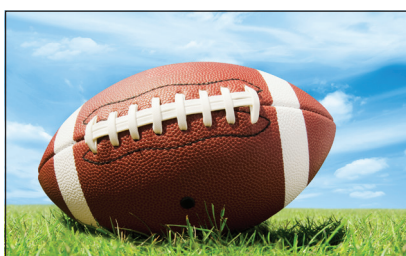




RGC Museum Board donates to Faith Hinkley Memorial

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2024 SLV football schedules

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Valley Courier

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

August 24, 2024

\$1

SLV Today

Alamosa Riverfront Project meeting

ALAMOSA — The Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project will host a public meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 27, at 6 p.m. to discuss the recreation plan for the Rio Grande along Cole Park in Alamosa. The meeting will be at the Shooting Stars Cultural and Leadership Center, 807 Ross Ave., Alamosa.

Kit Carson name change meeting on Monday

DENVER —The Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board will meet on Monday, Aug. 26, at 5 p.m., to discuss the proposed name change of 14,167-foot Kit Carson Peak in Saguache County.

The Zoom link to the meeting is: <https://dnr.colorado.gov/colorado-geographic-naming-advisory-board>.

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.

SLV WEATHER

Slight Chance of Showers, Breezy 80/48

Sun: Slight Chance of Showers, Breezy 75/49

Mon: Chance of Afternoon Showers 75/47

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Felix trial delayed once more

Judge Newmyer-Olsen: 'Next time, a plea or resolution in the case'

By PRISCILLA WAGGONER
Courier reporter

ALAMOSA — Mari Felix appeared in court earlier this week for yet another hearing in con-

nection with the charge of accessory to a crime, a class 5 felony related to the alleged sexual abuse of a child by her husband, Martin Felix-Lopez.

In mid-July, the last time Felix was in court, it was hoped that Wednesday's hearing would determine if the case was going to trial or a resolution had been reached but, in at that time, Felix's attorney, Michael Martin, explained that the district attorney's office "has brought in an

attorney to handle specifically these kinds of cases."

Martin was referring to the recent hiring of Assistant District Attorney Wesley Stafford.

He added, "I believe that this will facilitate a probable resolution."

Stafford, who was in court Wednesday with Martin appearing via Webex, told the court he had not yet had time to review the case.

■ See FELIX page 3



Mari Felix

Storm drain art shines



Courier photos by John Waters

Earlier this week, on Aug. 19, at the intersection of State Avenue and 11th Street in Alamosa, artists Casey McCoy and Nora McBride were busy painting street art at the storm drains. The artwork is now complete and includes messages that whatever enters the infrastructure flows into the Rio Grande.

An evening with Pam Houston at Society Hall



Pam Houston

CONTRIBUTED

ALAMOSA —On Tuesday, Aug. 27, at 6 p.m., join the Narrow Gauge Book Cooperative, in partnership with Society Hall, in welcoming Pam Houston for a special pre-release of her latest book, "Without Exception: Reclaiming Abortion, Personhood, and Freedom."

Houston will be at Society Hall, 400 Ross Ave., for the pre-release event. The book officially hits

the shelves on Sept. 3, but attendees of this event will have the opportunity to take their copy home a week early.

In her latest book, Houston tells the story of how her personal and professional life was powered by access to abortion. Alongside her own account, Houston examines the legal history of abortion and shines a bright light on the impact of reproductive rights on all

American women during the days of Roe v. Wade. The book has already received remarkable praise, such as the following:

"Pam Houston has written a deeply personal, taboo-busting collection of micro-essays illustrating the hypocrisies and shell game of abortion. Houston argues that abortion is a basic health right, motherhood is a choice, and we need to fight like hell for the freedom to

make these decisions." — Julie Buckles, *Honest Dog Books*

"Pam Houston writes about difficult and beautiful things with a kind of precision and lyricism that few writers can achieve. She has written an important book, a powerful book, one that challenges the way we think about choices and compassion and resilience. Pam Houston

■ See HOUSTON page 3

Great Sand Dunes in the almost off-season

By JOHN WATERS
Courier News Editor

GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

— As summer comes to a close, this is a perfect time to visit Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. The peak visitation season has ended, although Labor Day weekend will be hectic. You should always enter the park early to avoid delays at the entrance. It is a sublime experience to enjoy the solitude and tranquility of the park in the morning.

This has been a wet summer, with year-to-date rainfall in the park at the end of July at 11.38 inches compared with the annual average for the en-

tire year of 11.22 inches, as recorded by the National Weather Service. The park has received plenty of additional rainfall so far this month.

The late season wildflowers are still in bloom and can be found throughout the park at lower elevations. On Wednesday, Aug. 21, this reporter found a riot of wildflower colors along the Mosca Pass Trail. The trail is a great way to experience the forests of the park and is a moderate seven-mile hike. Scarlet paintbrush, Aspen daisy and hairy golden aster were blooming along the trail.

The following is a list of the great Ranger-led programs offered through

■ See DUNES page 3



Photo Patrick Myers NPS

On Saturday, Aug. 31, Great Sand Dunes welcomes Shawn Price and the Dineh Tah' Navajo Dancers for two special programs. These programs are free, but regular park entrance fees are in effect. At 3 p.m., there will be a 45-minute talk in the Visitor Center Auditorium about the profound significance of tribal treaties. The dancers will perform at 6:30 p.m. in the park's outdoor amphitheater.



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Record

CPW reminds people to remain bear aware this fall as bears become more active

CONTRIBUTED

DENVER — Black bears in Colorado are entering hyperphagia and will spend up to 20 hours a day trying to search out and eat as much food as possible as they fatten up for winter. In the coming months, it is critical that people are vigilant and proactive in removing all attractants from outside homes and campsites in order to prevent conflicts and encounters with black bears.

Twenty chicken sandwiches, 10 large orders of French fries, 10 soft drinks and 10 milkshakes is the approximate fast-food order needed to total 20,000 calories. That is how many calories hyperphagia, an increase in feeding activity driven by biological need, drives a hungry black bear to consume every single day as they pack on the pounds to build up their fat reserves to survive the winter.

Over half of bear incident reports in 2023 occurred in the months of August, September and October. And as bears begin this annual quest to prepare for winter and hunt for food, Coloradans may see more bear activity in urban areas.

Reported conflicts with bears most commonly result from attractants such as trash, bird seed, pet food, and barbecue grills. When bears become too comfortable around people, they can destroy property or even become a threat to human safety.

“Research shows that bears prefer natural sources of food. But they will seek out sources of human-provided food if it’s available which can become dangerous to humans,” said CPW Northwest Region Senior Wildlife Biologist

Brad Banulis. “Preventing bears from relying on human food sources takes a community effort, and it’s important that we all take proactive steps to limit human food sources in order to avoid any possible conflicts with bears and bear-proof our homes.”

A black bear’s natural diet consists of berries, fruits, nuts, plants and grasses that grow naturally in the foothills and forests. When natural sources of food become scarce, a bear’s drive to search for food can overcome its fear of humans.

Become Bear Aware

CPW offers a reminder that by taking some simple precautions, you can avoid human/wildlife conflicts and help to keep bears wild. CPW encourages you to share Bear Aware information with your neighbors and communities.

