervision of case management staff to ensure completion of assessments, strength-based service plans, and case notes. Experience working with people who have serious mental health issues, and/or substance use disorders as well as chronic homelessness is extremely helpful. Crisis management skills, cultural responsiveness and organization skills are needed. Position will also provide oversight and supervision to non-housing Adelante staff in the absence of the Director as needed. Salary \$58,000 to \$60,000 plus benefits, send cover letter and resume to: hr@lapuente.net. (8/28/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

FULL-TIME MAINTENANCE & GROUNDS POSITION open at the **UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT**. Applicant must pass a background check and be able to work independently, be a forward-thinking individual with an overall team approach to all tasks at hand. Applicant must also be able to work in all weather conditions (snow removal/ general landscaping). If interested, please contact Demo Trujillo, 719-657-4040 x4007, dtrujillo@urtigers.co. (9/13/24)

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. (9/13/24)

HARVEST TRUCK DRIVERS, Class A CDL required, seasonal, full time, must pass drug and alcohol test. Call 719-588-3516. (8/24/24)

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Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

ACTIVELY HIRING: DIRECTOR - ALAMOSA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER, competitive pay. Accounting experience, QuickBooks experience preferred, leadership role, decision making abilities, multi-tasking, event planning, speaking experience preferred, grant writing experience preferred but not necessary, fundraising. Deadline for applicants is Saturday, August 17, 2024. Mail resume to: PO Box 1276, ALAMOSA, Colorado 81101. (8/17/24)

COME BE A part of the growing CENTENNIAL R-1 TEAM! We are seeking applications for a TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR, will remain open until August 14, 2024. Please submit a resume, three letters of recommendation, pertinent transcripts, and a background check/valid CDE license with an application. Submit application through https://www.applitrack.com/centennialsschool/onlineapp or email kimba.rael@centennial.k12.co.us. This full-time position qualifies for a competitive benefits package and salary as outlined through our Master Agreement, which is available at centennial.k12.co.us. The starting pay range for transportation director is \$35,000-\$43,000. We are doing great things in SAN LUIS; it's the perfect time to join our team. (8/14/24)

JUSTICE AND HERITAGE ACADEMY in ANTONITO, CO is seeking a dedicated SECONDARY MATH TEACHER and K-12 SUBSTITUTES for the 2024-2025 academic year. If you have a passion for math and education, we would love to hear from you. Please submit your letter of intent and resume to mike@cccwater.org. Competitive pay at \$15 per hour and part-time positions available. (8/24/24)

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA is accepting applications for ALL DEPARTMENTS: lifts, ski school, base operations, food & beverage/bakers & baristas, rental, retail, ticket office, snow reporting/guest services, ski patrol, grooming, snow removal, custodial building maintenance, and a freelance photographer. To download an application and see job descriptions please visit the employment page of WolfCreekSki.com. Send resumes and applications to wolfcreekski@wolfcreek-ski.com or P.O. Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. All jobs are winter seasonal (November - April) with skiing privileges. Starting wage of \$18/hour with merit increases based on performance and experience. (10/30/24)

DEL NORTE HIGH SCHOOL is seeking a qualified ASSISTANT VOLLEYBALL COACH for the 2024 volleyball season. The individual would be responsible for developing the junior varsity program and assisting the varsity coach in all aspects of the high school volleyball program. If interested, please email Gilbert (Gibbs) Sanchez, Del Norte Jr/Sr High School Athletic Director at gsanchez@urtigers.co or contact him at 719-657-4020. (9/13/24)

CAFETERIA STAFF NEEDED at UPPER RIO GRANDE SCHOOL DISTRICT. Must have a high school diploma and some knowledge of working in a kitchen or a willingness to be trained. Pay is dependent on prior experience. Please contact Leslie Martinez at 719-657-4040, xl100 or email her at lmartinez@urtigers.co. Applications can be retrieved online at: www.urtigers.co. (9/6/24)

