



ARPO social tournament brings pickleball to life

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Show and shine at Chapman Park

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# Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

August 21, 2024

\$1

## SLV Today

### Items sought for Antonito Library Yard Sale

ANTONITO — Items are being sought for the annual Antonito Library Yard Sale on Labor Day weekend. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Aug. 31, at 112 Main St. in Antonito.

All proceeds from the yard sale will go to support the Conejos County Library District's annual Summer Reading Program.

Drop off items between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Thursdays or Fridays at the Antonito Library or between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the La Jara Library.

For more information, call the library district at 719-274-5858.

### Creede office closes for winter

DEL NORTE — The Divide Ranger District of the Rio Grande National Forest announced Aug. 20 the immediate closing of its Creede office. The early closure is needed to prepare for renovations that will begin in the coming weeks.

"We had a fantastic year at the Creede office, highlighted by valuable engagements with both visitors and locals alike," said Divide District Ranger Patrick Moran. "Our planned renovations will begin soon, and it would not be prudent to keep our doors open to the public while the work is being implemented. We look forward to next spring when we can resume our information services and education programs."

Improvements to the office will include window replacements, electrical upgrades, exterior painting and repairs, and other improvements.

To obtain firewood permits, woodcutters will now need to visit the Divide Ranger Station in Del Norte during regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## SLV WEATHER

Chance of Afternoon Showers, Breezy 83/50

Thurs: Chance of Afternoon Showers, Breezy 81/50

Fri: Chance of Afternoon Showers, Gusty Winds 79/48

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# CRT brings play home to Alamosa

## 'Prima's Guide to Funerals' at Adams State University

CONTRIBUTED CREEDE — Creede Repertory Theatre (CRT) will take its world premiere dramedy set in Alamosa, "Prima's Guide to Funerals" by Leonard Madrid, to the SLV Federal Bank Main Stage Theatre at Adams State University for three performances, Sept. 10, 11, and 12. All shows begin at 7 p.m.

Three cousins (primas),

an urn, and one really long day. It's the day of her mother's funeral and Arcie is losing her grip, but her cousins Nando and Clara are here to save the day. This fast-paced, hilarious, and heart-warming world premiere set along the waters of

■ See PLAY page 3

'Primas Guide to Funerals' by the Creede Repertory Theatre brings three performances to Adams State University Sept. 10-12. The play is based in the San Luis Valley and stars Katie Rodriguez, Julian Ibarra, and Savanna Padilla.

Courtesy photo by Brooke Ashlee Photography



# Peoples Market closer to opening

By JOHN WATERS  
Courier News Editor



Courier photo by John Waters

In this May photo, Lynette Ramirez (left to right) and Dr. Devon Pena from the San Luis Peoples Market are joined by Kathy Ben from Adept Solutions as they discuss the progress made to remove hazardous materials from the market. That process was completed on Aug. 13.

COSTILLA COUNTY — The San Luis Peoples Market has completed a months-long lead paint and asbestos removal project, and the interior is being refurbished for an opening scheduled for Oct. 19.

Devon Pena with the Acequia Institute (TAI) has announced the completion of the environmental mitigation work at the historic R&R Market at 317 Main St., renamed the San Luis Peoples Market.

Weecycle Environmental Consulting Inc. of Lafayette issued the mitigation report on the market stating, "The area is clear for re-occupancy."

Under the leadership of Pena, the store is being renovated, and recently, a specialized contractor, Adept Solutions of Colorado Springs, worked on removing

■ See MARKET page 3

# Sundays at Six concludes with Groove 'N Motion Aug. 25

CONTRIBUTED ALAMOSA — The Alamosa Live Music Association has again provided free live music in Cole Park all summer long, with its Sundays at Six concert series. Sundays at Six 2024 concludes on Aug. 25 with the amazing variety group from Denver, Groove 'N Motion.

Check them out online at www.groovenotion.com, before head-

ing over to Cole Park at 6 p.m. for some quality live music. Dinner and dessert can be purchased from Tacos Martinez and Frosty Acres Rolled Ice Cream food trucks. And people can bring a non-perishable item for the food drive to benefit the Alamosa Food Pantry. The show will be livestreaming on ALMA's Facebook page www.facebook.com/almalivemusic.

If you love the big horn band sound, you've come to the right place! Groove 'N Motion features a tight, focused 5-piece horn line, four outstanding and energizing vocalists, and a rocking 5-piece rhythm section. Colorado's premier powerhouse show-variety band features horn-driven classics and current hits, as well as Classic Rock, R&B/funk/soul, Latin and Jazz.

Tunes from Chicago, Tower of Power, Earth, Wind and Fire, Blood, Sweat and Tears, and many more. Special tune requests are encouraged as well. Composed of a group of inspirational musicians and skillful performers, the artists behind Groove 'N Motion have earned their reputation as a talented band to look out for.

From live gigs to studio sessions

■ See ALMA page 3

# Homelake Veterans enjoy annual Rock Creek Breakfast

By MARIE MCCOLM MONTE VISTA — Once a year, Homelake Veterans have a special breakfast that is cooked just for them at the picnic grounds in Rock Creek.

Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake Admissions and Marketing Director Pam Self said the breakfast was on Aug. 15.

"We have been taking our residents to the Rock Creek breakfast for longer than I have worked at Homelake, which is 17 years. I only remember missing one year due to the weather. It is definitely a highlight of the

year for both residents and staff. Food just tastes so much better in the mountains. We also stay up there for a few hours after breakfast just enjoying nature and sharing past stories of camping and other adventures in the mountains. Everyone

■ See VETS page 3

Once the sun came up over the mountains, everyone from the Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake sat around sharing camping memories and enjoying the beautiful weather at Rock Creek on Aug. 15.

Courtesy photo



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# Record

## Special events at Conejos County Library



Courtesy photos

A great time was had at the Summer Reading Program 2024 at the Conejos County Library, Maria De Herrera Branch. This year's theme was 'Adventure begins at your Library!' The story of Smokey the Bear was read to the children and a special appearance was made by Smokey. Thank you, Smokey. EMT's had an ambulance on site so the children could look at and ask questions. Through these wonderful experiences provided by the community the children continue to grow. Thank you to those volunteers who made this event a special one.

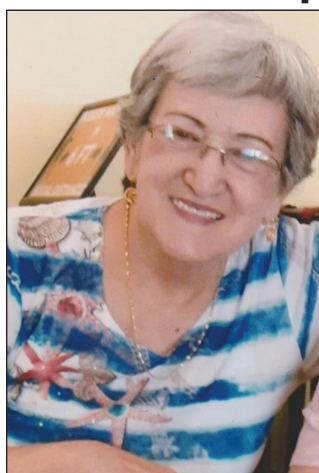
### OBITUARIES

#### Maria Gloria Lopez

Gloria was called home on Aug. 12, 2024, with her family by her side. Gloria was born July 28, 1945, in Los Pinos, N.M., to Filiberto Tafoya and Frolida Salas.

Gloria enjoyed spending time with family and friends. She loved nature, birds and butterflies, and spending time with her family and friends. She especially loved traveling, thrifting, yard sales and the occasional casino trips with her sister Nora and brother-in-law Lee Lucero.

Gloria was a loving



mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and aunt. Her heart was filled with love, faith,

and family. She will be missed by all who had the pleasure to know her.

She leaves behind four wonderful children, Laverne/Joshua Nwaokeocha, Ruby/Ben Bloom, Doreen Lopez, Lonnie/Lisa Lopez, grandchildren, Kyle/Ary Lopez, Kevin Lopez, Courtney Bloom, Grant Bloom, Jacob/Arie Nwaokeocha, Naomi Nwaokeocha, great-grandchildren Kyle Lopez Jr. and Lucas Lopez.

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

#### Corey Deane Pacheco

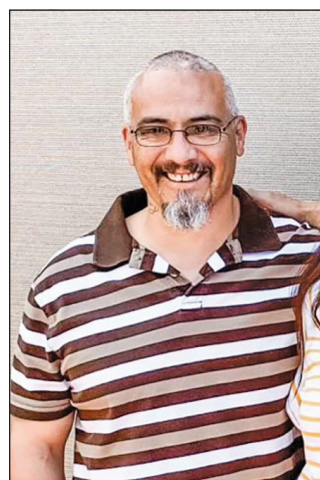
Corey Deane Pacheco passed away in Phoenix, Ariz., on Aug. 3, 2024. Corey was born Feb. 1, 1971, to Lola Pacheco and Arnold Pacheco.

Corey was a free-spirited vibrant soul and was a friend to everyone he met. Corey had a welcoming smile, a big heart, and would give the shirt of his back to anyone in need. Corey respected his elders and showed it with his loving mannerisms. He had a great sense of humor – he was always joking and making everyone laugh. He loved music and was great at artistic drawing. Corey loved his family and his daughters more than anything; he was loved and will be

greatly missed.

Corey was preceded in death by his Grandparents, Stella and Flaminio Cisneros; Cora and Diego Pacheco, and his favorite uncle David Cisneros.

Corey is survived by his parents Lola Pacheco of Manassa, Colo., Arnold (Roberta) Pacheco of Peoria, Ariz., his daughters Patricia Pacheco of Mesa, Ariz., and Faith Pacheco of Peoria, Ariz., his siblings Steven (Donna) Pacheco of Los Saucos, Colo.; Brandy (LeJohn) Roybal of Aurora, Colo., Kristal Pacheco of Manassa, Colo., and David (Charlotte) Pacheco of Glendale, Colo., nieces and nephews Sherry (Edward) Skaff, Brandon



(Ashliegh) Sowards, Nathaniel and Delilah Roybal, great-nephew and niece Austin and Rylee Skaff.

A Celebration of life will be held at a later time for family and friends to attend.

## City submits paperwork \$12.4M grant for the Lariat Ditch Project

By MARIE MCCOLM MONTE VISTA —

The City of Monte Vista is moving forward with the Lariat Ditch Project and submitted the paperwork for a \$12.4 million nonmatching grant, City Manager Gigi Dennis said during a Monte Vista City Council meeting earlier this month.