Bear-proofing your home:

- Keep garbage in a well-secured location. Only put out garbage on the morning of pickup.
- Clean garbage cans regularly to keep them free of food odors: ammonia is effective.
- Keep garage doors closed. Do not leave pet food or stock feed outside.
- Use a bear-resistant trash can or dumpster.
- Bird feeders are a major source of bear/human conflicts. Attract birds naturally with flowers and water baths. Do not hang bird feeders from April 15 to Nov. 15.
- Don’t allow bears to become comfortable around your house. If you see one, haze it by yelling at it, throwing things at it and making loud noises to scare it off.
- Secure compost piles. Bears are attracted to the scent of rotting food.
- Clean the grill after each use, and clean up



Courtesy photo

CPW reminds people to be vigilant and proactive in removing all bear attractants from outside homes and campsites as bears search out food to prepare for the winter.

thoroughly after cook-outs.

- If you have fruit trees, don’t allow the fruit to rot on the ground.
- Talk to your neighbors and kids about being Bear Aware.
- **Cars, traveling and campsites:**
 - Lock your doors when you’re away from home and at night.
 - Keep the bottom-floor windows of your house closed when you’re not at home.
 - Do not keep food in your vehicle; roll up windows and lock the doors of your vehicles.
 - When car-camping, secure all food and coolers in a locked vehicle.
 - Keep a clean camp, whether you’re in a campground or in the backcountry.
 - When camping in the backcountry, hang food 100 feet or more from the campsite; don’t bring any food into your tent.
 - Cook food well away

from your tent; wash dishes thoroughly.

Protecting your chickens, bees, livestock:

- Keep chickens, bees and livestock in a fully covered enclosure, especially at night.
- Construct electric fencing when possible.
- Don’t store livestock feed outside.

Keep enclosures clean to minimize animal odors.

• Hang rags soaked in ammonia and/or Pine-Sol around the enclosure as a scent deterrent.

CPW asks all residents and visitors to help save Colorado’s bears by being actively bear aware throughout the late summer and fall seasons.

Bear conflicts and, unfortunately, bear euthanization is most often traced back to human behavior. It is all of our responsibility to help minimize risks to humans and bears alike by being mindful of our impacts.

For more information on bears in Colorado, visit cpw.state.co.us/living-bears.

714 tickets handed out during the July seat belt enforcement period

CONTRIBUTED

As the summer draws to an end, more Coloradans are taking action to buckle up and stay safe on the roads. With the help of the Colorado State Patrol and 53 partnering law agencies, the Colorado Department of Transportation continues to raise awareness of the important role seat belts play in reducing traffic fatalities.

From July 22 through Aug. 2, CDOT supported the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) and other law enforcement agencies to ensure that travelers were securely fastened in their vehicles. This was part of the July Wave Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement campaign involving 53 law enforcement agencies across the state. During the enforcement period, 714 drivers were cited for not wearing a seat belt, with 60 tickets issued specifically to motorists who had improperly restrained children in their vehicle.

During the three seat belt enforcement periods since April, a total of 3,911 citations have been issued to drivers in Colorado.

Driving without a seat belt can be deadly. In 2023, Colorado recorded 216 deaths from crashes involving unrestrained passengers. There have been 17 unbuckled fatalities in Weld County this year, along with 13 in Adams County and 11 in El Paso County. These are the counties in Colorado with the highest number of unbuckled fatalities so far in 2024.

“Seat belt use falls when people are in slower speed zones and residential areas. But it’s crucial to prioritize safety

regardless of the speed limit,” said CDOT’s Office of Transportation Safety Director Darrell Lingk. “Seat belts are designed to safeguard passengers and can considerably reduce the chance of serious injury or death in a crash.”

Seat belt usage is improving in Colorado. The state currently has an 89% seat belt use rate — only slightly behind the national average of nearly 92%. Notably, the counties in Colorado with the lowest seat belt usage rates include Jefferson, Pueblo, El Paso, Logan and Morgan. Wearing a seat belt doesn’t just increase the likelihood of survival in the event of a crash — it’s the law.

“Despite ongoing awareness and enforcement efforts, a significant number of Coloradans continue to neglect regular seat belt use,” said Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “Misconceptions persist that bigger vehicles provide more protection and seat belts aren’t needed for short distances. We want drivers to know that wearing a seat belt remains the most effective defense in vehicle crashes at any rate of speed and in all vehicle types.”

Colorado law mandates that both the driver and passengers in a motor vehicle must wear a seat belt whenever the vehicle is in motion. Drivers who fail to comply with the law face a fine starting at \$65 for drivers, whereas parents or caregivers found with improperly restrained children can be fined up to \$82.

For more information on seat belt safety and the Click It or Ticket cam-

aign, visit the CDOT seat belt safety webpage.

Colorado’s Seat Belt Laws

• **Adults** — Colorado has a secondary enforcement law for adult drivers and front-seat passengers. Drivers can be ticketed for violating the seat belt law if they are stopped for another traffic violation.

• **Teens** — Colorado’s Graduated Drivers Licensing (GDL) law requires all drivers under 18 and their passengers, regardless of their age, to wear seat belts. This is a primary enforcement, meaning teens can be pulled over simply for not wearing a seat belt or having passengers without seat belts.

• **Children** — Colorado’s Child Passenger Safety law is a primary enforcement, meaning the driver can be stopped and ticketed if an officer sees an unrestrained or improperly restrained child under age 16 in the vehicle.

OBITUARY

Barbara Louise Radich

Barbara Louise Radich, a beacon of kindness and selflessness, graced this world with her presence on June 9, 1950, in the small town of La Jara, Colorado. Her journey on earth came to a peaceful close on Aug. 20, 2024, at the Rio Grande Inn Nursing Home, also in La Jara, where she was surrounded by the comforting embrace of her hometown, and at the age of 74.

Barbara’s life was a testament to the power of service and the joy of giving. For over two decades, she dedicated her professional life to Mutual of Omaha in Colorado Springs, where her commitment and hard work shone brightly. Her industrious spirit led her to embrace a second job at the Dog and Horse Race Track in Colorado Springs, where she was



equally admired for her work ethic and warm personality.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Barbara’s passions painted a picture of a woman deeply connected to the earth and its cultures. She immersed herself in the beauty of Native American culture, finding joy and inspiration in its rich traditions and history. Her love for flower gardening allowed her to cultivate not just plants but also beauty and life

in her community, while her time spent reflected her appreciation for the world’s natural wonders.

Barbara’s legacy is carried forward by her loving siblings, Peg Hoff Corrigan of Pueblo, Jim (Becky) Vannoy, and Pat (Marilee) Vannoy of Sanford, all from Colorado. Her spirit lives on through the laughter and memories shared with her nieces, nephews, and the extended family and friends who were blessed to know her.

Barbara was cremated and at her request, private services will be held.

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

PENDING OBITUARY

Shirley Sierra

Center resident Shirley Sierra was called home Aug. 22, 2024. Arrangements are pending and will be announced through Romero Funeral Home of Alamosa.

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Benito Tony Quintana

Benito Tony Quintana passed away Aug. 16, 2024. Burial of his ashes will be Saturday Sept. 21, 2024, at the La Jara Cemetery at 1 p.m. Friends and Family are welcome to attend.