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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 TruelLocalBank.com/careers or inquire at 117 N. Main St, CREEDE or call 719-657-3376 and ask for Dawn. EOE. (8/16/24)

PART TIME JOB FOR A VETERAN: ALAMOSA COUNTY is seeking a HALFTIME 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)

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)

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)

221 - HELP WANTED

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)

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)

I NEED HARVEST HELP & TRUCK DRIVERS needed for POTATO HARVEST starting September 3. Please text me at 719-850-2137. (8/28/24)

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-c201b92d488ea125. (8/28/24)

221 - HELP WANTED

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-a959c74f16ac2e01. (8/28/24)

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)

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)

THE CRESTONE CHARTER SCHOOL is attracting skilled educators for a MS/HS 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)

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

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. (9/13/24-monthly)

ALFALFA HAY \$7.50 per bale. Call 719-274-0380. (9/13/24)

341 - GARAGE SALE

MOVING SALE: SATURDAY 8/17, 8-12noon, 2917 Mimi Lane, ALAMOSA. (8/17/24)

347 - HOUSEHOLD GOODS

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

350 - FARM EQUIPMENT

JOHN DEERE BLADE, 71" wide, 15" tall, \$800. Also, a Rhino BUSH-HOG, Model SE-5, 48w, 40 long, \$800. Call 719-937-1383. (8/14/24)

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)

353 - FARM & LIVESTOCK

BUTCHER FAT LAMBS for sale. 719-588-8496. (8/16/24)

360 - MISC. FOR SALE

MUST SELL: 5'X10' low UTILITY TAILOR, wheel burrow, custom garden cart, small chain saw. 719-850-1032. (8/20/24)

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368 - PETS & SUPPLIES

8 FEMALE CHOCOLATE LABS, ready 8/19, \$300/obo. Call 719-937-9718. (8/30/24)

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)

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)

524 - FISHING & HUNTING

2 NEW FISHING Rods; \$25. 719-298-2175. (8/17/24)

525 - GUNS

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

601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Accepting applications for 1 bedroom apartments. Must be 62 or older or disabled **Cielo Vista**

Apartments 166 S. Wills Center, Colo **754-3664**

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

Accepting Applications for 2 & 3 bedroom family units **Valley Grande Apts.** 2256 E. Drive Monte Vista, CO **852-4302**

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

Accepting Applications for waiting list for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Family units available **West View Villas** 510 Dunham Monte Vista, Colo **852-3949**

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

Accepting applications for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Rent based on income for qualifying households. **Gomez Manor Apts.** 804 State St. Antonito, Colo. **376-2388**

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

Accepting applications for 2 bedroom apartments. Family living at an affordable price. **Guadalupe Hacienda Apts.** 404 W. 8th Antonito, Colo. **376-2025**

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

Accepting applications for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Family living at an affordable price. Disabled Unit Available. **Casita del Sol** 1405 West 11th St. Alamosa, Colo. **589-8663**

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

611 - HOMES FOR RENT

IN ALAMOSA: 1 BEDROOM; \$900, first last deposit. 2 BEDROOM; \$1,200, first last deposit. 719-588-5303. (8/17/24)

HOUSE FOR RENT: 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 2 CAR GARAGE, 224 Cale Buena. 719-936-1940. (8/14/24)

2 STORY HISTORIC RENOVATED 4 BEDROOM, 2.5 BATH. Appliances furnished, Deck, shop, garage, large fenced in backyard. Excellent neighborhood; 416 2nd Ave., MONTE VISTA. \$2150/month, plus utilities. Yearly lease; available now. Contact 719-852-5101 or 719-852-5350. (8/17/24)

737 - RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

FOR SALE: WINNEBAGO ADVENTURER WORK HORSE, M/H chase, Class A, in Alamosa, 32,000 miles, \$28,500. 928-920-5095/719-937-2487 (8/20/24)