Dennis said it was a non-matching grant, and the city should be notified by Labor Day, if they were successful in obtaining the grant. It was submitted in the first week of August.

The Lariat Ditch Project was introduced as part of the city's RERC (Recreation Economy for Rural Communities) plan that was implemented with an EPA grant to Monte Vista. The plan for the Lariat project, according to City Planner DJ Enderle, is to pipe ditch line in the city and cover it with a paved pathway. The path would begin near Monte Vista High School and go in an easterly direction finishing the Polished Bean.

Dennis also said that the EPA grant that Monte Vista received for RERC planning was gaining notoriety. Chris Perkins, of Jackson, Wyo., visited Monte Vista. She said Perkins is starting to travel all over the country and visit some of the communities that have been successful with the EPA grant. Perkins is from an organization called the Outdoor Recreation Round table, based in Washington DC.

"He wanted to come to see what work we have been doing and what we have got going," Dennis said, adding that Perkins wrote a letter of support for the Lariat Ditch Project, as the organization is

a big support system of outdoor recreation.

During the city council meeting, Charles Spielman gave an update on the attempt to save two old cottonwood trees at the Monte Vista Golf Course.

"As you'll recall in your meeting on June 20, I presented a petition signed by over 100 citizens. The petition had two goals, to preserve two cottonwood trees shading the number two tee at the Monte Vista Golf Course, while also preventing damage to the adjoining running track, on high school grounds from Cottonwood tree sap. Today I report to you that we have succeeded in the first goal but have not successfully accomplished the second" he said.

On June 20, Monte Vista School District Superintendent Scott Wiedeman stated that there was a need for the City of Monte Vista to step in and "do something", with two cottonwood trees that were presenting a danger to the running track right next to the golf course.

Wideman was concerned that branches from the trees could fall on someone using the track and that the damage the branches would cause to the track surface.

In addition to the petition, Spielman presented the idea of bringing in a tree specialist to check the health of the trees and that the golf course had agreed to help purchase a cover for the track to protect it from damage.

Spielman said the trees were examined by a specialist who reported that both trees were in good condition.

Spielman said accord-

ing to Monte Canvas and Upholstery a covering would cost about \$3,800 to manufacture and install.

The MV golf club board members agreed to pay for the cover, Spielman said. But they had hit a snag because the company that just installed the new track had indicated that a fabric cover could cause condensation that might be harmful to the track.

"So, the question of a cover, is still unresolved," Spielman said.

Council members thanked Spielman for the update but did not make any decisions regarding the trees.

City Manager Dennis said she visited with the golf course and asked why it was so important that the trees remain there, and they had expressed that they were coming up on their 100th anniversary, and those trees had been there longer than they had been around.

In other matters, Dennis also stated that due to the passing of an ordinance, she needed council members to appoint a board of adjustments. The city would begin seeking applicants and present them to the council at a future meeting.

The next city council meeting will be held on Aug. 15.

### PENDING OBITUARIES

#### Stephen 'Stevie' Perea

La Jara resident Stephen "Stevie" Perea, 55, was called home on Aug. 16, 2024. His arrangements are currently pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

#### Obed Jiron

La Jara resident Obed Jiron, 88, departed this life Aug. 17, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

#### Marvin Lloyd Martinez

Del Norte resident Marvin Lloyd Martinez passed away Aug. 20, 2024. Arrangements are 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](http://www.alamosanews.com), for no additional fee.

Please email obituaries if possible to [squintana@alamosanews.com](mailto: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.

### BIRTHS

#### Thomas James Lundberg

Thomas James Lundberg was born on Aug. 9, 2024, to Hannah and Caleb Lundberg of Manassa. At birth, Thomas James weighed 8 pounds 4 ounces and was 20.5 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are James and Natalie Paine of Antonito. Paternal grandparents are David and Kayla Lundberg of Magna, Utah.

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**Wednesday**  
**August 21, 2024**

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# Valley News

## New test scores show many Colorado students have shaken off pandemic setbacks

By ERICA BREUNLIN  
Colorado Newsline

Colorado students in many grades made promising gains in math, English language arts and science on state standardized tests last spring, according to results released Tuesday morning by the Colorado Department of Education.

The outcomes mark a forward step in students' academic recovery coming out of the pandemic after many kids suffered learning setbacks while bouncing between remote and in-person learning.

Still, 2024 results from the Colorado Measures of

Academic Success, PSAT and SAT exams show there is more progress to be made. Echoing test results from previous years, students of color, children with disabilities, kids from low-income families and students learning English continue to significantly trail their peers.

"We are encouraged by the continued improvement of our students since the pandemic disrupted learning," Colorado Education Commissioner Susana Córdova said in a statement. "We continue, however, to see troubling and persistent achievement gaps across student groups. It is

not enough to see growth for some Colorado students, we need to ensure that every child is getting the support they need to be successful."

The state uses standardized tests to measure both student proficiency — whether students are meeting state standards in subject areas — and student growth, which refers to how much progress students demonstrate over time.

The state education department reported "results show continued improvement in student achievement in many grades and subject areas with some grades surpassing pre-

pandemic overall scores." Student growth has also improved to mirror growth levels before the pandemic but must be "sustained to rebound fully."

Among some of the highlights of test outcomes, every grade except eighth showed a higher percentage of students meeting or surpassing expectations on CMAS math exams compared with 2023. Student growth in math reflected "sustained improvement" within all grades compared with pre-pandemic figures. And in third, sixth, seventh and eighth grades, a slightly higher percentage of

kids met or exceeded expectations in English language arts compared with results from 2023. Meanwhile, student results in third and sixth grades were better than in 2019.

Stubborn achievement gaps that continue to put students with additional challenges behind in school tempered the bright outcomes.

Participation rates among some sets of students on CMAS exams in the spring were similar to participation rates in 2023. Other groups of students participated at slightly lower rates, according to CDE data.



Courtesy photo

Sundays at Six concludes on Aug. 25 at Cole Park with the variety group from Denver, Groove 'N Motion.

## ALMA

Continued from Page 1 and more, they continue to touch fans with their distinctive and enjoyable musical style. A stylistically unique horn band from day one, the members of Groove 'N Motion have been singing, performing, and playing in sync as if they'd been together their entire musical careers. As they bring a powerful yet polished show to the stage, their repertoire is familiar and before you know it, you'll be singing along to all your favorite songs from the 70's, 80's and 90's as well as today's current hits.

ALMA is partnering 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

the Sundays at Six concert this summer, to benefit the Alamosa Food Pantry. Everyone is 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 butters, low-sodium canned veggies and beans, healthy snacks (low-sugar granola bars, dried fruit, etc.), gluten free items, healthy canned or boxed meals (chili, etc.), 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 Eagle, First Southwest Bank, Kenneth King Foundation, KRZA, Laura Jane Musser Foundation, North River Greenhouse, RG Bank, SLV Federal Bank, SLV Health, SLV REC/Cielo, Sports Print Plus, Steffens Quality Plumbing and Heating, Valley Courier, Valley Wide Health Systems, Visit Alamosa, Wall, Smith, Bateman, and Xcel Energy Foundation.

For more information, like ALMA on Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, or visit [www.almaonline.org](http://www.almaonline.org).

## Market

Continued from Page 1 lead-based paint and asbestos.

With the help of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund, the institute, which is working on behalf of the market, received a grant on May 14 for \$200,416. The grant was to cover the cost of asbestos abatement and lead-based paint and mold removal, making it possible for the market to reopen. Initially, the market was set to reopen in July, and now, with the work completed, a reopening is set for mid-October.

Earlier this year, Governor Jared Polis said, "As the only full-service grocery store in San Luis, Colorado, the reopening of San Luis Market will help ensure Coloradans in the valley have access to healthy food in a safe store, and I am glad the state could provide a grant to help reopen this community landmark."

Now that the clearance to reoccupy has been issued, TAI crews and contractors will work for four to six weeks on a complete remodeling and reset of the interior of the San Luis Peoples Market.

The grocery section, meat department, and hardware areas were completely gutted out

for the abatement project.

The San Luis Peoples Market Annex at 303 Vega St. remains open. In the meantime, the market will continue to serve the community from that location under a lease with Rocky Mountain SER. The annex hosts cooking and nutrition classes, occasional food pantry events, community cultural events, and local artisan craft bazaars. Sales of bolita beans, chicos, and pozole are available depending on supply.

The annex is the location of commercial kitchen operations and a unique volcanic rock corn mill. Once it reopens, the kitchen will produce shelf, cooler,

and freezer-ready local foods for sales at the Market, including stone-ground heirloom red, white, and blue tortillas and other masa harina products.

The improvements, upgrades, and remodeling work for the interior of the San Luis Peoples Market on Main Street are largely funded by two grants totaling \$100,000 from the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA). Among the improvements that are part of the interior remodeling and reset: a new two-hour firewall first-floor ceiling to protect the second-floor apartments and offices from life-threatening events which are funded by TAI reserves.

## Vets

Continued from Page 1 is able to open up in a way that is different from when we're at the home," she said.

This year pancakes, hash browns, bacon, sausage, eggs, and cowboy coffee were all served to the residents.

Self said the Homelake residents are excited to attend.

"We were just as excited to have our residents go up, as they were to be up there attending. We

are also amazed by the amount that everyone eats. Our residents have good appetites. The air up there, the smell of the food, it just makes you hungry. Our staff works so well together, to put on this wonderful breakfast together for our residents," she said.

Self said the center does lots of things for the residents throughout the year, but this was by far one of her favorites.

"It's just a great event. We had about 30 residents total attend the breakfast. We brought

our handicap accessible buses, and you know many of the residents who attended were in wheelchairs, but the fact that they still get to go up into the National Forest and have a great morning and breakfast and visit with friends. It's really wonderful."

Self said it's nice to be in the forest, with nobody in a rush to leave and all the Veterans were sharing stories of when they went camping, or fishing. Self said that three buses went up, along with a pickup truck to help carry

the wheelchairs, or other items that any of the Veterans needed.

"My favorite part of the breakfast is always seeing the smiles on the Veterans faces and seeing how well the residents eat. I also love to hear the residents share their favorite memories, and stories from when they got to camp, or their favorite things to eat while camping, too. All the pictures that we take, and they take up there. These things are my favorite part of the breakfast," she said.