School Menu Monday August 26, 2024

BREAKFAST

Cereal Bar/Graham Crackers
Fruit & Milk

ELEMENTARY

Corn Dog Bites
Tater Tots
Veggie Cups
Fruit & Milk

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Corn Dog Bites
Tater Tots
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

HIGH SCHOOL

Corn Dog Bites
Tater Tots
Veggie Bar
Fruit & Milk

Breakfast & Lunch Free for all students

Alamosa School District

To sponsor the School Menu call 589-2553

Valley News

Adelante distributes school supplies to over 1,300 students

Seven different sites were located across the valley

By LA PUENTE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICE

ALAMOSA — In preparation for the school year, Adelante Family Resource Center, a program of La Puente, organized a School Supply Distribution where they distributed over 15,000 school items (not including pens and pencils) to 1,356 preK-12th grade students across seven school districts in the Valley.

To pull off this huge endeavor, Adelante partnered with American Legion 142, Bill Metz Elementary Monte Vista, City of Monte Vista, South Conejos School District, Moffat School District, Blanca Ft. Garland Rec Center, Sangre de Cristo School District, and Crestone Charter School.

“My goal for this event was not only to distribute school supplies but to provide students with the tools they need to



Photos courtesy of La Puente

Caroline Burkhardt, an employee of La Puente, helps a young student select items at Adelante’s School Supply Distribution.

succeed,” said Tara Bay, Director of Adelante Family Resource Center.

While La Puente has hosted successful backpack drives in previous years, it became apparent that the number of items students truly needed to thrive in the classroom exceeded what was provided. There were also issues with accessibility given the geographic size of the Valley is so large.

In revamping the event, Adelante — with the help of SLV Community Solutions — contacted local schools, iden-

tified which districts had families with the most need, consulted schools’ supplies lists, and ordered supplies that specifically met grade requirements.

Going one step further, providing several distribution sites across the Valley enabled more families to take advantage of this opportunity. People traveled to Antonito, San Luis, Mosca, Fort Garland, Monte Vista, Crestone, and Moffat to participate. Students chose their own grade-specific supplies, resulting in some students who

left with a backpack full of everything pink, from pencil sharpeners to scissors to notebooks.

A family with 6 school-aged children praised the event saying, “This is a great program that’s supporting the community. We really appreciate it!”

According to a May CBS poll of 1,200 U.S. based parents of school-aged children, parents planned to spend an average of \$586 per child on school items in 2024. According to data from the University of Colorado Denver School of Public



Line outside of Bill Metz Elementary School for the local School Supplies Distribution. Monte Vista was one of seven districts served.

Affairs, the San Luis Valley is one of the poorest rural areas in the state, with a poverty rate estimated at around 21.4%. Adelante saw the need of the community and felt they had the resources to meet that need. Based on the reviews from attendees, Adelante got an A plus.

Adelante Family Resource Center is a program of La Puente that promotes the empowerment and stabilization of families. Adelante-supported families are offered individualized assistance to navigate resources and reach their goals. Services

include assistance with housing, case management, referrals, improved access to counseling, and family advocacy.

Through supporting families as they seek to improve their quality of life and achieve healthy interdependence, Adelante seeks to be a resource center for all families who wish to flourish, especially those who need a bit of extra support to make their dreams a reality.

To learn more about Adelante Family Resource, visit lapuente-home.org/adelante or call 719-587-0538.

Dunes

Continued from Page 1
Aug. 29. The programs are free and a great way to learn about “our” national park.

Saturday, Aug. 24
• 10 a.m. Guided Hike: Tale of the Plants and Trees. The stories that the plants and rocks hold have immersive stories that relate resilience of the forest to everyday life. Step in the past and see how Native American people were able to survive here using medicinal plants and herbs. The hike is ½ mile (0.8 km). Please have closed-toe shoes, water, and insect repellent. Sign up in advance at the visitor center or call 719-378-6395. Meet at Montville Trailhead. 1 hour.

• 1:30 p.m. Touch Table. Discover fascinating hands-on objects found in Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. Visitor Center, 30 minutes.

• 8:45 p.m. Evening Ranger Program: Cosmic Connections. The world is full of different people who have their own stories to tell. Join a ranger in understanding what other cultures see in the stars. Amphitheater, 35-minute program with a 15-minute constellation tour, conditions permitting.

Sunday, Aug. 25
• 1:30 p.m. Ranger



Courier photo by John Waters

Clusters of yellow prairie sunflowers bloom with Mount Herard in the background.

Program: The Rings of History. Trees are the longest living organism in the park and are great storytellers of history. Come learn how to tell their stories and create your own. Visitor center, 15 minutes.

• 8:30 p.m. Evening Ranger Program: Eye Shine. At night, nocturnal animals’ eyes reflect even small amounts of light. This phenomenon gives us insights into the lives of these creatures. Amphitheater, 30-minute program with 15-minute constellation tour, conditions permitting.

Monday, Aug. 26
• 1:30 p.m. Ranger Program: Ecosystem Explo-

ration. Come learn about the many diverse ecosystems found within Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, as well as the unique wildlife that inhabits them! Visitor Center, 15-30 minutes.

Tuesday, Aug. 27

• 1:30 p.m. Ranger Program: The Singing Sands. The Great Sand Dunes are a symphony of geological and animal sounds. Discover how the Great Sand Dunes were formed while making the wild sounds found in the park. Fun for all ages! Visitor Center, 15 minutes.

Wednesday, Aug. 28

• 1:30 p.m. Ranger Pro-

gram: Ancient Paths: The Earliest Peoples at Great Sand Dunes. Rare evidence of the first cultures at Great Sand Dunes gives us glimpses into their perseverance, ingenuity, relationships, and creativity. Touch ancient artifacts and throw a spear with an atlatl. Visitor center back patio, 30 minutes.

Thursday, Aug. 29

• 1:30 p.m. Ranger Program: Pika Power. Living in alpine tundra is extreme, but pikas have proven to be the ultimate survivors. Join a ranger to learn about their adaptations and the new challenges they face. Visitor Center, 15 minutes.

Houston

Continued from Page 1
continues to amaze me! She is one of our best writers working today.” — Brandon Hobson, The Removed

“We’re honored to have Houston with us for this pre-release event, and appreciative of the sponsorship of Society Hall to help us make this event a reality. We’re also greatly appreciative of Rio de la Vista and her help in connecting us to Houston for this special event,” organizers stated.

Houston is the author of “Deep Creek: Finding Hope In The High Country,” “Cowboys Are My Weakness,” and “Air Mail.” Houston teaches in the Creative Writing MFA program at the Institute of American Indian Arts, is a Professor of English at UC Davis, and co-founder and creative director of the literary nonprofit Writing By Writers.

Visit narrowgauge-books.com/events and reserve a free ticket at the EventBrite link. For more information, call 719-589-3464.

Felix

Continued from Page 1

District Judge Crista Newmyer-Olsen agreed to postpone the hearing “one more time”, setting the next court date for Sept. 3 at 3:30 p.m. She also made it clear that she expected at that time for “Ms. Felix to either enter a plea of not guilty or for both parties to have reached a resolution in the case.”

In mid-December of 2022, Mari Felix was taken into custody after one of her children reported to a school counsellor a history of sexual abuse by Martin Felix-Lopez, Felix’s husband.

At that time, Felix was charged with four felonies for alleged complicity

in sexual assault on a child and child abuse. However, in early January of 2023, District Attorney Anne Kelly reduced Felix’s charges to a single count of accessory to a crime, a class five felony.

When asked to comment on the reduction in charges, DA Kelly declined, stating the case was currently in litigation which prohibits her from discussing any details.