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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Intimidate abbr.
- 4 Calendar
- 7 Divot
- 11 Singer — DiFranco
- 12 Room
- 13 Mata —
- 14 “— in Black”
- 15 Line of rotation
- 16 At any point in time
- 17 Readies
- 19 Ancestry
- 21 Cup edge
- 22 “Help! A mouse!”
- 23 Imitate
- 24 Mil. rank
- 25 Make a solemn promise
- 28 Budge
- 29 Appropriate
- 30 Mafia VIP
- 31 Genus of maple trees
- 32 Blushing
- 33 Butter alternative

DOWN

- 1 Pitch a tent
- 2 Rare thing
- 3 Oenophile (2 wds.)
- 4 Vixen
- 34 Hill
- 35 Crude dwelling
- 36 Surprise
- 37 Quantity of cash
- 38 — standstill
- 39 Dummy medicine
- 43 Door fastener
- 46 Toy blocks maker
- 47 Go slowly
- 49 EU nation
- 50 Above
- 51 Name in Genesis
- 52 Scull
- 53 “Eyes — Shut”
- 54 Recipe meas.
- 55 Sports org.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	E	A		R	E	T	P	R	O	M			
W	A	S		F	A	T	E		R	O	S	E	
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- 5 Very bad
- 6 Under attack
- 7 Insolence
- 8 Surface magma
- 9 Wash. neighbor
- 10 Awful
- 12 Harsh sounding
- 18 Pied —
- 20 After expenses
- 23 Designer — Chanel
- 24 Fat
- 25 Appraisal
- 26 Golf event
- 27 Court
- 28 Coaster
- 29 Repetitive percussive sound
- 30 Terra —
- 35 Shade
- 36 Winston—, NC
- 37 Make points
- 39 Farm implement
- 40 First name in jeans
- 41 Old
- 42 Bettor's concern
- 44 Crustacean
- 45 Olympian queen
- 48 Clothing retailer

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53						54			55			

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

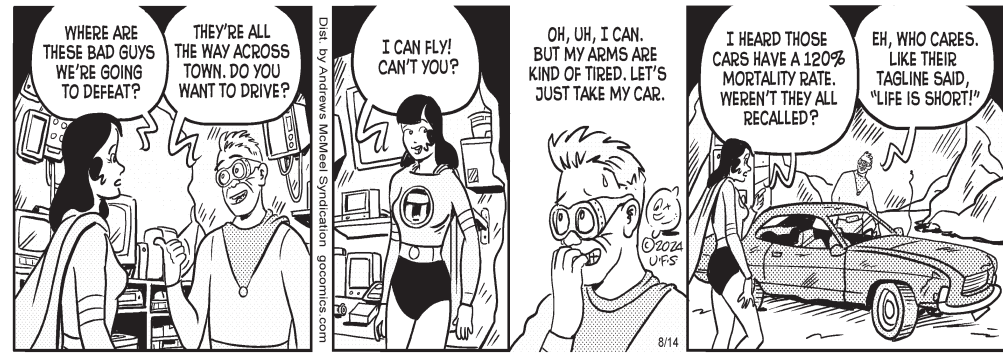
HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

HERMAN



“You can tell me now. I took the batteries out of his hearing aid.”