## Play

Continued from Page 1 the Rio Grande in the San Luis Valley of Colorado, "Prima's Guide to Funerals" tells the story of family, laughter, grief, love, and finding yourself alongside the ones who know you the best: your primas.

The show is directed by Yesenia Garcia Her- ington and stars Julian Ibarra, Savanna Padilla,

and Katie Rodriguez.

"For many years, we have wanted to help cultivate a show that speaks to the community of the San Luis Valley," says Interim Artistic Director Kate Berry, "and what better way to do this than through our Headwaters New Play Program. We're also excited to continue a partnership with the Adams State Theatre Department."

Playwright Leon- ard Madrid, a native of

northern New Mexico, has been interested in telling stories featuring the communities and family dynamics of northern New Mexico and southwestern Colorado for some time.

"[I was] struck by how we never see cousins portrayed in mainstream movies and television. Cousins are often used as a foil for the main characters. Cousins are so much more than that. In huge families, cousins

are as important a relationship as siblings. To see cousins in theatre is so rare. I wanted to explore that relationship," Madrid says.

Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$25 for ASU Faculty and Staff, and \$10 for ASU students. The San Luis Valley Federal Bank Main Stage Theatre is located on campus at 208 Edgemont Blvd., Alamosa. Tickets are available through the Adams State University website.

## SLV transit meeting Aug. 22

ALAMOSA — The San Luis Valley Transportation Planning Region will meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 22, in the Commissioners Room of the Alamosa County Services Center, 8900 Independence Way, Alamosa.

This meeting will begin the process for the development of the 2050 San Luis Valley Region-

al Transportation plan. This will be an in-person meeting with a virtual online option available for those unable to attend in person. All meetings of the SLV TPR are open to the public.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87931157149?pwd=6r83KIPK6e2q7NUFrjDClh5jkaNkNT.1>

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# Opinion



Photo by Ricky Stephenson

Hikers on the Colorado Trail

## Grumpy talk on the trail

I suppose it's the human thing on a hiking trail to acknowledge one another when passing. But on a well-used trail, the same comments come up time and time again.

"Good Morning." As an introvert I don't understand why I have to say Good Morning to every member of a 30-person group. Nor does Good Afternoon roll off the tongue as nicely. Too many plosives and fricatives. Yesterday I got yelled at for not saying a cheery enough "Good Morning" to a passing hiker. I did not realize I was at a Downton Abbey garden party.

Then there's the consoling "You're Almost There" hello. For one thing, I am almost never almost there when assured that I am. Volunteers at 10-Ks or marathons are warned to never, ever, tell someone they are almost there. Almost there is when you can see the parking lot.

An annoying question is "Everything OK"? Why are they asking this? Admittedly I have more gray hair than brown, but do I look so decrepit that they are concerned about my well being? What would they do if I said, "It would really be OK if you took my pack?"

"How you doing?" Do they really want to know that my trick hip is acting up, and my pack irritates that weird spot on my scapula? Probably not.

"Good Luck." Again, why? Is the only thing that will assure my success a whim of fate? I used to answer, "In the words of the immortal solo climber of Mount Everest, Reinhold Messner, 'I do not believe in luck.'" That usually gets me a blank look.

"Where did you start and how long did it take you?" People usually ask me this while hiking in Grand Canyon. But why ask a random stranger how they did? I'm not racing. One woman asked me this at Bryce Canyon National Park because she and her boyfriend were attempting a loop. She thought they were on the wrong trail, but her boyfriend thought she was wrong. Turned out he was the one who was wrong, and he wasn't happy about finding that out.

"Is it really harder hiking uphill?" Is this a trick question?

"Where are you going?" That seems a deep philosophical question to pose to a complete stranger.

"How was it?" I guess I could answer on a scale of one to ten...

"Was it worth it?" I'm always tempted to reply, "No, turn around now."

"Does this trail go anywhere?" "No," I want to say, "it just kind of sits there."

"If I hike down this trail, is there another way out?" Not really: Walk in, walk out, is usually the case.

Sometimes a joker will ask, "Are we there yet?" "I sometimes answer, 'Buddha would say, 'We are always there.' That gets me a laugh now and then."

Several times I have been asked where the next shuttle bus stop is. If this is asked while on a trail in the Grand Canyon, the answer is "A mile back and a thousand feet up the way you came." Poleaxed stare. "The bus doesn't come down here?" "No," I want to say, "they tend to stick to the paved road."

One young man told me, "I hope I can do this." I said, "It looks as though you are." "No, I mean when I am as old as you." I guess I can take that as a compliment. Then there is the compliment: "I hope I'm as fit as you when I'm your age." I want to reply: "I might be as fit as your age!"

A friend who let her hair go grey during COVID told me that she gets a lot more positive comments than she used to: "Young hikers used to mutter under their breath when I passed them. Now they tend to do a thumbs up and say, 'Good for you.'"

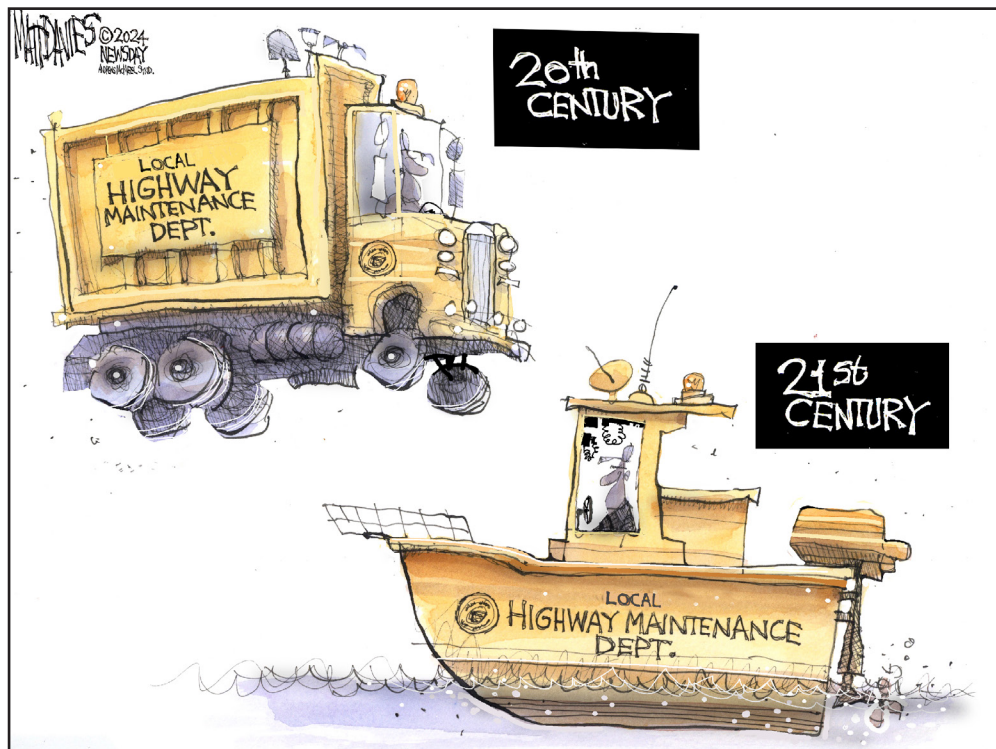
I was hiking one day with a group of women who have hiked the West on trails for years, when a man stepped to the side to let us pass. He beamed at us as he said, "You ladies look radiant." Now that is the kind of trail talk I like.

Marjorie 'Slim' Woodruff is a contributor to Writers on the Range, [writersontherange.org](http://writersontherange.org), an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. She is an educator at the bottom of Grand Canyon.

Writers On The Range



Marjorie 'Slim' Woodruff



## ASD kicks off school year with remarkable achievements, upgrades

By DIANA JONES and LUIS MURILLO

As students return to school this year, there is a palpable sense of excitement and anticipation in the Alamosa School District (ASD). This academic year promises to be one of the most promising yet, marked by significant achievements and improvements that underscore our commitment to excellence in education. From notable academic gains to enhanced facilities, Alamosa is starting the school year on a high note, setting the stage for continued success and growth.

• **Academic Achievements:** Continuing our trajectory of improvement

First and foremost, the academic achievements of our students deserve a round of applause. The recent results from the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) assessments have shown remarkable progress. This year's scores reflect the hard work and dedication of both students and educators, demonstrating a clear upward trend in academic performance across various subjects.

CMAS scores are not just numbers; they represent the cumulative effort of our students, teachers, support staff, and families. The improved results are a testament to the effective teaching strategies implemented and the relentless pursuit of academic excellence within our schools. Our students are rising to the challenge, gaining the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in an increasingly competitive world.

In addition to CMAS results, our district has also seen impressive outcomes in Advanced Placement (AP) tests. The increase in AP exam scores is a clear indicator of our students' readiness to tackle college-level coursework. These achievements highlight the growing academic prowess within our district and the effectiveness of our rigorous curriculum and dedicated teachers. We will release our district and school-level reports the first week of September when they become publicly available.

• **Facilities Upgrade: A New Era of Comfort and Learning**

Beyond academic excellence, there are exciting developments in our school facilities that are set to enhance the learning environment for our students. This summer, the Alamosa School District completed a major upgrade to its infrastructure:

the installation of a comprehensive HVAC system. This significant improvement means that all classrooms now have air conditioning, marking a substantial enhancement in student comfort and learning conditions.

Installing HVAC systems across the district is more than just a comfort upgrade; it's a crucial step toward creating a more conducive learning environment. Air conditioning as well as quality air flow helps maintain optimal classroom temperatures, which can significantly impact students' focus and overall academic performance. No longer will high temperatures disrupt the learning process; instead, our students can enjoy a consistent and comfortable atmosphere that supports their educational environment. This upgrade reflects our district's commitment to providing a high-quality education and ensuring that the learning environment is safe.

• **Community Support and Collaboration: The Driving Force Behind Success**

The remarkable start to this school year would not have been possible without the support and collaboration of our community. The dedication of parents, teachers, administrators, and local stakeholders has played a pivotal role in achieving these milestones. It is the collective effort of everyone involved that has made these successes possible.