Mari Felix has been Alamosa County Clerk and Recorder since July of 2022 when she was appointed to the position following the resignation of her predecessor, Nicole Jaramillo. Just a few months later, Felix, who ran unopposed, was elected to office.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

SUNDAY • 25

MONDAY • 26

TUESDAY • 27

WEDNESDAY • 28

THURSDAY • 29

FRIDAY • 30

SATURDAY • 31

M Soccer vs Eastern Arizona College 2 p.m. Soccer Field

Wellness Wednesdays: substance use education/prevention, free Narcan, STI/HCV education/testing, immunization information 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Student Health & Wellness Resource Center, located in the SUB

SLV’s Got Talent Show Registration Deadline: mramirez@adams.edu

W Soccer vs Colorado State University Pueblo 1 p.m. Soccer Field

Through September 20, 2024

Cloyde Snook Gallery: Floor Saga: Photographic documentation of a 350-hour performance
The Church Project Community Art Center

Hatfield Gallery: New Works by Matt Capell and Nora McBride

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www.adams.edu

Opinion

A major adventure up Major Creek by a retired major

By **RICHARD L. TROTTER**
U.S. Forest Service, Saguache Ranger District

My plan today was to go check out the Major Creek trail in the northern Sangre de Cristo range. Earlier in the week, the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety let our office know that they would be installing safety exclosures to abandoned mines along the trail. The exclosures keep people out of the dangerous mines and allow cave dwelling creatures, such as bats, to access the old shafts. I thought this would be a great opportunity to see how this operation works and would be a useful (and fun) thing to do on my rare day away from the desk.

Unfortunately, my day started out with the usual problems associated with an office in the far reaches of the National Forests. The office printer failed needing some impromptu maintenance. A weeklong preparation for horsemanship training came to a quick end when one of our new mules took ill and had to be transported to the veterinarian. (She is fine BTW). And numerous administrative details had to be taken care of before I could finally jump in a truck and head out into the woods.

Now finally at the trailhead, I grabbed a small pack with some water and headed out. The well-groomed trail climbs a short hill and then drops down to Major Creek drainage via a series of switchbacks. As I crested the hill and started the zig-zag route to the creek, I met three members of the reclamation crew as they made their way back to the trailhead. My morning delay at the office caused me to miss the exclosure installation, but we had a very nice discussion about the project and they gave me directions to the site. After the short visit in the shade, we headed our separate ways.

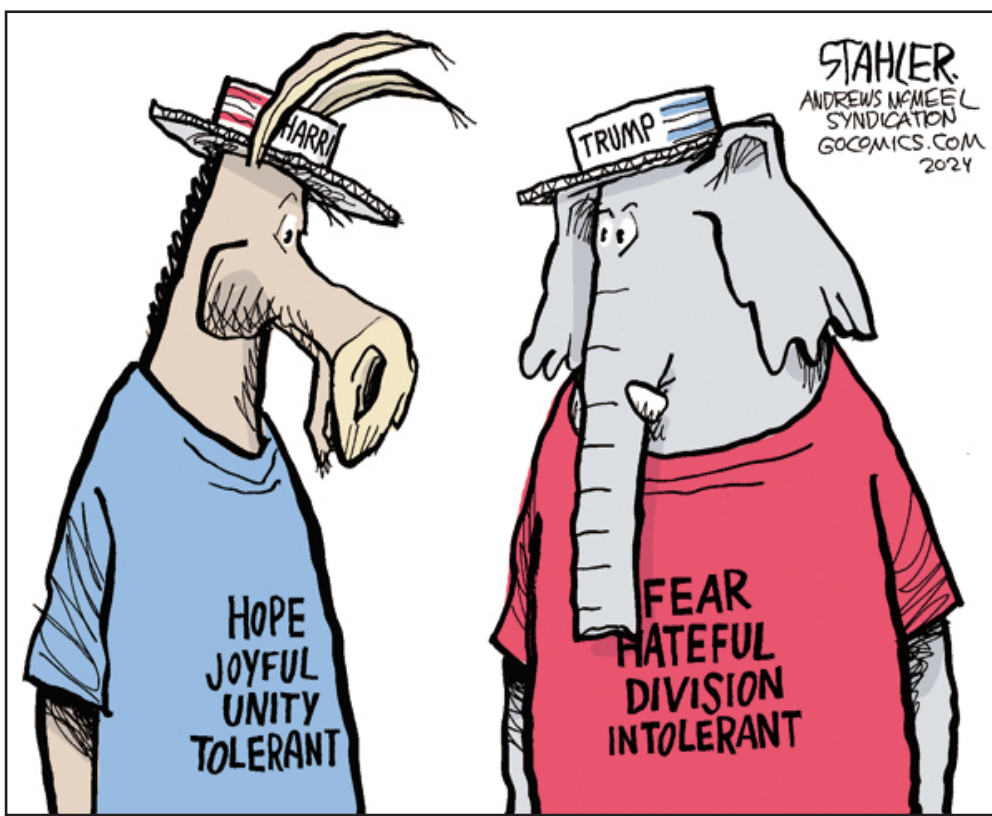
A short distance from the bottom of the switchbacks, I came across the exclosure work. An area was nicely marked with a set of old steel rails the miners used to dump tailings. One of the mine shafts had already collapsed and the crew had sealed off the entrance with rocks and dirt. The second, a gaping hole in the shape of a square that was blasted into the solid rock of the hillside, lay open before me as I ascended a short incline. The mine entrance was still quite visible, but now covered with a steel frame drilled into the rock wall and a heavy-duty cable net that spanned the entire opening. A quick peek through the net revealed places where the mine had already started to collapse within. This was definitely a good place to stay away from. I observed the exclosure for a few more minutes, snapped a couple of photos, and then scrambled back down to the trail.

Major Creek Trail is very spectacular for the short distance I followed it. It initially traverses across BLM ground through pinyon and juniper trees and then zig zags down into the valley bottom where aspens, cottonwoods and some pine trees shade the trail. Water flowed slowly in the creek. I never saw any fish, but deeper parts held good potential for hiding places. Leftover rose hips from last Fall were scattered all along the route and three or four different species of butterflies flitted along the trail as I made my way to and from the mine. Looking up the drainage, it seemed like Major Creek Trail was mostly clear up to timberline where snow was still visible on top of the mountains.

As I headed up the switchbacks, I met a lone hiker walking down the trail in the same spot that I met the reclamation crew. The hiker had come from Salida and planned to dispersed camp along the trail for the evening. After a pleasant visit, we parted and I headed back to the trailhead.

At the parking area I jumped in the truck and started my way back to Saguache, and my desk. On the way back I had time to reflect on my adventure away from the office. I determined that even though my trip got cut short, it gave this retired major a chance to have a "major" good day on a "major" good trail here on our Rio Grande National Forest.

Richard Trotter is a retired Air Force major and is currently the Support Services Specialist at the Saguache Ranger District of the Rio Grande National Forest.



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."

Biden's speech: Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury

By **ANN COULTER**

President Joe Biden's speech in Chicago on Monday night reveals the true nature of today's Democratic Party. As the world now knows, he obviously had no concept of anything being done in his name over the past four years. Instead, his presidency was a joint project of his longtime advisers, important Democratic constituencies, his vice president, and that nice Filipino lady who helps him to the commode several times a day.

That's the only explanation for why this aggressively moderate Democrat presided over the most left-wing administration in U.S. history. The committee actually running the government managed to push through nearly everything on progressives' wish list: fully open borders; 66% of judicial nominees women, and 66% minorities; the first transgender Cabinet member; student loan forgiveness; a major clamp-down on oil production, and on and on.