ALLEY OOP



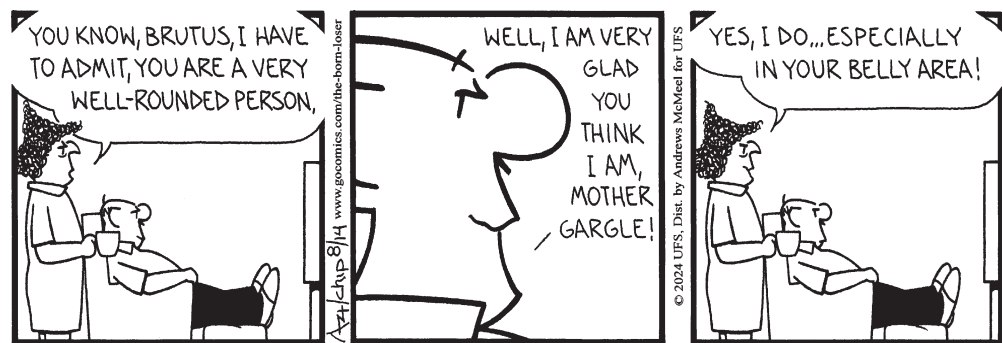
ARLO & JANIS



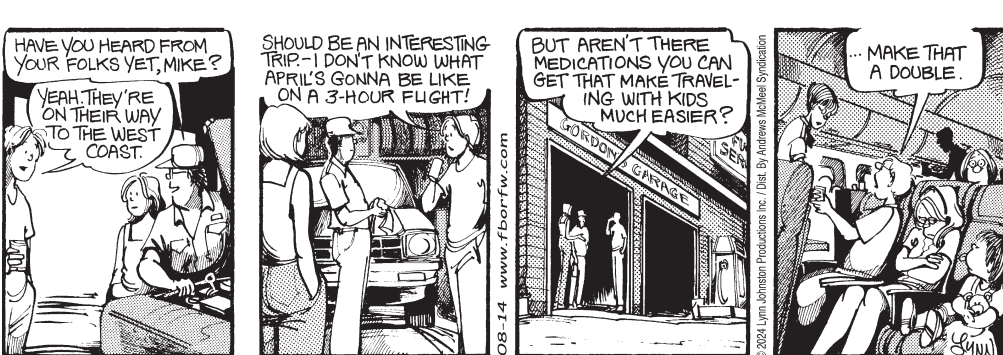
BIG NATE



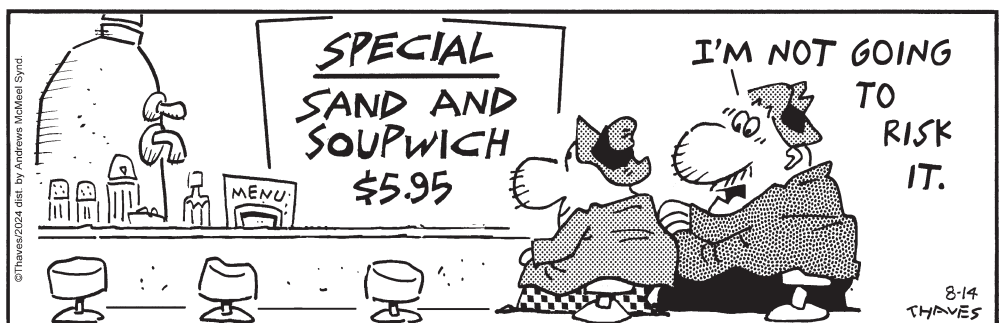
THE BORN LOSER



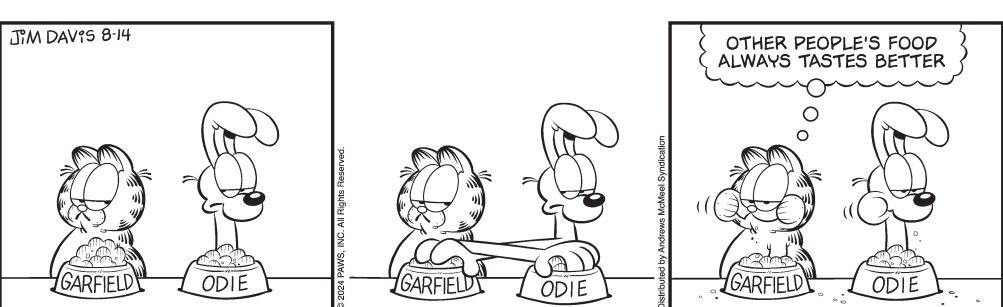
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