We had a successful summer school session, as well as three school enrollment events where our community came together to provide the necessary supplies for our students to be fully equipped on the first day of school. Our community partners also went above and beyond in providing haircuts, diapers, and backpacks full of school supplies to ensure a strong start.

The ongoing support from the community underscores the importance of working together towards a common goal: the success and well-being of our students. It is this collaborative spirit that makes the Alamosa School District a thriving educational community.

• **Looking Ahead: Building on Success**  
As we celebrate the achievements of the past year, it is important to look ahead with optimism and determination. The success of our students on CMAS assessments and AP tests, coupled with the improved learning environment provided

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To submit sports, email: [khamrick@alamosanews.com](mailto: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](mailto:news@alamosanews.com). Letters to staff, not for publication, should be marked "personal."



Diana Jones  
ASD  
Superintendent



Luis Murillo  
ASD Assistant  
Superintendent

by the new HVAC systems, sets a strong foundation for the future.

The Alamosa School District is committed to building on these successes and continuing to foster an environment where each student matters. This involves not only maintaining high academic standards but also embracing new opportunities for growth and development. As we continue to create the conditions for all students to be successful, we partnered with the architectural firm RTA to develop a facilities master plan. Our plan revealed maintenance needs and suggested small improvements to enhance the learning environment of students. Our general operating budget cannot cover these needs. Our board of education and administration team is considering a potential bond to continue the improvements at ASD. We invite you to attend a special board meeting on Monday, Aug. 26, at our current district office located at 403 Santa Fe Ave. Our board of education will be discussing the potential bond.

In conclusion, the start of this school year in the Alamosa School District is nothing short of exceptional. The academic gains demonstrated by our students and the significant upgrades to our facilities are a cause for celebration and a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved. As we embark on this new academic year, let us carry forward the momentum of our successes and work together to achieve even greater heights. Here's to a fantastic school year ahead, filled with learning, growth, and continued excellence.

Diana Jones is ASD's current superintendent. Luis Murillo is ASD's current assistant superintendent.

### LETTER

## Would you like to help the SLV 4-H?

Editor,

A couple of months ago, Larry Garner introduced me to the family of Eddie Vandamme of Monte Vista. Eddie had recently been moved to Denver by his son, Damian, for health reasons. After visiting with Damian, he and his dad made the decision to donate all the remaining household items to me — with the understanding all proceeds would benefit the SLV 4-H Foundation.

This is a win-win for me, as my husband, Larry, is the SLV Extension Director, and the Foundation is raising money to permanently fund a local full-time agent.

At first, I was going to put everything in my big truck and haul it to the Green Spot and just have a yard sale. However, when I took a second look at all the items, and realized how eclectic and unusual some of the items were, I decided to have the sale at 227 Bronk in MV.

Plus, I did not want to move the roll-top desk, or the China cabinets, or the pump organ, or the glass display cabinet, etc.

The sale will have something for everyone: binoculars, jewelry, Colorado Avalanche pictures, collectible books, spittoons, silver, chess sets, prints, collector toy cars, grandfather clock, Victorian set-

tee and two side chairs, and so much more.

In the spirit of raising money for the Foundation, if you would like the early bird special to check out the sale on Saturday evening, Aug. 24, a donation of \$10 will get you in the door, at 6 p.m. Items may be purchased. Larger items may be bid by silent auction.

The actual sale will be on Sunday, starting at 11 a.m. and ending at 3 p.m. If you have any questions, call me at 719-580-7838. Thank you!

Ruthie Brown  
Alamosa

Keith R Cerny  
Publisher

Brian Williams  
Managing Editor

# Valley Courier

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## Your FIRST Source for Local News

Editor's Note: The views expressed in individual columns on this page do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Valley Courier.



# Lifestyles

## Colorado is automatically sealing more than 100,000 criminal records

By **JENNIFER BROWN**  
*Colorado Sun*

Colorado is sealing more than 100,000 court records, the result of a new law that applies to nonviolent offenses and is intended to help people with criminal pasts pass background checks for jobs and housing.

Most of the crimes are misdemeanors and petty offenses, and many involved drugs or theft.

Colorado for years has allowed people to petition to seal their arrests and convictions, a process that requires legal guidance and possibly a hearing before a judge. But the new Clean the Slate Act directs the state judicial system to automatically seal records that are eligible.

The Colorado Judicial Department's first data scrape required under the law, which went into effect July 1, identified more than 140,000 cases that were eligible.

While the government, including prosecutors, can still see the records, they will no longer appear in the background checks that are required by landlords, businesses and schools.

Who is eligible

Nonviolent crimes, including some felonies, are eligible — with lots of exceptions. A small fraction — 1.4% — of the more than 140,000 identified records were felonies; the rest were misdemeanors and petty offenses. Arrests that did not result in charges are also eligible.

Misdemeanors and petty offenses must be at least seven years old. Felonies must be 10 years in the past.

Crimes cannot involve domestic violence, child abuse, sexual violence or sexual exploitation.

The exemptions are complex, and under the previous system of petitioning to get records sealed, typically require the help of a lawyer.

The worst kinds of felonies, those rated Class 1, 2 or 3, are not eligible. That includes murder, kidnapping, sexual assault, aggravated robbery, trafficking children and many others.

Other exemptions include traffic offenses, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, bodily injury, animal cruelty, identity theft, selling drugs, assault, menacing, indecent exposure, robbery and some burglaries.

How it works

The law requires that the Colorado Judicial Department produce a list four times per year of all records that are eligible to be automatically sealed, then pass that list along to district attorneys across the state.

District attorneys in Colorado's 22 judicial districts have 45 days to object to records in their regions. The first round, which began in February, had some bumps — the state com-

puter system included thousands of domestic violence records, even though those are not eligible. They fixed the error and created a new list in March.

The list of eligible crimes dropped to about 141,000 from 148,000 after objections from district attorneys and the removal of domestic violence cases.

After the records are sealed in the judicial system, which is still in process, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation has to remove them from background checks.

If a person whose record is sealed commits another crime, the record is unsealed and prosecutors can use it in court.

The petition system, the only option before the new law, is complex, time-consuming, and for some clients, traumatic, said Abbey Moffitt, a criminal defense attorney and co-founder of Expunge Colorado, a nonprofit that helps people seal their records.

"This is a huge deal," she said. "It allows people to move on, to have that redemption and restore their dignity, remove the stigma and contribute to society again."

Moffitt in 2018 helped start Expunge Colorado, which has helped more than 600 people who have attended annual clinics to ask if they can seal their records. So far, the nonprofit has sealed more than 200 records. Many people come to clinics and find out their criminal cases are not eligible.

At The Sun's request, Moffitt researched 45 conviction records that Expunge Colorado helped seal and found that 16 were felonies. Of those, 11 were drug offenses.

The nonprofit's 15 volunteer attorneys most often are able to seal drug charges, as well as theft and trespassing records. Services are free and Expunge covers the court fees.

Despite the new law, Moffitt expects people will still seek out the nonprofit because they want their cases sealed as soon as possible. People can petition a court to seal records after three years, or wait seven to 10 years from the day they were convicted for the state to seal them automatically under the new law.

"A lot of people need the relief right away," Moffitt said. "They want to apply for this job now. They need housing now."

The legislation in 2022 had bipartisan support, including from some in the business community who saw it as a way to widen the eligible workforce.

Why it matters

Marcus Weaver's criminal past kept him from filling out the application to volunteer at

his daughter's private school, even though he wanted to pitch in like other parents. He just didn't want school officials to run a background check and discover that in 2008 he spent time locked up for conspiracy to commit theft.

"When you look at me you would never think I was ever in trouble," said Weaver, who since then has started a non-profit that provides job

training for people in jail and prison.

Weaver also opened a pickle company and hires people who are on parole. After they help him deliver pickles for a while, he helps them get hired by other businesses. "I work with guys getting out and they don't know they got stuff on their record that won't let them get a job, even though they paid their time," he said.

Employers, mean-

while, often just want someone dependable, but aren't allowed to hire them if they can't pass the background check. "I don't know how many times I've heard that," Weaver said.

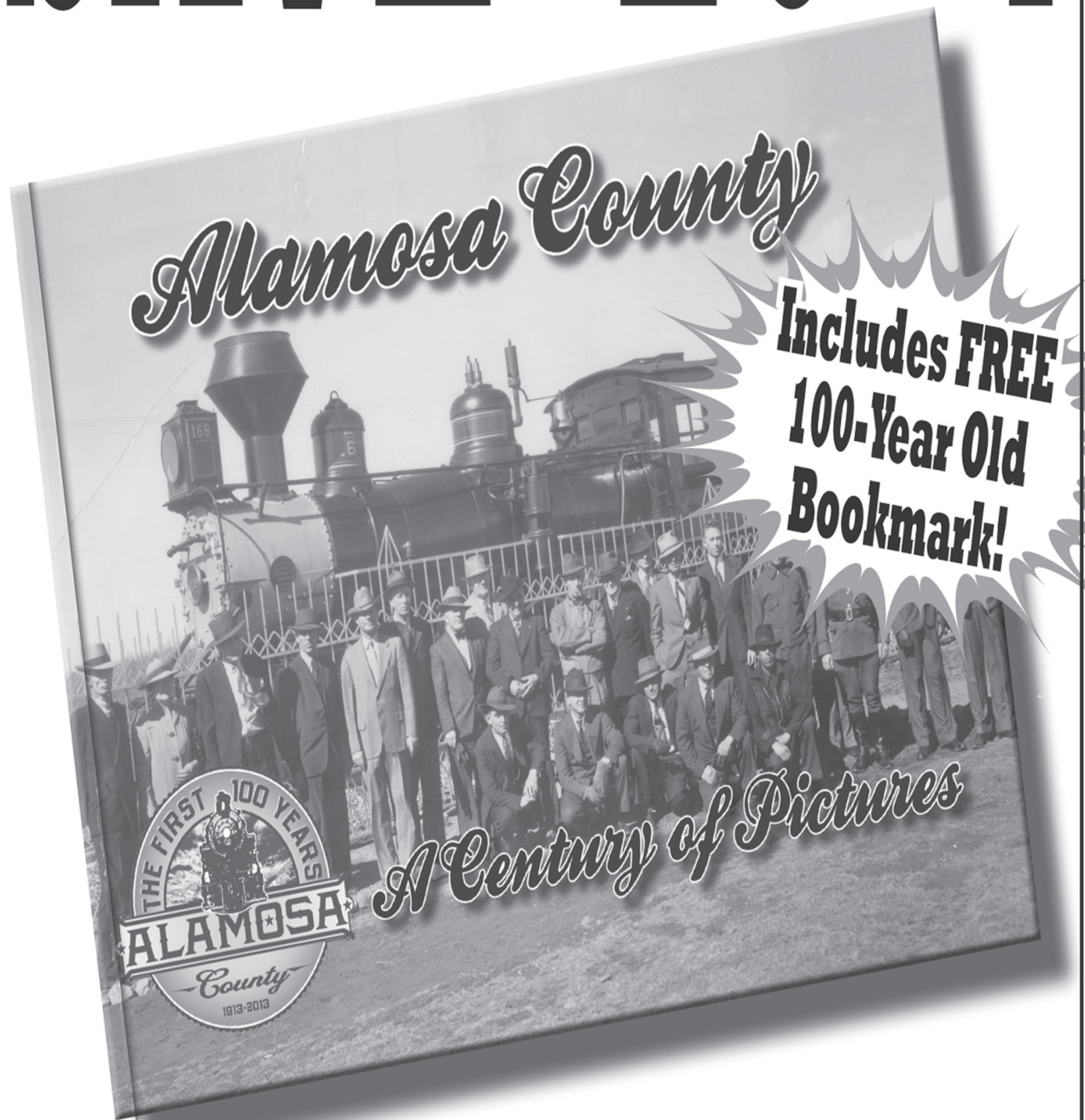
For years, he has advocated for a change in state law that would help people who messed up in the past rebuild their lives, as he has done.