So what did the id of the Democratic Party have to say for itself the other night?

Biden began with the lie he's been repeating since announcing for president in 2019: that Donald Trump called neo-Nazis "very fine people." This yarn has just surpassed "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" as the most debunked hoax in all of recorded history.

What Trump actually said is on videotape. Could somebody on Biden's staff look it up? For the 8 millionth time, Trump said:

"You had people -- and I'm not talking about the neo-Nazis and the white nationalists, because they should be condemned totally. But you had many people in that group other than neo-Nazis and white nationalists. OK? And the press has treated them absolutely unfairly."

"Now, in the other group also, you had some fine people. But you also had troublemakers ..."

Biden's entire presidency is based on this lie. Despite having run for president about 47 times before, he says the only reason he ran in 2020 was because Trump called Nazis "very fine people."

What kind of sociopath repeats the same lie, in defiance of video evidence, for five years?

The kind of sociopath whose followers

know he's lying and don't care, also known as "joyous warriors." (Also, mere simpletons.)

Biden boasted of the amazing things he's accomplished as president, starting with: "COVID no longer controls our lives."

You know who else can gloat about that exact same accomplishment? Russian President Vladimir Putin. North Korea's Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un. Uganda's president Yoweri Kaguta Museveni Tibuhabwe.

This is like bragging that no hurricanes hit New York for the past four years because of your leadership.

In a surprise move, Biden claimed, "We're providing affordable high-speed internet for every American no matter where they live, unlike, not unlike what Roosevelt did with electricity."

Oops! Despite allocating \$42 billion to the project, the Biden administration has not connected one single home to the internet. Did the Biden Presidency Committee read his speech before wheelbarrowing him onto the convention stage? Maybe in a net on the highspeed-hay internet-way.

Delusionally, Biden said, "Trump continues to lie about crime in America like everything else. Guess what? On his watch, the murder rate went up 30%, the biggest increase in history."

Yes -- entirely because of the hell unleashed on the country after the death of George Floyd, Peace Be Upon Him. Which party was inciting the BLM riots, again? Take all the time you need.

Apparently, the Democrats' argument is:

It's Trump's fault that the Democratic Party and media helpers responded to Floyd's death by whipping BLM and anti-fa into a murderous rage.

It's Trump's fault that Biden's own vice president -- and the Democrats' current nominee for president -- contributed to a Minnesota bail fund for the rioters.

It's Trump's fault that the Democrats' nominee for vice president, Gov. Tim Walz of Minnesota, intentionally allowed Minneapolis to burn for four days before sending in the National Guard.

The Democratic Party is either brain-dead or just hopes most voters are.

Biden continued: "Now, the murder rate is falling faster than any time in history."

Write them

■ GOVERNOR

Governor Jared Polis (D), State Capitol Building Room 136, 200 East Colfax, Denver CO 80203; (303) 866-2471; Fax (303) 866-2003.

■ STATE HOUSE

Matthew Martinez (D), Colorado State Representative, District 62, 200 E Colfax, Room 307, Denver, CO 80203; phone: 303-866-2916; email: matthew.martinez.house@coleg.gov

■ STATE SENATE

Cleave Simpson (R), Colorado State Senator, District 35, 200 E Colfax RM 346 Denver, CO 80203 Phone: 303-866-4875 cleave.simpson.senate@coleg.gov

■ U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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SLV Regional Office: 609 Main Street, Suite 110, Alamosa 81101; Phone: 587-0096; Fax: 587-0098; Washington office: 458 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510; DC Phone: 202-224-5852; Contact: bennet.senate.gov
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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

RGC Museum Board donates to Faith Hinkley Memorial

STAFF REPORT RIO GRANDE COUN-

TY – The Rio Grande County Museum Board recently voted to purchase 14 bricks for the Faith Hinkley Veterans Memorial Project in Monte Vista. The museum worked closely with project coordinator Larry Garner to select two groups within the San Luis Valley who would make sure the bricks would be dedicated to Veterans.

According to sources, the Faith Hinkley Park project was started in 2011 by the City of Monte Vista to not only honor fallen local Veterans U.S. Army Sgt. Faith Hinkley, and U.S. Marine Sgt. Glen E. Martinez, but to honor Veterans from all over. Land for the park was donated by the Monte Vista School District.

In the years since, the project has been left unfinished until Garner and the City of Monte Vista began the Faith Hinkley Memorial Project Fundraiser this past spring. Garner coordinated a Poker Run for local Veterans on July 27 which ended up being a successful event.

The Rio Grande County Museum Board and museum staff selected to donate seven bricks to the Band of Brothers, a tight-knit group of Viet Nam

Veterans that lived in the Seven Mile Plaza, which is located just outside of Del Norte, and seven bricks to the Valley Veterans ReCreation group of Monte Vista.

The Seven Mile Band of Brothers consisted of 11 Veterans who served in the Viet Nam War, and all hailed from the Seven Mile Plaza. A memorial was put in place by local resident Ernie Martinez several years ago, marking the group's bravery and sacrifice. The group was called the "Band of Brothers" because of their dedication to each other during and after the war. Martinez was pleased to receive the donation and will be working with relatives of the families to select a name for each of the seven bricks.

DJ Salazar founded the Valley Veterans ReCreation group and strives to bring local Veterans together. According to their mission statement, "Our mission is to enhance the well-being of our nation's heroes by harnessing the power of outdoor recreation. We are dedicated to providing transformative experiences that promote both mental and physical health. Through a commitment to adventure, camaraderie, and the continuous process of recreating and Re-creat-



Photo by Lyndsie Ferrell

The Rio Grande County Museum Board donates 14 bricks to the Faith Hinkley Memorial Park in Monte Vista. Pictured left to right are Larry Garner, Ernie Martinez of Band of Brothers Memorial, and DJ Salazar and Craig Rauwolf of Valley Veterans ReCreation. Garner helped facilitate the bricks going to the organizations on behalf of the RGC Museum Board.

ing, we strive to empower veterans, first responders, and their families, fostering resilience and a renewed sense of purpose on their journey to an

overall well-being." Salazar and Co-Director Craig Rauwolf are working to expand the group's base in Monte Vista and renovate a lo-

cal building that would serve as a home base and activity center for local Veterans soon. They will be working with local families to select seven

Veterans from the area for their seven bricks. The Rio Grande County Museum keeps an ever-changing military exhibit on display year-round.

Center Viking Youth Club seeks donations, sponsorships

By MARIE MCCOLM
CENTER—The Center Viking Youth Club is again seeking donations and sponsorships from people and businesses. The Center Viking Youth Club is appreciative of donations and sponsorships from people and businesses in the community.

As a nonprofit organization, the club values the generous donations that allow the establishment to stay in business and keep going.

The Center Viking Club was originally established in 2014. The Masonic Lodge donated the build-

ing for the club to the Center Consolidated School District. The Center Viking Club became a nonprofit organization and has been open ever since.

The club provides after school programs serving up to 62 children per day. According to Katrina Ruggles, Grant Manager for the Center Consolidated School District and the Center Viking Club, the club serves over 300 children throughout the school year. The club is open to K-12 students who attend school at the Center Consolidated School

District. According to Carmen Pavlovsky, the club is committed to aiding in the growth and wellbeing of Center's youth. The club offers supervision with an educational atmosphere, and a warm environment. The club offers many programs and provides events and many learning experiences. Some things the club offers are out of the Valley trips, swimming lessons, and art and cultural events. The club is open five days a week and 11 months out of the year.