FRANK & ERNEST



GARFIELD



THE GRIZZWELLS



PEANUTS



Church leader lies through his teeth about infidelity

DEAR ABBY: My husband, “Silas,” and I have been married for 30 years. He is the deacon and Sunday school teacher at our church. (His brother is the pastor.) Silas had a two-year affair with another woman at work while he continued teaching Sunday school. I have a hard time with this. I will never trust him again, and I don't trust him in my faith. I resigned my position as church clerk immediately after finding out what he had done. I couldn't continue my position with the mess I was about to go through. I left him. Six months later, we got back together, mainly for me to take ownership on everything I had worked for in my life. I have never returned to our church because he didn't step down from leadership, and the church didn't force him. Silas also lied and told the entire congregation, from the pulpit, that I had two affairs. How could he do this in front of the congregation of a church I've attended for 30 years? He is still not REAL in his faith or his love for me. I have no money to start over, as I withdrew all of my 401(k) and paid off everything we owed, including our home. How do I get out now with no

funds? During the six months I was gone, he didn't even want to give me \$300 a week to live and pay bills. If I leave, I leave with nothing. All I want is to be loved and happy. Please advise. -- FEELING UNWORTHY IN LOUISIANA

DEAR FEELING UNWORTHY: Please accept my sympathy for this sorry situation. Contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline and ask for help to escape the financial straitjacket your husband has you in. Its toll-free phone number is 800-799-7233. Many other women have done this and succeeded, and so can you.

DEAR ABBY: I've been in a relationship for 11 years. We're not married, nor do we live together. We are both 57. It has been kind of rocky over the years. He is controlling at times, then does nice things for me. Lately, he has expressed a desire for us to “just have fun.” Problem is, he's been having fun with his 27-year-old son and his son's friends, and he has managed to not include me at all. Then he proceeds to ask me what I want to do. When I mention a few “date” activities, he's not interested. He finds better things to do with his kid and complains to me that



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

I never have any ideas about anything to do. He only wants sex with me. I want to do the fun things I have suggested to him. He claims he loves me and wants me to be part of his life. I feel I'm only a convenience for him. Help, please! -- DISSATISFIED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR DISSATISFIED: If there are things you would like to do, do them with people who are willing. While you're doing that, ask yourself if this is the kind of relationship you want in perpetuity. Whether your boyfriend is bored or having a midlife crisis, I can't opine. But if you feel he values you only for the sex you provide, it may be time to move on.

Lifestyle

'A really big deal': CPW discovers wild boreal toad tadpoles at reintroduction site near Pitkin

CONTRIBUTED GUNNISON Daniel Cammack made the familiar trek up to a wetland at 11,500 feet of elevation for the seventh consecutive year to boost Colorado's population of state endangered boreal toads.

When he arrived at his destination high above the town of Pitkin, Cammack and his team of Colorado Parks and Wildlife native aquatic species biologists made a potentially game-changing discovery for the future of boreal toad conservation in the state: wild tadpoles at a translocation site.

"This is a really special day. We have been reintroducing toads at this site since 2018, and this is the first time that we have observed wild reproduction occurring," Cammack said while standing in front of a pool of a few dozen wild tadpoles. "It's a really big deal."

The site near Pitkin was previously devoid of the toads. But in 2013, CPW identified it as a good potential habitat for translocation for the species. In 2017, CPW stocked the first 600 boreal toads at the site to be used as sentinels for chytrid fungus, a widespread pathogen implicated in the decline of this species.

Since then, CPW has stocked an estimated 20,000 tadpoles at the site. The vast majority originated as eggs collected from wild populations in remote backcountry areas and were transported to be raised at CPW's Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility in Alamosa. An additional 570 tadpoles raised at the Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance were stocked at the site in 2022.

Female boreal toads are not reproductively mature until about age 6, and the discovery of wild tadpoles gives Cammack confidence the site will continue to produce into the future.

"For years, we have been watching multiple age classes thrive at this site, so we had high hopes this was going to become a self-sustaining breeding population and a successful translocation," he said. "This is the first year we've seen breeding occurring in this wetland, and it is evidence of that success."