"The whole time I was in jail I was helping peo-

ple with their resumes," he said. "I was listening to guys talk about the fears of restarting their lives."

Three out of 10 Colorado residents have an arrest or conviction on their record, according to the Clean Slate Colorado coalition. When Colorado passed the law in 2022, it was the seventh state to do so since 2018, after Pennsylvania, Utah, Michigan, Connecticut, Delaware and Oklahoma.

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# Sports



Courtesy photo

Front row, from left, Ty Coleman, Laura Bruneau, Lisa Rawinski, Lorey Bussey, Marla Gesink, Donna Brooks, Jenene Holcomb, Mark Skinner, Nina Gillespie. Middle row, from left, Jason Buhr, Charlie Tarnutzer, Frank Hicks, Barb Wall, Dee Rudoff, Judi Perez. Back row, from left, Greg Goodwiin, Jamie Rudoff, Dirk Oden, Ric Mann, Duane Bussey, Robert Ramirez, John White, Galen Ballentine, Brandon Buhr, Not pictured, Ken Crouse.

## ARPO social tournament brings pickleball to life

Contributed

ALAMOSA - What do the words “Dink”, “Drive”, “Drop”, “Lob”, and “Kitchen” have in common?

Spectators at Carroll Park might have heard those terms frequently during the first Annual Alamosa Regional Pickleball Organization Social Tournament held on Saturday.

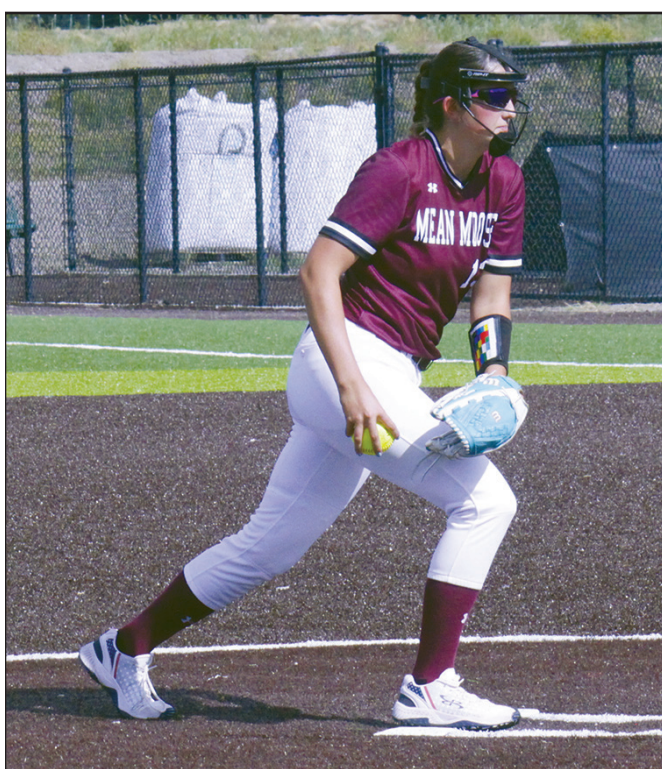
Twenty-four players on the Red and Blue squared off for eight rounds of thirty-two games total. Red took an early lead, then it was tied for the middle rounds, then Blue came out ahead with a strong finish. After the tournament, players and their guests enjoyed a barbecue social lunch at the park.

ARPO board member Dee Rudoff, who sparked the idea of hosting the social tournament and planned the games schedule, commented,

“The social tournament was conceived

as a structured event to bring together our regular local players in a fun and competitive way, while including their families as spectators, and for a delicious cookout afterwards. Thanks to the support of ARPO board members and volunteers, the event ran very smoothly, and the feedback from players was overwhelmingly positive.”

The ARPO Board expresses gratitude to Alamosa Parks and Recreation for their support. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the nation and is a game that can be enjoyed by players of all ages and abilities. To learn more about opportunities to play pickleball, call the Alamosa Family Recreation Center at (719) 589-2105. Interested beginners are encouraged to call Dirk Oden (719.850.1941) or Barb Wall (719-580-3487) to request a free lesson.



Courier photo by Ken Hamrick  
Alamosa High School's Shrea Jordan with the first pitch of the 2024 season Tuesday at the Adams State University softball field. Because of the major rainstorm on Tuesday, coverage of the game against Durango was not available.

### Sports Bulletin

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

#### SCOREBOARD TUESDAY

Prep girls softball  
Durango at Alamosa - score unavailable

#### SCHEDULE THURSDAY

Prep girls volleyball  
Primero at Sangre de Cristo, 4:30 p.m.

Salida at Center, 5 p.m.

College men's soccer  
Trinidad State at Adams State (exhibition), noon

College women's soccer  
Trinidad State at Adams State (exhibition), 2:30 p.m.

#### FRIDAY

Prep cross country  
Alamosa, Centauri at Cheyenne Mountain Invitational (at Norris Penrose Event Center), 2 p.m.

Prep boys golf  
Alamosa, Monte Vista at Pueblo County Invitational (at Hollydot), 9 a.m.

Prep girls softball  
Alamosa vs. Greeley Central (Platte Valley Invitational), 1 p.m.

Alamosa vs. Yuma (Platte Valley Invitational), 5 p.m.

Prep girls volleyball  
Sanford at La Veta, 2 p.m.

#### SATURDAY

Prep girls softball  
Alamosa at Platte Valley (Platte Valley Invitational), 9 a.m.

Alamosa vs. The Academy (Platte Valley Invitational), 1 p.m.

Prep girls volleyball  
Creede, Mountain Valley at Crested Butte Invitational, 9 a.m.

La Veta, Rocky Ford at Del Norte, 9 a.m.

Hoehne, La Junta, Monte Vista, Pueblo Central, Sargent at Monte Vista tri-meet, 9 a.m.

Center, La Veta, Mitchell, Nucla, Sierra Grande at Sangre de Cristo, 10 a.m.

Centauri at Lamar, 11 a.m.

Gunnison at Sanford, 4 p.m.

Salida  
Antonito at Hanover Invitational, TBA

#### MONDAY

Prep boys golf  
Alamosa at Pueblo South Invitational (at Elmwood Golf Course), 8:30 a.m.

Alamosa at Durango Invitational, TBA

Prep boys soccer  
Salida at Alamosa, 6 p.m.

College men's soccer  
Eastern Arizona at Adams State (exhibition), 2 p.m.

#### TUESDAY

Prep boys golf  
Alamosa, Monte Vista at Montezuma-Cortez Invitational (at Conquistador Golf Course), 9 a.m.

Prep girls softball  
Alamosa at Pueblo Centennial (at Runyon Sports Complex, Pueblo), 5 p.m.

Prep girls volleyball  
Manitou Springs at Alamosa, 4:30 p.m.



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# Lifestyle

## Gov. Polis, CPW and GOCO award \$1.3M in regional coalition development and planning initiatives

**CONTRIBUTED DENVER** — Governor Jared Polis, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) announced Aug. 20 the grant recipients for the Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative establishing two new partnerships in southwestern and southeastern Colorado. There are now 20 Outdoor Regional Partnerships covering about 75% of the state. First launched in 2021, the Initiative funds regional coalitions that bring broad interests together to ensure that Colorado's lands, waters, and wildlife thrive while also providing for equitable and quality outdoor recreation experiences.

"The collaborative energy behind the Regional Partnerships Initiative reflects the collaborative spirit of Coloradans. These partnerships give communities the opportunity to expand conversations around wildlife management, sustainable recreation, and how we can protect our wild, open spaces," said Governor Jared Polis.

"We celebrate the most recent grant recipients for the Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative, a cornerstone in our efforts to foster sustainable outdoor recreation and conservation across Colorado," said CPW Director Jeff Davis. "The success of these partnerships reflects the dedication of communities across Colorado to steward their natural resources and recreation opportunities."

This grant cycle increases the amount of money invested in Outdoor Regional Partnerships to \$4.9 million with another round of grant funding opening in the fall of 2024 for coalition capacity and regional planning efforts. Grant recipients include six established coalitions spanning the Western Slope and central mountains, and two emerging coalitions in the southeastern grasslands and Archuleta County. New partnerships exemplify the rich cultural, natural, and geologic history that stretches along the lower Arkansas Valley, Purgatoire River, and southern San Juan Mountains.