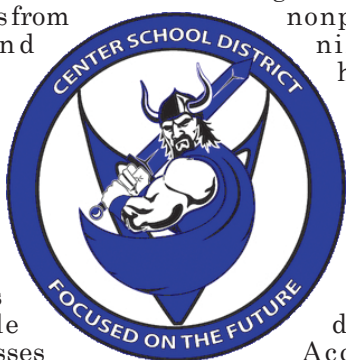
Project-based learning takes place at the club daily, through what are known as STEM Activities. These activities may include gardening, cooking, field trips, and coding robots. The programs also

help develop life skills in youth. There is an opportunity for youth to obtain extra educational help by way of tutors, who work with students on homework, and furthering their skills in different school subjects including language, math, literacy, science, social studies, art,

and music. Throughout the year, the Center Viking Youth Club provides events that parents can also take part in with their children.

Donations to the club can be made by cash, check, or credit card. Checks can be made directly to the Center Viking Youth Club, and either taken to the club personally or mailed to PO Box 883, Center, CO 81125. Credit card payments can be made by visiting the club.

For more information, contact the Center Viking Youth Club at 719-937-5093.



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- 3 Local businesses sell a wide range of great products at affordable prices and cater to the needs and wants of the community.**
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- 5 Shopping Local retains our community:** Without the support in the local community, restaurants, shops and services are forced to close.
- 6 Shopping Local retains our distinctiveness:** Local businesses respond quicker to the needs of the customers and stock products to meet the core community's needs.
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- 8 Shopping Local invests in community services and city economy.** Your dollars spent in locally-owned businesses have three times the impact on your community as dollars spent outside of Alamosa.
- 9 Local shops value you more:** Local businesses survive by their reputation & repeat business which means you get a higher standard of service.

Xcel Energy Alamosa to Antonito Transmission Line Rebuild Project

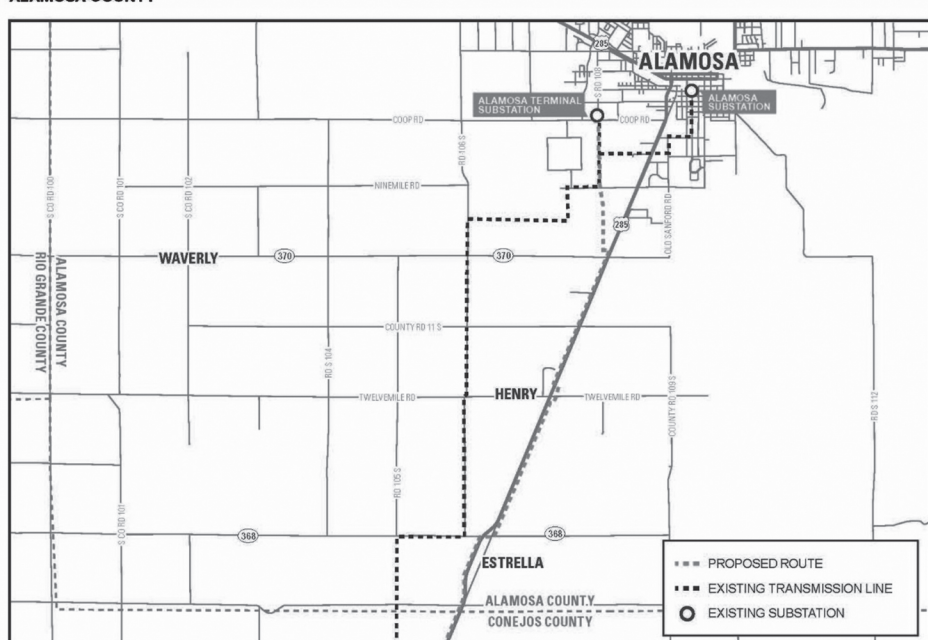
Alamosa County construction starting soon

Following approval by Alamosa County in July, Xcel Energy plans to begin work in Alamosa County in October to rebuild nearly eight miles of the existing 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line south of Alamosa Substation to the southern Alamosa County line. All work to rebuild the 69-kV transmission line will be completed in accordance with the conditions of approval included in the Alamosa County 1041 permit for the project. The rebuilt transmission line, it will provide safe, reliable and economical electric service to Alamosa County and surrounding communities.

Construction activities will include removal of some vegetation within construction areas, installation of foundations for transmission poles, setting of new transmission poles, stringing conductor and static wire, and restoration of construction areas.




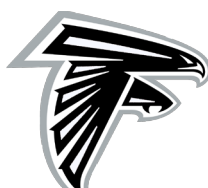




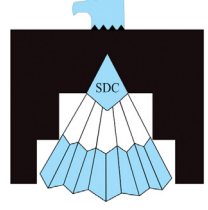


Updates about the construction activities may be found on the project website – <https://xcelenergytransmission.com/antonito->, along with a map of the Proposed Route and project information. You may also contact us with questions by calling (toll-free) 855-839-8865 or by email at AlamosaToAntonito@xcelenergy.com.