"This day is a culmination of a lot of dedicated people's efforts, including multiple biologists, technicians and hatchery personnel. Everyone who has been involved in this project has poured their heart and soul into it. That's what it takes to get here."

If the tadpoles morph into toadlets later this summer and recruit into adult boreal toads, the translocation site will become only the second in Colorado where natural breeding has occurred. The first is near Cameron Pass in northern Colorado.

Boreal toads are listed as a state endangered species in Colorado. Once common in montane habitats between 7,000-12,000 feet in the Southern Rocky Mountains, the boreal toad has experienced dramatic population declines over the past two decades. The decline appears to be related to habitat loss and primarily infection by the chytrid fungus, which can infect most of the world's 7,000 amphibian species, and is linked to major

population declines and extinctions globally.

CPW and partners from the Boreal Toad Recovery Team have devoted significant resources in the past 20 years toward researching the cause of boreal toad declines in the state and exploring ways to recover the species. Partners have included the states of New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, federal agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and National Parks Service, the Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance and universities that have conducted critical research.

Specifically, CPW researchers focus on developing methodologies for reintroducing toads in historically occupied habitats, detecting chytrid fungus in the wild, marking and identifying individual toads and improving breeding success at the Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility, which plays a critical role in the state's efforts to restore populations

of boreal toads.

"The boreal toad is a truly unique and resilient amphibian," said Cammack, a Native Aquatic Species biologist for CPW in the Southwest Region. "We are up at 11,500 feet, at timberline practically. They gut out big winters covered by multiple feet of snow and experience only three to four months of warm growing season."

"They are an integral part of the landscape, as far as I'm concerned. They were ubiquitous once in Colorado in this habitat. With chytrid fungus now being the primary cause of decline, we don't have that many populations of boreal toad remaining. For us to get something else going here is really important."

Cammack has scouted much of southwest Colorado in search of wild boreal toad populations or suitable translocation sites. He called the discovery of the new tadpoles a monumental day in his career.

"These are the native species that were his-



Photo Courtesy of CPW
CPW Southwest Region Native Aquatic Species Biologist Dan Cammack observes a pool with wild boreal toad tadpoles.

torically abundant and so common that it would have been hard to imagine this major decline," he said. "As someone who grew up in Colorado and loves wildlife, I wish I could jump in a time machine and experience these ecosystems

before they faced these major threats. No doubt, critters like boreal toads were here in force."

"Unfortunately, they have since declined so far that they represent only a shadow of the past. It's a mandatory crusade, in my opinion, to conserve

the fragments that remain and keep these creatures represented on the landscape. Like all native creatures, they have an inherent right to exist. Our story and identity as Coloradans are more intact when these populations thrive."

kids' corner

HEALTH FACT!

DRIVERS CAN EXPERIENCE STRESS AND ANGER FROM SPENDING TIME STUCK IN TRAFFIC. IT IS KNOWN AS THIS.

ANSWER: ROAD RAGE

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Congestion
SPANISH: Congestión
ITALIAN: Ingorgo
FRENCH: Encombrement
GERMAN: Verkehrschaos

What's the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A

B

Answers: 1. Light bar has different end light background 4. Trees are shorter
 2. Missing badge on uniform 3. Barn in

THIS DAY IN...

HISTORY

- 1914: THE GERMAN COLONY OF TOGOLAND SURRENDERS TO FRENCH AND BRITISH FORCES AFTER A 20-DAY CAMPAIGN DURING WWI.
- 1920: THE 19TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION TAKES EFFECT, GIVING WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE.
- 2011: THE BOEING 787 DREAMLINER RECEIVES CERTIFICATION FROM THE EASA AND THE FAA.

New Word

TRAFFIC

vehicles moving on a road or public highway

Did You Know?

FOLLOWING THE RULES OF THE ROAD AND DRIVING PATIENTLY CAN PREVENT CONDITIONS THAT LEAD TO ACCIDENTS AND TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: TRAFFIC CONE



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