Regional Partnership Grant Funding Recipients:

- Eagle County Community Wildlife Roundtable (\$15,000)
- Eagle County Community Wildlife Roundtable was formed in 2020 by community members and organizations with the purpose of understanding and addressing issues facing wild-

life populations and the goal of leveraging diverse values, creativity, and resources to move toward positive change. Awarded funding will assist with capacity, including facilitation and collaboration among outdoor sectors. This award supplements existing funding to advance a county-wide conservation and recreation assessment.

- Central Colorado Recreation Partnership (\$125,000)

Envision Recreation in Balance (Chaffee County), the Gunnison County Sustainable Tourism & Outdoor Recreation Committee (Gunnison County), and the Lake County Outdoor Alliance coalesce to form the Central Colorado Recreation Partnership. This tri-county regional partnership works with land managers and community volunteers to advance management, conservation, recreation, and stewardship efforts. Continued funding will build facilitation capacity in Gunnison and Lake counties and support planning efforts to advance regional conservation and outdoor recreation priorities to connect programs across the landscape.

- Montelores Coalition (\$214,410)

The Montelores Coalition is a locally diverse group working together to balance sustainable outdoor recreation, conservation of natural resources, and economic development opportunities in and around Montezuma and Dolores counties in southwest Colorado. Awarded funding will support facilitation needs, community listening sessions, resource consolidation, and the development of a regional vision for the future of recreation and conservation management in the area.

- Northwest Colorado Outdoor Coalition (\$220,210)

Encompassing Moffat and Rio Blanco counties, the Northwest Colorado Outdoor Coalition is a community partnership that aims to promote, expand, and balance unique outdoor recreation opportunities with wildlife habitat conservation and the cultural heritage of the region. Awarded funding will support community engagement and input on the region's recreation and conservation plan and allow for field visits, marketing, communication, and facilitation to maintain the partnership's momentum.

- Outdoor Pikes Peak Initiative (\$186,596)

Under the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alli-

ance, the Outdoor Pikes Peak Initiative is collaboratively identifying and advancing priorities and strategies to ensure resilient natural and recreational values across Fremont, Teller, and El Paso counties. Awarded funding will help this coalition finalize the Outdoor Pikes Peak Vision Plan including multiple decision support tools and ongoing community engagement efforts.

- Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition (\$125,000)

Blossoming from the collaborative foundation set by the Pagosa Area Trails Council, this new coalition will convene a larger and more diverse group of stakeholders with the shared goal of developing a sustainable outdoor recreation and conservation plan for Archuleta County and parts of Mineral and Hinsdale counties. This investment will enhance the coalition's capacity to effectively engage stakeholders, develop informed strategies, and ultimately realize its goals for sustainable recreation and natural resource conservation.

- Roaring Fork Outdoor Coalition (\$125,000)

As a cross-jurisdictional collaboration among government land managers, community members, and local organizations, this partnership continues to collaborate and establish priorities for outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation in the Roaring Fork Watershed. Additional funding will support community outreach efforts and public input as the group works towards finalizing a strategic plan for conservation and sustainable outdoor recreation.

- Southeast Colorado Recreation Outdoor Alliance Movement (\$75,000)

A new coalition across Otero, Bent, Baca, and Prowers counties intends to build common ground among diverse stakeholders around the intersection of agriculture, recreation, conservation, and economic vitality in the southeastern plains, led in partnership by the Southern Plains Land Trust and City of Rocky Ford. Funding will provide capacity building for community outreach, stakeholder engagement, and community outreach.

- West Slope Outdoors Alliance (\$250,000)

The West Slope Outdoors Alliance is a collaboration of individuals representing nonprofits, government entities, businesses, agriculture, ranching, and outdoor user groups who recognize the value of Montrose,

Delta, and Mesa counties' natural and recreation assets as drivers for economic stability, community wellness, and resiliency. Continued funding will directly support staffing needs to undergo data collection, community engagement, and project implementation meant to inform a regional recreation and conservation vision.

This grant opportunity resulted from a landmark Executive Order signed by Governor Polis creating the Outdoor Regional Partnerships Initiative with funding support from CPW and GOCO. Grant funding supports community collaboration to identify and advance locally driven solutions tailored to the unique conservation and recre-

ation management needs of regions across the state. Outdoor Regional Partnerships are the foundation of Colorado's Outdoors Strategy, a collaborative vision for conservation, outdoor recreation and climate resilience - and will provide data and tools to inform local decision making and advance coordinated strategies and funding.

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## Grand Valley Named Top 10 Wine Region

**CONTRIBUTED BROOMFIELD** — The Colorado Wine Industry continues to receive national recognition with the Grand Valley American Viticultural Area (AVA) named as one of the USA TODAY 10 Best Readers' Choice Top 10 Wine Regions in 2024. USA TODAY tasked a panel of travel and wine experts to select their top nominees from hundreds of wine-producing regions throughout the country. Readers then voted for their favorite regions.

According to USA TODAY 10Best, "With over two dozen wineries/vineyards calling Grand Valley AVA (American Viticultural Area) home, Colorado's wine country contains

more than 25% of the state's wineries. Growing grapes in this terrain isn't the easiest task, which makes for creative solutions and unique yields."

Not only does the Grand Valley have more than two dozen wineries, the vineyards in the Grand Valley produce more than 75% of the grapes for the state's 165 wine producers. Wineries from the Front Range to mountain towns utilize the fruits harvested in the Grand Valley.

"The Colorado wine industry is thrilled that USA TODAY readers have recognized the quality and the energy embodied in Colorado's Grand Valley AVA," said Kyle Schlachter, Executive Director of the Colorado Wine Indus-

try Development Board. "World-class wines that can only be grown on the terraces above the Colorado River make the Grand Valley truly one of the pre-eminent wine regions in the country for wine lovers to visit and explore."

The Colorado Wine Industry Development Board (CWIDB) is part of the Colorado Department of Agriculture. It is dedicated to promoting and furthering the development of Colorado's grape growers and vintners. The CWIDB supports the efforts of more than 165 wineries throughout the state, producing an increasing array of premium-quality wines.

For additional information, visit ColoradoWine.com.

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**SLV FEDERAL BANK** is now accepting applications for a **TELLER** in our **MONTE VISTA OFFICE**. Applications and position descriptions are available at [www.slvfed.bank](http://www.slvfed.bank) or at each branch location. Equal opportunity Employer, including considering individuals with Disabilities and Veterans/Affirmative Action Employer. (8/30/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**THE CITY OF ALAMOSA** is seeking an **EQUIPMENT OPERATOR** dedicated to maintaining and improving our community's infrastructure. This position is in the **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**. The ideal candidate is a skilled heavy equipment operator who will help keep our streets safe and functional for all residents. As a Streets Equipment Operator, you will be responsible for operating and maintaining a variety of heavy machinery used in road construction, repair, and maintenance. You will work on tasks such as paving, grading, and excavation, ensuring that all work is performed to the highest standards of quality and safety. Interested candidates can submit their application at [cityofalamosa.org](http://cityofalamosa.org) and attach their resume and a cover letter detailing their qualifications and experience. Starting pay FLSA Non-Exempt DOQ \$25.41 - \$26.68 per hour. Fringe benefits include CO PERA Retirement employer contribution 14.73% & employee contribution is 9.00%, 11.5 holidays per year, 2 personal days, 80 hours of sick leave and 80 hours of vacation leave per year. Employer paid life insurance, STD, LTD & AD&D, 75% of medical, vision, and dental premiums paid by the employer, Wellness Program, and discounted recreational memberships. Open until filled. (8/28/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**NOW HIRING** A full-time **MAINTENANCE** position at **CENTURY PROPERTY MANAGEMENT** and **SALES**. Please call Century Property Management at 719-589-5744. (9/10/24)

**THE CITY OF ALAMOSA POLICE DEPARTMENT** is seeking a full-time dedicated and experienced **PROGRAM MANAGER** to oversee our **CO-RESPONDER & LEAD PROGRAMS**. This vital position plays a key role in supporting the goals of improving public safety, reducing criminal behavior, and enhancing the quality of life for individuals participating in the program. Interested candidates can submit their application at [cityofalamosa.org](http://cityofalamosa.org) and attach their resume and a cover letter detailing their qualifications and experience. Starting pay FLSA Non-Exempt DOQ \$23.75 - \$24.94 per hour. Fringe benefits include CO PERA Retirement employer contribution 14.73% & employee contribution is 9.00%, 11.5 holidays per year, 2 personal days, 80 hours of sick leave and 80 hours of vacation leave per year. Employer paid life insurance, STD, LTD & AD&D, 75% of medical, vision, and dental premiums paid by the employer, Wellness Program, and discounted recreational memberships. Open until filled, with a first review on August 26th. (8/28/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**THE ALAMOSA POLICE DEPARTMENT** is seeking a full-time **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICIAN** to join their team as a **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CO-RESPONDER**. This position offers a unique opportunity to intervene and de-escalate crisis situations while providing essential mental health services to individuals in need. The successful candidate will work closely with law enforcement and community partners to assess, diagnose, and develop treatment plans for clients experiencing behavioral health crises. Interested candidates can submit their application at [cityofalamosa.org](http://cityofalamosa.org) and attach their resume and a cover letter detailing their qualifications and experience. Starting pay FLSA Exempt DOQ, non-certified \$64,750 - \$67,987, certified \$76,211 - \$80,021. Fringe benefits include CO PERA Retirement employer contribution 14.73% & employee contribution is 9.00%, 11.5 holidays per year, 2 personal days, 80 hours of sick leave and 80 hours of vacation leave per year. Employer paid life insurance, STD, LTD & AD&D, 75% of medical, vision, and dental premiums paid by the employer, Wellness Program, and discounted recreational memberships. Open until filled, with a first review on August 26th. (8/28/24)

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

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 Master Plumber, Plumbing Contractor  
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[dereksplumbing@outlook.com](mailto:dereksplumbing@outlook.com)  
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# Classifieds

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**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](mailto:gsanchez@urtigers.co) or contact him at 719-657-4020. (9/13/24)