ALAMOSA TO ANTONITO TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD PROJECT ALAMOSA COUNTY



Sports

2024 SLV football schedules

ADAMS STATE GRIZZLIES		
Sept. 7	WESTERN NEW MEXICO	6 p.m.
Sept. 14	At Texas-Permian Basin	6 p.m.
Sept. 21	At Western Colorado*	6 p.m.
Sept. 28	COLORADO STATE PUEBLO*	1 p.m.
Oct. 5	At Chadron State (Neb.)*	noon
Oct. 12	COLORADO MESA*	1 p.m.
Oct. 19	COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES*	1 p.m.
Oct. 26	At New Mexico Highlands*	noon
Nov. 2	FORT LEWIS*	1 p.m.
Nov. 9	At Black Hills State (S.D.)*	1 p.m.
Nov. 16	SOUTH DAKOTA MINES*	1 p.m.
* RMAC games		
ALAMOSA MEAN MOOSE		
Aug. 30	Monte Vista#	7 p.m.
Sept. 6	BANNING LEWIS ACADEMY	7 p.m.
Sept. 12	At Pueblo Central	7 p.m.
Sept. 20	At Delta	7 p.m.
Oct. 4	At Bayfield*	7 p.m.
Oct. 11	GUNNISON*	7 p.m.
Oct. 18	At Montezuma-Cortez*	7 p.m.
Oct. 25	At Salida*	7 p.m.
Nov. 1	PAGOSA SPRINGS*	7 p.m.
* Intermountain League games # At Adams State University Rex Field		
ANTONITO TROJANS		
Aug. 31	MANZANOLA	1 p.m.
Sept. 7	At Bethune	11 a.m.
Sept. 20	SIERRA GRANDE*	1:30 p.m.
Sept. 28	BRANSON/KIM*	1 p.m.
Oct. 5	At Cotopaxi*	6 p.m.
Oct. 12	LA VETA*	1 p.m.
Oct. 19	PRIMERO*	1 p.m.
* Southwest League games		
CENTAURI FALCONS		
Aug. 30	At Meeker	7 p.m.
Sept. 6	PAGOSA SPRINGS	7 p.m.
Sept. 13	At Buena Vista	7 p.m.
Sept. 27	BAYFIELD	7 p.m.
Oct. 4	IGNACIO*	7 p.m.
Oct. 11	At Center*	7 p.m.
Oct. 18	DEL NORTE*	7 p.m.
Oct. 25	At Trinidad*	7 p.m.
Nov. 1	At Monte Vista*	6 p.m.
* South Central League games		
CENTER VIKINGS		
Aug. 30	At North Fork	1 p.m.
Sept. 6	OLATHE	1 p.m.
Sept. 13	CEDAREDDGE	1 p.m.
Sept. 20	At Ellicott	7 p.m.
Oct. 4	At Monte Vista*	7 p.m.
Oct. 11	CENTAURI*	7 p.m.
Oct. 18	At Ignacio*	6 p.m.
Oct. 25	DEL NORTE*	7 p.m.
Nov. 1	TRINIDAD*	7 p.m.
* South Central League games		
DEL NORTE TIGERS		
Aug. 30	OLATHE	7 p.m.
Sept. 13	At Roaring Fork	7 p.m.
Sept. 20	At Cedaredge	7 p.m.
Sept. 27	DOLORES HUERTA	7 p.m.
Oct. 4	TRINIDAD*	7 p.m.
Oct. 11	MONTE VISTA*	7 p.m.
Oct. 18	At Centauri*	7 p.m.
Oct. 25	At Center*	7 p.m.
Nov. 1	At Ignacio*	7 p.m.
* South Central League games		
MONTE VISTA PIRATES		
Aug. 30	Alamosa#	7 p.m.
Sept. 6	At Rye	7 p.m.
Sept. 13	NORTH FORK	6 p.m.
Sept. 20	At Pagosa Springs	7 p.m.
Oct. 4	CENTER*	6 p.m.
Oct. 11	At Del Norte*	7 p.m.
Oct. 18	TRINIDAD*	7 p.m.
Oct. 25	At Ignacio*	7 p.m.
Nov. 1	CENTAURI*	6 p.m.
* South Central League games # At Adams State University Rex Field		
No team this year		
MOUNTAIN VALLEY WOLVES		
SANFORD MUSTANGS		
Aug. 31	At West Grand	5 p.m.
Sept. 7	At Swink	2 p.m.
Sept. 13	HAXTUN	7 p.m.
Sept. 20	FOWLER	7 p.m.
Oct. 4	NORWOOD*	6 p.m.
Oct. 11	At Sargent*	6 p.m.
Oct. 18	MANCOS*	6 p.m.
Oct. 25	At Dolores*	2 p.m.
Nov. 1	At Dove Creek*	3 p.m.
* Mountain League games		
SANGRE DE CRISTO THUNDERBIRDS		
Aug. 30	LAS ANIMAS	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	Soroco#	1 p.m.
Sept. 21	At Dove Creek	1 p.m.
Sept. 27	At Holly	6 p.m.
Oct. 4	At Fowler*	7 p.m.
Oct. 11	HOEHNE*	7 p.m.
Oct. 18	At Walsenburg*	7 p.m.
Oct. 25	CROWLEY COUNTY*	7 p.m.
Nov. 1	At Custer County*	7 p.m.
* Six County League games # At Buena Vista		
SARGENT FARMERS		
Aug. 30	At Lake County	6 p.m.
Sept. 6	HAYDEN	7 p.m.
Sept. 13	At Hoehne	7 p.m.
Sept. 20	CUSTER COUNTY	7 p.m.
Oct. 4	DOLORES*	6 p.m.
Oct. 11	SANFORD*	7 p.m.
Oct. 18	At Norwood*	6 p.m.
Oct. 25	DOVE CREEK*	6 p.m.
Nov. 1	At Mancos*	6 p.m.
* Mountain League games		
SIERRA GRANDE PANTHERS		
Aug. 30	At Cheraw	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	DEER TRAIL	4 p.m.
Sept. 13	At Kiowa	7 p.m.
Sept. 20	At Antonito*	1:30 p.m.
Oct. 4	PRIMERO*	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 11	BRANSON/KIM*	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 19	COTOPAXI*	6 p.m.
Oct. 24	At La Veta*	7 p.m.
* Southwest League games		

Pirates win Hornet Invite
By KEN HAMRICK
Courier sports editor

ALAMOSA – The Monte Vista High School boys golf team won the Pueblo County Invitational Friday at Hollydott Golf Course in Colorado City.

The Pirates had a score of 235 and edged second-place Swink by one stroke.

Leading Monte Vista was Connor Mellott who finished second with a three-over-par 74. Liam Ellithorpe tied for fourth with an 80, Kaden Mellott tied for seventh with an 81 and Jakoby Ross tied for 12th with an 85.

Alamosa finished ninth with 295. Jaidyn Burciaga led the Mean Moose with an 89 which tied for 17th, Brady Van Iwarden tied for 33rd with a 97, and Zavier Medina tied for 53rd with a 109. Pueblo East's Jayden Padilla was the medalist with a 72.

Alamosa will compete at two events on Monday. Some of the Mean Moose will be at the Pueblo South Invitational at Elmwood Golf Course and Some will be at the Durango Invitational. Monte Vista will next compete at the Montezuma-Cortez Invitational on Tuesday.

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Sports Bulletin

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

SCOREBOARD THURSDAY

Prep girls volleyball
Salida at Center – scores not reported
Sangre de Cristo at Primero – scores not reported

FRIDAY

Prep girls softball
Alamosa vs. Greeley Central

Prep girls volleyball
Alamosa vs. Yuma
Sanford at La Veta

SCHEDULE 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.
Centauriat Lamar, 11 a.m.
Gunnison at Sanford, noon

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.

Classifieds

221 - HELP WANTED

THE COLORADO DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES is now taking applications for the position of **WELL COMMISSIONER** in ALAMOSA. This position works in the Alamosa DWR Office and evaluates well permit applications, conditions new permits based upon state statutes and rules, provides the public and other entities with information regarding wells and groundwater, and investigates and reports on groundwater use in the San Luis Valley. The ideal candidate will have previous permitting and water administration related experience, knowledge and understanding of groundwater in the Rio Grande Basin, and have excellent written and oral communication skills. Please see the full position announcement at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/colorado> for benefits, salary, minimum qualifications, and to apply. (8/24/24)

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 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 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 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 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

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

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Comics

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 “— Maria”
 - 4 Walk with difficulty
 - 8 Overturn
 - 12 Veto
 - 13 Arab ruler
 - 14 Unseen emanation
 - 15 Much-used abbr.
 - 16 Awful
 - 17 “Exodus” author
 - 18 Poet — Whitman
 - 20 Without social grace
 - 22 Body organ
 - 24 Empty land
 - 25 Animal enclosure
 - 26 Bear hair
 - 27 Plant fluid
 - 30 Larter or Landry
 - 32 Not spicy
 - 34 Old French money
 - 35 Actress — Tyler
 - 36 Submissive
 - 38 “Little Women” name

- 39 Professional charge
 - 40 Simian
 - 41 — tide
 - 43 — Magnon
 - 44 Troubles
 - 46 Tall monoliths
 - 51 Departure area
 - 53 Italia’s capital
 - 54 Makes lace
 - 56 — King Cole
 - 57 Goddess of discord
 - 58 Margarine
 - 59 AFL- —
 - 60 Acquires
 - 61 Agts.
 - 62 White-tailed eagle
- DOWN**
- 1 From the top
 - 2 Essential
 - 3 For snobs only
 - 4 Showed the way
 - 5 False (abbr.)
 - 6 Acts — Sorvino

Answer to Previous Puzzle

R	I	B		P	E	T	F	O	R	M	
A	D	A		U	T	A	H	E	D	I	E
G	E	R		S	A	R	I	D	I	N	T
E	A	R	T	H	L	E	G	E	N	D	S
		A	R	E		V	E	X			
	A	C	E	R		J	E	T		S	R
O	P	U	S		L	A	R		S	C	O
F	A	D	S		I	V		S	C	O	P
F	R	A		T	O	A		S	C	O	R
		B	I	N		T	O	P			
B	E	L	I	E	F	S	O	P	I	U	M
A	L	A	R		I	P	S	O		I	N
L	I	S	T		S	A	I	L		N	I
L	A	S	H		H	R	S			S	T

- 7 Rule out
- 8 Blame
- 9 Worm on a hook
- 10 Eye part
- 11 Go by
- 19 Explosive stuff
- 21 Rocky hill
- 23 Workout venue
- 26 Run away
- 27 Likeness
- 28 “— Ventura: Pet Detective”
- 29 Small dog
- 30 TV alien from
- 31 Fib
- 33 Identity thief
- 37 New Zealand parrot
- 40 “Exodus” hero
- 42 Popular
- 43 Caste
- 45 Flight component
- 46 State near Wash.
- 47 Caliber
- 48 Send forth
- 49 Hardy cabbage
- 50 Dance move
- 52 College in England
- 55 “Mayday!”

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18				19		20			21			
	22			23			24					
		25				26			27	28	29	
30	31			32	33				34			
35					36				37		38	
39				40					41	42		
				43					44			45
46	47	48				49	50		51			52
53					54			55		56		
57					58					59		
60					61					62		

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

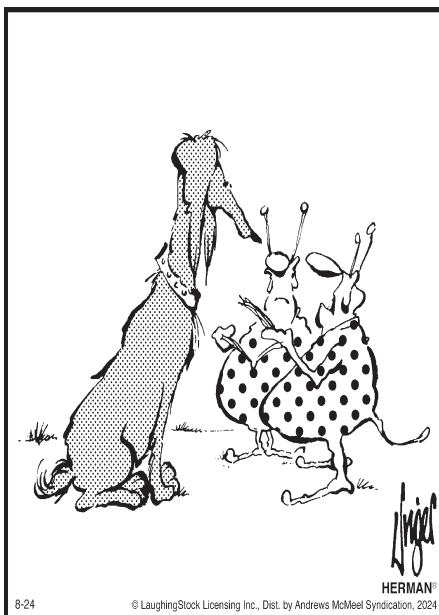
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HOW TO PLAY:
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

HERMAN



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Partner of pregnant woman backs out of trip abroad

DEAR ABBY: Should I be mad at the father of my unborn child for not coming with me to travel out of the country? My cousin is being married in Mexico. However, my partner, “Gabriel,” isn’t going because one of his good friends is getting married the same weekend. We found out only recently that I am pregnant, and by the time my cousin’s wedding comes around, I’ll be five months along. My family will be going, but they already booked their flights, which are now sold out, so I will have to travel pregnant and alone in Mexico.

The night I found out I was pregnant, Gabriel told me he would go with me, as he didn’t want the mother of his unborn child to travel alone to a different country. However, as the wedding got closer, he said he no longer wants to go, as it will be expensive and he’d miss his friend’s wedding.

Abby, am I wrong for being upset that he doesn’t want to come with me? I think I’m more disappointed because I assumed he’d want to be protective in this situation, but it almost feels like he’s choosing his friend over us. I know I am biased and my emotions are high, but I really want to be level-headed about this and try to understand. -- **EXPECTANT TRAVELER** IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR TRAVELER: Forgive me if this seems harsh, but what you should understand is your partner is self-centered and more concerned with the good time he will have with his buddy than he is about the soon-to-be mother of his child. This should be an indication of the kind of husband and father he may make if you plan to marry him.

That said, if your doctor says you are OK to travel, your family will be around to keep an eye on you, so you shouldn’t be in danger. The independence you demonstrate now may be necessary in whatever future you have with -- or without -- your partner.

DEAR ABBY: I can’t understand why my mom kept the last name of her ex-husband (my stepfather), who sexually abused me and my sister as children. She knew all about it after I broke down and told her when I was 10. She stayed married to him for years afterward, with my sister and me in the house. Keeping that monster away from me was hell on earth.

Mom now has dementia, and I take good care of her. I made sure I had a good, healthy life and relationships, and also made sure to protect my child from abuse. I’m trying to not be angry, sad and damaged. I don’t live every day



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

thinking about it. Am I too sensitive? -- **SURVIVOR IN INDIANA**
DEAR SURVIVOR: Too sensitive? I don’t think so. Considering the circumstances, your feelings are normal. I admire you for stepping up and making sure that your mother is well taken care of in spite of the fact that she didn’t do that for you.

As a victim of sexual abuse, you should have received counseling years ago. If that didn’t happen, it could benefit you greatly to get some now. A place to find what you need would be RAINN, the national sexual assault hotline, which can be reached online at rainn.org or by calling (toll-free) 800-656-4673.

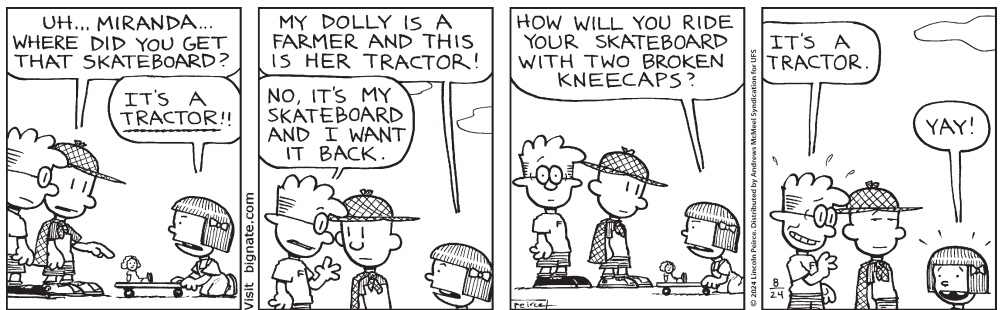
ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



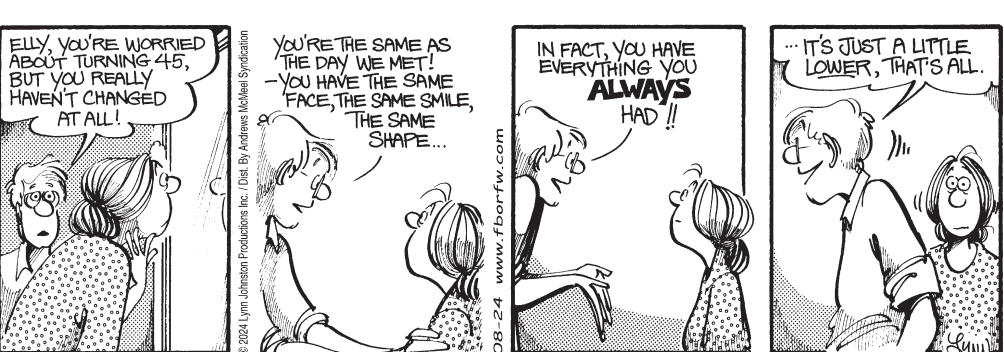
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THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



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