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

**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](mailto:scruz@urtigers.co) (9/13/24)

**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](mailto:hr@lapuente.net). (8/28/24)

**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](mailto:mike@cccwater.org). Competitive pay at \$15 per hour and part-time positions available. (8/24/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**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](http://WolfCreekSki.com). Send resumes and applications to [wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com](mailto:wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.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)

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

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

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**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)

**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-a959c74f16ac2c01>. (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](mailto: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](http://www.urtigers.co). (8/28/24)

**221 - HELP WANTED**

**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](mailto:delnorte1860@outlook.com) or apply at [delnortecolorado.com](http://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)

**304 - LAWN & GARDEN**

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

**324 - SEED & FEED**

**NATIVE GRASS HAY** for sale. HORSE HAY in SMALL BALES and COW HAY available in 3x3 BALES. Contact Ed, if interested, leave a message (719) 852-3069. (9/18/24)

**HORSE & COW HAY:** GRASS, GRASS/ALFALFA, ALFALFA. 3x3 bales, various quality and pricing. 719-850-8917. (9/13/24-monthly)

**341 - GARAGE SALE**

**ESTATE SALE IN ALAMOSA:** Sat/Sun, 8/24 & 8/25, 8am-. Furniture, household, kitchen items, décor items, clothes, and lots more! East on Hwy. 160, left Pike Ave., left on 1st St., right on Murphy Dr., #712. Rain or shine! (8/24/24)

**350 - FARM EQUIPMENT**

**KRAMER SINGLE 8 row ROUND BALE RETRIEVER.** 719-588-0168. (9/21/24)

**NEW HOLLAND 688 ROUND BALER.** \$8,000. 719-588-0168. (9/21/24)

**360 - MISC. FOR SALE**

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

**368 - PETS & SUPPLIES**

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

**401 - BUSINESS PROPERTIES**

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[www.alamosarentals.com](http://www.alamosarentals.com)

**426 - MOBILE HOMES FORSALE**

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

**525 - GUNS**

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

**601 - APARTMENTS FOR RENT**

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 & 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 & 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 & employer.

**606 - BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR RENT**

**COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT:** at 1016 West Ave., ALAMOSA. Call Mike (719)850-1961. (9/6/24)

**611 - HOMES FOR RENT**

**2 STORY HISTORIC RENOVATED 4 BEDROOM, 2.5 BATH.** Appliances furnished. Deck, shop, garage, large fenced in backyard. Excellent neighborhood; 416 2nd Ave., MONTE VISTA. \$1975/month, plus utilities. Yearly lease; available now. Contact 719-852-5101 or 719-852-5350. (9/24/24)



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# Comics

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### NEA Crossword Puzzle

#### ACROSS

- 1 "—! Humbug!"
- 4 Buss
- 8 Swelled head
- 11 Pie — mode
- 12 Patient's complaint
- 13 Charts
- 15 Tear
- 16 At hand
- 17 Sad
- 18 Recordings
- 20 Most boring
- 22 Taylor Swift's "The — Tour"
- 24 One of the Stooges
- 25 Thesaurus word
- 28 Yellow-orange
- 32 "Family Guy" wife
- 33 "The Matrix" hero
- 35 Mine's yield
- 36 Samovar
- 37 Beanie or beret

#### 38 Black Friday event

- 39 Philbin of TV
- 42 Enticed
- 44 Damage
- 46 Olympian — Lyles
- 47 Part of a rare birth
- 51 Haughty
- 54 Painful
- 55 Send
- 57 "Born in the —"
- 58 Walk with effort
- 59 Yarn
- 60 Capitol VIP
- 61 Opposite of WSW
- 62 River deposit
- 63 Sooner than

#### DOWN

- 1 "The Simpsons" brother
- 2 Inter —
- 3 Event
- 4 Topeka denizen
- 5 Frozen water

#### Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

- 6 Herring cousin
- 7 Antitoxin
- 8 Logo
- 9 Strong wind
- 10 Magnum —
- 14 Become more solid
- 19 Cupid counter-part
- 21 Mauna —
- 23 Match sound to video
- 25 Aspersion
- 26 Antiquity
- 27 Butcher's stock
- 29 Shed for watercraft
- 30 — Stanley Gardner
- 31 Marsh plant
- 34 Candid
- 38 Mast
- 40 Hinder
- 41 — ammoniac
- 43 Young child
- 45 Naps
- 47 Recipe qty.
- 48 Function
- 49 Club
- 50 Bangkok native
- 52 Consumer
- 53 Copenhagen native
- 56 Indisposed

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
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## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

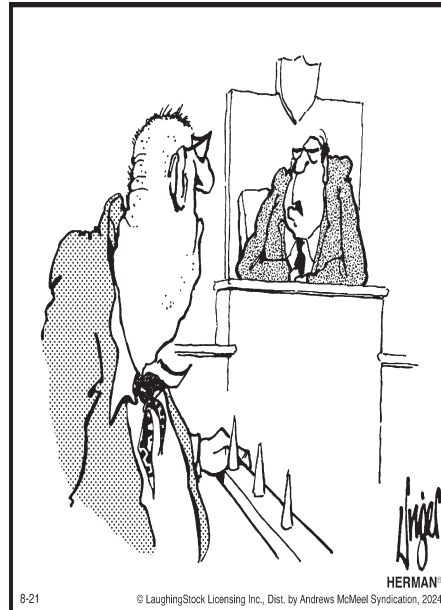
3									
7	1			4	6				5
			7	3				9	
5	7	2		6				8	
	8		9	4				7	
	6		7		3	5	1		
	2		9	7					
8			4	2				6	3
									7

#### PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

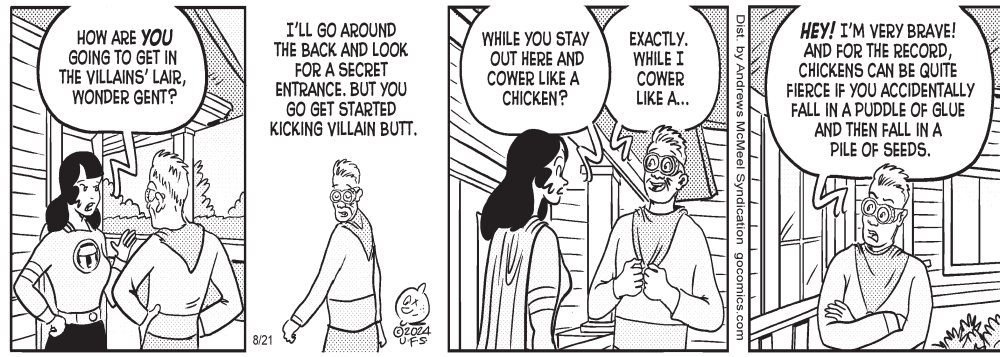
**HOW TO PLAY:** Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

## HERMAN

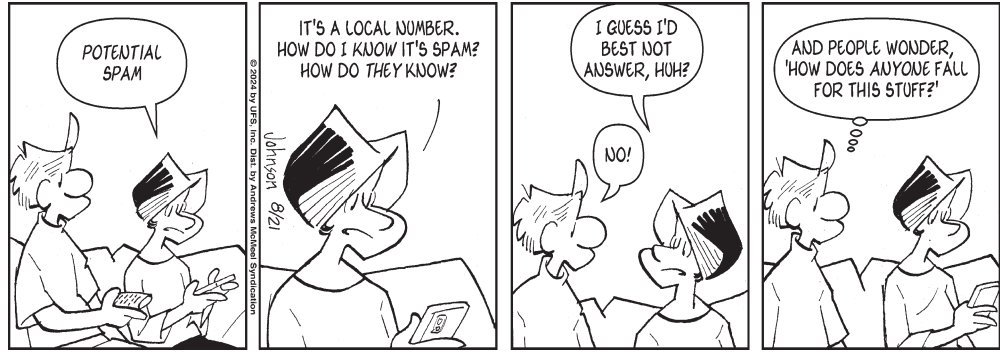


"What exactly do you mean by 'Let's you and me settle this outside in the alley!'"

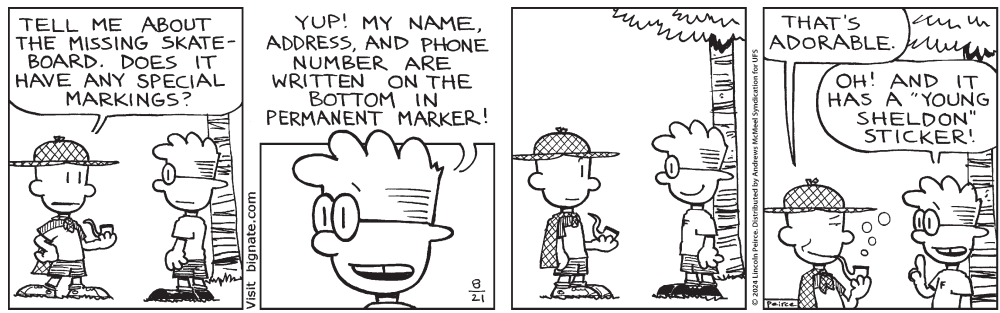
## ALLEY OOP



## ARLO & JANIS



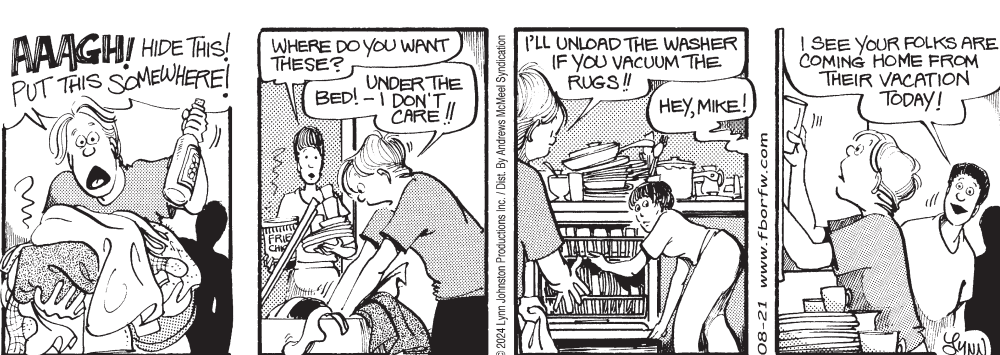
## BIG NATE



## THE BORN LOSER



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



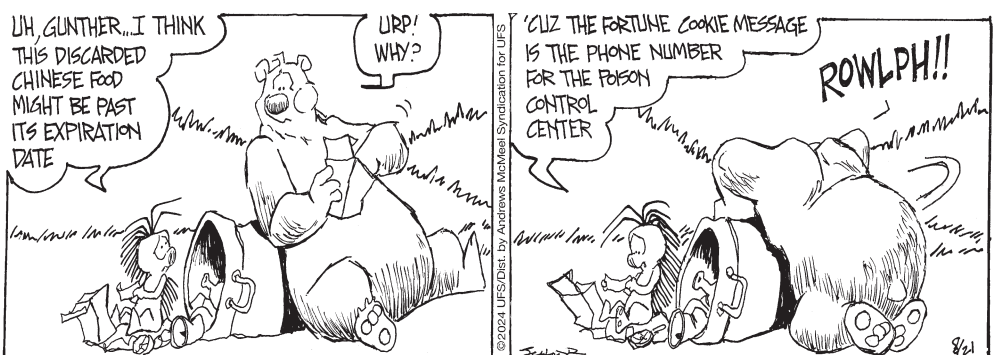
## FRANK & ERNEST



## GARFIELD



## THE GRIZZWELLS



## PEANUTS



# Snooping boyfriend unhappy about what he's discovered

DEAR ABBY: I'm a single man, and have been for 15 years. A year ago, I met a guy, "Josh," and we fell in love. He lived 240 miles away. A month ago, he transferred his job to my city and moved in with me. (I supported this 100%). I had sown my wild oats long before he moved in.

Everything was going great until recently. Josh logged into my computer and saw all my emails and text messages, some of which were as recent as a week ago. I have been updating old flings that I'm no longer on the market, but in one particular text, I didn't give such information. Instead, I simply didn't respond.

Later that day, Josh confronted me and began to cry. He said I hurt him, and he doesn't know how to trust me again. Abby, I love Josh with all my heart, and I'm trying to weed out old "flings" as they come in, but as I mentioned, I've been single for 15 years and it will take time.

Since this happened, I have deleted a lot of text messages and updated my social media to "in a relationship," but I'm still unsure how Josh feels. Was he right to go through my emails and text messages? I have since changed my password, but I need advice. What should I do or say to him to make him feel con-

fident in our relationship? I don't want to lose him. -- FORMER BACHELOR IN TEXAS

DEAR FORMER BACHELOR: The questions I have to ask you are: Why did Josh go into your computer, and why did he feel it was necessary to snoop through your texts and emails? How much do you know about his personal history, and did he have trust issues that started before you met? Tell Josh you would like the two of you to get couples counseling from a LGBTQ community center, if he will agree. If he does, it may save your relationship.

DEAR ABBY: My sister and I have been estranged for eight years. She had an "unusual" relationship with my ex-husband, meaning they moved in together three days after I left him. My entire family insists there's nothing between them. She blames me, and even though I have reached out, she has never responded. She tells people all kinds of awful things about me and blames me for not knowing her girls. How can I know them if I can't see them or meet them? I send gifts in the mail, but I'm somehow the "monster"? Help, please. -- HURT IN MARYLAND

DEAR HURT: You wouldn't have left your husband if the marriage



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

had been hunky-dory. That your sister took him in with no romantic involvement is suspicious. (Does your family also believe in the tooth fairy?) Surely your ex or your sister would have liked a romantic relationship with someone, if not each other.

Of this, I am certain: You cannot control what someone says about you. But you CAN control how you react. Stop listening to gossip your sister spreads, and be suspicious of anyone who insists on telling you about it. Do not expect to have a relationship with her or her daughters, because it isn't likely to happen. Just put one foot in front of the other, go on with your life and spend as little time as possible looking backward.



# Lifestyle

## Show and shine at Chapman Park



Photos by Marie Mccolm

Classic cars and show bicycles filled Chapman Park on Saturday, Aug. 17, for the Poor Boys Car Show during the SoCo Suds and Sounds in Monte Vista.

## Kroger sues FTC in attempt to block in-house review of proposed Albertsons merger

By **LINDSEY TOOMER**

Colorado Newsline

Grocery giant Kroger filed a federal lawsuit Monday claiming the Federal Trade Commission violated the company's constitutional rights by challenging its proposed merger with Albertsons outside of federal court proceedings.

Kroger, which operates King Soopers and City Market stores in Colorado, first announced its plans to acquire Albertsons, which operates the Safeway brand, in 2022. The \$24.6 billion deal, one of the largest retail mergers ever proposed, has been opposed by labor unions and consumer advocates who fear that the consolidation could lead to higher prices and decreased wages and bargaining power for workers.

Kroger's lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, looks to stop FTC administrative proceedings challenging the merger so that it would only be reviewed in federal court. When the FTC challenges a merger or acquisition, it typically seeks a preliminary injunction in federal court, as it is with Kroger Albertsons, and tries the case through its in-house court before an administrative law judge.

"We stand prepared to defend this merger in the upcoming trial in federal court — the appropriate venue for this matter to be heard — and we are asking the Court to halt what amounts to an unlaw-

ful proceeding before the FTC's own in-house tribunal," Rodney McMullen, Kroger Chairman and CEO, said in a statement.

The FTC filed a law-

suit to block the merger in February, as did Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser and Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson. A Denver district court

judge granted Weiser's request for a preliminary injunction in July, barring the companies from completing the merger before a ruling is announced.

The Colorado trial is expected to start in the fall, and the federal court trial is set to start on Aug. 26 in the U.S. District Court of Oregon.

Kroger, based in Ohio, operates more than 2,700 stores and Albertsons, based in Idaho, operates more than 2,200 stores across the country.

**Kids' Corner**

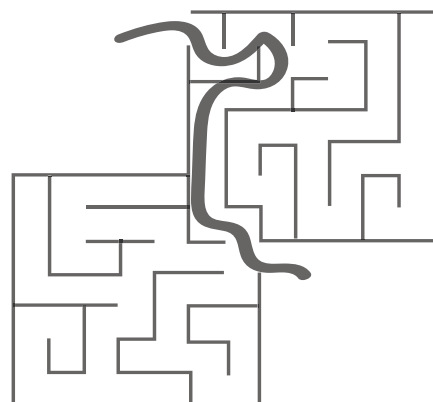
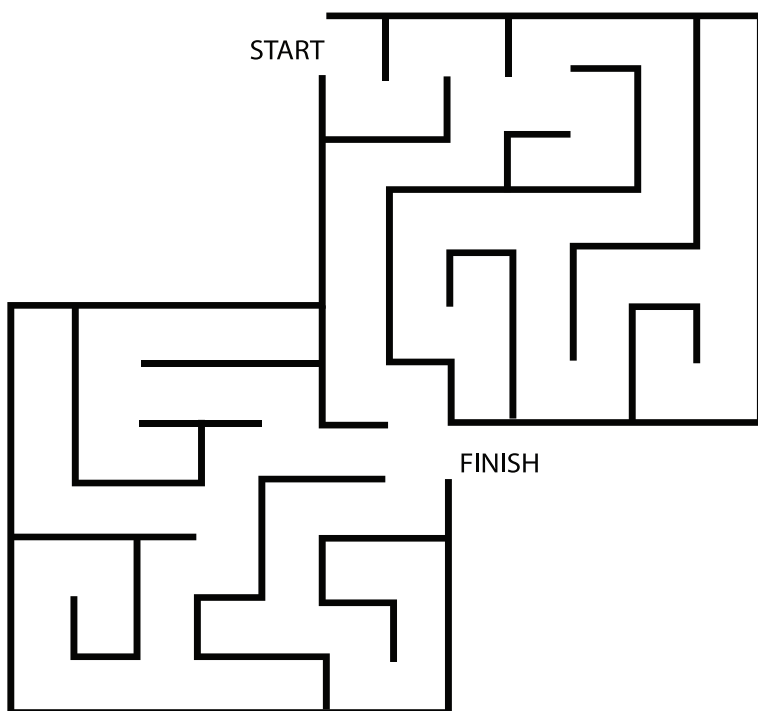
**WORLD FACT!**

MODERN-DAY GOLF ORIGINATED IN THIS COUNTRY.

ANSWER: SCOTLAND

### Maze Craze

Can you find your way through the center of the maze?



### THIS DAY IN...



### HISTORY

- **1609:** HENRY HUDSON DISCOVERS DELAWARE BAY.
- **1916:** DURING WORLD WAR I, ITALY DECLARES WAR ON GERMANY.
- **1993:** NASA'S GALILEO PROBE PERFORMS A FLYBY OF THE ASTEROID 243 IDA. USING PHOTOS TAKEN DURING THE FLYBY, ASTRONOMERS LATER DISCOVER A MOON AND NAME IT "DACTYL."

### New Word

### BIRDIE

a score of one stroke less than the declared par of any hole

### How they SAY that in...

**ENGLISH:** Sport

**SPANISH:** Deporte

**ITALIAN:** Sport

**FRENCH:** Sport

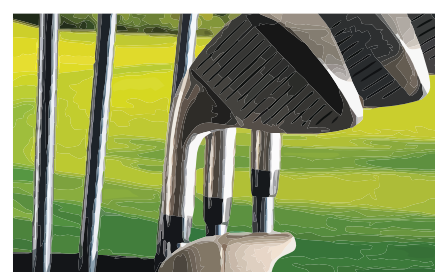
**GERMAN:** Sport

### Did You Know?

THERE IS A 12,500-TO-1 CHANCE OF MAKING A HOLE-IN-ONE ON THE GOLF COURSE.



### GET THE PICTURE?

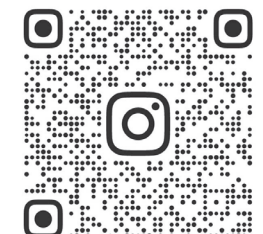


Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: GOLF CLUBS



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